





## Bulldogs Basketball Teams Host Lone Peak Bighorns



Bulldog Varsity Team salutes the flag before their game. From left: Rylan Hoveland(out with injury), Trace Giomi, Dallas Fligge, Tannen Tuffelmire, Jim Tew, Bryce Lessley, Trenton Hoveland, Bradan Martin, Heston Vandenacre, Tavyn Anderson, Blake Graham and Josh VanZee. Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer for BHS Yearbook

**Bryleigh Erickson**  
BHS Sports Reporter



On January 8th, the Lone Peak Bighorns travelled from Big Sky to play the Bulldogs basketball teams. Since the Bighorns only had varsity teams, the Bulldogs' C squad girls and boys Junior Varsity teams played teams from Jefferson. There are not many teams with C squad girls, so this was a good opportunity for the Bulldogs C squad team to play.

The C squad girls' game against Jefferson ended with the Panthers winning 41-26. This was the Bulldogs C team's second game this season, and they showed improvement. Ella Toney led both teams, scoring 20



Bryce Lessley looks to pass the ball against Lone Pine  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer for BHS Yearbook

points. She made two three-pointers, and Kymber McCartney also made one.

The boys'Junior Varsity game against Jefferson resulted in a loss for the Bulldogs 55-64. Heston Vandenacre and Colby Flynn led the Bulldogs with 12 points, and each made two three-point shots. Jim Tew scored 11 points and had 6 rebounds.

Next was the girls' Varsity game, and the Bulldogs beat the Lady Bighorns 61 to 30. Kaitlyn Noyes finished the game with 27 points, and Bryleigh Erickson had 18.

The boys' varsity game started close, but the Bulldogs were able to pull out the win, 58 to 43 in the end. Trenton Hoveland led the Bulldogs with 16 points, and Bryce Lessley had 15 points. Tavyn Anderson also helped the Bulldogs, scoring 13, and Tannen Tuffelmire scored 12 points.



Kaitlyn Noyes lays the ball in the basket against Lone Pine.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer for BHS Yearbook



Trace Giomi makes a jump shot against Lone Pine  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer for BHS Yearbook



Tevyn Newman shoots a three-pointer during the girls' game against Lone Peak.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer for BHS Yearbook



## Bulldogs Basketball Statistics: *Lone Peak and Manhattan*

Clint Watson

### Townsend vs. Lone Peak

Townsend- 14 12 16 16: 58  
Lone Peak- 8 10 14 11: 43  
Scorers- Bryce Lessely- 14, Tavyn Anderson- 14, Trenton Hoveland-13, Tannen Tuffelmire-10, Trace Giomi-4, Colby Flynn-3  
Lead Rebounders- Tavyn Anderson-7, Bryce Lessley-6, Tannen Tuffelmire-6, Trace Giomi-5, Colby Flynn-4, Trenton Hoveland-3  
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-4, Tannen Tuffelmire-3, Trenton Hoveland-2, Braden Martin-1  
Steals- Tannen Tuffelmire-3, Bryce Lessely-2, Tavyn Anderson-2, Trenton Hoveland-2, Trace Giomi-2  
Blocks- Colby Flynn-1, Trenton Hoveland-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1  
Deflections- Tannen Tuffelmire-5, Tavyn Anderson-3, Trace Giomi-2, Bryce Lessely-1, Trenton Hoveland-1  
Townsend Shooting- 2pts- 20/36 55.6% 3pts- 2/7 28.6%  
Lone Peak Shooting- 2pts- 8/18 44.4% 3pts- 7/28 25.0%  
Townsend Free Throws- 11/19 57.9%  
Lone Peak Free Throws- 3/9 33.3%  
Townsend Turnovers- 17  
Lone Peak Turnovers- 16

### Coach's Thoughts:

It was nice to have 4 of the players in double figures in our home game playing Lone Peak out of Big Sky. We had a decent defensive game again, holding them to 43 points. We still have some kinks to work out on our offensive plays, but we have been starting different players due to illness and injuries. Bryce Lessley entered the starting lineup and has helped in offensive rebounding and scoring, capturing 6 rebounds and scoring 14 points. Trenton Hoveland, Tavyn Anderson, and Tannen Tuffelmire were the other starters scoring

in double figures.

### Townsend vs. Manhattan

Townsend- 9 15 13 10: 47  
Manhattan- 12 11 13 16: 52  
Scorers- Tannen Tuffelmire- 20, Trenton Hoveland-10, Bryce Lessley-8, Colby Flynn-4, Tavyn Anderson-3, Trace Giomi- 2  
Lead Rebounders- Trenton Hoveland-7, Trace Giomi-6, Tavyn Anderson-5, Bryce Lessley-4, Heston Vandenacre-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1  
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-4, Trenton Hoveland-1, Colby Flynn-1, Pierce Howard-1, Trace Giomi-1  
Steals- Trace Giomi-3, Tavyn Anderson-3, Bryce Lessley-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Trenton Hoveland-1, Heston Vandenacre-1  
Blocks- Tannen Tuffelmire-1  
Deflections- Trenton Hoveland-3, Bryce Lessley-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Tavyn Anderson-2, Trace Giomi-2, Colby Flynn-1, Heston Vandenacre-1  
Townsend Shooting- 2pts- 12/27 44.4% 3pts- 3/15 20%  
Manhattan Shooting- 2pts- 11/18 61.1% 3pts- 8/31 25.8%  
Townsend Free Throws- 6/16 37.5%  
Manhattan Free Throws- 5/12 41.7%  
Townsend Turnovers- 18  
Manhattan Turnovers- 15

### Coach's Thoughts

We played pretty well in our bout with Manhattan until they put a zone on us in the fourth quarter, and we just quit moving the ball. Tannen Tuffelmire was a bright spot for us, netting 20 points to go along with his 2 steals and 2 deflections. Tavyn Anderson, along with leading our team's offense, contributed 4 assists, 5 rebounds, 3 steals, and 2 deflections. We did have way too many turnovers at 18 to win this ballgame. Each week, we strive to get better at all aspects of our game, hoping to get the offense to produce consistently 55 or more points.



Tavyn Anderson  
Kelly Morris, Photography



Tannen Tuffelmire  
Kelly Morris, Photography



# Bulldog Basketball Takes on Manhattan Tigers at Home

**Bryleigh Erickson**  
*BHS Sports Reporter*

On January 9th, the Bulldogs basketball teams played the Manhattan Tigers at home for a conference matchup. The Townsend Boys’ Varsity team has a 2-1 conference record, and the girls’ varsity are also 2-1 in conference play so far.

The day started out with the girls’ Junior Varsity game. It was a close game, but the Bulldogs pulled out the win 43 to Manhattan's 35. Tevyn Newman helped the Bulldogs with 13 points, and Ella Toney scored 12.

The girls’ Varsity game was another success for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs won the game 70 to 46. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs with 37 points, and Emmalin Fischer had 14.

The Junior Varsity boys’ game ended with a loss for the Bulldogs. It was a close game, but the Bulldogs scored 46 to the Tigers' 54.

The Varsity boys’ game was close throughout the entire game. The Tigers ended up pulling away, winning the game 52 to 47. Tannen Tuffelmire led the Bulldogs with 20 points, and Treton Hoveland had 10. Bryce Lessley also contributed 8 points.

After this weekend, the girls’ Varsity team has a 3-1 conference record, with wins against Whitehall, Lone Peak, and Manhattan, and a loss against Three Forks. The boys’ Varsity team had a 2-2 record, with wins against Whitehall and Lone Peak, and losses against Manhattan and Three Forks. Next, the Bulldogs will travel to Ennis on January 16th to take on the Mustangs. On January 17th, they travel to Jefferson to play the Panthers. Both are conference matchups.



*Emmalin Fischer*  
 Kelly Morris, Photography



*Bryleigh Erickson*  
 Kelly Morris, Photography



*Kaitlyn Noyes*  
 Kelly Morris, Photography

# Bulldog Speech and Drama Team Travels to Shelby



*Bulldog Speech and Drama Team members proudly displaying their winnings at Shelby. Top row from left: Zoe Osborne, Shalyn Sentinella, Sarag Morgan, Aiden Thompson, Ava Boaz, Tessie Hughes, Lyrique Bryant, Chloe Johnson, Lucas Feller, Anabell Kline. Bottom Row from left: Simon Sanchez, Angel Sentinella, Coach Denise Bakkum, Hannah Hall and Noah Borrer. Photo Provided*

**Bryleigh Erickson**  
*BHS School Reporter*

On January 10th, the Bulldogs' Speech and Drama team travelled to Shelby to compete with their pieces. There was lots of competition at this competition with teams such as North Star and Huntley Project. Shalyn Sentinella placed first in Original Oratory, but hers was the only speech piece that the Bulldogs performed.

The Drama team placed first overall, and many pieces contributed to the win. Hannah Hall placed second with her Dramatic Solo piece. Kyla Meissner’s

Humorous Solo placed 3rd. The Classical Theater piece performed by Anabell Kline, Zoey Osborne, and Lucas Feller placed third. Angel Sentinella, Sarah Morgan, and Simon Sanchez performed a Humorous theater piece and placed fourth. Noah Borrer, Ava Boaz, and Lyrique Bryant also performed a Humorous theater piece, and they placed second. To finish the drama pieces, Aubrey Wells and Chloe Johnson performed their Dramatic Theater piece and placed third.

Next, on January 17th, the Speech and Drama team will travel to Three Forks to compete their pieces against some of the top teams in the state.



*Speech & Drama: Ava Boaz*  
 Townsend Booster Club Photo



*Wrestling: Gabby Rico*  
 Townsend Booster Club Photo



*Boys Basketball: Tannen Tuffelmire*  
 Townsend Booster Club Photo



*Girls Basketball: Kaitlyn Noyes*  
 Townsend Booster Club Photo

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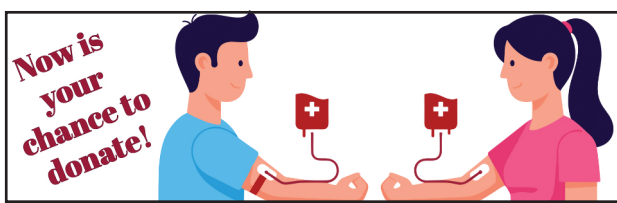
# BHS Student Council Hosts Blood Drive January 28

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Broadwater High School Student Council will host a public blood drive, according to Kaitlin Noyes, blood drive chairperson. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, the blood drive will be open Monday, January 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the high school.

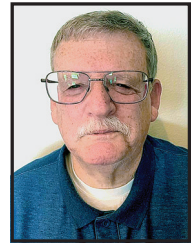
Students ages 16 and 17 can donate with signed parental consent. The red cross suggests donors make appointments by calling 800-733-2767 or entering BHS to schedule an appointment.

Kaitlyn encouraged both students and members of the public to get involved and give blood: “The event involves planning, communication, advertising and responsibility by Student Council members to create a welcoming, trustworthy event for the entire community.”



# What is AI?

Victor Sample



Last week, we discussed why Artificial Intelligence has become so important. In 2022, the company OpenAI made its AI engine, ChatGPT, available to the general public. Since then, AI has dominated technology.

It has become widely used to generate text and images. Many technology companies are laying off computer programmers, using the excuse that AI can create software faster and better than human programmers. Governments were rushing to create laws governing AI. Many “experts” are warning that AI will be the end of the human species.

In January of 2023, I was in an all-day committee meeting to define a new mission statement for one of the organizations of which I am a member. Our old mission statement was far too long and was out of date. We were trying to create a mission statement that was one or two sentences long that would effectively communicate what we are trying to do.

After hours of working on the mission statement, we felt we still weren’t really capturing what we wanted to say. One of the members suggested using ChatGPT to generate the statement. We were stunned at the result; it was amazing how ChatGPT really captured our mission in a very short statement. Ultimately, we did not use the text generated by ChatGPT, but we did use that



Townsend School & Sports

JANUARY

Fri 16 - Sat 17

- High School Wrestling at Choteau

Friday 16

- NO SCHOOL - Teacher PLC Day

Sat 17 - Sun 18

- EMT Training - Elementary Commons

Saturday 17

- Middle School Girls Basketball at Sheridan Tourney
- Speech and Drama at Three Forks
- 1:00 pm: High School Basketball at Jefferson

Monday 19

- FFA District Speaking and Horse at Dillon
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Girls Basketball at Livingston

Tue 20 - Thu 22

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

Tuesday 20

- FFA KMON at Great Falls
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Girls Basketball at Ennis
- 7:00 pm: Speech & Drama Showcase/Senior Night in the Stage Gym

Wednesday 21

- FFA KMON at Great Falls
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gym - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 22

- 4:00 pm: High School Basketball at Whitehall

Fri 23 - Sat 24

- High School Wrestling - Townsend B/C Duals
- Middle School Girls Basketball at Three Forks Tourney

Friday 23

- NO SCHOOL

Saturday 24

- Divisional Speech @ Drama at Boulder



East Helena Schools & Sports

JANUARY

Friday 16

- 3:00 pm: All Boys and Girls Basketball @ Lockwood

Saturday 17

- 1:00 pm: All Boys and Girls Basketball @ Laurel

Monday 19

- NO SCHOOL
- 6:30 pm: Booster Club Meeting EHHS

Wednesday 21

- END of 1st Semester

Thursday 22

- 5th Grade Ski Day
- 3:00 pm: All Boys and Girls Basketball at Park

Saturday 24

- 1:00 pm: All EHHS Boys Basketball at Billings Central

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.



201 N Spruce St, Townsend  
Photo Provided

EAST HELENA LIBRARY 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



Lewis & Clark Library East Helena Branch, 16 E Main Street in East Helena.  
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

JANUARY

Friday 16

- 3:00 pm: Matinee Movie for Adults: Based on the book written by Fannie Flagg, "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe"

Monday 19

- Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. DayThursday 15

Thursday 22

- 4:00 p.m. East Helena Friends of the Library Quarterly Meeting. Discussion about establishing new East Helena Library building. Open to the public

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Tuesday 20

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 21

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting
- 6:00 pm: Airport Board



BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Friday 16

- 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 and Coffee Nook

Saturday 17

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

Tuesday 20

- 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 21

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

Thursday 22

- 4:00 pm: Will Wertz Surprise Retirement Party **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
- 6:00 pm: Chamber of Commerce New Year Potluck & Planning Meeting at American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 23

- 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 and Coffee Nook

Saturday 24

- 10:00 am: 2nd Annual Radersburg Ramble at Historic Radersburg School
- Fireside Gala Dinner at Holy Cross, 101 S Walnut **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR RESERVATIONS**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Monday 26

- 6:00 pm: Far Out and Waiting Workshop on EMT Skills at Townsend Schools Community Room **READ MORE ON PAGE 1**
- Wednesday 28
- 10:30 am - 4:30pm Blood Drive at Broadwater High School **READ ARTICLE ON PAGE 3**

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!



Surprise Retirement Celebration for Will Wertz

Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 4:00- 6:00PM

At the Flynn Building, 416 Broadway, in Townsend

Fireside Gala

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Steak Dinner \$50/plate

Reservations : 406-266-4811



101 S. Walnut St. Holy Cross Church

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.  
Next meeting: February 18th, 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? 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).

LOCAL WORK HELP WANTED

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

Job Posting

Toston Irrigation District is hiring a person to maintain and distribute water.  
Contact Leonard at 406-949-0208 or by email [tid@mt.net](mailto:tid@mt.net)



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

Broadwater Food Pantry, 315 Broadway, Townsend, MT

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable): January 3rd, 17th and 31st 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Donations of food items are accepted Fridays Jan 2nd, 16th and 30th 9:00 to 11:00am

Monetary donations can be mailed to Broadwater Food Pantry, PO Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644

Donation boxes are available at Bob's Market at check stands.

Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from local churches. The month of January is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

For questions, donations, appointments and emergency food supplies call 406-980-0800.



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Dates and times may vary due  
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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 Thursdays 5:00PM= <b>FREE Community Dinner</b> SPECIAL Event with Food: N/A 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: Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM Closed Monday & Tuesday 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 changinmerc.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: H equals S

VPHHS DK VKUWICITSH ZJIQJ

YIW SUH ORWSIRH MREK

CICRTPUSIJ IY HMPEEX NPNX

NIDSJKH: JKQ XPZ OSUX.

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

Discuss  
ENFORC

Inherent  
ANTENI

Classic  
GIANTEV

Plod  
MCHEES

TODAY'S WORD

"Frankly, I'm against aid to education — we've got too many educated \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ hand as it is."

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Saturday 9:00 - 4:00  
Sunday 9:00 - 3:00

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406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

**CONTACT MT43 NEWS TO LIST YOUR BUSINESS NOW!**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
10:00AM - 2:00PM  
408 BROADWAY, TOWNSEND  
406.266.0086

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Easy to carry  
9 CFO's deg., perhaps  
12 Hacks off  
16 U.S. soldiers  
19 Priest, at a baptism  
20 Alley -  
21 Pendant gem  
22 Period  
23 Medical operation led by a wizard?  
26 Phone no.  
27 Crusty treat  
28 Harbinger  
29 Make sharp  
30 Toon skunk  
31 Bow shooter's attention?  
36 Manhole lid, e.g.?  
38 — avis  
39 Sad, to Sartre  
41 City in western New York  
42 Muscat native who regularly attends Mass?  
47 Kia crossover SUV model  
49 "— of the North" (1922 documentary)  
50 Derivation of a word: Abbr.  
51 Tax IDs  
52 London or Leeds native  
53 Onetime Texaco rival  
55 Mined stuff  
57 Turks and — Islands  
62 Olive of "Popeye"  
63 Grill residue  
64 Like a cream-colored skeleton?  
67 Make flush  
69 Enclosed bill of fare?  
72 Showed on TV again  
73 Actor Silver portraying a guy escaping a burning building?  
75 With 55-Down, "My treat"  
77 And the like: Abbr.  
78 Face-off participant  
79 Elev.  
80 Kismet  
82 152, to Cato  
83 Remainder  
85 500-sheet paper unit  
87 Comic Kevin  
89 Roster in a mob film  
93 Preparing to install a steam outlet?  
95 One-off, as a committee  
96 Vouch for  
99 Writer Seton  
100 Winter storm conditions?  
102 Sort who doesn't think before speaking?  
108 Speak wildly  
109 Litigant  
110 Polite request starter  
111 Pro-gun gp.  
112 Soft & —  
113 Feature of this puzzle (hint: string together the letters omitted from the starts of 10 long answers)  
119 Lofty verse  
120 Notion, in Nantes  
121 Banquet dispenser  
122 Irredeemable  
123 Boise-to-Fresno dir.  
124 Scottish loch  
125 Mil. draft org.  
126 Stays with, as an agenda  
DOWN  
1 Vast plain of Argentina  
2 Broadcast studio sign  
3 Federer of tennis  
4 Deadlock  
5 "Life of Pi" director Lee  
6 Gas grill meas.  
7 Maui wreath  
8 Hosp. trauma pro  
9 In a demure way  
10 Cap'n's underling  
11 "Much — About Nothing" (1996 "Simpsons" episode)  
12 Sign off from a computer  
13 Candor  
14 Whittled  
15 Devious  
16 Settle a score  
17 "Let me say it again ..."  
18 Southern Italian city  
24 Very tall bird  
25 Letters after pis  
30 Flag holder  
32 "... unless I'm wrong"  
33 City in Texas  
34 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" actor  
35 Cereal grass  
36 Singer  
37 Swift pirate ships  
40 Border  
42 In a plane, e.g.  
43 Gymnast  
44 Dyemaking compound  
45 "— So Shy"  
46 Ear: Prefix  
48 Like many '90s albums  
51 Actor Penn  
54 — Tzu (dog)  
55 See  
56 Dark bread  
58 "— done it!"  
59 "Thelma" novelist  
60 Big speech  
61 Matching up, as files  
63 Vampire  
65 Lestat creator  
64 "So —" ("Very well")  
66 NHL's Bobby  
68 Actor Gerard  
70 Orderly  
71 Rams' org.  
74 "— chit!"  
76 Rent payer  
80 Suet, e.g.  
81 Roadie's load  
82 Suez, e.g.  
84 Positions  
85 Hi- — picture  
86 Steps onto a subway, say  
88 "River" New Age artist  
89 Coiffures  
90 Drivers' licenses, e.g.  
91 TV show created by Barbara Walters  
92 Rob of "The Stand"  
93 Edition: Abbr.  
94 — di-dah  
97 Dissertations  
98 Actress Garr  
101 Digression  
103 Author Rand  
104 Relief sounds  
105 Patella sites  
106 Artist Max  
107 "Midnight Cowboy" role  
110 Bus. bosses  
113 60 secs.  
114 Letters after mus  
115 Decay  
116 Prefix with dermis  
117 Nov. follower  
118 Type

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18	
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123							124					125				126					









January 9

Nancy Marks

MT43 News Reporter

Judge Michael Menahan presided over the following cases. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher brought the charges. The defense attorney Qasim Walid Abdul-Baki, appointed from the Office of Public Defenders, acted as a defense attorney for all cases.

Bradley James Wright- Pleaded guilty to one count of possession of dangerous drugs, methamphetamine and alcohol, a felony. Two charges were dismissed. Sentencing will be held on February 6.

Joseph Daniel Karr, Helena- Status hearing set for charge of 3 counts of possession of methamphetamine. Accepted one count; two counts were dropped. Karr was also charged in Gallatin County. His 3 and ½ year sentence was suspended due to the time already served from June 28 to September 19, 2025.

Bradley Mathew Heath pleaded guilty to theft of property by common scheme. Beginning June 7, 2025, in two actions, stole binoculars valued at \$1,600 from Rocky Mountain Supply. Sentenced to one year at the Montana Department of Corrections, subject to time served.

Christian Alexander Hospidales- arraigned on 2 counts of assault with a weapon, one charge of criminal mischief, and one count of unauthorized control of property. He pleaded not guilty. Released on own recognizance to a friend in Bozeman, where he is self-employed as a personal fitness trainer, according to his attorney. He is released on a \$5,000 bond. His trial is set for April 17, 2026.

Curtis Justin Smith faced a petition to revoke his right to be released on his own recognizance because he failed to complete his drug dependence course. He had been charged with 3 counts of unlawful entry, assault

Townsend City Council

Reviews Public Safety, Event

Rules, and Community

Projects at January Meeting

Rachael Brug

Staff Reporter

The Townsend City Council convened for its first meeting of 2026, addressing a range of topics including public safety, new event regulations, community recreation, and infrastructure planning.

Sheriff Nick Rauser opened the meeting with a detailed report on law enforcement activities for the second half of 2025. Sheriff Rauser noted that the department handled a variety of cases, including thefts, traffic stops, and several more serious incidents. He discussed the new secure impound lot on North Cedar, which is nearly complete and expected to save the city money by reducing the need for off-site vehicle storage. Rauser also addressed ongoing challenges with volunteer emergency services, emphasizing the difficulty in filling ambulance and fire department shifts, a problem he described as growing both locally and nationwide.

Council members questioned how unfilled ambulance shifts are impacting other departments. Sheriff Rauser explained that while deputies and firefighters often step in to help, the shortage is not yet overwhelming but is being closely monitored. He also reported that staffing levels in the sheriff’s office are stable for now, though two deputy positions remain unfilled as the city evaluates future budget support from county commissioners.

The council then heard from resident Daniel Smucker, who sought permission to set up an ice skating rink in Holloway Park. After discussion about equipment storage and liability, the council unanimously authorized Smucker and his volunteers to proceed with the project, provided they coordinate with Public Works Director Eric Crush.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on the city’s new event ordinance. The council conducted a second reading and formally adopted Ordinance 2026-01, which establishes clear guidelines for event permitting and public notification. The ordinance aims to streamline the process for community events while ensuring safety and transparency.

Committee assignments were also reviewed and updated, with council members volunteering for roles on various committees covering parks, streets, water, sewer, garbage, fire, and law enforcement. The council agreed to dissolve the weeds committee, citing effective coordination with county weed control.

Finally, the council discussed a request from Visionary Broadband to begin operations prior to the completion of a formal telecommunications ordinance. After debate, council members voted to deny the request, opting to wait until the new ordinance is in place to ensure proper oversight of broadband infrastructure projects.

The meeting concluded with updates on community projects and an emphasis on continued collaboration between city departments, volunteers, and residents for the year ahead.

and criminal mischief. Sentencing date is set for January 30, 2026.

Vincent Nicholas Padierna – Status hearing to decide on having a mediator enter the case. Charged with 4 counts of Criminal Endangerment with an auto. In April 2025, in his Corvette, he drove speeds up to 165 miles per hour. He was sentenced on March 6, 2026.

Samuel Nathaniel Cooper- hearing to admit evidence of 4 counts of possessing dangerous drugs, drug paraphernalia, driving without a license, possession of alcohol and driving a stolen car. He must stay in Broadwater County Detention Center until January 14, when he will be transferred to Yellowstone County Detention for prosecution.

Logan Charles Geick – Charged with criminal possession of drugs. He was appointed a public defender and pleaded not guilty. His trial is set for April 27, 2026.

Zane Alan Wallace – Charged with driving while intoxicated, fourth count, failure to report an accident and criminal mischief. He pleaded not guilty. His trial is set for June 8, 2026.

Andrew Michael Roberts – Status hearing to address 6 counts of assault with a weapon, assault on a minor. He did not appear. Attorney Bratcher reported he was released from detention in Gallatin County and is now homeless in Bozeman. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

Willie John Schwindt – issued a change of plea to no contest, a pleading which recognizes the charges, but does not admit guilt – on 3 counts of possession of dangerous drugs. Attorney Bratcher asked for dismissal of counts 1 and 3, but continues to charge count 2 of possession of methamphetamine. The judge dismissed counts 1 and 3. Currently serving a sentence brought by Gallatin County and asked to serve his term concurrently.

For definitions of Legal Terms, visit the MT43News website at: <https://mt43news-business-services.com/LegalTerms>

Broadwater County

Commissioners Open 2026

with Appointments, Policies,

and Community Updates

Rachael Brug

Staff Reporter

The Broadwater County Commissioners kicked off the new year on January 7th with a meeting focused on annual housekeeping, community engagement, and a series of board appointments crucial to county operations.

The session began with public comment, where commissioners highlighted two upcoming events for residents. Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and Great West Engineering are scheduled to present updates on current and future infrastructure projects in Broadwater County—an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly. Commissioners also announced the final stakeholder meeting for county wildfire emergency planning, set for January 15th, and encouraged community participation.

A significant announcement came as Aaron Reynolds was officially introduced as the county’s new Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator. Reynolds will be leading efforts in emergency planning and will provide updates on department activities, including upcoming tabletop exercises for local emergency preparedness.

In keeping with tradition, the board held elections for its leadership roles. Commissioner Debbie Randolph was unanimously elected as chair for 2026, while Commissioner Jesse Swenson was chosen as vice chair. Commissioner Lindsey Richtmyer noted that rotating these positions annually ensures a fair and balanced approach to county governance.

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing and approving a series of annual resolutions. These included updates to mileage, lodging, and per diem rates for county business travel—now reflecting the latest IRS mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile. Office hours for county departments were reaffirmed, with a reminder that some offices may close for lunch at the discretion of elected officials. Commissioners also set regular meeting dates, confirmed public posting locations for agendas, and clarified that working sessions may be held in various locations as needed.

The commission adopted updated policies for open meetings and public participation, including a five-minute limit per speaker during public comment, with flexibility at the chair’s discretion. Written public comments will now be attached to official meeting records if requested.


Board appointments rounded out the agenda. Charles Freshman was reappointed to the planning board, Gourd Pierce and Peter Rice to the noxious weed board, and Eric Stall and Doug Jones to the solid waste board. Lauren McLaughlin was welcomed to the fair board for a one-year term, while commissioners put out a call for volunteers to fill remaining vacancies on the board of health, parks and recreation, and mosquito boards.

The meeting concluded with approval of several county claims and a reminder of the essential role volunteers play in county government.

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.broadwatercountymt.gov](https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov), in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**8:30 AM** Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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

**10:00 AM** Discussion/Decision, MACo Property & Casualty Trust, 2026 – 2027 PCT Renewal Scheduled Property

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

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

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

Debi Randolph, Chair

(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

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

Lindsey Richtmyer

(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

[lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov)

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair

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

[jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:jswenson@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

- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 20th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 21st at 6:00 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on January 26th at 3:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on February 10th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on February 10th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on February 10th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 12th at 5:15 PM

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

SHOULD WE BRING BACK THE WEATHER? LET US KNOW!

406-266-0086, 408 Broadway, Townsend or [mt43news@mt43news.com](mailto:mt43news@mt43news.com)



Friday 16

High Temp: 38  
Low Temp: 29  
Wind: 8  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 17

High Temp: 42  
Low Temp: 28  
Wind: 8  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 18

High Temp: 46  
Low Temp: 32  
Wind: 8  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 47

Monday 19

High Temp: 47  
Low Temp: 34  
Wind: 8

Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 65

Tuesday 20

High Temp: 47  
Low Temp: 36  
Wind: 9  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 21

High Temp: 40  
Low Temp: 15  
Wind: 20  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 22

High Temp: 13  
Low Temp: 2  
Wind: 20  
Rain: 0.004  
Snow: 0.028  
Cloud Cover: 100





**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 Seth 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 ELCA meet.  
Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.  
\*  
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
916 Broadway St. Townsend  
Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255  
**Sunday:** 9:00am Choir Practice | 10:00am Sacrament Meeting | 11:10am Sunday School (1st & 3rd Sundays)  
**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



**SR. CENTER MEALS:**  
**JANUARY 19 - 23**  
  
**516 2nd Street,  
Townsend MT  
406-266-3995**

**Monday, January 19**  
  
**Closed for Martin Luther  
King Day**  
  
**Tuesday, January 20**  
Birthday Dinner  
Pork Chops  
Steamed Potatoes  
Sliced Beets  
Whole Grain Bread  
Apricots  
Birthday Cake

**Wednesday, January 21**  
Tuna Noodle Casserole  
Green Peas  
Carrot Coins  
Whole Grain Bread  
Sweet Pears

**Thursday, January 22**  
Sloppy Joes on a Bun  
Baked Beans  
Carrot Raisin Salad  
Plump Peaches

**Friday, January 23**  
Montana Pasties  
Key Largo Vegetables  
Sweet Corn  
Whole Grain Bread  
Fruit Cocktail



**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



## Did Townsend Get an Influx of Angry People in a Hurry All the Time?

I mentioned last week about folks who don’t know about the parking lanes and what to do at the red blinking light. This has intensified! Within the last 2 weeks, while trying to turn (going east) from Broadway onto North Walnut, I actually waited for an oncoming westbound vehicle to pass me. I stopped, as there is only one lane on Broadway! But NOOooo, some person in a flaming hurry (also going east) couldn’t wait. They passed me on the right, in the parking lane! Roaring passed going about 40 MPH. What was the hurry? I’m sorry if you were going to miss the “View” on TV. I stopped for all of about 3 minutes, whoa, far too much time, I guess.

A few days after that, I was going home. Same corner, same direction. A person was coming out of N. Walnut, turning east. Since I was going to turn to N. Walnut, I motioned him to go ahead and turn. Trying to be neighborly, he finally understood I wanted him to go first and moved out. He then gives me the Bird! What did I do? Folks more and more are saying, “No good deed goes unpunished." I guess it’s so, it seems like we can’t be polite anymore. Yesterday, while down on Broadway, some...person...sped out of a parking place in one hell of a hurry. Fishtailing side to side all the way. There have been several speeders all over town lately, on the side streets, too! All it’s going to take is ONE child to be killed, then all hell had better be let loose! If not...It’s open season!

Many people, even up here, don’t like the word "vigilantes". This is America. We were founded on fixing your problems! If you need to call the police, do it. If not, have you heard the country song: “Don’t try that in a small town?” Yeah, hey, new folks, this isn’t West or East Coast. Don’t be in such a hurry; you are on Montana time now! Most times around here, you will see a couple of pickups side by side in the street, the drivers talking. Most always, they leave plenty of room for others to pass. If not, they will say a quick goodbye and leave the road open. It’s a country thing, ya know.

Maybe if you are all in so much of a hurry, you should get an earlier start. Remember: too many children are walking around our streets; they could be hit and killed by some jackanape trying to beat the light. School is still in session. Watch where you are going! Stay safe; stay aware of people around you. Enjoy our...” winter” or whatever this is.



**The importance of snow**  
  
As snowflakes form in the clouds and fall to the earth, they collect nitrogen and other particulates like sulfur from the atmosphere. These nutrients will serve as natural fertilizers later on. As these flakes collect on the ground and form thick, mounded heaps of snow, this provides excellent insulation and shelter for the vulnerable garden beds beneath. The soil, the organisms in the soil and root systems are now protected from severe temperature fluctuations and icy winds. As the months become warmer, the melting snow gently releases moisture and nutrients into the soil. – Brenda Weaver  
Sources: nsidc.org, www.almanac.com, mothenaturesapprentice.com

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## Grants: In the Trenches and After



**Allison Kosto**  
*MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent*

This winter, I’ve done a series of articles on looking for and writing grants. This can be a long and tenuous process. It’s an exciting day when you receive an award notification. However, the work isn’t over yet. It’s important to meet the expectations of the grant funder and follow through with the promises made in the grant application.

The first thing to do is to read the award letter and agreement. It will outline how to receive the money in addition to other requirements and expectations of the grant. Sometimes the award letter is short and simple with few strings attached. Other times, it is long, cumbersome and full of details. Some grants pay in full upfront while others reimburse afterwards (or a combination). As you are reading the award letter, make note of the timeline and add these important dates to your calendar.

Before you even receive the grant money, it is helpful to develop a tracking system for the funds. Some grants require extensive tracking of funds, including submitting receipts and logging hours. Other grants just want to know, in general, that the funds are being used as specified in the grant. Figuring out a tracking system based on the agreement may save hours of time on the backend! If you are receiving more than one grant at one time, it is critical that you keep them separate for tracking.

While it might sound obvious, the next major step is to implement the project as planned. Stick to what you said you were going to do. If you are working with staff or volunteers, it is also important for them to know what the grant expectations are so they can follow the parameters correctly as well.

That being said, sometimes there are unexpected hiccups along the way that might require you to deviate from the intended project or plan. For example, the timeline changes due to a delay in receiving material. If anything changes with the project or plan, get permission in writing from your funder to go in a different direction or change the plan. Oftentimes, they are willing to work with you in these unique situations as long as you are still meeting the original goals written in the grant.

Throughout the entire process, communication is critical. Funders typically want to know how the project is going. Are things going smoothly? Are there challenges? What does the public think? What stories do you have to share? Share the wins as you have them. Also, don’t be afraid to reach out with questions. It’s better to get the answers upfront than make an error and lose your funding.

At some point during the grant process (ideally throughout), it is important to acknowledge the funder publicly. Many grants require it, but even if they don’t, it is good stewardship. Examples of recognition include a temporary or permanent sign, newspaper article or advertisement, social media post, mention at an event, handwritten thank you notes, or delivering a gift.

Reporting looks different with every grant. Almost always, there is a report due at the end of the grant, but sometimes there will be reporting throughout, especially for grants that might extend months or years. This is your opportunity to share what you’ve accomplished, data, outcomes, impacts, stories, photos or even reflections on challenges. It’s helpful to think through data collection early in the grant process, so you are prepared when the time comes and/or can do it along the way.

It’s easy to rush through the report at the end of the grant because you are ready to be done. However, spending the time with a well thought out report is important to end the relationship with your funder on good terms. It sometimes can also serve as a segue into funding for other projects.

As you wrap up the grant, consider staying connected with the funder and continuing to build this relationship, especially if there is the potential for more funding in the future. The entire grant from research to submitting the final report can be time consuming. However, when budgets are tight, this can also be a great way to expand projects or infrastructure that may not be feasible through traditional funding sources.



**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**  
  
God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him.”  
✠ Genesis 21: 17,18 ✠

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OBITUARIES

Michael E. Colbert

Family of Michael E. Colbert

October 8, 1945 – January 3, 2026

Michael Colbert passed away at his home on Saturday, January 3, 2026, after an unexpected illness. He was eighty years old.  
Mike was born in Sparta, Illinois, on October 8, 1945, to Edgar and Marie Colbert, joining three older brothers, Phil, Dave, and Don. When Mike was four years old, the family moved to Butte, Montana, where Mike spent most of his childhood. With four boys growing up in Butte in the 1950’s, what could go wrong? Phrases like “22-shells shot through the refrigerator,” “swallowing whole goldfish,” “forks heated up on the stove” and “tipped-over outhouses” were heard and debated in the stories that the Colbert boys still told when together. In 1956, little sister Leota joined the family, and Mike and Leota shared a special bond for the rest of his life.  
After his parents moved to Dillon, Mike finished high school there, graduating in 1964. He joined the U.S. Army, serving his country state-side for three years. Not long after his father died in February of 1967, Mike was honorably discharged, and he moved home to Dillon. He began classes at Western Montana College and worked at the local grocery store. He also met his “honey bun” Judy Tommerup.  
Mike moved to Missoula in 1968 to attend the business school at the University of Montana. Mike proposed to Judy in 1969, and they were married on June 20, 1970. Not only did Mike marry the love of his life, but he gained another big loving family. The Tommerups were always very special to Mike, and he, his father-in-law, Alvin, and Judy’s five brothers spent many hours playing smear, pinochle, and cribbage together.  
In Missoula, daughter Heather was born on March 30, 1971. In 1973, the young family moved to Helena, and Mike began working for the State of Montana Department of Labor, where he remained a dedicated employee until his retirement in 2006. In 1975, the Colberts moved to Townsend. Son Matthew was born on November 14, 1976. Mike and Judy, an elementary school teacher, raised their children in Townsend and lived in their house overlooking Canyon Ferry for the rest of their lives.  
Mike greatly loved the Townsend community. Sometimes to Judy’s dismay, he participated in bowling leagues all winter and golf leagues all summer. He was a dedicated volunteer in the March of Dimes and in the Lions. Lion

Kathy Ann Peterson

Family of Kathy Ann Peterson

May 27, 1953 – January 1, 2026

Kathy Ann Peterson, age 73, passed away on January 1, 2025, in Townsend, Montana. She leaves behind a legacy of love, creativity, faith, and devotion to family that will be cherished forever.  
Kathy was born on May 27, 1953, in Wisconsin. Over the course of her life, she carried many last names—each representing an important chapter of her story. Schleicher, her biological father’s name; Bertelsen, her adopted father’s name; Wyma, a married name; Anderson, her mother’s maiden name; and finally, and happily, Peterson, her husband Mike’s name.  
Kathy spent the first five years of her life in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, living with her mother, Jean, and her grandparents, Otto and Edith Anderson, where she was deeply loved and thoroughly spoiled. When her mother married Hugh Bertelsen, Kathy eventually became the oldest of four children, a role she never truly enjoyed, as her three younger siblings were often loud and, in her opinion, annoying.  
Kathy was popular, beautiful, talented, smart, and fiercely independent. She was a gifted musician who played piano and served as the organist at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Baldwin, Wisconsin. She was also a talented artist, and her high school paintings were proudly displayed in her parents’ home for many years. Kathy played guitar and sang, most memorably as a Vacation Bible School teacher where she introduced children to Jesus Christ Superstar. Her favorite musician was Elvis Presley, and one of the highlights of her life was seeing him perform live in Las Vegas.  
In the summer of 1970, Kathy babysat for her aunt and uncle in St. Mary, Montana, on the eastern edge of Glacier National Park. That summer changed the course of her life. She fell in love with Montana, a place that would forever hold her heart. She also fell in love with a young man named Bruce and went on to spend the rest of her life in Montana, where she raised her two bright and beautiful daughters, Heather and Erin.  
Life was not always easy, but Kathy met every season with resilience and creativity. She created intricate and flawless crocheted pieces and found joy in knitting, cross stitch, and other fiber arts. She loved animals deeply, especially her beloved horse, Feather. Kathy was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and authored a detailed history of the Doud family, her maternal grandmother’s lineage. She traveled east to walk the land of her ancestors and was immensely proud of her



Michael E. Colbert  
Photo Provided by Family of Michael E. Colbert

Mike could be found manning the corn dog wagon during rodeo weekend, working the Lions’ basketball tournament, or running the annual perch derby. He was actively involved in Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, and his church family was very important to him. Mike was an example of how to love others. He would often visit people in the hospital, take food to people who had lost a loved one, and drive people to their doctor’s appointments.  
Mike’s greatest joy was his family. He doted on his wife and children and eventually his grandchildren – Heather and Jeff’s sons, Alec, born in 1997, and Michael, born in 2000, and Matt and Geneva’s daughter Delanie, born in 2005. In 2008, Fiona Nelson became a bonus granddaughter when Mike and Judy began babysitting her as an infant. Mike encouraged his grandchildren in school and all of their activities. He was their biggest fan. Grandpa Mike and his grandchildren had a secret code, tapping their hearts to show their love whether preparing to bat, to throw a shot put, or to serve a volleyball. Grandpa never failed to show up with a note of encouragement and a box of candy at the end of every successful school semester.  
Mike was preceded in death by his beloved wife Judy, his parents, brother Don Colbert, brother-in-law Doug Tommerup, and his newborn daughter Katherine. He is survived by daughter Heather (Jeff) Nehring of Manhattan, son Matthew (Geneva) Colbert of Belgrade, grandchildren Alec (Anna) Nehring, Michael (Lauren) Nehring, and Delanie Colbert, brothers Phil (Jann) Colbert of Helena, Dave (Nancy) Colbert of Eureka, and sister Leota (John) Fred of Bozeman, brothers-in-law Randy (Helen), Terry (Cathy), Jeff (Connie), Brian (Angie) and sister-in-law Joan as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Kathy Ann Peterson  
Photo Provided by Family of Kathy Ann Peterson

heritage. A proud American to her core, she remained a loyal Green Bay Packers fan for life—you could take the girl out of Wisconsin, but not the Wisconsin out of the girl.  
Kathy was preceded in death by her loving mother, Jean Bertelsen.  
She is survived by her devoted husband, Mike Peterson, who lovingly cared for her as her health declined; her daughters, Heather Campbell and Erin Gilmore, the loves of her life and her greatest pride; her six grandsons, Scott, Kyle, Ryan, Braden, Tanner, and Camden, who brought her endless joy and laughter; two great grandchildren, Reilly and Lily; her father, Hugh Bertelsen, who loved and supported her throughout her life; and her siblings, Kevin, Ken, and Carolyn Bertelsen, whom she loved deeply.  
A memorial service will be held on January 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Shepherd of the Valley Church, 301 North Cherry, Townsend, Montana.  
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, 1549 East Cameron Bridge Road, Belgrade, Montana 59714, or to the Daughters of the American Revolution.  
This summer, Kathy’s family will take her to Glacier National Park one final time and say their goodbyes on the Highline Trail—a place that shaped her life and held her heart.

Service Schedule

Funeral Service  
1:00 pm Friday, January 16, 2026  
Shepherd of the Valley Church  
301 N Cherry Street, Townsend, Montana 59644

E HELENA AREA DEATHS

Richard Kenneth Nesbit

Family of Richard Kenneth Nesbit

December 11, 1962 – December 26, 2025

Richard Kenneth Nesbit, age 63, of East Helena, Montana, passed away December 26th, 2025.

Omission in Broadwater Community Theater Christmas Play

Omission Noted: In the December 19 edition of Mt43News, Angela Johnson played a French impersonator who was a secretary looking for Santa’s murderer in the Broadwater Community theater play, "A Crazy Christmas."

Tech Talk, 3

generated statement to craft a mission statement that we felt accomplished what we wanted to say.  
How did ChatGPT actually go about generating that text? In essence, AI engines are very mathematical. They are really using statistical probability to generate text. According to CoPilot (the Microsoft AI product), AI is a "Probabilistic Inference and Statistical Modeling" program.  
AI engines are built around Large Language Models (LLMs), which are massive databases of statistical data derived from massive amounts of example texts. LLMs are “fed” the texts from books, essays, newspaper articles, web pages, etc., and build statistical data about words and how they are used.  
When an AI engine generates text, it starts with the prompt you give it and then uses statistical probability to select the next word or phrase. It keeps doing that until it statistically determines the prompt has been answered.  
The AI engine does not really understand what it said; it did not answer the prompt based on knowledge of the subject. It just generated the most statistically probable collections of words and phrases based on the massive amount of text it “learned” from.  
According to CoPilot itself: “When you type a prompt, the AI doesn’t “know” the answer like a person might—it looks at all the words you’ve written, then uses patterns it has learned from reading billions of examples to guess, one word at a time, what’s most likely to come next, like a supercharged version of predictive text on your phone. Each word it adds is chosen based on probabilities, not certainty, so the response is more like a well-informed improvisation than a recitation of facts.”  
Artificial Intelligence is an extremely complex mathematical process based on vector algebra. When I was a math student in college, I did a lot of vector algebra on small vectors. It was amazingly difficult and very time-consuming. AI is working with massive amount of large data vectors. It is an impressive process developed over decades of research.  
AI can generate images as well as text. It is very much the same process. The AI engine produces the image based on analyzing the statistical probability of the string of pixels from the massive amount of images that it was “fed”. According to CoPilot: “Imagine you’re describing a dream to a painter who’s never seen it—but who has studied millions of paintings, photos, and styles from across time. You say, "Paint me a castle in the clouds at sunset,” and instead of copying a picture, the painter begins conjuring it brushstroke by brushstroke. They don’t pull from memory—they predict, based on everything they’ve seen, what a cloud castle should look like, how the light might fall, what colors would feel right. Each pixel is like a brushstroke chosen not by certainty, but by probability—what’s most likely to match your vision, one layer at a time.”  
I hope this article gives you a small understanding of what AI is actually doing. It is amazing how well it can generate well-structured, articulate answers to questions you ask, but as we will discuss in future articles, there are severe limits and problems with how AI engines generate text and images.

HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is shorter 2. Window sill is higher 3. Bow is larger 4. Paper is longer 5. Lampshade is different 6. Sleeve is different.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IF MY OWN HUSBAND WON'T SHARE HIS MONEY WITH HIS WIFE?

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GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

“Our Christmas newsletters have been returned!”

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Out on a Limb

SVEN DIAGRAM

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by Gary Kopervas

SVEN

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Amber Waves

GUYS, THOSE NEW GIRLS ARE COMING THIS WAY AND YOU BOTH ARE COVERED IN MUD!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? THAT'S A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION!

WE FIGURED IF WE SET THEIR EXPECTATIONS LOW, ANYTHING WE DO WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

NEWS FLASH... YOU ARE MALE. THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU ARE ALREADY VERY LOW.

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The Spats

I PUT ALL OF OUR PLANTS INTO ALPHABETICAL ORDER

WOW, WHERE DID YOU FIND THE TIME??

RIGHT NEXT TO THE SAGE!!

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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS POPEYE BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

COME FIGHT ME, COWARD!

THIS MUST BE BLUTO.

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

HE ALWAYS WRITES HIS DEATH WISHES WITH A CERTAIN SLANT.

ALRIGHT, BLUTO! WHERE IS YA?

I KNOWS IT WAS YA WOT LEFT A NOTE CALLIN' ME A COWARD ON ME DOOR!

"SNIFF" AN' WOT SMELLS LIKE CHERRIES?!

IT'S ME, PIPSQUEAK!

BLUTO! YER PINK! AN' SHIN'!

WOT HAPPENED?

I TOLD SEA HAG I WANTED TO BE INVULNERABLE TO YOUR PUNCHES...

... SO SHE TURNED ME INTO GELATIN SO THEY'LL BOUNCE RIGHT OFF!

LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YER SO DESPERATE FER A WIN, YA LET SEA HAG TURN YA INTO A DESSERT?

ARF! ARF! THAT'S SO EMBARRASKIN' I KINT BE MAD!

HOW LONG DID YA KNOW I WAS HUMILIATING MYSELF?

I DUNNO. HOW LONG HAVE I KNOWN YOU?

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TIGER

WILL YOU ADJUST THAT PICTURE, TIGER?

LESS WASHED-OUT-STRONGER YELLOW

SHARPER-MORE BLACK

LESS RED-STRONGER TINT

NOW, A LITTLE LESS CONTRAST PERFECT!

I HATE THAT SHOW

BUD BLAKE

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Barnes Jewelry

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406-442-3000

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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CryptoQuip

answer

Massive metropolis known for its curious huge population of shaggy baby bovines: New Yak City.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Confer; 2. Innate; 3. Vintage; 4. Scheme

Today's Word

VOTERS

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

C	E	D
2	5	8
E		H
7		3
I	A	V
4	1	6

ACHIEVED

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STAY ALERT AND  
EDUCATED ABOUT  
FRAUD AND SCAMS!

NorthWestern Energy

Warns Scammers Targeting  
Montanans

Jo Dee Black

NorthWestern Energy

NorthWestern Energy is receiving widespread reports of scammers attempting to steal money from Montanans. These criminals are calling Montanans and falsely claiming energy service will be shut off unless an immediate payment is made.

These threats are not legitimate. Energy service providers never demand instant payment or threaten customers with sudden disconnection.

Customers with past-due accounts receive multiple notices well in advance of any service interruption. A service disconnection will never come as a surprise.


NorthWestern Energy urges Montanans to stay vigilant and avoid sharing personal or financial information with anyone demanding immediate payment.

Learn more about how to protect yourself from scammers—or report a scam attempt—at <https://www.northwesternenergy.com/scamalert>.

Superintendent Hedalen  
Welcomes New Nutrition  
Guidelines

Susie Hedalen

Superintendent Office of Public  
Instruction



Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Susie Hedalen welcomes the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s newly released dietary guidance and expresses strong support for efforts to improve the health and well-being of students across the country.

“These new USDA guidelines represent a meaningful shift towards healthier school meals built around whole, nutrient-dense foods,” said Superintendent Hedalen. “I commend President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and Secretary Kennedy for putting the health of our children first and recognizing the critical role high-quality food plays in learning, growth, and long-term well-being. As we seek to improve student mental and physical health, I encourage families and schools to embrace active lifestyles and nutritious foods. We are lucky to live in the State of Montana, where these opportunities are abundantly available.”

Montana is uniquely positioned to support this national initiative, and in fact is already a national leader in many ways through our strong agricultural programs and longstanding local partnerships between schools, ranchers and farmers. Schools across the state already benefit from locally sourced, Montana-raised meat and fresh vegetables, strengthening both student nutrition and Montana’s agricultural economy.

Superintendent Hedalen also highlighted the Montana Marinara Program, which helps connect schools with local food producers and reinforces farm-to-school initiatives that bring high-quality, locally grown foods into cafeterias.

“Montana has been a leader in supporting local agriculture and getting healthy, locally sourced food onto students’ plates,” Hedalen said. “Our partnerships with Montana ranchers and farmers not only improve nutrition but also invest in our communities and our economy. Montana looks forward to leading the movement to Make America Healthy Again.”

The Montana Office of Public Instruction looks forward to fully implementing the USDA’s newest guidelines; however, much of this work is already underway by OPI’s School Nutrition team, who provide a variety of resources and services to local school districts. To learn more, visit: <https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Management-Operations/School-Nutrition>

Fake Error Popups are Spreading Malware Fast

Kurt Knutsson

CyberGuy Report - Fox News

A new cybercrime tool tricks people into running malware on Windows, Android, and macOS.

A dangerous cybercrime tool has surfaced in underground forums, making it far easier for attackers to spread malware.

Instead of relying on hidden downloads, this tool pushes fake error messages that pressure you into fixing problems that never existed. Security researchers say this method is spreading quickly because it feels legitimate. The page looks broken. The warning feels urgent. The fix sounds simple.

That combination is proving alarmingly effective for cybercriminals.

*How fake error malware attacks actually work:*

These attacks begin with a compromised website. When a visitor lands on the page, something looks wrong right away. Text appears broken. Fonts look scrambled. Visual elements seem corrupted. A pop-up then appears claiming the issue can be fixed with a browser update or a missing system font. A button offers to repair the problem instantly.

Clicking that button copies a command to the clipboard and displays instructions to paste it into PowerShell or a system terminal. That single step launches the infection.

*Why this new tool changes the threat landscape:*

The tool behind these attacks is called ErrTraffic. It automates the entire process and removes the technical barriers that once limited cybercrime operations. For about \$800, attackers get a full package with a control panel and scripted payload delivery. Analysts at the Hudson Rock Threat Intelligence Team identified the tool after tracking its promotion on Russian-language forums in early December 2025.

ErrTraffic works through a simple JavaScript injection. A single line of code connects a hacked site to the attacker's dashboard. From there, everything adapts automatically. The script detects the operating system and browser. It then displays a customized fake error message in the correct language. The attack works across Windows, Android, macOS and Linux.

*Why security software struggles to stop it:*

Traditional malware defenses look for suspicious downloads or unauthorized installations. ErrTraffic avoids both. Browsers see normal text copying. Security tools see a legitimate system utility being opened manually. Nothing appears out of place. That design allows the attack to slip through protections that would normally stop malware in its tracks.

*The success rate is deeply concerning:*

Data pulled from active ErrTraffic campaigns shows conversion rates approaching 60%. That means more than half of the visitors who see the fake error message follow the instructions and install malware. Once active, the tool can deliver infostealers like Lumma or Vidar on Windows devices. Android targets often receive banking trojans instead. The control panel even includes geographic filtering, with built-in blocks for Russia and neighboring regions to avoid drawing attention from local authorities.

*What happens after infection?*

Once malware is installed, credentials and session data are stolen. Those compromised logins are then used to breach additional websites. Each newly hacked site becomes another delivery vehicle for the same attack. That cycle allows the campaign to grow without direct involvement from the original operator.

*Ways to stay safe from fake error malware:*

A few smart habits can significantly reduce risk when facing fake error pop-ups and browser-based traps.

- 1) Never run commands suggested by a website
- Legitimate websites never ask you to copy and paste commands into PowerShell or a system terminal. Fake error malware relies on convincing messages that pressure you into doing exactly that. If a page instructs you to run code to fix a problem, close it immediately.
- 2) Close pages that claim your system is corrupted
- Fake error campaigns often use broken text, scrambled fonts or warnings about missing files to grab attention. As a result, these visuals create urgency and trigger fear. In reality, a real system problem never announces itself through a random website, so close the page right away.
- 3) Install updates only through official system settings
- Real browser and operating system updates come from built-in update tools, not pop-ups on websites. If an update is needed, your device will notify you directly through system settings or trusted app stores.
- 4) Install strong antivirus software on every device
- Strong antivirus software can help block malicious scripts, detect infostealers and stop suspicious behavior before damage spreads. This is especially important since fake error malware targets Windows, Android, macOS and Linux systems.
- The best way to safeguard yourself from malicious links that install malware, potentially accessing your private information, is to have strong antivirus software installed on all your devices. This protection can also alert you to phishing emails and ransomware scams, keeping your personal information and digital assets safe.
- 5) Use a data removal service to reduce exposure
- Stolen credentials fuel the spread of fake error malware. Removing personal information from data broker sites can reduce the impact if login details are compromised and limit how far an attack can spread.
- While no service can guarantee the complete removal of your data from the internet, a data removal service is really a smart choice. They aren't cheap, and neither is your privacy. These services do all the work for you by actively monitoring and systematically erasing your personal information from hundreds of websites. It's what gives me peace of mind and has proven to be the most effective way to erase your personal data from the internet. By limiting the information available, you reduce the risk of scammers cross-referencing data from breaches with information they might find on the dark web, making it harder for them to target you.
- 6) Treat font and browser update pop-ups with suspicion
- Claims about missing fonts or outdated browsers are a hallmark of these attacks. Modern systems manage fonts automatically, and browsers update themselves. A webpage has no reason to request manual fixes.
- If a real update is needed, the operating system will request it directly. A random webpage never should.

*Kurt's key takeaways:*

Fake error malware works because it plays on a very human reaction. When something on a screen suddenly looks broken, most people want to fix it fast and move on. That split-second decision is exactly what attackers are counting on. Tools like ErrTraffic show how polished these scams have become. The messages look professional. The instructions feel routine. Nothing about the moment screams danger. But behind the scenes, one click can quietly hand over passwords, banking access and personal data. The good news is that slowing down makes a real difference. Closing a suspicious page and trusting built-in system updates can stop these attacks cold. When it comes to pop-ups claiming your device is broken, walking away is often the smartest fix.

Verification Tool Flags Multiple Voter Records  
as Potential Non-Citizens

Christi Jacobsen

Montana Secretary of State

The Montana Secretary of State’s Office has received preliminary results from its recent implementation of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to help ensure clean, accurate voter rolls in the Treasure State.

For the first time ever, last week, Montana election officials were able to begin the process of verifying the citizenship of registered voters. Already, the federal government’s SAVE tool flagged 23 voter records as potential non-citizens, most of which appear to have permanent alien status and no record of citizenship. Several of the flagged individuals had voter histories indicating participation in dozens of previous Montana



elections.

It’s illegal for a non-citizen to register and vote in Montana elections.

“Previous administrations ignored our requests for citizenship verification, while the Trump Administration has now provided this already existing tool to election officials free of charge,” said Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen. “I’m committed to ensuring that Montana has accurate voter rolls and that Montana elections are decided only by eligible U.S. citizens.”

Following November’s local election cycle, Montana media published an articlehighlighting how often elections result in close races and even ties. According to national research on elections, thousands of contests have ended in ties or have been decided by just a single vote.

“It’s simple, nonpartisan, and nondebatable – only eligible U.S. citizens should vote in Montana elections,” said Secretary Jacobsen.

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