

**East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside**

# Townsend chamber Hosts Ribbon Cutting at Cloud 9 Athletics



Townsend Chamber members officially welcome Cloud 9 Athletics with a ribbon cutting ceremony. From left: Jenny Spatzierath, owners Cole and Catie McCloud, Judy Siler, Doug Breker and Anna Glueckert.  
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Cole and Catie McCloud hold the ribbon after the ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce Saturday. Personal trainer and teacher Judy Siler joined them.  
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

**MT43 News Staff Reporter**

There's a new gym in town. Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) staged a ribbon-cutting for the fitness center Saturday.

Cole and Catie McCloud have opened the gym in a large building behind the former Townsend Electric Building. The facility has been open since December 8 of last year, according to Catie. And offers a variety of group fitness classes as well as coach-led workouts. "We specialize in strength and conditioning-focused workouts for all ages, plus we have a coaching expert in every class. We try to make the facility a welcoming

place open six days a week with multiple class times to fit everyone's schedule," she explained.

Beginners or hardcore enthusiasts will find a sign-up link for subscription on the website [cloud9athletics.com](http://cloud9athletics.com) or follow them on the gym's Facebook page or Instagram. They also welcome drop ins and have punch cards.

The open and airy gym, formerly a large garage, features echo bikes and an entire array of weightlifting equipment. "The bike workouts promise full body cardio exercise but are still low impact," Cole explained.

Catie comes by her interest in fitness honestly: she played basketball for BHS and graduated in 2018. She

received her accounting degree from Montana College of Technology in Butte, where she met Cole, who played collegiate football and is from Manhattan originally. They are both certified trainers through the CrossFit Program. Judy Siler works with the two owners as a personal trainer and class coach.

TAAC President Anna Glueckert expressed her enthusiasm for the new business in town: "Cloud 9 Athletics is a great new addition to our town and locally owned and operated by a long-time resident. The Watsons' Catie has returned to her hometown to join as a business owner. We are excited and pleased to have Catie and her husband Cole here."

## MFU Sponsors a Far Out and Waiting Workshop on EMT Skills January 26

**Samantha Ferrat**  
MFU Ambassador

Learn how to help save a life during the upcoming Far Out & Waiting workshop in Townsend sponsored by Montana Farmers' Union (MFU). The workshop is open to the public and is offered free of charge. MFU is offering the workshop in collaboration with the Central Valley Fire Department of Belgrade and Backcountry Medical Supplies. It begins at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26 and will be held at Townsend Schools Community Room in Townsend.

A free dinner is included and will offer a pesticide applicator's credit. The hands-on workshop offers participants an opportunity to learn critical life-saving skills they can employ while waiting the average 30 minutes it takes for Emergency Medical Services to arrive in our rural area.

For questions or to register, please contact MFU Ambassador, Samantha Ferrat, at (406) 949-0869 or at [sferrat@montanafarmersunion.com](mailto:sferrat@montanafarmersunion.com)

## EAST HELENA NEWS

### Wyatt McKenzie Submits Winning Hunting Story to Governor Greg Gianforte Competition

**Wyatt McKenzie**  
East Helena Hunter

*Editor's note: Wyatt is a freshman-level home-schooled student who lives in Broadwater County just east of East Helena. He entered the competition at his mother's suggestion and was one of ten students who won Governor Greg Gianforte's 2025 Youth Hunting Story Contest.*

*Dear Governor Gianforte,*  
My name is Wyatt, and I am 14 years old. I am writing about my awesome elk hunt on the Climbing Arrow Ranch. It was an incredible

experience to have with my two favorite hunters, my dad and grandpa.

A lot of people my age spend their weekends playing video games or hanging out with friends, so I am thankful to go out and see the beauty of our state. Many adults never get the chance to hunt on private land, or get a bull elk, so I just feel incredibly lucky that I got permission to hunt the CA Ranch through the Montana Access Program conducted through the Montana Conservation Society.

It was an early morning on the day I shot my elk. We woke up at 4:00 in the morning, which was very early for me because I usually wake up at 8:30. Dad and I got ready as Mom made us breakfast. Then, at 4:30, we packed up and got in the truck. By 6:15, we made it to the ranch. We unloaded the gun, some coats, and our orange. After that, we met up with grandpa and stepped into the side-by-side with our two guides, Steve and Slate. It seemed like hours, but in just a few minutes, Steve had driven us to one of the best hunting spots on the ranch.

Long before we got anywhere near the elk, we stopped the side-by-side and stepped out. All of us stalked up the two-track that we had been following, careful not to step on anything that might give us away. Then, without



14-year-old Wyatt McKenzie poses with his first elk kill.  
Photo Provided

making a sound, Steve turned left and walked up a small incline and then turned slightly left again. After that, all of us turned to the right and hid behind some cover in the form of a tree, quietly setting up the shooting sticks. Steve, my dad and my grandpa had me aim at different spots, ranging them and telling me where to hold if the elk walked up the draw there. A while later, we had found a second clump of trees and set up again. This was it. We heard the elk rattling their antlers and bugling. A dozen elk walked out. I knew which one I wanted to shoot before anyone told me. The second bull from the front with five cows following him. He was 65 yards away. That was the closest shot I had ever had. He stopped for a second, and just as I was about to shoot, he got up and moved, causing me to hold my shot. He stopped again. The suppressed rifle barely made a sound. I tried to reload, but the round did not chamber. Dad said that I had hit it. Much calmer, I reloaded and fired again. Both were great shots, leading to a clean kill.

I am very happy to share my hunt with you.

Respectfully,  
Wyatt McKenzie

## 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.

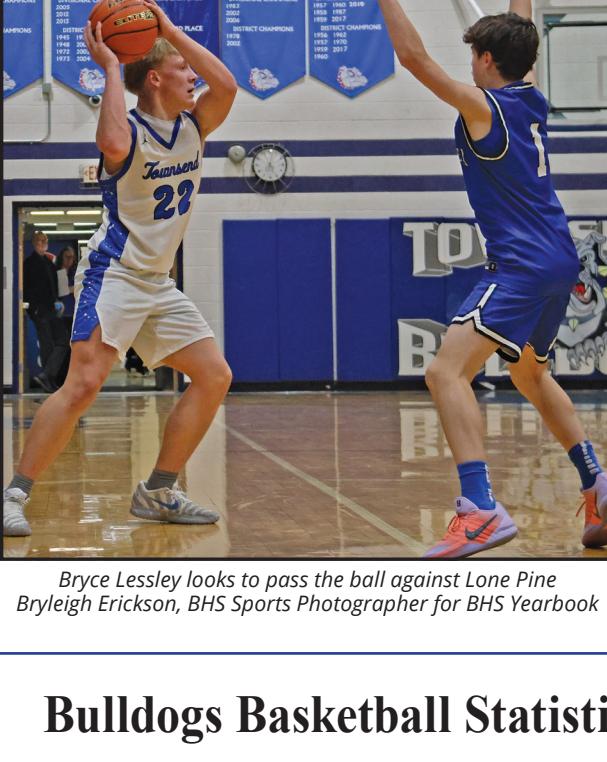
The C squad girls' game against Jefferson ended with the Panthers winning 41-26. This was the Bulldogs C team's second game this season, and they showed improvement. Ella Toney led both teams, scoring 20

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.

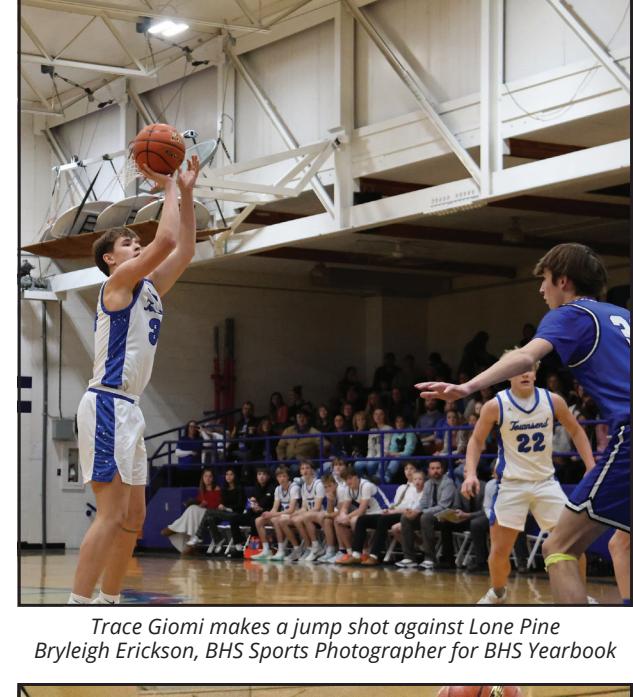
The boys' varsity game started close, but the Bulldogs were able to pull out the win, 58 to 43 in the end. Trenton Hoveland led the Bulldogs with 16 points, and Bryce Lessley had 15 points. Tavyn Anderson also helped the Bulldogs, scoring 13, and Tannen Tuffelmire scored 12 points.



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



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



Trace Giomi makes a jump shot against Lone Peak. 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



Tavyn Anderson  
Kelly Morris, Photography



Tannen Tuffelmire  
Kelly Morris, Photography

## 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 Lessley- 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 Lessley-2, Tavyn

Anderson-2, Trenton Hoveland-2, Trace Giomi-2

Blocks- Colby Flynn-1, Trenton Hoveland-1, Tan-

nen Tuffelmire-1

Deflections- Tannen Tuffelmire-5, Tavyn Anderson-3,

Trace Giomi-2, Bryce Lessley-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 differ-

ent 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

### 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.

## 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.

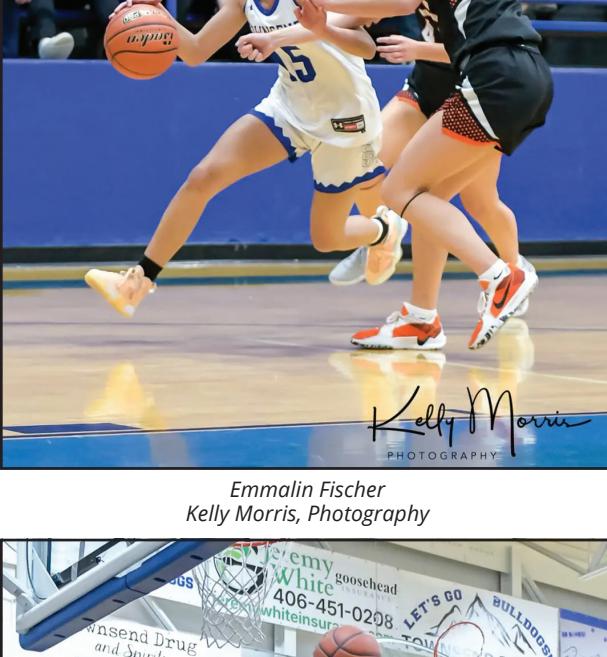
The day started out with the girls' Junior Varsity game. It was a close game, but the Bulldogs pulled out the win 43 to Manhattan's 35. Tevyn Newman helped the Bulldogs with 13 points, and Ella Toney scored 12.

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.

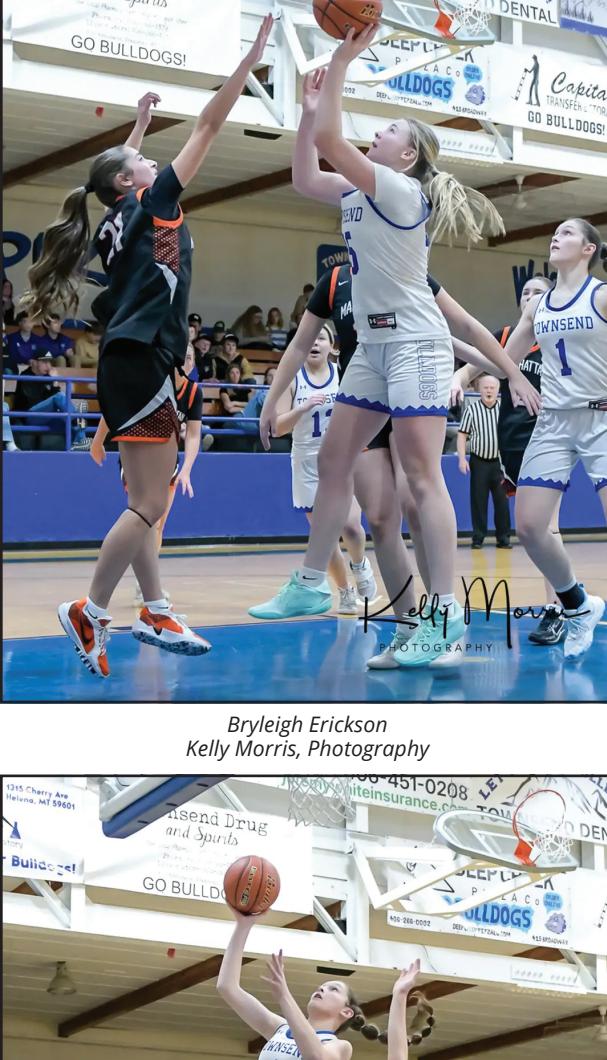
The Junior Varsity boys' game ended with a loss for the Bulldogs. It was a close game, but the Bulldogs scored 46 to the Tigers' 54.

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.

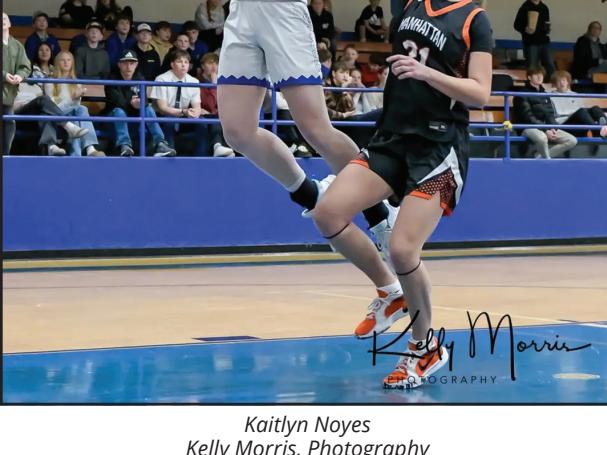
After this weekend, the girls' Varsity team has a 3-1 conference record, with wins against Whitehall, Lone Peak, and Manhattan, and a loss against Three Forks. The boys' Varsity team had a 2-2 record, with wins against Whitehall and Lone Peak, and losses against Manhattan and Three Forks. Next, the Bulldogs 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 Borror.

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

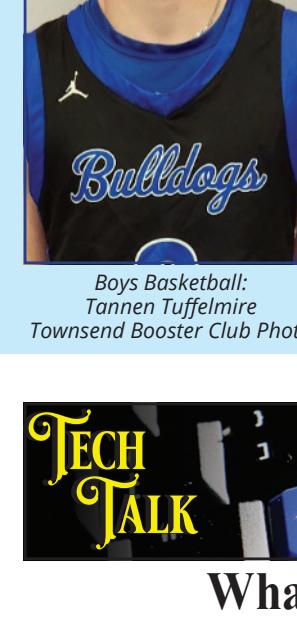
Humorous Solo placed 3rd. The Classical Theater piece performed by Anabell Kline, Zoey Osborne, and Lucas Feller placed third. Angel Sentinella, Sarah Morgan, and Simon Sanchez performed a Humorous theater piece and placed fourth. Noah Borror, Ava Boaz, and Lyrique Bryant also performed a Humorous theater 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.

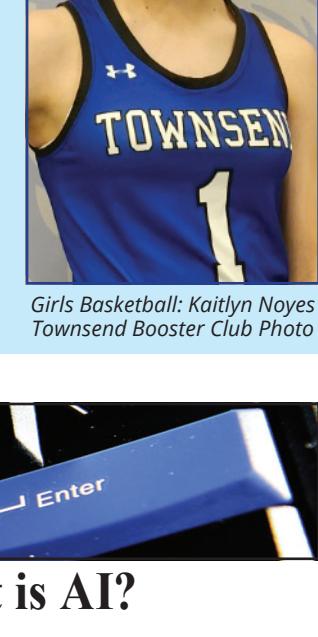


Speech & Drama: Ava Boaz  
Townsend Booster Club Photo

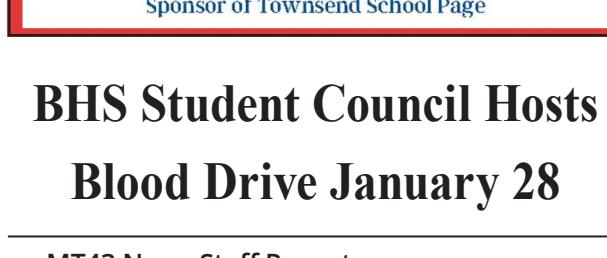
Wrestling: Gabby Rico  
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Basketball:  
Tannen Tuffelmire  
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Kaitlyn Noyes  
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Sponsor of Townsend School Page

## 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.

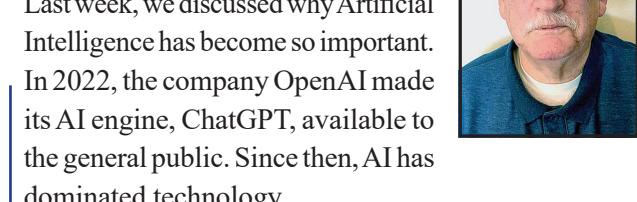
Kaitlyn encouraged both students and members of the public to get involved and give blood: "The event

involves planning, communication, advertising and responsibility by Student Council members to create a

welcoming, trustworthy event for the entire community."

Now is your chance to donate!

Now is your chance to donate!



### What is AI?

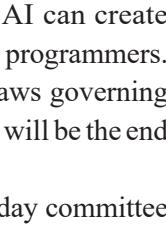
Victor Sample

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



Tech Talk

**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 Turney
- 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 Turney

**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

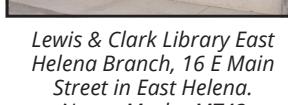
**LIBRARY HOURS****Broadwater School and Community Library**

201 N Spruce St, Townsend

Photo Provided

**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.

**EST. HELENA LIBRARY HOURS****Andrea Eckerson  
Branch Manager**

Lewis &amp; 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. Day

**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

**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?	STOP BY OR
MENU?	CALL AFTER 3PM
<b>VOLUNTEER?</b>	(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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FLATBEDS**



## RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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



### American Legion Hall

211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611

Dining Hours: Tuesday= Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM

Thursdays 5:00PM= FREE

Community Dinner

SPECIAL Event with Food:

N/A

Bar hours may vary

### The Betsy Sports Zone

217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001

Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close

Closed Monday

Takeout placed only in person.

Menu: www.betseysportszone.com

### Bread and Butter Cafe

205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025

Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM- 2:00PM

Sat 7:00AM- 12:00PM

Closed Sunday & Monday

Menu available on Facebook

### Bunkhouse Bar & Grill

8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302

SPECIAL:

N/A

Dining Hours: 10:00AM – Close

Grill off at 10:00PM

### Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom

300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687

Hours:

Wed - Fri: 4:00PM - Close

Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

### C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery

310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087

Dining Hours:

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

Sat 8:00AM - 7:00PM

Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Menu:

Facebook

changincmerc.square.site

## 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

VPHHSDK VKUWICITSH ZJIQJ

YIW SUH ORWSIRH MREK

CICRTPUSIJ IY HMPEEX NPNX

NIDSJKH: JKQ XPZ OSUX.

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## KNIGHT MOVES

C	E	D
E		H
I	A	V

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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## 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

## LOCAL BUSINESS

## DIRECTORY



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Saturday 9:00 - 4:00

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• Laser Cut Parts Fabrication  
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### CONTACT MT 43 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

APT OMISSION

ACROSS	52	London or Leeds native	95	One-off, as a committee	2	Broadcast studio sign	34	"Star Trek: The Next Generation"	71	Rams' org.
	53	One-time Texaco rival	96	Vouch for	3	Federer of tennis	35	Cereal grass	74	"chic!"
	55	Mined stuff	99	Writer Seton	4	Deadlock	36	Singer	76	Rent payer
	57	Turks and Islands	100	Winter storm conditions?	5	"Life of Pi"	37	Swift pirate	77	81 Roadie's load
	62	Olive of "Popeye"	102	Sort who doesn't think before speaking?	6	Gas grill meas.	40	Border	78	82 Suez, e.g.
	63	Grill residue	108	Speak wildly	7	7 Maui wreath	42	In a plane, e.g.	79	84 Positions
	64	Like a cream-colored skeleton?	109	Litigant	8	8 Hosp. trauma pro	43	Gymnast	80 Suet, e.g.	
	65		110	Polite request starter	9	9 in a demure way	44	Retton	81 Drivers' licenses, e.g.	
	66		111	Pro-gun gp.	10	10 Cap'n's underling	45	Deymaking compound	82 Coiffures	
	67		112	Soft &	11	11 "Much — About Nothing"	46	4 So —	83 Carrig Garr	
	68		113	Enclosed bill of fare?	12	(1996 "Simpsons" episode)	47	5 "So —	84 Dissertations	
	69		72	Showed on TV again	13	12 Sign off from a computer	48	6 "done it!"	85 Hi — picture	

## 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 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM on the South Entrance Steps of the Broadwater County Courthouse located at 515 Broadway Street, Townsend, MT 59644, the following described real property situated in Broadwater County, State of Montana:

Lot 99 of Wheatland Meadow Subdivision as shown in Book 2 of Plats, Page 109, Broadwater County, Montana.

More commonly known as 59 Starview Dr, Three Forks, MT 59752-9100.

James J. Gundersen, as Grantor, conveyed said real property to Alliance Title and Escrow Corp., as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., by Deed of Trust on August 7, 2018 (the "DOT"), and filed for record in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder in Broadwater County, State of Montana, on August 13, 2018, as Instrument No. 180945, in Book 190, at Page 389, of Official Records.

THE DEED OF TRUST WAS ASSIGNED FOR VALUE AS FOLLOWS:  
Assignee: Newrez, LLC., D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing  
Assignment Dated: July 8, 2025  
Assignment Recorded: July 8, 2025  
Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 201742, in Book 272, at Page 141,

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 20, 2025 as Instrument No. 202432, in Book 275, at Page 149, 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 March 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 \$169,205.22, a deferred principal balance of \$7,706.29, interest in the sum of \$7,493.86, escrow advances of \$2,323.15, and other amounts due and payable in the amount of \$836.61 for a total amount owing of \$187,565.13, 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 29th day of October, 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. MT23330

*Published January 9, 16 and 23, 2026*

MNAXLP

### Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Amy Lee Smith:  
Amy Lee Smith, Petitioner  
Case No.: CDV-2025-59

#### Notice of Hearing on Name Change

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the district Court for a change of name from (your name now) Amy Lee Smith

To (name you want) Amy Lee Sidle

The hearing will be on (date) 02/20/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM

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

Filed Date 12/15/25

Audrey Plymale Clerk of District Court

By Beth Campbell, Deputy Clerk of Court

*Published January 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2026*

MNAXLP

### MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERTUM WILLIAMS, Deceased.

Probate No. BDP-25-19

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated January 16, 2026. /s/ Peter T. Simon GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC Attorney for Personal Representative

*Published January 16, 23 and 30, 2026*

MNAXLP

## City Court Fines and Forfeitures - November and December 2025

### Kirk Flynn, Justice of the Peace

*Hanyu Wei - California - Stop Sign Violation - \$85.00*

Melanie Carr - Townsend - Careless Driving - \$85.00  
Robert Sihler - Bozeman - Restricted Local Speed - \$55.00

Gregory Gibson - Maryland - Restricted Local Speed - \$55.00

Thanyamon Ruangyard - Bangkok - Restricted Local Speed - \$135.00

Jane Bridges-Loehn - Townsend - Careless Driving - \$85.00

Andrew Belock - Michigan - Restricted Local Speed - \$55.00

Amberleah Greenstein - Townsend - Driving Suspended or Revoked 2nd Offense, found guilty via bench trial. 6 months jail suspended on conditions, \$85.00 fines and fees.

Duane Salveson - Townsend - Theft 1st Offense, pled guilty, deferred 1 month on conditions, pay fines and fees of \$100.00.

Jacob Strachan - Bozeman - No Liability Insurance 3rd Offense, pled guilty, deferred 6 months on conditions, fines and fees of \$535.00.

Marcella Larson - Townsend - Fail to Give Notice of Accident, pled guilty, \$275.00 fines and fees. Failure to Stop and ID After Accident, pled guilty, \$285.00 fines and fees.

Eddie Linscomb - Billings - Assault, pled guilty, deferred 6 months on conditions, fines and fees of \$385.00.

## Townsend School District

### Trustee Filing Period

#### Brad Racht

*Superintendent Townsend Schools*

The filing period for the May 5 Townsend Board of Trustee Election is open from December 11 to February 9. The election is May 5.

The election will be for two (2) trustees for a three-year term and one (1) trustee for a one-year term.

A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for Trustee Candidates may be picked up at the office of the Broadwater County Election Administrator (515 Broadway, Townsend, MT) or at the office of The Townsend K12 District Clerk (201 N. Spruce, Townsend, MT). Forms may also be accessed at the Montana Office of Public Instruction Website. Forms require a notarized signature.

## Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou

### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

Ashley S. Hatfield - Bozeman - Seatbelt Violation - Paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Brady W. Smith - Great Falls - speeding on non-interstate - exceed day limit of 70mph - paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Leah C. Smith - Bozeman - speeding on interstate - exceed day limit of 80mph - paid fines - \$40 fines & fees

Tyler J. Flieg - Bozeman - Speeding on interstate - exceed day limit of 80mph - paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Anaston Findlay - Butte - Speeding on interstate - exceed day limit of 80mph - paid fines - \$40 fines & fees

William S. Dykman - Helena - Speeding on national 4 lane - exceed day limit of 75mph - paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Craig J. Wallace - West Bath ME - Speeding on non-interstate - exceed day limit of 70mph - plead guilty - \$70 fines & fees. One (1) week deferred sentence with completion of Traffic School.

### DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Matthew Jones - Boone IA - Violation of commission or department orders or rules - self report of antlered elk killed during antlerless hunt - paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

Jeffrey S. Christiansen - Townsend - Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] - plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees

### BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Jazmin A. Ochoa Mejia - Fort Worth TX - speeding on non-interstate - exceed night limit of 65mph - 31+mph over speed limit - paid fines - \$200 fines & fees

Leslie Hermosillo - Fort Worth TX - speeding on non-interstate - exceed night limit of 65mph - 31+mph over speed limit - paid fines - \$200 fines & fees

Mark J. Niemeir - Boulder MT - Operating with expired registration - failure to re-register - paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

### COUNTY CRIMINAL

David M. Stanford - Guin AL - Operate Non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater [1st] - plead guilty - \$685 fines & fees, probationary drivers license, as well as six (6) months in jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior, enrollment & completion of ACT class, as well as twenty (20) hours of community service.

James R. Harris - Billings - Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater [1st] - plead guilty - \$985 fines & fees. Probationary Driver's License. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior as well as enrollment & completion of ACT class. - Speeding on non-interstate - exceed night limit of 65mph - plead guilty - \$70 fines & fees

Jarod P. Mund - Bozeman - Reckless Driving [1st] - plead guilty - \$535 fines & fees. Sentenced to ninety (90) days in Broadwater County Jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior, enrollment & completion of ACT class, and twenty (20) hours of community service.

### MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Cris R. Connerton - Manhattan MT - Operate Vehicle whose gross laden weight exceeds GVW shown on owner certificate - paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Robert H. Bennet - Helena - Operating over dimension vehicle or combination on highway without special permit - paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

### INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

Molly M. Gardener - East Helena - Defendant appeared to hear the charges alleged against her and set conditions for release as well as future Court Dates - kidnapping - assault with weapon - unlawful restraint - \$50,000 bond as well as mental health evaluation prior to being eligible for release

### INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION

Brayden L. Sangrey - Great Falls - Defendant was arrested on a warrant issued by Cascade County District Court to answer the Petition to Revoke Sentence - \$10,000 bond

Ashley E. Hardie - Townsend - Defendant was arrested on a warrant issued by Livingston City Court for failure to comply - \$390 Bond

Nathan A. Petrich - East Helena - Defendant was arrested on Authorization to pick up and hold probationer, issued by a probation officer, for probation violations: Laws & Conduct - \$25,000 Bond.



## 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 1/2 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 recognition 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 recognition because he failed to complete his drug dependence course. He had been charged with 3 counts of unlawful entry, assault

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

Vincent Nicholas Padierma – 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 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 [www.broadwatercountymt.gov](http://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](http://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

[lr richtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:lr richtmyer@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)

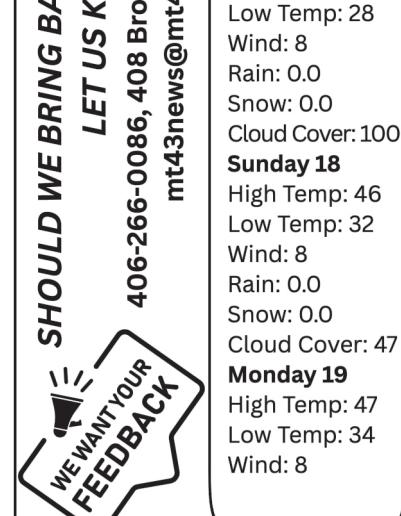
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change.

Please check the county website

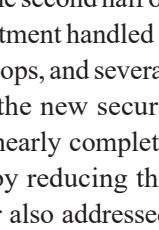
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 20th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 21st at 6:00 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on January 26th at 3:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on February 10th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on February 10th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on February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



## 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.

## 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.



## 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.

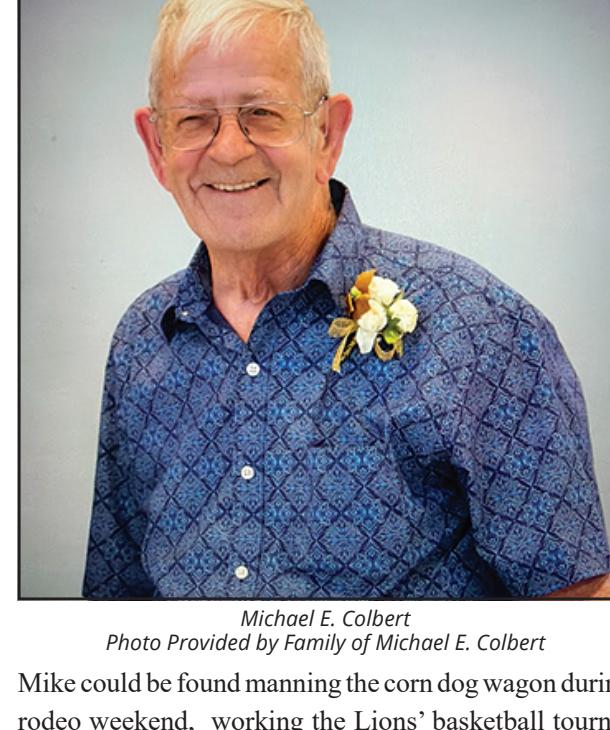
Mike was born in Sparta, Illinois, on October 8, 1945, to Edgar and Marie Colbert, joining three older brothers, Phil, Dave, and Don. When Mike was four years old, the family moved to Butte, Montana, where Mike spent most of his childhood. With four boys growing up in Butte in the 1950's, what could 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 Colbets 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

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

## 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.

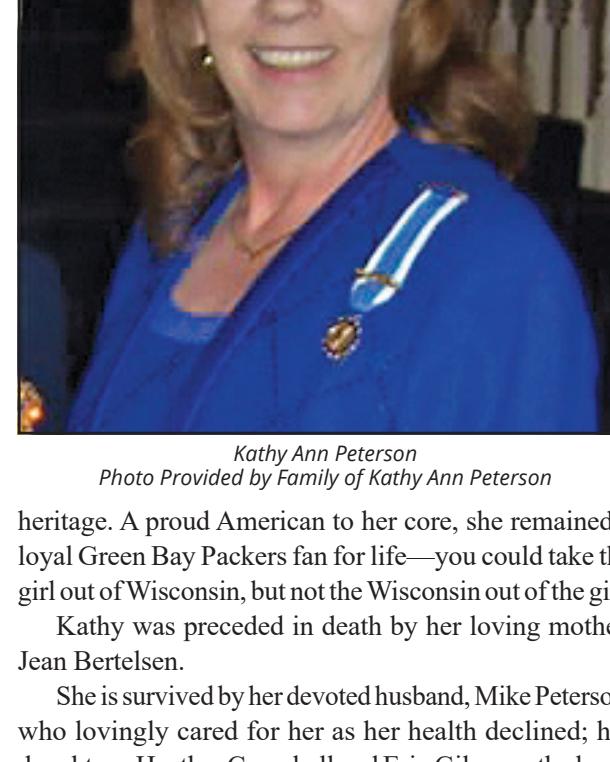
Kathy was born on May 27, 1953, in Wisconsin. Over the course of her life, she carried many last names—each representing an important chapter of her story. Schleicher, her biological father's name; Bertelsen, her adopted father's name; Wyma, a married name; Anderson, her mother's maiden name; and finally, 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

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 Karolyn 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

## 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

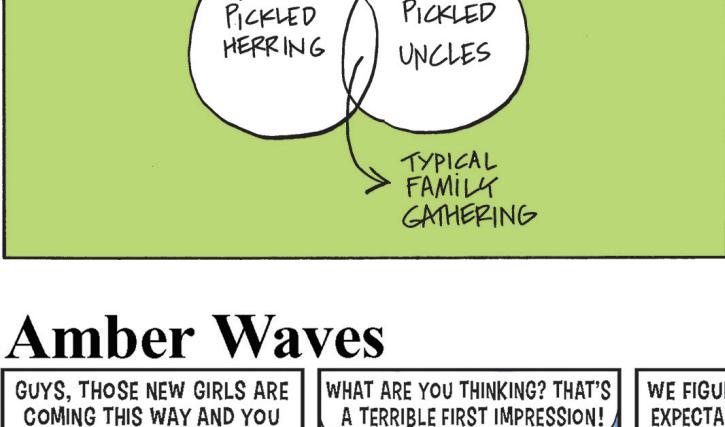
BY HENRY BOLTOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



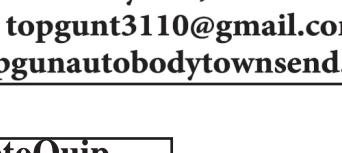
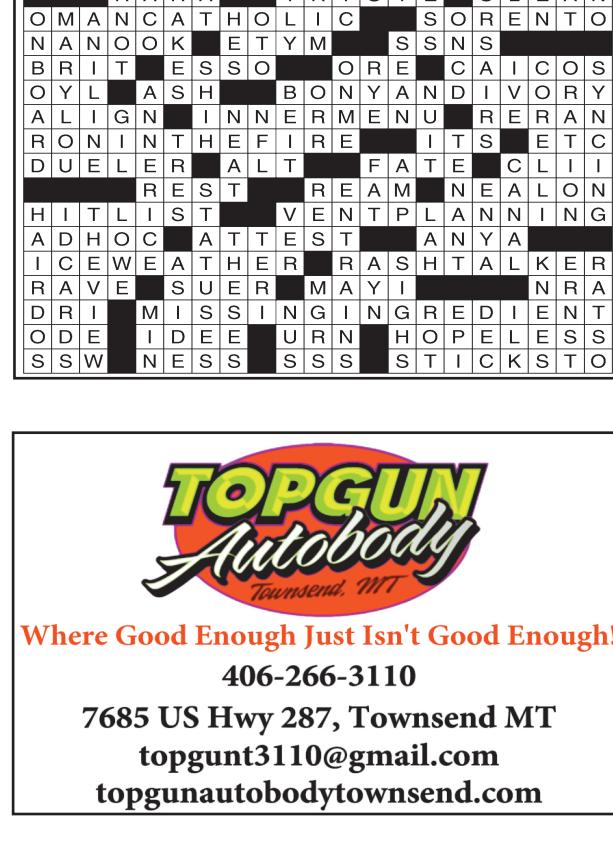
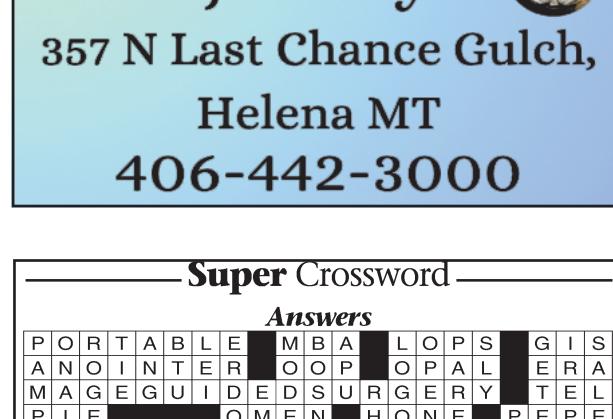
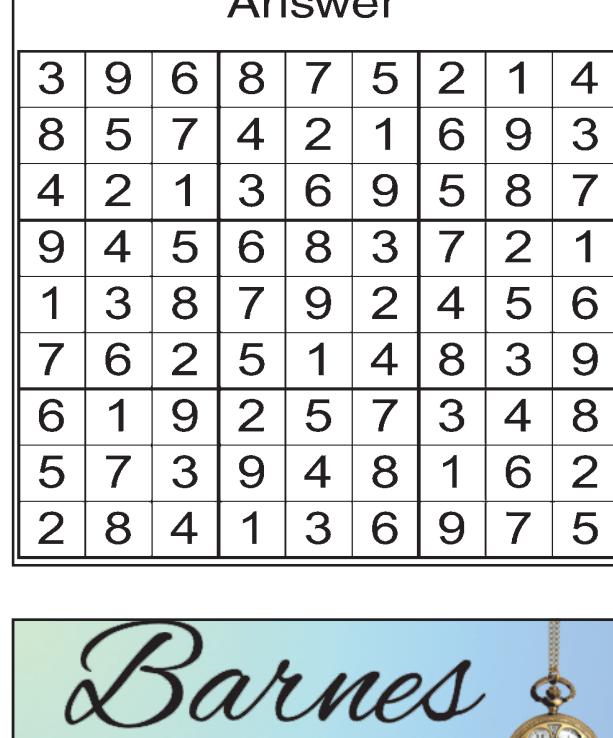
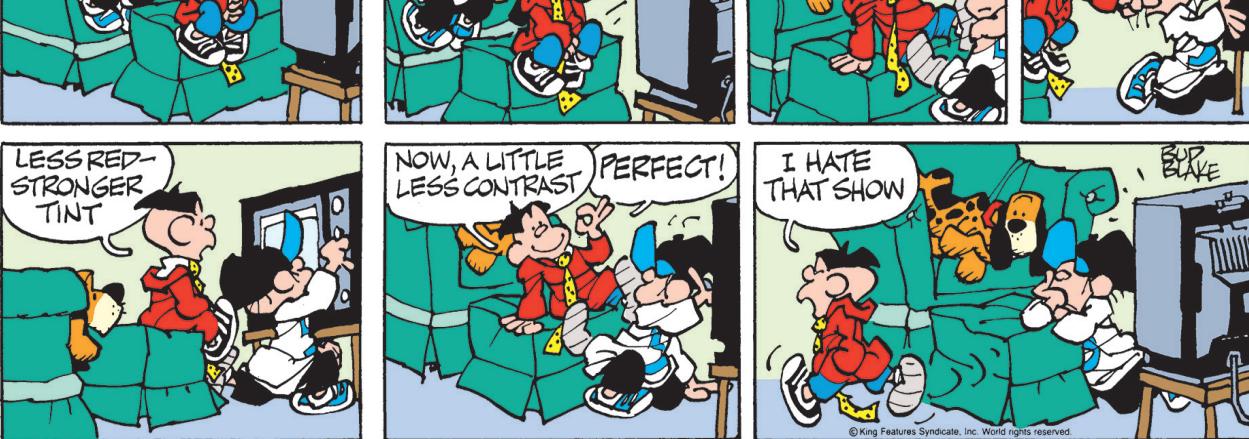
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**Out on a Limb****Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps

**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering



Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!  
406-266-3110  
7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT  
[topgunt3110@gmail.com](mailto:topgunt3110@gmail.com)  
[topgunautobodytownsend.com](http://topgunautobodytownsend.com)

**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	

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.

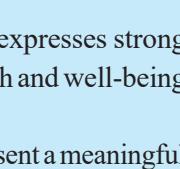
Customers with past-due accounts receive multiple notices well in advance of any service interruption. A service disconnection will never come as a surprise.

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 info stealers 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 info stealers 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.

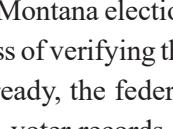
If a real update is needed, the operating system will request it directly. A random webpage never should.

### 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 article highlighting 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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# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



BY LINDA HUTH

**SPONSORED BY**  
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**& THE COTTER FOUNDATION**

## January 15

1903

### Local News

Mesdames Barker and Johnson of Confederate were visitors in Townsend Tuesday.

Mrs. J.P. Marks went to Helena Wednesday to visit her parents.

D.J. McCarthy of Canton transacted business in town Monday.

Charles Colberg of Hassel last week met with quite a serious accident by nearly severing one of his fingers from his hand with an ax. Mr. Colberg was splitting wood on a block, holding the slab in one hand and using the ax with the other. The handle of the ax caught on a timber close by and changed the direction of the blade sufficient to catch a finger. Mr. Colberg came to town and had the injured member dressed by Dr. Gilham and is at present nursing the same at the Townsend House.

B.F. Bembrick of Spring Creek came to town Thursday and shook hands with old friends.

Wesley Beatty of Beaver Creek and Miss Johanna Holman of Helena were married a few days ago and at once began their matrimonial journey in a cozy home recently refitted by the groom. Sometime ago, Wesley purchased the old Filson place, which is situated close to the Beatty residence and, in anticipation of a matrimonial alliance, made the place desirable as a home. The Star (even though a little late) joins in wishing the happy

couple joy and peace on their journey through time.

1925

### Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Doggett are leaving tonight for the state Capital to spend a few days. They will go to Missoula to visit their son, Howard, who is attending the University, returning about the last of the month.

There will be a dance at the Franklin school house Jan. 17th. Music by R.L. Reynolds and Ed Daniels. Ladies, please bring cakes.

Willis Seibold is playing the "ivories" at the Rex theatre at present.

Bert Tarrant of Toston attended the dance in Townsend Friday evening by the Hollywood Strutters.

Mrs. Arlene Keene spent several days in Helena, the guest of Mrs. Veva Smith and daughters, Veva Alice and Mary Bill, returning to Townsend Sunday evening.

1953

### Winston News

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hohn and sons of East Helena were Thursday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Les Miles and son.

A 4-H leaders meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Ed Foster Wednesday night. Mrs. Robert Myles and Hugh Whitehead, Miss Neva Walling, Miss Phyllis Masolo, Bob Cobban and Wesley Diehl talked over and arranged the schedule for the year of 1953.

*Scotty & Mike*

Mike, the monk, was sent to Scotty by his son-in-law and daughter, who live in Spokane. He likes bananas and is getting more friendly all the time. T.R. "Scotty" Goddard is the genial proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, Café and Bar, which he purchased from Mrs. C.D.W. Smith in February 1950. (Mike is his pet monkey.) Scotty says that his next improvement program will be to move the bar into the dining room and the café to where the bar is now.

1970

### Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Massa of Havre are spending this week with Dean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Massa, while he is attending meetings in Helena connected with his work in rehabilitation.

Mrs. Ruth Rice of Helena was visiting friends in Townsend Wednesday.

May Foster of Bozeman was an overnight guest of Annie Bisby one day last week.

Jack Williams, former Radersburg resident, was in Townsend yesterday visiting and subscribed to the Star. He lived in Radersburg for about fifty years and now makes his home in Helena.

Tim Evans, student at Western Montana College in Dillon, came home for the weekend to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Evans, Jr. Tim cut his leg quite badly while skiing during the holidays.

Pat Ragen and Lance Davis, who attend the University of Montana in Missoula, were home over the weekend.

**Vegetables**  
**Flowers**  
**Grow Lights**  
**Starting Soil**  
**Fertilizer**  
**Pots & Pellets**  
**Labels**  
**Dome Trays**  
**Spray Bottles**  
**Watering Cans**  
**Monica's Great Advice!**

**If the seeds aren't in the store today...**

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

## Hunters are Never Too Old to Shoot an Elk

Peggy O'Neil-McCleod

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Communications Office

If you Google "oldest elk hunter," one of the names that pops up is Gordon Blossom, who killed an elk when he was 103. His younger brother, Dick, isn't far behind. At age 101, Dick shot a cow elk this past fall.

"I'm planning to go next year," he said.

Dick's success was in part due to House Bill 328, which the Montana Legislature passed during last year's session. It allows resident hunters who are 75 years and older to use a general elk license to harvest an antlerless elk on private lands during any season in a hunting district where youth under 15 may harvest an antlerless elk. As of this week, 7,941 hunters who purchased a general elk license are 75 or older.

Dick was accompanied on his successful hunt by his two sons, Loren and Neal. The brothers put together a special hunting bench for their dad, which has a platform for Dick to perch his gun. Dick typically uses a walker to get around, but when he hunts, his sons walk with him arm-in-arm. He also shot a buck antelope this past season.

"Elk are my favorite to hunt and to eat, though," he said. "I don't hunt bulls. They're not as tender as cows. And you can't eat the horns."

The three Blossoms got up before dawn to search for their quarry. Neal said he could hear the cows "talking," so they immediately set up and waited. Soon enough, a group of about half a dozen elk came close. Some ran off before Dick could get a shot, but one cow stayed standing broadside and he drew a bead on it and pulled the trigger.

"When I'm hunting elk and see one, I get pretty excited," he said.

The group thought he missed, but when Neal walked over to the area where Dick had aimed his gun, he saw the cow lying on the ground.

"I yelled, 'Bring your knives!' We all whooped



Loren Blossom, his 101-year-old dad Dick and brother Neal after Dick shot his elk this year.

Photo Credit: Loren Blossom, Helena

and hollered and had a grand old time," Neal said.

They ate the tenderloins that night.

Dick said he has been hunting elk for more than 80 years and estimates that he's killed about 30. He started his hunting career when he was 10 years old chasing cottontails for the family's dinner table. He continued to hone his shooting skills at sniper school when he was a young man in the army.

"You never forget how to do it," he said.

Loren, 66, and Neal, 64, started pheasant hunting with their dad when they were young boys.

"He'd send us out to flush the birds," Loren said and laughed.

The boys began hunting elk and deer when they were young teens.

"I used to take them out, now they take me out," Dick said.

Outside his apartment at Touchmark in Helena, Dick has photos of himself and the animals he shot this year. Standing next to him are his two sons, looking proud of their father.

Asked if he thought he'd be hunting at age 101, Loren said, "I doubt I'll be alive."

But judging by the legacy left behind by his dad and uncle, who died in 2020, there's a fair shot.