Volume 4, Issue No. 21

November 28, 2025

\$2.00



# Group Sues the State Over Law Used to Bring Water to Rural Subdivisions

Amanda Eggert Montana Free Press

The plaintiffs argue that the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has favored developers over senior water-right holders and aquatic ecosystems.

This article was originally published by the Montana Free Press and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2025/11/12/coalition-sues-montana-over-exempt-well-egulations/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28256712%29&utm source=2

A broad coalition is suing the state over its interpretation of a decades-old law that housing developers have long relied on to supply water to low-density residential subdivisions outside public water supplies.

At the center of the conflict are "exempt wells," which earned that moniker shortly after Montana legislators passed a law in 1973 allowing just about anyone to drill a well and pump up to 10 acre-feet of groundwater from it without first demonstrating that nearby water users won't see a decrease in their water supplies.

According to a lawsuit filed Wednesday, approximately 141,000 wells have been drilled using the exempt well law since 1973. More than two-thirds of those wells were drilled to supply homes with drinking water or to water lawns or gardens.

The six nonprofit groups and three individual water users argue that the Montana Department of Natural Resources

and Conservation, which administers water rights, has authorized "unregulated groundwater development." Reliable water supplies for those with the oldest water rights and "the integrity of Montana's water resources" are at stake, the plaintiffs contend.

The plaintiffs are asking the Lewis and Clark County District Court to block the state from continuing its "unabated" authorization of exempt wells, which have become developers' preferred tool to facilitate development on large, rural lots. According to the lawsuit's analysis of data compiled by Headwaters Economics, more than half of the residential development that happened in Montana between 2000 and 2021 occurred outside of incorporated municipalities.

Efforts to revise the exempt well statute have fueled a series of "knock-down, drag-out" fights at the Montana Capitol, including a heated debate earlier this year on a proposal developed by a working group convened by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation that hit an insurmountable groundswell of opposition before it could clear its first chamber.

Housing developers argue the existing loophole offers builders a faster alternative to the state's lengthy and uncertain permitting process. Developers and other permitting reform advocates say a smoother regulatory process to access what they deem is a small amount of water increases the pace and scale of construction, thereby easing Montana's housing supply and affordability strains in a state where housing costs have skyrocketed.

Opponents counter that hundreds of billions of gallons of water have been unconstitutionally appropriated using exempt wells, and the proliferation of new straws into Montana's aquifers, paired with the septic systems that frequently accompany them, are drawing down critical water supplies and overloading them with nutrient pollution.

The Montana League of Cities and Towns, which represents municipalities that rely on surface water or underground aquifers to meet the needs of homes and businesses served by public water supplies, is the lead plaintiff in the litigation. Other parties to the lawsuit include the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Clark Fork Coalition, Montana Environmental Information Center and Trout Unlimited.

In an emailed statement about the lawsuit, Clark Fork Coalition legal director Andrew Gorder argued that the state needs to change its permitting practices to uphold the 1972 Montana Constitution, which "recognized and confirmed" all of the "existing rights to the use of any waters."

"From rapid growth to ongoing drought, Montana's water resources and water users are facing unprecedented challenges," Gorder wrote. "The cumulative impact of over one hundred thousand exempt groundwater wells can no longer be ignored. We're asking the court to conserve our limited water resources and ensure that the constitutional protections afforded to senior water rights, including

instream flow rights, are preserved."

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, along with groups like Clark Fork Coalition and Trout Unlimited, hold or lease instream flow rights to sustain sensitive fisheries during periods of drought like the ongoing one dropping many western Montana rivers to record-low levels.

u-10w levels. Group **Sues**, 7

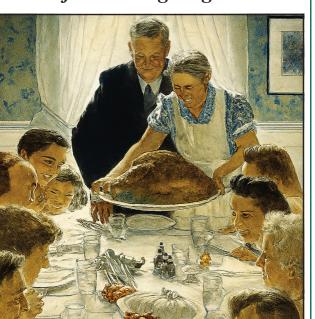
### ~\*~ EARLY HOLIDAY EDITION DEADLINE NOTICE FOR MT43 NEWS CONTRIBUTERS ~\*~



#### Ad Date & Time | Article Date & Time | Print Date

- Mon. 11.17.25@ 2PM | Mon. 12.1.25 @ 12PM | Fri. 12.05.25 | Townsend Christmas Stroll Edition
- Fri. 12.12.25 @ 2PM | Tue. 12.16.25 @ 12PM | Fri. 12/19/25 | Christmas Edition
- Fri. 12.19.25 @ 2PM | Mon. 12.22.25 @ 12PM | Fri. 1.2.26 | New Year Edition

### MT43 News Wishes Everyone a Wonderful Thanksgiving Weekend!

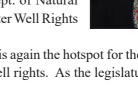


This Image was inspired by the Norman Rockwell Painting published in the Saturday Evening Post on March 6, 1943
Image Generated by Microsoft CoPilot AI

# **Exempt Water Well Rights in Question**

Nancy Marks MT43 News Reporter

Lake Vista Subdivision Landowners Meet with Montana Dept. of Natural Resources - Exempt Water Well Rights In Question



Broadwater County is again the hotspot for the question of exempt water well rights. As the legislature and lawsuits grind on, homeowners don't know if they'll have legal water for their homes and yards or not.

On November 6, several Lake Vista lot owners, public officials and interested parties met with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at the Community Room in Townsend to discuss the ongoing problem of whether the landowners had legal water rights for their water wells.

In a November 13 Montana Free Press article by Amanda Eggert, she wrote," At the center of the exempt water well issue is a 1973 law passed by the Montana legislature which allowed anyone to get a permit to pump 10-acre feet of groundwater without demonstrating that nearby water users would not lose some of their water." The article continued, 141,000 wells have been drilled using the exempt well law since 1973.

Although the November 6 meeting was not publicized, each landowner received a letter from DNRC noting "a recent court decision may affect your water use..." A copy of the letter was passed to Broadwater County Commissioner Debi Randolph. Randolph and Commissioners Jesse Swenson and Lyndsey Richtmyer attended the meeting, as did County Planner Nichole Brown. No Lake Vista Subdivision landowners agreed to speak about the meeting.

According to Planning Director Nichole Brown, the temperature of the meeting was high. landowners were initially "a little prickly" at the meeting, but meeting leader Anna Pakenham Stewart was gracious in explaining the situation. "Landowners left the meeting with a better

understanding of the situation and what their options

would be in obtaining water for their property," Brown

explained.

Briefly, the backstory in the county is that the Bozeman nonprofit Upper Missouri Water Users and Broadwater County landowners who hold senior water rights sued

Broadwater County Commissioners and the DNRC in

2022 for allowing exempt water wells to appropriate water

belonging to the senior water rights holders.

Horse Creek Hills, a proposed subdivision located on the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake, was the center of the lawsuit. In February 2024, District Judge Mike McMahon sided

with the nonprofit and Broadwater County senior water rights landowners. In a November 17 Montana Free Press article, McMahon's ruling words to DNRC were "tortuously misreading its own rules and ignoring Supreme Court precedent on the cumulative impacts of exempt wells, especially near Canyon Ferry, a trout-laden reservoir already grappling with the kind of water supply and water issues that are exacerbated by wells and septic systems that often accompany them."

County Planner Brown explained further that when developers apply for preliminary approval for subdivisions, they must follow two parallel processes. "One for local review from the County Planning Board and subsequently the Commissioners; the other is a state review for water from the Department of Environmental Quality and then the DNRC. The county has nothing to do with regulating or approving permits for water rights. We stay in our own lane," she said.

Jeannie Steele, who admitted she was involved in sales of lots in Lake Vista subdivision, which has water rights for 10-acre feet of water, pointed out landowners were under the impression they would be permitted water rights under the exempt well provision. After they waded their way through the subdivision permitting process, they looked to DNRC for water right approval. She pointed out many of the approved subdivided lots already have houses on them before the landowners are even able to

















3 E MAIN ST, EAST HELENA | 406-227-6060 Breakfast Served: Mon-Fri, 7am-11am Sat & Sun, 7am-1pm

Lunch Served: 11am - Close, all week Dinner Served: 5pm - close

# Plaid Friday: The Colorful Counterpoint to Black Friday

Rachael Elliott-Brug

In recent years, you may have noticed a quieter, cozier movement weaving its way into the holiday shopping

season: Plaid Friday. While big-box retailers gear up for doorbuster deals and pre-dawn lines on Black Friday, Plaid Friday offers a different story—one stitched together by local shopkeepers, neighbors, and the unique character of small towns like ours.

Plaid Friday began in Oakland, California, around 2010 as an alternative to the frenzy of Black Friday. The idea was simple but powerful: instead of stampedes and stress, celebrate the "plaid" of your community—the many colors, textures, and patterns that independent businesses bring to a local economy. Plaid itself became the symbol: layered, varied, and stronger together than any single stripe on its own.

On Plaid Friday, shoppers are encouraged to wear plaid and head downtown, not to the nearest megastore. The goal isn't just to buy something; it's to reconnect with the people behind the counters, the owners who remember your kids' names, the barista who knows your order, the bookseller who sets aside the perfect novel for you.

The economic impact is more than feel-good rhetoric. Studies consistently show that a higher percentage of every dollar spent at a locally owned business stays in the community—supporting local jobs, sponsoring youth sports teams, funding library programs, and helping keep main streets vibrant and safe. When we choose local, we're not only buying a product; we're investing in our town's future.

Plaid Friday also offers something Black Friday rarely does: sanity. Instead of battling traffic and crowds, you can stroll, linger, chat, and discover. You might find a handmade gift, a new favorite author, or simply a warm conversation over coffee.

This year, consider trading the chaos of big-box bargains for the comfort of plaid. Pull on your



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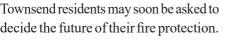


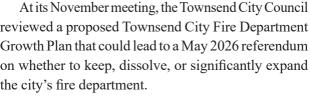
Where do you shop?

Check off the gift list; support your local community. Everyone wins!

# Townsend Weighs Future of Fire Protection, Sends Events Ordinance Back for Rewrite

Rachael Brug Staff Reporter





Council Member JB Howick, speaking for the fire committee, outlined three long-term concerns: a proposed Broadwater Rural Fire District (BRFD) agreement that would give the district more space at the city fire complex in exchange for limited guaranteed support; a statewide decline in volunteer firefighters; and the likelihood that Townsend's population growth will eventually push it into "second-class city" status, where state law requires firefighters to be paid at least minimum wage.

The draft referendum would offer voters three broad options:

- Keep the current volunteer city department and negotiate an agreement with BRFD.
- residents paying the district's fire levy.

  Retain the city department and levy a new tax to

Dissolve the city department and join BRFD, with

build a paid, fully equipped city force over 20 years.

Howick stressed that the choice is too big and too expensive for the council alone. "This has too much money involved with it over a 20-year period," he said, arguing that the decision belongs with the electorate.

Fire department representative Sean Simon told the council that talk of dissolving the city department "made the room erupt" among volunteers and confirmed that county and ambulance calls are already straining resources.

Earlier in the evening, the council held a public hearing on a new events ordinance, with Jeff Langlinais of the Townsend Rotary Club raising questions about vendor access, neighbor notification, alcohol-related behavior, and pet policies at events like Fall Fest. After a detailed discussion, Mayor Vickie Rauser and the council agreed to send the ordinance back to the events committee for revisions before any vote.

# Proposed State Hwy 284 Resurfacing Near Townsend

Natalee Stout
Public Involvement Specialist



Image Provided by Montana DOT

TOWNSEND, Mont.—The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is announcing and inviting the public to comment on a proposal that will resurface about 26.5 miles of Secondary Highway 284 (S 284), east of Canyon Ferry Dam. The project begins at mile marker 16.0

east of Canyon Ferry Dam, and extends south, ending at the intersection with US Highway 12 (US 12), approximately 1.5 miles east

Proposed work includes a scrub seal, crack seal, seal and cover (chip seal), and upgraded pavement markings. The purpose of the project is to resurface the roadway and extend the service life of the roadway.

the roadway and extend the service life of the roadway.

Construction is tentatively planned for 2027, depending on completion of design and availability of funds. No new right-of-way or utility relocations will be needed.

The public is encouraged to contact Butte District Project Development Engineer Brandon Jones at 406-494-9622 or Project Design Engineer Anita Matthews at 406-494-9636 with questions or comments about the project.

For more information about active MDT projects around the state, please visit our website and MDT's five-year Tentative Construction Plan.

MDT is a workforce of over 2,000 people across Montana, determined to do all we can so that you arrive at your destination safely. Our mission is to build, operate, and maintain a safe and resilient transportation system. For more information, visit https://mdt.mt.gov.

# Old Town Road Bridge Replacement Project



#### PROJECT COMPONENTS



Old Town West Bridge New two-span concrete bridge



New single-span concrete bridge



Old Town East Bridge New two-span concrete brid



Road Reconstruction Reconstructing road with new asphalt pavement



Construction is scheduled to be complete in June, 2026

Bank Restoration





Old Town Map Provided by Broadwater County

#### **Broadwater County Commissioners**

The Old Town Road Bridge Replacement Project, located at the southern end of Broadwater County along Old Town Road, continues to advance across three key bridge sites—East, Middle, and West—bringing the region closer to improved infrastructure and safer travel. Funded entirely through grants, this project has imposed no financial burden on local taxpayers.

Some highlights on construction progress include:

- East Bridge: Pile driving began in October, with most of the piles now completed. Riprap has been installed on the north abutment.
- Middle Bridge: Crews finished pile driving and completed the concrete pilecaps. Beams have been set in place and wingwalls have been constructed.

- West Bridge: The beams are set, the backwalls and wingwalls are constructed.
   In the coming weeks, work will focus on:
  - Completing pile driving and forming pilecaps on
- the East Bridge.Placing grout between beams on Middle Bridge.
- Pouring concrete curb on the West Bridge.Reshaping the roadway between the bridges.

The progress made to date marks a significant step toward the completion of the Old Town Road Bridge Replacement Project. With structural work well underway, residents can expect continued activity through the fall and winter as crews push toward the June completion

For questions or concerns, contact the project manager, Kathy Thompson, PE, at (406) 522-8594.

# Gene Townsend Speaks at Parks and Recreation Meeting

MT43 Staff Reporter

The idea of a walking trail began to bloom in Three Forks when Gene Townsend and his wife, Pat, walked in and around the gravel ponds outside the town. "Lots of Three Forks folks were already walking around what was only cow paths. I happened to attend a League of Cities and Towns in Billings, where I learned there was grant money to be had for permanent pedestrian trails," he said.

At a Wednesday meeting hosted by Broadwater Community Development Corporation, Chairman Craig Vietz introduced Townsend, who gave a rundown of his 28 years helping to build the 12 miles of paved walking trails around Three Forks' ponds and out to Headwaters State Park, some 5 miles away. "To accomplish what our committee did takes lots of partners," he explained," We partnered with everyone and every organization who would listen."

Townsend, who was born in Townsend but lived in Ekalaka, Montana, before moving to Three Forks, said he and others interested in the long-term project received help from construction companies, Luzinac, now Magris, the talc processing plant he worked for, Montana Department of Highways and the Three Forks City Council. He and Pat even put \$500 of their own money toward buying an easement they needed to finish a certain part of the trail.

The committee spent days writing grant applications to the Montana Trails Stewardship Foundation and a Northwestern Energy Fund. The group's Headwaters Bank Run is their annual fundraiser.

The completed 8-ft-wide trail now includes benches, dog cleanup stations and a bicycle repair station. The trail begins at Three Forks school, winds around the gravel ponds and includes the airport, the rodeo grounds and baseball fields.

The most difficult and expensive portion of the trails was two bridges, one crossing the Madison River and one across the Darlington Ditch. Townsend related a



BCDC Chairman Craig Vietz introduced Gene Townsend who led the Three Forks walking trails. Townsend spoke to members of the Parks and Recreation Board and Trail Committee as well as the public about his 12 years helping build trails around Three Forks. MT43 News Photo

funny story about how a guy called him to say he had heard Townsend was looking for a bridge. Yes, that was true. The guy said he knew Copps Construction was trying to get rid of a bridge. With a "ton of donated labor and equipment," the bridge was moved and installed

across the Darlington Ditch.

The City of Three Forks handled all the funds for the project, and ultimately took over maintenance responsibilities but, Townsend emphasized, many Three Forks volunteers continue to help with maintenance.

The economic value of the trail system has been a plus for Three Forks. Upwards of 500 people a day use the trails in the summer months, Townsend said. Bike riders start at Headwaters Park, ride into Three Forks and have dinner or shop at the grocery store. Some come to see the Railroad Museum. Elementary school teachers use the trail to take students on field trips. People who have had joint replacements use the trail system for rehabilitation.

Carol Hatfield, member of the Parks and Recreation board, gave an update on the group's progress. Kate Humprey expanded on the Trails committee's work toward building Broadwater County pedestrian trails.



# **STARTING NOVEMBER 1st**

New and renewing subscribers will be entered into a drawing on December 5th.

The lucky winner will receive one year subscription free.

The subscription can be used as a gift for someone, or to add another year to your own!

Call or stop by the office Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm : 406-266-0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend Or subscribe online at MT43NEWS.COM

# Townsend School & Sports

#### **NOVEMBER**

Thu 27 - Fri 28

NO SCHOOL -

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BREAK



Kitto - BHS Stage Gym

#### **DECEMBER**

Mon 1 - Thu 4 11:45 am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL

#### Monday 1

Sunday 30

4:00 pm: Middle School Basketball vs Belgrade 6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym

Tuesday 2 4:00 pm: Middle School Basketball at Livingston

4:15 pm: Little Dog Cheer Camp - Stem Room

6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary

7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - The Bridge

### Wednesday 3

6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary

7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

#### Thursday 4

Q2 Midterm

4:15 pm: Little Dog Cheer Camp - Stem Room

5:00 pm: Girls Basketball Blue/White Scrimmage - 63 6:00 pm: Boys Basketball Blue/White Scrimmage - 63

6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary

7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club - Library

#### Fri 5 - Sat 6

High School Wrestling at Cascade

#### Friday 5

**NO SCHOOL** 

Middle School Basketball Tournament at Three Forks

6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym

#### Sat 6 - Sun 7

**EMT Training - Elementary Commons** 

#### Saturday 6

Middle School Basketball Tournament at Three Forks Speech and Drama at Red Lodge

#### Sunday 7

3:00 pm: Football Banquet

# EAST HELENA JIBRARY HOURS

#### Andrea Eckerson Branch Manager

Hours:

Monday - Wednesday:

10 am- 6:00 pm. Thursday and Friday:

10 am- 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm

Sundays: Closed



201 N Spruce St, Townsend

News Photographer

#### **DECEMBER**

Mon 1 - Sat 13

East Helena Food Drive & Free Book

Wed 3 - Thu 4

10:30 am: Storytime for preschoolers

Thursday 4

5:30 pm: Booth at Christmas Stroll

Saturday 6

10:00 am: Open for Food Drive & Free Book

# JIBRARY HOURS

## **Broadwater School** and

**Community Library** 

#### **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 Books & Babies Story Hour: Mondays 11-00am.-12:00pm the first 4 Mondays of the month.t

#### Three Forks Community Library

**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

# East Helena Schools & Sports

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### Friday 28

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday

#### **DECEMBER**

#### Monday 1

6:00 pm: 5th Grade Band Concert

#### Thursday 4

5:00 pm: East Helena Christmas Stroll 6:00 pm: PTO Meeting at EVMS

#### ROADWATER (OUNTY OVERNMENT (ÅLENDAR **DECEMBER**

#### Tuesday 2

Working Meeting





Used books are B2GO free. Dollar Drink Day @ Mtn Grounds!

your purchase! readingleaves.net





Now - Nov 30

Dollar for Dollar Donations with Town Pump for Broadwater Food Pantry Ends Sunday, 11/30/25!

# Friday 28

PLAID FRIDAY All Day MORE INFO ABOVE AND PAGE 3 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 29

10:00 am: Ladies Day to Shop Local

6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

#### **DECEMBER**

#### Monday 1

10:00 am: Monthly WIC Clinic on 1st Monday each month at Broadwater County Health, 124 Cedar

1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club -1st Monday each month

#### Tuesday 2

5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club

5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

6:30 p.m. City of Townsend's Cooperative Housing Community Meeting at the Townsend Methodist

Church, located at 200 N Cedar INFO ON THIS PAGE

#### Wednesday 3

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

### Thursday 4

5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **DETAILS ON THIS PAGE** 6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley

Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley

Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry Friday 5

#### 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Saturday 6

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

6:00 pm: FREE Dinner and Discussion on Resting in the Busyness of Life, at The Lodge **DETAILS ON PAGES 4 & 8** 

#### 4:00 pm 2025 Christmas Stroll Downtown 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at

102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

5:00 pm: Annual Senior Christmas Dinner and Lights Tour **DETAILS ON THIS PAGE** 

6:00 pm: Broadwater Community Theater Interactive Christmas Murder Mystery TICKET INFO ON PAGE 11

#### RESTING IN THE BUSYNESS OF LIFE

Anxious? Worried? Overwhelmed? Aren't we all!



Fri. Dec. 5th 6:00-8:00 pm Diner at 6 pm The Lodge 131 S. Spruce St. Free Event All are welcome! Free Child Care provided

#### CITY OF TOWNSEND HOSTS MEETING

Cooperative Housing Community Meeting hosted by the City of Townsend, Planning Board, MBAC, and Cooperative Development Center.

Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Townsend Methodist Church, located at 200 N Cedar.

Please join the City Council to learn and collaborate with housing solutions in Townsend.

# LASSIFIEDS

FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

TURN TO PAGE 6

#### **Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting**

3rd Wednesday each month.

MENU?

Next meeting: December 17th, 7:00PM At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St See Board Meeting Agenda at: http://www.facebook. com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment

## FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway, Townsend. **HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!** 

Join us for a hot, delicious meal - no cost to you.

DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED to help us continue supporting our community. QUESTIONS? STOP BY OR

CALL AFTER 3PM **VOLUNTEER?** (406) 266-3611 LET US FEED YOU - AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP

**OUR COMMUNITY** 

Hosted with care by the Sons of

the American Legion (SAL).

# Senior Dinner & Light Tour

Broadwater County Lions Club and Townsend Rotary Club are excited to once again be sponsoring the annual



We will have 2 nights to chose from:

Monday December 8th or Tuesday December 9th.

Dinner starts at 5:00 pm and the light tour around 6:00 pm. The dinner will be at the Senior Center and rides will be available to anyone that needs one.

If you are interested in joining us for this great Christmas event and you have not been contacted, please call Angie at 406-980-1607 or Diane at 406-980-0890 for reservation or more information.

We hope to see you there for this fun evening.

### WANTED

I want to buy a Home, Lot, Parcel or Acreage in the vicinity of Highway 284 East of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Could buy outright, trade for what I have or will

consider other options. Call Dick at 406-581-5635. Please leave message if no answer.





fbfs.com/find-an-agent/



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## **RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY**

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



#### American Legion Hall

211 Broadway, Townsend

(406) 266-3611 Dining Hours: Tuesday Bingo/Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM SPECIAL Event with Food:

Saturday 11/22/25 @ 1:00PM FREE Thanksgiving Dinner Bar hours may vary

#### The Betsy Sports Zone

217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu:

www.betsysportszone.com

#### Bread and Butter Cafe

205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM- 2:00PM Sat 7:00AM- 12:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Menu available on Facebook

# Bunkhouse Bar & Grill

8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 SPECIAL: N/A

Dining Hours: 10:00AM - Close Grill off at 10:00PM

Canyon Ferry Brewing & **Taproom** 

300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687 Hours: Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close

Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

#### C Hangin" C Mercantile & Creamery

310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087 Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30AM - 7:00PM Sat 8:00AM - 7:00PM Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM Menu:

changincmerc.square.site

Facebook

## Commercial Bar

101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 **Dining Hours:** 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook

#### Mint Cafe

305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Mon-Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM SPECIAL: N/A

Mountie Moose Bakery

109 Broadway, Townsend

Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM

Mountie-moose-bakery.square.

Mountain Grounds Coffee

401 Broadway, Townsend

Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 4:30PM

Sat - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Peking China

10 N Main St, Three Forks

Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM

Rocky Mountain Supply Deli

7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend

Hot & Cold To-Go Hours:

Mon-Fri6:00AM - 6:00PM

Call Ahead or Order Inside

TB's Diner

316 N Front St, Townsend,

Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM

Vaquero's Mexican

Restaurant

219 Broadway St, Townsend

Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM

(406)266-1860

Dining Hours:

Facebook

Closed Mondays

Menu & Specials:

Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM

Dining Hours:

Online Ordering:

(406) 285-3225

Dining Hours:

(406) 266-3456

**Board Inside Store** 

for Take-and Bake or

Ready-to-Eat Pizza

(406) 266-0099

Dining Hours:

Specials:

Facebook

Menu:

Google

Menu:

MTNGROUNDS.com

Closed Sunday & Monday

(406) 266-5800

Online Ordering:

Dining Hours:

#### Copy Cup

303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400 Please call in business hours. Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday

Deep Creek Pizza Co.

415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend

(406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Closed Sunday Menu: deepcreekpizzaco.com Accepting Orders Online

#### Fishtale Tavern

209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: Tuesday 10:00AM - Midnight Wed - Sat 10:00 AM - Close Sunday 10:00 AM - Midnight Closed Monday Daily Specials: Facebook

#### Full Belli Deli

209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 7:00PM OPEN 4th of JULY

#### Kick Start Nutrition

500 N Front St. Townsend (406) 266-0033 Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 9:00AM - 3:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Daily Specials: Facebook & Instagram



if you would like to talk about how to add your dining location and open hours to our paper! 406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend, MT

**CryptoQuip** 

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout

the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error

Clue: S equals F

VXYCO YS SYDUM PEY

KYAODZJZDH MCOOYXJ

PGMKYIMGI'M OXY SYYJLQDD

JZQA: JEZ VXZZI LQH LQKUZXM.

Contact MT 43 News, Monday- Friday 10 - 2,

Broadwater Area Restaurants

## Call Ahead or Order Inside KNIGHT MOVES

	C	Е	S
	C		1
1	V	Е	R

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.

Unlock the power of chess to find the

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RAMPIT LANCE MEENY **BOLDEN** 

" He's a model husband — unfortunately this model happens to be a

SCRAMBLERS

# **LOCAL BUSINESS**

# **DIRECTORY**

A+ STORAGE EVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS BOATS, RV's & TRAILER STORAGE IN TOWNSEND, MT WE ARE AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED US!

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808 N Front St, Townsend, MT Mon - Fri 7:30 - 6:00pm Saturday 9:00 - 4:00 Sunday 9:00 - 3:00

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Interior Exterior Al Nyhart (406) 223-3074

Land Surveyors Surveying Montana and Broadwater County since 1995 Dan Swenson, PLS Bernadette Swenson, PLS 64 Jack Farm Road, Townsend, MT 59644 06-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

Schauber Surveying, Inc.

#### ALLIED MACHINE

RV Repair • Trailer Repair Pump Repair • Machine Work Aluminum Welding

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DD Custom Flatbed Dealer

Laser Cut Parts Fabrication

Machining Hydraulics

406-449-3464 | Townsend - Helena

Plumbing and Heating

Danny Kurk- Owner

Open 24/7 | Townsend, MT

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MADISON RIVER 7812 US-287 Townsend, MT 406-266-4278 Metered Propane **Budget Billing** 

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7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT

BRANDON BAKKEN

SHANE TEW P - (406)266-3772 C - (406)980-1100

Lease Tanks Service Department



# Weekly **SUDOKU**

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

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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#### **Super** Crossword

15 Old fast jet,

for short

purifying petroleum 17 Breath-

holding reef

explorers

e.g. 18 Lose color 24 Bowl-shaped

frying pan 25 Brand of PCs

and tablets

29 Warship with three banks

after els

Helmsley
33 Otherwise
34 Huskies, e.g.

36 Expand on

31 Letters

32 Hotelier

37 Swiss

16 Worker

#### 13 "Preach it!" 14 "Sleeper" co-star Diane ACROSS 62 User's guide 64 Celtic 5 Witty remark 112 Permit to 113 Riddle's language 65 Riddle, part 4

answer

118 Maui garland 119 Bother a lot 120 Sprinted

faster than

byte or ton

121 Prefix with

122 Org. on a toothpaste box 123 Pre-Soviet

rulers

catcher 125 "You, over there ..."

1 Skull parts

124 Speeze

69 Je ne -

73 Incendiary

frequently

79 Golf legend

Palmei

81 Picnic pest

82 Lifelong pal, informally 84 Tiny hairlike

structures

85 Not crying 87 Currency of

Latvia 89 Gives the

means

91 "- dabba

doo!

92 Lick like

96 End of the

99 Part of ROY

G. BIV 100 A stage past

embryonic 101 Protested

riddle

16 Inaccurate 19 Sailing 20 Ablaze

21 Pinnacles 22 Money for the senior yrs. 23 Start of a

riddle 26 Guided 27 Redeemers 28 Tally 29 Forest growth

30 Comics cry 31 Omitted

as a syllable 35 Used a scull 37 USN VIP 39 Riddle, part 2

44 Riddle, part 3 47 "Mayday!"
48 Take to the road
49 Neighbor of

50 Aroma

52 Stain-fighting toothpaste,

e.g. **54** "Year One" directo

Harold 55 Gun, in slang 56 Asian "way" 58 "Three's Company'

23

49

85

118

Suzanne

unpeacefully 102 Gp. checking baggage 104 Actresses Jillian and Blyth

105 Joan (French saint)

10 Casual shirt 11 Tiered

105 106 107

119

2 Worker welfare org. 3 Rodent-built a cat 94 Riddle, part 5 channel blockers

DOWN

6 Difficult task 7 Gridiron gp. 8 Prefix with term or week 9 Eye, to poets

12 Pale tan

4 "Vexations" 5 Churlish sort

(beet variety) 38 — Lama 39 Math game

120

with matchsticks

40 "I'm — loss" 41 Resign from 42 Hearth waste

43 Succinct 45 Just slightly 46 Rips into

co-star 77 Prolonged attack

78 Zapped with a stunning

82 "DMZ" actor

80 Camel

Benjamin

115 Anna of fashion 116 Non-earthlings, for short "— longa, vita brevis"

**GROUP OF HERBS** 

(rebellion)
53 Dot of land in

the ocean

55 Is given the

chance to

57 Darth Vader

as a boy 60 Hue 61 Roadwork

goo **62** Eds. mark

66 Took the

gold **67** Poker stake

68 Deteriorate 69 Man-goat of

myth 70 Where aid

71 While not physically attending

72 Ice cream

75 Pen tips 76 "Phantom

Lady"

alternatives

is urgently required

**83** "— is an

86 Kind of

35mm camera 88 High coif

89 Furniture

90 Bridal bio

Barrett

97 Luau hellos

98 Ward for preemies

103 Be too thrifty

106 Goat cheese 107 Miles away 108 Jacob's twin,

109 Region 110 Nest fillers

111 Exam for an atty.-to-be
113 Vietnamese

114 Deteriorate

New Year

in the Bible

104 Spaghetti -

word **93** Avian

wood option

mimics 95 Rock guitarist

Englishman" ("H.M.S. Pinafore"

26

121

# TODAY'S WORD

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

Here you may read about Probate Notices, Estate Settlements and other Judicial Actions as well as important Broadwater County notices.



#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

To be sold for cash at a Trustee's Sale on March 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the South entrance steps of the Broadwater County Courthouse, 515 Broadway Street, Townsend, MT 59644, the following described real property situated in Broadwater County,

Tract 2 of Furman Subdivision as shown on Plat recorded in Book 1 of Plats, Page 718 situated in Section 27 and the E1/2 NE1/4 Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, P.M.M. More commonly known as 89 Quarter Circle Road, Winston,

MT 59647. Bobby D. Hedalen and Rhonda L. Hedalen, as Grantors,

conveyed said real property to Rocky Mountain Title, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for First Community Bank, Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, by Deed of Trust on September 14, 2011 (the "DOT"), and filed for record in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder in Broadwater County, State of Montana, on September 20, 2011, as Instrument No. 166024, in Book 138, at Page 647, and modified pursuant to the Modification filed for record on April 26, 2023, as Instrument No. 195942,

#### The Deed of Trust was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Wells Fargo Bank N.A. Assignment Dated: July 18, 2019

in Book 250, at Page 392, of Official Records.

Assignment Recorded: July 24, 2019

Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 183227, in Book 198, at Page 438,

Assignee: NewRez LLC dba Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Assignment Dated: February 5, 2024

Assignment Recorded: February 7, 2024

Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 198170, in Book 258, at Page 243,

Assignee: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2024-2

Assignment Dated: October 6, 2025

Assignment Recorded: October 7, 2025

Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 202365, in Book 274, at Page 831,

Assignee: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation as Trustee for Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2023-1

Assignment Dated: October 15, 2025

Assignment Recorded: October 15, 2025

Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 202403, in Book 275, at Page 55,

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 October 28, 2025 as Instrument No. 202498, in Book 275, at Page 379,

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 May 1, 2025, 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

#### MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, **BROADWATER COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: DAVID LEROY BRAVO, Deceased.

Probate No. CDP-4-2025-17

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Donna Marie Watson has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or their claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Silverman Law Office, PLLC, P.O. Box 4423, Helena, Montana 59604, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is

DATED 10/18/2025 Donna Marie Watson SILVERMAN LAW OFFICE, PLLC

Published November 14, 21 and 28, 2025

**MNAXLP** 

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

**MNAXLP** 

# **BROADWATER COUNTY**

JEFFREY SCOTT CUMMINGS, Deceased. Probate No. CDP-25-18 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

#### Peter T. Simon 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 at 303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644, return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court. Dated November 14, 2025. /s/ Peter T. Simon Personal Representative / Attorney

Published November 14, 21 and 28, 2025

on this obligation is the principal sum of \$273,554.47, interest in the sum of \$7,387.07, escrow advances of \$6,109.37, a deferred principal sum of \$545.17, a deferred interest sum of \$2,941.80, and other amounts due and payable in the amount of \$2,055.77 for a total amount owing of \$292,593.65, 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 6th day of November, 2025. Jason J. Henderson, Substitute Trustee

38 2nd Avenue East, Dickinson, ND 58601

Telephone: 801-355-2886

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8AM-5PM (MST) File No. MT23257

Published November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

MNAXLP

#### MEMBERS NEEDED for the new Broadwater **County Targeted Economic**

Development District (TEDD) Advisory Committee. This will be a 5-person committee appointed by the County Commissioners. They will perform annual

requests for projects in the TEDD. Meetings will be quarterly. Terms will be staggered at 1,2, & 3 years initially, all renewing as 3-year terms.

reviews of the TEDD financials and will advise the

Commission on applications and reimbursement

Broadwater County's TED District was created in 2019 and is located in southern Broadwater County, however residents from any part of the county are encouraged to submit a letter of interest. Remote attendance is possible.

If interested or for more information, please

contact dhansen@broadwatercountymt.gov by November 30.



lack of self realization as much as they can from a lack of bread."

- Richard Wright

# **Justice of the Peace Report**

Samuel Anagnostou

#### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO **WEAR SEAT BELTS**

Maurilio R. Maldonado – Central Point OR – Seatbelt Violation – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Julian P. Kelker – Billings - Seatbelt Violation – Paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

#### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Robert G.Aronsen – Belgrade – Speeding on Non-Interstate- Exceed Day Limit of 70mph- Plead Guilty - \$70.00 Fines & Fees

Mark P. Jordan – Kirkwood MO – Speeding on Non-

Interstate – Exceed Day Limit of 70mph – Plead Guilty - \$70 Fines & Fees as well as completion of a one (1) hour defensive driving course. Thomas A. Pouliot – East Helena – Speeding on Non-Interstate – Exceed Day Limit of 70mph – Paid Fines

- \$120 Fines & Fees James S. Burgess – East Helena – Failure to have Drivers License in Immediate Possession (License to be carried and exhibited on demand) - Paid Fines - \$60.00

William R. Jonart – Butte – Speeding on Non-Interstate Exceed Day Limit of 70mph – Paid Fines – \$70

Tucker Berens – Bozeman – Speeding on Non-Interstate Exceed Night Limit of 65mph – Paid Fines - \$70 Fines & Fees. Abidan J. Nolaya Andrade – Bozeman - Speeding – Ex-

ceed Restricted / Special Zone Speed Limit Established by Department – Paid Fines - \$85 Fines & Fees Carson J. Brighton - East Helena -Speeding on noninterstate – exceed day limit of 70mph -Paid Fines - \$20

Fines & Fees. Luke A. Howard – Ekalaka - Speeding on non-interstate exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 Fines

Hudson T. Hart – Bozeman-Speeding on non-interstate exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$120 Fines Suzanne C. Hatfield-Haverkorn – Three Forks - Speeding

on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees. Connor S. Johann – O Fallon MO - Basic Rule – Rea-

sonable & Prudent – 1st offense – paid fines - \$120 Reed E. Landon – Bozeman -Speeding – Exceed

restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – Paid fines - \$55 fines & fees Taetin J. Kindsfather – Park City – Speeding – Exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by

department – paid fines - \$65 fines & fees. Dayana M. R. Sedano – Bozeman – Driving without

a valid driver's license – has never possessed – paid fines - \$535 fines & fees Operating without liability insurance in effect 1st

offense – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees - Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines & fees - \$85

fines and fees Elliot J. M. Rickards – Stonefield DE – Speeding on Interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$40

fines & fees Ryan B. Swenson – Helena – Speeding – Exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by

department – paid fines - \$95 fines & fees

Samuel A. Sharpe – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines

Pauline O. Williams - Bozeman - Speeding on Interstate – Exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$70

Cimeri K. Miller – Bozeman – Speeding on non- interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees Christian D. Labare – Missoula – Exceed Restricted /

Special Zone Speed Limit established by department – plead guilty - \$85 fines and fees – enrollment in Alive at 25 driving course – six (6) months deferred imposition of sentence with good behavior Cecil H. Wesner – Toston – Speeding on non-interstate

exceed day limit of 70mph – Plead guilty - \$120 fines & fees – Deferred imposition for one (1) month with good behavior - One (1) hour driving school course Bryan G. Thayer – Bozeman – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed night limit of 70mph – plead guilty - \$70

Elizabeth A. McDonough – Great Falls – Careless Driving – Plead No Contest - \$85 fines & fees – deferred imposition of sentence if fine paid in one (1) month Cameron J. Mell – Townsend – Operating without

liability insurance in effect 3rd offense – driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended

or revoked 2nd offense – Plead Guilty - \$810 fines &

fees – Sentenced to ten (10) days in jail with execution Justice of the Peace, 7

## Justice of the Peace, $6\,$

suspended for six (6) months with good behavior

#### DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Brady Zimpel – Belgrade – Parked at ranch gate. Walked past sign stating land was posted. Carrying rifle and wearing orange. Intending to hunt Black Bear – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

#### **BROADWATER COUNTY FINES**

Justin M. Watson – Stockton CA – Driving Motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked 1st offense – plead guilty - \$185 fines & fees – Six (6) months suspended sentence with good behavior.

Racquel A. Loughnane – Billings – Improper passing. No passing zone – plead guilty - \$85.00 fines and fees

#### **COUNTY CRIMINAL**

Jesse D. Bunker – Helena – Violation of a Protective Order 1st Offense – Plead Guilty - \$385.00 Fines & Fees – Six (6) months suspended sentence with good

William J. Ellis – Townsend – Criminal Mischief

Pecuniary Loss Less than \$1,500.00 – Plead Guilty -

\$185 fines & fees – one day jail time, three (3) months suspended sentence with good behavior Kamil Szmyglewski – Sheridan WY – Disorderly Conduct – Plead Guilty - \$185 fines & fees – ten (10) days jail time with execution suspended for a period

of 6 months with good behavior Chelsea B. Shorey – Arcata CA – Aggravated Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph - Unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle - Plead Guilty - \$1,215.00 fines and fees – sentenced one (1) year jail time with execution of all but two (2) days suspended for one (1) year with good behavior – enrollment in ACT class or California State equivalent program - restrictive probationary

license after payment of fines & fees

Zachary D. Hulse – East Helena – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater 1st offense – Plead Guilty - \$685.00 fines & fees – Sentenced to six (6) months in jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior – enrollment in ACT class – twenty (20) hours of community service ordered within three (3) months – restrictive probationary license

Kyle E. Olsen – Bozeman – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater 1st offense – plead guilty - \$685 fines & fees  $-\sin(6)$  months jail time with execution of all  $\sin(6)$ months suspended with good behavior – enrollment in ACT class – individual to refrain from establishments whose primary purpose is to serve alcoholic beverages for six (6) months – restrictive probationary license

#### INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION

Justin A. Cleveland – Arrested on Warrant issued by Silver Bow County District Court – bond set at \$25,000.00 – Defendant to appear at Silver Bow County District Court within five (5) days of release

#### **Group Sues**, 1

Plaintiff Kevin Chandler, a hydrogeologist who ranches outside of Absarokee, juxtaposed the process he and his wife, Katrin, went through to obtain and protect the water they use on their ranch with the process afforded to nearby developers of the 67-lot Crow Chief Meadows subdivision.

"We did everything the law asked of us to protect our water and our neighbors' water - collecting data, hiring experts, and working hand-in-hand with the state," Chandler wrote in the statement. "It's frustrating to see a subdivision using dozens of exempt wells get approved, when the same development proposing a single shared community well would have been denied. Those community systems are more efficient and safer, and their use can be measured and monitored. The current policy promotes poorly planned development and passes the hidden costs to future homeowners, counties and towns."

A spokesperson for the DNRC declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The lawsuit presents four claims for relief, beginning

with recognizing the constitutional protections afforded to senior water users and concluding with a constitutional provision protecting Montanans' right to know what their government is doing and their right to participate in the operation of its agencies. The plaintiffs note that an interim legislative com-

mittee has been tasked with digging into the exempt well statute once again. But they don't appear optimistic that the Legislature will reach a different result when it next convenes in 2027. Despite nearly two decades of studies identifying the consequences of exempt well development and repeated efforts to revise state laws, no meaningful change has occurred, according to the lawsuit.

Four of the lawsuit's plaintiffs—the Montana League of Cities and Towns, Clark Fork Coalition, Montana Farm Bureau Federation and Trout Unlimited — participated in the group that developed Senate Bill 358, which sought to close some of the state's fastest-growing valleys to additional exempt wells but allow for increased groundwater development across the rest of the state as part of

# **Broadwater Commissioners**

# **Press MDT on Highway**

# 12/287 Safety, Approve Motor **Vehicle Agreement**

Rachael Brug Staff Reporter

At their November meeting, the Broadwater County Commission heard emotional testimony about safety on Highway

12/287 and moved ahead with a key agreement to keep local motor vehicle services in place. Resident Dwight Thompson urged the commission

to push harder for improvements from the Missouri River bridge north to Winston, especially at the Silos interchange, where a recent fatal crash claimed the life of his co-worker. Thompson cited a recent TV report by Marian Davidson and questioned why a state traffic engineer, Gabe Priebe, said he had not heard from county officials. Commissioner Debbie Randolph responded that

the county has been in regular contact with Montana Department of Transportation, including emails, phone calls, and meetings. She said MDT already plans to widen Highway 12 south of the Silos to five lanes and add turn lanes at Beaver Creek near Winston. The county is also applying for a major federal BUILDER grant to accelerate work from Winston north toward Spokane Creek, with a public meeting planned once the latest crash analysis is complete. Resident Melissa Franks, who lives off White Horse,

described nightly near-misses as drivers pass turning vehicles instead of slowing down. She called for increased law enforcement presence until construction changes are made. Commissioners added that headlights and seatbelts remain basic but often ignored safety measures. In other business, Treasurer Melissa Franks secured

approval for an interlocal agreement with the Montana Department of Justice Motor Vehicle Division for the state's new CARS system. The deal shifts equipment and supply costs to the county in exchange for a 10-centper-transaction reimbursement, but commissioners agreed the arrangement is necessary to avoid forcing residents to travel to Helena or Bozeman for all motor vehicle services.

The board also took testimony on a road-material deviation request in the Westside Trails subdivision and postponed a decision to review technical data and potential impacts on county standards.

#### WANT TO SPONSOR A CAUSE TO RAISE AWARENESS?

**Local Individuals and Businesses are** invited to sponsor an ad for a local cause!



• Broadwater Senior Center:

<u>Townsend Cat Network</u>:

Or stop in at 408 Broadway

a compromise package. In April, the Montana Senate overwhelmingly rejected the measure. Kelly Lynch, executive director of the Montana League

of Cities and Towns, said SB 358's failure spurred her organization's decision to move forward with the lawsuit.

"We put our hearts and souls into that bill," she said. "The fact that it failed — it was like, 'OK, it's time." Lynch added that other Western states have experienced

similar pressures on their groundwater supplies and have responded by narrowing the groundwater withdrawal loophole. In those states, she said, the exempt well law is "extremely limited to those situations in which an exemption is truly necessary — not a development pattern that is subsidized by the exemption."

The lawsuit comes three years after DNRC faced a similar set of questions in the context of a 42-lot subdivision a developer sought to service with four exempt wells, each of them withdrawing up to 10-acre feet of water. In that lawsuit, District Court Judge Michael McMahon

sided with Upper Missouri Waterkeeper and a handful of landowners opposed to the 442-acre Horse Creek Hills subdivision. In his 2024 ruling, McMahon chastized the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for "torturously misreading its own rules and ignoring Supreme Court precedent" on the cumulative impacts of exempt wells. Asked to respond to this round of litigation, Upper

Missouri Waterkeeper Executive Director Guy Alsentzer wrote in an email to Montana Free Press that it's an encouraging development that builds on the Horse Creek Hills litigation.

"The pressure to develop land is unrelenting, and recent history demonstrates the Montana Legislature is plainly incapable of a constitutionally sound approach to adequately regulating Montana's water resources," Alsentzer wrote. "Ideally, this case finishes the battle at-stake in Upper Missouri Waterkeeper v. Broadwater County (aka Horse Creek Hills), and before that in Clark Fork Coalition v. Tubbs: there is no free water for sprawl

subdivision development in closed Montana river basins."

# **Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda**

**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.broadwater-

countymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline. Tuesday, December 2, 2025

10:00 AM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**10:00 AM** Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over 10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Airport hangar lease

for Isar Services LLC 10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Speicher

Tract B Minor Subdivision request preliminary plat

approval; S35, T6N, R2E 10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, The Meadows 3 subsequent Minor Subdivision, request

1-year extension to preliminary plat approval 10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Coblentz

Family Transfer Exemption Request; S9, T8N, R1E 10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Nunn/ Hatfield Boundary Relocation Exemption Request; S2,

T7N, R1E 10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Subdivision Regulations Amendments

10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, Letters of interest and letter of resignation for county boards

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, by-laws approval, interlocal agreements and non-financial contract renewals
- 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(a) 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 Please note: These meeting times/dates may change.

Please check the county website

- Trust Board Meeting on December 9th at 11:30 AM Planning Board Meeting on December 9th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on December 9th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on December 11th at 5:15 PM County Parks & Recreation Meeting on December
- 15th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on December 16th at 6:00 PM

Airport Board Meeting on December 17th at 6:00 PM

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

#### **Elkhorn Community Fellowship**

126 N Cedar St. Townsend

Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183

Sunday: 11:00am- Services

Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades

| 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades

#### Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend

Pastor Mike Wenzel (406) 266-4219

Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning

Service | 6:00pm Evening Service

Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer

#### **Holy Cross Catholic Church**

101 S Walnut St. Townsend

Parish Contact (406) 266-4811

email: office@holycrossmt.org

Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation 4:30pm-Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner

with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades

Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org

*Monday*: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration

Tuesday: 9:00am Mass

#### Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)

110 E Street Townsend

Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 594-7609

MountainValleyChurch.org

Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and Youth Ministry

Wednesdays: 6:30-8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry

and Adult Bible Study Groups Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406

Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.

#### Radersburg Baptist Church 7 Main St, Radersburg

Special Service Pastors (406) 266-4673

Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship

#### Set Free Christian Fellowship

424 N Pine Townsend; PO Box 1163

Pastor Carol Bergstad (406) 461-2181

Sunday: 9:30am Service | 7:00pm Set Free Recovery Thursday: 7:00pm Bible Study

#### Seventh Day Adventist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend (406) 241-0042

Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Sabbath School

Tuesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

#### Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod

301 N Cherry St. Townsend

Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911 Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon

Council President Rick Arnold (406) 633-2677

Sunday: 9:30am Services Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the

Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.

#### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

916 Broadway St. Townsend

Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255

Sunday: 8:30am Choir Practice | 9:30am Sacrament Meeting | 10:40am Sunday School

Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open

For Family History Center appointment call Director,

Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270

Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities

### Townsend United Methodist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend

Pastor Mele Moa (406) 266-3390 TownsendUMC.org

Sunday: 9:00am Services

# Trailhead Christian Fellowship

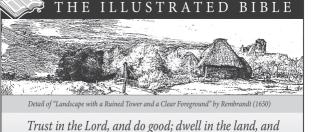
20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)

Pastor Clay Muinzer (406) 266-4406

Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education

10:00am Services

Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K-6th Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th–12th Grades



Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

PSALM 37:3,4 🔊

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SR. CENTER MEALS: DECEMBER 1 - 5

> 516 2nd Street, Townsend, MT 406-266-3995

#### Monday, December 1

Swedish Meatballs **Steamed Potatoes** Green Beans Whole Grain Bread

Tuesday, December 2 Baked Chicken

Apricot Halves

Rice Pilaf California Vegetables Diced Beets Whole Grain Bread **Blushing Pears** 

#### Wednesday, December 3

Beef and Veggie Stew Fresh Baked Biscuit Tossed Salad with garbanzo beans Zesty Pineapple Dessert

#### Thursday, December 4

Roast Pork Mashed Potatoes Key Largo Vegetables Whole Grain Bread Baked Apples

### Friday, December 5

Tuna Noodle Casserole **Carrot Coins** Green Peas Whole Grain Bread Plump Peaches



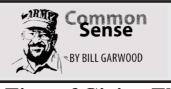
# Notary Service Available

#### At MT43 News Office 408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT

Mon - Fri 10:00 - 2:00pm

# Or by Appointment

Contact: Brenda Phillips 406-231-9752



# 'Tis the Time of Giving Thanks, and the Murdering of Birds!

This is an interesting time, the Deer are running toward the roads so the hunters can't shoot them, and the turkeys are running deeper into the woods, mostly for the same reason. This is a wonderful season; I just wish Thanksgiving got a little more time before Santa starts popping up all over town. Many a cartoon has been drawn showing the turkeys, screaming at Santa, "Wait your turn, fat boy!" Autumn is beautiful, but this whole "Pumpkin Spice" crap is too much!

I know if it wasn't about the history, colonists and native Americans coming together over Pheasant, the whole holiday would just be about eating till we vomit, then fall asleep. I wonder what teams in the early NFL were playing on the first Thanksgiving? Probably the Plymouth Puritans and the Redskins Opps, sorry the "Commanders". YEAH RIGHT! I wonder if one of the Puritan women was the first to knit a Flannel shirt?

It has always been a great time to get family members together and act somewhat civil toward one another. Or at least to try. Until around here a tourist sees a Red Maga hat, EEK! I'm trying to remember, I think the chemical in turkey is called tryptophan. That makes you sleepy after eating too much bird and falling asleep in front of the TV. Or the insane babbling of relatives, you don't even know if they are related. Could be some watery-eyed derelict from the casino parking lot. I remember growing up and the friends and relatives

coming together for Thanksgiving; it was mostly a great time. Seeing old pals and relations you hadn't seen in years. (Then you remember why.) But the women keep everybody leveled and fed. 'Till they wobble a bit. Just remember to at least THINK about being grate-

ful for what you have! God's blessings over all of us, and please be careful on our roads. The weather will get nasty, as our November thaw is about over! Tether your elephants. Stay safe and warm, folks. A happy Thanksgiving to you all my people. Be kind, be good and most of all be stuffed! Get back Santa! Not yet time for your shenanigans!

Garden

The bird-of-paradise plant can be toxic to animals, so keep pet access in mind if you choose one. These plants are known to live for more than 50 years with the right growing conditions, not even flowering until they are five or six years old. They can do well in pots indoors, but they grow tall, upward of five feet in some cases, and their leaves love to spread out, Birdso be sure your potted bird-ofof-paradise paradise has plenty of room.

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# **Resting in the Busyness of Life**

**Father Cody Williams** Holy Cross Parish

How often do you hear this conversation? "Hey!" "Hey!" "How's it going?" "Good, how about you?" "Good. How are things going?"



"Busy. You?" "The same." From my experience, most of us express the same basic concerns: life is stressful, life is busy, and it seems like we keep trudging forward. Is this how life is supposed to be?

How many of us are seeking some rest and rejuvenation in life? What does rest look like? Before we can venture into rest and finding ways to rest, we need to be real with ourselves. Our lives have

many demands and many of them feel like they cannot be ignored. We have responsibilities at work, commitments at home, and many other activities that vie for our time. Can they be ignored? Not really. But the issue is not the amount of

tasks we have, the limitations on our time, or the challenges that life imposes. The real challenge is being real with our lives.

Often when we get overwhelmed by life and its responsibilities, we ponder important questions like "what am I doing wrong?" or "how do I manage my time better?" Oddly, finding rest and

rejuvenation is not about time management, it's about priorities and life management. How many of us prioritize rejuvenating hobbies, time with friends, or rest in our days? I'm guessing not many of us. Instead, we settle for a TV program,

movie, or some activity where we can "veg." Veging is not resting. Veging is when we feel so overwhelmed that we don't believe there is time for good, restful activities, so we settle for what is easy. On Friday, Dec. 5th, we are hosting an event at the

Lodge to help bridge the conversation about resting amidst the busyness of life. Some people from our community with talk about their challenges and joy in finding rest with the hopes of inspiring us to appreciate and prioritize rest in our

lives. The night starts at 6 pm with dinner and then we

will discuss and explore the topic of rest. May you all find time to rest and rejuvenate in the midst of this busy season.

#### Exempt Water Well Rights, 1

get wells drilled.

The DNRC policy is the well must be drilled and tested before it is approved for a water right. She put it this way: "What people don't realize is their water in supposed exempt wells, with no applied water right, can be taken away. In my opinion, the exempt well setup is a joke."

With no clear path forward, Pakenham Steward offered Lake Vista landowners their options: 1) Engage in shared voluntary water use reduction; 2) Apply for a beneficial use permit along with obtaining mitigation water, and/or 3) wait for long-term legislative solutions.

Steele suggested the options were asking lot owners to "play nice" and share water rights with neighbors who have none or wait for the 2027 legislature to fix the situation.

County Planner Brown weighed in on the impact of

the law as it stands for land development in Broadwater County. She suggested it is a big deal because it will literally shut down land development in the county and the state. If the law is not fixed, the ripple effect in our county will be huge, she said: contractors will not have work, the tax base will not increase so school and emergency services will not be fully funded. Fewer dollars will be available for expendable items like buying books, trinkets and dinners out because of the stalemate in the law. The burden will be on large landowners and homeowners to pay for increased public services needed for the many new residents already living in the county.

House District 77 representative Jane Gillette made it clear: "It's the legislature's fault." She reiterated what others have said: that the 2014 law

passed by the legislature leaves a loophole for exempt-well permitting, disregarding senior water rights on creeks and reservoirs. She pointed out that District 39 Senator Wylie Galt, White Sulphur Springs, introduced SB 358, which would have grandfathered in exempt wells drilled before the 2014 law went into effect. That would have avoided part of the problem. However, the bill died on the Senate floor, she said. Gillette, who attended the Nov. 6 meeting in Townsend,

commented on one of the options given. If the landowners agree to reduce their water usage, they could apply for a permit. The problem, as she sees it, is that the option has the chance to reduce the value of the property. Another untenable option, although used in other parts

of Montana, is for landowners to have their water trucked in from other sources. She pointed out that DNRC officials emphasized they would work with parties to iron out the problem and not turn off landowners' water. "It is interesting to note," she pointed out, "that there

are no DNRC police, so there is no way for the department to enforce the law on exempt well use. The only way DNRC would enforce the law would be if a neighbor filed a complaint."

# **E**BITUARIES

#### Peter W. Sullivan

#### Family of Peter W. Sullivan

One of Helena's great characters, Peter William Sullivan, passed away on November 14, 2025, surrounded by family. Peter was born in 1935 in the kitchen of the family ranch in the Canton Valley, an area that was later flooded to create Canyon Ferry Lake. The second of five children, Peter and his only brother, Larry, lived primarily in the bunkhouse with no electricity or running water, and learned early on that cows and chickens do not take holidays or recognize weekends.

His Irish father and German mother encouraged Peter to enroll at Carroll College, where he earned a degree in Business and Economics in 1957. Once he traded the ranch life for life in the Capital City, he never looked back. He began his career at the First National Bank with memorable duties like repossessing cars and loaning money to Big Dorothy for her little business up the Gulch. He also joined the Army Reserves, serving 12 years and was discharged as a Captain in 1967.

In 1963, the eternal optimist opened his own business that later became Sullivan Financial Group. He loved his work and cherished his clients. He coined a motto in the 1970's that delighted his family, though elementary school teachers were unimpressed when the Sullivan kids proudly brought pens to school adorned with the words "No B.S. from P.S." Peter retired at the youthful age of 80 after qualifying for the Million Dollar Roundtable for more than forty years and being inducted into the ING Financial Partners Hall of Fame.

In early 1959, Peter met a darling Irish Catholic girl from Butte, America by the name of Sheila Sullivan — no relation (as far as we know.) At the time, Sheila was visiting her mother while on a break from Catholic University, where she was pursuing a master's degree in theater. After only one date, Sheila returned to Washington D.C. and a correspondence courtship began. The second time they met in person, Peter asked for Sheila's hand in marriage. The third time was at their wedding on November 28, 1959. There must have been magic in those letters as Peter and Sheila enjoyed a deep love affair full of mutual admiration and genuine affection for fifty-one years.

After marriage, they immediately started a family having a half-dozen children in twelve years. Although Peter was busy growing his business, he rarely missed one of his children's concerts, recitals, plays, or sporting events. Fortunately (or unfortunately) his enthusiastic cheering could slice through the roar of any crowd. He also volunteered for many years as the Hawthorne area Cub Scout Master, as well as a referee, timer and judge for numerous events. He had high expectations for all his children but even when they did not meet the mark, they felt his unconditional love and unwavering support. The children were encouraged to explore the world, and you could count on Sheila heading up a trip to visit with Porter Pete deftly on her heels. She did her part by gamely joining him on frequent ski trips and golf outings.

Peter and Sheila's great love of Helena was evidenced by the time, talent, and financial contributions they poured into local charities and organizations. Peter was President of the Cathedral of St. Helena Parish Council, Helena Jaycees, the Helena Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) Montana, Helena Ambassadors, Live at the Civic, Metropolitan Dinner Club, and the Helena Navy League. He was a dedicated member of the Helena Kiwanis, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was a founding member of The St. Peter's Hospital Foundation Board and the Western Montana Catholic Foundation. In recognition of his dedication to the Helena community, he received many accolades, including the Helena Chamber of



Photo Provided by Family of Peter W. Sullivan

Commerce Businessperson of the Year, Helena Community Foundation's Spirit of Philanthropy, and most recently, flag honoree for the Old Glory Landmark.

As Sheila's health deteriorated in the last few years of her life, she told everyone who would listen that Peter should not spend his final years alone. Her death in early 2011 left a huge hole in Peter's big heart. Fortunately, near the end of that year, he met the ir-

repressible Barbara Harris, and a wonderful new chapter began. Two fun-loving extroverts, Peter and Barb rarely missed a community event. Among their favorite activities were Carroll College sporting events, concerts, plays, Kiwanis luncheons and Sunday Mass.

And the summer was not complete without Peter conducting the Star-Spangled Banner at the Symphony Under the Stars. They enjoyed traveling, playing cards (except euchre) and dancing cheek to cheek. Peter was warmly welcomed by Barb's three sons and their families who readily accepted him into the Harris fold. After many valiant proposals from Peter, Barb agreed to marriage. Peter was forever smitten by the endearing love and support of his Barbara Rose.

Peter was preceded in death by his wife, Sheila Sullivan, his parents, Lawrence Daniel Sullivan and Marie Sullivan (nee Meyers), his brother Larry Sullivan, his brothers-in-law Robert Masolo and Marvin Love, and sisters-in-law Louise Sullivan and Joan Farmin, and granddaughter Mary Marsden Sullivan.

Peter is survived by his second wife Barbara Harris, sisters Mary Pat Sullivan, Gay Ann Masolo, and Terry Love, as well as his children Jimmer (Brigid) Sullivan, Margaret "Peggy" Sullivan, ReNell (Jeff) Gradeck, Peter Daniel (Sarah) Sullivan, Shawn (Sunde) Sullivan, and Erin Sullivan. His grandchildren include Connor (Theresa) Sullivan, Logan Sullivan, and Mollie Sullivan. Amanda (Damon) Bateson, Meghan (Wade Harper) Rucka, and Nicole Rucka. Samuel Sullivan, Luke Sullivan, and Kate "The Great" Sullivan. Peter's great-grandchildren are Charlotte and Madeline Bateson and Danika and Mary Sullivan. Barb's children are Mark (Kelly Griffin) Harris, Kyle Harris, David (Heather) Harris as well as grandchildren Hannah Elz, Tyler Harris, Otto Harris, and Chick Harris and great-grandchildren Annalise and Robert Elz. Peter enjoyed many wonderful surviving nieces and nephews as well.

The family would like to thank the outstanding CNAs, RNs and doctors at St. Peter's Hospital for providing Peter with caring support and dignity in his final days.

Known to his family as Mr. Helena, Peter would be humbled if you'd like to select one of your favorite local charities to donate in his honor. If finances are tight, he'd be equally tickled if you picked up some litter on your next walk.

#### **Bertum Williams**

#### **Family of Bertum Williams**

March 27, 1935 – November 15, 2025

Bertum Williams, age 90, of Townsend, passed away on November 15, 2025, from complications of cancer. Bertum was born March 27, 1935, in Bays, Kentucky, to Smith and Martha (Holbrook) Williams.

Bertum graduated from high school and served our country honorably, first with US Marines for 3 years, then with the US Navy for 22 years. His primary occupation was a storekeeper. After his honorable discharge, he went to work for the city of Everett, WA for 20 years.

Bertum married Lorene Roark on September 1, 1957, in Bays, Kentucky. They welcomed three children together. He loved fishing and hunting and was a member of the Masons for 50 years, along with being a member of the Shriners.

Bertum is preceded in death by his parents, Smith and Martha Williams, and a daughter, Brenda 'Gail' Borninkhof. He is survived by his wife, Lorene Williams; sons, Mike Williams and Harold (Linda) Williams; grandson, Kenny (Kristina) Borninkhof; granddaughter, Richelle Borninkhof; and a great-granddaughter, Gracie



Photo Provided by Family of Bertum Williams

Borninkhof. Cremation has taken place and there will be no services held at this time. Memorials are suggested to the Shriners.

## Whispers of the Past

#### **Shelley Douthett**





In this latest edition of Whispers of the Past, I thought it was time to put on my big girl pants and write about some of the pioneer families out there. Why was this decision so hard for me? Mostly because I want to do them justice. Then again, I may actually be writing about someone people know of, or the local families know a whole heck of a lot more than I do and I somehow got it all wrong. However, I might get some feedback or information finally. For my first pioneer family person, this is about Florence Emma VanVoast.



Florence Emma VanVoast Photo Provided: Unknown Credit

Flora, as I've come to call her, came here when she was quite young with her parents, George and Mary McFadden, from Missouri and Kentucky. They somehow managed to cross the country three times in covered wagons trying to escape the Civil War before settling down to ranch in the Centerville area.

She was born in 1862 and had 3 siblings. She married John G. VanVoast in 1875 and together they had 5 children of which only 2 lived to adulthood. I've worked on the children's headstones which touched my heart and helped me decide to write about Flora. Her surviving children were Adah and Shirley VanVoast.

The VanVoasts lost all their livestock during the blizzard of 1888 and John went to work in the gold mines nearby, but due to health issues from his service during the Civil War and the kind of work it was in the mountains, he was injured and became ill, eventually passing away, leaving Flora with 2 children to raise alone.

Somehow, and this is a mystery to me, she managed to get into a photography school in Illinois. I'm guessing she relied on family to help her with the kids and finances. She opened a studio during 1900, on Broadway in Townsend, taking pictures for families and also going out and taking award-winning photos of the landscapes nearby.

She passed away in 1915 and all accounts in the newspapers and her obituary described her in very favorable terms. I found it interesting that she used her initials for her business name, F.E. VanVoast.

I've read about Evelyn Cameron in eastern Montana, another famous photographer who had to guard her identity as a female at times, so I try to understand why women were not supposed to do jobs like being a photographer. It also drives me nuts reading newspaper accounts where the women are referred to as Mrs. Husband's Name. It makes it difficult to discover anything about them when I don't know who Mrs. Husband's Name is. Enough about that. Maybe. What can I say, I'm a renegade.

After Flora died, her son, Shirley, destroyed her photographs and plates. I don't know why he felt the need to do this but I personally suspect it had something to do with being named 'Shirley.' Just a guess. Some of her photos have survived this purge because they were purchased by others during her business days or hidden away so he couldn't get his hands on them. Fortunately, a suitcase of her photos was found later about 60 miles away from Townsend. How did they escape? Can you tell how mad this makes me?

I think I would have liked Flora. She was one tough woman from the time she was little to the time she passed. She had borne the loss of 3 children, a husband, and probably a lot of other things we don't know about. She was involved in the community, raised two children on her own and touched a lot of lives, including mine. Maybe I should call her 'Flo' now that I've written this.

I can be yelled at or reached at rangebabe56@

gmail.com

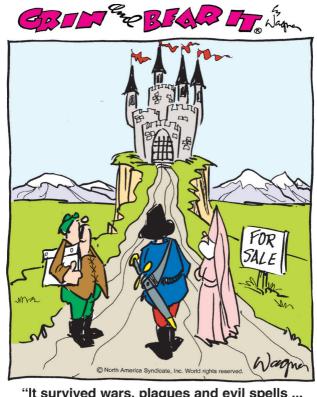
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps









"It survived wars, plagues and evil spells ... and finally fell to an adjustable rate mortgage."

#### Out on a Limb



EMILY GETS IN THE SPIRIT OF BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

by Gary Kopervas

KOPERIAS

by Dave T. Phipps

# Amber Waves









The Spats









THIS IS ALL





SINCE YOU'RE HIS TWIN, WE WERE HOPING YOU COULD TALK —







HA! BURLO AIN'T MAKIN' LANDFALL AS LONG AS

ARE YOU NUTS?! BURLO I HATES ME MORE THAN HE



WHATSA IDEA

OF THROWING

MY PAIL AWAY:







by BUD BLAKE









## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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#### **CryptoQuip** answer

completely support Wisconsin's pro football team: The Green Bay Backers

Group of folks who

#### **SCRAMBLERS** solution

1. Impart; 2. Clean;

3. Enemy; 4. Blonde

Today's Word

LEMON

# KNIGHT MOVES — Answer **CREVICES**

#### MT 43 News, Inc.

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document, word doc, etc. Pictures of documents WILL NOT be accepted.

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## Weed of the Month: Stinkgrass

Allison Kosto MSU Broadwater County Extension



A rather unique and interesting grass species, stinkgrass, has been increasing in the county in recent years. It is likely increasing due to changing climates and a longer growing season.

Native to Eurasia, stinkgrass was accidently introduced to the United States in the early 1800s and is now widespread across North America. It does well in a variety of soil types and can be found along roadsides, pastures and lawns. It's not highly competitive so it tends to be in places that are disturbed or lack healthy vegetation.

Stinkgrass is a warm season annual grass (life cycle of one year). As a result, you more commonly see it during mid-to-late summer. It's fairly easy to identify due to its grayish-green, triangular shaped seed head. It resembles seedheads of those in the bluegrass family but stinkgrass often has a much larger seedhead. However, the most distinctive characteristic about stinkgrass is its unpleasant odor. It can grow 6 to 24 inches tall but is more often on the shorter side in Montana.

Stinkgrass is poisonous to livestock, especially horses. However, due to the smell they are unlikely to eat it. Additionally, poisoning typically occurs with repeated consumption over an extended period of time. Typically, the quantity found in our area isn't enough to warrant concern. Further south, where warm season grasses are more common, it is more of a concern.

#### Management

The key to preventing establishment of stinkgrass is to maintain healthy vegetation. It's not extremely competitive so it will disappear or be a minimal issue if you have a healthy lawn, pasture or rangeland. In lawns, proper management of fertility, mowing and irrigation



Credit: Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org will eventually crowd it out. Stinkgrass also kills easily with the first frost which gives additional opportunity for cool season grasses to fill in.

Stinkgrass is also sometimes found on the edges of driveways, lawns or areas that are difficult to maintain healthy vegetation. In these areas, control may be warranted. It can be easy to remove by hand pulling or digging. Glyphosate products such as Roundup are the most common herbicides in these areas. Finale is another option. Pre-emergent herbicides can also be used but are rarely needed in Montana. Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicide. Common chemical names are used for clarity but does not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

If you need help with plant identification, pest management options or lawn care, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison. kosto@montana.edu.





Dear Editor:

Before he became known as one of our greatest patriots and our second president, John Adams was a renowned Boston lawyer who defended British soldiers in a trial arising from the Boston Massacre. During that trial he said: "Facts are stubborn things, and whatever our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

In responding to my last letter Mr. Garwood defended his earlier statement of facts saying: "It just depends on where people GET their "facts" as to what they are." NO Mr. Garwood, the term "facts" does not belong in quotation marks. Facts are the truth. They are indelible. They do not depend on their source for their accuracy. There are no "alternative facts" as one of Trump's acolytes once claimed. Something is either true or it is not and whether you heard it on FOX or CNN or Newsmax or NBC doesn't change its character as true or false.

Readers can decide for themselves what they choose to believe and distinguish between fact and fiction. I only hope that in doing so they will consider that the source they are relying upon may not be telling the truth.

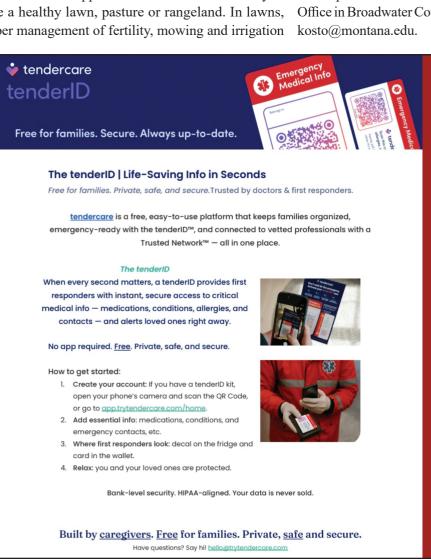
#### Thomas Budewitz

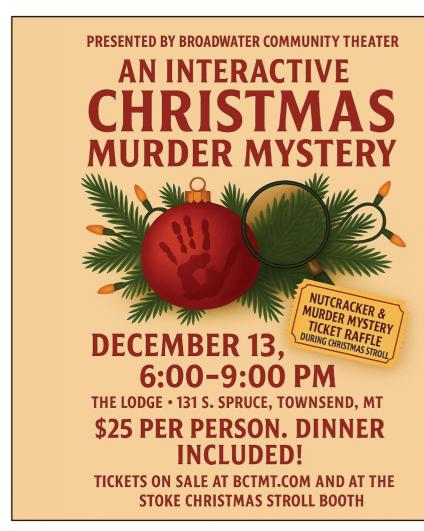
Townsend



MT43 News is reaching out to our East Helena supporters in hopes to expand your local news!

Please send your stories and free event information to mt43news@mt43news.com or call 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday!





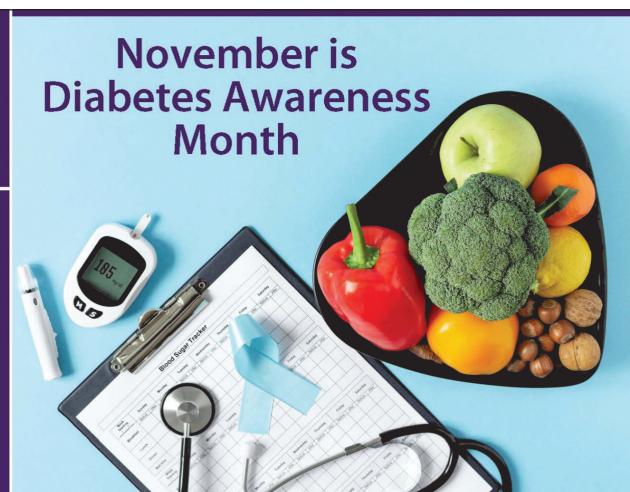


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# November 27

1902

Local News

The pond north of town being frozen over, skates have been in demand during the week.

J.L. Moore and John Starkweather got off for Missouri with their two cars of fine horses the first of this week. Jim thinks he will have a fine time among old friends this winter, and says he will show Missourians the choicest band of horses they ever looked at.

I have moved my millinery stock to my residence on Oak St. and will have a full line of millinery goods there on display until the spring trade opens, when I will move back to Main St. – Mrs. M. McCuin

Miss Lizzie Parker has closed her school on Beaver Creek and is in Townsend for the winter.

Among those who attended the Yeomen ball at Winston Wednesday evening were the Misses Rena Schaff, Dora Maxwell, Minnie Brisbin, Christine, Erickson, Cora Averill, Lillie Doggett, Carrie Hollaway and Messrs. Geo. Seibold, Dan McLean, Frank Bowen, W.A. Duff, Fred Averill, A. J. Simpson. These young people went up on the 4-47 and came back on the 1-53, reporting a par excellent time.

#### 1941

Boy Scout Attendance Reported Very Good Five scouts of Troop 98 have had perfect attendance for the last seven meetings. They are James Healy, Pat Ragen, Don Sheilds, Bill Stimpson and Fred Stimpson. Jimmy Myers and Mike Gabisch have had perfect attendance for six of these meetings. The average attendance for these seven meetings is eighteen. Thirty-two boys have memberships or are interested in joining. Of these thirty-two only three have not attended meetings this fall. New

Bobby Diehl, Peter Barker, Tommy Cotter, and a.m. to get ready to catch the bus for school. Francis O'Neal.

1958

Radersburg News

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lavinder and son of Townsend have moved to the Riverside Ranch where they will live this winter.

Mrs. O.J. Allen is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Art Roberts, at Deep Creek for a few days.

Mary Sue Lampman and children and Mrs. W.A. Miller and daughter, Clara, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Cass Sunday.

Mrs. Johnny Ragen and children visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, here Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams were shopping in Helena Sunday and also visited their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams and JoAnn. Mrs. W.D. Williams and Mrs. Minnie Doughty

attended Womans Club at Mrs. Kate Hunsaker's Thursday. Mrs. G.W. Grandchamps, who has been visiting friends in Thompson Falls and Missoula for the

past month, returned home Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Doughty spent Friday in

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Welch of Townsend visited

friends here Thursday.

Celebrated Birthday

Miss Terri Ralls celebrated her 16th birthday Sunday, Nov. 23 by having Miss Kay Thompson and Miss Linda Moudree of Townsend and Miss Merrilee Miller of Radersburg as luncheon guests. The girls were joined by Miss Alberta Thurston at dinner for cake and ice cream, the tradition of all birthday parties. After the afternoon and evening spent at Terri's home, the girls went to the home of Erma Patterson, where they were joined by Miss Jane Huth of Townsend. They had loads of fun at a slumber party, but not much slumber. They were

scouts and prospective scouts are Jack Shields, so sleepy when it came time to get up before 7:00

Four Bulldog Footballers Named All-Conference The 1975 All-Conference football teams have been selected, with four Bulldogs being selected to the two offensive and defensive teams. Selected to the first team defensive unit was linebacker, Tim McCoy. Tim led the Bulldogs in tackles this year with 91. Selected to the second team defensive unit was lineman, Mark Chamberlain. Mark was second to Tim in tackles with 73 and led the team in fumble recoveries with 6.

Selected to the second team offensive unit were Mike Hooks as a receiver and Ed Shindoll, offensive tackle. Mike led the team in receptions with 12 and total yards receiving with 150. Ed Shindoll did a consistent job of blocking all year for the Bulldogs.

Legion Post No. 42 Plans for Santa Visits

Plans for Santa will have first call on the agenda of both the Broadwater Post #42 of the American Legion and its Auxiliary at their December meeting to be held December 4th at 8 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

Since they did not have a Veterans Day Dance this year the Post has decided to raffle a liquor basket to raise money for its extensive Holiday activities. The Legion's Santa visits over 70 homes each year, as well as the hospital, jail and rest home. He brings greetings to shut-ins and senior citizens, laughter to children, and extra necessities to the needy in the County. All of these are made possible by donations to the "kettle" set up each year on Townsend's main street and by donations from individuals, firms and organizations.

The Auxiliary will plan on helping to furnish Santa's goodies and aiding the Legion in sacking the over 600 bags of candy given out each year at the free show.



Christmas Decorations and Lights 50% Off!



## Volunteers Wanted to Help Decorate Broadway Street for Christmas Stroll

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Townsend Area Chamber members firmed up final plans for the Christmas Stroll on December 6.



The city-wide event begins at 4:00pm. Broadway Street will be closed from Front Street to the courthouse. Chamber members are slated to decorate Broadway Street light poles Tuesday, December 2, beginning at noon. Rotary members will help Pat Plantenberg light the main street trees beginning Wednesday, November 26, at noon and will continue until all trees have lights. Work will usually begin at noon. To volunteer, please call Pat at (406) 431-4615.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa will entertain requests for presents from children at a new location this year. According to Chamber member Doug Sitton, Tom Hay of Rocky Mountain Mini Cabins donated the use of a "Santa's Workshop" cabin. The building, now on location at the corner of Broadway and Front Street, will be decorated by Chamber members. The cabin will be placed strategically in "Phil's Forest" of trees brought in by Rotary member Phil Knaub every year. Historically, Townsend Elementary school students decorate the trees.

Members of the public who would like to volunteer, please check the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce website or call Doug Sitton at (406) 422-3426



Phil's Forest on Front Street with volunteers who erected trees in the rain on Monday. Photo Credit: Pat Plantenberg