

Neither Snow . . .



Water work on Broadway Tuesday, February 18th
Linda Kent

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Despite snow, temperatures below freezing, and frosty wind chills, workers from Belgrade's CK May continued efforts to replace valves for Townsend's water system at the intersection of Broadway and Spruce.

Traffic and parking was restricted on the 200 and 300 blocks of Broadway for several days. Local businesses also saw intermittent water shut-offs needed to accommodate the work.

The contractors will continue their work, which will also include replacing fire hydrants throughout the next several months, so long as daytime highs exceed 10F.

The construction is just the first step in a multi-year project to replace and upgrade Townsend's water system and will include the installation of a 1 million gallon water tank east of Townsend near the fair and rodeo grounds.

Missoula Children's Theater Production Announces Actors Named in Audition

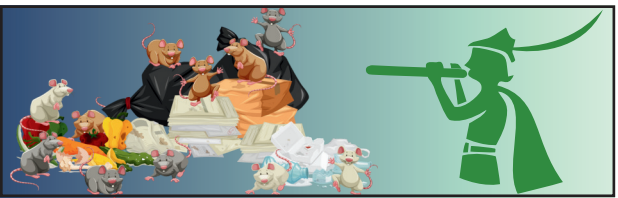
Amanda Hazlett
Co-Chair Missoula Children's Theater Committee

What do you do when your town is overrun by ravenous rats? You call the Pied Piper!

Take a trip to Hamelin Town this Saturday, February 22 with the Missoula Children's Theatre and local students as they perform an original musical adaptation of the classic tale, THE PIED PIPER.

The local cast features Blair Taylor as the Pied Piper, Tia Tallwhiteman as Sara, and Ayden Thompson, Roxy Burns, and Kianna Tallwhiteman as the Mayor's Kids. Also featured are Tessie Hughes, Angel Sentinella and Aurora Toney as the Mayor's Council and Harper Hazlett, Sevigne Flynn, Kaylee Flynn, Izzy Sentinella and Madelyne Truesdell as the Cooks. To complete the ensemble, Paisley Daniel and River Spurlock will appear as the Townskids of Hamelin, and Lucy Van Duin, Angelina Wirtz, Remi Smith, and Weslyn Spurlock play the troublesome Rats.

THE PIED PIPER will be presented at 3pm and 5pm in the Broadwater High School stage gym. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the door.



The Missoula Children's Theatre residency in Townsend is brought to you by The Broadwater Community Theater with support from Bill Kearns, Jak's Plumbing and Heating, Judy Schenk, Jan Hubber, Ron and Mary Ann Salladay, Jeanne Mainwaring, John Hahn, Bob Saxby.

Long-time Townsend Administrator Chosen as Superintendent

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter

If you've spent any time at Townsend Schools over the past two decades you will likely recall a tall, smiling figure walking the halls, chatting with students and community members, or visiting with staff and faculty. Brad Racht has been a fixture in the school district as a teacher and administrator throughout the 21st Century, focused on building relationships with kids and community alike.

"It's been a good place," Racht said of Townsend.

Townsend School Board trustees unanimously selected Racht as the district's superintendent following candidate interviews in early February.

"Although the other candidates had good resumes and interviewed well, it is tough to compare them to an individual that has such proven history within the district," School board chairman Jason Noyes said. "Mr. Racht has been an administrator in the Townsend School District for 24 years and is well respected by the students, staff, and the community. Mr. Racht's commitment to student success in our public school system is second to none. We would be hard pressed to find anyone better suited to lead our district in the coming years. He knows our school system, our community, and our commitment to student achievement."

Racht began his career in Brady, Mont., and has been a teacher, coach, and administrator in the Townsend district since 1999, when he was hired to teach physical education and coach boys' basketball. He was named the district's interim superintendent in December, following the election of superintendent Susie Hedalen to the post of Montana's State Superintendent of Schools.

"I'm at a point in my career where I want to learn a little bit more about how a district is run," Racht said of his decision to put his hat in the ring for the permanent position.

"I've kind of done everything in a district," Racht said, reviewing a 30-year-career as a teacher and administrator, which has seen him teaching students at all grade levels, picking up work as a summer custodian, coaching high school basketball, and serving as an elementary and middle-school principal. "I feel like I know some of the struggles at each level of a school."

"I want to learn how to tie all of that together," he continued.

Racht entered the interim superintendent's role at a unique moment, as the district had just lost both its superintendent and district clerk. Racht and district executive administrator Donna Cutshaw both found themselves working through both day-to-day issues like ensuring that they had access to all the necessary computer systems and bank accounts to keep the district running, as well as coming in at the tail end of the district's regular financial audit cycle.

"I've learned a lot, and I think it will help me in the long run," Racht said. He was quick to point out that the previous superintendent and clerks had been excellent in their roles, but that "having multiple transitions in a short period has been difficult."

Looking toward the future, Racht said he sees a number of challenges and opportunities facing the district, including teacher recruitment and retention, funding, a widening range of ways to complete a basic

education, and growth.

He noted that finding and keeping quality teachers challenges most districts in the nation, as fewer teachers enter the profession and more teachers leave. Adding to the difficulty is striking a balance between teacher salaries, especially for less-experienced educators, against a rising cost of living in communities throughout the state.

"[Townsend has] been really fortunate," Racht said of finding and keeping quality teachers. "Montana as a whole is going to continue to struggle, even more than some areas of the country."

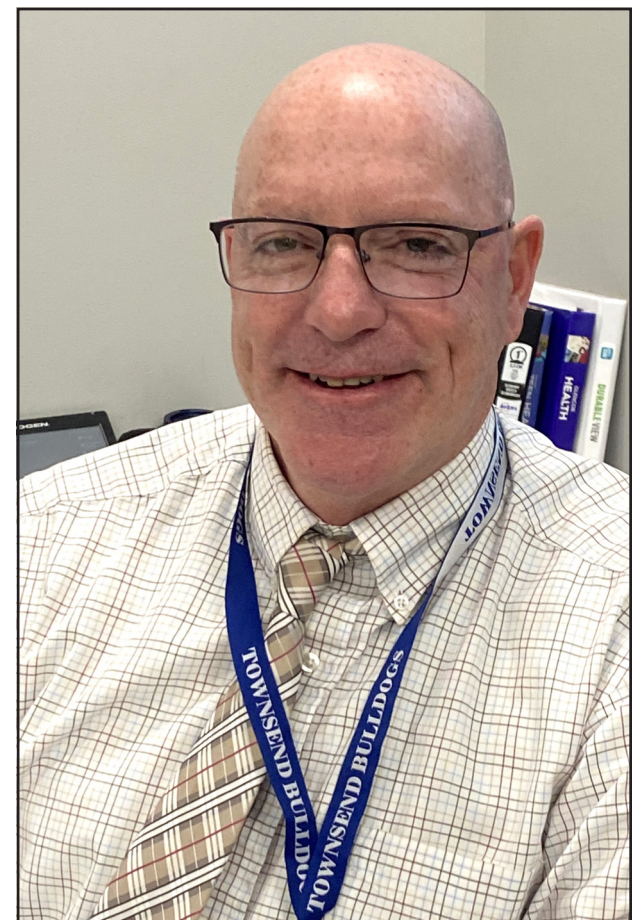
Privatization, the home-school movement, and charter schools have created another dimension of challenge for public schools, Racht said. "There are a lot more options out there than there used to be."

"The bottom line is, changes are occurring, and the trend of more options for education will continue to impact public education and what will shape education in the future," Racht continued.

Contemplating how the county will grow in the coming years brought Racht to a core belief about the relationship between strong schools and strong communities: "Neither can exist without the other."

For the district, Racht said, that means trying to demonstrate the school's value to the community and its ability to support and attract local businesses. "When a small town loses its schools, the town is not far behind," Racht said, noting the decline of dozens of small communities along Montana's Hi-Line.

Racht said he looks forward to continuing the strategic planning process the school board began last spring, once he and new district clerk Courtney Bancroft get settled into the position, as well as bringing more community members into the planning process.




Brad Racht
Photo Credit: Linda Kent

NEWS OF FATAL ACCIDENT ON PAGE 2

Townsend School Calendar

FEBRUARY



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

Saturday 22
 9:00 am: 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

Monday 24
 Library Book Fair
 7:00pm: Old Baldy Welding and Woodshop - Shop Classroom

Tuesday 25
 Library Book Fair
 8:55 am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
 3:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling @ Anaconda
 4:00 pm: K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 5:30 pm: CTE/Art Showcase - 63 Gym

Wednesday 26
 Library Book Fair
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian
 8:55 am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gym - 63 Gym
 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Pickleball - Stage Gym

Thursday 27
 Library Book Fair
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian
 3:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling at Butte Central Mixer-MAC

Friday 28
NO SCHOOL
 Library Book Fair
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian

MARCH

Saturday 1
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian



Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page

Three Forks School Calendar

FEBRUARY



Monday 24
 LUNCH : High School Academic Olympics

February 25
 LUNCH : Middle School Academic Olympics

February 26
 LUNCH : High School Academic Olympics

February 27
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian
 LUNCH : Middle School Academic Olympics
 LUNCH : Student Council Meeting

February 28
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian

MARCH

Saturday 1
 High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian

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

THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

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

Tuesday 25
 1:00 pm: Three Forks Public Library - Mah Jongg

Wednesday 26
 5:30 pm: Bozeman Music Night with the Bridger Creek Boys at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Thursday 27
 10:30 am: Three Forks Public Library - Story Time
 6:00 pm: Three Forks Music Night with Katie Hall at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Friday 28
 11:00 am: Three Forks Public Library - LEGO Club

TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

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 of Townsend
 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 24
 6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805

Tuesday 25
 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 26
 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 27
 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry


Friday 28
 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

MARCH

Saturday 1
 5:00 pm: Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner at Watson Event Center **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR TICKET INFO**
 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

\$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

Townsend Man Dies in Head-on Collision at Silos Exit

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Two white vehicles collided Friday, February 14 at the Silos turnoff and US Highway 287. One person died at the scene and one person was taken to the hospital. The weather was overcast and snowing.

According to an official release from Broadwater County Sheriff Nick Rauser: at approximately 9:37 a.m. Broadwater County Dispatch received a call about a head on collision on Highway 287 and Silos Road. Deputies, EMS, Fire and Montana Highway Patrol responded.

Larry Zeadow, an 82-year-old male, succumbed to his injuries. The other male was transported to the hospital in Helena and is in stable condition.

The Montana Highway Patrol is investigating the traffic collision. The Broadwater County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death.

Mill Levy Meetings Scheduled

Nick Rauser
 Sheriff



The next three meeting dates are scheduled for the Mill Levy.

They are as follows

February 27th, 6 pm: Winston Firehall
 March 5th, 6 pm: Townsend Community Room
 March 12h 6 pm: Headwaters Livestock

ANNUAL AG APPRECIATION DINNER

ROOTS and RESILIENCY = YOUR LEGACY

5pm Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Watson Event Center

Prime Rib Dinner, Silent Auction and a Cash Bar
 Keynote Speaker: Farm Family Coach, Elaine Froese
 Topic: Culture Beats Strategy



Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased from Conservation District (CD) Supervisors and at the CD Office at 415 S Front St in Townsend.

Tickets can also be purchased from FFA Students, at the MSU Extension Office or at Rocky Mountain Supply

BROADWATER
 Conservation District



HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, GRAMPIE JOHN LARSEN!

WE LOVE YOU! ~Stevenson & Tallwhiteman Clans

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 5 FOR LEGAL NOTICES AND OPEN POSITIONS!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

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



EHLKE HEREFORDS

HEREFORD BULLS for sale
 406-439-4311
 Videos available at www.ehlkeherefords.com



Townsend Booster Club

Wrestling:

Gavin Schmele gave it his all this weekend and brought home a 4th place medal. He had a hard state tournament losing to the future runner up in the quarter finals but he didn't let that define his weekend. He went into the consolation bracket with his eyes set on placing. He had some hard fought matches with a win in triple overtime and pinning his conversation semifinals with 7 seconds left in the match. I'm excited to see what the next season holds for him.



Gavin Schmele Townsend Booster Club Photo

Boys' basketball:

Ryedan Reed is this week's player of the week. Ryedan was the high point scorer in the conference matchup against Jefferson this last week. Taking charges and playing outstanding defense is something that Ryedan does every single game to help our team out. In the fourth quarter, Ryedan took control of the game for our team on both ends of the floor and went on a scoring frenzy scoring 15 points total. He is so hard to guard and is a team first player. We are all thankful that we have a point guard like Ryedan on our team!



Ryedan Reed Townsend Booster Club Photo

All of the adversity, long hours, and love for the game have paid off for him, and we can't wait to see what this team is made of at districts! Congrats Ryedan!

Girls' Basketball:

Kaitlyn Noyes, a junior, is a fierce competitor. On Thursday, the Lady Bulldogs faced the Jefferson Panthers, where Kaitlyn recorded seven defensive rebounds, one steal, and 13 points. Despite a tough night at the line—making just 5 of 15 free throws—and shooting 4 of 8 on two-point attempts, she and her team knew that one loss didn't have to define their next game. On Friday, the Lady Bulldogs took on the Ennis Mustangs, and Kaitlyn responded with an outstanding performance. She adjusted her game and it paid off, tallying one steal, one assist, 14 defensive rebounds, and four offensive rebounds. She was on fire at the free-throw line, sinking 18 of 24, and dominated under the basket, adding 20 more points. Kaitlyn finished the night with an impressive 38 of the Lady Bulldogs' 62 points in their 62-57 victory over the Mustangs.



Kaitlyn Noyes Townsend Booster Club Photo

Wrestling Team Ends its Season

Karsyn Sangray Broadwater High School Student Intern



Bulldog Wrestling team members ended their season with the State Tournament in Billings on February 13-15. These three days were filled morning to night with matches. We had nine bulldogs attend the tournament. Three advanced to the last day. They were juniors Gavin Schmele and Parker Hunt, and senior Eric Humphreys. All the boys put their best effort forth and were able to place.

Eric Humphreys, known for his strength and determination, placed fifth overall at the state level. Throughout his entire last season he never missed an opportunity to be on the podium. His best tournament was in Choteau where he placed second overall. This was also his favorite tournament because a lot of the people on the team were able to receive a placement there. His biggest support through life is his dad and the Hunt family. They always support him no matter what he's facing or what his decision is. His favorite move is a single lake takedown. He described the Metra saying, "The environment was intimidating, but it was also full of excitement and anticipation. Overall, the season was full of emotions, but it was successful."

Another phenomenal wrestler was Gavin Schmele, who placed fourth. Gavin also worked hard throughout his season and was able to improve tremendously from his first tournament this year. Returning to wrestling would be hard for anybody, but coming back from an injury that prevented wrestling last year was extremely difficult. Getting back into

the rhythm of it slowly, but surely, paid off as he placed higher every weekend. His favorite tournament was the State Tournament. By staying in a positive mental state and being able to run around the Metra helps achieve success. He acknowledges the training in the last two weeks saying, "I appreciate my coaches and having Coach Leonard come into wrestle with me. His past knowledge helped train me and his size helped me prepare. We did top and bottom work which helped a lot during Divisionals and State."

We couldn't be prouder of the wrestling team. The team took more than four times the number of wrestlers to state than last year. The team members supported each other throughout the weekend and were cheering the entire time. Eric Humphreys ended his season with an incredible placement. We look forward to watching Gavin Schmele defend his place next year. With a lot of younger wrestlers, we also look forward to their seasons next year and are excited to see how they have improved.



Wrestler Eric Humphreys, right, ended his season with a fifth place at the Metra in Billings last weekend. Karsyn Sangray, High School Photographer



GO BULLDOGS!!

Stoke Valentine Fun Raiser a Success Despite Bad Weather

Nancy Marks MT43 News Reporter



STOKE Valentine Fun Raiser organizers changed up the fifth annual event this year. Friday night at The Lodge, the student members of the organization were the program.

Science, Technology, Outdoors, Knowledge and Entrepreneurship (STOKE) is a Montana-based youth skills empowerment program run by volunteers who assist Broadwater County's kids in activities such as robotics, pottery, culinary arts and forming their own businesses.

The program, open to kids ages preschool through senior high school, has served over 300 participants over the five years. It was formed as an opportunity to give the kids a place to go after school and weekends to participate in activities the school did not offer or could not afford to underwrite. Their brochure points out the non-profit's objective is "to provide opportunities that will inspire and nurture the human spirit, one kid at a time."

Friday night saw thirteen STOKE students help serve the meal and provide the program by either acting in a film they produced about their activities throughout the year or speaking about what they had learned over the year in the program.

Particularly outstanding is the STOKE robotics program led by ten-year veteran Spencer Sellay, new here from Southern California. His wife, Dr. Lisa Brown, leads the innovation portion of robotics program. The team has scored high marks at both regional and state competitions this year.

In an interview, Dr. Brown, who is a women's doctor practicing in Southern California, said "My role is to guide the students to think scientifically, but to innovate as they build their project."

According to Treasurer John Hahn the night was a successful one, raising \$11,000 before expenses. A full house of friends and supporters

donated to purchase silent auction items including overnight ski trips, a 25-pound package of beef and hand-thrown bowls made by the students.

Philanthropist Dolly McMaster who has donated her time and presence to raise funds in previous years, was particularly impressed with the students' program. "Yes, I enjoyed the change in the event. This is so much better to see what an impact this organization has had on the kids," she commented.

Organizers Jim and Amanda Domino, Tina Homann, John Hahn, as the driving force, have been very successful in attracting the students. More importantly, they have attracted some talented and energetic leaders to the program. Adam Six, Roger Flynn and Bobby McAuley accompanied a group to see business in real-time at Boeing Manufacturing in Helena.

Other programs this year were culinary arts, MAPS Media Institute which teaches students how to produce films, horseback riding, CPR and first Aid training, Fly Tying, and crafting, all led by talented and experienced coaches from the community.



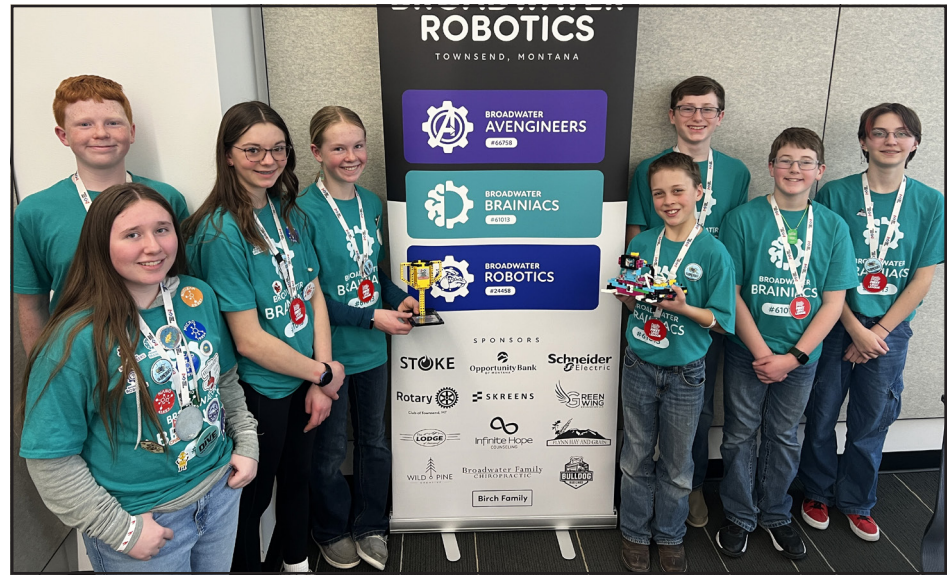
Eight-year-old Zola Six, one of the featured speakers for the STOKE pottery program shown here with Simone Dominguez, left, and Tina Homann. They purchased Zola's bowls which she made for the live auction at the event. Photo Credit: John Hahn

ATTENTION Airline Travelers and 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.

Broadwater Robotics Makes Waves at State Championships in Bozeman



Broadwater Robotics high school robotics team with their robot at the state championship in Bozeman. From left to right: Coach Dr. Adam Six, Coach Roger Flynn, Gavin Greene, Creighton Wright, Aiden Kitto, Cooper Nichter, Caleb Swanson, Coach Spencer Sella, Max Sella, and Coach Dr. Lisa Brown. STROKE Photo



Broadwater Brainiacs show off their 2nd place Robot Design trophy. From left to right: Everett Kirksey, Erylyn Strait, Kathryn Six, Kay Crusch, Calvin McCauley, Titus Kirksey, Jayden Flynn, and Skylar Sella. STROKE Photo

Roger Flynn
STROKE

The Broadwater Robotics high school and middle school teams traveled to Bozeman this weekend to compete in the state championships, where they showcased their hard work, creativity, and technical skills. Their dedication paid off as they achieved phenomenal success, earning recognition for their impressive performances.

The Broadwater Robotics high school team made a great showing at the state championship Friday, February 7th, showcasing both creativity in their robot build and their skills in driving their robot. Competing against 30 teams, Max Sella, Caleb Swanson, Aiden Kitto, Gavin Green, Cooper Nichter, and Creighton Wright participated in five competitive matches. Scores in those matches were cumulative, placing the Broadwater team in the top 10, standing out among some of the best robotics teams in the state.

The team's performance at the championship was a testament to the countless hours of hard work and preparation put in leading up to the event. This top 10 finish is a significant achievement, especially considering



Broadwater Robotics preparing for their qualifying match. From left to right: Back: Caleb Swanson and Creighton Wright. Front: Aiden Kitto and Max Sella. STROKE Photo

the competitive nature of the event, and it reflects the team's growing success in robotics. As they look ahead, the team is excited to continue honing their skills and pursuing further success in future competitions, eager to push the boundaries of what they can achieve.

Broadwater High School senior Max Sella was honored with a FIRST graduation cord for his years of participation in FIRST programs, mentoring younger students and fostering a passion for STEM. Max has been involved with FIRST for over ten years. His mentorship will be missed next year as he graduates and attends MSU.

The Broadwater Robotics two middle school teams also competed at their state championship this weekend. The Townsend teams both ended up in the top ten spots out of 100 teams in the state. Put on by FIRST, a global organization that inspires young people to explore STEM, the FIRST Lego Competition challenges teams to design, build, and program a LEGO robot to complete missions in addition to developing a research project where they present a creative solution to a real-world problem related to the season's theme.

The Broadwater Brainiacs, made up of Kay Crusch, Jayden Flynn, Titus Kirksey, Everett Kirksey, Calvin McCauley, Skylar Sella, Kathryn Six, and Erylyn Strait, in addition to having a top 5 game score at the event secured the 2nd place trophy for their robot design, showcasing their creativity and problem-solving skills with the use of swappable attachments and python-based programming.

The Broadwater Avengers, made up of Cade Culbreth, Trenton Essary, Anthony Grandy, Karter



Broadwater Avengers team prepares for a match. Avengers received one of the top three match scores in the 2024-25 season. STROKE Photo

Schmaus, Sam Smith, Nik Toney, and Liam Wells earned 2nd place at the event for the robot game score. Their hours of work paid off for them to receive one of the top three best scores in the state this season.

Spencer Sella received the Coaches Award at the competition for his dedication to robotics in Townsend and over 10 years of coaching in the FIRST program both here and in California. Spencer is a founding member of the robotics program in Townsend and continues to play a pivotal role in building a strong STEM foundation for students.

This event highlighted Broadwater Robotics' dedication and teamwork. This success was made possible by coaches Spencer Sella, Dr. Lisa Brown, Roger Flynn, Dr. Adam Six, Bobbie McCauley, Jessica Crusch, Broadwater High School Senior Max Sella, and all the parents of these kids who supported the program in so many ways this season.

A big thanks to STROKE for their commitment to programs for kids in Townsend, fostering interest in STEM and inspiring future innovators. A huge thank you as well to the Broadwater Robotics sponsors: STROKE, Townsend Rotary, Schneider Electric, Opportunity Bank, The Lodge of Townsend, Green Wing Excavation, Flynn Hay and Grain, Infinite Hope Counseling, Skreens, Broadwater Family Chiropractic, Wild Pine Creative, Lazy RM Beef, Gianforte Family Foundation, and DoD STEM, whose generous support makes these achievements possible.



Broadwater High School Senior, Max Sella, in his final competition. Max has participated in FIRST robotics programs for over 10 years. STROKE Photo

Fall Fest 2025 Planning Under Way

Pat Plantenberg
Rotarian



Fall Fest 2025 is still eight months away, but the Rotary Club of Townsend is in full planning mode! The dates have been selected: October 3-5. Bands are being contracted. Vendors are applying for the limited spaces. Sponsors are being asked to sign up. And all the other details are being worked on.

It takes a LOT of volunteers and community support to pull off the event. Rotary can't do this event without your help. If you are even remotely interested in volunteering or sponsoring this year, send an email to TownsendRotary@gmail.com.

Fall Fest is the Rotary club's only fundraiser

for the year. Monies earned during the event are used to support the local community:

- Scholarships to Graduating High School Seniors
- Helping Fund New Heritage and McCarthy Park Playground Equipment
- Helping Fund New High School Baseball Program
- Helping Fund New Chamber Digital Sign by the Swimming Pool
- Purchasing an AED for Search and Rescue
- Bike Rodeo and Slice for Summer Events
- Lifeguard Training
- Senior Holiday Dinner and Light Tour
- And much more.....

Interested in learning more about our local Rotary Club? Go to www.TownsendRotary.org. Or call Club President, Doug Sitton at: 406-422-3426.

Highway 12 Market Place

Handmade & Collectables

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

Come in and Shop with our Local vendors!

Big Sky Angels- Laura Stevenson

Montana Crafted: Crochet Items- sensory toys, animals, bags, decor and more, Handpainted-Ornaments and Re-purposed Art

Touch of Twyla's Greeting Cards

Handcrafted Cards, Incense and Incense Burners, Beanies and Diamond Painting Kits.

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

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

The Birds Nest & Swazi's Rock Shop
Unique Gifts, Antiques & Treasures
125 S Pine St, Townsend MT
(406)266-1335

"Forgiveness is setting the prisoner free, only to find out that the prisoner was me."
~Corrie ten Boom

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.



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

Rodeo Board Liaison

The Broadwater County Fair Board is looking to fill an open position for their Rodeo Board Liaison member, term expiring 12/31/25.

This board member is expected to attend both the monthly meetings of the Broadwater County Fair Board and the Broadwater Rodeo Club in order to keep an open line of communication between the two entities.

Letters of interest can be emailed to fair@broadwater-countymt.gov.

Published February 21, 28, March 7 and 14, 2025

MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO WATER USERS (PURSUANT TO SECTION 85-2-307, MCA)

The following application has been submitted to appropriate water in the State of Montana.

THIS FOREST SERVICE APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED PURSUANT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE-MONTANA COMPACT AS PRESENTED IN §85-20-1401, MCA.

OBJECTION DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2025.

OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPLICATION MUST BE FILED ON AN OBJECTION TO APPLICATION, FORM NO. 611 AND MUST PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL CREDIBLE INFORMATION. THE SPECIFIC STATUTE PERTAINING TO THESE REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT §85-20-1401, ARTICLE VI, MCA.

MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE SPECIFIED DEADLINE AND \$50.00 FILING FEE TO THE DNRC, PO BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE AT <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Water-Rights/application-status-environmental-assessments/>.

DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS APPLICATION TO:

ATTN: ATTILA J FOLNAGY, (PHONE: (406)444-6630, EMAIL: AFOLNAGY@MT.GOV), 2705 SPURGIN RD, BLDG C, PO BOX 5004, MISSOULA, MT 59804-5004.

Application Number: 411 30104699

Owners: USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE) WATER RIGHTS PROGRAM MANAGER, NORTHERN REGION 26 FORT MISSOULARD MISSOULA, MT 59804-7203

Priority Date: DECEMBER 7, 2015, at 12:30 P.M.

Purpose (Use): INSTREAM FISHERY

Maximum Flow Rate: 11.00 CFS

Source Name: CROW CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion: ID 1; Qtr Sec: NE; Sec 23; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: INSTREAM ID 2; Qtr Sec: SE; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: INSTREAM ID 3; Qtr Sec: SW; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: INSTREAM ID 4; Qtr Sec: NW; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: INSTREAM Purpose (Use): INSTREAM FISHERY Period of Use: JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31

Place of Use: ID 1; Qtr Sec: NE; Sec 23; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER ID 2; Qtr Sec: SE; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER ID 3; Qtr Sec: SW; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER ID 4; Qtr Sec: NW; Sec 14; Twp 6N; Rge 1W; County BROADWATER

Remarks: THIS WATER RIGHT IS FOR INSTREAM USE; MEANING THAT THERE IS NO DIVERSION, IMPOUNDMENT OR WITHDRAWAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE AND THE USE DOES NOT CAUSE A NET LOSS OF WATER IN THE SOURCE OF SUPPLY. LOCATION OF DOWNSTREAM END OF REACH, NOT TO EXTEND BEYOND FOREST SERVICE BOUNDARY; LATITUDE 46.25991 N, LONGITUDE -111.68254 W DECIMAL DEGREES, IN THE SESE OF SECTION 23, T6N, R1W, BROADWATER COUNTY. LOCATION OF UPSTREAM END OF REACH; LATITUDE 46.27854 N, LONGITUDE -111.69995 W DECIMAL DEGREES, IN THE SENW OF SECTION 14, T6N, R1W, BROADWATER COUNTY.

PUBLISHED IN: MT43 NEWS ON FEBRUARY 21, 2025.

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

To be sold for cash at a Trustee's Sale on May 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM on the South Entrance Steps of the Broadwater County Courthouse located at 515 Broadway Street, Townsend, MT 59644, the following described real property situated in Broadwater County, State of Montana:

Lot 22 of Price Hills Major Subdivision, also known as The Village at Elk Ridge Major Subdivision, Broadwater County, Montana.

More commonly known as 65 Rolling Prairie, Three Forks, MT 59752.

Alisa Sea Kopp and Darren Edward Kopp, as Grantors, conveyed said real property to First American Title, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for [Lender], Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, by Deed of Trust on April 28, 2022, and filed for record in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder in Broadwater County, State of Montana, on April 28, 2022 as Instrument No. 193428, in Book 240, at Page 282, of Official Records.

THE DEED OF TRUST WAS ASSIGNED FOR VALUE AS FOLLOWS: Assignee: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services

Assignment Dated: January 11, 2024

Assignment Recorded: January 16, 2024

Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 198054, in Book 257, at Page 946

All in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder for Broadwater County, Montana.

Jason J. Henderson is the Successor Trustee pursuant to a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Broadwater County, State of Montana, on December 3, 2024, as Instrument No. 200407, in Book 266, at Page 461, of Official Records.

The Beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust due to the Grantor(s) failure to make monthly payments beginning November 1, 2023, and each month subsequent, which monthly installments would have been applied on the principal and interest due on said obligation and other charges against the property or loan. By reason of said default, the Beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable. The total amount due on this obligation is the principal sum of \$557,225.46, interest in the sum of \$34,635.07, escrow advances of \$8,117.23, and other amounts due and payable in the amount of \$3,636.39 for a total amount owing of \$603,614.15, plus accruing interest, late charges, and other fees and costs that may be incurred or advanced.

The Beneficiary anticipates, and may disburse, such amounts as may be required to preserve and protect the property and for real property taxes that may become due or delinquent, unless such amounts of taxes are paid by the Grantor. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, the amounts or taxes will be added to the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust. Other expenses to be charged against the proceeds of this sale include the Trustee's fees and attorney's fees, costs and expenses of the sale, and late charges, if any.

The Beneficiary has elected, and has directed, the Trustee to sell the above-described property to satisfy the obligation.

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the Beneficiary, excepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid immediately upon the close of bidding in cash or cash equivalents (valid money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks). The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed, without any representation or warranty, including warranty of title, express or implied, as the sale is made strictly on an as-is, where-is basis, without limitation, the sale is being made subject to all existing conditions, if any, of lead paint, mold or other environmental or health hazards. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The Grantor, successor in interest to the Grantor, or any other person having an interest in the property, has the right, at any time prior to the Trustee's Sale, to pay to the Beneficiary, or the successor in interest to the Beneficiary, the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Deed of Trust with Successor Trustee's and attorney's fees. In the event that all defaults are cured, the foreclosure will be dismissed and the foreclosure sale will be canceled.

The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation for up to 15 days for any reason. In the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the Trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Successor Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated this 8th day of January, 2025.

Jason J. Henderson, Substitute Trustee

Published February 21, 28 and March 7, 2025

MNAXLP

Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Micheal Forest Farmer: Micheal Forest Farmer, Petitioner

Case No.: DDV-2025-12

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the district Court for a change of name from (your name now) Micheal Forest Farmer

To (name you want) Michael A Graham

The hearing will be on (date) 04/04/2025 at (time) 10:30 AM

The hearing will be at the Courthouse in (county) Broadwater County.

Filed Date 2/14/25

Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court

By Desiree' Taves, Deputy Clerk of Court

Published February 21, 28, March 7 and 14, 2025

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

RANDY LEE BROWN, Deceased.

Probate No. DDP-25-01

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Nathan A. Brown has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Claims against the decedent must be presented within four months after the first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to the Personal Representative via his Attorney, Peter T. Simon (303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644) return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.

Dated February 21, 2025.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC Attorney for Personal Representative

Published February 21, 28, March 7, 2025

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

WAYNE EDWARD HERRINGTON, Deceased.

Probate No. DDP-25-02

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Lillian I. Arden has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Claims against the decedent must be presented within four months after the first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to the Personal Representative via her Attorney, Peter T. Simon (303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644) return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.

Dated February 21, 2025.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC Attorney for Personal Representative

Published February 21, 28 and March 7, 2025

MNAXLP



February 14

Dee Gannon
MT43 News Correspondent



The criminal docket in Judge Micheal McMahon's courtroom on Friday, February 14, is as follows:

Curtis Smith had an Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to charges of burglary, assault (causing bodily injury), and criminal mischief. Omnibus is due by April 25; Pre-Trial is set for July 25; with the Jury Trial scheduled for August 18.

Jack White was Arraigned on multiple charges. Three counts of assault with a weapon; three counts of criminal endangerment; two counts of criminal mischief and one count of obstruction of a police officer. Omnibus is due by April 25; Pre-Trial is set for July 25; with the Jury Trial scheduled for August 18. A Bond Hearing will be February 28.

Kristina Peek had a Change of Plea; pleading Guilty to criminal possession of dangerous drugs. In her elocution, she stated that she knowingly possessed psilocybin in Broadwater County. A Pre-Sentence Investigation is ordered. Sentencing is March 14.

Tanner York had a Sentencing on a conviction of theft and criminal mischief. A Pre-Sentence Investigation was submitted. York submitted a change of address to Great Falls Adult Probation and Parole. He is Sentenced to pay \$15,184; a 10% administration fee; \$80 fees and surcharges and a \$50 Pre-Sentence Investigation fee.

Joseph Thompson had a Change of Plea; pleading Guilty to an amended charge of criminal endangerment

Court Beat,

Court Beat, 5

and a charge of partner/family member assault. In this elocution, it was said that in Broadwater County, he entered his mother’s house and shoved her, causing her pain when she fell to the ground and causing danger of severe injury. A Pre-Sentence Investigation is ordered. Sentencing will take place on April 11.

Bert Ginsberg had a Change of Plea on two cases. The first case revolves around a stolen truck in Broadwater County. In his elocution, he said on March 1, 2024, that his co-defendant, John Hansson, came to him to get a ride home, after stealing the F150 and setting it on fire to impair the availability in the the investigation of the stolen truck. In May 2024, he was stopped in Broadwater County while driving; knowingly possessing methamphetamine. A Pre-Sentence Investigation is ordered. Sentencing will take place on March 14. Judge McMahon commented that Ginsberg is doing well in Behavioral Health Court.

The Importance of Medicaid

Justin Tiffany

CEO - Billings Clinic Broadwater



Many of you may have heard that the Montana Legislature is currently debating the future of Montana’s Medicaid program. I would like to offer my perspective on this issue and emphasize why continuing the program as it is today is vitally important to preserving access to healthcare in a rural place like Broadwater County.

Montana Medicaid, including expanded coverage for low-income working Montanans that was first authorized by the Montana Legislature in 2015, preserves access to healthcare here. It is a financial lifeline for Billings Clinic Broadwater, where 5.1% of revenues come from Medicaid expansion alone. This doesn’t just impact that 297 adults of Broadwater County currently covered by the program, it impacts the 8,032 Montana residents of Broadwater County who expect a hospital to be there when they need it.

No rural hospitals in Montana have closed since this program has passed. In fact, many hospitals have been able to expand services to address the state’s most pressing needs, like mental health. Before the program was passed in 2015, rural hospitals were typically running in the red – up to a 10% negative margin, on average. This was driven by high levels of uncompensated care from treating uninsured people. Some were facing significant reductions in services and providers, and a few were on the brink of closure.

But, after the program was put in place, rural hospitals have reduced uncompensated care levels by 42%. And 93% of rural hospitals have been able to add services, with most (87%) expanding behavioral health services. At Billing Clinic Broadwater, we have been able to expand our primary care clinic, provide specialty services like pediatrics, pediatric endocrinology and urology. We also have been able to offer telepsychiatry services and integrated behavioral health and continue to look at areas to grow our services.

This program isn’t a handout. It helps move people out of poverty and onto the road to success. A few important statistics support this. According to a recent Montana Department of Labor and Industry report, 72% of program participants are working. Participants’ utilization of services decreased while on the program. The average length of stay on the program is less than 24 months. It’s also good for families. There’s a direct correlation in the health outcomes for kids whose parents also have health coverage. When parents get healthcare, so do their kids.

Keeping Montana’s Medicaid program as-is today is also good for business in our local community. Keeping more people covered enhances the pool of healthy, productive workers for roughly 32% of businesses in Broadwater County that employ people covered by Medicaid.

Across Montana, Medicaid covers more than 30% of people working as housekeepers, personal care aides, and food service workers; and more than 20% of waiters and waitresses, nursing assistants, and childcare workers. This protects the workforce for top employment industries in Broadwater County, including Accommodation and Food Services, Retail Trade and Manufacturing.

Expanded coverage under Medicaid is also a major source of economic activity in my district. In Broadwater County, the program annually creates or supports 7 jobs, \$365,000 in personal income, and \$1.2 million in local economic activity.

I hope this helps showcase how important continuing Montana’s Medicaid program is to all of us here in Broadwater County. By supporting Medicaid, we are supporting our community’s health, well-being and economy.

USFS: ‘Talented Individuals’ Laid Off Will Find ‘Countless’ Opportunities’

Amanda Eggert

Montana Free Press

This article by Amanda Eggert was originally published in the Montana Free Press (MFTP) on February 14, 2025. It is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press.

https://montanafreepress.org/2025/02/14/usfs-talented-individuals-laid-off-from-agency-will-find-countless-opportunities-outside-of-government/?utm_medium=email

In response to news this week that Montana’s largest land manager is laying off 360 Montana-based federal employees, a spokesperson for the U.S. Forest Service said Friday the agency is “confident that talented individuals” impacted by the staffing reduction will have “many opportunities to contribute to our economy and society in countless ways outside of government.”

The spokesperson, who asked to not be identified, went on to say that Brooke Rollins, who heads up the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, “fully supports President Trump’s directive to optimize government operations, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA’s ability to better serve American farmers, ranchers, loggers and the agriculture community.”

“We have a solemn responsibility to be good stewards of Americans’ hard-earned taxpayer dollars and to ensure that every dollar is being spent as effectively as possible to serve the people, not the bureaucracy,” the statement continued.

Montana Conservation Voters Executive Director Whitney Tawney wrote in an email Friday to Montana Free Press that the cuts threaten Montana’s economy, recreational opportunities and communities.

“Indiscriminately cutting jobs for hardworking Montanans who manage our public lands is the opposite of common sense. These cuts will make our public lands less healthy, more likely to burn and less accessible,” she wrote. “Montana’s Congressional delegation must call President Trump now and tell him this is unacceptable. These decisions should be made locally, not by D.C. political hacks who know nothing of Montana’s public lands.”

The Forest Service spokesperson did not respond to Montana Free Press’ follow-up questions regarding severance pay for the affected employees or changes national forest users can anticipate in response to the workforce reduction.

According to a Thursday evening story by POLITICO, the Forest Service anticipated firing about 3,400 federal employees across “every level of the agency” as part of the Trump administration’s efforts to reduce the federal workforce. Wildland firefighters, law enforcement officers and other employees with a public safety nexus were exempted from the firing initiative.

The workers that have been impacted are still within their probationary period, meaning they’ve been employed by the agency for less than two years, and perform a variety of roles ranging from road and trail maintenance to timber production and watershed restoration.

Hilary Eisen, a Bozeman-based policy director with the Winter Wildlands Alliance, said the layoffs will be felt by “everybody who visits or works on these public lands.”

The Forest Service administers tens of millions of acres of land across Montana. In addition to reviewing and authorizing timber sales and livestock grazing leases, the Forest Service plays an important role in the state’s multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy and conducts research on a variety of subjects ranging from how wildfires spread to the impact of “hot drought” on forests and promising forestry-oriented approaches to increase water yields.

“The people who lost their jobs maintain trails, discover and extinguish abandoned campfires before they become wildfires, clean outhouses, control weeds, process permits, and much, much more,” Eisen wrote in an email to MFTP. “Arbitrary cuts to the federal workforce is not a path towards efficiency or meaningful budget reductions, but it will harm communities all across Montana and the nation.”

The National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), a union that represents Forest Service workers, has joined a coalition of unions in a lawsuit to halt the Trump administration’s efforts to reduce the federal workforce. In the lawsuit, the unions argue Trump’s efforts are undermining the role of Congress to establish funding for federal agencies. This, they say, is a violation of the separation of powers.

In response to what it described as the “illegal gutting of the federal workforce,” the union on Thursday issued a press release urging the judicial branch’s intervention.

“Federal workers are your friends and neighbors who have dedicated their careers to serving our country. We cannot let the President disrupt their lives and dismantle critical services relied upon by the American people,” NFFE National President Randy Erwin wrote. “If this Administration and Elon Musk truly wanted to make our government more efficient, they would have taken the time to understand that these actions will only lead to chaos and poor service for the American people.”

The layoff notices arrived via email the day after the deadline for the “Fork in the Road” offer for federal employees to resign and continue receiving paychecks through September, according to POLITICO.

MFTP requests for comment from the NFFE were not returned by press time Friday. On its website, the Forest Service-specific arm of the union is advising employees who received termination letters to contact a union representative and consider an appeal of the termination.

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Daylene Hansen
Administrative Assistant



BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting.

Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

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

Commissioners attending MACo Legislative Conference, February 25th & 26th

Monday, February 24, 2025

1:00 PM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, and Kaylan Minor, Deputy County Attorney, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

No Commission Meeting

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

- 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)



Weather Info Contributed by Jeff Ross

Fri 2/21	Sat 2/22	Sun 2/23	Mon 2/24	Tue 2/25
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Very Light Wintry Mix	Light Wintry Mix	Light Wintry Mix
34° 26°	38° 32°	42° 35°	41° 33°	38° 30°
2%	3%	15%	24%	0 in
7 17 mph	14 25 mph	17 30 mph	14 26 mph	11 24 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

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



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



<p>American Legion Hall</p> <p>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</p>	<p>The Betsy Sports Zone</p> <p>217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com</p>	<p>C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Copy Cup</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Fishtale Tavern</p> <p>209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 11:00PM Daily Specials: Facebook Bar hours may vary</p>	<p>Mint Cafe</p> <p>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/</p>
<p>Bread and Butter Cafe</p> <p>205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM- 2:00PM Menu available on Facebook Closed Sunday and Monday</p>	<p>Bunkhouse Bar & Grill</p> <p>8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - Close Grill off at 10:00PM</p>	<p>Commercial Bar</p> <p>101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook</p>	<p>Deep Creek Pizza</p> <p>415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Menu: www.deepcreekpizzaco.com, Facebook and Instagram Closed Sunday</p>	<p>Full Bell Deli</p> <p>209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: TO BE DETERMINED. Thank you for your continued support! Menu: fullbellidelimt.com</p>	<p>TB's Diner</p> <p>316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM Specials: Facebook</p>

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Contact MT43 News to list your business NOW!
Mon - Fri 10am- 2pm
408 Broadway | 406.266.0086

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BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
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C - (406)980-1100

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Schauber Surveying, Inc. Land Surveyors

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Dan Swenson, PLS
Bernadette Swenson, PLS

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406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

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Super Crossword

ICKY ENDING

ACROSS

1 Brief ad

5 Resistance units

9 Circular paths

15 Imprison

19 Starch-yielding plant

21 They may disturb sleep

22 — -Seltzer

23 Nut acquired with great effort?

25 Nail salon job, in brief

26 — box (TV)

27 Cathedral in London

28 R&B's Brown

29 Prohibits

30 Erfurt article

31 Sprinkle sofa shams with water drops?

35 Calf-roping event

37 Link with

38 Casino cube

39 "Boo!" shouter

43 French city on the Rhone

47 Tax org.

48 Stan of jazz saxophone

49 Catholic dignitary's vigorous strength?

52 West African country

54 Juneau native

55 Directives

57 Like Stoker's "Dracula"

61 Steal from

62 Liking a lot

64 Overly crooked?

66 Quite dry

68 Stock debut, for short

70 "Nope"

71 Often-twisted cookie

72 Long-billed wading bird that loves perching on flexed arm

78 Testing stage

81 Early 1960s atty. gen.

82 Navy engineer

83 Made airtight, say

85 Liken (to)

87 Joan of folk

89 Climate that promotes the growth of powdery fungus?

91 Pale-looking "Get 'em, Fido!"

96 Model X carmaker

97 Runs after strength?

98 Aussie leaper

99 Grand house

101 "You're — pall!"

103 Class teaching the techniques of Civil War photographer Brady?

108 Marcel Marceau's clown

109 — -Cherry (Ocean Spray flavor)

113 Pretty good grade

114 Antennae and tentacles

116 Chicago airport

117 Unlatch, e.g.

118 Baseballer Rod when not using a chauffeur?

122 Indian bread

123 Literary afterthought

124 Great skill

125 Small vortex

126 Literary journalist Gay

127 Syringe fluids

128 "Iliad" city

4 Big fusses

5 "... Mac — PC?"

6 Goofed (around)

7 Quebec city

8 Stair unit

9 At just the right time

10 Author Dahl

11 Actress Jacqueline

12 "Kinda sorta"

13 Golf peg

14 Detroit-to-Memphis dir.

15 Crawford of the NBA

16 In style

17 "Told ya so!"

18 — faire

20 Soggy

24 Pat gently

28 "Let's Get Loud" singer, familiarly

30 1996 presidential candidate

32 2006 Nintendo debut

33 Salon service

34 "We have for an Indian man

35 Japanese "energy healing"

36 Thereabouts

39 Egyptian beetles

40 Dietary unit

41 Coffee type

42 Ave. crossers

44 Old Italian money

45 Stops

46 Look for

48 U.S. naval base in Cuba, for short

50 Crazy caper

51 Small bird

53 Lav. to Brits

56 Sailor's mop

58 Victory cries

59 Lacking frost

60 Snug-fitting necklaces

63 Artistic work

65 "Riverdale" network

67 "You Light Up My Life" singer

69 City in Utah

73 Stir-fry tidbit

74 Teeter-totter

75 Café au —

76 Macpherson or Fanning

77 Gets hitched

79 Protective shoe tip

80 — and the Night Visitors"

84 Oscar — Hoya

86 School org.

88 Galvanizing element

90 Cary Grant played a male one in 1949

91 Radius or ulna

92 S.O.S or Brillo product

93 Very helpful tip, informally

95 Pigeon sound

99 "Bonjour, — amis!"

100 Fashion frill

102 Michael formerly of Disney

104 Word on Winnie-the-Pooh's pot

105 Total overhauls

106 Suit fabric

107 Wallach of film

109 Intone

110 Less typical

111 "Am not!" retort

112 Full of the latest info

115 Spacewalks, in NASA lingo

116 Mo. #10

118 Tennis unit

119 Air quality gp.

120 — Mama (rapper)

121 School stat

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Kids' Maze

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Trifle

LABBED

Bash

LAMING

Despise

AHOTEL

Strut

CRANED

TODAY'S WORD

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: R equals T

JERJVK RTPL RVER SOXYBGLW

E HBWR XU SOLULOOLG

FLREHHBJ OBPCBPC WXTPGW:

"FK UEYXOBRL RBPCW."

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KNIGHT MOVES

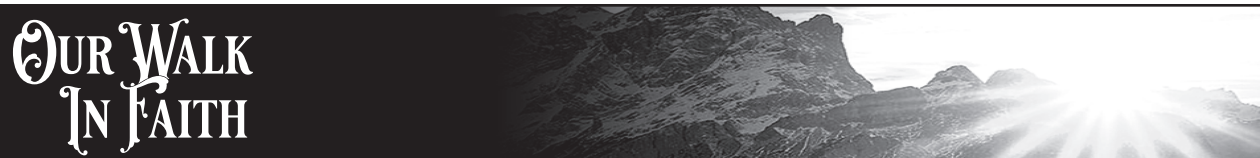
E	A	A
M		R
I	T	L

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 24 - FEB 28	Steamed Potatoes Sliced Beets Dinner Salad with Beans Whole Grain Bread Apricots
Monday, February 24	Thursday, February 27
Sloppy Joes on a Bun Baked Beans Creamy Coleslaw Pineapple	Tuna Noodle Casserole Green Peas Carrot Raisin Salad Whole Grain Bread Fruit Cocktail Dessert
Tuesday, February 25	Friday, February 28
Roasted Turkey Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Garden Salad Whole Grain Bread Plump Peaches	Montana Pasties Key Largo Vegetables Tossed Salad Whole Grain Bread Sweet Pears
Wednesday, February 26	
Pork Chops	



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

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

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

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

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

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 Ulrich (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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Bustling Hometown

I don't know how many of you actually notice it, probably not many as we are mostly too busy to stop and look at the snow. (Thought I was going to say "smell the roses" didn't you?) Nope roses are all one with Elvis, now.

While walking around Townsend lately, (I tend to do a lot of that, and I love it!) it was/is snowing. That beautiful quiet, winter silence that makes you appreciate an area. I stopped and really looked at the town, and people. WOW! Snow coming down fast, with those beautiful BIG flakes. And you folks? Ah, you were all going about your business like it was just another weekday, saying hello to friends and walking into and out of all the local stores. Luckily the "serious" cold had taken a small detour elsewhere for a day or two, it's still cold but NOT the windy freezing nastiness we have had.

For our town it was winter "pleasant" all the jokes came out about it's just a balmy spring day, and others. But the beauty of this all-American small town shown through everything! This is OUR town, the place we chose to settle, retire, or just linger a while. The green will come, then you see something really spectacular. Green lawns, and trees with SNOW covered mountains just outside town. THAT is incredible and has a beauty all its own.

Sorry, I got sidetracked....SQUIRREL! ...Here and NOW the snow coming down like gangbusters yes, we have to shovel but it's so light and fluffy that the city folks are using Leaf blowers to clear off the walks. (That in itself is special to Townsend.) You have all heard the saying: "the silence is deafening". Well, here it's wonderful, most all the street noise is muffled and voices are less shrill. Even though we are all looking through the falling snow I think we all see a bit more clearly.

The local businesses are cleaner, their neon signs are brighter. It makes me want to break out in song like Petula Clark's song: "Downtown". I'll spare you the noise, people...YOU all need to stop and look at the winter beauty. I know the hunters are drooling thinking of the elk & deer leaving tracks, and the skiers thinking about mountains loaded with fresh pack. Many don't like the cold and snow, sorry about that WE like it! So GO, enjoy the winter wonderland and meet and greet friends and acquaintances. Revell in all that is MONTANA! Stay well oh my people, be extra careful on the ice.

Enjoy Our winter!

Awana Program Promoted to Engage Children in Broadwater County



AWANA students play games at the new Trailhead Church recreation center. Photos Provided by Trailhead Church Member

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Trailhead Church leaders began using the AWANA church outreach program to interest children in becoming engaged in a social group to not only learn Bible verses but to play, have fun together and learn good group habits.

AWANA, based on a biblical verse in 2nd Timothy stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed. In 1941, Chicago's Northside Gospel Center pastor Lance Latham laid the foundation for AWANA with his youth director Art Rorheim. They set out to develop a weekly club that would appeal to all children. As of 2019 Awana 61,000 churches in 122 countries use the program, according to Wikipedia.

Elder Levi VanZee, as the leader of the program, serves Pre-Pre-Kindergarteners through 6th graders whose families attend church or who have never attended a church. The afterschool program, which meets every Wednesday, is open to all children during which they learn Bible verses, have lessons, then play basketball, kickball and all kinds of games at the new expansion building at Trailhead.

"The activity gives kids an opportunity for something to do besides play video games. They make new friends, learn something new and be a part of something larger than themselves," VanZee said, "But the program's influence goes far beyond that - the kids take it home. Then the parents who come on Wednesdays may feel more comfortable stepping into the church on Sundays as a whole family. It takes time to build relationships.

AWANA helps to build those relationships; then those walls, which isolate families, break down."

VanZee comes to the position as enthusiastic, energetic and strong in his beliefs about guiding children in a biblical way. He is devoted to making good connections with kids by helping them learn about the Bible as well as having fun.

The AWANA classes break down according to age with Pre-Kindergarteners in a class by themselves. Van Zee has around 40 volunteers who serve each class leading recitations, serving snacks, playing basketball, volleyball or dodgeball with the children.

The secondary emphasis of AWANA serves the servers: Volunteers who are mostly older students, not only learn leadership skills but act as good examples for the AWANA children. He emphasized he is blessed with an incredible team at AWANA: "I could not lead 100 kids every Wednesday on my own."



Abby VanZee, left, and Chloe Flynn practice memorizing Bible verses. Photos Provided by Trailhead Church Member

OBITUARIES

Larry James Zeadow, Sr

Family of Larry James Zeadow, Sr

Larry James Zeadow, Sr. age 82, of Townsend, was well known to many as dad, friend, Honker, and most commonly Pops.



Larry James Zeadow, Sr
Photo Provided by Family of Larry James Zeadow, Sr

On February 14th, 2025, Pops passed away due to an automobile accident. Pops was 82 years old and lived a full and happy life. He raised 3 sons and was a great supporter throughout all their lives.

He was always surrounded and loved by friends and family and dogs most of all.

Pops enjoyed cooking for loved ones, hunting and fishing, caring for all the neighborhood dogs, and watching grandkid's sporting events. He was a lover of many sports and was an athlete himself as he was inducted into the North Dakota Fast Pitch Softball Hall of fame in 1983. Pops always had his door and arms open. If you were hungry, you would eat, if you were thirsty, you would drink, and if you ever needed anything, no matter how big or small, Pops was there to lend a helping hand.

He would always say "you have two ears and one mouth - so you can listen twice as much as you can talk" and he did.

Pops would have wanted everyone to celebrate his life and his memory and remember to be kind to everyone.

Larry was born on January 13, 1943, in Moorhead, Minnesota to Leonard and Lorraine (Roseth) Zeadow. He graduated from high school and had an associate's degree in accounting. He worked for the Department of Weights and Measures for the State of Montana, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the Montana Walleye Unlimited Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his three sons; Larry (Tammy) Zeadow, Jr., Lyn (Kim) Zeadow, and Matt (Heather) Zeadow; brothers, Tom (Marge) Zeadow and Lonnie (Shelley) Zeadow; grandchildren, Jennifer Zeadow, Rebekka Schrecengost (Derek), Carroline Zeadow, Sammantha Bowles (Chris), Devon Zeadow (Bailey), Austin Zeadow (Maddie), Kurt Knollmaier, Amy Knollmaier-Barysch (Ryan), seven great-grandchildren, Landen and Ellie Schrecengost and Stetson and Hadley Zeadow, Christian Barysch, Jackson Barysch and Lucas Behning, and many nieces, nephews and close friends.

A memorial service honoring Larry's life is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 22, 2025, from the Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church, 20 Trailhead View Drive, Townsend, Montana 59644. A celebration of his life will follow at Silo's Junction, 6999 US Hwy 287 Townsend.

Please visit www.stevensonwilke.com to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Larry.

Patricia L. Dralle

Family of Patricia L. Dralle

Patricia L. Dralle of Townsend, MT passed away peacefully on February 13, 2025, at her son's home in Helena.



Patricia L. Dralle
Photo Provided by Family of Patricia L. Dralle

Pat was born on December 20, 1939, in Blackburn, Oklahoma to Edward and Lorene Greene. The family moved to Colorado during her early years.

Pat enlisted in the US Navy in 1959 and spent her tour of duty in San Diego, CA. She was ordained a Minister in the Church of Golden Christian Order in San Diego, CA on May 8, 1977.

Pat moved to Helena, MT in 1982 and worked in the student loan business until her retirement in 2002. She moved to Townsend, MT in 2011.

Pat is survived by her son, Tim Dralle of Helena, MT; a sister, JoAnn Spaulding of Delta, CO; a brother, Jerry Greene of New Castle, CO; as well as many very special nieces and great-nieces and nephews and great-nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Lorene Greene; brothers, Bill Green of Helena, MT, Rich Greene of Townsend, MT, and Jim Greene of Marion, MT; and a sister, Barbara Greene of Fruita, CO.

Pat will be laid to rest at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison at a later date.

Please visit www.aswfuneralhome.com to offer a condolence to the family.

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Future Farmers of America Update

Ashley Sanderson
Broadwater FFA Reporter



The beginning of 2025 has been an incredibly successful year so far for the Broadwater FFA chapter! I'm so excited to announce that so far, we have 9 Career Development Event and Leadership Development Event teams getting ready to compete at our state convention in April!

We started 2025 off strong on January 6th, when we hosted our annual Greenhand Night to officially induct our new members into FFA. Now that these members have their Greenhand Degrees, they can apply for higher degrees in the future, if they choose to do so. We had thirteen Greenhand members this year which is the most our chapter has ever had.

On January 20th, several FFA members competed at our Southwest Speaking District Contest in Three Forks to compete in Creed Speaking, Ag Sales, and Parliamentary Procedure. Our Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Alex Bakken, Emma Delgado, Cheyanne Douglas, Kaitlyn Noyes, Ashley Sanderson, and Madison Zaharko got 2nd place and got to move on to state. Our Ag Sales team consisting of Aiden Kitto, Amanda Pesicka, Gavin Schmele, and Madison

Zaharko placed 3rd and will also be advancing to state.

Lastly, on February 3rd, members Kaitlyn Noyes, Ashley Sanderson, and Madison Zaharko got the opportunity to go to the Capitol in Helena, MT to showcase what we do in FFA and meet with Governor Gianforte. The Gardiner and Stevensville FFA Chapters attended as well as Reagan Long, the 1st Vice President of the Montana FFA Association. Other organizations including FCCLA, BPA, and Skills USA attended as well.

Overall, I think the month of January and the first week of February have been truly amazing. As we continue practicing and preparing for state, I look forward to the accomplishments of our chapter members. Keep up the great work!



V42 FITNESS

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24 HR ACCESS

Digging Into Soil Health: Applications for Gardeners

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Even though it's a much smaller scale, soil health in a home garden is as important as cropland. However, due to the smaller scale, it's actually much easier to "overdo" soil health practices in a garden which can lead to issues with plant growth and development.

This is the last 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. The second article focused on techniques to apply soil health principles to cropland, and this article will provide strategies to improve soil health for home gardeners.

One of the key principles for soil health is to minimize or eliminate soil disturbance. Turning over the soil whether by shovel or with a tiller is a common practice in the garden as a way to prepare for planting. When this happens, it destroys soil structure, disturbs beneficial fungi, microorganisms and other parts of the soil food web, and increases decomposition of organic matter. The less you need to till or disturb the soil the better. There are a number of strategies to reduce tillage. One of the more popular techniques is "lasagna gardening" which uses a layer technique to build soil instead of tilling. Raised beds also tend to require less soil movement than an in-ground garden. If you choose not to till the soil, soil compaction can be an issue, so designate areas for foot traffic or carts to minimize this.

Keeping the soil covered is another strategy to improve soil health. If you don't keep it covered, then nature will find a way to cover it and that is usually with weeds. Additionally, bare soil is subject to increased erosion, water loss and increased soil temperature. Thankfully with a garden, there are many options to cover the soil.

Mulch is one option for ground cover. Organic mulches include grass clippings, hay, straw, cardboard or gravel. Natural mulches should be applied after the plants begin to grow and the soil has warmed. Extra nitrogen fertilizer is generally needed for most natural mulches because the decomposition process will rob nitrogen from the soil. Most natural mulches can be composted or tilled in at the end of the season to increase organic matter in the soil. Even though synthetic mulches will not provide as many soil health benefits as organic mulches, they are still better than bare soil. Synthetic mulches include black plastic, clear plastic or landscape cloth.

An even better choice for ground cover is cover crops. Living plants are the ideal way to provide food for soil microbes. Cover crops are often called "green manure," because they will add organic matter and nutrients back to the soil. Different types of plants used as cover crops provide different benefits. Legumes such as clovers or peas can fix nitrogen and add the nutrient back to the soil. Other plants have deep or fibrous roots that break up soil compaction and increase water filtration. Some crops can be a sacrifice crop by stopping insects like grasshoppers or disease from getting to the more valuable parts of the garden. Some cover crops make excellent weed control by preventing or slowing the spread of undesirable plants. In a garden setting, nearly all cover crops are tilled in which adds rich organic matter to the soil and benefits soil health. Common garden cover crops for Montana include clover, buckwheat, oats, barley, winter wheat or winter rye.

Another easy way to improve soil health in the garden is through organic matter. The ideal range for organic matter is 4 to 6 percent. When organic matter is too high, then nutrients become tied up in decomposing organic matter and are not accessible to plants. If you incorporate organic matter in the spring, make sure it is fully composted. In the fall you have a little more flexibility as it will decompose some over the winter. Options include grass clippings, leaves, aged manure, compost and peat moss. Herbicide carryover can be an issue, especially with grass clipping and manure so make sure you are familiar with the source before applying it to your garden. Avoid wood chips and sawdust until they are fully composted because wood products take much longer to break down and will tie up nutrients in the soil.

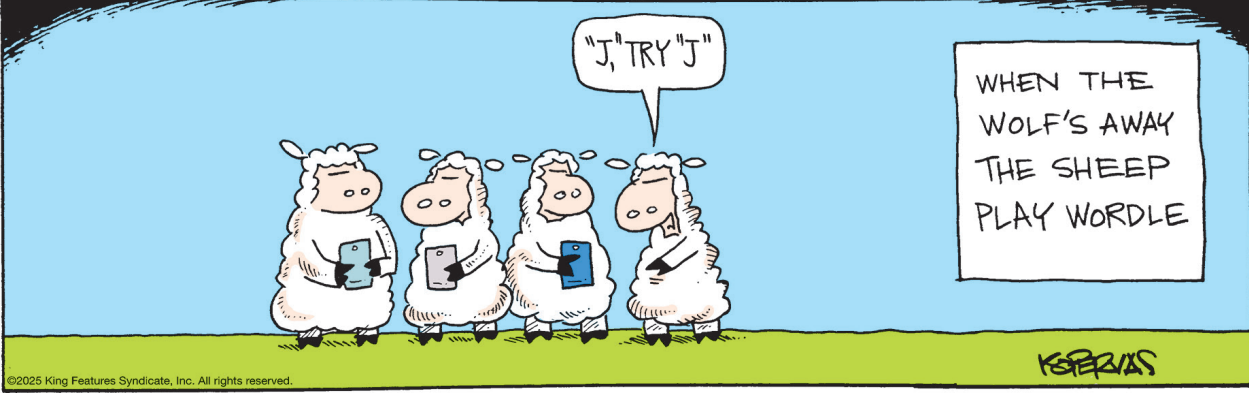
Lastly, I highly recommend soil testing as a tool to allow you to monitor your soil over time. Research has shown that home soil tests are typically not very accurate, so a laboratory test is recommended. A basic garden test is less than \$20 and is worthwhile investment to give you baseline for your soil. If desired, MSU Extension in Broadwater County can help you with this process and even send it to a lab for you.

If you have questions about soil health practices or to inquire about soil testing, 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.

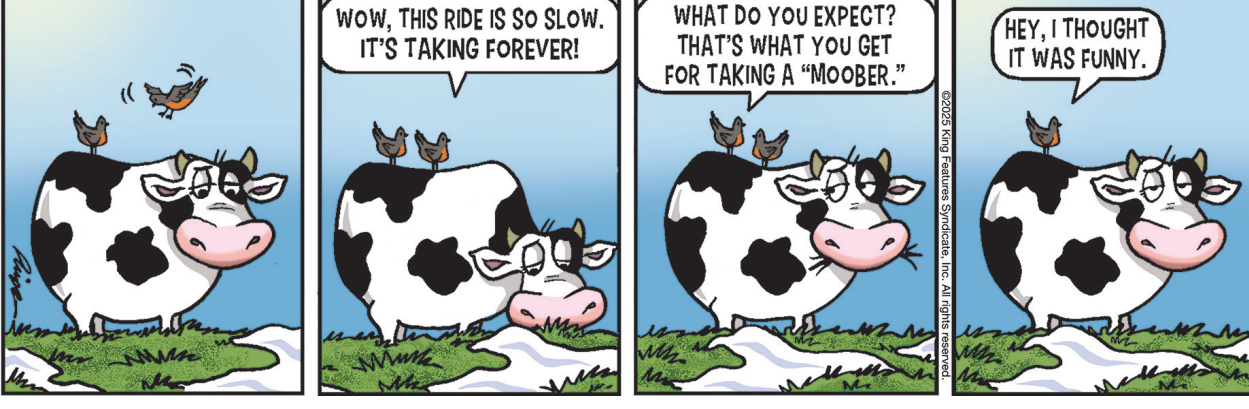
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



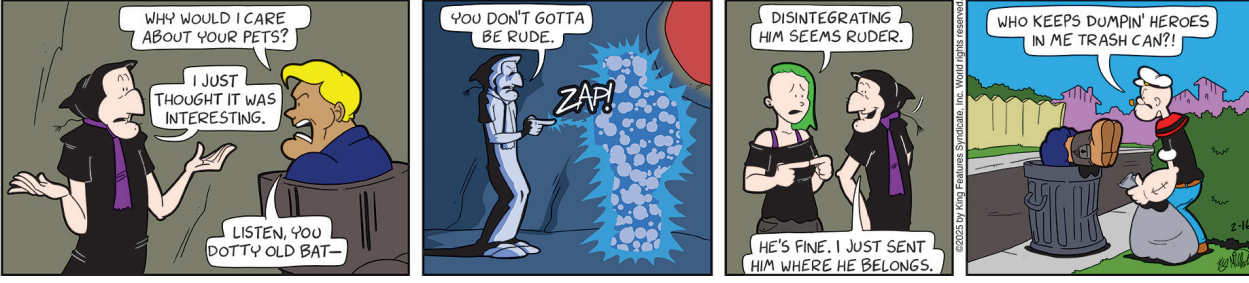
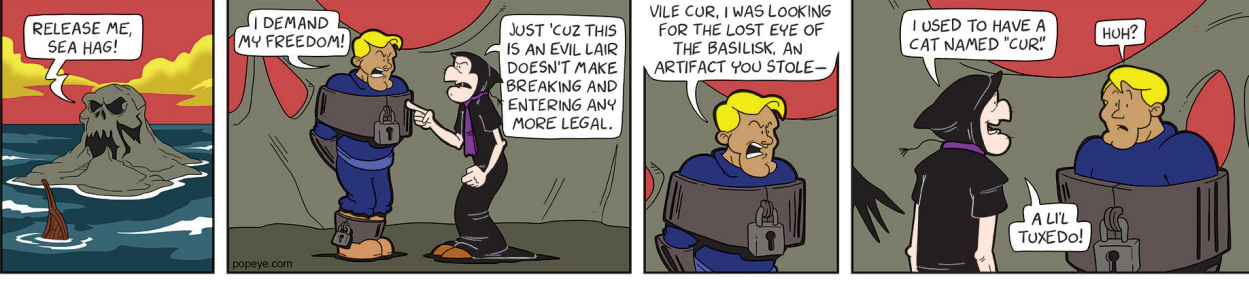
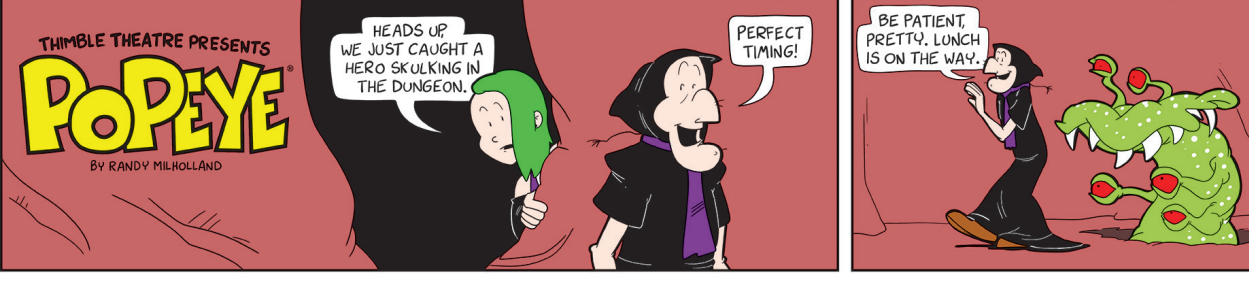
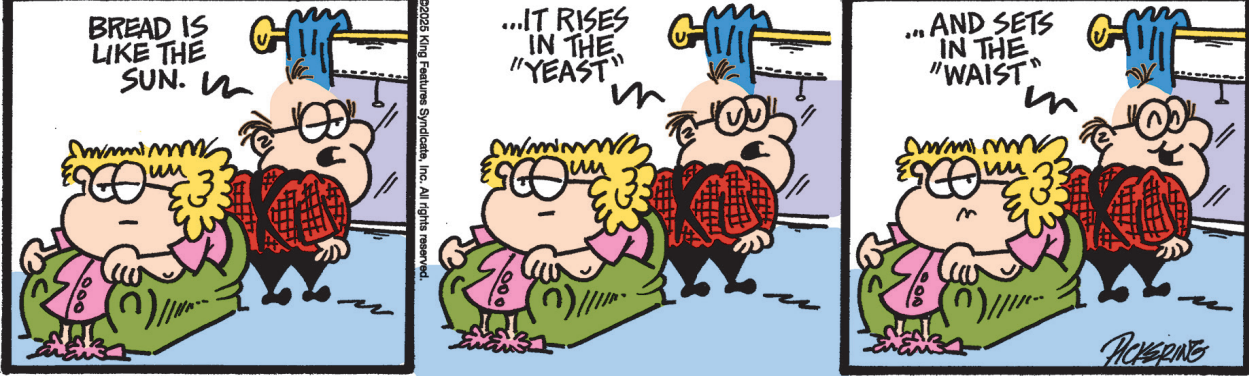
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



The Spats



Americanisms



"Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."
— Maya Angelou

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wayne



"Figby, we've had reports that you've been combative. Congratulations!"

by Gary Kopervas



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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

CryptoQuip answer

Catchy tune that provides a list of preferred metallic ringing sounds: "My Favorite Tings."

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Dabble 2. Malign; 3. Loathe; 4. Dancer

Today's Word
CELLMATE

KNIGHT MOVES Answer

E	A	A
M		R
I	T	L

MATERIAL

Super Crossword Answers

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Vest is shorter. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Chair is taller. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Chart is different. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

EAST HELENA NEWS

Annual Passion Plunge Held at New Town Pump in East Helena



Two participants jump into frigid waters at the Annual Passion Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics in East Helena last Saturday. McLean explained the participants jumped in slowly, ran and jumped in or crawled in the water tanks. Bee McLean, East Helena Fire Department

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The day was perfect for a dip in frigid water for the Special Olympics annual Passion Plunge fundraiser. The weather was above zero, snowing lightly, excitement filled the air.

According to Bee McLean, one of the East Helena Firefighting volunteers, somewhere near 200 brave folks showed up to cheer on the athletes who jumped in frigid tanks, then jumped out to run to hot water tanks provided by the Baxendale Fire Department volunteers. Although there were not as many participants as last year, McLean said, she noted some of the athletes' enthusiasm for the fundraiser. "One guy raised \$2,000 before he signed up to jump in," she said.

The Passion Plunge is a Law Enforcement Torch Run signature event for Special Olympics. Sheriff's officers, fire department volunteers and St.Peter's Hospital ambulance crews from Helena and East Helena helped organize the event with the support of Town Pump at its new location just west of East Helena.

Special Olympics was the brainchild of Eunice Kennedy Shriver who realized there was no support for intellectually disabled children and adults, held the first Olympics in her backyard in 1950. By 1970 the first international Special Olympic Summer Games were held with 193 countries and 5.4million athletes across the world.

That year Special Olympics Montana was founded. Billings hosted the first Olympic games. In the 50 plus years since, the games have hosted 3,000 athletes and offered competition in 13 sports held at 25 different meets annually. Their motto is to foster inclusion, empower athletes of all abilities and remove barriers for intellectually disabled children and adults.



Participant smiles as he crawls out of the frigid water, glad to be finished with the fundraiser plunge. Bee McLean, East Helena Fire Department



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Jessica

Ask the Philanthropy Expert

Jessica Stuart-Kuntz

Executive Vice President of Philanthropy

406-441-4950 • jessica@mtcf.org

Q: Where can I find scholarship information?

A: The **Montana Community Foundation (MCF)** is a great place to start your scholarship search. Applications are open from **January 1st to March 31st, 2025**, with opportunities available for students pursuing **four-year or two-year degrees, vocational training, certificate programs, and non-traditional education paths.** In 2024, MCF awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to students across Montana.

Visit **MTCF.org** to take our **scholarship finder quiz** and discover statewide, county-specific, or interest-based scholarships tailored to you. Awards typically range from **\$500 to \$5,000**, with some renewable for multiple years.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

February 20

1941

Personal News

Homer Shelly, one of Broadwater County's agriculturalists from the upper valley was in town yesterday transacting business and exchanging early farm plans with friends.

Mrs. Lou Knox and Mr. Hager of the Knox Flower shop of Helena were in Townsend Saturday creating floral corsages for the Charity Ball. They were kept busy until late into the evening.

Mrs. Esther Schneider is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Green for a few days.

Mrs. Paul Carson and infant son, Peter Alexander, returned to their ranch home in the lower Deep Creek valley from Helena last Thursday. They were accompanied by Mrs. Les Rogers, R.N.

Miss Dale Cook stopped over for a brief visit in Townsend Friday. She was en route from Bozeman, where she is attending college, to Helena where she entertained the state legislature with several whistling numbers on their special program that evening.

Among those attending Montana Day at Gardiner on Sunday were Fred Kapinos and his sons, Bob and John.

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Ragen returned this evening from a month's trip in the south. They had a touch of Mexican, Arizona and California life and returned home much the happier and wiser for a perfectly grand winter's vacation.

1958

Grass Mountain Ski Club Holds Business Meeting

The Grass Mountain Ski Club held a special business meeting last Friday at the Forest Service office. A number of items were discussed of particular interest to all members. For the benefit of the members who were unable to attend, a summary of the meeting is given below.

The club voted that new hours for using the lift would be from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through the month of February and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning the first

of March.

Duties and responsibilities of the ski patrol were discussed. Jerry Williams was elected a member of the ski patrol. Senior ski patrol members now include John Clopton, Glenn Clopton, Geoff Greene, George Gabisch and Jerry Williams. A junior ski patrol was elected to assist the senior patrol and consists of Allen Lundborg, Bob Lundborg and Tom Perry.

It was agreed that all ski patrol members will wear armbands in order to be readily recognized by other skiers.

The use and care of the chalet was discussed. It was decided that the kitchen would be open only to adult club members. Muriel Gabisch volunteered to supervise the use of the kitchen and warming room in the chalet on Sundays.

1975

Betty Francisco Boasts of Best Beef

Betty Francisco, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Francisco won the Cowbell Beef-Cook Off held Saturday, February 15 at the B.C.H.S. Home Ec Department.

Betty, a Junior class member, was presented with \$25 for her Beef Burgundy dish.

Tammy Bucy daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bucy and Sophomore class member won second place. Tammy was presented with \$15.00

Vivianne Kirscher, daughter of Mrs. Barbara Kirscher and a Sophomore Class member won third place. Vivianne was presented with \$10.00.

Debra Lohr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Lohr and Junior Class member was honorable mention and was presented with a Beef Cook Book.

Toston News

David Jersey of Busby visited this week with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Art Jersey.

Barbara and Steve Berberet, Rick DeMartin and Clarice Austin all of Helena spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Berberet and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Flynn and family attended the Carroll-Western basketball game Friday evening. Kelly Flynn plays on the Western Varsity team and Kevin is the statistician for the team.

1997

Gov. Racicot Speaks at Local 4-H Club Meeting

In late January, Lane Gobbs of Townsend needed to schedule a guest speaker for the February meeting of the Old Baldy 4-H Club. So, he wrote a letter to his hero, Montana Gov. Marc Racicot.

"Dear Governor Racicot:

My name is Lane Gobbs. I am 8 years old (almost 9). This is my first year in the 4-H. My family is in charge of the 4-H meeting in February. We need to have a guest speaker. I am inviting you to speak at our 4-H club meeting February 17, 1997, at the Methodist Church at 7:30 in Townsend, MT. I know you are a very busy man this time of year but I would really like you to come. Please let me know at the address above or at ... I would love to have you as my guest speaker.

Cordially, Lane Gobbs

P.S. Enclosed is a picture of you and myself at the Townsend Elementary school last year."

It was the sort of request the governor could not resist.

So, despite the hectic schedule of a Legislature year, Racicot cast aside the suit-and-tie uniform of governorship for jeans and cowboy boots and drove to Townsend Monday night to tell Lane and his fellow 4-H club members what it's like to be Montana's top official.

"I am grateful for the invitation and I am happy to be here," Racicot told club members, parents and advisors.

Lane – a quiet boy who seemed a little nervous as he waited for the governor to arrive – said he asked Racicot to speak "because I needed a speaker, and he's my hero".

As Racicot shared anecdotes of life in the governor's mansion and discussed the rights and privileges of a democratic form of government, and took questions from the audience on topics ranging from agriculture to the cost of higher education, Lane sat attentively, eyes fixed on the governor.

It was easy to see why, when earlier in the evening when Lane's name had been called to answer roll call – in the form of "My hero" – his answer was easy.

Governor Racicot," he had chimed in, adding for good measure... "and my grandparents".



HERE COMES THE SUN!

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Legacy (Part 7).... Ya Reckon?

Denise Thompson
Rancher and Columnist



EVERYONE'S family tree includes in-laws! We can't escape them! (with a fun-loving wink and a genuinely warm hug).

EVERYONE'S family tree includes struggles, less-than-ideal relationships, and dare I say, skeletons in the closet. Family trees are made up of imperfect souls, because we are all human and faulty to some degree. However, most, if not all, seek HARMONY, yearn for clarity, and desire flourishing, robust lives; filled with love, kindness and joy.

"When a family measures the useful lives of its members, plans for the maximum use of each member's human and intellectual capital over that member's lifetime, it defies the onset of the energy-depleting stages of status quo and entropy that are the greatest liabilities on its balance sheet." This is one of THE most powerful quotes from the book: Family Wealth: Keeping It in the Family--How Family Members and Their Advisers Preserve Human, Intellectual, and Financial Assets for Generations, by James E. Hughes Jr.

There is no doubt that the status quo, trying to keep things the way they are, or the possible disorder within a particular system serve as external or internal liabilities on a family's balance sheet. These liabilities need to be addressed, understood and managed, otherwise, there will be dire consequences for the family and the business. Consider, if you will, a family farm struggling with

succession planning. The owners are having a very difficult time letting go, providing equity shares and allowing the next generation to move into a managerial role and be successful. There are broken promises, laden with pride and fear. Perhaps the next generation is insensitive, in some respects. Things are tense. Everyone has said or done things that have been hurtful. Healthy communication is basically non-existent. Some family members choose to seek wise counsel, resolution and harmony. Others choose avoidance or worse; a path of malevolence, dishonesty and lack of regard for the family and its members. Is there any hope here? Can this family and its business be saved, or at least rebuilt? Perhaps the answer lies in part within the VALUE placed on the business, the VALUE placed on the family members, including one's self, and the VALUE placed on the LEGACY; with many generations of toil and devotion, held together by incredibly strong ties and this rich family history worth preserving, ya reckon? Some things to ponder.

Elaine Froese and Dr. Megan McKenzie have a great book called, Farming's In-Law Factor. This book and other material will be available at the FREE workshop, Finding Fairness In Farm Transition, on March 1st from 9:30 to 3:30 at the 4-H Building. Register through Broadwater Conservation District (406-521-3014) (website: broadwatercd.org) or go to eventbrite.com and search the name of the workshop and reserve your spot.



"Cowboys don't flinch at a storm—they put their hat down and face it." Photo Credit: Denise Thompson

Also, don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner at the Watson Event Center, also taking place March 1st at the Watson Event Center, with Social Hour starting at 5pm. See you there!

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

Denise Thompson