

Broadwater Robotics Competes at Carroll College, Qualifies for State



Team: Dr. Adam Six, Bobbie McCauley, Cooper Nichter, Caleb Swanson, Gavin Greene, Aiden Kitto, Creighton Wright, Max Sellay, Dr. Lisa Brown, Spencer Sellay, Roger Flynn
STOKE Photo

Roger Flynn
STOKE

The Broadwater Robotics team competed at Carroll College on January 18, taking on 23 other teams from the region. Team members Max Sellay (senior and team captain), Aiden Kitto, Gavin Greene, Creighton Wright, Cooper Nichter, and Caleb Swanson participated in five matches with their robot, which they have been designing, building, and programming since September. Over the past several months, the team has spent more than 100 hours preparing for the competition.

Their performance at Carroll College earned the team a spot in the MT State Championship for FIRST Tech Challenge, which will take place on February 7 at Montana State University in Bozeman. With guidance from coaches and mentors Spencer Sellay, Dr. Lisa Brown, Roger Flynn, Dr. Adam Six, and Bobby McCauley, the team will continue to refine their robot and strategies as they prepare to compete at the state level.

The team would like to thank their sponsors for making this season possible, including STOKE, Townsend Rotary, Schneider Electric, Opportunity Bank, The Lodge of Townsend, Green Wing Excavation, Flynn Hay and Grain, Infinite Hope Counseling, Skreens, Broadwater Family Chiropractic, Wild Pine Creative, Lazy RM Beef, Gianforte Family Foundation, and Department of Defense (DoD) STEM. Their support has provided the resources needed to ensure the program's success and foster STEM education in the Broadwater community.

Broadwater Robotics is part of FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), a global robotics program that challenges students to design, build, and program robots to compete in an alliance-based game, fostering skills in engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Robotics competitions are open to the public and will be live-streamed at youtube.com/@mtra-stream



Team with Robot: Broadwater Robotics team practicing before qualifying matches begin
STOKE Photo



Competition: Broadwater Robotics team prepares for a match with their alliance partner Prostars from Helena.
STOKE Photo

Where can you find the latest edition of MT43 News?
Subscribe, come to our office in Townsend or visit our suppliers!

East Helena: Heritage Foods, The Man Store & Town Pump

Townsend: Bob's Supermarket, C Hangin C Mercantile, The Mint Cafe, Reading Leaves Bookstore, Rocky Mountain Supply, Town Pump & Townsend Drug

Free Service for Older Adults!

Mike Ball
Partnership Manager

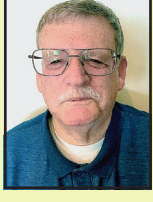
Montana's Area 4 Agency on Aging (RMDC) and GoGo are pleased to provide free rides and deliveries!

This program allows older adults aged 60 and over in Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater counties to access up to 8 free rides, up to 4 free grocery deliveries, and up to 4 free prescription drug deliveries per month. For deliveries, the program pays delivery costs; individuals pay grocery and/or drug co-pays (no narcotics).

To register for this FREE service visit us at <https://www.gogograndparent.com/partners/montanaa4>

For More Information visit: https://mt43news-business-services.com/sites/mt43news-business-services.com/files/MT_AreaIV_GoGo_HowItWorks.pdf
FLIP TO PAGE 9 TO READ FLIER

Victor Sample



Skyrocketing property taxes and property tax relief have been important topics in Montana.

The Montana Free Press has published a great article about the various Montana Legislature bills aimed at tax relief.

MT43News has republished the article (courtesy of the Montana Free Press) on our website.

Visit our website to view the article: <https://mt43news.com>

Property Tax Relief



The Montana State Capitol in Helena on Monday, January 13, 2025.
Photo Credit: John Stember / MTFP

Winter Arrives in Broadwater County

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Winter arrived in full force this week, with an arctic blast sending temperatures plunging well below zero, accompanied by even frostier windchills.

According to the National Weather Service, Townsend's low for the week was -14F on Jan. 20, with an accompanying windchill of -24F.

Temperatures are expected to stay below freezing through the beginning of next week.



Deep Creek
Linda Kent Photo

Snuggle up, it's sweater weather!

Stay warm & safe!



Townsend Booster Club

Wrestling:

Jace Wellenstein had an outstanding performance at the Choteau Classic placing 5th in the 110 bracket. He had a rough lose in the quarter finals, but he didn't dwell on the loss and wrestled back to place. He hopefully will bring that same energy to the B/C Duals this weekend in Townsend.



Jace Wellenstein
Townsend Booster Club

Girls Basketball:

Congratulations to Abigail Wickens for being named Girls' Basketball Player of the Week! Abby's leadership and positivity were evident as she worked tirelessly both on and off the court. Despite a tough game against the Ennis Mustangs, Abby remained supportive and set the tone for a strong performance against the Jefferson Panthers. Her hustle and grit were highlighted by a key charge, 50% shooting from the free-throw line, 100% accuracy on two-pointers, and five rebounds (one offensive, four defensive). Abby's dedication and effort played a vital role in keeping her team competitive. Well done, Abby!



Abigail Wickens
Townsend Booster Club

Boys Basketball:

Trace Giomi is this week's player of the week. Trace comes to practice every single day with a smile on his face and works very hard. Whatever the team needs throughout the week Trace does his best to help prepare the team for success with an amazing attitude this week Trace was a spark to help the team delete a 17 point deficit from Jefferson with his rebounding, hustle, and screening abilities. We are all grateful of what Trace does for us week in and week out that does not show up on a stat sheet, but is arguably more important for our team and the recent success we are having. Congratulations Trace!



Trace Giomi
Townsend Booster Club

Highschool Varsity Basket Ball

Girls- Bulldogs vs Ennis Mustangs

Boys- Bulldogs vs Boulder Panthers



BHS Girls Varsity Bball vs Ennis-- Emmalin Fischer drives to the basket during last Thursday's game against the Ennis Mustangs. Kelly Morris Photography



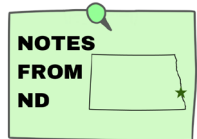
BHS Boys Varsity Bball vs Boulder-- Ryedan Reed goes up for a layup during last Friday's game against the Boulder Panthers. Kelly Morris Photography



GO BULLDOGS!!

Notes from ND

Mikayla Kraft
MT43 News Correspondent



It has been overwhelmingly busy lately. I am only in week 2 of Spring Semester classes and I can barely keep up. Most days, I find myself working incredibly hard all day to lay in bed at 8:30 and be ready to crash. Sitting down, and writing this article after not writing for multiple weeks, I reflect on how much this time means to me and how I want to use it wisely.

I am taking 20 credits this semester, a total of eight classes. And though this should be easy considering I took seven classes every semester throughout my high school years, it is quite the opposite. College has a completely different feel. Most of your time isn't spent in classes, but instead, it is spent in your dorm, one of the study areas around campus, or in the dining center or one of the coffee shops. This time not spent in classes is usually dedicated to projects, homework, and online classes if any are being taken. As the class load seems to be extremely heavy and never-ending, there is rarely time to sit and do anything other than school.

This is where writing becomes a blessing to me. Writing can be a chore or be done because it is required of you, but I find it a productive pastime. Right now, I am sitting at my desk, drinking a hot coffee, and smelling my favorite wax used on my wax warmer - soft cashmere and amber. I am relaxed, not worried about the next assignment that is due or the class I need to get to in 10 minutes, knowing that my time is spent well and it isn't wasted by doom scrolling through TikTok or Instagram Reels. It is also my way to connect with my fellow Montanans and provide a realist view and advice to those wanting to pursue a college degree.

It is impossible to worry about every class and know exactly what needs to be done and when, but by continuing to work hard and taking breaks when needed I can move my focus toward doing well in school by also prioritizing relaxation. My advice on a busy college schedule is to take small moments out of your day to focus on what makes you happy. It is by no means easy, and sometimes you can only take 5 minutes out of your day to wind down and focus on the now, but if you do it you will see that it is worth it. Life is too short to spend obsessing over the next grade received or the next degree to show off. Enjoy the little moments and never lose sight of what makes you happy.

Montana Farmer's Union Offers More than \$10,000 in Scholarships

Alice Miller
Press Relations Specialist, Montana Farmers Union

More than \$10,000 is available in scholarships through the Montana Farmers Union (MFU).

The scholarships are one of the ways MFU supports family farmers and ranchers through education and include the Bud Daniels Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000), the John Korsbeck Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000), and the Cascade County-wide Farmers Union Local (\$1,000) Chouteau County Farmers Union Local (\$500), Montana Farmers Union Scholarships (\$1,000), and Flathead County-wide Farmers Union Local (\$500) scholarships.

High school seniors, current college students, and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply by April 1. Applicants must be MFU members. MFU members also are eligible for several National Farmers Union scholarships. Learn more at nfu.org.

More information and applications are available at <https://montanafarmersunion.com/education/scholarships-grants/>.

Grants Available for Traditional and Folk Arts and Media Arts in Montana

Rebecca Connors
Montana Community Foundation

Helena, Mont., January 13, 2025 – The Montana Community Foundation, Inc. (MCF) announces its annual grant cycle from the William B. Pratt Fund to benefit Montana traditional and folk art, as well as media arts in Montana

Applicants may apply in one of two funding categories: (1) Traditional and Folk Arts, which are rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of Montana tribes, communities and ethnic and occupational groups and (2) Media Arts that produce documentaries about Montana arts, culture and history, offer Media Arts Educational Programming or present public programs of documentaries about Montana arts, culture or history. Both grant programs emphasis supporting Indigenous artists, communities, and organizations.

The William B. Pratt Fund was established William "Bill" Pratt as a legacy gift to the people of Montana to help them tell and share stories – especially the untold ones – about Montana's arts, culture, and history and to learn about the traditional art forms and cultures of this unique state.

Grant amounts will range from \$500 to \$2,000, and applications will be accepted from January 13 to March 31, 2025. Montana 501(c)(3) organizations and local, state, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Individual artists and other entities may apply under

a fiscal sponsorship. Apply at <https://mtcf.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/william-b-pratt-fund>.

Through this grant process, Bill hopes to see some of the impact of his legacy in Montana and on the arts community.

"Montana's cultural heritage is rich and diverse, yet many stories and traditions remain untold. This fund ensures that those unique voices—woven through our traditional and folk arts—are preserved and shared for generations to come. By supporting these projects, we honor our past and keep our cultural identity alive, inspiring and educating our communities," stated Bill Pratt.

"I encourage organizations with eligible projects in these areas, whether small or large, to consider applying for this grant program."

To review eligibility, apply for a grant, access the online application at mtcf.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant. Only online applications will be accepted. For questions, please contact Impact Program Director, Elisa Fiaschetti 406-441-4953 or elisa@mtcf.org.

About the Montana Community Foundation
The Montana Community Foundation's mission is to cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish. Founded in 1988, MCF manages more than \$188.5 million in assets and administers more than 1,450 philanthropic funds and planned gifts. Since its founding, MCF has reinvested more than \$100 million in Montana through scholarships, grants, and programs. Learn more at www.mtcf.org.

Some online gardening guides to browse through the winter

- finegardening.com
- penick.net/digging
- plantcaretoday.com
- themiddlesizedgarden.co.uk
- gardentherapy.ca/category/gardening
- epicgardening.com
- gardenerspath.com
- chelseagreen.com/blog
- gardenista.com
- almanac.com/gardening
- washingtongardener.blogspot.com
- gardenbetty.com
- getbusygardening.com - Brenda Weaver

Source: <https://gardening.feedspot.com/gardening-blogs/>

Townsend School Calendar

JANUARY



Friday 24
 Divisional Speech and Drama at Manhattan
 High School Wrestling at Home-B/C Duals
 2:30 pm: High School Basketball @ Manhattan Christian

Saturday 25
 Divisional Speech and Drama at Manhattan
 High School Wrestling at Home-B/C Duals
 1:00 pm: High School Basketball @ Whitehall

Monday 27
 6:30 pm: Fall Cheer Banquet - Community Room
 6:00 pm: Old Baldy - CPR/First Aid - Library Classroom
 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Custom Engraved Calendar - Ag/Ed Classroom & Shop

Tuesday 28
 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Fairfield
 4:00 pm: Middle School Boys Basketball @ Three Forks
 8:55am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
 6:00 pm: Sheriff's Office Mill Levy Public Meeting - Community Room

Wednesday 29
 Student Council Blood Drive - Community Room
 8:55am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gym - 63 Gym
 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Pickleball - Stage Gym

Thursday 30
 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Three Forks

Friday 31
 6:00 pm: High School Wrestling - Copper Shamrock / Senior Night
 Middle School Boys Basketball @ Three Forks Tournament
 State Speech and Drama @ Huntley

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1
 Middle School Boys Basketball @ Three Forks Tournament
 State Speech and Drama @ Huntley
 2:30 pm: High School Basketball @ White Sulphur Spring



Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page

Three Forks School Calendar

JANUARY



Friday 24
 High School Wrestling Class A Duals at Livingston
 2:00 pm: Junior High Basketball at Manhattan

Saturday 25
 High School Wrestling Class A Duals at Livingston
 Speech, Drama and Debate @ Manhattan (depart 7:15 am)
 1:00 pm: High School Basketball - Ennis

Monday 27
 Lunch: High School Academics Olympics
 2:30 pm: High School Basketball @ West Yellowstone

Tuesday 28
 Lunch: Middle School Academic Olympics
 6th Period: Pre-State Assembly Speech & Drama
 6th Period: Speech, Drama Debate Assembly - 8th - 12th grade
 4:00 pm: Junior High Basketball vs Townsend
 TBD: High School Wrestling Home Mixer - Dillon & Park High

Wednesday 29
 9th - 12th Grades Ski Trip

Thursday 30
 Lunch: Middle School Academic Olympics
 3:00 pm: High School Basketball @ Townsend

Friday 31
 Jazz Festival for Band and Choir at MSU Billings
 State Speech and Drama @ Huntley Project
 Junior High Basketball Three Forks Tourney

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1
 Jazz Festival for Band and Choir at MSU Billings
 State Speech and Drama @ Huntley Project
 Junior High Basketball - Three Forks Tourney
 4:00 pm: High School Basketball (C & JV only) @ Sheridan
 TBD: High School Wrestling @ Hardin Invitational

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

JANUARY 24- FEBRUARY 2

No known meetings



THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Friday 24
 11:00 am: Three Forks Public Library - LEGO Club

Tuesday 28
 1:00 pm: Three Forks Public Library - Mah Jongg
 6:00 pm: Three Forks Public Library - Book Club

Wednesday 29
 5:30 pm: Bozeman Music Night with the Bridger Creek Boys at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Thursday 30
 Three Forks Public Library - Last Day to turn in Art Show Entries
 10:30 am: Three Forks Public Library - Storytime
 6:00 pm: Three Forks Music Night with Brendan Nolan at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Friday 31
 11:00 am: Three Forks Public Library - LEGO Club

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1
 11:00 am: Three Forks Public Library OPEN

TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Friday 24
 10:00 am: **Free** Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library
 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Saturday 25
 9:00 am: 2025 Radersburg Ramble at Historic Radersburg School
 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
 6:30 pm: Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

Monday 27
 1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club - 1st Monday
 6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805

Tuesday 28
 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 6:00 pm: Sheriff's Office Mill Levy Meeting - Townsend Community Room at Townsend Schools Community Room

Wednesday 29
 10:30 am: American Red Cross Blood Drive at Broadwater High School
 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 30
 4:00 pm: 2025 Stoke Cooking Class at The Lodge of Townsend
 6:00 pm: Sheriff's Office Mill Levy Meeting - Headwaters Livestock Auction at Headwaters Livestock
 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 31
 10:00 am: **Free** Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library
 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1
 7:00 am: Broadwater County Lions Perch Derby at Silos KOA
 11:00 am: Four Chaplains Ceremony at Trailhead Church **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR DETAILS**
 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
 6:30 pm: Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

LIBRARY HOURS

Three Forks Community Library

FALL HOURS:
 Monday, Wednesday through Friday - 10:00am to 5:00pm
 Tuesdays - 10:00am - 7:00pm
 1st Saturday of the Month: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Contact the library for details on clubs and events for a variety of ages at (406) 285-3747, or visit the website: threeforkslibrary.weebly.com

Broadwater School and Community Library

FALL HOURS:
 Monday-Thursday -- 4:00 - 7:00pm
 Friday-Saturday -- 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Sunday -- 12:00 - 5:00pm


Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY

February 1, 2025

Ceremony 11 AM at Trailhead Church

Luncheon follows at Post 42



legionfamilypost42.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Become an EMT for Less

Gallatin Valley's Most Affordable Class!
 Looking for a career in emergency medical services or a way to give back to your community? Our EMT class is the most affordable in the area at just \$899 (plus the cost of your book).

- Location: Three Forks Area Ambulance Station
 2 E Hickory St, Three Forks, MT 59752

Schedule:

- Classes: Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 6-9:30pm (13 weeks, starting February 25th, 2025)
- Skills Training: 4 Saturdays (8 AM-5 PM)

Why Choose Us?

- Learn from experienced EMS personnel who actively run 911 calls
- Hands-on skills training throughout
- Affordable tuition

Sign Up or Learn More: email 3fkamb@gmail.com
 Don't wait-take the first step toward making a difference in your community!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: February 19th, 7:00PM
 At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
 See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

TURN TO PAGE 5 FOR LEGAL NOTICES AND OPEN POSITIONS!

Highway 12 Market Place

Handmade & Collectables

Monday- Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
 200 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
 (406) 465-3588

Come in and Shop with our Local vendors!

Big Sky Angels- Laura Stevenson
Montana Crafted: Crochet Items- sensory toys, animals, bags, decor and more, Handpainted-Ornamentals and Re-purposed Art

Touch of Twyla's Greeting Cards
Handcrafted Cards, Incense and Incense Burners, Beanies and Diamond Painting Kits.

MENTION THIS AD AT HIGHWAY 12, GET 10% OFF!!

The Birds Nest & Swazi's Rock Shop

Unique Gifts, Antiques & Treasures

125 S Pine St, Townsend MT
 (406)266-1335

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fbfs.com/find-an-agent/
 dustingillaspie@mt



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Will Lynde at the Starlight Ball



Will (center man) standing with fellow servicemen
Photo Credit: Will Lynde

T.J. Lynde

Just reporting Will had a great time with the joint service color guard at the Trumps' 3rd official "Starlight" Ball last night.

The Starlight Ball, for the most influential donors, was not televised. It followed the Commander in Chief Ball and Liberty Ball and was held at Union Station.

Looks like these servicemen even got a piece of cake, maybe the last ones of the evening!

We are grateful for Townsend's community support for Will and his opportunity to represent the Navy's finest since becoming a member of the Ceremonial Guard in October of 2023.

Will Lynde, 19, graduated from BHS in 2023.



Will proudly holding the American Flag
Photo Credit: Will Lynde



Piece of cake at the Starlight Ball!
Photo Credit: Will Lynde

Vietnam Veteran Diane Carlson Evans to Speak at Helena Library

Lewis and Clark Library Communications

Join the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation and Lewis & Clark Library at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28 to celebrate Helena's Diane Carlson

Evans, who will share her story and how she came to write "Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C."

The free event, which the public may attend, will be held in the library's large community room at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch. A brief reception will follow and Montana Book Company will have copies of "Healing Wounds" for sale.

Evans is a Vietnam War nurse who made it her mission to establish a memorial for the women who served in the Vietnam War. She began her quest in 1983 to honor the women, both living and lost, who were not being recognized for their service and sacrifice.

After waging an advocacy campaign for 10 years, Evans opened the National Mall ceremony to dedicate the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Nov. 11, 1993.

Evans will recount her experiences as a 21-year-old Army nurse in two military hospitals in Vietnam. She will discuss why it took 50 years to "find the courage to write my own personal story and how we overcame difficult obstacles to establish the first, and only, memorial on the National Mall honoring military women in uniform".

On Jan. 2, Evans received the Presidential Citizens Medal, which is awarded to citizens who have "performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens".

For more on the event join the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation and Lewis & Clark Library at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 to celebrate Helena's Diane Carlson Evans, who will share her story and how she came to write "Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C."

The free event, which the public may attend, will be held in the library's large community room at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch. A brief reception will follow and Montana Book Company will have copies of "Healing Wounds" for sale.

Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc. Hosts the First Radersburg Ramble Race

Karen Walton
Radersburg Ramble Coordinator



Welcome to the First Radersburg Ramble
A 5K and 10K Race at Radersburg

Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc. is hosting the First Radersburg Ramble event.

This race will feature two distances - 10K (6.2 miles) and 5K (3.1 miles), beginning at 10 am and 10:30 am respectively.

RACE ROUTE: The start and end of both races will be in front of the Historic Radersburg School, at the intersection of Brown Street and Crow Creek Road. The 5K course goes straight out Crow Creek Road and turns around approximately 250 meters before the first cattle guard. The 10K course also goes straight out Crow Creek Road and turns around approximately 150

meters past Mud Springs Road. Each race will begin by the ringing of the school bell.

SWAG: Race packet pick up will be between 9-10:30 am on race day, January 25, 2025. Custom winter beanies, race number and other items will be in your bag.

RACE ROUTE details: <https://radersburgamble.org/RadersburgRamble2025RouteMaps>

POST-RACE CHILI FEED: Included with every paid race registration. Additional tickets can be purchased through registration or the day of the race (while supplies last).

To register or for just more information visit our website at: <https://radersburgamble.org/>

All Proceeds will go to helping RHPI further restore and maintain the Historic Radersburg School House and the Historic Radersburg Methodist Church.

For more information About RHPI and the history of Radersburg visit the RHPI website at: <https://preservebroadwaterhistory.org/RHPIMain>

Monthly Wic Clinic Opens in Townsend

Amber Johnson
Communications Specialist



Helena – The Women, Infant & Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) of Lewis and Clark Public Health (LCPH) is partnering with Broadwater County Public Health to host a monthly WIC Clinic in Townsend.

Located at 124 N Cedar Street, clinics are scheduled on the first Monday of each month from 10 am – 3 pm. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome.

WIC is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provides food support for Montana families. One item in the food package is a dollar amount for fresh vegetables and fruits. The amounts are \$26 per month for children up to age five, \$47 for those pregnant, postpartum, or partially breastfeeding, and \$52 for those fully breastfeeding. Other WIC benefits include nutrition counseling, lactation experts, baby food, breastfeeding education and pumps, access to trained staff, and other resources and referrals.

WIC eligibility requires participants to be pregnant,

postpartum, breastfeeding, or have a child younger than five. Participants must make less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or qualify for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Traditional Best Beginnings, or a free/reduced school meal program. WIC is a voluntary program, and participation does not interfere with SNAP or Medicaid, and new this year, the traditional Best Beginnings Scholarship.

"We know that only 55% of eligible families are enrolled statewide, and we also know that many families are struggling to make ends meet this year," said Dawn Sullivan, WIC Clinic Coordinator. "The team here at Helena WIC is here to help families enroll and access all the incredible benefits of WIC. We can help make this season a bit brighter."

WIC in Montana includes 33 local agencies and over 80 clinic sites serving all 56 counties and six tribal reservations. Almost 13,400 women, infants, and children are enrolled which is about 10,000 Montana households.

If Broadwater County families need help enrolling in WIC or accessing their benefits, they can contact the Lewis and Clark Public Health WIC Clinic at 406-457-8912 or email wic@lccountymt.gov.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices are required to print in local newspapers and may hold private or public interest. Here you may read about Probate Notices, Estate Settlements and other Judicial Actions as well as important Broadwater County notices.



Public Hearing: BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2024-2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council for the City of Townsend, Montana, has proposed to amend the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget in two of its funds, Urban Forestry and Capital Water Projects.

The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 110 Broadway Townsend, MT. Members of the public may appear and be heard for or against any part of said budget.

After hearing public comment, the Council will review and make the necessary changes, if needed, to pass the budget amendments. The Council will act on the proposed budget amendments at the regular council meeting, immediately following the Public Hearing.

Published January 24 and 31, 2025

MNAXLP

Public Auction

Wheatland Self Storage will sell at public auction contents of one 10'x20' unit containing household goods according to tenant on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 1:00 pm at Wheatland Self Storage, 5 Wheatland Meadows Dr, Three Forks, MT.

Unit will be sold as a whole to highest bidder. Potential buyers may look from door at contents but will not be allowed to go inside unit. Cash or credit card required for payment at time of sale. Buyer has 72 hours to remove all contents and clean unit after purchase.

Call Karen at 406-600-1848 with questions and to confirm auction is still on before coming.

Published January 24 and 31, 2025

MNAXLP

OPEN POSITIONS

HELPWANTED: Broadwater County PT Site Attendant

Broadwater County is soliciting qualified applicants to fill the position of a PT Site Attendant. The wage is \$13.75/hr. Applicants must have a valid Montana Driver's License and be able to pass a background check. Applications and a copy of the job description can be obtained on the county's website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov under Job Openings at the bottom of the page.

Resumes and complete applications can be mailed to Misty Masolo at 515 Broadway; Townsend, MT 59644 or emailed to mmasolo@broadwatercountymt.gov. Please contact Misty Masolo at

406-266-9212 if you have any questions.

Broadwater County is an equal-opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

Published January 24 and 31, 2025

MNAXLP

NOTICE FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The City of Townsend is accepting letters of interest for an open council position in Ward I. Ward 1 includes the territory north of Broadway and east of Cedar St. If you reside in Ward I, please submit a letter of interest to City Hall 110 Broadway Townsend, MT by 3:00 p.m. on February 3, 2025.

For further information, please contact Kari Williams at (406)266-3911.

Published January 24 and 31, 2025

MNAXLP



January 17

Dee Gannon
MT43 News Correspondent



The criminal docket in Judge Micheal McMahon's courtroom on Friday, January 17 is as follows:

Alisha Byrd had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to a charge of incest. It is alleged that she cohabitated with her half-brother. Omnibus is due by March 14; the Pre-Trial is set for September 11; with the Jury Trial scheduled for October 6.

Bert Ginsburg has a Change of Plea on March 7. Ross Johnston had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to DUI (4th or subsequent); failure to use his turn signal; driving without a valid driver's license and obstruction. Omnibus is due by March 14; the Pre-Trial is set for September 11; with the Jury Trial scheduled for October 6.

Austin Lyman had his Pre-Trial Conference continued. Pre-trial is now set for May 9; with the Jury Trial scheduled for June 9.

Lonnie Pruitt will have his Pre-Trial on February 14; with the Jury Trial scheduled for March 14.

Joseph Thompson will have a Change of Plea on February 14.

Justice of the Peace Report

Kelsi Anderson
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

1

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Tristin Fuller -Helena – fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance-owner or operator-1st offense, plead guilty, \$285.00 fines and fees; seatbelt violation, plead guilty, \$20.00 fine.

Kaylie Mcgrill – Butte- fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance-owner or operator-2nd offense, plead guilty, \$385.00 fines and fees, license plates and registration of the vehicle driven at the time of the offense are suspended until proof of compliance provided to MVD. Jeffrey Krantwashl Jr – Lewistown- driving without a valid driver's license, plead guilty, \$135.00 fines and fees.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Seth Anderson – Townsend- criminal trespass to property, plead guilty, 1 day in jail; driving without a valid driver's license, plead guilty, \$75.00 fines and fees.

Grace Skinner- Ulm - fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance-owner or operator-1st offense, plead guilty, \$285.00 fines and fees.

Paul Reinke- Three Forks – disorderly conduct, plead guilty, ten days in jail with all time suspended for a period of six months on conditions, \$185.00 fines and fees.

Jeffrey Krantwashl Jr.- Lewistown- driving without a valid driver's license, plead guilty, \$135.00 fines and fees.

Three Forks Area Ambulance: December 2024

Barbara Mutter
Three Forks Ambulance Service



Three Forks Ambulance had 16 calls for service in December 2024.

With two major holidays, we were glad to see such a low call volume this month! Thank you for staying safe.

Our December calls included:

- 7 transports to the hospital with NO paramedic intercepts for pain medications
- 3 calls where AMR came from Bozeman to provide needed backup because our volunteer crew were unable to respond.
- 2 refusals where the patient declined transport
- 3 calls canceled before we arrived on scene
- 1 Fire where we supported Three Forks Fire
- 1 medical crew at the High School basketball games

We're excited to announce progress on becoming a MT Emergency Medical Services for Children voluntary prehospital recognized pediatric-ready organization. Only 15 EMS agencies statewide have achieved this certification, and none in the Gallatin Valley. As part of this process, two of our EMTs, EMT Hudspeth and EMT Matthews, received their certification as Child Passenger Safety Technicians which allows them to teach and verify the correct installation of child safety seats in cars. This is a free service and can be scheduled by emailing 3fkamb@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

There continues to be a need for local drivers and EMTs. Volunteering as a driver requires zero experience other than you must be licensed, and 18 years of age or older. We will train the rest. See our website, 3faa.org for more information or to fill out the interest form.

We are offering an EMT class at our station starting February 25th on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and running until the end of May. There will also be 4 Saturdays during this time. It's the least expensive in the Gallatin Valley at only \$899. Email 3fkamb@gmail.com to sign up or learn more! There is no requirement to volunteer with TFAA after completing the class, though we'd love to have you!

As a non-profit organization, Three Forks Area Ambulance operates without tax levies.

Our service is supported solely through insurance billing, donations, and grants.

In 2024 we received 340 calls for service resulting in 144 hospital transports. Our dedicated volunteer EMTs and drivers continue to work tirelessly to meet our community's emergency medical needs. We appreciate your ongoing support. Please see our website, 3faa.org, if you are interested in supporting our mission financially or as a volunteer.

Thank you!

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Daylene Hansen
Executive Administrative Assistant



BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on
416 Broadway St.

Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov>.

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Monday, January 27, 2025

2:00 PM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

10:00 AM Working meeting in the Flynn Building, Public Works and Department of Revenue, discussion of DOR's new-construction reporting tool

3:00 PM Working meeting in Commission Office with Kay Minor, Deputy County Attorney, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

10:00 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Airport hanger lease for Adam McDonald

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, MACo Property & Casualty Trust, 2025 – 2026 PCT Renewal Scheduled Property

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Family Medical Clinic letter and 2024 invoice

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, TJ Graveley, Public Works Director, Interlocal Agreement for Waste Disposal of Broadwater County Solid Waste at Lewis and Clark County Landfill

10:15 AM Discussion, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Resolution Updating Broadwater County Subdivision Fees

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, appeal of decision of December 11, 2024 denial of Heinemann Boundary Relocation

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Armstrong Family Transfer Exemption Request, S9 T8N R3E

10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Greene Family Transfer Exemption Request, S30, T3N, R1E

10:35 AM Discussion/Decision, Nick Rauser, Broadwater County Sheriff, FY26- FY27 Missouri River Drug Task Force MOU

10:40 AM Discussion/Decision, Nick Rauser, Broadwater County Sheriff, Sheriff Mill Levy Resolution

10:45 AM Discussion/Decision, County Board letters of resignation, letters of interest and recommendations:
• Noxious Weed Board
• Planning Board

2:00 PM Discussion on south Broadwater County PER with WGM and the Department of Commerce

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

Items for Discussion / Action / Review / Signature –
Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail – ongoing grants
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)
Please note: These meeting times/dates may change, please check the county website

- Sheriff Mill Levy Meeting at the Townsend Community Room on January 28th at 6:00 PM
- Sheriff Mill Levy Meeting at the Headwaters Livestock Auction on January 30th at 6:00PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on February 5th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on February 6th at 6:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on February 11th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on February 11th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on February 11th at 6:00 PM
- Mental Health Local Advisory Council Meeting on February 12th at 2:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on February 18th at 6:00 PM

The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)

Commission to Consider Changes to Subdivision Fees

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County’s Board of Commissioners reviewed proposed amendments to the county’s subdivision fees.

“I hope and anticipate some discussion from the public,” Broadwater County Planning Director Nicole Brown said. “This is why we’re taking two meetings, if not more” to discuss the proposal.

Commissioner Debi Randolph noted that Deputy County Attorney Kaylan Minor had researched the fee structures of similar sized counties and that research informed the changes proposed.

Among the changes Brown:

- Adding a \$1,500 fee for subsequent minor subdivisions to an approved subdivision. Brown noted that the fee reflects a clarification of the existing fee structure. Currently, the application fee for any minor subdivision is \$1,500.
 - A new fee of \$250 for applications amended before those applications are reviewed by the commission. Brown gave the examples of changes to a road or fire plan for a subdivision to explain when this fee would be applied.
 - A fee of \$550 for applications amended after commission review. Typically, Brown said, those changes arise from either questions from the commission or from public comment on the proposed subdivision during its review at a regular commission meeting.
 - A proposed fee of \$550 for amendment to conditions of preliminary plat. This would occur when the conditions under which the commission approved the plat prove impossible or unreasonably burdensome for the developer to meet.
 - A \$550 fee for amending applications prior to public hearing by the county planning board.
 - A \$750 fee for amending applications after the county planning board’s public hearing.
 - A minimum fee of \$4,000 for hydrological analysis review by a county-contracted engineer. The hydrological review follows a judicial decision requiring such a review for all subdivisions also required to have an environmental assessment, Brown said. The county has contracted with Great West Engineering to perform professional analysis on its behalf since the county lacks staff members qualified to conduct the reviews. Great West set the base fee of \$4,000, which could be more if the review takes more time. Brown said the full cost of the analysis would be passed on to the developer. “This is to ensure that the taxpayers of Broadwater County are not paying for the cost of developments,” she said. “The cost of development will be directly billed to the developer.”
- Responding to a question from Commission Chair Lindsey Richtmyer about situations where the fee might be applied for relatively small changes, Brown noted that she could think of scenarios where the developer could request a variance to be exempted from the review and fee. “The tricky part about variances is they can only be approved by the governing body,” Brown said. “It really is a gamble, and I do advise all developers that this is a gamble. . . . If a variance is denied, [the subdivision] goes back to the beginning.”
- Consolidating the Fire Protection Review Fee and the Fire District Inspection Fees. Brown noted that these seemed to overlap. She added that she would expect that these fees would go directly to the fire authority reviewing the plan or conducting the inspection.
 - Phasing plan review fees. Brown said these would generally apply only to major subdivisions being developed in phases.
 - Removing the fees for material alterations to a final plat for both major and minor subdivisions. Brown said she could not identify a scenario where a material change would be made without requiring the subdivision to go through the review process again.

Commissioners will review the changes again at their regular Jan. 29 meeting and, potentially, again on Feb. 5.

Teacher Pay, School Funding and Math Skills Top on Montana Lawmakers’ Priority List

Alex Sakariassen
Montana Free Press



This article by Alex Sakariassen was originally published in the Montana Free Press on January 15, 2025, and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press.

https://montanafreepress.org/2025/01/14/teacher-pay-school-funding-and-math-skills-top-on-montana-lawmakers-priority-list/?utm_medium=email

Increasing teacher pay, finding ways to get more money to school districts and boosting students’ early math skills are on the agenda as Montana legislators plan to take up a broad range of proposals this year addressing the K-12 system’s most chronic challenges.

On the funding front, several House Republicans have already signaled plans to tackle one of the most pressing education issues in the state: teacher pay. Low starting salaries for early career educators are a driving factor in Montana’s ongoing teacher shortage, making it hard for many local districts to recruit and retain staff.

Montana Free Press wrote extensively last month about the still-evolving STARS Act, a proposal shepherded by Rep. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, that aims to use Montana’s school funding formula as a vehicle to increase wages for early career educators.

In an adjacent move, Rep. David Bedey, R-Hamilton, the incoming chair of the Legislature’s education budget subcommittee, has introduced a bill to diffuse the local funding burden on property taxpayers by levying that support countywide rather than from taxpayers in specific school districts.

Recent bill drafts also shed light on how House Democrats are approaching the issue of adequate K-12 education funding. One proposal calls for directing revenue from the state lottery straight to the Office of Public Instruction for distribution to public schools, while another seeks to increase per-pupil state payment rates for sixth graders to match rates for other middle-school grades.

In a virtual press call with state media last month, Rep. Connie Keogh, D-Missoula, acknowledged that enhancing funding for schools without overly burdening local taxpayers will be a “delicate balance” but said she’s confident lawmakers can work with other education leaders to achieve a solution.

“There’s plenty of money in the budget,” Rep. Mary Caferro, D-Helena, said during the same call. “The budget is a matter of priorities. It expresses our values, and Democrats value public education.”

Outside the funding conversation, Democrats in both chambers have at turns drawn policy inspiration from conversations that played out during the legislative interim. Rep. Melissa Romano, D-Helena, vice chair of the House Education Committee, requested a bill to expand pre-kindergarten academic interventions to include early childhood numeracy.

The proposal builds off last session’s early childhood literacy bill, carried by Republican Rep. Brad Barker, of Roberts. It addresses concerns raised by state education leaders regarding declining student performance on statewide math assessments and increased demand for remedial math courses at in-state colleges and universities.

Legislators on both sides of the aisle last fall expressed interest in policy targeting early numeracy. The issue is also high on newly elected state Superintendent Susie Hedalen’s list of policy priorities for the coming months.

“As a former kindergarten teacher, we talked about ‘numbers sense’ a lot and having that understanding of mathematics, those basic foundations,” said Hedalen, a

Republican who has worked as a Montana teacher and superintendent and was vice chair of the state Board of Public Education. “When the early literacy bill passed [in 2023] and we started these programs, everyone realized that math is also one of those key components to students being successful.”

Hedalen added that, in addition to early numeracy, the Legislature is poised to take up the issue of increased costs to local districts incurred as a result of recent guidance from the Board of Public Education. Last year, Hedalen and other board members unanimously adopted a resolution encouraging school districts to add a third year of math to their high school graduation requirements.

While existing math classes and offerings through the Montana Digital Academy should give most students ample opportunity to meet such a requirement, Hedalen said, she’s met with business leaders and the state Department of Labor and Industry to discuss crafting courses tailored to students pursuing trades-based education, an effort she’s hopeful will attract state funding.

In a recent interview with MTFP, Sen. John Fuller, R-Kalispell, echoed the prediction that early numeracy and teacher pay will be prominent on the Legislature’s education agenda. Fuller said he also anticipates policies dealing with school choice and the powers of public school boards will feature heavily before the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee, which he chairs this session.

Fuller noted that the Montana Constitution and its deference to local control will likely drive much of the debate around school boards. As for school choice, Republican lawmakers have already submitted proposals to expand eligibility for state-funded education savings accounts to all public school students and to grant a state commission tasked with overseeing publicly funded “community choice” schools the authority to seek state funding of its own. Both bills build on policies passed last session, which brought about some of the most significant advancements for the school choice movement in Montana in decades.

Other bill language and draft titles suggest the policy conversation will touch on classrooms more directly. One still-percolating Democratic request calls for the creation of a “teachers’ bill of rights,” while a Republican-led proposal aims to assert teachers’ authority to “maintain a positive classroom learning environment” and codify school protocols for the treatment of disruptive students.

Individual lawmakers are also pursuing bills to mandate the display of the Ten Commandments throughout public school buildings and to grant parents the explicit right to seek the deletion of their child’s educational data from OPI’s statewide K-12 data system, setting the stage for debates over the legal nuances of public education.

With a wide array of education proposals in the offing this session, Hedalen said she intends to play an active role in the Legislature’s debates and will have “no qualms” taking a firm stance on specific measures that may adversely impact students and educators — a marked contrast from the no-advocacy approach of her predecessor, Republican Elsie Arntzen. Based on her own policy priorities, Hedalen is poised to back any efforts to improve student safety, enhance student mental health support and bolster funding for school infrastructure. The tenor of conversations among state leaders over the past year and a half have Hedalen feeling optimistic about the Legislature’s appetite for supporting public education.

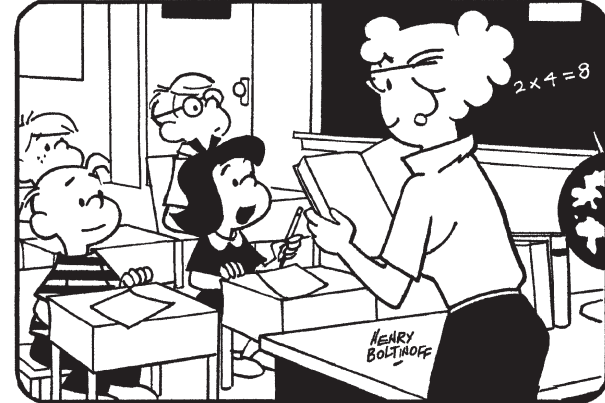
“We don’t expect to see as many education bills as last session, I think that was definitely a record,” Hedalen said. “People have done a lot of the work through the interim, so we’ll be able to make more movement and I think there’ll be less controversy this time.”

Much of that movement will likely happen through adjustments and additions to how Montana pays for the education of its youth. Republican and Democratic lawmakers have already expressed a shared interest in reexamining details of the state’s education funding formula, itself a deeply complex topic, and Montana School Boards Association Executive Director Lance Melton said several related proposals are taking shape to address local budget gaps driven by high inflation in recent years.

Melton noted a growing acknowledgment among legislators of the important role elected school boards play in crafting timely school policies that reflect their individual communities, and said he hopes lawmakers this session continue to embrace policies that promote strategic local action over those that seek a fast statewide fix to a complex challenge.

“We have some fast fixes out there, people that come in and say, ‘I think that we need to have the following uniform rule across the whole state,’” Melton said. “We gently remind people in those circumstances that we continue to believe that the best governance impacting our communities is the governance that’s exercised where you can change it.”

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Desk leg is missing. 2. Book is missing. 3. Door knob is higher. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Bow is missing. 6. Pencil is added on desk.

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Our Two Cents
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Scan the QR code provided if you would like to ask your own anonymous questions.. or even “ask for a friend”.



DINE LOCAL BROADWATER

Dates and times may vary due to events, seasons or holidays.
Call the restaurant with any questions. Happy Dining!



American Legion Hall 211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611 Dining Hours: Tuesday Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM Special Event with Food: N/A Bar hours may vary	The Betsy Sports Zone 217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com	C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery 310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087 Dining Hours: Mon - Sat 9:00AM - 7:00PM Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM Menu: Facebook changinmerc.square.site	Copy Cup 303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400 Please call on business hours Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday	Fishtale Tavern 209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 11:00PM Daily Specials: Facebook Bar hours may vary	Mint Cafe 305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM Menu: https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Mint-100028372015743/
Bread and Butter Cafe 205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM- 2:00PM Menu available on Facebook Closed Sunday and Monday	Bunkhouse Bar & Grill 8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - Close Grill off at 10:00PM	Commercial Bar 101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook	Deep Creek Pizza 415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Menu: www.deepcreekpizzaco.com, Facebook and Instagram Closed Sunday	Full Bell Deli 209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: 7:30AM - 8:00PM Every Day Menu: fullbellidelimt.com	TB's Diner 316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Fri - Tue 7:00AM - 8:00PM Wed - Thu CLOSED Specials: Facebook

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Weather Info Contributed by Jeff Ross

Fri 1/24	Sat 1/25	Sun 1/26	Mon 1/27	Tue 1/28
Light Snow	Very Light Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear
27° 13°	17° 5°	19° 14°	28° 18°	31° 21°
☁ 1 in	☁ 38%	☁ 0%	☁ 0%	☁ 0%
⇒ 6 18 mph	⇒ 7 13 mph	⇒ 5 10 mph	⇒ 6 11 mph	⇒ 6 11 mph

Precipitation:

August: 0.402"	November: 0.079"
September: 3.637"	December: 0.000"
October: 0.174"	January: 0.04"
2024: 10.903"	2025: 0.04"

Super Crossword EXPANSION TEAM

ACROSS

- 1 Horse house
- 7 Talked about
- 16 iPhone buys
- 20 Medieval weapon
- 21 Stimulus
- 22 Garbanzo, for one
- 23 Kids' writer who was a frequent flier?
- 26 North Carolina university
- 27 Ca++ or Cl-
- 28 Make up (for)
- 29 Architect who loved internet chatting?
- 38 "Oh yeah?" — who?!
- 39 That man in a chair
- 41 Rural tract
- 42 Helper
- 43 Not round-trip
- 47 Three, in Italy
- 48 1999-2004 Oldsmobiles
- 50 Mystery writer who was a constable?
- 57 Give the right
- 58 Actor Arnaz
- 59 Old Japanese governors

DOWN

- 60 Classic toothpaste brand
- 63 Org. supporting sober motorists
- 65 Env. alterer
- 66 Novelist who had a law degree?
- 73 Pear center
- 74 Litigant
- 75 Extensive, informally
- 76 Vehicle often traded in
- 80 Actress Rae
- 82 Chess plays
- 87 Showman who rehabilitated injured people?
- 91 Song that Kim sings to Hugo in "Bye Bye Birdie"
- 92 Long span
- 93 Third-century pope
- 94 Alpine goat
- 97 Test facility
- 98 Grinding tool
- 101 "—'er rip!"
- 102 Anonymous guy
- 103 Comedian who did plumbing work?
- 108 Soda giant
- 110 Obama health law, for short
- 111 Camp shelter
- 112 Actor who was always providing precedents?
- 122 Casino cubes
- 123 Has as a goal
- 124 Really must
- 125 Suffix with novel
- 126 Sticks firmly to a decision
- 127 Prized violins, for short
- 13 Moral lapse
- 14 Actress Best
- 15 French article
- 16 Slightly
- 17 Nancy in the House
- 18 Gave a lousy review of
- 19 "Gesundheit!"
- 24 Kitchen pests
- 25 — tai
- 29 "God willing!"
- 30 Curtain fabric
- 31 Fuse, as ore
- 32 Dole (out)
- 33 Sheriff Wyatt
- 34 Ending for bed or home
- 35 Vogue rival
- 36 Hammerhead ends
- 37 Sun orbiter
- 42 Jokingly
- 44 Nintendo game system
- 45 Second part of a play
- 46 Barks of pain
- 48 In the thick of
- 49 Eye, in Spain
- 51 Extinct
- 52 Deep regret
- 53 Old autocrat
- 54 Tone down
- 55 —'acte
- 56 ID for the IRS
- 61 Rejections
- 62 Keenness
- 64 "Lah-di —!"
- 66 Joke around
- 67 Harold of the Manhattan Project
- 68 Boston team
- 69 Keyboardist John
- 70 Dull and heavy
- 71 Ex-Yankee Hideki —
- 72 Shortstop
- 73 Half-pint
- 77 The Bengals, on score-boards
- 78 Fast Amtrak train
- 79 Morocco's capital
- 81 "Am not!" rejoinder system
- 83 "I'll return very shortly," in texts
- 84 As a whole
- 85 Fixed the pitch of
- 86 Actor Jimmy
- 88 Brain section
- 89 — and crafts
- 90 Part of IPA
- 94 Hamper
- 95 Withdrawal of the U.K. from the E.U.
- 96 Await
- 98 Printed circuit board, as for a laptop
- 99 Brings joy to
- 100 Comics' Kett
- 103 Reddi- — (dessert topping brand)
- 104 — to go (fired up)
- 105 Plants with fronds
- 106 Map extra
- 107 Old-time anesthetic
- 109 Captain Hook henchman
- 113 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 114 Suffix with novel
- 115 Transcript fig.
- 116 AOL or MSN
- 117 — low ebb
- 118 Pithy remark
- 119 Toothpaste box inits.
- 120 "Inc." relative
- 121 — Alamos

Kids' Maze

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Weekly SUDOKU

	7	3						
8	3	9			5			
	6	7				8		
6		9	2	3	7			4
		3	6	5	4	9	7	
		7			9		3	6
		6	1		2		4	
	5	2			8		1	
	1			6	3		2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Lessen

TIDULE

Abate

ANEW

Plod

GUTERD

Apart

ANOEL

TODAY'S WORD

"It was a very unusual _____ he didn't show up."

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals S

UWMB RL WI WVWVG FVRFP
 UMRSOFTIQ BZY HROISH RL
 LRVPH HZRRBTIQ BZY EMMYKY:
 BZY HFZGRRKY EOBRI.

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KNIGHT MOVES

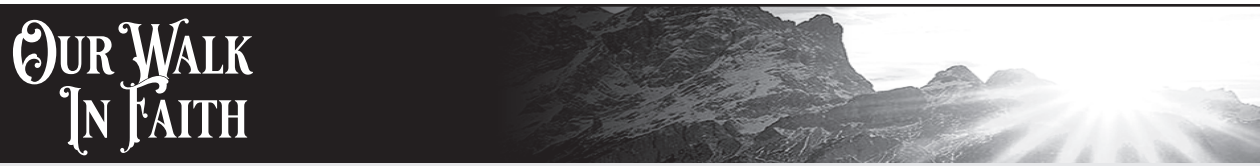
C	R	S
S		N
I	E	P

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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SR. CENTER MEALS:	
JAN 27 - JAN 31	Sauce
	Green Beans
	Tossed Salad
	Garlic Bread
	Pineapple
	Dessert
Monday, January 27	Thursday, January 30
Salisbury Steak	BBQ Chicken Breast
Mashed Potatoes	Wild Rice
California Vegetables	Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread	Garden Salad
Mandarin Oranges	Whole Grain Bread
Tuesday, January 28	Sweet Peaches
Baked Ham	Friday, January 31
Scalloped Potatoes	Baked Cod
Garden Peas	Rice Pilaf
Carrot Raisin Salad	Carrot Coins
Whole Grain Bread	Bean Medley
Cinnamon Applesauce	Whole Grain Bread
Wednesday, January 29	Fruit Cocktail
Spaghetti with Meat	



Elkhorn Community Fellowship
126 N Cedar St. Townsend
Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183
Sunday: 11:00am- Services
Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades | 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades

Faith Baptist Church
5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend
Pastor Mike Wenzel (406) 266-4219
Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning Service | 6:00pm Evening Service
Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer

Holy Cross Catholic Church
101 S Walnut St. Townsend
Parish Contact (406) 266-4811
email: office@holycrossmt.org
Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation | 4:30pm- Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades
Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org
Monday: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration
Tuesday: 9:00am Mass

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)
110 E Street Townsend
Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 465-5895
MountainValleyChurch.org
Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and Youth Ministry
Last Thursday of the month: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry: K-3rd Grades and 4th-Senior High | Parent Bible Study
Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406
Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.

Radersburg Baptist Church
7 Main St. Radersburg
Pastor Richard Summerlin (406) 410-0458
Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship

Set Free Christian Fellowship
318 Broadway St. Townsend; PO Box 1163

Pastor Carol Bergstad (406) 461-2181
Sunday: 9:30am Service | 7:00pm Set Free Recovery
Thursday: 7:00pm Bible Study

Seventh Day Adventist Church
200 N Cedar St. Townsend
Pastor Ney Khut (269)-362-5768
Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Bible Study

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod
301 N Cherry St. Townsend
Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911
Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon
Council President Margie Urich (406) 599-9848
Sunday: 9:30am Services
Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the ELCA meet.
Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
916 Broadway St. Townsend
Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255
Sunday: 8:30am Choir Practice | 9:30am Sacrament Meeting | 10:40am Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open
For Family History Center appointment call Director, Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270
Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities

Townsend United Methodist Church
200 N Cedar St. Townsend
Pastor Mele Moa (406) 266-3390
TownsendUMC.org
Sunday: 9:00am Services

Trailhead Christian Fellowship
20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)
Pastor Mark Roelofs (406) 266-4406
Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education | 10:00am Services
Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K- 6th Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th-12th Grades

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Contact: Brenda Phillips
406-231-9752



I Will Not...or Will I?

Well, the holiday season is officially over. The Winter is in full swing, the football season is almost over AND America will begin a brand-new Governmental leadership time! (Yeah yeah, I know some like the man, some hate the man.) Just for his name! I will NOT talk politics, there are too many hate-filled people around that will not see, as in "None are so blind, as those who WILL NOT SEE". Great quote, that.

I have great faith in America, if you really look at this land- our whole country, you will SEE that in truth freedom does incredibly ring from every mountainside. Every forest, every valley/plain/wild river running free! This land we call home, no matter where you are from yells FREEDOM all around us. Sometimes it takes a while for our people to wake up, but when they do, they will work together to make a difference. These wild lands will never be subjugated, or enslaved. Many city folks think that they are above it all, because they have money and position. HOWEVER: they still call a Plumber or an Electrician, when things go wrong with their homes. If their businesses are having problems, they will call on some lower-wage technician to fix the problem. Gee, why don't they call another one of their executive buddies? Because for common, everyday problems they are Incompetent!

One BIG problem with the way things have changed, is IF you need a heart surgeon you do not look for a person of a specific gender or race. NO, you want someone who can DO THE JOB! Someone "qualified" who actually knows what they are doing! In the Army (you knew this was coming, didn't you?) we had a phrase that cut through all the crap, it was: "They really know their...STUFF!" (Hey it's a family newspaper; I can't swear on here.) The old "apprenticeship programs" that used to be everywhere. Young folks working WITH a company or business to completely LEARN their trade is a great idea as it puts the people in real life situations to learn their way, so they can earn their way!

There are so many jobs wanting people to work, but some people seem to think flipping burgers is beneath them. They are too good to do a job like that! I have known several folks over the years, that started working at so called, "beginning" jobs. Many of them actually became managers, even district managers who moved up to become executives in the multi-million-dollar companies. Hmm all from flipping burgers, guess they did alright for themselves. Who knew? EVERYBODY! Life can be hard, to make a life for yourself, YOU need to work hard.

Young folks, "Get a Clue!" End of rant. Stay well and warm.

Whispers of the Past - Centerville Cemetery

Shelley Douthett



Two years ago, I started volunteering at the Broadwater County Museum during the winter. As a history buff, it helped me get through the dark months of cold and snow with my well-being somewhat intact. I tried my best to help Linda Huth, museum curator, with various projects but she often had to rein me in to stay on task. I did not disclose to her about my ADD but I'm sure she is aware of it now. The museum is full of very interesting pieces and parts of the history of our county and state and I tended to wander off and explore any chance I got.

There are a lot of families here that can trace their history back several generations. I have lived here for over 35 years and I wanted to feel like I belonged, had roots here. Low and behold, I tripped over a record of a person with the surname Douthitt being buried out at the Centerville Cemetery. For me, it was close enough to Douthett to feel a connection. It gets way more confusing after that but I think I have it sorted now.

As soon as Linda freed me from the bonds of our latest project, I raced out to the cemetery and searched for Myra Douthitt. I figured we were on a first-name basis now that I found her. The only Myra I found on the headstones was for a Myra Townsend. I realized I needed to do more research about this place and Myra. Even though it was freezing cold, I wandered around the cemetery and felt the loneliness of the place but also the peace. I went home and started looking through records on websites like Ancestry, Find A Grave, and Archives, to name a few.

Myra Douthitt was born and raised in Richey, Missouri. She married William Henry Townsend in 1883. They moved to Colorado and had 5 children, 2 of the sons dying there. Maybe that's why they moved to Townsend. Maybe it was the name. 'Hey honey, I heard about a town in Montana with our name. We should move there.' Anyway, she died in 1907 at age 46. She was known to have heart trouble and had gone out to get firewood and collapsed and passed away. She was well-known in the Townsend area and was described as affable, pleasant, and generous. I want to be remembered that way. Especially as affable. What a fun word.

As I wandered around the cemetery in the next few months, my daughter Megan, who knows me and cemeteries, sent a YouTube video about cleaning headstones. I watched so many of them my eyes dried out. Linda told me if I wanted to do anything at Centerville, I should get permission from the county as they had

taken over maintenance responsibility. I reached out to Lindsey Richtmyer and she talked it over with the other commissioners and they said yes. I ordered the stuff to do it right and headed out with my bucket of cleaning stuff.

Myra's headstone was easy. It's a kind of dark stone so cleaning was mostly getting bird droppings off. Bird droppings are the hardest thing to clean. The white part doesn't want to go away. What is in that stuff? I then moved over to the next headstone. A nice white one that needed all my tools. Sanford Wood. He was a Civil War veteran.

I will get more into the fine art of headstone cleaning later because there are rules in cleaning so you don't do more damage than actual cleaning. And I want to talk about Centerville and the cemetery itself. One interesting fact about this cemetery is it was the Poor Farm or Pauper's cemetery. And I've been digging deep. No, not grave digging. Yuck.

You'll see, so stay tuned.



Myra Douthitt, Townsend
Photo Provided by Shelley Douthett

GUEST EDITORIALS

Guest Editorials reflect the views of the author and not MT43 NEWS

High-Value Homes Claim Tax Benefit Intended for Working Farms and Ranches

Eric Dietrich
Montana Free Press Deputy Editor

This article was published on the Montana Free Press website.

Keep Montana Judicial Elections Non-Partisan

Joel Krautter
Former Montana State Representative



As the Montana Legislature meets again, a handful of Republicans are promoting bills to change the way that Montanans elect our judges. These Republicans want to change judicial elections from non-partisan to partisan because they don't like the way judges across Montana have struck down a handful of previously passed bills as unconstitutional.

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts noted in his "2024 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary" that: "tension between the branches of the government is inevitable and criticism of judicial interpretations of the people's laws is as old as the Republic itself." Roberts referenced Alexander Hamilton's Federalist Paper No. 78 which stated: "there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers".

In our hyper-politicized world, forcing judges to align with and campaign on a partisan political ticket would further undermine public confidence in judicial rulings.

If our judges were aligned with a political party, a person involved in a case may rightfully wonder if his or her particular judge's decision was based on the law and facts of the case or by a worry about keeping the local Republican or Democrat Central Committees happy. A losing litigant might claim, "I would have won that case except the judge was of the opposite political party than I am, so was biased."

What have been the reports from states that have tried partisan judicial elections? In 2019, then-Republican Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Nathan Hecht called partisan judicial elections "among the very worst methods of judicial selection".

One may not agree with every court decision and that's why there's an appeals process. But disagreeing with a court decision does not mean the court isn't doing its duty as an independent branch of government tasked with interpreting laws and upholding constitutional rights, regardless of what's politically popular in the moment.

Standing with the Constitution and for maintaining the checks and balances that have allowed our country to be the most prosperous country in the history of the world and protecting liberty from the tyranny of mob rule is patriotic. The alternative is being with those who are pursuing a radical partisan political agenda or more political power at any cost.

Contact your legislators and let them know we need to keep judicial elections non-partisan.

Joel Krautter lives in Billings and is a Montana attorney, former State Representative and co-founder of Friends of the Montana Constitution.

I've learned a couple of things working as a data reporter and editor at Montana Free Press. One is that numbers are often mind-numbingly boring. Another is that, in the right circumstances, they can put your jaw on the floor.

A project we published in collaboration with High Country News this week, looking at how thousands of high-value homes claim a property tax benefit intended to support working farms and ranches, produced several of those jolting moments.

To recap that story: Most Montanans who own houses pay taxes on the home lots beneath the structures they live in based on how much state tax officials think that land would be worth if put up for sale, a figure that's often north of \$100,000 for even modest lots. Agricultural land, in contrast, is taxed based on how much the state thinks someone can earn farming or ranching it, a figure that's typically much, much less. As a result, if an owner can persuade the state revenue department their home should be classified as a farm, they can typically save hundreds or thousands of dollars a year on their tax bill.

While researching the story over the last six months, HCN reporter Nick Bowlin and I learned that the annual farm income threshold necessary to secure an agricultural tax designation, \$1,500, hasn't been updated since 1986. That was one jaw drop.

Later, I calculated the effective land tax rate for smaller properties, those less than 20 acres. Non-vacant residential properties in that size bracket typically paid about \$1,609 an acre in annual land taxes. The number

for small agricultural properties? \$6.61 an acre. That pennies-on-the-dollar disparity knocked my jaw even lower.

Then, I figured I should take a look at the Bozeman-area property where Gov. Greg Gianforte makes his home. His house and garage, valued at \$1.3 million, sit on 11 acres of land along the East Gallatin River. While the governor pays a four-figure tax bill on the structures, I calculated that his agricultural designation means the 11 acres cost him only about \$66 a year in land taxes — less than what 97% of Montana's urban homeowners are taxed for their home lots. At that point I resigned myself to needing a good orthodontist.

Our reporting indicates that the governor is part of a large class of exurban and rural property owners who have found a way to claim a tax benefit that's by and large unavailable to Montanans who own homes in towns and cities. It looks to me like many of those rural property owners exist in a gray area that blurs the lines between a working farm and luxury real estate. The governor's office, I should note, told us Gianforte and his family use their Bozeman-area land, which includes other parcels, to grow barley and alfalfa and board horses and mules.

I should note, too, that both Republican and Democratic lawmakers have expressed frustration with the state's current ag tax rules. As we discuss at some length in this week's story, a few of them have been working on bills that could make it harder to qualify for the agricultural designation and increase land taxes on ag properties in high-value areas. Because those measures could raise taxes significantly on those who benefit from the current system, however, even proponents of those bills seem skeptical about their prospects of making it to the governor's desk. But then again — who among us hasn't been shocked before?

Fairfield Basketball Club's 3rd Annual Junior Referee Clinic: Building on a Legacy of Success

Mike Schmidt
Fairfield High School

Fairfield, MT — January 18, 2025 — 127 Sports Intensity and Fairfield Basketball Club are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Junior Referee Clinic (JR REF Clinic), to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Fairfield High School. This year's clinic is set to build on the remarkable success of previous years, offering young sports enthusiasts the chance to deepen their basketball officiating knowledge and skills.

The event will welcome boys and girls in grades 6-12, providing them with a unique mix of theoretical instruction and practical experience. The day will start with a one-hour educational session conducted by esteemed members of the Montana Officials Association (MOA), who will impart their valuable knowledge and insights. The MOA's involvement is pivotal in mentoring the next generation of basketball officials!

Post-instruction, participants will take to the courts to officiate real basketball games for 1st through 5th-grade teams, allowing them to apply their new skills in a live

setting. This hands-on approach is designed to enhance their understanding of the game, boost confidence, and foster leadership abilities. MOA officials will shadow the JR REFS as they go up and down the court to help and teach our new officials.

As a token of appreciation and motivation, participants will receive awards recognizing their achievements and encouraging their continued growth in the sport. "The Junior Referee Clinic underscores our commitment to 'Educational Athletics' and our dedication to cultivating talent and sportsmanship within our community and the state of Montana at large," stated Mike Schmidt, Coordinator of the Fairfield Basketball Club.

For more information about the Fairfield Basketball Club and to register for the clinic, please visit:

<https://form.fillout.com/t/u6c7HUeR6Vus>

About 127 Sports Intensity and Fairfield Basketball Club:

127 Sports Intensity and Fairfield Basketball Club continue to champion the development of young athletes and officials in basketball, golf, other sports and life. Through events like the Junior Referee Clinic, we hope to shape the future of the sport in Montana and beyond.

Putting Montanans Before Politics

Erin Ferris-Olsen
Senate Democrats Communications Director

Republicans Seek to Politicize Courts!

HELENA-- Montana Senate Democrats today charged that Republicans are seeking to politicize Montana's Courts, overturning 237 years of U.S. and Montana history of a fair, impartial and non-partisan judiciary.

"We know Montanans want less politics in their lives, not more. Montanans want fairness and their freedoms protected. Montanas want justice in their courts, not politics." Sen. Laura Smith.

Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard SB 42 which would require all judges and justices to declare a political affiliation in running for judgeship. "SB 42 puts the politics of a few over the rights and freedoms of Montanans," says John Marshall, a resident of Hot Springs, Montana.

"No one wants more politics in our judicial system. Our goal should be to protect the fair, impartial nature of the courts—as the US and Montana Constitutions intended," says Sen. Andrea Olsen.

"This bill will force loyal public servants to become political and discourage good people from running for judge." - Sen. Cora Neumann

Republican proponents of politicizing Montana's courts could not provide a single example, outside of our Lt. Governor's personal grievance, where our current system has resulted in a politically biased judicial election outcome.

Democrats proposed a public referendum amendment to this bill that was not opposed by the bill's sponsor. Sen. Laura Smith submitted an official amendment to that effect on Thursday. If the amendment is approved, legislators could, through a public referendum, let Montana voters decide how they want to elect judges in the future.

The purpose of the Republican agenda is clear. Extreme Republicans are trying to remedy their discontent with past Montana Supreme Court decisions striking down laws that violate Montanans' freedoms. The extreme bill to politicize Montana's courts won't make Montanans' lives better. We must put the fairness and freedoms of Montanans first.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezra (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 29, "But whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be ..." ? Made whole, Blessed, Safe, Wise
3. What does God want us to keep as the apple of our eye? His law, Brotherly love, Faithfulness, Righteousness
4. Upon which mountain did Balaam build seven altars? Olives, Sinai, Pisgah, Carmel
5. What did David do to Goliath once he slew him? Stole his armor, Robbed him, Cut off his head, Buried him
6. Which is known as the "First Book of the Kings"? Judges, 1 Kings, 1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Safe, 3) His law, 4) Pisgah, 5) Cut off his head, 6) 1 Samuel
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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For information on becoming a driver for this program, as well as to view free public health information, and other program details please visit gogograndparent.com/MTinfo Note: program has a particular need for drivers with wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Stevenson Wilke

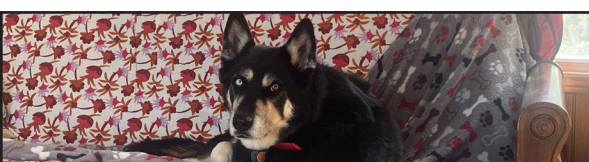
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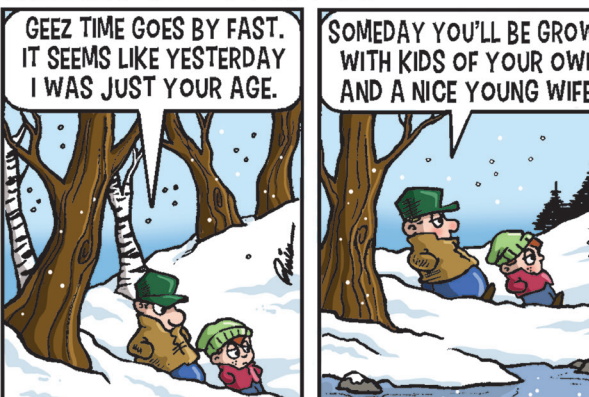
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



Amber Waves

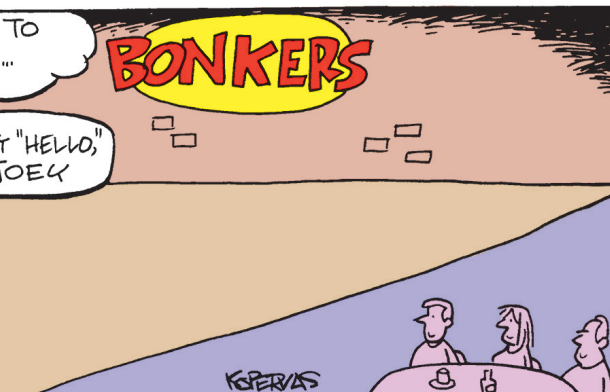


GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

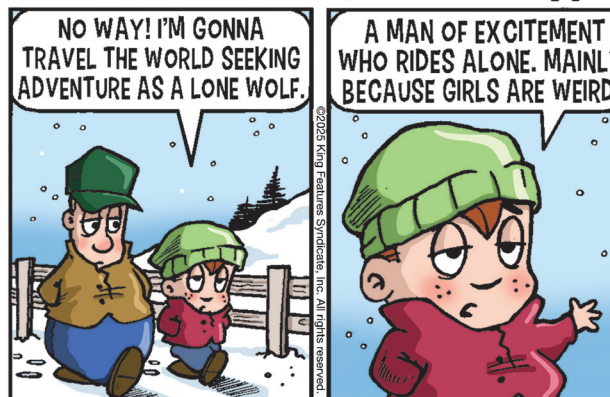


"I have no idea what you're talking about, but I do have an opinion on it."

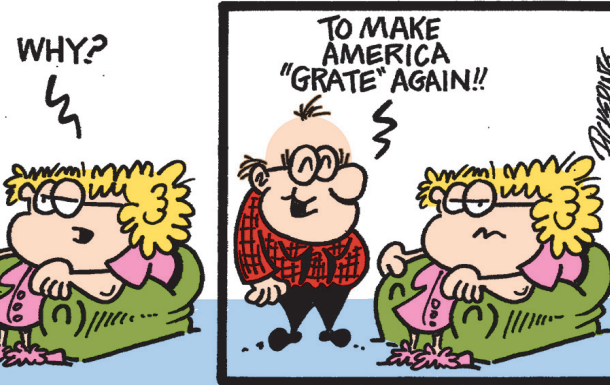
by Gary Kopervas



by Dave T. Phipps



by Jeff Pickering



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Answer

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3	9	6	1	7	2	8	4	5
7	5	2	4	9	8	6	1	3
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CryptoQuip
answer
Part of an alarm clock producing the sounds of folks shooting the breeze: the schmooze button.

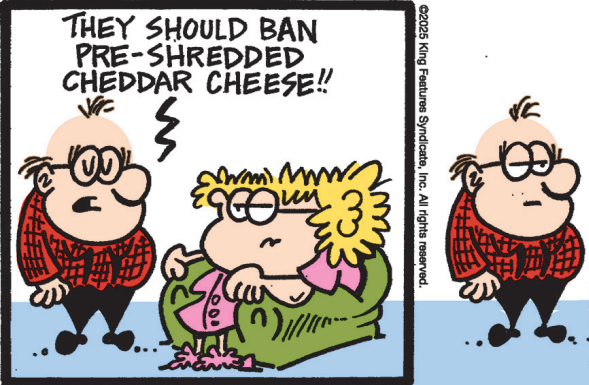
SCRAMBLERS
solution
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Today's Word
WEDDING

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

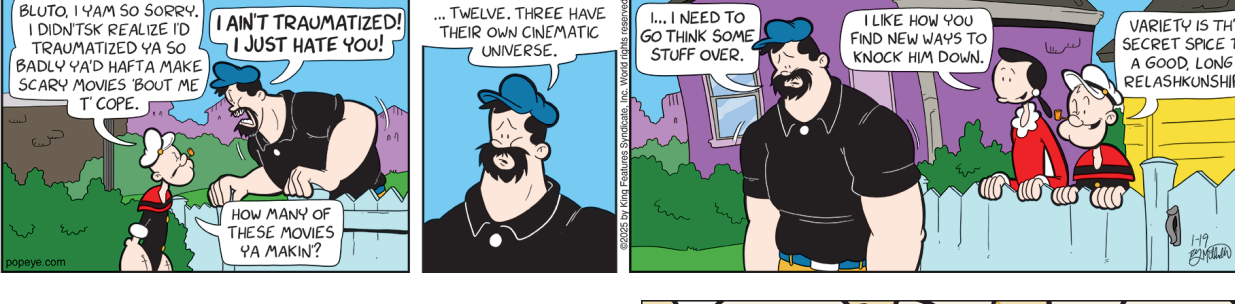
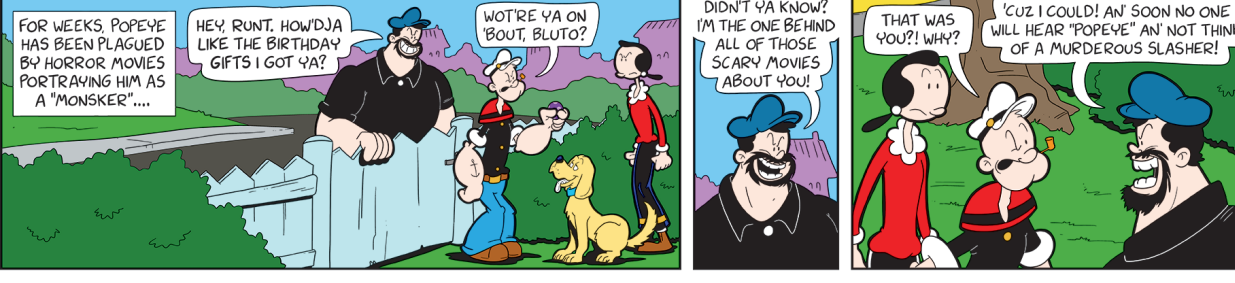
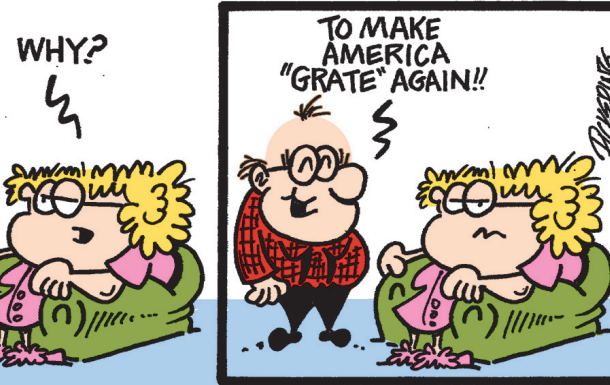
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PRINCESS

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Super Crossword

Answers

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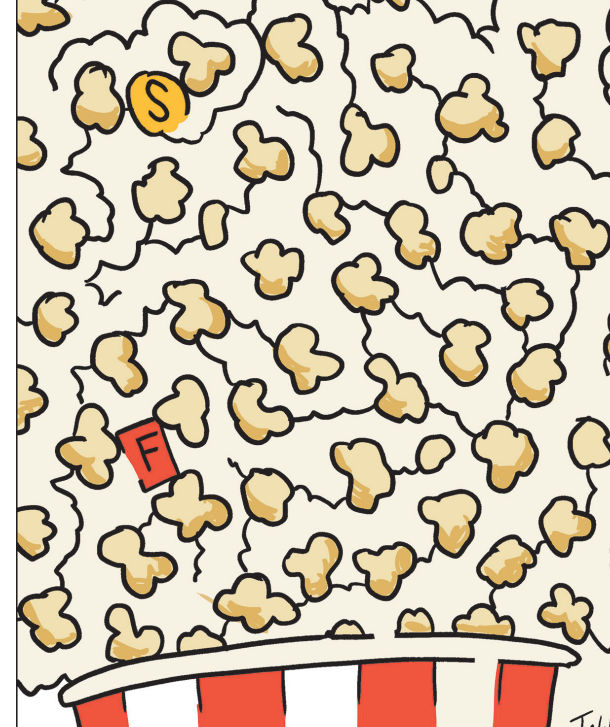
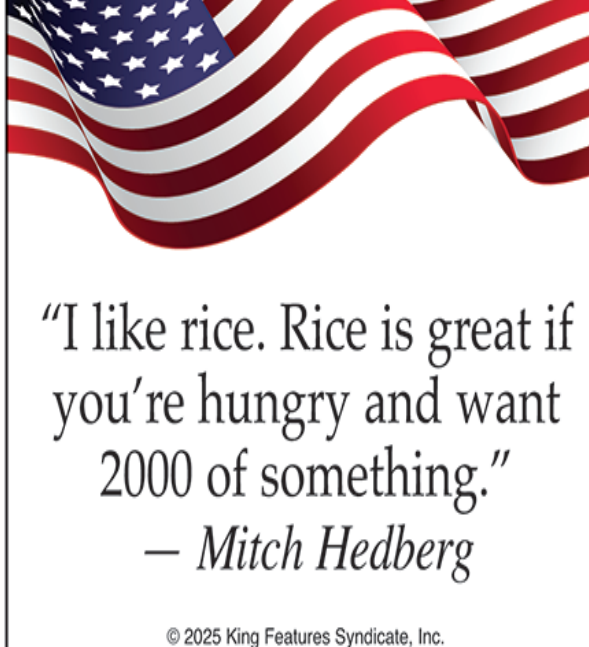
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Agriculture Remains a Strong Industry in Broadwater County

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Last fall, the USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) and the Montana Department of Agriculture released the 2024 Montana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin. This data is gathered throughout the year from individual producers, agencies and technicians to showcase the status and production of agriculture and agriculture products across our state. It's always interesting to take a peek and see how Broadwater County stacks up to the rest of the state.

The report indicates that 2022 was a record year for crop production in the state with \$2.7 million in value in crop production. It was also a record year in animal production with \$1.9 million in value of animals and animal products. Montana continues to lead the nation as the top producer of lentils, dry edible peas and chickpeas and is second in the nation in barley, flaxseed, spring wheat and durum wheat.

This was the first annual agriculture statistics report that contained updated numbers from the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture is done every five years and is a comprehensive agriculture data survey, much like the US Census. This report showed that the number of farms in Broadwater County has increased to 316, which is up from 296 farms from the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The report also showed an increase in average farm size in the county from 1,577 acres in 2017 to 1,741 acres in 2022.

According to the report, Broadwater County harvested 11,900 acres of winter wheat in 2022 and 13,100 acres in 2023. Broadwater County was the second most productive county in the state in terms of bushels per acre of winter wheat harvesting 65.6 bushels per acre. The county saw a slight increase of acres in barley going from 4,760 acres in 2022 to 5,650 acres in 2023. The county ranked second again in bushels per acre at 111.7 bushels per acre. By comparison, the state average is 49.0 bushels per acre which means Broadwater County had more than double the state average.

Broadwater County has historically been a top producer in hay production as well. However, current agriculture statistic reports do not provide county-specific hay production data. The state produced 5.3 million tons in 2023 which includes 3.5 million tons of alfalfa hay. This was a significant increase from the previous year.

In livestock production, Broadwater County has seen a significant reduction in cattle and calf inventory going from 23,000 in 2020 to 16,300 in 2024. On the other hand, sheep numbers have risen. There were 2,800 sheep and lambs in 2022 and 3,200 in 2024. Hog numbers held steady at 100 animals in the county.

Broadwater County is one of the smallest counties in the state based on area. Therefore, our county may never rank among the highest in number of acres planted or harvested, but it continues to be one of the most productive. We also have strength in diversity as a top producer in seed potatoes and forage seed crops.

Our high production rates can be partially attributed to our fertile valley and network of irrigation canals supplying our crops. Both the Toston and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs were created for irrigation and are still vitally important today. These irrigation sources also help many of our producers be more resilient against drought. This was reflected in agriculture statistics from previous years. Broadwater County saw less decline in crop production due to water availability compared to other parts of the state. Additionally, local farmers remain on top of current technology and integrate innovative techniques to conserve and sustain the farmland for the next generation.

You can find more agricultural statistics from NASS at www.nass.usda.gov/mt. MSU Extension in Broadwater County remains committed to serving local agriculture producers and providing educational resources and programming on a variety of topics to provide better decision-making tools. Contact our office at 406-266-9242 or broadwater@montana.edu.

Legacy (part 3).... Ya Reckon?

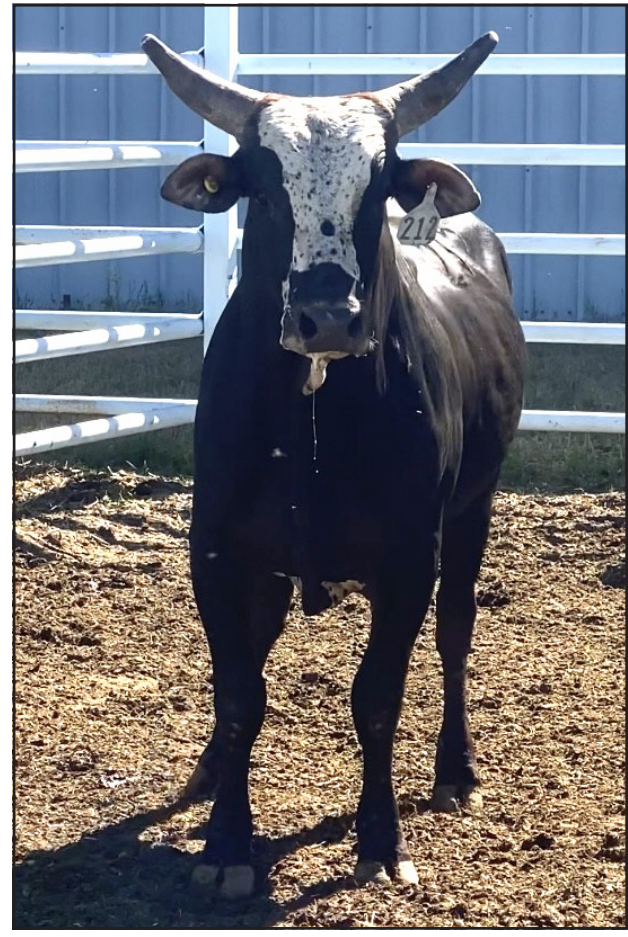
Denise White Thompson
Rancher and Columnist



Grab the bull by the horns! Attend Broadwater Conservation District's free workshop on March 1st called Finding Fairness in Farm Transition with Elaine Froese. This is sure to be a powerful and helpful event, whether you are a multi-generation farm and ranch, a family business owner, or anyone seeking help and guidance with wills and estate planning, succession planning, or how to transition into retirement with a family business of any kind. Front and center will be tools on how to Be Rich in Relationships; after all, those relationships are invaluable, ya reckon?

Last week I spoke about Jason Meadows podcast, Ag State of Mind, and his interview with world-renowned Farm Family Coach, Elaine Froese. In Part 2 of that interview, Jason and Elaine go deeper into Succession/Transition Planning for multi-generation farms and ranches and businesses.

Key takeaways from this interview: Grab the bull by the horns. Talk about what is troubling you, and ask yourself: What is it I truly want and how am I going to get there? Nobody will truly know what you want unless you tell them. What form are we going to have to share with each other, our expectations, timelines and the certainty we need to decrease our anxieties? No surprises. There MUST be transparency where you strive for harmony through understanding and knowing the plan. Must have clarity, and that comes from seeing the legal documents as well. It is your right to ask for clarity. Elaine's definition of fairness: How can you help everyone in the family be successful?" - and that will be different for everyone. A Win-Win approach can only be achieved through open, effective communication; which is, unfortunately, lacking in a lot of families. It is OK to ask the hard, courageous questions, and it is worth it. "Do you want to stay in a place of high stress and high anxiety (which is not good for your mental health) and be in that place and pain of not knowing?" It is a mindset shift to see conflict as a business risk management strategy. There does not have to be fighting. If disagreements, have conversations. Must have



Grab the bull by the horns!
Denise Thompson Photo

a voice & ask for what you need. EXPLORE Options. Intent: Looking out for their best interests and your own, because you are seeing this for generations to come. Never too early to start the conversation & plan. Get to a financial planner. Get wills and POA's, etc. in order. Tears of Joy not Tears of Sadness. Nothing is left unsaid and nothing is left undone. Self-care and support from others (besides spouse) is vital. Different is not wrong; it's just different. Respect your in-laws, and give them a voice at the table. Bless your child's life partner; don't curse them. "Let's bless them, and the cursing stops because mercy triumphs over judgement." Strive for quick repair in relationships.

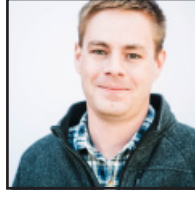
"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life". Proverbs 13:12 KJV

For the love of Ag from the heart of a western woman,

Denise Thompson

Investigation of Montana's Agricultural Tax Code

Eric Dietrich
Montana Free Press



This article was published in the January 10, 2025 issue of the Montana Free Press and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press.

https://montanafreepress.org/2025/01/09/key-takeaways-from-mtftp-and-hcn-investigation-of-montanas-agricultural-tax-code/?utm_medium=email

Montana's property tax system is a complicated thing, involving mind-boggling math and a bewildering array of rules aimed at fairly dividing the bill for public services like schools and police departments between hundreds of thousands of properties.

It's a tricky task, of course, to agree on what exactly fair means when it comes to taxes — and a trickier one for lawmakers to write a tax code that implements a fair framework without loopholes. Earlier this week, Montana Free Press and High Country News published a lengthy investigation into a facet of the state's tax code that has been a perennial concern on the loophole front for decades: whether a property tax break intended for farms and ranches is being abused by people who own luxury homes on rural parcels.

Our full story, which you can read

(at <https://montanafreepress.org/2025/01/06/montanas-agricultural-tax-rules-slash-bills-for-thousands-of-million-dollar-homes/>) runs more than 3,400 words. If you're looking for something briefer, here are some of the key takeaways:

1. Agricultural tax status offers farm and ranch properties a discount relative to residential properties by marking down the value of the underlying land.

If you own a Montana home in an urban or suburban neighborhood, it's almost certainly classified as a residential property. For those, both the house structure and the home lot beneath it are valued and taxed based on their market value — how much the Montana Department of Revenue thinks they would sell for.

Structures on agricultural properties are also valued and taxed based on their market value, but the underlying land is not. Instead, agricultural land is valued for tax purposes based on its production value — how much money the revenue department thinks its owner could make growing crops or grazing livestock.

That's a significant difference. Home lot prices vary from place to place across Montana, but the average residential property had a land value of about \$127,000 in 2023. Production values are much, much lower. Some of the properties we looked at, for example, had grazing land valued at less than \$50 an acre.

2. The agricultural discount can translate into hundreds or thousands of dollars in annual tax savings.

One example we looked at was a property on the Flathead River near Kalispell, described in a Zillow listing as a "gorgeous Montana river estate" with a putting green and orchard. Classified as agricultural land, the 10-acre property paid about \$7,000 in property taxes in 2023, all but \$20 of

that based on the value of the property's structures, according to our analysis.

A 10-acre residential property next door, including a slightly less valuable home, paid about \$9,100 in taxes in 2023, including about \$3,300 in land taxes.

That sort of disparity is typical. For parcels smaller than 20 acres, we found that residential properties paid a median effective land tax of \$1,609 an acre in 2023, compared to only \$6.61 for agricultural parcels.

3. Critics worry that it's too easy for high-end real estate to qualify for agricultural tax benefits.

Unlike most western states, larger Montana properties automatically qualify for agricultural tax treatment without being required to document that the land is being used for agriculture. Properties of 160 acres or more are automatically granted a full agricultural designation, while properties bigger than 20 acres automatically qualify for a partial agricultural designation that offers slightly reduced tax benefits regardless of whether the land is being put to significant agricultural use.

Smaller properties can qualify for the full designation by reporting at least \$1,500 a year in agricultural income. Critics say that threshold, which hasn't been updated since 1986, is low enough that savvy property owners can reach it with relatively little effort.

4. Thousands of million-dollar Montana homes are benefiting from the ag tax treatment. Gov. Greg Gianforte's Bozeman home is one of them.

Looking at state property data for 2023, MTFP and HCN found more than 3,000 properties with million-dollar structure values that qualify for the full or partial agricultural tax benefit. In some cases, like the Flathead River example, those properties are adjacent to otherwise comparable residential properties, resulting in stark tax disparities.

Another example is Gianforte's home on an 11-acre parcel with an agricultural designation on the outskirts of Bozeman. According to our calculations, the governor and his wife, Susan, paid about \$5.75 an acre in land taxes on it in 2023 while a neighbor with a residential parcel across the street paid \$826 per acre. (The governor's office said that the Gianfortes' property, which also includes additional parcels, is used for barley and alfalfa production and is also used to board horses and mules.)

The governor's \$66 land tax bill for the 11-acre parcel is also less than what the vast majority of urban homeowners in Montana pay each year for the lots beneath their homes.

5. Lawmakers could change the tax code as the Montana Legislature meets this year.

As the session opened in early January, there were two bills under consideration that would tighten qualification standards for the agricultural designations (House Bill 27) and increase taxes on homesite portions of high-value agricultural properties (Senate Bill 4).

Similar measures have floundered in the past, in part because of opposition from people who would face higher tax bills. The sponsors of both measures told MTFP this week that they are working on revisions to their proposals in an effort to make the bills politically viable.



Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

January 23

1941

Radersburg News

A crowd gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Frondrick Saturday night at the Sleepy River Ranch for an ice skating party. Those taking no part in skating stayed at the house and played cards and checkers. In the party were Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Emery, son Edward, daughter Mrs. Ethel Hawley and family, Bruce Vercellin of the valley, Mrs. Albert Smith and sons, Albert Jr., Charles Lee; Miss Jean McLeod of the valley.

Canton News

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hardgrove of Helena, who spent nine days at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Langenbach, returned home on Saturday a.m.

Frank Weiferich motored to Harlowton on Monday with a load of potatoes and returned home Tuesday evening, he reports his sales good.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Berberet and daughters, Pat, Betty Ann, Esther and Joan, were Sunday dinner guests at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cotter and family.

Miss Lillian Daniels and Geraldine Hardgrove were weekend guests at the homes of their parents on Cottonwood and in the valley.

Mrs. Antone Meyers of Winston visited with her daughter, Mrs. Dan Sullivan, on Tuesday. Later in the day Mrs. Sullivan took her mother to the home of Joe Myers where she will visit over the remainder of the week.

Cleveland Wallace and Clifford Mockel were in

Townsend Tuesday attending a meeting of Beet Growers. Mrs. Woodrow Wallace accompanied them and spent the day with her Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniels.

1958

Local News

Mrs. Marguerite Michaels of Douglas, Ariz., arrived in Townsend last week for a visit with her daughter and husband Mr. and Mrs. Shine Shaffer, and other relatives.

Frank Smazal returned to Townsend last week after visiting his son and family at Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Smazal says there was plenty of snow and cold weather back there during his visit.

David Kieckbusch, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Kieckbusch, was the honor guest at a party celebrating his ninth birthday Wednesday afternoon. Guests were Jeffrey Aldworth, Alan Freebury, Bradley Plymale, Jerry Bucy, Dale Sprout, Randy Ogle, Louis Schneider, Mike Harrigfeld, Bradley Lane, Mike Finnegan, Jim Kieckbusch and Mrs. Palmer Engh. Birthday refreshments were served.

1975

Townsend News

May Sweeney and Mrs. Arthur Hersey of Toston went to Bozeman to see Mrs. J.M. Nickey, a former teacher at the high school last weekend. They also had tea with Father Mavsar, the former pastor at Holy Cross Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Monte Schnur are in preparation for their departure to Chicago in February to show in the sportsman's show in which Monte appeared last year. Monte guided 16 hunters last year. They have great hopes on an even longer list of guests this year.

Barbara Page is living in Tigard, Oregon and working for the First National Bank in Portland.

Clarence Fisher has moved out of his old store on Main Street into his brand new combination garage, office and repair building on the lot next to his home. He will continue to repair televisions, radios and stereos. He will also continue to sell Maytag and Zenith appliances. The new office is located at 130 South Maple Street. The old Fisher's building was sold to Bob Wells.

Mrs. George Lots visited her mother, Marguerite Petersen, last weekend. Mrs. Lots is from Dillon.

1997

Around Town News

Recent snow and cold makes for a very short list of activities pursued by local residents last week. Most residents opted to stay in their homes over the weekend where they could stay warm. I can't say I blame them because that is exactly what I did. The highlight of the weekend was going out to feed the rabbits.

Lillian Fisher returned last week following a two-week stay in Havre over the Christmas holiday at the home of her daughter, Carla and Ken Speckman, Amy and Joel.

K.C. and David Johnson, Jill, Eric and Jennifer had Barney and Jean Johnson over for dinner Sunday.

Thursday, Doreen Sautter visited Helen Turcotte. Later she attended the United Methodist Women's meeting at the church. Attending were Ruby Cox, Doreen Sautter, Martha Schmidt, Gladys Armstrong, Mary Wright, Rene Dagnall, Ione Schwisow, Georgia Meng, Peggy Huth, Ruth Zimmerman, Peggy Kenney, Ann Poynton, Hallie Alexander, Cheryl Russell and Emma, and Rev. Mike Dexter.



The signs of spring!
(And finding all your garden seeds and early planting needs now at...)

Historic Townsend Hardware
204 BROADWAY - PROUDLY SERVING TOWNSEND SINCE 1953
Someone stuff the groundhog in a pillow case while we still have a chance!

The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) spotted in Townsend early January '25

The bird's actual Latin name is *Turdus migratorius*.

The unusually loud but boldly present Montana Snow Plow (*Sporaticus Whencoldium*) spotted in Townsend mid-January '25

The fabulous and always colorful Early Greenhouse Gardener (*Hopicus Eternium*) spotted in Townsend late January '25

Honoring Our Citizens – Doug Stevens

Matt Nelson



Doug Stevens is an interesting and determined man. He is 56, and moved to Montana in 2016, after spending most of his life in Florida. In August 2023 he suffered a major stroke. However, that hasn't stopped him. He has owned Townsend Towing (406 287-0010) since 2019, and he still drives his tow truck.



Doug Stevens
Matt Nelson Photo

Doug said, "I was born in Memphis (Millington) Tennessee. Tom Stevens, my father, grew up partly in a small town in Ohio. The Vietnam War was on and all the fellas were signing up - my dad joined the Navy as an enlisted man, pay grade E-1, and retired as a Commander, pay grade O-5. Going from an enlisted man to an officer is called "mustanging". He was in charge of maintenance for the P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft. He started out working and flying on the WC-121N "Willie Victor" airplanes as a member of the Hurricane Hunters in squadron VW4.

My family has always been good with electricity - my paternal grandfather (also from Ohio - he guarded an airfield in Okinawa) worked at NCR after WWII. My folks were soon stationed at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida (NAS JAX). Dad was an AT Avionics Technician. We next moved to NAS Patuxent River Maryland. There we lived on base in military quarters. I remember meeting some of the guys Dad was working with and learning to harvest oysters and Momma taking us to beaches in the area. While stationed at Pax River, my father marched in the inauguration parade for President Jimmy Carter. We then moved back to Florida where Dad was stationed at

NAS JAX and would spend most of his career. He was never on a ship. In high school I marched in the "Raider Marching Band" among other things - I was in NJROTC and almost joined the Navy myself. I wanted to fly F-14's but my eyes weren't good enough. I even later met General Doolittle's Executive Officer., Colonel Weaver, who had a \$500 bill signed by the General that he said he won in a poker game!

Doug's friend, the Typsy Gypsy, made the leather portfolio for Doug's father's photos/clippings/career; which shows the different naval squadrons that his dad had been in.

"My maternal grandfather was an expert welder and worked at Cape Canaveral; when he retired they flew him to England to teach the British how to build spaceships that wouldn't explode."

"Out of High School, I worked at Software City. I put hands on my first computer at age 11 so it only made sense to work there (a family background in electricity sure helped). My former boss from the Junkyard "recruited" me there (my grandfather owned a used car dealership on his farm - I guess you could say that "junkin" is in my blood). At McKee Wrecker & Salvage I learned to drive tow trucks. I fixed computers (rough conditions in those early days - I remember floppy disks and 10Mb hard drives). We had a body shop, mechanic(s), a crusher, scale(s), used car dealerships, wreckers and much heavy equipment (I was even OSHA-certified for forklifts - do you think I could have been a SeaBee?). You could say that I learned a lot. I later ran an upholstery shop for one of the 'yard's previous managers.

Next, I went into business for myself as "Orange Park Computer" where I did it all: built, repaired, advertised and sold systems. Then I took over "Galactic Oddites", an arcade, and eventually turned it into and opened up "The Cool Bean Cafe" and booked bands and recorded albums and fixed video games

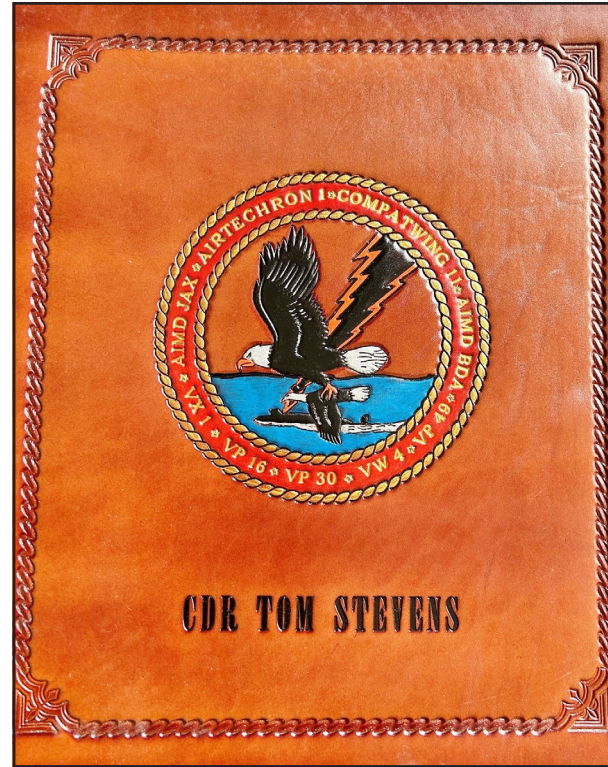
I opened a Spanish-language newspaper called Nuestra Comunidad. I sold the ads, typeset, printed, folded and distributed the paper myself (I wore a lot of hats in those days). We had people who liked to read in their own language.

Fast Forward to Montana where I purchased "The Dirty Dozen Donuts" from the previous owner primarily as a training exercise for some of my kids (I have 9

children from 2 marriages, 4 boys and 5 girls, scattered all over America (and one is in the Navy stationed in Hawaii "mustanging" and in charge of maintenance of Submarines (he's a Submariner - good luck China). I closed the donut shop in 2023 (though I still fry a good turkey and make good jam) to drive a tow truck full time and I just renewed my driver's license (I haven't had a driving test since I was 16 in Florida).

I wanted to say that if someone has a stroke, no matter how you get care or who cares for you, keep trying as hard as you can no matter what. I might be towing in 5 to 10 years but if I can't drive my tow truck for any reason I would open a computer shop. My plan was to tow or rent equipment until I am 80. I am not proud. I might live until I am 100, you never know. I like solving problems. I always have.

I have seen the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western borders of our country and I have seen the Appalachian, Ozark and Rocky Mountains. Florida is very flat and wet - I'll take the snow (though my people in Florida say I'm crazy). I think Montana is beautiful."



The leather portfolio for photos/clippings/career for Tom Stevens, Doug's dad, shows the different naval squadrons that his dad had been in. This was made by Doug's friend, the Typsy Gypsy! Matt Nelson Photo