

Missoula Children's Theater Presents Pied Piper February 22 Two Public Performances at BHS Stage Gym

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Nothing brings a smile to your face or joy in your heart as watching little kids perform on stage. Saturday, February 22, Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) will present Townsend Elementary students and homeschooled children in The Pied Piper.

Two seasoned actors turned directors will come from the Missoula Arts group to lead as many as 60 students in the play to learn, practice and perform the show throughout the week, until the final day on Saturday when they perform in two shows, one at 3:00 pm and one at 5:00 pm at the high school stage gym.

The play evolved from the story of a pied (colorfully dressed) piper of Hamelin, Lower Saxony, Germany, who in 1284, came to the city of Hameline when, according to legend, the city had an infestation of rats. He promised to rid the town of rats in return for a payment to which the townspeople agreed. Without giving away the plot of the story, it is safe to say the Pied Piper has been the basis for songs, poems and books throughout the ages.

If theater interests you, come to watch the young ones do their best to give this intriguing story full illumination. MCT is underwritten by Broadwater Community Theater and its sponsors and members.



This oldest-known painting of the Pied Piper was copied from a glass window of the Market Church in Hamelin, Germany. (c1300-1633)
Photo available through Wikipedia

East Helena Teacher Wins National Math and Science Education Award

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Eastgate Elementary teacher Jen Warner received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, East Helena Superintendent Dan Rispens told trustees at their regular Feb. 10 board meeting.

The competitive award is offered each year to veteran elementary and secondary teachers in each state who demonstrate excellence in science and math instruction and professional teaching practice. The program is administered by the National Science Foundation, and nominee applications are vetted by scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, as well as experienced science and math teachers and administrators.

"Every moment in her classroom is an opportunity for kids to learn," Eastgate Principal Brandon Crusat told the board of Warner's teaching skills.



Jen Warner
Photo Credits: Julie Warner

In addition to a \$10,000 cash award, Warner will travel to Washington, D.C., later this year to receive recognition and participate in professional development seminars.

Public Safety Mill Levy Election Set for May 6

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



The Broadwater County Commission approved Sheriff Nick Rauser's request for a mill levy election to add approximately \$1.1 million per year to the county's public safety, dispatch, and law enforcement budget for the next five years.

The levy would make permanent the department's current levy of 34.4 percent of the county's floating property tax mills, last approved in 2020. The election will be held by mail ballot, with votes to be counted May 6.

"The biggest thing I want people to know is this is the same amount that was voted in in 2020," Rauser told the commission. "I promised to mill 20 percent less than this because I have the ability to go up to this amount."

"I just need to be able to grow with the growth of Broadwater County," Rauser said. "Unfortunately, with growth, crime grows. We've spent the last five years building up services that the public wanted." That included adding two positions through a grant, the addition of a

school resource officer, as well as a position to be based in southern Broadwater County.

"Knowing that it'll expire, it's kind of difficult trying to hire and recruit people, knowing the funding might not be there down the road," Rauser said, explaining why he had requested a permanent levy. "If it's permanent, we can just grow and provide the services that the residents expect."

The county commission offered their own resolution supporting the public safety request.

"The feedback has been positive," Commission Chair Lindsey Richtmyer said, echoing Commissioner Debi Randolph's comments about three public meetings held by the sheriff prior to the resolution request. "People have encouraged you to keep this consistent."

Rauser said that he plans to reinstate a citizens board to review the department's budget. "That way, the public has a voice to be able to sit down with me and look at where we're at, how much we need to mill every year, so the public will have a voice there."

Sheriff Rauser said he plans to hold additional informational meetings as the election nears including Facebook Live sessions. A question-and-answer document will also be available on the county website soon.

A New AED Machine

Dave Corner
American Legion

Paul Liner, Graymont's Indian Creek Plant manager, presented an AED machine to American Legion Post 42 in Townsend recently. An AED (automated external defibrillator) is a portable medical device that analyzes the heart's rhythm and delivers an electric shock to help restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

American Legion Post member Dave Corner said "Post 42 has many activities in the hall that hosts guests of all ages. We wanted a way to be able to help in a cardiac event until a trained medical professional arrives. We contacted Graymont to see if they could help us. They graciously agreed and purchased the AED kit and donated it to Post 42.

As a retired employee of Graymont, I've personally witnessed the donations of monies, manpower and equipment that Graymont has contributed to better our community since the plant opened in Townsend in the early 80's. They are a good corporate neighbor that has touched many lives in Broadwater County. American Legion Post 42 appreciates this life-saving equipment donation."



Paul Liner, Plant Manager of Graymont and Dave Corner with the new AED machine donated to American Legion by Graymont
Photo Provided by Dave Corner



Townsend Booster Club

Wrestling:

Nick Humphreys has improved immensely this season going from a freshman that was 0-2 last year at the divisional tournament to becoming a state qualifier as a sophomore. He has put in a lot of work this season and I am excited to see how deep of a run he can make at state in Billings.



Nick Humphreys
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Girls' Basketball:

Holly Newman, a junior, had a fast-paced week of basketball. First up were the Manhattan Tigers on Friday. In the first quarter, Holly contributed three points to the early lead for the Lady Bulldogs. Holly was able to shut down Manhattan's best offensive player. Holly and her teammates maintained their momentum and never looked back in their win against the Tigers. Overall, Holly scored 11 of the Lady Bulldogs' 57 points, shooting 50% from the free-throw line, 40% on two-pointers, and 40% on three-pointers. She also added two assists and three defensive rebounds. Next up were the Lone Peak Bighorns on Saturday. Holly went on a streak, contributing 12 of the team's 21 points in the first quarter. The Lady Bulldogs put up 71 points in their win over the Bighorns, with Holly contributing 25 of those points. She shot 33% from the free-throw line, an impressive 73% on two-pointers, and 33% on three-pointers. Holly also added three assists, two steals, and both one offensive and one defensive rebound.



Holly Newman
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Boys Basketball:

Trenton Hoveland is this week's player of the week for the Boys Basketball team. The Bulldogs had two great games this week defeating Manhattan and Lone Peak by double digits! Trenton is a key player and captain that we all lean on when it matters most. It was amazing to hear the gym roaring when he hit two very clutch shots down the stretch on Senior Night on Saturday against Lone Peak. He is a guy that will do anything that is asked of him day in and day out. When people are tired at practice he gives them energy and uplifts everyone's mentality! We are excited to keep this momentum going and it is a lot easier to do that as a team when you have players like Trenton Hoveland. Congrats Tub!



Trenton Hoveland
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Kindergarten Roundup



Jenny Hoppe

It is time to begin thinking about the new group of children who will be ready for kindergarten in the fall. Children who turn five by September 10, 2025, are eligible. Registration will open at the Townsend Elementary office on February 1, 2025, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. When you come to register, please be sure to bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records. Be ready to sign up for a time on Thursday, April 10th for your child to participate in the Kindergarten Roundup. At this time, children will be given skills assessment tests, and parents will be provided with those results. Children must go through these assessments in order to be enrolled in a kindergarten class.

Please note, that there will be no kindergarten classes on April 10th since the kindergarten teachers will be assisting with the screening.

Townsend FFA Hosts a Career Fair at the High School



Ashley Sanderson, Gavin Schmele, Amand Pesicka, Aiden Kitto and Spencer Braaten with a bucket of "meaningful conversations" to award gift cards. Karsyn Sangray, Broadwater High School Intern and Photographer

Karsyn Sangray
Broadwater High School Student Intern



The Future Farmers of America (FFA) club in Townsend invited sixteen businesses to the school on Thursday, Feb. 6. The businesses were invited to reach out to high school students about potential summer employment. Well-known places such as Deep Creek, C Hangin' C Mercantile, and the After School Program gave out applications all morning. Separating the grades allowed places that have age limits to reach the right group overall. Freshmen, Sophomores, and then Juniors and Seniors had a period to meet with the employers.

FFA President Amanda Pesicka helped organize the entire thing. She made countless phone calls and worked with the rest of the officers to organize the event. She worked with Ashley Sanderson (reporter), Spencer Braatan (vice president), Aiden Kitto (treasurer), and Gavin Schmele (sentinel). This idea of a career fair came to our school with the help of Three Forks FFA. A few members from the Townsend Chapter went to Three Forks last year to help their school run the Three Forks career fair. The idea came up during the officer retreat held in August. Amanda Pesicka worked hard to get the idea off the ground and pulled

it off successfully. She said, "We did this to hopefully get some high schoolers summer jobs. Especially to get that first level of connection. If they are interested in a certain job or career they could reach out again."

FFA is known for making leaders and well-rounded individuals. This was an opportunity to share these types of experiences with the entire school. This group of five officers worked the entire time making sure the businesses had everything they needed. They also had the idea of gift cards for 'meaningful conversations'. When a student would have a good conversation with a business, the business would put their name on a piece of paper which was put into a drawing. Lexi Davies, Alex Johnson, Jacob Matz, and Amelya Sims, were all awarded with the gift cards. Ashley Sanderson, one of the key people in making this happen, said, "Back at our officer retreat in August our group made the plans. We had specific groups do certain things and back in December we set up an entire committee. Everyone helped call the businesses to join us."

Several high school students brought their resumes and picked up applications for their future. All types of businesses were there - construction businesses, Townsend Tire, various food places and even the newspaper. All of the students were thankful for the opportunity to meet more businesses and reach out to them for future employment



GO BULLDOGS!!

Elementary School Students Offered Theater Camp Scholarships

LaRinda Spencer
Broadwater Community Theater President

Broadwater Community Theater (BCT) will again offer two summer camp scholarships to Grand Street Theatre summer camp July 14-25. The scholarships are for students entering 3rd through 8th grades in September 2025.

Two Townsend Elementary School students will learn and expand their theatrical skills through workshops with professional artists, play games and make friends. The camp will conclude with a final showcase performance on the final Friday of the camp. Marianne Adams, education director, emphasizes that no previous theatrical experience is necessary, just a desire to play and to try! Scholarship winners will be involved with BCT junior plays or STROKE programs.

Grand Street staff and other cool people teach stage combat, theatre sports, costume hat making, sidewalk chalk, lighting and theater technology. Students receive a tee shirt and two free tickets to the showcase on Friday.

Scholarship applications are due April 1, 2025. While the camp is paid for in full, the student's parents or guardians must be responsible for transportation to and from the camp throughout the two weeks the camp is in session.

For further information or application form, email mtskydog@mt.net or call (406) 980-0592.



Ava Boaz and Harper Hazlett at Grand Street Theatre Camp in July 2024. MT43 News Staff Reporter 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



Townsend School Calendar

FEBRUARY



Friday 14
NO SCHOOL
 State High School Wrestling @ Billings
 3:00pm: High School Basketball @ Ennis
 8:00pm: Big Sky Big Leadership MSU Extension - Community Room

Saturday 15
 State High School Wrestling @ Billings
 10:00am: Club Basketball - 1963 Gym

Monday 17
 FFA Spring Districts at Deer Lodge
 4:00pm: Missoula Children's Theater Tryouts - Community Room

Tuesday 18
 8:55am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
 3:00pm: Middle School Wrestling at Butte East Middle School
 4:00pm: Missoula Children's Theater Practice - Community Room

Wednesday 19
 8:55am: Pre-K PE in the 63 Gym
 4:00pm: Missoula Children's Theater Practice - Community Room
 7:00pm: Old Baldy Open Gym in the 63 Gym
 7:00pm: Old Baldy Pickleball in the Stage Gym
 Thursday 20
 4:00pm: Missoula Children's Theater Practice - Community Room

Friday 21
NO SCHOOL
 4:00pm: Missoula Children's Theater Practice - Community Room

Saturday 22
 9:00am: Middle School Wrestling @ Butte - Mining City Tourney
 3:00 pm: Missoula Children's Theater Performance, The Pied Piper, at High School Stage Gym
 5:00 pm: Missoula Children's Theater Performance, The Pied Piper, at High School Stage Gym



Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page

Three Forks School Calendar

FEBRUARY



Friday 14
 State High School Wrestling @ Billings Metra
 2:00 pm: Junior High Basketball vs Manhattan

Saturday 15
 State High School Wrestling @ Billings Metra
 3:00 pm: High School Basketball (Boys Only) @ Manhattan Christian

Monday 17
 LUNCH: High School Academic Olympics

Tuesday 18
 LUNCH: High School FCCLA meeting
 LUNCH: Middle School Academic Olympics
 6:30 pm: School Board Meeting - LG Conference Room
 6:30 PM: Three Forks SD School Board Meeting @ Conference Room

Wednesday 19
 LUNCH: High School Academic Olympics
 LUNCH: Middle School FCCLA Meeting
 4:00 pm: Junior High Basketball @ Monforton

Thursday 20
 LUNCH: Middle School Academics Olympics
 LUNCH: Middle School Book Club

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

Starting February 15- March 1, 2025,
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 222 Broadway St, Townsend | 406-266-4555

THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Friday 14
 11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO Club

Monday 17
 Three Forks Community Library - CLOSED for Presidents Day

Tuesday 18
 1:00 pm: Three Forks Community Library - Mah Jongg

Wednesday 19
 5:30 pm: Bozeman Music Night with Zach Landin at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Thursday 20
 10:30 am: Three Forks Community Library - Story Time
 6:00 pm: Three Forks Music Night with Jakob Alexander at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Friday 21
 11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO Club

TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Friday 14
 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
 5:00 pm: 4th Annual STROKE Valentine's Day Fundraiser at The Lodge of Townsend, 131 S Spruce

Saturday 15
 11:00 am: Winter Farmer's Market at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway St
 5:00 pm: Family Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner at Broadwater County Fairgrounds
 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 17
 6:00 PM: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
 6:00pm: FREE Family Night at Holy Cross Parish, 101 S Walnut
SEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR DETAILS

Tuesday 18
 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

Wednesday 19
 12:00 am: American Cross Blood Drive at United Methodist Church
 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 20
 Townsend Crimson Red Hat Ladies Lunch the 3rd Thursday at
 Contact Sandy for information 406-949-0081
 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 21
 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 22
 6:00 pm: Dinner with Chef Heather Hatwan at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce
 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

Sunday 23
 12:30 pm: Dance Lessons with Queen City Swing at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce **DETAILED AD ON PAGE 11**
 2:00 pm: Queen City Swing Senior's Dance at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce **SEE AD ON PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS**

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 18
 6:00 pm: Noxious Weed Board Meeting

FAITH NIGHT

Prisons
 What is justice?
 How do we protect society?
 How do we care for prisoners?
 What can we do?

Mon. Feb 17th
 6:00-7:30 pm
 Holy Cross Parish Center
 101 S Walnut St.
 Free Event

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 5 FOR LEGAL NOTICES AND OPEN POSITIONS!

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>




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 406-439-4311
 Videos available at www.ehlkeherefords.com

\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE!

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS & RECORDERS



The Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders is again sponsoring two scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 for graduating seniors planning to attend an IN-STATE SCHOOL. The last day of application acceptance is March 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Application forms are available at the Clerk and Recorder's office at the courthouse in Townsend, the Guidance Counselors at Three Forks High School, or Townsend High School.

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk and Recorder's office located at the Broadwater County courthouse by Friday, March 14, 2025. Applications will be judged based on scholarship, need, school and civic involvement.

The two winners and alternates will be notified after May 1, 2025, and the scholarship will be given directly to the school of the student's choice after the school has accepted the student.

/s/ ANGIE PAULSEN
 BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644
apaulsen@broadwatercountymt.gov
Published February 7, 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 2025
 MNAXLP

Highway 12 Market Place

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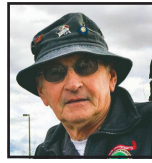
125 S Pine St | (406)266-1335

Rotary Purchases AED For Search and Rescue Team



Broadwater County Search and Rescue members display their new AED. From left: SAR team members Brett and Megan Poe, Rotary President Doug Sitton and Undersheriff Mark Wood. Photo Credit: Pat Plantenberg

Pat Plantenberg
Townsend Rotary Club



Until recently, Broadwater County Search and Rescue (SAR) did not have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We have all seen AEDs demonstrated at work, school, or on television. As defined on the web, an AED “is a portable device that can help save someone’s life during sudden cardiac arrest. It delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm. Easy to use, it’s crucial in emergencies when someone’s heart stops beating”. AEDs are becoming more and more common and can be found in many locations in Montana

communities like Townsend. In fact, Mark Wood, one of several officers in the Broadwater County Sheriff’s Department, says all Broadwater County Sheriff’s vehicles carry an AED. But Broadwater County SAR did not have one!

After the 2024 Fall Fest, the Rotary Club of Townsend’s only fundraiser, members of the Broadwater County SAR approached Rotary and asked them to help purchase an AED to fill this obvious gap in Broadwater County emergency response preparedness. The Rotary Club unanimously approved the request.

Rotary is all about ‘Service Above Self’ and continues to use Fall Fest profits to help our local community. For more information about Rotary, please contact Rotary President, Doug Sitton, at 406-422-3426.

Journalism Scholarship Available to Broadwater Community and High School Seniors

Jen Dalrymple
Townsend Rotary Club Scholarship Chairperson



A student or member of the public interested in applying for this scholarship must be a Broadwater High School senior, or a Broadwater County native or current resident.

Hugh van Swearingen was a long-time member of the Townsend Rotary Club and a Montana native. This scholarship honors Hugh’s dedication and life-long career in newspaper journalism and his passion for community service. The Townsend Rotary Club is proud to offer scholarships highlighting our past outstanding members whose life provided some of the finest examples of “Service Above Self”. In addition, Rotary also supports the future leaders from this community as they make an important step forward in life by furthering their education.

This Scholarship will be presented to an individual who best exemplifies, by his/her conduct and service in their community, the highest ideals of Rotary and more specifically, displays a personal desire to pursue further education in writing skills for journalism fields such as writing for a rural weekly newspaper, television/radio/media broadcasting, or for a mixed media career. Experience in the field of journalism or grant writing will enhance the resume, as will good grades for high school or college student applicants.

The most important qualities for the applicant, in memorializing Hugh’s life, are a love of writing and interest in people along with the innate ability to listen well and share a curiosity about what is happening in the world.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship opportunity, please contact Nancy Marks (mtskydog@mt.net), Jen Dalrymple (dymples43@gmail.com), or the Townsend Rotary Club Secretary (secretary.townsendrotary@gmail.com

EAST HELENA NEWS

227 Academy Students Finding Success in District Charter School’s First Semester

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Students at East Helena Public Schools’ 227 Academy, a public charter school operated and staffed by East Helena Schools, showed solid progress during the school’s first semester. 227’s 60 high school students earned 108-semester credits toward graduation in core subjects, as well as 68-semester credits online through Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) and Edgenuity.

“We have a few severely credit deficient students who are flying high, including one student who has completed 16 Semester Credits this Semester,” EHHS Principal Paul Condon wrote in his Feb. 10 report to the school board.

The academy was organized to provide middle and high school students who struggle in a traditional classroom setting or lack credits toward graduation to advance their education in a more flexible setting. The academy’s five core subjects teachers focus on project-based and competency-based learning models to help students meet their academic needs.

“Overall, it’s been pretty successful, despite some challenges,” Condon told the board.

In addition to students struggling academically, Condon said 227 Academy has also been utilized by high school students who want to work during the day and complete coursework at night online as well as some interested in early graduation.

EHHS Vice Principal Trish Klock said a lot of students have expressed interest in switching from the regular high school setting to 227 Academy.

“Do they perceive it as an easier path?” Board Chairman Scott Walters asked.

“We do have some that think it’s easier,” Conlon acknowledged. “And we have some pretty big conversations with the students and their parents.” Before enrolling, students sign a contract covering academic and behavioral expectations and can be returned to the traditional classroom for failing to meet their obligations. Conlon added that five students have been denied entrance to the academy and others have been moved back to the high school for breaking their contracts.

Conlon said the 227’s learning environment is very different from what one would expect from a traditional high school setting.

“It’s very quiet down there,” he told the board. While the independent study nature of the setting does allow for some flexibility for students coping with difficult personal situations, “the kids have to be working.”

Among the challenges, Conlon said, include tightening down when students can transfer between the high school and 227, and maintaining the Academy’s perception as an alternative, rather than lesser, way to complete school requirements.

“We don’t want it to be treated as a dumping ground,” he emphasized.

ATTENTION Airline Travelers or People Who Access Federal Buildings

May 7 will be the last day to obtain your REAL ID on your driver’s license.

Airline passengers and people who want to go to Social Security Office or Internal Revenue Service will need to show a valid passport, or certified birth to go through security points.



For more information: REAL ID may be obtained through Montana Motor Vehicle Division at mtmvd.gov or by calling (406) 444-3933.

May 07 is Deadline to Sign Up for a Real ID on Your Driver’s License

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Editorial



I see I need to renew my driver’s license this year. Come November I’ll have to sign up to renew my license.

I hear we might want to obtain a Real ID, the little gold star in the corner, on our licenses. According to the Montana Motor Vehicle Division website, a Real ID will be needed if I want to fly either in the United States or abroad. I will also need it to enter federal buildings to visit the Social Security office or the Internal Revenue office in Helena.

Actually, you and I don’t have to sign up for a Real ID, which will run \$25 extra when you renew your license. We can use a valid passport or any CERTIFIED document such as a birth certificate, marriage license, or naturalization papers. Unfortunately, a hospital birth certificate will not qualify. The document must have a certified stamp on it. And if my or your current name is not the same as what is on your birth certificate, you’ll need to show court-ordered divorce papers.

If this is not already too much information, here is more: To sign up at the DVM you must provide a birth certificate, your Social Security card number and current proof of your residence such as a valid utility bill or vehicle registration card. You or I can only qualify for the Real ID if we schedule an appointment.

The website goes on to say the Real ID concept was created to set a standard of identification. The law was passed by Congress in 2005, after the September 11, 2001 attack on the Twin Towers in New York.

It will take until November to round up the documents I need. Guess I’d better get busy.

For more information or to make an appointment by the May 07 deadline, go to mtmvd/mt.gov website or call (406) 444-3933.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Montana Public Service Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink’s basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$32.50 per month and business services are \$47.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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 the General, Urban Forestry, and Capital Water Funds.

The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday February 18, 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. The 2024 Budget is on file at Townsend's City Hall. For further information, please contact Kari Williams at (406)266-3911,

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 February 7 and 14, 2025

MNAXLP

OPEN POSITIONS

Ditch Rider/Water Coordinator - Toston, Montana.

Yearly, seasonal position runs March 1 - October 31, with winter months free.

Knowledge of electrical irrigation pumps desired.

Job duties: Monitoring irrigation water delivery, maintaining canals, water use measuring, etc. On-call for emergencies. Personal pickup required - mileage reimbursed.

Compensation DOE. Housing possible.

Send resume: tid@mt.net. Questions/info: 406-266-1630.

Published February 14 and 21, 2025

MNAXLP

Three Forks Ambulance- January

Barbara Mutter
Three Forks Ambulance Service



Three Forks Ambulance had 19 calls for service in January 2025.

It was a calm start to the year. Our January calls included:

- 4 transports to the hospital
- 0 calls needing coverage from other agencies
- 1 call where our EMT responded solo and AMR transported
- 4 refusals where the patient declined transport
- 2 calls were canceled before we arrived on the scene
- 1 Fire where we supported Willow Creek Fire
- 2 motor vehicle accidents
- 1 deceased on arrival
- 4 stand-by medical crews at the High School basketball games

It's not too late to join our EMT class that starts on February 25th! It meets Tue and Thur through the end of May with four additional Saturdays for skills practice. Cost is only \$899 – the best value in the Gallatin Valley! Email 3fkamb@gmail.com if you are interested. There is no volunteer commitment tied to the class, but we'd love to have you join us!

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.

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!



February 7

Dee Gannon
MT43 News Correspondent



The criminal court docket in Judge Michael Menahan's courtroom on Friday, February 7, is as follows:

Bradley Wright had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to charges of criminal possession of both methamphetamine and benzodiazepine. Omnibus is due on April 4; Pre-Trial is set for August 1; with the Jury Trial scheduled for September 2, 2025.

Curtis Smith had an Initial Appearance on charges of 1) burglary (felony) 2) misdemeanor assault 3) criminal mischief. He will be Arraigned on February 14. He is released on his own recognizance. His conditions include that he have no contact with victims or witnesses and that he consume no alcohol or drugs. He must submit to random alcohol testing.

Jack White had an Initial Appearance to three counts of assault with a weapon, three counts of criminal endangerment, two counts of criminal mischief and obstruction. He has a \$75,000 bond. If bonded out, he is to not possess firearms, no alcohol or drugs; he must stay 2000 feet from victim's home. He will be arraigned February 14.

Richard Karp was Sentenced on two cases. The first is a Petition to Revoke on DUI 5+ The total Sentence is that he spend three years Montana State Prison; he pay a total of \$10,000; with credit time served to be determined. He is to be screened for Pre-Release. He must pay \$50 for Pre-Sentencing Services, fines and surcharges of \$80.

Bruce Beard had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty criminal possession of dangerous drugs. Omnibus is due on April 4; Pre-Trial is set for August 1; with the Jury Trial scheduled for September 2, 2025.

Justice of the Peace Report

Kelsi Anderson
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Justin Jennings- Townsend – operating without liability insurance in effect-4th or subsequent offense, plead guilty, sentenced to ten days in jail with all but two days suspended on conditions, \$535.00 fines and fees, license plates and registration of vehicle driven at the time of the offense are suspended until proof of compliance provided to MVD; night speed, plead guilty, \$70.00 fine.

James London – Bozeman – fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance in vehicle-owner or operator-3rd or subsequent offense, sentenced to ten days in jail with all-time suspended on conditions, \$535.00 fines and fees, license plates and registration of vehicle driven at the time of the offense are suspended until proof of compliance provided to MVD.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Shannon Masterson – Townsend – assault, purposely or knowingly making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature, plead guilty, sentenced to six months in jail with all-time suspended on conditions, \$185.00 fines and fees.

Arthur Roy – Helena – reckless driving-1st offense, plead guilty, sentenced to ninety days in jail with all-time suspended on conditions, \$285.00 fines and fees; fleeing from or eluding peace officer, plead guilty, sentenced to one year in jail with all-time suspended on conditions, \$525.00 fines and fees.

William Hennessy – Manhattan – driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs-1st offense, plead guilty, sentenced to six months in jail with all but one day suspended on conditions, \$675.00 fines and fee, enroll and complete ACT program; careless driving, plead guilty, \$75.00 fines and fees.

Bryland Faulkin – Tuscaloosa, Ab – aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs-1st offense, plead guilty, sentenced to one year in jail with all but two days suspended on conditions, \$1085.00 fines and fee, enroll and complete ACT program; night speed, plead guilty, \$120.00 fine.

James London – Bozeman- driving without a valid driver's license, plead guilty, \$135.00 fines and fees.

Senate Bill 221: Streamline the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessments

Senator Wylie Galt
Senate District 39



On December 18th, 2024, the Montana Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the Held v. Montana case. That case was the first constitutional climate change trial in the nation, and the court ruled that Montana's youth have a "fundamental constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment." However, the ruling also reversed two Montana statutes that added conditions to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), including a prohibition on state agencies considering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and additional impacts in environmental reviews.

With the Held decision, the court not only reached beyond its judicial boundaries, they also failed to offer clear guidance or direction to the state on how to appropriately include GHG emissions in their environmental reviews. As a result, there is widespread uncertainty about the standards, which will cause unnecessary delays and costly procedures to determine the court's desired outcomes.

To provide the state with necessary direction and support, I introduced Senate Bill 221 in the Senate on Monday, aiming to streamline the greenhouse gas emissions assessments under MEPA. This bill offers clarity by defining "greenhouse gas emissions" and declaring when GHG assessments must be included, may be included, or do not need to be included in an agency's environmental review, ensuring that evaluations are consistent and reasonable. This measure also adds simplicity to the assessments that our mining and energy organizations will have to prepare for fossil fuel production, creating less burdensome regulations for these industries to follow.

SB 221 further aims to give guidance to the state by adjusting what must be reviewed under MEPA, specifying that an agency must review "proximate" environmental impacts and adverse effects. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Quality to create a document to guide GHG assessments that will be open to public review.

All in all, the proposal ensures that Montana's environmental assessments for fossil fuels are clear, efficient, and based in common sense. This keeps environmental stewardship grounded in Montana values while avoiding unnecessary regulations that hurt our economy and our way of life. I am passionate about this legislation, and I am grateful for the support that I have received throughout the process. With the passage of this bill, the State of Montana will satisfy the overreaching arms of the courts and support the preservation of our Last Best Place."

Senator Wylie Galt (Senate District 39):
406-220-0157; P.O. Box 2, Martinsdale, MT 59053

227 Academy Students, 4

East Valley Middle School Principal Lynsi Morris said the middle school is challenged by having a single core subjects teacher having to manage four subjects for three separate grade levels.

In December, Superintendent Dan Rispens had also notified the board of a funding issue for 227 Academy's 6th-8th grade programs, caused by the state's formula for the charter categorizing sixth-grade students as elementary – rather than middle school – students. Rispen told the board on Feb. 10 that the district would have to return more than \$100,000 to the state, student numbers at 227's middle school in the 2025-26 school year should allow the district to meet requirements for full funding the following school year.

While 227 Academy is clearly meeting students' educational needs, Board Member Tyrel Merritt asked Rispens if it was also impacting a reduction in the severity of middle and high school disciplinary actions.

"It's reasonable to assume that it may have an impact on discipline and referrals as a spin-off side effect," Rispens said. "At least some of the students in 227 are getting some positive adult attention and feeling successful at school."

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Broadwater County Updates Subdivision Fee Schedule

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County’s Board of Commissioners approved several updates to the county’s subdivision fee schedule at their regular meeting Feb. 5. Changes from the document originally proposed Jan. 15 include clarification about when fees may be applied as well as minor edits.

The primary change to the proposed document was a statement that fees would be assessed as applicable to each project, Commission Chairwoman Lindsey Richtmyer said.

“The entire schedule of fees is as applicable, so to add that statement does no harm,” County Development Director Nicole Brown said. “I also wanted to be very clear that any time a potential subdivider comes into my office, we sit down and look through these fees. As you imagine the very initial conversation and usually the first, if not second, question is ‘What is this going to cost me?’”

Among the new fees approved are a \$1,500 application fee for subsequent minor subdivisions, a \$250 fee for amending applications prior to review, \$550 fees for amendments following commission review or prior to planning board review, a minimum \$4,000 fee for hydrological analysis by an independent engineering firm, as well as a pass-along of any fees for other types of engineering review by an independent firm.

The fee schedule does not reflect material changes to the county’s subdivision process. Commissioners passed the changes unanimously.

EAST HELENA NEWS

Feasibility Study for New East Helena Library Moves Forward

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



East Helena’s City Council voted to move forward with a study to determine the feasibility of building a new city library near the swimming pool in JFK Memorial Park. A branch of the Lewis and Clark Library, the potential new facility would replace the existing library on Main Street.

Lewis and Clark Librarian John Finn told the council that the East Helena Library Site Committee has worked for more than a year to find a new place to house the community’s branch.

“We want to be on the coattails of East Helena’s expansion,” Finn said. “And we are ready to make a significant investment by building a brand new building. We just need a piece of land to do that.” The piece of land the committee has settled on would be a portion of JFK Park.

“We believe it would become a community hub for East Helena while enhancing the usability of the park,” Finn said.

“We’re outgrowing our current facility,” East Helena Branch Librarian Andrea Eckerson said. The library has approximately 1,200 cardholders, with that number increasing by about 1 percent each month. She said a new facility would serve both to enhance business entrepreneurship and attract visitors to the community as well as provide a place for teens to go after school.

“Our meeting room is already being challenged in capacity,” Eckerson said. She added that the library’s community room is used for everything from tutoring and guitar lessons to business calls. “We need a new library.”

Finn said the committee reviewed locations around the community.

“It just seemed an ideal place for a library,” Finn said. “We identified this piece because it’s close to schools – it’s really close to Prickly Pear and Radley schools, it’s next to the swimming pool . . . , and it’s going to provide synergy with JFK Park.” The location would also provide a connection to trails, public restrooms, a place for information kiosks, and the ability to support community events.

Support for the feasibility study presented during the meeting came from East Helena Public Schools, the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce, and library board and site committee members.

“Community space is so important,” Helena Chamber President and CEO Callie Aschim said in support of the study. “When you’re looking at growth, third spaces – places where people don’t live and don’t work but they can go – are so important when you’re building community. . . . One of the most special things about East Helena is that sense of community. As you grow, having those third spaces is important to protecting that.”

The council voted unanimously to approve the feasibility study.

From the Broadwater County Commissioners

Lindsey Richtmyer
Broadwater County Commissioner



2025 is off with a bang, and just like that, January is behind us. So goes the pace of our little county

government. The new year welcomes a couple of new faces at the Broadwater County Courthouse including appointed County Attorney Kevin Bratcher, and new Commissioner Jesse Swenson, who represents District 3 in Broadwater County. They are jumping in with both feet and fully participating in the baptism by fire that is the first two years in local government.

With the onset of 2025 comes the bi-annual excitement at the Capital, also known as the legislative session. Broadwater County Commissioners are joining commissioners from Montana’s other 55 counties to take part in the public process over the session’s 90 days. There are several bills we are tracking and on which we are testifying. We encourage the public to engage with their legislators, send public comment, or testify in person or online. Find all things related to the legislature at www.legmt.gov. For Broadwater County, contact HD 77 Representative Jane Gillette at Jane.Gillette@legmt.gov or SD 39 Senator Wylie Galt at Wylie.Galt@legmt.gov.

Speaking of the state, Broadwater County is one of two test counties trialing the Department of Revenue’s (DOR) new construction reporting tool. This can be used by county road crews and public alike to report new construction, remodels, additions, and improvements. Go to: <https://tap.dor.mt.gov/?Link=ReportNewConstruction> to easily and quickly submit information that will help alert the DOR to properties needing to be assessed. Simply put, the DOR has far fewer property assessors than needed to accurately capture all the new and updated construction. There’s a “cringe” element to this that may seem to smack in the face of being a good neighbor, but the weight of the state’s property tax system lightens for all county residents when everyone is paying their share. See: www.montanafreepress.org/2023/06/22/property-taxes-explained-with-pictures/. The DOR is aware some may try to use this vindictively and will identify repeat entries from the same person or address.

As most are aware, government is slow in just about everything, so we like to celebrate the small things that move us forward. This year, one of many goals being implemented is improved communication coming from the county. So many methods of communication exist that the challenge of consistently reaching the public cannot be understated. Moving forward, the county will be contributing a weekly article in Montana43 News. There will be updates from different departments, including the Commissioners. At times we will foray into some of the more “sticky” and even controversial topics, with the intent of providing education and facts, and invite the questions and (civil) discussion that may follow.

If there is a department you want to hear from or topics you’d like to learn about, please let us know! Send an email to our incredible, multi-tasking administrative assistant at dhansen@broadwatercountymt.gov. To be one of the first to get county alerts and announcements, sign up for TextMyGov, the county’s text message alert system, by texting BCNOTIFY to 91896. Residents can also find news, updates, forms, meeting calendars, agendas and more on our new and improved website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov. All Commission meetings and nearly all county board meetings are live-streamed, and the recording can be found at: www.youtube.com/@broadwatercounty. Any of the commissioners can also be reached by phone or email: Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair:

406-266-9271, lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair:

406-266-9270, drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson

406-266-9272, jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

We look forward to keeping our residents more informed and wish you all a wonderful 2025!

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Lindsey Richtmyer
Broadwater County Commissioner

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, February 17, 2025

Presidents’ Day – All County offices closed

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

3:00 PM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, and Kaylan Minor, Deputy County Attorney, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Sean Dafferner, North-western Energy Overhead Electric Powerline Easement, at 701 N Cedar St/Shop and Impound Yard

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, TJ Graveley, Public Works Director, purchase of 2 snowplows from Lewis & Clark County, \$50,000

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Ruby Taylor, Public Health Director, contract between Rocky Mountain Development Council and Broadwater County for Homemaker funding

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Sanitarian Contract between Gravel Bar Consulting, LLC and Broadwater County

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, County Attorney Kevin Bratcher, Approval of Appointment of Kaylan Minor as Chief Deputy County Attorney with Accompanying Market Wage Adjustment

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Resolution to use Wheatland TEDD Tax Incremental Financing Funds to Retain Dorsey & Whitney LLP for Purposes Outlined in MCA 7-15-4288.

10:30 AM Discussion /Decision, Approval of Rodeo Association grant for \$47,689.30 from Broadwater County Trust Board

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

- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on February 18th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on February 19th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 26th at 5:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on March 11th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on March 11th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on March 11th at 6:00 PM
- Mental Health Local Advisory Council Meeting on March 12th at 2:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on March 13th at 5:30 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on March 17th at 3:00 PM
- County Parks & Recreation Meeting on March 17th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on March 19th at 6:00 PM

To be held at the Community Room at Townsend Schools (201 North Spruce)

- County Parks & Recreation Masterplan Design Workshops
 - o Tuesday, March 4th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
 - o Thursday, March 13th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

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

It’s your future. Let’s protect it.®



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Weather Info Contributed by Jeff Ross

Fri 2/14	Sat 2/15	Sun 2/16	Mon 2/17	Tue 2/18
Light Snow	Light Snow	Light Snow	Light Snow	Light Snow
17° 8°	20° 12°	29° 23°	29° 19°	27° 14°
☔ 1 in	☔ 0 in	☔ 1 in	☔ 1 in	☔ 0 in
⇒ 9 19 mph	⇒ 6 12 mph	⇒ 7 14 mph	⇒ 8 17 mph	⇒ 8 13 mph



Precipitation:

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

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 Belli 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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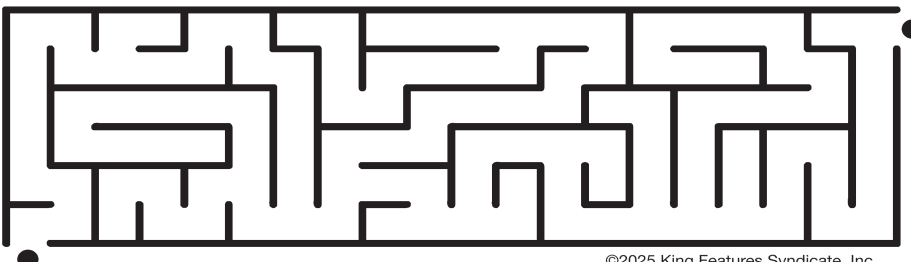
- Milk-Bone products
- Legendary masked swordsman
- "Getting out of it is not possible for me"
- Stat for a baseball pitcher
- Mountain nymph of Greek myth
- Can't get out of it
- Start of a riddle
- Santa's little helpers
- "Delicious!"
- Insect snares
- Told fibs
- Attempts to hit, as a fly
- Hair fixative
- Flyder Cup org.
- Manipulator
- Prefix with angle
- Felt concern
- Riddle, part 2
- Supreme Norse deity
- California vineyard valley
- Joust verbally
- Words before "dream" or "be different"
- Jazz pianist Allison
- Loft
- In a very uncordial way
- City in Iowa
- Riddle, part 3
- Not docile
- Serpentine fish
- Above, in poetry
- Gabrielle of volleyball
- Vietnamese New Year
- Grad's gala
- Flop
- Indian royal
- Camera — (Cannes)
- Wear down
- Actor DeLuise
- Space
- Big city in Ontario
- Riddle, part 4
- Utah winter vacation spot
- From Tehran or Tabriz
- Ladle, e.g.
- Concerning
- Iris coverer
- With 108-Down, "Piece of cake!"
- Memorable periods
- Squint
- End of the riddle
- Cottage cheese bits
- Hit the slopes
- Alternatives to coffees
- Part of LAPD
- Perp catcher
- Like fishes without appendages
- Casino fixture
- Holier-than- —
- Rock's Reed
- Make irate
- Riddle's answer
- Crouch down
- Fill with panic
- Vacant elected positions
- 1,000-kilo metric unit
- Conical tent
- Analyzed to detect the presence of
- Like a wet lawn at dawn
- Waikiki locale
- Protein unit
- Blasting stuff
- Kept in check
- 1950s Ford
- "I smell —!"
- Yanks
- cone
- Astrological diagrams
- Writer Sarah — Jewett
- Scan or skim
- Aries animal
- Ukraine port
- "Tell me about it!"
- Ale grain
- Generalized rivalry situation
- Zinc — (cosmetics ingredient)
- Brand of tortilla chips
- Gymnast Korbut
- Competitor of McDonald's and Burger King
- Big Swiss city
- Extol
- Toward a stream's source
- Calculate
- Ornament hanger, e.g.
- Italian rice dish
- Lot in life
- Makes the decision
- Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy
- PC shortcut code
- Barter
- Consumer advocate Ralph
- Signaled, as an actor
- Pre-euro Italian money
- Bank of China Tower architect
- Power connectors
- One of the Muses
- He played Santa in "Elf"
- Recoiled in fear
- Blackboard clearers
- Baltic Sea feeder
- Tile designs
- Blocks up
- Hopkins University
- Clog-clearing brand
- Year division
- Writing assignments
- Cause to stumble
- Keaton and Sawyer
- Not yet final, in law
- Folk stories
- Bank offering
- Gets on it right away
- Investigate
- Checking the fit of
- One of the Muses
- 1984 comedy starring Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin
- React to with a quick breath
- Inflict upon
- Meal division
- Tally up
- Boxer Spinks
- See 94-Across
- Apollo's instrument
- Variety
- Gardening tools
- Meal division
- Film director Preminger
- Khrushchev's fed.
- Corrida cheer
- Decay
- Actor Danson

DOWN

- Like a wet lawn at dawn
- Waikiki locale

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Kids' Maze



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

Awning ANYCOP

Climb DANCES

Stir OURSEA

Delight TATER

TODAY'S WORD

"Ours is a house of the future — nothing ever gets done _____!"

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: K equals S

CZJC HFCD, CAUX CXQD HNFTO
SJGDTX RJTQ XDC, SFC ZD RJK
LDCCAUL JGNFUO NU ENNC CN
CZD SDKC NE ZAK KCJSATACX.

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KNIGHT MOVES

I	D	T
S		C
T	R	I

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: FEB 17 - FEB 21	Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Golden Corn Garden Salad Whole Grain Bread Plump Peaches
Monday, February 17	Thursday, February 20
CLOSED for President's Day	Chicken and Rice Casserole Green Peas
Tuesday, February 18	Purple Beets Whole Grain Bread Mandarin Oranges
Birthday Dinner BBQ Pork Ribs Corn Bread Baked Beans Crisp Coleslaw Applesauce Birthday Cake	Friday, February 21
Wednesday, February 19	Chicken Fried Steak Steamed Potatoes Green Beans Tossed Salad Whole Grain Bread Fruit Cocktail
Carol's Meat Loaf	

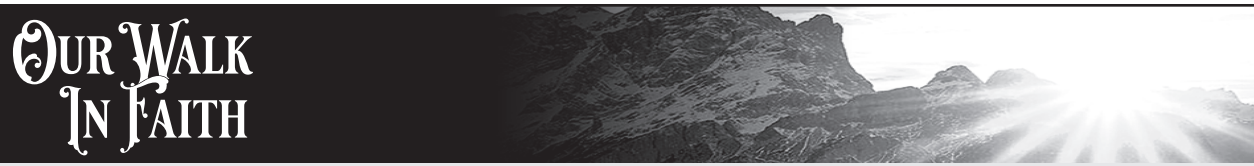
NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Service Available

At MT43 News Office
408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
Mon - Fri 10:00 - 2:00pm

Or by Appointment
Contact: Brenda Phillips
406-231-9752

Common Sense
BY BILL GARWOOD



- 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 Clay Muinzer (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

Our Town is Changing!

Everything changes. However, most changes are good though we might not see it that way at first. With the influx of people from other places we have different views and beliefs brought to our attention. But morality and work ethic should never change!

Examples: this last weekend several people in our community slipped and fell on the ice that is on every street corner in town. This happens and without sanding/salting every single street corner it's going to happen. We just need to be careful, especially as WE get older. Many folks have hit the ice this week, (even me) and while attempting to get up from the ice a few cars and trucks drive by without even slowing down! WHAT HAPPENED to helping your neighbors?

I remember writing on here a few years ago about trying to load a huge box of apples into my pickup truck, a friendly Townsend resident drove by and helped me. The "neighborly" thing to do. Is this changing? Is it because many people from "elsewhere" are moving in, and don't feel the help thy neighbor spirit? I'm not sure, but it takes away from the whole feeling of small Montana town spirit.

One other thing that is going on, (like you needed more problems dumped on you) how many of you have had problems getting mail/packages delivered? (put your hands down, there won't be a test). I'm not talking about our local postal service (mostly.) But mail and packages from UPS, and the United Postal Service have been sent back to the companies they came from with "cannot deliver" stamped on them. What kind of happy horse hockey is this? We have a great postal setup in Townsend, with our banks of mailboxes for each block in town. The folks at our local Post Office usually do a great job, however, even they are just human and can't always keep up with all the regulations' craziness.

It's bad enough the USPS has to send a letter, or package from Billing to Great Falls, to Helena, THEN here to Townsend. What politician thought that route up? (IF this were a doctor, I'd call it fee splitting.) Even if you put something in the mailbox here in town, GOING TO Townsend, it still has to go to Great Falls! (the old Military term: "like watching a monkey F a football") comes to mind.

So "neighbors" help one another out! Help the Post Office out; clarify your address! Make sure IF someone USED to live at your address, that the Postal Personnel KNOW they are no longer at your address. With US humans running things, "stuff" can get messed up easily. Speak/Write/...Text? CLEARLY! (And teach the young uns how to WRITE Cursive! You can't sign a check by Printing.) Walk around, and enjoy our town, CAREFULLY!

Love Beyond Valentine's Day

Ellie West
Certified NLP Coach/Practitioner of Hypnosis and Timeline Therapy



Valentine's Day—a time when love takes center stage. Stores begin stocking heart-shaped chocolates and red roses as early as the day after Christmas. People carefully plan romantic gestures, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries, embracing love with open arms. But what happens when the holiday is over? Do we continue to cherish love, or does it fade as quickly as the decorations come down?

Love is not meant to be a one-day affair. It's a lifelong commitment to nurturing relationships, strengthening bonds, and choosing kindness in daily interactions. Scripture reminds us that our words reveal the condition of our hearts: "You don't get wormy apples off a healthy tree, nor good apples off a diseased tree. The health of the apple tells the health of the tree. You must begin with your own life-giving lives. It's who you are, not what you say and do, that counts. Your true being brims over into true words and deeds." (Luke 6:45 MSG). If love is truly in our hearts, it should overflow into our words and actions every day—not just on February 14th.

Our communication can either build up or tear down. Words carry weight and can uplift or wound those we care about. Matthew 12:34 reflects this truth: "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." When we are frustrated or hurt, what truly resides in our hearts surfaces—sometimes in ways we regret later. Have you ever found yourself caught in an argument, wondering how it escalated so quickly? Once spoken, words cannot be unsaid, but we can choose to use them wisely.

I recently read about a couple who adopted a simple practice called the "Take it back" clause. It's a mutual agreement that when one person notices a conversation heading in the wrong direction, they can signal it with the phrase "Take it back." This creates an opportunity for reflection instead of reaction. The other person can choose to reset the conversation or continue down a path that leads to unnecessary hurt.

Imagine if we all had a "take it back" moment before hurtful words slipped from our lips. If we paused before speaking and chose love and patience instead of sarcasm or frustration, how different would our relationships be? When emotions rise, it signals us to slow down and examine what's truly at the heart of the conversation. Is it a trigger from past pain? A misunderstanding? A desire to be heard?

As children, we learned the saying, "Sticks and

stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." However, as adults, we understand that words can cut deep. They have the power to heal or harm, to strengthen or shatter. In moments of anger, we should be mindful of the verbal stones we might be tempted to throw. Instead, let's choose words that build up, encourage, and express love—not just on Valentine's Day, but every day.

When I was younger, I remember a mean neighbor girl—someone I didn't know well—but I remember her name and what she looked like. She scared me; one day, she yelled at me, and I ran away as fast as possible. I carried her words with me for a long time. Looking back, I realize how powerful words can be. Even as a child, I internalized those unkind words, but as I grew, I found healing. Now, I have peace in my heart, recognizing who I am and understanding that there is always a valuable life lesson to learn from those moments. They taught me the importance of carefully choosing my words and offering grace when others fail to do the same.

The breakdown of marriages, relationships, and even workplace environments often stems from poor communication. Unspoken expectations, misinterpreted words, and emotional reactions can quickly build walls instead of bridges. Communication is not only about speaking—it's also about listening, understanding, and responding gracefully. When we fail to communicate with love and intentionality, we risk damaging the very connections we hold dear.

Love is a daily choice and a language expressed through words and actions. Let's embody love, communicate with kindness, and carry the spirit of Valentine's Day into every moment of our lives.

The simplest way to carry love beyond Valentine's Day is with the smallest gestures. As Mother Teresa wisely said, "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." To connect with Ellie at www.facebook.com/coachelliewest or IG: [coachelliewest](https://www.instagram.com/coachelliewest)

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. PSALM 145: 16,17

Whispers of the Past - Centerville Cemetery

Shelley Douthett



One of the most heart-wrenching parts of just about any cemetery has to be all the children in it. The Centerville Cemetery is no exception. I haven't counted them all but between the ones with a headstone and the ones in the State death records unmarked, there are many. While I'm on the subject of sad, I'm going to throw in some mad. One of the things that makes many children's headstones stand out are the ones with the stone lambs that are part of the monument and they sit on top. Almost every single one of the lambs in Centerville are broken or gone. I don't know who collects these but it's probably a good thing I don't know. My only question would be why?

I admit I have periodically taken a break from the veterans and cleaned some of the children's. They seem to need it more. They are harder to read due to the moss, fungus, mold and lichen activity and I don't want them to be forgotten.

Having been to hundreds of cemeteries all over the West, it's easy to see when certain diseases like typhoid, smallpox, or flu came through an area. Children always seem to be the most susceptible but the tools available to treat them were not available in the late 1800s or early 1900s. In researching and looking at countless death certificates, deaths to children are varied, from farm accidents to drowning, childbirth and disease. While this is true for adults, it seems harder to reconcile their deaths and I can't imagine the pain of the parents. There are several families in Centerville that were hit with multiple children's deaths, the Van Voasts, the Bearys, the Johnsons, the Pickles, and the Marks. Ouch doesn't begin to cover it. As a mother and a daughter, I can't help but feel the pain of it and there really is a different feel to cleaning the headstones of the children, but I can't explain it.



Centerville Cemetery Child's Headstone
Shelley Douthett Photo

Perhaps the best thing about sitting out at the Centerville Cemetery is the feeling of peace at the resting place for children and adults alike. I know I'm not related to anyone out there or know their stories but in working around their last home, I feel a sense of honor and love for what they brought to this place we call our own home.

Speaking of homes and the anguish of parenting, there are a couple of nesting platforms out there for ospreys. For two years I have watched a pair build a nest on the platform closest to the entrance. I've named them Benny and Joon because it's what I do, name critters. They yell at me every time I show up and I yell back at them using their new names. I only yell because they are far away and I want them to hear me. They have yet to successfully raise any children. They guard the nest like there are eggs or babies but I haven't seen any sign of them so I try to help by giving them advice about nest building. In my opinion, they are terrible nest builders. No substance to them, baling twine and little twigs. If they did have eggs, they'd probably roll off.

One day I was interrupted by a lot of noise at the nest and watched as they flew off the crummy nest one at a time and began chasing a bald eagle away. Then, another bald eagle appeared and they split up. I felt like I was watching an aviation battle in the skies from a World War I movie. All of a sudden, a golden eagle appeared. Both ospreys broke off their respective fights and moved in on the golden. I watched until the eagles were gone and Benny and Joon returned to the nest. I didn't get a lot done that day. Good thing I don't get paid for this job.

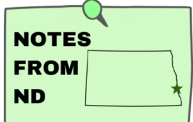
Anyone worried about me yet?

If anyone has any information about the cemetery or the topics I'm writing about, you can email me at douthetts@aol.com.

Notes from ND

Mikayla Kraft

MT43 News Correspondent



I'm kind of restless, and I don't understand why.

I want to finish my undergraduate degree - which is non-negotiable - and go forward to receive a DVM. However, I also want to get married, work hard for a few years, and be a stay-at-home mom. Right off the bat, why would I even want to start an entirely new family at 18, right out of high school (and all the girl dads said Amen!), but if all I want to do is be a homemaker, take care of the kids, and homestead all-day, would that be a bad decision? Here are my thoughts right now as I try to wrestle with my uncertainty.

I have already finished one out of eight semesters of my undergraduate program. I know I love the industry and want to learn more, so it would not be wise to drop out (and everybody said, Duh!). I can slowly learn what it is like to live on my own, with a community that will always want to help. I have friends, a church family, space, and independence.

Now my poor mom is probably cheering me on, wanting me to be a homemaker and homestead, but what about my DVM? My reminder over and over again is that I have not even been proposed to yet, so why should I even be worrying about this? Not only that, but I know it is not impossible to start a family and go to vet school. Dr. Molly on Instagram is a perfect example, and she is now juggling being a veterinarian, a mother, and an influencer! Another example is Dr. Lane at the Elkhorn Vet Clinic. The only thing is, I don't want to pay that much money and spend eight years of my life going to school if eventually all I want to do is be a stay-at-home mom and homestead.

Right now I am at the point where I am just not going to think about it until I will have to consider applying for Vet School. I am only a semester into college. My wants could change drastically within the next few years, so why should I spend my entire time stressing about it? I don't know much, and my mind may be everywhere, but I do know that eventually, I want to be a mom and a homemaker first and foremost and that maybe I will have the chance to go to vet school, so I am going to look at both possibilities.

College is the perfect place to figure out what you want to do without your life. You may see it one way in high school, but your interests could change as you figure out life on your own. It isn't uncommon and is not frowned upon. Your community wants to set you up for success, so let them, and listen to your passions.

What Fills Your Cup?

Samantha Ferrat

Montana Farmers Union District Representative

For me, it's building a better tomorrow with what I do today. Advocating for agriculture is one way I fill my cup while building a better tomorrow. Ag advocacy and ag education have been a passionate focus of mine for many years. Recently, my husband and I took a big leap and welcomed a prospective new agrarian to our home and ranch for a weeklong working vacation.

This young lady, a recent high school graduate from Washington State, reached out to me because she wanted to know more about the agricultural way of life in Montana. She decided to take a gap year instead of attending college as she explores pathways and opportunities of a future life she wants to lead. I applaud this young person for her self-awareness and for being brave in pursuit of a career path.

During her week stay on our ranch, she experienced breeding soundness exams on our herd bulls, sorting cows and calves, vaccinating calves, hand feeding small square bales, moving electric fence for grazing, learned how to operate a 4-wheeler, and long days of work - both physical and mental. We engaged in many conversations about farming and ranching, ranging from history of our families' farms/ranches to irrigation systems, ruminant nutrition, record keeping, ranch finances, beef processing, local food systems, and many other topics in between. We made time to take her on a tour of our county to show our rich production agriculture and stories of family farms surrounding us. We introduced her to other farmers and ranchers, which gave her the opportunity to ask probing questions about their lives and operations.

This experience was rewarding, fun, and fulfilling for this young lady, my husband, and me. Since this visit, I talk to her every week to check in, as well as share opportunities for agriculture-based internships and connect her with others who can also support her in the journey into the agriculture industry. I have so much hope and excitement for my new young friend. I hope this opportunity arises again soon to provide similar opportunities to those who seek experience and education on a working ranch.

If you, as a member producer, encounter a similar situation or want to pursue hosting young or new or beginning farmer and rancher, let's visit and make it happen! I am happy and willing to help, guide, and encourage others in this pursuit to educate the next generation.

Stay warm and best wishes in the New Year!

Ambassador Samantha Ferrat - Missouri Headwaters Montana Farmers Union Winter Edition Magazine

Digging into Soil Health: Applications for Cropland

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



While soil health principles are important in any situation, they may be most critical in cropland. Cropland has the potential for regular soil disturbances, frequent nutrient cycling, fertilizer inputs and removal of plant growth through crop cycles. Paying close attention to the health of your soil is a key piece to the puzzle to manage land in a sustainable and productive way.

This is the second in a three-part series digging into soil health. The first article focused on soil health broadly sharing information about the importance of soil health, soil characteristics, soil food web and organic matter. This article focuses on specific techniques to apply soil health principles in agriculture systems, and the last article will provide strategies to improve soil health for home gardeners.

Reducing or eliminating tillage is a common practice to improve soil health. By avoiding tillage, producers can conserve moisture, allow for more microbial activity and increase organic matter. It can greatly reduce or even eliminate soil erosion. The technique can also increase profits for farmers by requiring less labor and equipment, decrease fertilizer costs and possibly increase yields. The disadvantages of no-till technology include the reliance of herbicides for weed control, special planting equipment, soil compaction in the upper zone, and possible greater frequency of certain insect, disease and weed problems. Plant residues can also be a problem for some crops but can be minimized through proper management.

Increasing organic matter is another way to improve soil health. Through simple soil testing, you can establish current levels of organic matter and set a target for where you want to be. Productive soils have organic matter in the range of 4 to 6 percent. There are lots of ways to incorporate organic matter into the soil. Crops or crop residue may supply some organic matter. Composted manure or organic fertilizers also increase organic matter in the soil. The use of cover crops can also do this.

A cover crop is defined as any plant growing to provide living ground cover that is planted with, or in between, rotations of the main crop. In addition to improving soil health, research has shown that cover crops can help minimize soil erosion, prevent nutrient leaching, provide organic nitrogen, suppress weeds, increase crop diversity and provide beneficial insect habitats. In our area, we have many cow-calf operations in addition to irrigated farmland. In this situation, dual-purpose cover crops for grazing and soil improvement can be an added tool for ranchers. This additional forage can extend the grazing season and reduce reliance on hay stockpiles. The most widespread practice in our county for cover crops is to follow a grain crop with a late summer cover crop (mid to late August) and use that cover crop for fall or early winter grazing. Another option is to do a spring or summer cover crop that can be grazed during the summer or early fall. However, this is less common in our area.

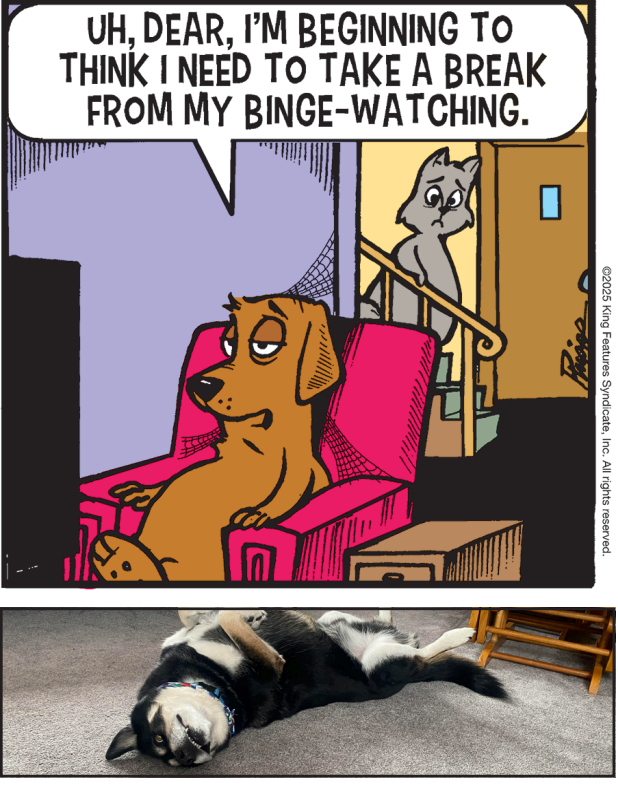
Crop rotation is a common management tool. Through crop rotation, pests who thrive in a certain crop are not given a chance to build up their population with repeated years of the same crop. Crop rotation can also assist in managing weeds and allowing for rotation of herbicides.

Soil testing is a helpful tool to allow you to monitor your soil over time. Start by collecting baseline data to see where your soil is before starting any new practices. Soil testing has developed over time to include a variety of tests focused on soil health with a wide range of prices. Many of them are lab-specific. Do your research before choosing. Once you decide on a test, it is important to stick with the same one for a while to see changes over time. Switching between tests each time can skew results.

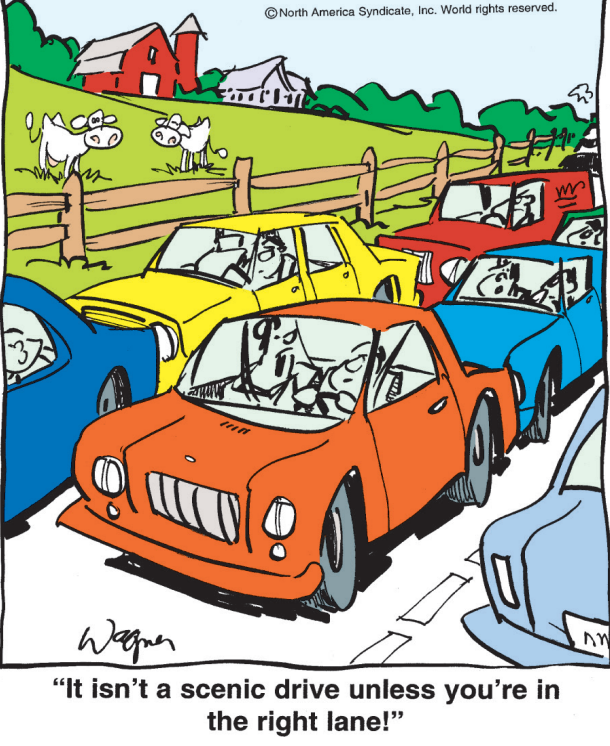
What does research say in relation to implications of soil health practices? There is a wide range of research with a wide range of results. This is because it is difficult to replicate soil health practices from one farm to the next because of differences in soil type and management practices. Soil health research at Montana State University has primarily been conducted in a dryland environment with mixed results. While the research has shown some soil health benefits, it has also shown that the economic results of soil health practices may not always benefit the grower. Therefore, it is important to trial practices on a small scale before jumping in with large acres. Each agriculture producer often finds the practices that fit their operation the best and meet their goals for sustainability, productivity, environmental stewardship and financial viability.

The MSU Broadwater County Extension Office has a no-till drill available for lease. If you have questions about soil health practices or to inquire about the drill, stop by your local MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 416 Broadway or contact us at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



TOPGUN Autobody
Townsend, MT

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

406-266-3110
7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT
topgunt3110@gmail.com
topgunautobodytownsend.com

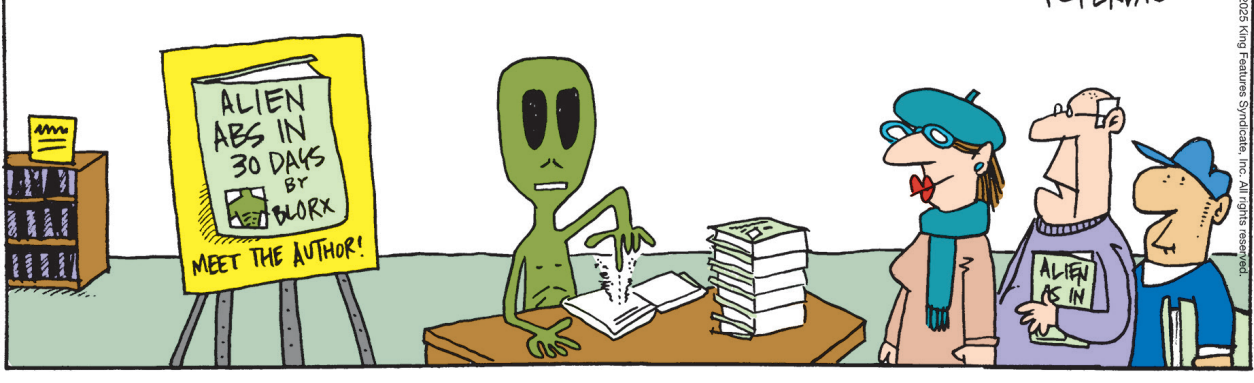
Kids' Maze Solution

V42 FITNESS
MEMBERSHIP

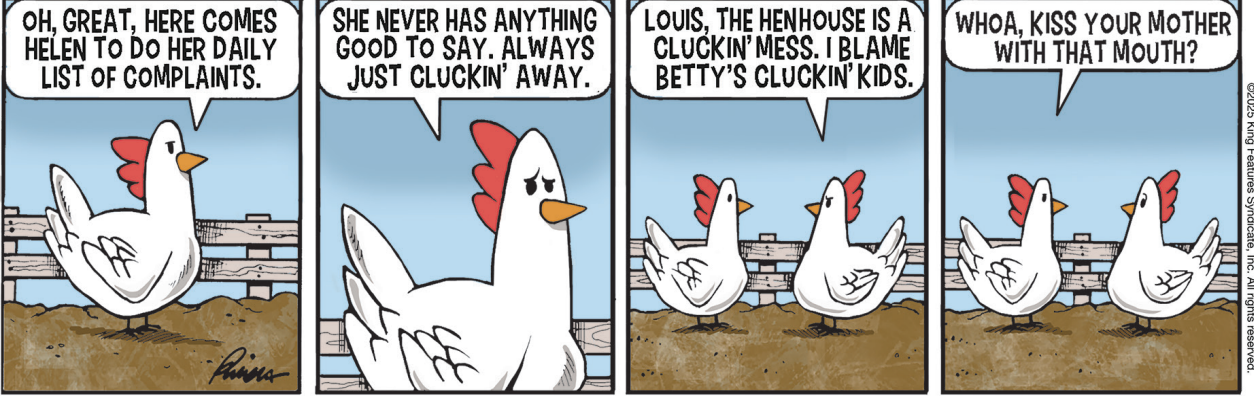
SIGN UP ONLINE
v42fitness.gymmasteronline.com/portal/signup

24 HR ACCESS

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



CryptoQuip
answer

That cute, tiny tyke could barely walk yet, but he was getting around on foot to the best of his stability.

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Canopy 2. Ascend;
3. Arouse; 4. Treat

Today's Word
TODAY

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

I	D	T
S		C
T	R	I

DISTRICT

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

IT MUST BE VALENTINE'S DAY! LOVE IS IN THE AIR! I CAN FEEL IT!

WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS SIDE EFFECT OF EXPLODING HEAD SYNDROME.

IMITATION WHIFFLE MEAT TRIALS

Loovee...

SEA HAG, CAN I HAVE VALENTINE'S DAY OFF? SUTRA AND I ARE--

SURE! FINE! RUB THE FACT YOU FOUND LOVE IN MY FACE!

WHAT A NORMAL, MEASURED RESPONSE.

I'M JUST FRUSTRATED. I THOUGHT I'D HAVE A DATE, BUT WIMPY IS HARD TO BLACKMAIL.

IT'S THE SAME THING EVERY YEAR. I HOPE I'LL CATCH SOMEONE'S EYE...

AND INSTEAD I GET DEPRESSED AND TRY TO RECONNECT WITH AN EX.

I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF YOUR EXES WERE STILL ALIVE.

THEY AREN'T.

YOU'RE THE SEA HAG. YOU'RE THE EPITOME OF SPITE. YOU DON'T NEED ANYONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE SURVIVED EVERY PLAGUE. I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH VALENTINE'S.

VALENTINE'S DAY...

D'YA EVER THINK OF US, RASPUTIN?

I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR OVER A CENTURY.

THAT'S NOT 'A NO'.

Super Crossword
Answers

D	O	G	T	R	E	A	T	S	Z	O	R	R	O	I	M	U	S	T	
E	A	R	N	E	D	R	U	N	O	R	E	A	D	H	A	S	T	O	
W	H	A	T	I	S	A	G	O	O	D	N	A	M	E	L	V	E	S	
Y	U	M	N	E	T	S	L	I	E	D	S	W	A	T	S	A	T		
G	E	L	P	G	A	U	S	E	R	R	E	A	T	R	I				
C	A	R	E	D	F	O	R	A	C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	T	H	A	T
O	D	I	N	N	A	P	A	S	P	A	R	D	A	R	E	T	O		
M	O	S	E	A	T	T	I	C	I	C	I	L	Y	A	M	E	S		
P	R	O	V	I	D	E	S	S	U	P	E	R	V	I	S	E	D		
U	N	T	A	M	E	E	L	O	E	R	R	E	E	C	E				
T	E	T	P	R	O	M	D	U	D	R	A	J	A	D	O	R			
E	R	O	D	E	D	O	M	G	A	P	O	T	T	A	W	A			
R	I	D	E	S	O	N	S	M	A	L	L	H	O	R	S	E	S		
A	L	T	A	I	R	A	N	I	S	P	O	O	N	I	N	R	E		
C	O	R	N	E	A	I	T	S	A	E	R	A	S	P	E	E	R		
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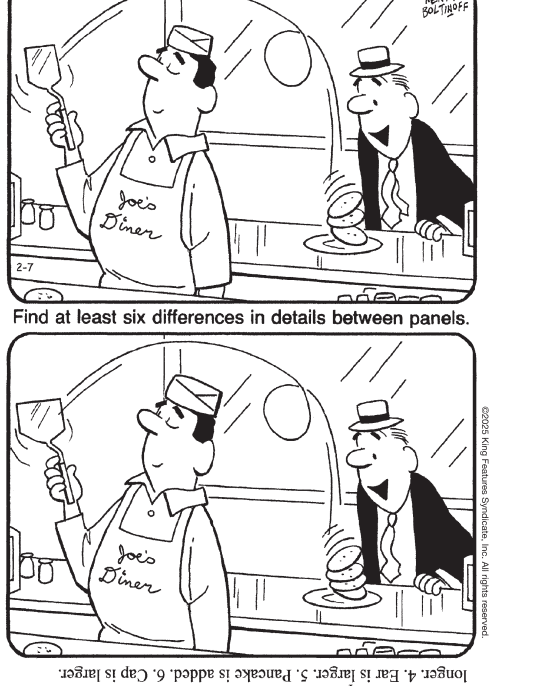
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Americanisms

"Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either."
— Gore Vidal

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



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BROADWATER COMMUNITY THEATER

Seniors Dance

Sunday February 23rd, 2025

Dance the afternoon away with Queen City Swing at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce St



Welcome this talented band back to Townsend!

Queen City Swing plays Big Band sounds of Woody Herman, Dorsey Brothers, also Jitterbug tunes from 40's - 50's

Doors Open at 12:30, Dance lessons 1 to 1:45,

Band will play from 2:00-4:00

Swing in for Lessons, Dance or just listen to great music!

Admission: Donation only, Includes appetizers

Dance Lessons are \$15

No Host Bar with Beer and Wine, Coffee and Soda

For more information: (406) 475-4016

Community Always Welcome!

BCT 2025 Sponsors: Jak's Heating and Air, Bill Kearns, Patrick Plantenberg and Mary Mistek, Jeanne Mainwaring, Jan Hubber, Ron and Mary Ann Salladay, Judy Schenk, John and Tami Hahn, Tina Homann, Nancy Marks, LaRinda Spencer



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Happiness is a warm cat.

Keep The Home Fires Burning

Eileen Clarke
Rifles and Recipes



Adding apple cider vinegar to a soup may sound strange, but it actually does two important things for the cook. First, deglazing the pan with the vinegar not only adds a richer, sweeter flavor but speeds up the effect of moist heat on tough meat. The beer also helps. I used an inexpensive convenience store lager here, but you can also use a higher quality micro-brew. Another pale beer perhaps or, for a change of pace, some brown ales and stouts give the dish a deeper flavor. Taste the microbrew first though: if it's tart in the glass, it will be tart in the soup. One of the reasons I only used Guinness Stout once. A deeper, sweeter ale is my preference. The alcohol in the beer also tenderizes the meat, so feel free to use a tougher cut: elk, moose, deer, antelope, whatever you have in the freezer.

Want your soup thicker? Forget the corn starch. Half an hour or so before you want the first serving, check how thick the soup is. To thicken it up, just grate 1/4 to 1/2 cup of a potato, then stir it into the broth and close the lid.

All Day Beer Stew

Serves 6-8

Ingredients

- 12-ounce can of beer
- 1 cup beef broth
- 2 pounds venison, cubed and dried with paper towels
- 4-5 tablespoons oil, in all
- 1 large yellow onion, sliced
- 1 gala (or other sweet apple), chopped
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 pounds red potatoes, chopped
- 2 cups red cabbage, chopped
- 2 teaspoons dried leaf thyme
- 1 teaspoon bacon bits



Eileen with Muley
Photo Credits: Eileen Clark

- 1 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt

Cooking

1. Start the slow cooker on high. Pour in the beer and bouillon. Cover and let it warm up.
2. In a large skillet, brown the steak chunks in 3-4 batches, starting with 2 tablespoons of the oil on medium-high heat. Add more oil as needed. Transfer the meat to the slow cooker as it browns.
3. Add another tablespoon of oil, and brown the onions and apple chunks until soft, about 5-7 minutes. Add them to the pot, too. Deglaze the pan: pour the apple cider vinegar into the still hot pan, scraping the browned bits up into the liquid, and

let the vinegar simmer enough to reduce to about 1/4 cup. Pour all the pan drippings into the pot.

4. Add the rest of the ingredients to the slow cooker and let it continue cooking on high until it reaches 140°F or higher temperature. Then reduce the heat to low, cover and cook 8 hours. (Check it after an hour to see that it's still above 140°F.) As with all stews, soups and pot roasts, if you can let it go a second day, it will be even better.

From Eileen's wild game cookbook, Slice of the Wild which has 100 venison recipes, over 40 side dishes, and 40 pages of bullet-to-butcher-to-fork tips. And it's on sale now at www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273.



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

February 13

1958

1941

Silver Wings to Dana Bradford

Kelly Field held its first graduation in 1941 on February 7th when Flying Cadets of Class 41-A received their coveted silver wings and commissions as 2nd Lts. Kelly Field shared this honor with Brooks Field will graduate 1900 Flying Cadets and one Student Officer, while Brooks Field will graduate 69 Flying Cadets.

Brooks Field was made an Advanced Flying School by Army orders on January 1st; prior to that time, it had been a subsidiary of Kelly Field. The two schools hold their stream-lined graduation exercises together at Kelly Field, with Colonel H.R. Harmon, Commandant of Kelly Field, and Major Stanton T. Smith, Commandant of Brooks Field as the principal speakers.

Dana Bradford, son of Mrs. A.W. Ridgeway of Townsend was one of the graduates who was received into the Air Corps as an officer and presented with his "silver wings".

Personal News

Al Dance is having himself a nice trip. On Saturday he went by plane to Chicago. He will visit his aged father in Cincinnati and other relatives in his native state, Kentucky, before he returns.

A number of local people motored to Helena Wednesday evening to attend the annual Lincoln day dinner. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Bruce, Fred W. Schmitz, A.G. McCormick, Mrs. Edith Gill, Jas. Gill and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schreiner Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bliler, Cleve Wallace, Earl W. Brown, Clarence Dallas and son, and Bill Diehl.

Thank Those Who Helped Decorate for Charity Ball
I would like to again express my thanks to everyone who so kindly helped with the decorations for the Charity Ball.

Those who worked to make the ceiling were: Mary Connors, Vera Black, Betty Rambert, Bernice Francisco, Donna Grover, Lois Valentine, Lillian Dove, Irene Rosetta, Cleo Neifert, Marie Sullivan and Mrs. Sprout.

Working to put the decorations up in the gym were: Lois and Keith Valentine, Dorothy and Bud Davis, Ed and Anita Sherwood, Bill Aldworth, John and Gen Walter, Ray Doig, Don and Florence Fogland, Pleas Barringer, Don and Florence Williams, Geff and Ruth Greene, Dr. and Jean McElwee, Mary and Al Brothers, Jim Hargrove, Glory and Mike Huth and Lee Todd.

My special thanks to Jean McElwee and Ruth Greene who were so very helpful in carrying out the theme. To Al Brothers who arranged the lighting and to Katherin Olsen and Lee Todd who brought decorations from Helena.

1975

Benefit Ball Chairmen

Benefit Ball Chairmen have been named for the "social event of the year" to be held April 26 at the Legion Club. No theme has been picked, but ideas are literally exploding from the heads of ladies, Mrs. Bill Lane of Toston and Mrs. Mike Lewis of Crow Creek Valley. The pair of chairmen are reviewing the scrapbook of the past years to gain ideas. More information will be forthcoming as decisions are made and committees chosen.

East of Townsend

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meyer lost the shop at their ranch

Friday afternoon when wiring apparently started on fire. The shop burnt to the ground taking a tractor, farmhand, tools and other equipment. The rural fire truck was unable to get through the snow drifted lanes and returned to town before the snow plow arrived to open the road. The fire truck then returned to see that the fire didn't spread to surrounding buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bieber of East Helena spent the weekend with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bieber. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Brock and family of Bozeman, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Bieber and family and Mr. and Mrs. Jon Bieber and family all of Helena and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bieber of East Helena visited Sunday and did some snowmobile riding.

1997

Around Town News

Tex and Yvonne Pate of Winston visited with Edith Alex on Thursday.

Last week, Ron and Judy Barraugh of Helena visited their mothers, Pearl Barraugh and Doris Huth. The four enjoyed dinner at the Silos. Monday, Bill and Karen Barraugh of Helena visited Pearl.

Sunday dinner guests of Tom and Elaine Hensley were Ray and Betty Horne. Sunday, Betty Horne, Valerie Middlemas and Elaine Hensley attended the Chocolate Fair in Helena.

The Cassidy Brothers performed Saturday at the Community Concert in Helena. Among those from Townsend enjoying the concert were Frances Etwiler, Lillian Fisher, Ione Schwisow, Georgia Meng, Adrian and Morgan Michalski, Mary Debelak, Helen Turcotte, Jerry Kimpton, Barbara and Bob Teller, Bill and Marjorie Knowles, Clay and Carol Schiedewitz and their daughters and John and Loretta Ryan.



Punxsutawney Phil Center of Heated Blanket Conspiracy

Montana Max, the world-famous Blue Nosed Moose, announced today that the worst of the cold is over. Shaking his head sadly, he continued that his good friend of many years, Punxsutawney Phil is being forced against his will to see his shadow to convince the public to buy more heated blankets. Anonymous industry insiders confirm that the price of heated blankets is rising...



Legacy (Part 5).... Ya Reckon?

Denise White Thompson
Rancher and Columnist



Legacy has a painful side, ya reckon? None of us get through this life without experiencing grief, heartache, sorrow and challenges along the way.

A very dear friend of mine reached out to me years ago and requested I be a trustee for her and her husband's estate. Even though I had little to no experience in this field, she trusted me, knew I would passionately and boldly serve on her behalf, and do all I could to objectively carry out her and her husband's wishes. Unfortunately, in their later years and following their death, I witnessed first-hand, the devastation of an amazing ranch!! More importantly, I witnessed a family destroyed!! It was CRUSHING!!

Yes, this family had annual business meetings, wills, trusts, financial spreadsheets, and immaculate, detailed records. There was extensive discussion about how the ranch was doing annually, and how it was to be handled after the matriarch and patriarch passed away. Unfortunately, there were some vital elements missing in their succession planning.

Elaine Froese, the Farm Family Coach, has written a number of exceptional books, one of which is, Building Your Farm Legacy...tools to empower better family communication. This book is such a great resource that touches on relationships, communication, teams and operations, planning, succession and healthy habits. Honestly, everyone would benefit from reading this book.

Elaine speaks of the importance of the 3 C's: Clarity, Certainty, and Commitment to Act. There is tremendous value in all the generations sitting down together and sharing their visions for growth, their needs and wants, and a plan for the business and the individuals. Strive to do the tough things right and remember the old Chinese proverb: "Talk does not cook rice." Act NOW and set dates.

I encourage you to empower yourself and your

family by registering today for the FREE workshop, Finding Fairness In Farm Transition, on March 1st from 9:30 to 3:30 at the 4-H Building. Reach out to Broadwater Conservation District (406-521-3014) (website: broadwatercd.org) to register or go to eventbrite.com and search the name of the workshop and reserve your spot. Also, don't forget to purchase your tickets from BCD, FFA members or at Rocky Mountain Supply for the Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner at the Watson Event Center, held that same evening.

For the Love of Ag, From the Heart of a Western Woman.

Denise Thompson



The greatest purpose of life is to live it for something that will last longer than you." - William James
Vince Thompson with his two grandsons,
Cinco and Stetson Reynolds
Photo Credits: Stephen Simpson

New Hunting, Fishing and Conservation License Year Begins March 1

Fish, Wildlife and Parks



Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has announced that the new hunting, fishing, and conservation license year begins March 1.

The deer and elk permit application deadline is April 1.

Read the full article on the MT43News website at <https://mt43news.com>

Ice Rink Plans Melt for Winter 2025

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Citizen-led plans to install an ice rink in Holloway Park this winter came to an end in late January due to a lack of manpower and equipment.

Hannah Rauser, who had received the city's permission to install the rink in the park on behalf of a group of citizens, explained that the effort for full set up the rink posed a greater logistical challenge than the group was aware of until the set-up had begun. Work done to install the rink was removed over the weekend of Feb. 1.

Rauser noted that the effort was not led by the City of Townsend. Instead, those involved had merely asked the city's permission to place the rink in the park.

While there likely will not be a rink this winter, the end of the group's efforts for this year does not preclude the possibility of a temporary installation in future years.