



# Senior Dinner and Holiday Light Tour

MT 43 NEWS, INC.  
408 BROADWAY STREET STE A  
TOWNSEND, MT 59644-2323





# Welcome to Townsend's Christmas Stroll!

# Townsend Christmas Stroll

## Parade

Parade starts @ 5:00  
Enter your float today!  
406-266-0062

Follow Us on Facebook!  
@Townsend Chamber Christmas Stroll

### Hats & Ornaments

- Santa Hats \$20 each only 200 available! Winner gets Cash Prize. Purchase @ Various Townsend Businesses
- Townsend Ornaments \$10 each only 50 available! Purchase @ The Creative Closet Precision Business Resources

## Saturday December 6th 4 pm-7 pm

### Liquor Basket Raffle

- Canyon Ferry Brewing - 11/7-9th
- Townsend Drug & Spirits- 11/10-13th
- The Mint - 11/14-17th
- The Legion - 11/17-19th
- The Commercial - 11/20-24th
- The Betsy - 11/24-30th
- The Fishtale - 12/1-7th
- The Bunkhouse - 12/8-12th
- DRAWING @ The Bunkhouse 12/13 @ 6 pm

### ROBERT'S TIRES & GLASS

Windshield Replacement & Rock Chip Repair  
Locally Owned and Operated

Have Fun at the Christmas Stroll!

(406) 266-3142 | 304 N Front, Townsend, MT

Townsend Christmas Stroll: Come see us for Christmas Gifts!

Goose Bay Glass 101 S. Front St. | 406-266-4496  
www.goosebayhandblownglass.com

## Welcome to Townsend's Christmas Stroll!

122 Broadway St | (406) 949-0954 | (406) 416-3287

### The MINT Cafe

Navajo Tacos and Christmas Drinks!

Try our Homemade Hot Rum Mix!

MEET YOU AT THE STROLL!

305 Broadway St, Townsend

### ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS CHEER AT TOWNSENDS STROLL!!

Come by our office during the Christmas Stroll between 4 - 5:30pm, to enter a special drawing!

Ask us how to purchase a gift certificate for a subscription for the hard to shop for person in your life!

MT 43 News

Stop by during the Stroll for give aways and in-store specials!

Townsend Drug and Spirits  
Your Local Pharmacy, Gift Shop + Liquor Store  
308 Broadway St, Townsend

## BIG BELT AUTOMOTIVE

(406) 459-7529  
320 Broadway Street

Vehicle Diagnostics | Engine Repair | Electrical Repair & More  
ASE Certified, Napa Auto Care Center & Tech Net Shop

# Welcome to the Christmas Stroll!



### Bulldog Cuts & Styles

406-235-0817  
108 N Front St, Suite D  
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Full barber with hot shaves and hairstylist available.

Manicures and Pedicures

Flexible; By Appointment

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

Dustin Gillaspie  
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT  
406.442.0456  
fbfs.com/find-an-agent/  
dustingillapiemt

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\*West Des Moines, IA, Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Laramie, WY. \*Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR SM-B (10-21)

### TOPGUN Autobody

Townsend, MT

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

406-266-3110  
7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT  
topgun3110@gmail.com  
topgunautobodytownsend.com



**Dinner Theater, 1**

“Mistletoe Mayhem,” led by local actors, will help the audience decide: “Who Killed Santa Claus?”

Audience members will guess who the culprit is. The winner who gives the correct answer will win a prize.



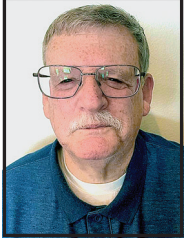
JB Howick as the sheriff, Amanda Hazlett as the soon-to-be mother, and KMAS DJ Angela Johnson star in the Crazy Christmas play during the 2024 Theater Dinner. MT43 News Photo

Past years have seen local actors entertain in comedies that keep the audience in stitches. Consider JB Howick in “KMAS, A Crazy Christmas,” who played the tough, but tender sheriff working his shift on Christmas Eve or Bob Saxby and Ruby Taylor in the English play “Dinner for One.” These plays were hilarious for both the audience and the actors.

Spencer has asked individuals willing to act in the play to sign up in advance when they buy their tickets, listed at \$25 per person. Tickets may be purchased online at [bcmt.org](http://bcmt.org), during the Stroll on December 6 at the BCT Booth, or at the Bird’s Nest. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, please call LaRinda at (406)475-4016.

## Did You Know?

Victor Sample



Did you know the MT43News website has recipes, obituaries and the Senior Center Menu for the current week as well as headline news and MT43News information?

At <https://mt43news.com>

You can subscribe or renew a subscription, get subscription and ad pricing, our policies for submitting articles and you can contact us through the website or, of course, via email.

If you are a subscriber, you can access all of our Headline news articles, browse back issues and search articles. Anyone can access and read Headline articles that are more than four weeks old.

Many times, there are articles that we think are of wide interest to MT43News readers, but they are too large to publish in the newspaper. However, we will publish them in the Headline articles on the MT43News website.

Everyone can access recipes from Eileen Clarke (Rifles and Recipes) or Jon Bennion (Wide Open Table - Montana Free Press).

Everyone can read current and past obituaries for the Townsend Area or for East Helena.

You can view the current week’s menu for the Senior Center and for future weeks as well.

Visit <https://mt43news.com> to take advantage of all we offer.



**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](mailto:mt43news@mt43news.com) or call 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday!

## Take Care of Your Mind as Well as Your Body

Dr. Mehmet Oz

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

From my experience, both as a physician and a patient, taking care of your mind is just as important as taking care of your body. It can help us handle stress, stay healthier, and even boost energy.

Take time for self-care to help strengthen your mental well-being:

Practice mindful movements. Exercise like yoga doesn't just boost your mood, it can also improve your memory and help you think more clearly. TIP: Use a chair for more support:

<https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/TakeCareOfYourMind>

Stay connected. Social bonds are essential for well-being. Reach out to friends or family for emotional support. If you're feeling lonely or isolated, consider volunteering to build connections in your community.

Meditate. Quieting your mind can help you feel calmer and more focused. Find a quiet place, take deep breaths, and check in with different parts of your body.

Remember, Medicare covers mental health services, including depression screenings, therapy, and counseling. Self-care looks different for everyone — every step you take toward better mental health matters.

*Stay well,*

**Dr. Oz**



*Letter to the Editor*

Fort Harrison is home to the “Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program” (RRTP). The program began in 2011 as the “Trauma Recovery Unit” (TRU) and changed to RRTP in 2020. There are two groups/programs: the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Use Disorder groups. The PTSD group runs six weeks and the SUDS - four weeks (though some elect to stay longer).

During your stay, one can expect to live in a controlled environment where regular urinalysis, breathalyzer, and contraband checks (including room searches) are conducted. Those aren’t too bad; you get used to them. The staff wants to make sure you’re as committed to the therapy as much as the crew is to provide you with care, and they do. Meals are provided (you get to choose what you want and really slick, they have diabetic menus with the carb content identified for you – provided you indicate you are diabetic), there are laundry facilities with soap (don’t bring “pods”), an adequate workout area, and day rooms which contain televisions, microwaves, and coffee makers. If you forget something, there are weekly trips to local stores and the small shop located near the Canteen. They even have reasonably priced laptops and the staff at either is incredible! You may even see a familiar face there too. Cell phone use is permitted, and Wi-Fi is provided for wireless devices. I used Mac, Windows [10 & 11], and various Linux flavors on the system with no issues. If you drive yourself, parking is located on the other side of the complex in an RRTP-specific area.

Treatment plans are personalized. Not everyone coming here will have the same plan, they often are different, and, since we’re human – may be in a different place in their recovery. We all respect giving one another the room/support they need. Some people are in a good place, some not. Social interaction is highly encouraged – as demonstrated by the two weekly two-hour and two four-hour passes – four total, five when there’s a holiday; naturally, visitors are allowed. Regardless, most will appreciate the therapeutic environment, structured routine, supportive community, and the availability of aftercare planning. They are not just going to cut you loose afterward; the care goes on. While there, 24/7 care and support are provided as well. The nursing staff is available around the clock and they’re ALL wonderful. The staff’s great too. Many are either veterans themselves, come from a military background, or are married to a veteran/active-duty member. They don’t just preach to veterans; they live as part of our [family/] community.

So, what to expect? There are classes highlighting Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) and Cognitive Process Therapy (CPT) to veterans. Sorry, families, due to the nature of the treatment, only the veteran can stay, but veterans can be accompanied by a certified service animal. Training provided is in a recovery-oriented approach that recognizes individual

strengths, values, and goals. Process groups where the nursing staff presents subjects, a devotional group, AA meetings, various community groups, an After Care group consisting of former patients, and trips to area museums. There are also trips sometimes to the hot springs, Mt. Helena trails, and Equine therapy. Emotional support dogs come in and there are sweats and talking circles (either outside or in a teepee, scheduled as well). There’s the clay arts trip to make your own ceramics as well. Other stuff just appears as well. Last time I was here, we saw “Almost, Maine” in the Civic Center. Did I mention it’s a great place to walk – just look out for the deer they are everywhere and magpies may even follow you around. Squirrels play and short-term residents’ cats may provide some hilarity as well.

While you are here you can see the Veteran’s Service Officer, Veteran Justice Outreach, get temporary housing, and be put in touch with a host of other services, including Vocational Rehabilitation. This is an incredibly well-rounded program that can help set you up with others before you leave here.

So how do I get there once I am in? The entrance is on the northwest side, building number 169, entrance 9. The parking lot is on the north/northwest side of the complex. You can drop people off in the traffic circle; there are a couple of hand carts available for your gear (bring a good pillow and earplugs – the halls echo), but you’ll need to move your vehicle out of the circle after unloading. It is an emergency area. One very important thing is that this is a non-smoking establishment. Federal lands prohibit smoking on campus, but you can walk down to the front gate if you would like to. VA police will fine you if you’re caught.

So, for veterans in need, how do I get into the program? You can have a VA counselor ask for you or call to see if there are vacancies. 24 people can be treated at one time, up from 8 when I initially came through, so chances of getting in are much better.

Is it worth it to get life together if you believe it is falling apart? Only you are qualified to say that, or a professional. These people are here for us and willing to go above and beyond to make sure we don’t go on sacrificing when we need not to. Give them a chance while you are giving yourself a chance. It is, indeed, a life changer. Will it be for me? I am not sure, but it’s better to have tried than not to have tried at all.

I knew I would have visitors myself, and indeed I have. I was never truly alone up here myself; I have my extended military family and two people who will always be here for us: Sharon Doig and Roland Heaton.

**Michael J Lohman**  
Townsend, MT 59644



Sharon Doig Headstone  
Photo Provided



Roland Heaton Headstone  
Photo Provided

## FREE Brain Health & Movement Classes

Hosted by Fireweed Human Performance

- **NeuroMotion Group Exercise Classes**
- **Lewis & Clark Library - Large Meeting Room**
- **Monday, November 10 at 10:30am**
- **Thursday, December 11 at 1:30pm**

**What is NeuroMotion Training?**  
A fun, interactive dual-task exercise class combining physical movement & cognitive challenges for all fitness levels and mobility levels to include seated modifications. The class has 10 dual-task stations that participants will rotate through.


**Who should attend?**

- Adults & seniors interested in improving brain health
- Those wanting better balance & coordination
- Caregivers & family members

**Research shows exercise can reduce dementia risk by 30-45%,** and dual-task training helps improve memory, processing speed, attention, and executive functioning.

**Space is limited to 20 participants for each class,** but there is plenty of room for observers. Reserve your spot today!

**Register Here:**



[FireweedHumanPerformance.com/myevents](https://FireweedHumanPerformance.com/myevents)



**FIREWEED**  
NeuroMotion Training  
*Move. Think. Thrive*

**Kathy Linton, Certified Personal Trainer & Brain Health Trainer**

[FireweedHumanPerformance.com/NeuroMotion](https://FireweedHumanPerformance.com/NeuroMotion)  
(406) 404-7890



Townsend School & Sports

DECEMBER

Fri 5 - Sat 6

- High School Wrestling at Cascade
- Middle School Basketball Tournament at Three Forks

Friday 5

- NO SCHOOL**
- 6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym

Sat 6 - Sun 7

- EMT Training - Elementary Commons

Saturday 6

- Speech and Drama at Red Lodge

Sunday 7

- 3:00 pm: Football Banquet

Mon 8 - Thu 11

- 11:45am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL - Library Classroom

Monday 8

- FFA Sweet Grass Showdown at Big Timber
- 6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym

Tuesday 9

- 4:00 pm: Middle School Boys Basketball at Three Forks
- 4:15 pm: Little Dog Cheer Camp - STEM room
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym
- 6:00 pm: School Board Meeting - Community Room

Wednesday 10

- 8:00 am: Pre ACT Test - Spanish Room
- 6:00 pm: Speech and Drama Judge Training - Community Room
- 6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 11

- Shakespeare in the Schools - Stage Gym Until 1 pm
- 4:15 pm: Little Dog Cheer Camp - Stem Room
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice

Fri 12 - Sat 13

- High School Basketball at Red Lodge Tournament
- High School Wrestling at Whitehall Duals

Friday 12

**NO SCHOOL**


- 4:00 pm: Middle School Boys Basketball vs. Ennis
- Big Sky Big Leadership MSU Extension - Community Room
- 5:00 pm: Noyes - Elementary Commons and Kitchen
- 6:15 pm: Elkhorn Basketball Practice - Elementary Gym

Saturday 13

- 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament - Stage Gym and 63 Gym
- Middle School Boys Basketball at Sheridan Tournament
- Speech and Drama at East Helena

Sunday 14

- 5:00 pm: Volleyball Awards Dinner - Elementary Commons and Kitchen



East Helena Schools & Sports

DECEMBER

Monday 8

- 5:30 pm: School Board Meeting at PPE
- 7:00 pm: East Helena High School Band Concert

Tuesday 9

- 2:00 pm: 3rd Grade Holiday Program
- 6:00 pm: 3rd Grade Holiday Program

Thursday 11

- 5:30 pm: 2nd Grade Holiday Program

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 5

- 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
- 6:00 pm: **FREE** Dinner and Discussion on Resting in the Busyness of Life, at The Lodge **DETAILS ON THIS PAGE**

Saturday 6

- 4:00 pm 2025 Christmas Stroll in Downtown
- 4:00 pm: Food Pantry Open House **DETAILS ON THIS PAGE**
- 5:00 pm Parade of Lights down Broadway St.
- 4:00 pm Santa & Mrs. Claus Pictures at Santa's Village at the corner by the stoplight
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Mon 8 & Tue 9

- 5:00 pm: Annual Senior Christmas Dinner and Lights Tour **READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 1**

Monday 8

- 5:00 pm: Lions and Rotary Host Annual Christmas Dinner and Light Tour at Townsend Senior Center
- 10:00 am: Monthly WIC Clinic at Broadwater County Health, 124 Cedar
- 1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club

Tuesday 9

- 5:00 pm: Rotary and Lions Host Annual Christmas Dinner and Light Tour at Townsend Senior Center
- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
- 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Wednesday 10

- 1:00 pm: Assistance in applying for and receiving Military Benefits at American Legion Post 42
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 11

- 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 12

- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore

Saturday 13

- 6:00 pm: Broadwater Community Theater Interactive Christmas Murder Mystery **READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 1**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tuesday 9

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 10

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting



LIBRARY 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



201 N Spruce St, Townsend  
Photo Provided

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](http://threeforkslibrary.weebly.com)

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

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? MENU? VOLUNTEER?

STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM  
(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).

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





Broadwater Food Pantry  
P.O. Box 1164 ♦ Townsend, MT 59644

Open House 315 Broadway

December 6, 2025  
4:00 – 7:00 pm

Stop and see our newly remodeled space and enjoy some Cookies and Hot Chocolate during the Christmas stroll.



Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.  
**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>

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.

HELP WANTED

Farm Help Needed: Harvesting and Haying  
Contact Leonard 406-949-0208

FUND RAISER FOR HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Townsend has served Townsend with thrift stores since 2016 and has given the community over \$112,000 in aid during that time. Our stores have provided volunteer opportunities as well as a place to buy necessary items at reasonable prices. Since renting a building is unpredictable, we are launching a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a building large enough to house both of our thrift stores. **It's time for us to buy our own HOME!**  
As we are a 501 (c)(3) organization, your donations to HHT are tax deductible. Donate today by depositing funds in "Helping Hands Building Fund" at Opportunity Bank.  
If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at Helping Hands Townsend 4 KIDS & U2 Thrift Store or call 406-422-6043


BREAKING NEWS

DID YOU KNOW...

**MT43News keeps you updated between printed editions?!**

Visit **MT43News.com**

Look for local updates and even a few newsworthy items that didn't make print!

 Like and follow us on Facebook!



Support

LOCAL

Businesses

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!

<b>American Legion Hall</b>  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	<b>Commercial Bar</b>  101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook	<b>Mint Cafe</b>  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
<b>The Betsy Sports Zone</b>  217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com	<b>Copy Cup</b>  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	<b>Mountie Moose Bakery</b>  109 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-5800 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Online Ordering: Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site
<b>Bread and Butter Cafe</b>  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	<b>Deep Creek Pizza Co.</b>  415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Closed Sunday Menu: deepcreekpizzaco.com Accepting Orders Online	<b>Mountain Grounds Coffee</b>  401 Broadway, Townsend Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 4:30PM Sat - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM Online Ordering: MTNGROUNDS.com
<b>Bunkhouse Bar &amp; Grill</b>  8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 SPECIAL: N/A Dining Hours: 10:00AM – Close Grill off at 10:00PM	<b>Fishtale Tavern</b>  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	<b>Peking China</b>  10 N Main St, Three Forks (406) 285-3225 Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM Menu: Google
<b>Canyon Ferry Brewing &amp; Taproom</b>  300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687 Hours: Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close	<b>Full Belli Deli</b>  209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 7:00PM OPEN 4th of JULY	<b>Rocky Mountain Supply Deli</b>  7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend (406) 266-3456 Hot & Cold To-Go Hours: Mon-Fri6:00AM - 6:00PM Menu: Board Inside Store for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza Call Ahead or Order Inside
<b>C Hangin” C Mercantile &amp; Creamery</b>  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: Facebook changincmerc.square.site	<b>Kick Start Nutrition</b>  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	<b>TB’s Diner</b>  316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM Specials: Facebook

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

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

Clue: I equals S

AVYJ AFNDO EFN ZYDD LBDXBM

XS Y KYQXZYD YLXDXJE JF

OJBGKXSB JVB FGXQXSI FM

JVXSQI? IFNGZBGE.

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KNIGHT MOVES

O	R	P
I		R
C	U	E

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

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Bob Schuchman

SCRAMBLERS

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

Grit  
ARLOV

Kind  
AHMENU

Vague  
ROCUBES

Prompt  
LIMPE

TODAY'S WORD

"The vet says he's a very \_\_\_\_\_ cat."

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A+ STORAGE

SEVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS  
BOATS, RV's & TRAILER STORAGE  
IN TOWNSEND, MT  
WE ARE AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED US!  
406-266-5377, 406-580-5425

ALLIED MACHINE

Quality & Service Since 1988  
• RV Repair • Trailer Repair  
• Pump Repair • Machine Work  
• Aluminum Welding  
406.266.3108  
511 N. Front St., Townsend, MT

BSE EXCAVATING

7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT  
BRANDON BAKKEN  
SHANE TEW  
P – (406)266-3772  
C – (406)980-1100

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

406-266-0080  
308 N Front St, Townsend, MT  
Mon - Fri 7:30 - 6:00pm  
Saturday 9:00 - 4:00  
Sunday 9:00 - 3:00

LEYLAND INSURANCE

TURNING 65 SOON?  
CALL ME WITH ANY MEDICARE QUESTIONS!  
MARK LEYLAND  
406-438-7315  
LEYLANDMT.COM

MADISON RIVER

7812 US-287  
Townsend, MT  
406-266-4278  
A THOMPSON GAS COMPANY  
Metered Propane  
Budget Billing  
Lease Tanks  
Service Department

Mar Painting

Licensed Insured  
Interior Al Nyhart  
Exterior (406) 223-3074

MONTANA HYDRAULICS LLC

DD Custom Flatbed Dealer  
Laser Cut Parts Fabrication  
Machining Hydraulics  
406-449-3464 | Townsend - Helena

Special K

Plumbing and Heating  
Danny Kurk- Owner  
Open 24/7 | Townsend, MT  
(406)922-1315

Schauber Surveying, Inc. Land Surveyors

Surveying Montana and Broadwater County since 1995  
Dan Swenson, PLS  
Bernadette Swenson, PLS  
64 Jack Farm Road, Townsend, MT 59644  
406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

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MONDAY - FRIDAY  
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Weekly SUDOKU

		6		5		4		
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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

ONE AND THE SAME

ACROSS

1 Enchilada alternative  
8 Threaten like a mad dog  
15 Recurring design  
20 Proved to be beneficial to  
21 Audrey of "Sabrina"  
22 "Magic Bites" author Andrews  
23 [Span] [Span]  
25 Some spongy balls  
26 Morning times, in brief  
27 Astrologer Sydney  
28 Films based on reportage, for short  
30 Heavy drinker  
31 Musical scale starters  
33 [Cogitates] [Cogitates]  
36 Severe shock  
39 Pear or lime  
41 Somber  
42 [Criminal] [Criminal]  
46 Surrealist painter Max  
47 Swiss peaks  
48 Ukraine city  
49 Having some benefit

52 Pick-up-sticks logic game  
53 Lad from London, say  
54 Old-time TV announcer Johnny  
56 Spike of corn  
59 "I — reason why ..."  
61 [Star] [Star]  
67 Reportage on American events  
69 Gas station brand  
70 Golf great  
71 [Residence] [Residence]  
76 Old Icelandic poetry books  
77 Coast Guard officer: Abbr.  
78 Strong winds  
79 — and aahs  
81 Raised trains  
82 Not asleep  
84 Obstruct  
87 Parisian gal pal  
88 Setting  
91 [Brotherly] [Brotherly]  
95 Bach choral composition  
98 Poets' Muse  
99 Pie portions  
100 [Dictated] [Dictated]

102 Accessories for cue sticks and black-boards  
105 Follower of "http://"  
106 Greek epic about Troy  
107 Mario's video game brother  
108 Real devotee  
111 Jazz singer  
113 [Character] [Character]  
118 Snaky curves  
119 Attack the integrity of  
120 Go in circles  
121 Butler played by Gable  
122 Foyer sofas  
123 For the purpose of diagnosing

DOWN

1 "And there it is!"  
2 Egg, formally  
3 Drains  
4 Up to, in ads  
5 Longtime foe of Frazier  
6 Interior designer, e.g.  
7 "There Is Nothin' Like —"  
8 County officers  
9 State east of Wyo.  
10 Mo. before May  
11 Slugging stat  
12 Avoider of high-tech stuff  
13 Element #18  
14 High, tight sweater  
15 Singer of lyric poetry  
16 Chilean cheer  
17 Process of being twisted  
18 Not blurry, as an image  
19 Most rapid  
24 Scottish cap  
29 Purpose  
31 Club fees  
32 German for "grandma"  
33 Sushi fish  
34 Concealed  
35 Metallic string  
36 Ooze through pores  
37 Trusts in  
38 Option lists for e-device downloads  
40 Hi- — screen  
43 Like poems of praise  
44 Lavish party


45 Oxidation formation  
50 Mattel product  
51 Old Cuzco native  
53 Play tenpins  
54 Bicolor whale  
55 Roarer in Oz  
56 Uncontrolled outbreak  
57 Having a pH over 7  
58 Appraise again  
60 Bird's beak  
62 Wedding veil material  
63 Very big birds  
64 Conk  
65 Low bills  
66 Linking word in German  
68 Former rival of Nintendo  
72 Sturdy wood  
73 Symbol on a musical staff  
74 Either director of "Fargo"  
75 Jedi master  
80 They're called to get assistance  
82 Pot payment  
83 Most fatigued  
84 Russia's — -Tass  
85 Came upon  
86 Obtains  
87 Leaves speechless  
88 Giver of an angry look  
89 Place to take a dirty vehicle  
90 How sausage links are connected  
92 Adjust to a situation again  
93 Bush press secretary  
94 "— Tok" (Kesha hit)  
96 Phone no.  
97 Nike rival  
101 Intermission  
103 That fellow's  
104 Ancient Greek market  
107 — majesty (high treason)  
108 Manicure tool  
109 Off-road trucks, briefly  
110 No, in Russia  
112 Insect trapper  
114 Allow to  
115 Start for teen or adolescent  
116 Film director  
117 Large number

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LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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, State of Montana:  
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, in Book 250, at Page 392, of Official Records.

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

Assignee: Wells Fargo Bank N.A.  
Assignment Dated: July 18, 2019  
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, of Official Records.  
The Beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust due to the Grantor(s) failure to make monthly payments beginning 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

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**

Ladies Who Ag Gather for Interactive Evening

Samantha Ferrat

Montana Farmers Union District Representative

Montana Farmers' Union members will gather on Wednesday, December 17, at the Lodge for an evening of fun and updates, according to director Samantha Ferrat. The evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. will feature a vision board creation for yourself or your farm or ranch. There will be updates on activities as well as an opportunity to network with other women in agriculture.  
December 15 is the deadline for reservations. Questions? Please contact Samantha at (406) 949-0869.

Surrounding Community Newspapers

MT43 News Staff

We have copies of newspapers from around our area at our office that you can stop by and read.  

- The Monitor (from Boulder)
- The Cascade Courier
- Choteau Acantha
- Three Forks Voice
- The Meagher County News
- Whitehall Ledger

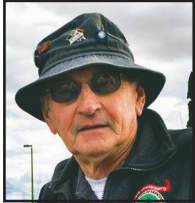
  
Regular business hours are 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Tree Board to Meet December 10th

Patrick Plantenberg


Tree Board Chair

Tree Board Chair





The Townsend Tree Board will meet at 12 noon on December 10th in City Hall to review projects completed since the last meeting on April 11, 2025, and to plan activities for the coming year.  
The April 11, 2025, Tree Board Meeting Notes are available for review at City Hall. The December 10, 2025, Tree Board Meeting Agenda is posted in City Hall.  
The Tree Board celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2025. Plans will be discussed on how to celebrate the anniversary. Plans will also be discussed on how to recruit more Tree Board volunteers, especially younger people. The meeting is open to the public and lunch will be provided.

Looking for firestarter, or extra paper for a special craft project?



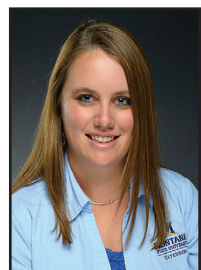
Stop into our office at 408 Broadway in Townsend between 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday, and talk with us about our old papers!



Funding Opportunities for Montana Agricultural Businesses

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Starting or improving a farm or ranch can feel overwhelming, especially when it comes to finding financial support. While there's no single fund that covers every need, Montana producers have access to a wide range of programs designed to help them grow and succeed. From state grants and low-interest loans to federal cost-share initiatives, here's a quick guide to the resources that can make a big difference for your agricultural operation.  
The primary agency in Montana that supports agriculture through financial programs is the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA). They offer numerous grants and low-interest loans for agricultural enterprises. Here are a few examples, but there are many more. The Beginning Farm and Ranch Loan Program is designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers with acquiring agricultural property at lower interest rates. Growth Through Agriculture is a grant and loan program available to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through the development of new agricultural products and processes. A local business, Bruce Seed Farm, was a recent recipient of this grant. The Rural Assistance Loan Program provides loans to producers to assist with purchasing property, agricultural improvements or annual operating expenses. For a full list of MDA's programs, visit their website: <https://agr.mt.gov/I-Want-To/Apply/Grants>.  
The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation operates the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery Program. It specializes in bulk low-cost trees, shrubs and grasses with a focus on native or well-adapted varieties for Montana. This is a great resource if you have a large project in mind, such as a shelterbelt, conservation project, erosion control or habitat restoration.  
Another agency that is often willing to partner with landowners is Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. They work with landowners to improve land stewardship through habitat improvement and protection, improving public hunting and fishing access, and preserving key recreational and historical sites. Some of their programs, such as Block Management, include a financial incentive for landowners to participate.  
At the federal level, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides financial assistance and loans to agricultural producers. Similar to MDA, they offer a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loan. They also provide a Non-insurance Disaster Assistance Program that provides financial assistance for crops that are not covered by traditional crop insurance, such as forage or seed crops. They offer a variety of other programs as well, so it's a great idea to register your farm or ranch with their office so you can receive information about programs for which you may qualify.  
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to conserve natural resources. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a cost-share program where NRCS works directly with producers to improve natural resource concerns, such as increasing soil health, reducing erosion or improving wildlife habitat.  
It's also important to note that there are programs available at the local level to assist you with your needs in agriculture or natural resources. The Broadwater Conservation District works with landowners to promote and implement conservation practices for soil, water and wildlife. They facilitate special projects, administer 310 permits for altering a streambed or bank, and rent equipment for improvement projects. The Broadwater County Weed District is responsible for managing and controlling noxious weeds in the county. They provide technical assistance, have a cost-share program for purchasing herbicides or biological control agents, and have equipment to rent at a low cost. Lastly, Montana State University (MSU) Extension in Broadwater County provides technical assistance, educational programs and services in a variety of areas, including pest identification and management, crops, grazing management and much more. MSU Extension also leases out a no-till drill and can help with soil and forage testing.  
I've shared many programs that can help Montana producers, but I know there are more out there. If you have additional resources, I'd love to hear from you so we can keep this list growing. Beyond government programs, numerous nonprofits also offer funding and technical assistance for projects that align with their mission. For a comprehensive list or to share ideas, contact my office at 406-266-9242 or email me at [allison.kosto@montana.edu](mailto:allison.kosto@montana.edu).



## Fake ‘Windows Update’ Malware Scam

Mikael Markander  
*PC World Contributor*

Editor's Note: It seems like I am updating Windows all the time. I do it several times a month. Updating Windows is an automated process that generally require little or no effort by a person. If you get anything that claims to be a Windows Update that involves several user steps it is probably a fake. DO NOT install anything until you verify the purported update.  
Victor Sample, MT43News

*From PC World:*

Watch out for this fake ‘Windows Update’ malware scam that’s going around.

A genuine Windows Update will never ask you to perform this specific series of instructions.

This article was originally published in PC World. Security researchers from Huntress are warning the public about a new variant of ClickFix, one of the most popular scam methods right now. In this variant, you’re hit with a full-screen browser page that claims an important security update needs to be installed via Windows Update.


During the “installation” of this fake update, a hidden malicious command is copied to your clipboard. Then, you’re asked to press a specific combination of keyboard keys in this order: Windows key + R (which opens the Run window), Ctrl + V (which pastes the malicious command into the Run window), then Enter (which runs the malicious code).

If you follow the instructions as stated, the LummaC2 and Rhadamanthys malware gets installed on your system through a system of complex exploits. That malware can then be used to steal sensitive information.

It’s unclear at the time of writing how many users have been affected by the campaign, which began in early October.

## Montana’s Big Legislation Shifted 2025 Property Tax Bills

Victor Sample



The Montana Free Press Deputy Editor Eric Dietrich has written a very detailed analysis of 6 takeaways of the Montana Tax Bill passed last year.

TAKEAWAY 1: Typical home tax bills are down by hundreds of dollars statewide

TAKEAWAY 2: High-value properties got higher bills

TAKEAWAY 3: Some apartment buildings were hit by higher bills intended for high-end homes

TAKEAWAY 4: Small businesses were shielded from tax shifts

TAKEAWAY 5: Agricultural land saw modest tax increases

TAKEAWAY 6: And big increases fell on big business

To read the full article with complete analysis and graphs, read the Montana Free Press article visit <https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/PropertyTaxShifted>

## Lions Want Eyeglasses/ Hearing Aids

Bob Brastrup  
*Broadwater County Lions Club*

Helen Keller, in 1925, gave a speech at the Lions Clubs International Convention and asked the members to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness”. Since then, vision and hearing care have been the primary focus of Lions Clubs throughout the world.

The Broadwater County Lions Club conducts vision and hearing screenings and participates in a program to recycle eyeglasses and hearing aids. Eighty pairs of eyeglasses and five hearing aids were recently delivered to the program. Individuals wishing to donate used eyeglasses or hearing aids may deliver them to Reading Leaves, Opportunity Bank or Mountie Moose Bakery.

The club also provides assistance to qualified individuals for the purchase of eyeglasses and hearing aids. Assistance was recently provided for the purchase of a pair of hearing aids.

The income from the sale of those famous Lions Corn Dogs allows the club to support the vision, hearing and other local programs.

## American Legion Post #42 Hosts Free Thanksgiving Dinner

MT43 News Staff Reporter

How many people can you serve a free turkey dinner when an oven quits working? Answer: 85 people. That, according to American Legion Post #42 Commander Linda Cousineau. Linda said it was touch-and-go when the Legion crew realized they had only one oven to cook several turkeys and hams. “I hurried to Karen Susag’s house to use her oven for warming the hams, then hurried back to pick them up. It all worked out,” she laughed.

The dinner, on November 22, was free to the public. Linda said they advertised the event heavily online and in the paper and put up flyers everywhere. The traditional dinner included special salads, potatoes and gravy and dressing, along with several kinds of desserts. Several people came in, had free dinner, then stayed to watch the Bobcat-Grizzly football game.

Cousineau said the members decided to do the dinner because they felt it is one of the most important meals they could provide to those folks in the community who do not have family or have come on hard times.

Legion members who worked on the dinner included Dean Nygard, Mark Boaz, Karen Susag, Holly and Troy Hendrickson, Debbie Westfall, Bill Desfosses, Penny Nienow and Karen Kougioulis. Linda would like to thank all who helped with the dinner or contributed in any way.

## New AI Guidance for Montana’s K–12 Schools

Susie Hedalen  
*Superintendent Office of Public Instruction*

Superintendent Hedalen Announces Release of New AI Guidance HELENA, Mont. — Superintendent of Public Instruction Susie Hedalen today announced the release of Montana’s K–12 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance, a first-of-its-kind resource designed to help schools and districts across the state navigate the opportunities and challenges of integrating AI in education responsibly.

Developed in collaboration with the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) and education stakeholders statewide, this living document provides practical principles, policy alignment, and classroom strategies for schools as they explore AI’s potential to support teaching, learning, and operations while maintaining a strong focus on student privacy and local control.

“This guidance is about empowering Montana educators and districts to approach AI with confidence and care,” said Superintendent Susie Hedalen. “We’re proud to lead the way in crafting practical, Montana-made resources that balance safety, ethics, and innovation. By partnering with the Montana Digital Academy, we are shaping tools that serve every corner of our state. Our goal with this guidance is that students and educators will be able to approach AI with critical thinking skills and an understanding of the power of this technology as well as the ethical responsibilities that come with it.”

“We’re so happy to be part of this work and grateful for the Superintendent’s leadership in setting a thoughtful direction for AI in our school," said Executive Director of MTDA Jason Neiffer. "Through our Frontier Learning Lab, we look forward to partnering with schools across Montana to turn this guidance into practical strategies that serve teachers and students alike.”

The guidance emphasizes human-centered, ethical use of AI, ensuring that technology supports, rather than replaces, learning. It outlines clear principles for data privacy, transparency, academic integrity, and responsible innovation, while highlighting both the benefits and unpredictability of AI adoption. The Frontier Learning Lab, a branch of the Digital Academy, stands ready to aid in implementation of best practices around AI and provides trainings to schools across the state.

*Key focus areas include:*


- Professional Learning for Educators: Building AI literacy, ethical awareness, and confidence in using AI tools safely and effectively.
- Accessibility: Ensuring all students, including those in rural, tribal, and under-resourced communities, benefit from responsible AI use.
- Policy and Governance: Aligning AI practices with Montana law, local control, and tribal sovereignty.
- Implementation Roadmap: Providing regional support through MTDA’s Frontier Learning Lab, service cooperatives, and higher education partners.

The Office of Public Instruction will review and update the guidance periodically to ensure it remains relevant as technologies and classroom practices evolve.

AI Guidance for Montana’s K–12 Schools

## Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Daylene Hansen  
*Administrative Assistant*



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](http://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 9, 2025

**10:00 AM** Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025

**No Commission Meeting ~ Commissioners at MACo Conference**

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@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov)

Jesse Swenson  
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213    [jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov)


Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair  
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834    [lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov)

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

- Trust Board Meeting on December 9th at 11:30 AM
- 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)

## Americanisms



“The wilderness holds answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask.”  
— Nancy Wynne Newhall

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OBITUARIES

Darren Lee Buffington

Family of Darren Lee Buffington

Darren Lee Buffington, age 57, of Townsend, MT, passed away on November 20, 2025.

Darren was born on May 15, 1968, in Pendleton, Oregon, to his parents Tom and Karen Buffington.


Darren graduated from high school in Pilot Rock, Oregon. His primary occupation was a diesel mechanic.

Darren married Anissa Collins on May 27, 1989, in Townsend, MT. They welcomed three children together. He loved fishing, hunting, shooting and reloading.

Darren is preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Karen Buffington. Also, his grandparents, Helena and Emory Kruse.

Surviving Darren are his wife Anissa Buffington; his brother Brent (Rose) Buffington; sister Misty (Dave) Wadley; daughters Heather (Josh) Peters and Denise Buffington; a son Randal (Kara) Buffington; grand-daughters Amythyst, Hunter and Taylor Peters; grandson Triston Peters; mother-in-law Elsie Stroh, along with many nieces and nephews.

*A visitation for Darren will be held at Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home, 212 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644, on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Following the visitation, burial will take place at Deep Creek Cemetery, 50 Deep Creek Cemetery Road, Townsend, MT 59644. A Celebration of Darren’s Life will begin at 1 pm at the Fish Tale Tavern, 209 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644. Condolences can be shared at [www.stevensonwilke.com](http://www.stevensonwilke.com).*



Darren Lee Buffington

Photo Provided by Family of Darren Lee Buffington

George Roger Dundas

Family of George Roger Dundas

*May 20, 1952 - November 5, 2025*

On November 5, 2025, while a gentle rain caressed the Olympic mountains, a brilliant rainbow manifested across the sky, welcoming George Roger Dundas on to his next journey. After having struggled with the after-effects of a stroke in November 2024, Roger passed away in his home with his loving wife, Dottie Ferrell, and faithful dog, Trooper.

Roger, 73, was born in Bozeman, Mont., to parents George Willis Dundas and Ethel Margo Welch. He dedicated his life to being the best son, the best father, the best husband, and the best friend that he could be. While his towering stature often intimidated strangers, those who knew Roger were blessed with a friend who would give them the shirt off his back. Roger was a county sheriff in Townsend before moving on to work as a highway patrol officer in Helena. In Helena, his friends pushed him to go on a blind date with a nurse one night. They both worked late shifts, so they went to one of the only restaurants open at 11 p.m. that brisk October night. They had breakfast for dinner and that was the first of many breakfasts shared between Roger and Dottie during their 32-year marriage.

A cowboy through and through, Roger spent most of his life on ranches and farms throughout Montana. Even after he retired from patrol work in Montana and moved to Port Angeles, Washington, he continued to travel back to Montana twice yearly to attend his ranch.

He had the joy of teaching his kids and grandkids how to fish, how to build benches, birdhouses, sheds, and greenhouses, and how to properly care for the land.



George Roger Dundas

Photo Provided by Family of George Roger Dundas

Mostly, however, Roger taught us all how to live life to its fullest and never fully grow up. There are always adventures to be had, and he was never one to shy away from an opportunity.

Roger is survived by his wife, Dottie Ferrell, his four siblings: Patricia Toney, Terry Spatzerath, Brad Dundas, and Robert Dundas, and his four children: Jayme Johnston, George Daniel Dundas, Katrina Ferrell, and Greta Turney.


In lieu of flowers, the family asks those interested in honoring Roger, please consider donating to a local animal shelter or to hospice, which was an invaluable source of support over the last year for Roger and Dottie.

Townsend's Internationally Renowned Car Show

Staff Reporter

*Townsend is our little corner of the Last Best Place, so you can imagine the surprise when Jack Klara saw an article in the international magazine “Hemmings” about the Townsend Fall Fest car show. Hemmings is a magazine for car guys (and gals) that features all things to do with vintage and classic cars. Jack brought this article to my attention, so we are reprinting the editorial that was written by Russ Voorhees of Townsend and recently printed in the Hemmings magazine.*

Here in Townsend, Montana, we have a car show the first weekend in October to celebrate the harvest (Octoberfest). It has been drawing over 300 cars each year and seems to be growing. Our main street, Broadway, which is actually part of US Highway 12, is closed on that Sunday to accommodate all the vehicles that attend. There is a booth in the middle of all this activity playing all sorts of music, and as Pat indicated, it adds to the festivities. They even grant requests (within reason, I’m sure). Here are a few of the tunes that go well with car shows: “Danger Zone” by Kenny Loggins; “Runnin’ on Empty” by Jackson Brown; “Long Line of Cars” by Cake; “Driver’s Seat” by Sniff’n the Tears.



I am a retired aircraft mechanic by trade, but a car guy, as well, and the airport used to host an airshow every July 4th. I knew that lots of folks who attended did not care that much about airplanes, so I offered an alternative in my hangar. I held a Pinewood Derby using a 28-foot, three-lane track that I’d made. It was a huge hit. Folks were asked to bring a car of their own, or they could rent one from my collection. All of the rental money went to the prizes for the winners. I have two CDs of car music that played in the background. The tunes listed above were among the many songs.

If you happen to be in the Great State of Montana in early October, drop in at the car show and visit. There’s no charge. I’ll be near my black 2013 ZL1 Camaro!


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Jerky for the Rest of Us:  
Fresh Jalapeño & Curry Jerky


Eileen Clarke  
Rifles and Recipes



I love jerky just as much as the next guy. But I also like variety. Gotta admit, though I’m not fond of that liquid smoke stuff in most store-bought jerky, nor the price of said store-bought, and as I get older, I admit I’m not nearly as fond of jerky made from strips of meat. (My dentist already frowns on my opening shelled pistachios with my teeth....) So how many reasons does that make? Several, I’m sure, for why I decided to make my own jerky, and make it from both strips and ground meat, and make it with lots and lots of different flavors. A hundred and one, to be exact.

it shouldn’t be hard. (Pun intended.) As careful as you are, your slices may not be all the same thickness. Make it with ground meat and those jerky guns keep it all the same thickness, so it all gets done in exactly the same time. Plus a ground meat jerky recipe lets us use birds like geese and ducks for these tasty tidbits. (Do sliced jerky with birds, and you’d only get a few jerky-sized slices and they’d be of uneven thickness. A ‘recipe’ for overcooked jerky. Grinding is the simple answer.)

One note of caution: the hottest part of the jalapeno pepper is the seeds and white membrane inside. If you love heat, chop them into the jerky mix. If you’re looking for dynamic flavor but not fire, trim them off before mincing. Either way, use rubber gloves to handle the peppers so you don’t end up with an eye-full.



Shaping with a jerky gun

Photo Credit: Eileen Clarke

Fresh Jalapeño & Curry Jerky

*1 pound any ground red meat, including big game and waterfowl or dark upland birds*

Ingredients

15 ounces ground meat  
1 ounce ground beef fat (about 2 tablespoons, 6%)  
2 tablespoons minced Jalapeño pepper (about 1 medium-sized pepper)  
2 tablespoons minced garlic (about 4 good-sized cloves)  
2 teaspoons curry powder  
1½ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes

Preparation

Mix the ingredients together well, and place in a tightly sealed plastic bag or storage container. Let it sit overnight in the refrigerator to let the flavor develop. To taste: cook a 1-inch ball of mix for 15-20 seconds in the microwave.

Cooking

- Shape the jerky with a jerky gun and arrange the jerky strips on grids over foil-lined drip pans. Preheat the oven to 160°F and cook about 3-4 hours. When cooked, some fat will rise to the top in wet drops. You can wipe it off with paper toweling or just leave it alone.
- Let the jerky cool and air dry in the turned-off oven or on the counter for 6-8 hours, then store in resealable plastic bags. You can store your jerky in the fridge for 2-3 weeks, or in the freezer up to 3 months.

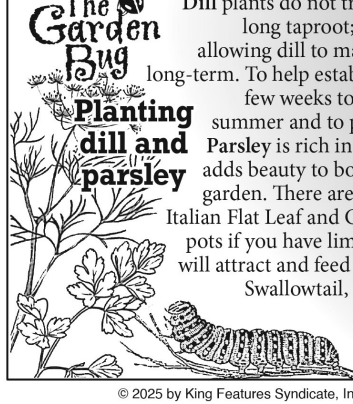
Stalking the Wild Jerky has 101 differently flavored jerkies, both sliced and ground, and recipes for red meat (deer, antelope, elk, moose), white meat (wild pigs, turkey) and that other red meat (waterfowl and sage and sharptail grouse). It’s available at Riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273. \$5 off when you enter MT43 in the coupon box.

The Garden Bug

Planting dill and parsley

Dill plants do not transplant easily due to their long taproot; create a permanent bed by allowing dill to mature and self-seed over the long-term. To help establish, plant new seeds every few weeks to ensure an ample supply all summer and to prepare for pickling season. Parsley is rich in vitamins and minerals and adds beauty to both the vegetable and flower garden. There are several varieties, including Italian Flat Leaf and Curly. They can be grown in pots if you have limited space. Dill and parsley will attract and feed the beautiful Eastern Black Swallowtail, and can feed its caterpillars as well. - Brenda Weaver

Source: extension.psu.edu



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## On the Road with Some of Townsend's History



The log house at 310 No. Front Street will be moved to near Toston. Joe Brancamp, Montana Mobile Transport owner, stands in front of the iconic log home.  
MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Joe Brancamp, owner of Montana Mobile Transport, heaved a sigh after he and his helper finally were able to winch the home at 310 No. Front Street onto his low-boy trailer. They were able to winch the cabin most of the way on the trailer with his Jeep winch. When the weight of the house became too much for the Jeep, Brancamp hooked the house to his semi tractor and winched the building the rest of the way onto the trailer – by hand!

Brancamp has lots of experience in moving houses, having bought the business from a Helena house mover 8 years ago. He mentioned that the grandson of the house’s owners had called him to truck the house to

St. Regis, Montana, over 200 miles away. When the man learned it would cost around \$70,000 to move the building, he acquiesced. “Matt Graham then bought the house and will use it on his farm near Toston for employee housing,” he explained.

The brown log house is one of the few iconic buildings on Front Street still standing. The log house was built by Brown Brothers Lumber Company for William Blakeley in 1937, according to the abstract of the property. It was later purchased by Willard and Rosella Whitehead, who operated the Texaco gas station next to the house. Whitehead sold the house to Wayne and Harlan Christopherson in October of 1972. Harlan and his wife, Larea, raised their family there. Harlan has recently moved to East Helena to be with family.

## Greetings from Italy: Obtaining a Permit to Live in Italy

Carolyn Peace

Obtaining an Elective Residency Visa (permesso di soggiorno) must start by applying in your home country to the Italian Consulate. San Francisco is the location for Montana. We had to each apply by showing that we had adequate passive income. With this visa, you are not permitted to work. You must include two years of income tax returns, six months of bank statements, letters from your tax accountant and investment institutions to substantiate the income. You must include a housing contract valid for at least one year, and that you have health insurance. Medicare does not cover you overseas. An FBI background check is also required. It's advisable to include a letter stating why you have selected this particular place in Italy. Your passport, completed application, all required documents and fees must be sent via certified mail to the Consulate.

It can take at least three months to receive your passport with the approved visa. If approved, you are permitted to return to Italy and is good for one year. Now you are ready to start the second part of the process. Note: Traveling with a passport allows you to be in the European Union for 90 days and then you must be out of the Union for 181 days before you are permitted to return. Once in Italy, you must register with the local police within eight days. You then go to the post office and obtain an application kit. Complete the application, attach all requested documents, pay the fees (generally 40 euros each) and return the package to the post office. You will receive notice of the day and time for your interview and fingerprinting at the main police station/immigration office (for us it was in Bari). It took three trips to Bari before we received the visa. We arrived in Italy in September 2024 and obtained our visa in February 2025. It is good for one year. You must renew it by obtaining the renewal kit at the post office, complete the application, updating any information required (any address change or income change), photo and fees. You must do this for five years and then you can apply for a long-term visa.



Trani Harbor  
Photo Credit: Carolyn Peace



Our Favorite Coffee Shop  
Photo Credit: Carolyn Peace

We would have struggled to complete this long process without the assistance from our English-speaking friend and realtor. He handled all the contacts that we were required to do. We did try to reimburse him for his time, etc., but he refused to accept any payment.

## State Contest Will Pick New Highway Welcome Signs

Eric Dietrich  
Montana Free Press

*This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and it is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. [https://montanafreepress.org/2025/11/19/state-contest-will-pick-new-highway-welcome-signs/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28257218%29&utm\\_source=2](https://montanafreepress.org/2025/11/19/state-contest-will-pick-new-highway-welcome-signs/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28257218%29&utm_source=2)*

Web poll open through Dec. 31 lets respondents vote for one of three options.

A web-based poll will let Montanans pick between three proposed designs for updating the highway signs that welcome residents and visitors to the state.

The poll, announced Wednesday by the Montana Department of Commerce, will run through Dec. 31. Votes can be cast at <https://visitmt.com/welcome-signs> via a web form that will require them to enter their name, email and zip code.

Respondents can pick between three options at the end of the article.

The commerce department and Gov. Greg Gianforte announced an updated state promotional brand in May, saying the new styling would be used for marketing the state to tourists, businesses and international trade partners, among other economic development efforts.

The department said this week that the contest will select a design for updated signage inspired by the new brand.

“Our highway signs give our families, friends and visitors the warm welcome they deserve,” Gianforte said in a statement. “I am excited to see what Montanans choose.”

While the poll accepts responses from people with out-of-state zip codes, Commerce Department Chief Marketing Officer Mitch Staley said in an email to MTFP on Wednesday that only Montana responses will be considered as part of the selection process.

The department says the state’s current welcome signs where interstates and state highways cross state lines were installed in 2014. It expects the state to install the new signage this coming spring.

Staley said the age of the existing signs means many are weathered, graffitied or otherwise in need of replacement. He said the cost of replacing 34 signs is “still being estimated,” but that it will be covered from the portion of the state lodging tax allocated to marketing purposes.



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## December 4

### 1902

*Local News*

For Christmas presents go to The Berg Hardware Co. Mesdames J.R. Marks and Chas. Smith came down from the home ranch Thursday.

Last Saturday closed the fiscal year and those who failed to dig for their taxes, on or before that date, will have to pungle a little extra.

Mrs. Geo. Faltermeyer and her two children returned home after a two months sojourn among coast friends. She came direct from Yakima and reports the weather very disagreeable in that location.

E.F. Kleinschmidt of Helena passed through Townsend with a band of fine thoroughbred horses this week. Mr. Kleinschmidt was enroute to the Judith country with his stock.

Thos. Linton, accompanied by his son, Pearl Linton, came to town Monday and arranged with J.W. Schaaf for board for the school term. As a consequence thereof, Mr. Pearl Linton is now attending the Couty High School.

### 1941

*Local News*

Mr. and Mrs. Dimmit Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Fred DeWolfe and family were Sunday visitors in Townsend from Helena.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Raymond Wine spent some time at their River cottage Sunday and called on Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Ragen in town.

A number of young men and women enrollees in state colleges were home for Thanksgiving. Marie Sterrett, Nina Koger and Bill Weed came from Missoula; Howard Shearer, Eddie Daniels, Thos. Ellis, Joe Kirscher, Edna Wallace and Lee Dobler from Montana State at Bozeman; Miss Alice D’Arcy and Norma Morris from Billings.

*Radersburg News*

Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Duff and children were in town Sunday, moving from the Harris house on Main St. to Butte, where Mr. Duff is employed.

Clarence Murray of Boulder and Mrs. McGaffick and daughter of Helena were Thanksgiving guests at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and family in Radersburg.

John Rothfus of Elkhorn was a caller in Radersburg Wednesday.

Bill Harris of Elkhorn is spending a few days in Radersburg visiting his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harris and other relatives and friends.

### 1958

*Local News*

Mr. and Mrs. George Lots and Mrs. Walter Ragen were in Great Falls Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fryhling and daughters took their Thanksgiving dinner into Helena to be with their daughter, Janet, who was unable to get home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Huth and family and Mr. and Mrs. Heinie Huth and family were guests of the Jack Huth family Thanksgiving Day.

Pat Nash of Spokane spent Thanksgiving holiday with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. F.P. Nash.

Students who were home for the Thanksgiving holidays were: From Western – Patricia Blaisdell, David Doig, Helen Carson, Barry White, Charlotte Williams and Beverly Dawson; from Carroll – Jack Nash, Bill Kearns, Barbara Neild, Duane Marcotte, Dennis Quinn and Karen Olsen; from Montana State – Gale Dove, Janice Schneider, Rex Smith, Glenn Black, Larry Heberle, Diana Schiltz, Larry Kieckbusch, Shirley Flynn, Madeline Massa and Phyllis Miller; From Montana State University - Don Mc Carthy and Bing Holling.

### 1975

*School Bus Driver*

W.A. “Bill” Coonis is the last in our series on identifying the school bus drivers in Broadwater County for the 1975-1976 school year. Bill and his family came here from St. Joe, Missouri, about a year and half ago, where he had been a school bus driver for over six years. Bill is the minister of the First Baptist Church in Townsend. He rises early each morning and makes the 66 mile round trip up Deep Creek and through the Country to bring 42 youngsters to school here in Townsend and then runs them all home again each evening. Bill drives for Merle Sears. Bill likes the driving and the kids. It keeps him in touch with the youth, so that he can do his other job, ministering, a little bit better too.

*Toston-South of Townsend-Crow Creek-Radersburg News*

George and Phyllis Rauser celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary Thanksgiving Day with little Bill Williams and family.

Barney, Jean, Dale, Steve and David Johnson, John Amour, Mary and Frank Slifka, Gladys Johnson, Davey Rauser and Scott Laird were Thanksgiving day dinner guests of Franklin and Judy Slifka and family.

Gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Turman to celebrate Thanksgiving were Mr. and Mrs. Tim Turman of Seattle Wash., Keith and Dixie (Turman) Barnard and Suzie of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Merle, Cheryl and Kristi Turman and Mrs. Simon.

Jean Lewis spent Thanksgiving Day with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lewis and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Olsen of Bozeman were callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Grimm on Sunday. Mr. Grimm had just been dismissed from the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hunter and girls of Great Falls visited with his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Scoffield and family Thanksgiving Day.

Dennis, Trenna, Scott, Brad and Lindsey Scoffield, Ward, Sherry, Jamie, Julie, Russell and Laurie Scoffield, Mike, Gaylene and Niki and Ray Scoffield were Thanksgiving Day guests of Chet and Ethel Scoffield.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kitto and family of Fort Collins, Colorado area visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Kitto and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Horne, Valerie, Karen and Deena and Mrs. Amy Fandrich visited with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Horne in Helena Saturday morning.



# Christmas Stroll

**Dec. 6<sup>TH</sup> 4<sup>PM</sup> – 7<sup>PM</sup>**  
**Parade @ 5<sup>PM</sup>**  
*ON Broadway*

**Christmas Decorations and Lights 50% Off!**  
*(Live plants excluded)*



**Historic Townsend Hardware**  
204 BROADWAY • PROUDLY SERVING TOWNSEND SINCE 1953

## Christmas Tree Permits Available

United States Forest Service

Christmas tree permits available from the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest for the upcoming holiday season.

Christmas tree permits are now available to purchase at any of our public offices <https://mt-43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/USFSOffices>

Located on the Forest or through Recreation.gov.

Details about designated cutting areas, dates, and types of trees that may be cut may be found at <https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/USFSXmasTrees>

To purchase a Christmas tree permit online, visit Recreation.gov and search for Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Christmas Tree Permits. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Fourth graders with an Every Kid Outdoors pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit (note: a \$2.50 reservation fee will be applied).

Cutting a Christmas tree improves forest health. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees that tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife.

*Upcoming public events:*

Helena - December 8: Nature Craft Nights - all ages are welcome to join us for Christmas Tree ornament making using pinecones and other forest items. We will meet at the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest headquarters on Skyway Drive from 4-6 p.m. Fourth graders will also be able to pick up their free Federal Recreation Lands pass.

Great Falls - December 13: Join us for Trim-the-Tree at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. We will make ornaments for the Center's tree and you'll also be able to make one to bring home. Contact the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center for more information.

Visit our website at: <https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/2025XmasTrees> or call us at (406) 449-5201 for more information.

## Excitement Builds for Christmas Stroll Saturday



Andy Newman, Doug Sitton and Anna Glueckert of Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce braved the cold Monday to decorate the nearly 50-foot spruce tree in Massa Park on Broadway. Rotary members Pat Plantenberg and Mary Mistek and John Rains joined them adding lights to Broadway trees. If you would like to help put up decorations and lights, please contact Pat at (406) 431-4615 for times to gather.

MT43 News Photo

