

East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside

The Legend Says Farewell

T.J. Gravely
*Broadwater County
Public Works Director*



Have you ever been driving down a gravel county road and thought, “Wow, this is nice. I wonder who graded it?”

Chances are, William J. “Willy” Wertz had a hand in it—either running the grader himself or mentoring the person who did. Willy approached every mile of road as though he would be the one driving it every day. He took tremendous pride in delivering safe, smooth, and dependable roads for the people of Broadwater County.

Willy began his career with the county in March 1978, working until July 31, 1981, when he took a brief break to start his own business, Wertz Sand and Gravel. In March 1986, Willy returned to the county and continued his service through December 31, 2025. Over the course of 43 years, he trained numerous operators and became a steady, respected presence within the



*William J. “Willy” Wertz saying goodbye
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Public Works*

Road Department.

His skill as a heavy-equipment operator earned him recognition across the state. Willy brought home multiple trophies from the Montana Association of County Road Superintendents’ Snow Rodeo, competing in everything from graders to backhoes and loaders. Even today, his abilities remain sharp—but after decades of dedicated

service, he has chosen to retire, spend more time with his family, and enjoy his shop.

Retirement isn’t an ending—it’s a chance to redefine life on your own terms and begin a new chapter.

On behalf of the people of Broadwater County, thank you, Willy, for 43 years of hard work, commitment, and pride in keeping our roads safe and well maintained.

**Lions' Perch Derby Canceled
Due to Weather Conditions**

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



Lions’ Club Annual Perch Derby was canceled January 26 due to poor ice conditions, according to derby director Kim Kondelik. “The ice was just beginning to improve during this last cold spell, with a 7-inch depth in some places. The temperature is supposed to go to 30 degrees later this week, which will not thicken the ice more, so we made the decision to cancel this year’s derby. We are so disappointed,” she said.

The classic Townsend event, originally hosted by Townsend Rotary, was taken over by the Lions’ Club some years ago. Originally led by Mike Colbert, Kondelik filled in for a few years, then began leading the large event in 2022.

Three teams had signed up for the derby, Kondelik said. She will refund their money. The Derby has been canceled only twice during her time as organizer. As she remembers, the weather prohibited holding the event in 2019 and 2020.

Commissioners Press Release

Broadwater County Commissioners

Jan 26, 2026

Broadwater County, MT — The Broadwater County Commission has been notified by Montana Local Government Services, within the Department of Administration, that certain state funds are being withheld due to unresolved cash reconciliation issues.

According to the State, the withheld funds result from accounting discrepancies that have not been fully reconciled or corrected. Under Montana law, the County Treasurer is required to balance individual accounts monthly and report those balances. Simply put, these accounts are out of balance. However, please know the following:

Broadwater County is working diligently to comply with the financial requirements to balance the funds. To address the errors, we have enlisted third-party financial guidance and are revising reconciliation practices. To be clear, there is no allegation of misappropriation or criminal activity. Accounting practices needed to be

updated, and the renewed efforts are yielding improved fiscal accountability. County services will not be impacted with a timely resolution.

The Commissioners and other county officials are assisting the Treasurer to resolve these issues. This includes revising the processes required between elected offices to ensure proficient financial management. Our residents deserve clear answers and responsible stewardship of public funds. We will continue to speak up, insist on accountability, and do everything within our authority to protect the financial health of Broadwater County.

This matter is scheduled for discussion at the Jan 28th and Feb 4th Commission meetings. Staff and elected officials will be in attendance and available for questions on this issue.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

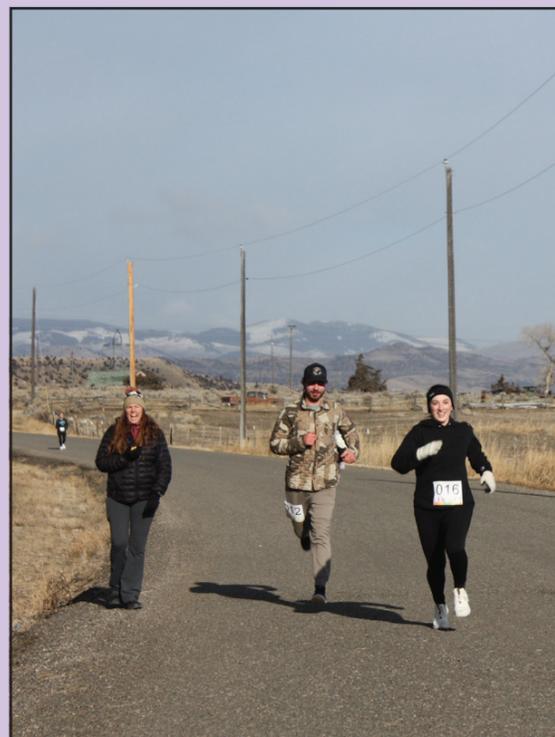
Contact:
Broadwater County Commissioners Debi Randolph, Jesse Swenson, and Lindsey Richtmyer
commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

Helping Hands Article Correction

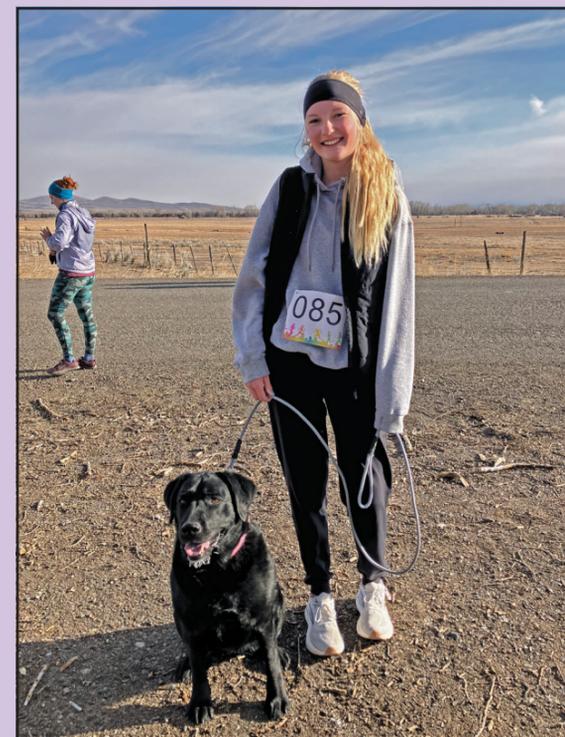
Correction: January 23 edition, Page 1 article - Helping Hands Prepares to Move to New Location. Roland Heaton’s name was misspelled. Brenda Greene’s name was listed as Amanda Greene.

MT43 News editors regret the mistake.

**Radersburg Ramble Hosts Runners for
Second Annual Event: Page 3**



*Ramble organizer, Karen Walton, left and two of the 44 registered runners in the run.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer*



*Townsend resident Ellaine MacDonald and her dog Charley, a six-year-old English lab.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer*

Bulldogs Bring Home Southern Division Drama Championship

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The Broadwater Bulldogs brought home the Class B Drama Championship trophy from their Divisional Tournament over the past weekend in Boulder!

The state is split into three divisions for Speech, Drama & Debate, combining both Class B and C schools. Broadwater falls within the Southern division which also includes: Anaconda, Belfry, Columbus, Ennis, Florence-Carlton, Fromberg, Gardiner, Harlowton, Jefferson, Joliet, Loyola Sacred Heart, Manhattan/Manhattan Christian, Park City, Plains, Powell, Reed Point, Red Lodge, Sheridan, Sweet Grass, Three Forks, Twin Bridges, West Yellowstone, Whitehall, and White Sulphur Springs.

The kids all compete together (regardless of their class) within their event and if they advance to the final round of eight, earn points for their team. The team trophies are then awarded for the top teams in Speech & Debate for both Class B and Class C, as well as the top teams in Drama for both Class B and Class C.

Senior Aubrey Wells and Sophomore Chloe Johnson are also event Divisional champions! They paired up as our entry in the Dramatic Theater Category and came out on top with their piece about a couple in turmoil.

Second-place medals were awarded to two Broadwater entries. Senior Noah Borrer, sophomore Ava Boaz, and freshman Lyrique Bryant perform together in Humorous Theater in a hilarious piece about working at Build-a-Bear. Also placing second was Sophomore Aiden Thompson in Humorous Solo with a piece that has clowns, balloon animals, and chicken nuggets!

Every member of the Drama team advanced to their event finals, earning them each a trip to the state meet and contributed to the team Class B Drama Divisional Championship Trophy. Senior Hannah Hall competes



Drama Team
Photo Credit: MT43 News

in Dramatic Solo and is always a top performer at the state level, while Junior Kyla Meissner hopes for another podium finish in Humorous Solo. Juniors Angel Sentinella and Sarah Morgan join with sophomore Simon Sanchez to deliver a zany take on the Evening News in Humorous Theater. Senior Sam Flesch shows off his muscles in Pantomime.

After spending most of the season doing Pantomime, freshman Tessie Hughes has switched her talents to Dramatic Solo in a piece about surviving cancer. Our new 8th grade performers joined the team just in time for the Divisional Tournament and they did amazing! They all landed in the Classical Theater Event, where the source material has to be at least 75 years old. They joined Freshmen Lucas Feller and Zoe Osborne's funny piece about an emperor needing new clothes, while

the others teamed up for their take on the Abbot and Costello classic "Who's on First?"

Our Speech team is small but mighty. Shalyn Sentinella is our only speech competitor, but her Original Oratory speech on confidence is really something to see. She won four tournaments in a row this season and looks to improve upon her fourth-place finish last year in Informative.

The State Speech, Debate & Drama Class B/C Competition will be underway at home in Townsend on January 3. The entries will compete in four preliminary rounds over two days, hopefully advancing to the semi-final round of 16 and then the final round of 8 competitors. Broadwater Bulldogs are taking 22 competitors to the state competition and hope to repeat as State Class B Champions.

Good luck to all!



Kindergarten and Prekindergarten Roundup

Jennifer Hoppe

Townsend Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher

Early registration for next year's Kindergarten and Prekindergarten classes will open at Townsend Elementary on February 1st. Any child who turns 5 years old by September 10, 2026, is eligible. If you are registering your child for Kindergarten or Prekindergarten, you may do so while school is in session, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

All children registered for Kindergarten and Prekindergarten must be screened for school readiness. This includes vision, hearing and a skills assessment. All early registrations received by April 8, 2026, will receive an appointment for Kindergarten Roundup on April 10, 2026, which is where the screening will occur. Any registrations received after that date will be scheduled for screening at the beginning of the next school year.

If you are interested in the early literacy and learning program (Prekindergarten), any child who turns 4 by September 10, 2026, may qualify. To qualify, the child must be screened. Students who are registered by April 8 will be screened at the Kindergarten Roundup. They will also receive a readiness assessment at a later date. To actually qualify for Prekindergarten, the students must test at or below a certain level on this readiness assessment and complete the assessments given during Kindergarten Roundup.

Please note, there will be no preschool or kindergarten classes on April 10th, 2026, since the teachers will be assisting with the screening during the Kindergarten Roundup.

Bulldogs at Whitehall Statistics

Clint Watson

Townsend Goes to Whitehall

Townsend- 9 19 14 16 58

Whitehall- 8 16 8 11 43

Scorers- Bryce Lessely-17, Tannen Tuffelmire-15, Tavyn Anderson-13, Trenton Hoveland-6, Colby Flynn-3, Pierce Howard-3, Heston Vandenaere-1

Lead Rebounders- Bryce Lessely-8, Tannen Tuffelmire-8, Tavyn Andersson-7, Trenton Hoveland-7, Colby Flynn-7, Pierce Howard-1

Assist- Tavyn Anderson-5, Trenton Hoveland-3, Colby Flynn-3, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Bryce Lessely-1, Pierce Howard-1, Heston Vandenaere-1

Steals- Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Bryce Lessely-2, Tavyn Andersson-1, Trenton Hoveland-1

Deflections- Trenton Hoveland- 7, Bryce Lessely-3, Heston Vandenaere-1, Colby Flynn-1

Townsend Shots- 2pts- 18/39 46.2% 3pts- 2/12 16.7%

Whitehall Shots- 2pts- 8/26 30.8% 3pts- 8/32 25.0%

Townsend Free Throws- 16/25 64.0%

Whitehall Free Throws- 3/8 37.5%

Townsend Turnovers- 13

Whitehall Turnovers- 11

Coach's Thoughts:

Well, we needed a win just to keep our spirits up and we did just enough to get that done. We still need to cut down on our turnovers. We had nice rebounding efforts from Bryce (8), Tannen (8), Tavyn (7), Trenton (7), and Colby (7). Tavyn Anderson delivered 5 assists, and Trenton Hoveland dished out 3 assists. Trenton was very active the second half, deflecting the ball 7 times. We have two away games this weekend, the first is Friday in Three Forks where the 'C' team starts at 3PM, and the second on Saturday in Big Timber, where the games start at 1 PM.

VALENTINE'S DAY IS ON THE WAY!

Send us a photo of your valentine(s) and we will print it with your special message!

Option 1: 2x2 \$50
Option 2: 2x3 \$75
Option 3: 2x4 \$100

Call or stop in at MT43News before Friday, February 6th!

406-266-0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend

Bulldogs Find Success at Whitehall

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



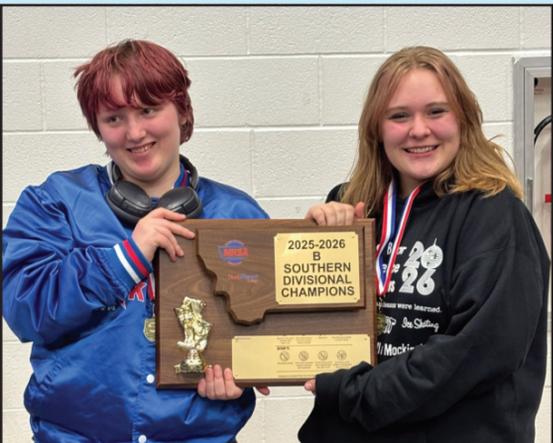
On Thursday, January 22nd, the Bulldogs travelled to Whitehall to take on the Trojans in another conference matchup. After this game, the boys' varsity team has a 3-4 record in conference play, and the girls' varsity have a 4-3 record.

The C squad boys won their game against the Trojans. The junior varsity game ended in a loss for the Bulldogs, 46-34. Dallas Fligge scored 11 points, Heston Vandenaere scored 10, including shooting 2 three pointers, and Tyzer Rains also had 10 points.

The varsity boys' game was another win for the Bulldogs 58-46. Bryce Lessley led the Bulldogs, scoring 19 points. Tannen Tuffelmire scored 18 points, and Tavyn Anderson scored 11.

The junior varsity girls' game ended in a loss for the Bulldogs, 18-33. Ella Toney scored 5 points, and Kinsley Heggen had 4 points.

The varsity girls won their game 42-35. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs victory with 12 points, and Emmalin Fischer and Jazel Ragen had 9 points.



Aubrey Wells and Chloe Johnson
Divisional Drama Theater Champions
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Wrestling: Jace Wellenstein
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Basketball: Bryce Lessley
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Teyvn Newman
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Broadwater Robotics Teams Compete at LEGO

Matt Nelson



Two Broadwater Middle School STOKE Robotics Teams competed against 17 other teams at the Four Georgians Elementary School in Helena on Saturday, January 24th. STOKE is the acronym for Science, Technology, and Outdoor Knowledge Education. The Robotics teams come under the Technology category. The younger students of the two teams are the AVENGINEERS, and the older students are the BRAINIACS. Students built robots using LEGOs, and this competition was the FIRST LEGO League event. According to coach Roger Flynn, “The Townsend students have been working since August 17th. Students and seven coaches have spent more than 2,000 combined hours designing, building and coding LEGO robots in preparation for FIRST LEGO League events.” Each of the robots are controlled by students using I-Pads with Wi-Fi connections, and the computer coding they come up with is very sophisticated.

Besides Helena, there were other competitions held in Kalispell, Missoula, and Billings, with about 100 teams in total. On February 7th, the State competition will be held at Montana State University in Bozeman, and seven teams that competed in Helena. The BRAINIACS team is one of the seven.

Again, quoting from Roger Flynn, “This year’s FIRST LEGO League challenge focused on archaeology, asking teams to develop solutions to real-world problems faced by archaeologists. The AVENGINEERS presented a concept for a portable battery-charging system designed for remote fieldwork. Their system combines solar, wind, water and vibration-based charging to provide power in locations without access to electricity.”

Although their robot performed exceptionally throughout the competition, earning high marks for accuracy and programming, and the fact they won the they won the top robot score, with the first-place Robot Performance Award, they just missed being one of the seven teams going to State by barely not meeting another qualifier. Alex Buccanon, Thor Byrne, Caleb Crusch, Kaylee Flynn, Sevine Flynn, Bennett Kirksey, Calvin McCauley and Keaton Schritz are the members of this team.

Once more, Roger Flynn commented: “The



Both Broadwater Robotics middle school teams show off their trophies. Top row: coach Jim Strait, coach Dr. Lisa Brown, coach Bobbie McCauley, coach Roger Flynn, coach Spencer Sella. Second row: coach Adam Six, Jayden Flynn, Titus Kirksey, Kathryn Six, Courtney Webber, Karter Schmaus. Third row: Keaton Schritz, Everett Kirksey, Andrew Beatty, Sevine Flynn, Sky Sella, Bennett Kirksey. Front row: Alex Buccanon, Kaylee Flynn, Calvin McCauley, Caleb Crusch, Thor Byrne. Not pictured: Eilyn Strait, coach Jessica Crusch
Photo Credit: Roger Flynn



The Avengineers
Photo Credit: Roger Flynn

BRAINIACS presented an app concept designed to help archaeologists better document stone circles, improving how field data is recorded and organized. Andrew Beatty, Jayden Flynn, Everett Kirksey, Titus Kirksey, Karter Schmaus, Sky Sella, Kathryn Six, Eilyn Strait and Courtney Webber are on this team. They earned the highly coveted first-place Champions Award, recognizing the top overall team at the tournament. Judges recognized the team for strong robot design, consistent performance and for modeling the FIRST Core Values, which emphasize teamwork, inclusion and gracious professionalism.”

Seven very fine coaches lead the Broadwater



Andrew Beatty and Kathryn Six prepare to launch their robot as coaches and team members watch.
Photo Credit: Roger Flynn

Robotics Teams. They are Jessica Crusch, Dr. Lisa Brown, Spencer Sella, Bobbie McCauley, Roger Flynn, Dr. Adam Six and Jim Strait.

Special thanks go to the Broadwater sponsors: STOKE, Townsend Rotary, The Lodge of Townsend, Ace Hardware of Townsend, Graymont, Bob’s Supermarket, Broadwater Equipment Services, Opportunity Bank, Green Wing, Squatch Country Construction Services, Systems Northwest, Boeing, the Birch Family, Sim and Robin Hofman, and the Gianforte Family Foundation for their continued support of youth robotics and STEM education.

Good luck at the State competition in Bozeman.

Radersburg Ramble Hosts Runners for Second Annual Event

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



It was a cold, gray day to run a race, but the sun came out just as runners were finishing the race at the second annual Radersburg Ramble. Organizer Karen Walton said she was pleased that ten more runners than last year came out, even though the weather was about the same— 8 degrees above zero.

Forty-four people from White Sulphur, Manhattan, Boulder, Helena, Bozeman, Townsend and Three Forks signed up to run the 5K and 10K run, which began at historic Radersburg School in the tiny neighborhood eleven miles from the Missouri River Bridge and Highway 287 turnoff.

Tara Spotts and her son, Michael, ran the race together. Michael is 9 and in the fourth grade in Manhattan. Tara said he had been running since he was born, beginning in a baby stroller. They both have done the Santa Run in Manhattan. Michael tries to do one 5K run each month.

High school cross country runner Elaine MacDonald did the 5K in 29 minutes with her dog, Charley. The six-year-old English labrador runs with her often, Elaine said.

All proceeds from the run go to Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc., since the run is hosted in the building.



Tara Spotts and her son Michael, who tries hard to beat his mom to the finish line.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Volunteers supplied the runners with an array of hot homemade soups, breads and desserts. “I try to keep the price of the run reasonable at \$35 for the 5K and \$45 for the 10K so we can attract families. Some runs have entry fees of up to \$150 per person,” Walton explained.

Walton thanked donors and sponsors for the run, including Belgrade ACE Hardware, Murdocks, Rocky



Manhattan runners Tara and Michael Spotts.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Mountain Supply, Bob’s Supermarket, Townsend Drug, Deep Creek Pizza, Fishtail Tavern, Bunkhouse Bar, Little Creek Feeds, JR Tonjum and Joselyn Reynolds, Realtors.

Walton’s mother, Jayne Mays, helped with setting up the food. Jayne, who lives in Belgrade, commented that runners and walkers who love the sport need a winter event to keep them interested and in shape.



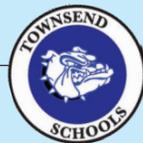
Senior Parker Hunt and family are recognized for their contribution to Bulldog wrestling
Kelly Morris Photography



Senior Gavin Schmele and his family are recognized for their contribution to Bulldog wrestling
Kelly Morris Photography

Townsend School & Sports

JANUARY



- Friday 30**
- NO SCHOOL
 - 3:00 pm: High School Basketball at Three Forks
 - High School Wrestling at Anaconda
 - Copper Shamrock

- Fri 30 - Sat 31**
- State Speech and Drama at Townsend

- January 31**
- 1:00 pm: High School Basketball at Big Timber

FEBRUARY

- Monday 2**
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Girls Basketball vs. Belgrade
 - 5:00 pm: Spring Musical Auditions - Community Room

- Mon 2 - Thu 5**
- 11:45 am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL - Library Classroom

- Tuesday 3**
- 10:30 am: Special Ed Testing - Community Room
 - 4:00 pm: Middle School Girls Basketball vs Ennis
 - 7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - The Bridge

- Wednesday 4**
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, laps

- Thursday 5**
- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball at Manhattan
 - 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club at the Library

- Thu 5 - Sat 7**
- Middle School Girls Basketball at Three Forks
 - Tourney

- Saturday 7**
- 2:30 pm: Varsity Only High School Basketball at Lone Peak

- Sunday 8**
- 1:30 pm: BHS Superbowl Party - Stage Gym, BHS Concession Area

East Helena Schools & Sports

JANUARY

- Friday 30**
- 5th Grade Ski Day

FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 3**
- 6:00 pm: PTO Meeting EVMS

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Monday 2**
- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- Wednesday 4**
- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting



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.

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS



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

- Andrea Eckerson**
Branch Manager
- HOURS:**
- Monday - Wednesday: 10 am - 6:00 pm.
 - Thursday and Friday: 10 am - 5:00 pm
 - Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm
 - Sundays: Closed

JANUARY

- Friday 30**
- 3:00 pm: East Helena Reading Circle Book Group

FEBRUARY

- Monday 2**
- Middle Grade Book Club

- Wednesday 4**
- 8:30 am: Coffee and Talk

- Wed 4 - Thu 5**
- 10:30 : Storytime

- Friday 6**
- 4:00 pm: Watch Party - Story & Sovereignty

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Anxious, worried, stressed? Everyone struggles. What do we do? Dinner, conversations, support. Free child care provided.

Fri. Feb. 6th
6:00-7:30 pm
The Lodge
121 S. Spruce St.

LIMITED TO 74 SPOTS!
YOU'RE INVITED!
GALENTINE'S @ READING LEAVES BOOKSTORE

SNAG A SPOT FOR YOU + 1 AT OUR FABULOUS GALENTINE'S

PAINT-YOUR-BESTIE BASH!

FEBRUARY 6TH & 7TH!

ENJOY WINE & TASTY SNACKS WHILE YOU AND YOUR BESTIE PAINT PORTRAITS OF EACH OTHER!

\$35 EACH WILL RESERVE YOUR PLACES FOR AN EVENING CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP & FUN.

STARTS AT 6:00 PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE @ READING LEAVES BOOKSTORE

Bookstores Under The Big Sky
Montana Bookstore Trail

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Friday 30**
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

- Saturday 31**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

FEBRUARY

- Monday 2**
- 10:00 am: Monthly WIC Clinic at Broadwater County Health, 124 Cedar
 - 1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club

- Tuesday 3**
- 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 4**
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 7:30 pm: **FREE:** COME and HEAR The Gospel every Wednesday this Month at 108 N Front St, Townsend **READ MORE ON PAGE 8**

- Thursday 5**
- 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
 - 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

- Friday 6**
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 6:00 pm: **FREE** Community Dinner and Conversation: "The Struggle is Real" at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**

- Fri 6 - Sat 7**
- 6:00 pm: Galentine's at Reading Leaves, 401 Broadway **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**

- Saturday 7**
- 7:00 am: Lion's Club Annual Perch Derby at Silos Recreation Area, Canyon Ferry Lake
 - 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

- Sunday 8**
- 8:30 am: Lion's Club Annual Perch Derby at Silos Recreation Area, Canyon Ferry Lake

- Saturday 14**
- 5:00 pm: Valentine's Day Fund Raiser at The Lodge, 131 S Spruce **SEE MORE ON PAGE 7 & 11**

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: February 18th, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM
American Legion Post 42,
211 Broadway, Townsend.

HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!

Join us for a hot, delicious meal - no cost to you.
DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED to help us continue supporting our community.

QUESTIONS? MENU? VOLUNTEER?	STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM (406) 266-3611
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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

Court Reporter Job Opening

Part-time job opening for person interested in writing the District Court Report.



Friday mornings at the Broadwater County Courthouse, usually once per week. Articles due the following Monday by noon each week.

Knowledge of court language and proceedings helpful, but not necessary.

Must be able to commit to one-year contract.

For more information or to apply: Mt43News, 408 Broadway, Townsend, or contact Nancy at (406) 980-0592.



Broadwater Food Pantry is located at 315 Broadway, Townsend, MT.

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)

February 7th and 21st 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted Friday Feb. 6th, 20th 9:00 to 11:00am

This month donation suggestions: Ground Beef, canned Stew, Chili, Fruit.

Monetary donation can be mailed to 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.

February is Holy Cross Catholic Church

For questions, Donations appointments and Emergency Food supplies **Call Phone number 406 916-0034 (our New Number)**



NOW BUILDING FLATBEDS

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(406) 594-1854



DOUBLE DIAMOND FABRICATION

Support LOCAL Businesses

RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mountie Moose Bakery
109 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-5800
Dining Hours:
Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Online Ordering:
Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site

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

Deep Creek Pizza Co.
415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend
(406) 266-0002
Dining Hours:
11:00AM - 8:00 PM
Closed Sunday
Menu:
deepcreekpizzaco.com
Accepting Orders Online

Mountain Grounds Coffee
(406) 475-0672
401 Broadway, Townsend
Dining Hours:
Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 4:30PM
Sat - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Online Ordering:
MTNGROUNDS.com

Bunkhouse Bar & Grill
8846 US-287, Toston
(406) 266-5302
SPECIAL:
N/A
Dining Hours:
10:00AM - Close
Grill off at 10:00PM

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

Peking China
10 N Main St, Three Forks
(406) 285-3225
Dining Hours:
Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM
Menu:
Google

Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom
300 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 694-5687
Hours:
Wed - Fri 4:00PM - Close
Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

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

Rocky Mountain Supply Deli
7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend
(406) 266-3456
Hot & Cold To-Go Hours:
Mon-Fri 6:00AM - 6:00PM
Menu:
Board Inside Store
for Take-and Bake or
Ready-to-Eat Pizza
Call Ahead or Order Inside

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
changinmerc.square.site

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

TB's Diner
316 N Front St, Townsend,
(406) 266-0099
Dining Hours:
Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM
Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM
Specials:
Facebook

Broadwater Area Restaurants

Contact MT 43 News, Monday- Friday 10 - 2, if you would like to talk about how to add your dining location and open hours to our paper!
406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend, MT

Vaquero's Mexican Restaurant
219 Broadway St, Townsend
(406)266-1860
Dining Hours:
Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM
Closed Mondays
Menu & Specials:
Facebook
Call Ahead or Order Inside

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: L equals U

HTBI RUL GBXMLDCB ADIR
GBUGQB WU AUOB WU
LVXDEIB'M JDGEWDQ, HTDW
CU RUL CU? WTEJVBI VEBO.

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KNIGHT MOVES

C	S	L
I		I
T	K	P

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!

Mean **LIMPY** _____

Hue **DEASH** _____

Bank **LOWLAW** _____

Garb **TRAITE** _____

TODAY'S WORD _____

"Well, it's that time again to regret you didn't marry a _____ woman!"

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

KOLAR TIRE
24/7 Towing & Roadside Assistance
Townsend, Three Forks and Helena
www.helenatire.com
(406) 202-1113

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

MADISON RIVER PROpane
7812 US-287 Townsend, MT
406-266-4278
Metered Propane
Budget Billing
Lease Tanks
Service Department

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

YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE

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

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 THE THIRD PERSON

ACROSS

1 Go to
7 Stogie who sometimes replaced
12 Sauna locale
15 Defeater of Gore
19 Time: Prefix
20 On the briny
21 Retained
23 Old foxtrot dancer makes a two-in-one chess move?
25 Makes lively
26 Flow blockers
27 Oct. preceder
28 "All I Wanna Do" singer boasts?
30 Prefix with propyl
31 Winter hrs. in Philadelphia
33 Lawman Wyatt
34 Falsehood
35 "The Finest Hours" co-star years deeply?
40 America's first female astronaut takes a bus?
45 Top-secret U.S. org.
46 Starting on

48 Sanaa locale
49 "Samson and Delilah" co-star develops fully?
55 Conductor
59 Big 20th-cen. conflict
60 Actress — de Armas
61 Universal rule
63 "Eww, micle!"
64 Harry Potter's skill
68 "Play It as It Lays" co-star does a fusing job?
72 "Middle Child" rapper
73 In the past
75 Spain's El —
76 Really annoy
77 "Broadcast News" co-star feels sore?
80 Dirt Devil or DustBuster, for short
82 "Botch- —"
83 Former TWA competitor
84 Coll. in Columbus
86 NYSE debut
87 Rolo filling
91 Frontwoman of Hole has a deep fondness?
96 Cowboy rope

98 Italian money
99 A, in Munich
100 "Jerry Maguire" star goes sailing?
105 "Coma" novelist makes dinner?
110 "There — god!"
111 Barber's cut
113 Boise-to-skill Tucson dir.
114 "Dr." of music
115 Miami Heat great walks in water?
120 Potentially shocking fish
122 Writer Uris
123 Came through, as a radio signal
124 "Cheers" actress years?
128 Setting fire to
129 Shire of film
130 "Apparently!"
131 Throw easily
132 Golf gadget
133 "Geez, that's rough!"
134 Recluses

DOWN

1 Not alkaline
2 Defeat soundly
3 Quake
4 Vast spans
5 Dir. 135 degrees from
6 G.P., for one
7 Postpaid enc.
8 URL start
9 Immigrant's class, in brief
10 Edwin of Reagan's Cabinet
11 Old Turkish officials
12 In a cutting way
13 Like a runt
14 Indigo dye
15 Wild pig
16 Innumerable
17 1-year-old on "Family Guy"
18 Steeds, in Westems
22 Sierra maker
24 Sparkling
29 History topic
31 Exxon, once
32 Trade blows
36 Accrued qty.
37 Indian bread
38 This, in Peru
39 —wester
41 Subsidiary theorem
42 Singer Sumac
43 Singer Des'—
44 Officeholders
47 Munich Mrs.

49 Beetles and Golfs, in brief
50 Famed flag-raising site of 1945
51 Orbiting body, e.g.
52 Spring month
53 Firm bigwigs
54 "Yes, yes!" in Mexico
56 City in Israel
57 Procedural form-filling founder
58 Endorses Julian
62 Quirky
65 Maj.'s superior
66 Yale student
67 "Stuck" actor Stephen
68 "Road —" (1947 comedy film)
69 In-favor vote
70 Pale food stores
71 LAX takeoff guess
73 Throat-check sounds
74 Avocado dip, informally
77 Former female mil. group
78 Prefix with grain or color
79 Irrefutable
80 Color shade
81 Bus. entities
84 Other, to Jorge
85 Snooty type
88 Oval portion
89 Pre-2001 space station
90 It fills la mer
92 1921 Karel Capek play
93 Cravings
94 Pet pests
95 Artist Yoko
97 WikiLeaks founder
100 Little goody
101 New York city or river
102 Yucatec speakers
103 Put a stop to
104 Noon nap
106 Atoll unit
107 Danish port
108 Big chain of food stores
109 Has a hunch
112 "Hogwash!"
116 French pals
117 After taxes
118 Correct copy
119 Pinot, e.g.
120 Filmmaker Kazan
121 Panache
122 Pork cut
125 Graceful tree
126 Fashion inits.
127 Lav in a pub

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.

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

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Cause No. CDV-2024-53

TESELLE RESIDUARY TRUST B,
DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2004, AND

TESELLE MARITAL TRUST A,
DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2004,

Plaintiffs,

Vs.

SAGER AND TESELLE FAMILY TRUST, SAGER DIS-

CLAIMER TRUST, CATHERINE MAE SAGER, GEORGE

W. SAGER, SAGER FAMILY TRUST, A/K/A SAGER

FAMILY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, AND ALL OTHER

PERSONS, UNKNOWN, CLAIMING OR WHO MIGHT

CLAIM ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, OR INTEREST IN

OR LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE UPON THE REAL PROP-

ERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS COMPLAINT ADVERSE

TO PLAINTIFF'S OWNERSHIP OR ANY CLOUD UPON

PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, WHETHER THE CLAIM OR POSSIBLE

CLAIM IS PRESENT OR CONTINGENT, INCLUDING ANY

UNKNOWN HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF

GEORGE W. SAGER, CATHERINE MAE SAGER, LU-

CILE ANN TESELLE AND BEN R. TESELLE, DECEASED,

Defendants.

THE STATE OF MONTANA TO THE ABOVE NAMED

DEFENDANTS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKONWN,

CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, OR INTEREST

IN OR LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE UPON THE REAL PROP-

ERTY DESCRBED IN THIE COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO

PLAINTIFFS' TITLE, WHETHER THE CLAIM OR POSSIBLE

CLAIM IS PRESENT OR CONTINGENT, INCLUDING ANY

UNKNOWN HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF GEORGE W. SAGER,

CATHERINE MAE SAGER, LUCILE ANN TESELLE AND

BEN R. TESELLE, DECEASED:

A lawsuit has been filed against you, the above-named

Defendants.

Within twenty-one (21) days, after service of this Summons

by Publication on you, you must serve on the Plaintiffs an answer

to the Verified Complaint for Quiet Title or a motion under Rule

12 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. Do not include the

day you were served in your calculation of time. The answer or

motion must be served on Plaintiffs' attorney whose name and

address are listed above.

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered

against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint

to Quiet Title. This action is brought for the purpose of quiet-

ing title to the reap property situated in Broadwater County,

Montana, more particularly described as follows:

Township 2 North, Range 1 East, PMM, Broadwater County,

Montana

Section 14: SW ¼ ; all that portion of the NE ¼ and the SE

¼ lying North and East of Old Town Road.

Section 14: Tract 2B-B as shown on Certificate of Survey

Number 154577, recorded in Book 2 of Plats, page 132.

Section 15: E ½ ; EXCEPTING THEREFROM Lot 1 of

Certificate of Survey recorded in Book 1 of Plats, page 864;

FURTHER EXCEPTING THEREFROM the Interstate 90

right-of-way.

Township 3 North, Range 1 East, PMM, Broadwater County,

Montana

Section 10: S ½; EXCEPTING THEREFREOM those parcels

conveyed to the State of Montana and the Montana Department

of Transportation recorded in Book 42 of Deeds, page 507, as

Document Number 177202, and as Document Number 177210.

You must file your answer or motion with the Court.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Audrey Plymale

AUDREY PLYMALE

Clerk of the District Court

Published January 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE OBJECTION PERIOD

NOTICE TO WATER USERS

(PURSUANT TO SECTION 85-2-429, MCA)

The following Stock Use Change Authorization has been issued

for a Water Right in the State of Montana.

OBJECTION DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2026 OBJECTIONS

MUST BE FILED ON AN OBJECTION TO APPLICATION,

FORM 611. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPART-

MENT'S WEBSITE OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY

WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICE. MAIL PAPER

COPIES OF THE COMPLETED FORM AND THE \$50.00

FILING FEE TO: DNRC WATER RIGHTS BUREAU, PO

BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601 BY THE DEADLINE

SPECIFIED. SUBMIT ELECTRONIC COPIES OF THE

COMPLETED FORM TO: DNRCWATERRIGHTSCOM-

MENTOBJECTION@MT.GOV. IF YOU SUBMIT THE

FORM ELECTRONICALLY, MAIL THE \$50.00 FILING FEE

TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE OR PAY BY PHONE AT (406)

444-6610 BY THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED. CONTACT THE

WATER RESOURCES OFFICE AT 1424 9TH AVENUE, PO

BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601 FAX: 406-444-9317

PHONE: 406-444-6999 WITH QUESTIONS PERTAINING

TO THE APPLICATION OR TO REQUEST AN OBJECTION

FORM.

Application Number: 411 30172223

Applicant:

ARNOLD J KOLBERG

66 LONE MOUNTAIN RD

TOSTON, MT 59643 9745

LEWIS, SHARON M REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

81 LEWIS KITTO LN

TOSTON, MT 59643 9744

WATER RIGHT NUMBER(S) BEING CHANGED

Water Right Type STATEMENT OF CLAIM Water Right

Number 41I 6758-00 Priority Date JANUARY 9, 1963

PROPOSED CHANGE

THIS CHANGE AUTHORIZATION IS TO REMOVE THE

STOCK TANK IN NENENW SECTION 16, T4N, R2E,

FROM WATER RIGHT 41I 6758-00, AND ADD A STOCK

TANK TO SESESW SECTION 9, T4N, R2E, ALL WITHIN

BROADWATER COUNTY. THE EXISTING PLACES OF

USE WITHIN NENWNW SECTION 15 AND NENENE

SECTION 21, T4N, R2E, BROADWATER COUNTY, WILL

REMAIN THE SAME.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THIS CHANGE AUTHORIZATION IS AUTHORIZED

PURSUANT TO 85-2-429(5) MCA

Published January 30, 2026

MNAXLP

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Lewis C. Bell – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$70 fines & fees

Jacob M. Bernal – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$70 fines & fees

Charles A. Lafferty – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Heather J. Parker – Lake Havasu City, AZ – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Jace H. Williams – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Richard Q. Woirhaye – Arlee – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Sarah C. De Groot – Bozeman – speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Taylor M. Johnson – Great Falls – speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines – \$70 fines & fees

John E. Krol III – Townsend – Careless Driving – driver approached traffic too fast on icy roads and collided with driver's side mirror. Swerve to avoid rear end – plead guilty – \$45 fines & fees

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Samuel J. Allen – Daniel, WY – Violation of commission or department orders or rules – operating boat and fishing within 300ft of the Toston Dam – paid fines – \$135 fines & fees

Jordan V. Smith – Belgrade – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – hunting waterfowl on private property without permission - plead guilty – \$235 fines & fees

Hoyt Raffay – Oak Creek CO – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – defendant crossed private railroad to hunt migratory birds – plead guilty – \$265 fines & fees

Henry R. Lemp – Belgrade – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – waterfowl hunting on private property without landowner permission – plead guilty – \$235 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Devon R. Ruffin – O Fallon – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Paul A. Tachera – Anaconda – Speeding on-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$20 fines & fees

Kolten M. Bachmeier – Helena – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines – \$200 fines & fees

Laurie McKinnon – Redacted – Reckless endangerment of emergency personnel – plead guilty – \$285 fines & fees. Court will defer imposition of sentence for (3) months with good behavior as well as enrollment and completion of traffic school.

COUNTY CRIMINAL

John M. Sindelar – Townsend – Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs [1st] – plead guilty - \$685 fines & fees as well as six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all but one (1) day suspended for six (6) with good behavior and completion of other program. Defendant to enroll and complete ACT class within four (4) months. Probationary drivers license after payment of reinstatement fees.

Brandon B. Boylan – Disorderly Conduct – knowingly disturbed the peace by pulling victim off their bar stool – plead guilty – \$105 fines & fees. Sentenced to ten (10) days in Broadwater County Jail with execution of jail suspended for six (6) months. Immediate Book & Release.

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Iskandar Akhmedov – Tipp City OH – exceeding the max gross weight allowed any group of axels (bridge formula) – plead guilty – \$2,035 fines & fees. Court will defer imposition of sentence for a period of one (1) year with good behavior.

Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Kolter Howes:

Kolter Howes, Petitioner

Case No.: ADV-2026-5

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) Kolter Ryan

Douglas Howes

To (name you want) Kolter Douglas Smith

The hearing will be on (date) 03/06/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM

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

Filed Date 1/05/26

Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court

By Beth Campbell, Deputy Clerk of Court

Published January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERTUM WIL-

LIAMS, 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

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of Jessica Andersen-Wear, Deceased.

CAUSE NO. BDP-2025-20

Honorable Mike McMahon

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jessica Andersen-Wear, deceased. All persons having claims against

deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed return receipt requested to:

Todd Andersen-Wear 611 S Oak Street Townsend, MT 59644 or filed with the Clerk of the above entitled Court.

Dated this 20th day of January, 2026.

Published January 23, 30, February 6, 2026

MNAXLP

PUBLIC HEARING: BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY2025-2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council for the City of Townsend, Montana, has proposed to amend the fiscal year 2025-20256 budget in the following funds: Comp Insurance

Fund, PERS Fund, and the General Fund.

The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 110 Broadway, Townsend, MT.

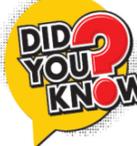
Members of the public may appear and be heard for or against any part of said budget.

After hearing public comment, the Council will review and make the necessary changes, if needed, to pass the budget amendments. The Council will act on the proposed budget

amendments at the regular council meeting, immediately following the Public Hearing.

Published January 23 and 30, 2026

MNAXLP



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

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

Lawsuit Challenges Second-Home Tax

Victor Sample



Legal challenge by prominent Republicans asks court to find that a bill that lowered taxes for an estimated 4 in 5 homeowners and offered \$400 property tax rebates is unconstitutional.

Eric Dietrich, Deputy Editor of the Montana Free Press has written a very detailed analysis of the lawsuit and why it has been filed.

To read the full article, visit the MT43News website at <https://mt43news.com>

NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING OPEN FOR 2026 TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 ELECTION

ANGIE PAULSEN

Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor



NOTICE is hereby given that candidate filing is open December 11, 2025, through February 9, 2026, for Townsend School District No. 1 Board of Trustees election scheduled for Tuesday May 5, 2026.

Interested candidates must file their Declaration for Nomination and Oath of Candidacy with the Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's Office located at 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644.

Available Trustee Positions:

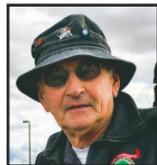
- Two positions are open for a 3-year term
- One position is open for a 1-year term

Candidate filing forms can be accessed on the Broadwater County Elections website: www.broadwatercountymt.gov. Please note that incumbents must re-file, even if they have been elected or appointed to an unexpired term. For any questions, please reach out via email at elections@broadwatercountymt.gov or call 406-266-9219.

DATED this 20th day of January 2026.

Get STOKEd on Valentine's Day

Patrick Plantenberg
STOKE Supporter



STOKE (Science, Technology, Outdoor Knowledge, and Entrepreneurship) is doing amazing things with the youth of Broadwater County! Last year, they served 180 kids and 68 of them would be considered socially or economically disadvantaged. In 2025, STOKE spent over \$72,000 on their children's programs. And all their kids' programs are free of charge!

STOKE is a community-based organization that has been offering after-school programs for six years, including robotics, sewing, cooking, pottery, jewelry making, fly tying, safe sitter classes, First aid/CPR classes, photojournalism, and outdoor activities like horseback riding and skiing. STOKE is hoping to expand activities by securing more space, working with a part-time grant writer, hiring a program director, offering more outdoor knowledge programs, expanding photojournalism activities with a new video camera, trying to set up a recording studio, developing podcasting, continuing to cooperate with Broadwater Community Theater, and maybe even teaching glass blowing.

Other new developments include having a van donated to facilitate travel to outdoor programs and robotics tournaments. They have set up a high school youth advisory board to help them plan activities desired by youth. They are also offering three \$500 scholarships this year.

If you haven't been involved with them, it's time you learned more about this organization. Valentine's Day is the date of their annual fundraiser. So come to the Lodge of Townsend at 131 S. Spruce on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 5-8:30 pm. The night will be filled with Student Presentations and a Tri Tip Beef Roast full course dinner catered by John and Missy Rauser and served by STOKE youth. Youth presentations will be from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. There will be entertainment, silent and live auctions, and play Heart Hole and Heads & Tails to try and win great prizes.

Bring your spouse and have a great dinner and spend a little money to help this great organization. You can buy tickets online at: <https://stokemt.org/valentines/> or at The Bird's Nest on the corner of Broadway and S. Pine Street.

If you can't make it to the fundraiser and want to donate to STOKE, go to: <https://stokemt.org/>

See the STOKE ad in this issue for more information.

Volunteers: The Backbone of Community Success

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Did you know there is a group working to improve our local trails system? Did you know community members are trying to develop solutions for affordable housing? Did you know that Fall Fest is entirely run by volunteers? In fact, nearly all of our large community events are organized by volunteers. There are really amazing things happening in our community that are made possible through volunteers. It takes a lot of people to make a community a thriving place to live, specifically people who give their time, energy and resources to make so much happen.

One of the biggest challenges that local community groups and nonprofits have is recruiting and engaging new volunteers. This challenge is echoed in the research. A recent study by MSU Extension found that 1 in 15 people in Montana need to hold a leadership role to keep nonprofits operating. This is the highest in the nation. However, another common phenomenon across the state, including Broadwater County, is that those in leadership roles do so in multiple organizations. Why is this? It could be because they love being engaged in the community and giving back. While I believe this is true, I think it could also be directly related challenges with recruiting new volunteers for these roles.

Engaging volunteers takes a strategic and thoughtful process to truly be successful. There are research-based models that provide systematic approaches to volunteer management and development, but in my experience in community work, there are a few basic principles to recruiting and retaining volunteers.

The first step is identifying your specific volunteer needs. How many people do you need to be successful? What or who is currently missing? What type of person are you looking for? What skills, knowledge, attitudes or abilities do they need to possess? I highly recommend developing a role description for volunteer positions that outlines the responsibilities, time commitment, qualifications, potential impacts and benefits. Providing this to prospective volunteers makes it clearer about what they are getting into.

After you know what you are looking for, the next step is actual recruitment. Unfortunately, public recruitment campaigns often fall short. The best tried and true method for recruitment is direct ask. Organizations that are highly successful recruiting volunteers spend time strategizing specific individuals, assigning someone to ask and then follow up. One study found that the number of "yesses" from volunteers increased from 29% to 71% with a direct ask.

Once you have recruited a volunteer, it is important to set that person up for success. This should include establishing clear expectations, providing orientation and/or education, and providing a supportive environment. Throughout this process, it is important to provide and accept feedback. Volunteers are often the "boots on the ground" people getting the work done so hearing them through their challenges and supporting their needs will help you retain volunteers in the long run.

Last, but certainly not least, it is important to acknowledge and recognize volunteers. Volunteers, in most cases, do not need to be there and won't stay if they don't feel valued, appreciated and know their work is making a difference. There are many ways to recognize volunteers, both formally and informally. Ideas include a small token of thanks, a handwritten thank you, a gift, acknowledgement at an event or publishing a list of volunteers in the newspaper.

If you go through the steps and are still having trouble recruiting and/or retaining volunteers, it may be time to step back and analyze the current volunteer structure. Is there a system or structure in place that discourages volunteers from being part of your organization? The reality is that people today volunteer differently than in the past. Research shows that young adults do want to volunteer but may do it in a different way. For example, younger generations are not as interested in long term commitments. They want volunteer opportunities that are short duration and show real work impact. My challenge to local organizations is to think strategically about your volunteer roles and how you can make them appeal to multiple generations and types of volunteers.

I also would like to challenge community members who are not currently involved to consider volunteering. If you have an interest or passion, chances are there is a community group that is related to your interest that can use you. If you're unsure where to start, start small such as serving beer or brats at Fall Fest. Another option is to join the next class of Big Sky Big Leadership in Broadwater County, which offers opportunities to learn about local nonprofits and community needs in addition to building leadership skills. For more information about volunteer engagement or Big Sky Big Leadership, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County 406-266-9242 or Allison.kosto@montana.edu

Broadwater Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater Commissioners



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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Coblenz Family Transfer Exemption Request; S9 T8N R1E

10:05 AM Discussion, Letter from Local Government Services/Department of Administration regarding withholding of certain state funding

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

Lindsey Richtmyer
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834 lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213 jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change. Please check the county website

- Trust Board Meeting on February 10th at 11:30 AM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on February 10th at 6:00 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on February 12th at 3:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 12th at 5:15 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on February 17th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on February 18th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 19th at 5:15 PM

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

Americanisms



“Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching.”
— Satchel Paige



Elkhorn Community Fellowship
 126 N Cedar St. Townsend
 Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183
Sunday: 11:00am- Services
Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades
 | 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades
 *

Faith Baptist Church
 5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend
 Pastor Seth Wenzel (406) 266-4219
Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning
 Service | 6:00pm Evening Service
Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer
 *

Holy Cross Catholic Church
 101 S Walnut St. Townsend
 Parish Contact (406) 266-4811
 email: office@holycrossmt.org
Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation |
 4:30pm- Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner
 with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades
 Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org
Monday: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration
Tuesday: 9:00am Mass
 *

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)
 110 E Street Townsend
 Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 594-7609
 MountainValleyChurch.org
Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and
 Youth Ministry
Wednesdays: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry
 and Adult Bible Study Groups
 Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406
 Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.
 *

Radersburg Baptist Church
 7 Main St, Radersburg
 Special Service Pastors (406) 266-4673
Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship
 *

Set Free Christian Fellowship
 424 N Pine Townsend; PO Box 1163
 Pastor Carol Bergstad (406) 461-2181
Sunday: 9:30am Service | 7:00pm Set Free Recovery
Thursday: 7:00pm Bible Study
 *

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 200 N Cedar St. Townsend
 (406) 241-0042
Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Sabbath School
Tuesday: 6:30pm Bible Study
 *

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod
 301 N Cherry St. Townsend
 Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911
 Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon
 Council President Rick Arnold (406) 633-2677
Sunday: 9:30am Services
Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the
 ELCA meet.
 Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.
 *

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 916 Broadway St. Townsend
 Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255
Sunday: 9:00am Choir Practice | 10:00am Sacrament
 Meeting | 11:10am Sunday School (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open
 For Family History Center appointment call Director,
 Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270
Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities
 *

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

Trailhead Christian Fellowship
 20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)
 Pastor Clay Muinzer (406) 266-4406
Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education
 | 10:00am Services
Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K- 6th
 Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th-12th Grades



SR. CENTER MEALS: *Wednesday, February 4*
FEBRUARY 2 - 6 Chicken ALA King
 Steamed Potatoes
 Broccoli Spears
 Whole Grain Bread
 Sweet Peaches

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

Monday, February 2 *Thursday, February 5*
 Hamburger on a Bun Chili Con Carne
 Potato Triangles Corn Bread
 Carrot Coins Italian Vegetables
 Juicy Pears Sweet Corn
 Dessert Apricots

Tuesday, February 3 *Friday, February 6*
 Sweet-N-Sour Pork Tater Tot Casserole
 Fried Brown Rice Garden Peas
 Oriental Vegetables Carrot Raisin Salad
 Purple Beets Whole Grain Bread
 Whole Grain Bread Spiced Apples
 Pineapple

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Service Available

At MT43 News Office
 408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
 Mon - Fri 10:00 - 2:00pm

Or by Appointment
 Contact: Brenda Phillips
 406-231-9752

Common Sense
 BY BILL GARWOOD

Fashion Sense, Makes NO Sense!

I don't think I have ever watched more than 5 minutes of the Academy Awards, and I feel smarter because of that. The reporters who write or broadcast about the so-called "awards shows" have really gotten off on the wrong track in the last...several years. Why, you say? I'm glad you asked. This is what writer/reader participation is all about, I include you.

The very thought of the Academy Awards was always something big on a few people's calendars. Not so many anymore; I like to think we have smartened up. Not always, but there is hope! In case you haven't heard, it was just this last year where the Academy told the people who judge the awardees, they needed to (you can't make this stuff up) ACTUALLY watch the films they were judging! Wait a minute, all these years people have been judging and voting on best picture. WITHOUT watching the films? Yep!

Strangely enough, this isn't the big problem, as the reporters aren't even reporting on the films. They are reporting on which actress wore the least clothing! I have literally read quotes like: "Oh, her skimpy dress will be talked about for centuries". No, a guy's attention span will last until the next unclad female walks out on stage. Last year, one of the sport's celebrities had his girlfriend walk out in an overcoat and drop it. She was nude!

Amazingly enough, the academy promoters had her put her clothes back on! Let me get this straight, almost naked is ok, but completely naked is bad? (And from the crowd came a resounding, "Whatever!")

These reporters think they are doing us all a favor by telling us, "the informed public," that whatever "star" is not wearing has any bearing on the best films. (Heavy Sigh!)

Have you ever noticed lately there are more and more awards shows on television, streaming, or whatever passes for entertainment these days? Our celebrities are so busy patting each other and themselves on the back they don't put out quality films anymore. SAD!

One wonders...that would be me... what the families think about their starlet standing in the limelight. Smiling big, wearing next to nothing? "Oh, look our darling Daughter is smiling so big, and her dress is.....EEEEK!" "Mom? She fainted!"

So, remember folks, if you must watch the awards shows, make sure the young and impressionable are out of the room. Isn't it amazing that the awards shows are all about whose breasts are more visible, or who is hiding their figure and why? I'm sorry, my people, I just don't care!

Two films (besides Top Gun Maverick) that I found to be great were "Last Vegas" with Morgan Freeman, and "Last of the Dogmen" with Tom Berringer. Great entertaining flicks. (Did I just say flicks?) I'm old! Stay safe out there; the cold can get you quickly. (And to the High School folks who said, "We love Bill's articles." Bless you!)

Invitation to HEAR the Eternal Truths of the Life & Teachings of Jesus

Theresa Sullivan

AN INVITATION to COME and HEAR The Gospel- the eternal truths of the life & teachings of Jesus. Shared in simplicity from the Bible.

Wednesdays of February @ 7:30 PM, 108 N Front St, Townsend.

Free to all, everyone is welcome.

For further information - simplegospelstory@gmail.com

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124: 6-8

Detail of "Rippling Water" by Frank Benson (1920)

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The Struggle is Real

Father Cody Williams
 Holy Cross Church

"Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars." Kahlil Gibran. Life is full of suffering and challenges. We all struggle with the basic necessities of life: from finances to friendship, from love to pain, from illnesses to anxieties. No one can avoid the struggle which is living. The American author Kahlil Gibran, whom I quoted above, represents one of the most common ways through which people explain the sufferings of life. We are all marked with scars from the battle and emerge from them stronger. These words fall flat for most people. Why haven't I emerged stronger? Why am I not like those great characters from history? Why am I still caught in the struggles and sorrows of life?

We want answers. We want the pain to go away. We want to emerge from these challenges into a place of light and peace where we can simply live and enjoy life again. Yet, some sicknesses rage on, some challenges seem insurmountable, and sometimes we feel like surrender is the only option. So we ask ourselves, what are our options? Why do we struggle? What is the point in all of this?

We need to realize the reality of the struggle. Everyone struggles, everyone faces challenges, everyone experiences defeat. But we try to hide it. We want people to think that everything is alright. We force an image of ourselves that life is good and that we are not the ones suffering. We want to convince ourselves that the end is just around the corner and then everything will be fine. Just hold on a little longer.

What's the solution? To be honest. We need to be honest with ourselves that we all struggle. We need to be honest with each other that the only true support in the midst of our challenges is someone who cares. We need to be honest with ourselves that we will struggle throughout life. Only with these truths as our defense can we begin to understand and appreciate the struggle. The struggle that makes us know our priorities and values. The struggle that teaches us about our own strength. The struggle that brings us to the care of the people around us. The struggle that teaches us about life and the value of struggling together. We don't need to be alone in our struggles, but to overcome it means reaching out and showing our pain.

On Friday, February 6th, Holy Cross Church is hosting a night dedicated to bringing the struggle to the light. The event is at the Lodge starting at 6 pm with dinner. With examples from our local community members as guides, we can struggle together and find support in the midst of our challenges. We need to be honest with ourselves: we need others to help us in the struggle. We need to accept the truth that we all struggle, but that we don't have to struggle alone, hidden in the darkness.

Barnes Jewelry

357 N Last Chance Gulch,
 Helena MT
 406-442-3000

The Garden Bug

Top gardening apps

Apps for planning:
 • Planter
 • iScape
 • Gardenize
 • Gardroid

Apps for plant care:
 • Planta
 • From Seed to Spoon
 • Garden Manager
 • Moon and Garden

- Brenda Weaver
 Source: gardentherapy.ca

Let's Keep Highway 287 Update Front and Center in the Public Eye



Highway 287 near Cook's Landing approach
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



North and southbound traffic on Highway 287 near the Silos turnoff
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter

For weeks, months and even years, county residents have waited for Montana Department of Transportation planners to upgrade Highway 287 to make it safer for motorists.

At the January 17 Commissioners' meeting, we saw the beginnings of their plan. Broadwater County Commissioners had worked diligently many months to have every person involved in planning highways from MDT to attend the meeting, as well as the grant application writer from Great West Engineering, who will attempt to obtain the money to help pay for the changes to the highway.

The Flynn Building meeting room was packed with Broadwater County citizens and officials who were respectful and prepared with well thought-out questions. Those in attendance included Townsend Mayor Vickie Rauser, Chuck and John Hahn, ranchers and landowners next to the highway, county board members Dwight Thompson and Carol Hatfield, House District 77 Representative Jane Gilette. We were well represented.

The well-thought-out questions were dutifully answered by MDT people. "Yes, we see the problem

about the 52 approaches from the Missouri River Bridge to the Silos, most with no turning lane; yes, we know how dangerous it is to turn left at the Silos turnoff because traffic is traveling 70 miles per hour or better, both ways. Yes, we are aware that three fatalities have happened, but they don't meet our criteria for "crash clusters". And yes, we know how many moose, deer and antelope are killed each year along the route.

Bottom Line: the meeting was about explaining the timeline of work on this busy, mostly 2-lane highway which has 7,538 vehicle trips per day between Three Forks and Helena. The timeline: 2030. Motorists will continue to fight this dangerous driving situation every day for 4 more years before work begins. Why, because of money constraints, competition for other Montana highways with higher priorities. Many of us at the meeting came away asking ourselves, "How many more deaths will happen on Highway 287 before something is done?"

Some light did shine at the end of the tunnel, though: David Relph, speaker for MDT's safety division, did admit that his department could, in fact, add yellow, no passing lines to dangerous portions of the road, and could, in fact, install signs to slow traffic. He demurred about changing the speed limit from 70 mph to 55mph from the River Bridge to the Silos, where a majority

of housing buildup has happened. "That's up to the federal government to make those changes," he said.

More to the point:

Now the ball is in our court: concerned community members must step up to keep the momentum going for the Highway 287 update. We need each of you to write a letter of support for the BUILD grant application to be filed by MDOT no later than February 24, 2026. The grant application will cover Rural Project (Winston-Northwest). If awarded to MDOT, the \$25million grant is awarded on a competitive basis.

The main takeaway for letters of support: Tell your own story of your experience driving on Highway 287 to work, to doctor's appointments, to taking your child to school. Give approximate dates and exact locations if you can. Sign with your name and full address.

Please write your letters of support to: Broadwater County Commissioners, 515 Broadway, Townsend, Montana 59644 and email to commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov.

And if you don't mind, submit your letter to MT43News as a letter to the editor. Just a little more public support may push our government across the finish line.

Thank you.

Nancy Marks, Publisher

Whispers of the Past: Centerville Cemetery

Shelley Douthett



In this edition of our little cemetery in the cactus and wind, I've decided to write about another early pioneer family, the Marks. As you can tell from the picture on the headstone, they really did come out here in a covered wagon but not together. I have tremendous respect for these people as I have tried to imagine what a trek across the country like this would entail and I'm pretty sure I'd be one of the unknown graves along the trail somewhere.

Back to our story. James Rufus (J.R.) Marks traveled out here after service in the Union Army, 95th Illinois Infantry, during the Civil War. He bought merchandise to set up shop and joined a commercial group that included about 500 men and 100 wagons for the Montana Territory on a route to Laramie, Wyoming and then the Bozeman Trail. He arrived in Bozeman on July 1, 1866, having lost his goods in an accident on the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone River. From Bozeman, he headed to Confederate Gulch as a gold prospector. When that didn't work out, he set up a bakery in Diamond City. Being an enterprising young man, he saved his money and bought a couple of mules and a wagon and began freighting goods. By 1872, he had six 10-mule teams and moved goods from Utah to Montana. With that money, he bought a ranch in the valley and also married Mary Ann Maples Frost.

Mary and husband, Harvey Frost, along with their son Mark, had come west on a different wagon train with a group of pioneer settlers in 1866. The family settled in the valley and farmed and ranched. They had a daughter born here, Vernie, but Harvey didn't like Montana and for several reasons, Mary ended up divorcing him. She and the children stayed and Harvey moved back to Illinois.

J.R. and Mary Ann started their own family and had five children, of whom only two lived into adulthood. The three children, Hallie, Vera and Hattie, are buried near their parents in Centerville. The surviving children were James Parbarry and Veva Ethel. Over the years, J.R. was a business partner with the Tierneys and McCarthys. He also acquired several ranches and at the time of his death in 1908, he owned eight ranches, had mining interests and was involved in the Masonic organization, city council and others. Not bad for a guy who basically arrived here with nothing.



Headstone for J.R. and Mary Ann Marks
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

There are many Marks family heirlooms and documentation in the Broadwater County Museum. One of the things that has struck me, ever since I moved here in 1989, is I almost feel like I need to create a family tree to understand the dynamics of the pioneer families here. Sometimes, there is a lot of information and other times, I just hit a brick wall.

One of the graves near the entrance of the cemetery is for Oliver W. Marks, a child born in 1906 and died in 1908. According to his death certificate, his parents were James W. Marks and Mary Ann Perkins Marks. I could not find out how they are related to J.R. and Mary Ann Maples Marks. So, we have J.R., J.P. and J.W. Marks, all named James. I can hardly wait to get to the Johnsons, McFaddens, McMahan, Dohertys, and Barkers, to name a few. My eyeballs are crossing just thinking about it.

If you have any information on this or any other article I've written, please feel free to contact me at rangebabe56@gmail.com. So far, I only have 2 people interested in the headstone cleaning workshop I could do sometime in June. It sounds kind of grim but it's pretty interesting and feels good. Who doesn't want that?



Headstone for J.R. and Mary Ann's daughter Vera.
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett



Headstone for Oliver Marks
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

Protecting Against Securities/Investment Fraud

Mary Ellen Schnur



Kaitlyn Wenzel, Outreach Coordinator for the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, presented the "Fighting Fraud in the 406" program on January 12 at a program sponsored by Broadwater Farm Bureau.

The CSI's job is to investigate complaints and prosecute fraud. \$11.4 million was lost in investment scams in Montana in the year 2024. The dollar loss amounts from these scams have increased markedly over the past five years. The greatest amount of financial fraud occurs in people over age 70. This is partly because this demographic has accumulated savings and property over a lifetime. Scammers also rely on the fact that most people of this generation are not so tech-savvy. These people are very clever and play on emotions and fear to gain your cooperation. There are a variety of types of schemes.

Typically, a person can identify the "four P's" as red flags to stay away from a transaction or investment.

- 1-Pretend to be someone you trust
- 2-Problem to be solved/Prize to be gained (pay to resolve an issue or obtain winnings)
- 3-Pressure you to act immediately
- 4-Pay in an unusual way (Gift cards, cryptocurrency)

"Pig butchering" scams rely on building the victim's trust over time, before snatching the money.

"Romance" scams defrauded Montanans of \$2.4 million in 2024. Striking up a romantic relationship online or by phone can lead to "loaning" or giving money or personal financial information to a fraudster who can then impoverish the victim. Some individuals in Montana have lost their entire retirement savings to romance scams.

Ponzi schemes entice investors to buy into a company that either doesn't exist or doesn't have a legitimate means of earnings. These types of schemes have gone on for many years, enticing people to invest in such things as household cleaning supply businesses which produce little revenue for the investor, but big bucks for the fraudster.

Ms. Wenzel recommends that everyone watch the cryptocurrency fraud video presented by CNN. It is archived, so can be seen via computer.

To check out valid investments, call the CSI office at 406-444-3815, or go to csimt.gov/securities, or go to AdviserInfo.sec.gov, a federal government website, or BrokerCheck.finra.org.

The CSI FAST team (Financial Abuse Specialist Team) responds to complaints within 72 hours. Montana is one of six states that has a Restitution Assistance Fund for victims of securities fraud. The money in this fund is not tax money; it is a portion of money set aside from fees charged for licensing of insurance and securities businesses.

When dealing with someone offering an investment opportunity, remember the four P's listed above. If any of these red flags appear, stop the conversation and do your homework before proceeding.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

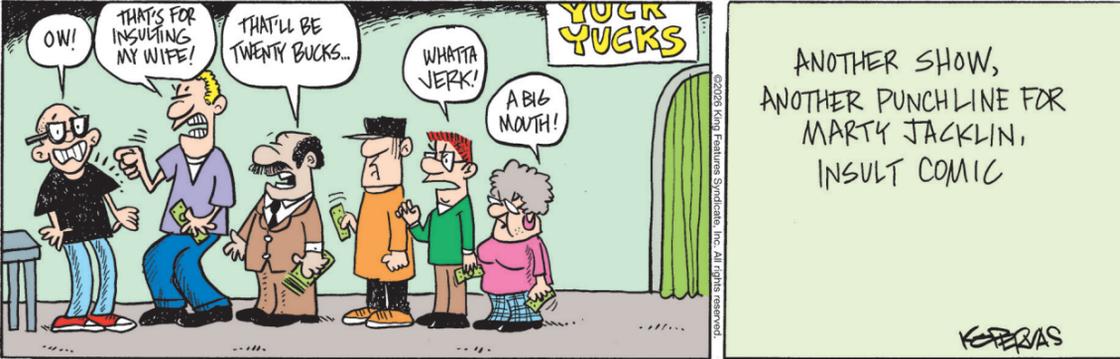


GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



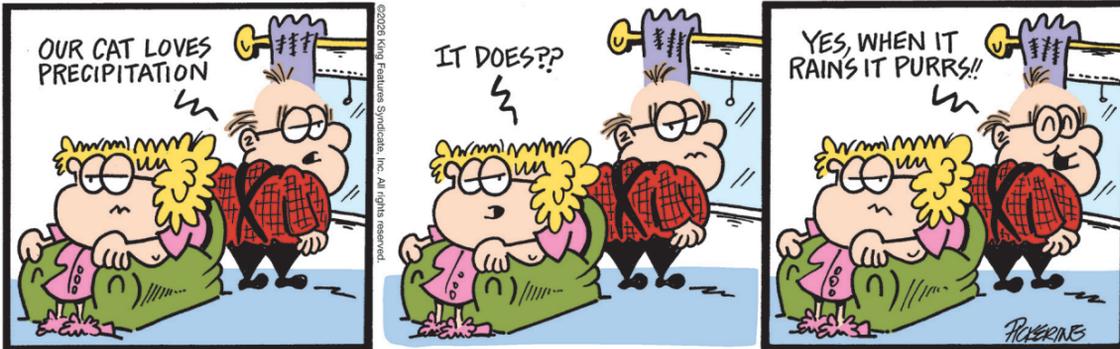
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



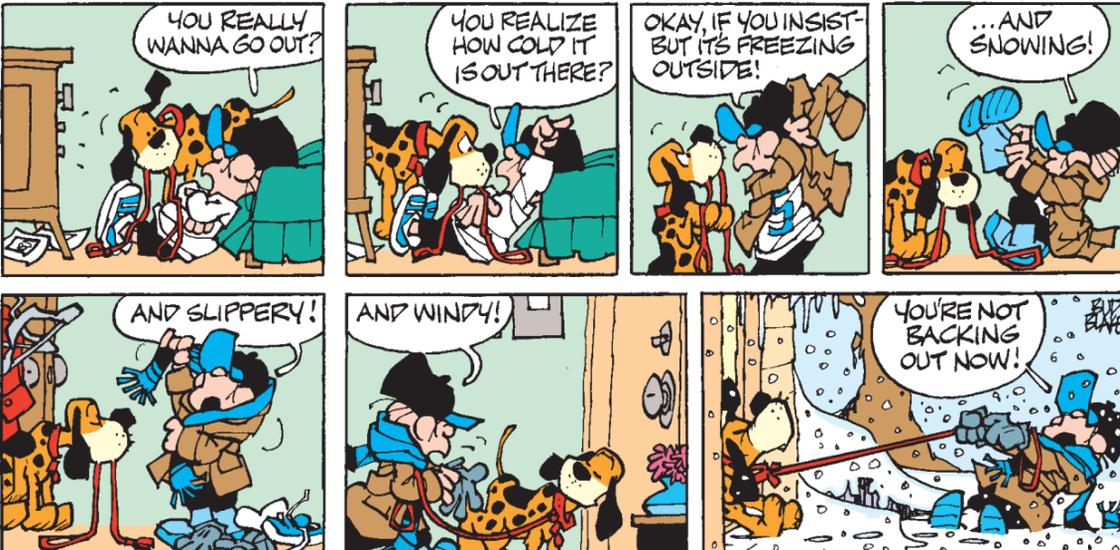
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Super Crossword

Answers

ENTITLED	PEERAT	PSALMS
LEASHES	ALTARS	STREET
MAJORAPPLIANCE	ARMADA	
AFA	ALDO	APSO
OREOS	NOW	BLAIRWITCH
HEATHFAMILY	ALMOST	
AMSTEL	TOED	OAK
RAYDUST	BROWN	MUSTARD
APAR	IAMS	NEE
ENIGMA	AWARDER	
BRITISHPRIMEMINISTERS		
EASTERS	TDS	ONTIME
NYTOL	AYE	UPTO
JOHNSONGRASS	ONEG	FIN
INE	PEI	SUEZ
APIARY	EDEN	PRAIRIE
MAYBEETLES	EER	NOELS
ADULT	EKES	TEED
RECOIL	CHURCH	ILLDOWNS
ALCOTT	PALLOR	IMADEIT
TEAMED	OWLETS	MODESTY

It's your future. Let's protect it.

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dustingillaspie

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

CryptoQuip
answer

People should be very prudent when selecting beverage containers. Choose your bottles wisely!

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

I	O	E
6	3	8
P		L
1		5
T	N	L
4	7	2

PLOTLINE

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Caramel; 2. Code; 3. Inside; 4. Inept

Today's Word
INCOME

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Weather Forecast



January
Friday 30
 High Temp: 45
 Low Temp: 31
 Wind: 9
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 100
Saturday 31
 High Temp: 52
 Low Temp: 33
 Wind: 10
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 100
February
Sunday 1
 High Temp: 43
 Low Temp: 34
 Wind: 12
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 100
Monday 2
 High Temp: 37
 Low Temp: 30
 Wind: 5
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.084
 Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 3
 High Temp: 40
 Low Temp: 27
 Wind: 5
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 100
Wednesday 4
 High Temp: 43
 Low Temp: 32
 Wind: 6
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 100
Thursday 5
 High Temp: 51
 Low Temp: 33
 Wind: 10
 Rain: 0.0
 Snow: 0.0
 Cloud Cover: 70

SHOULD WE BRING BACK THE WEATHER? LET US KNOW!
 406-266-0086, 408 Broadway, Townsend
 or mt43news@mt43news.com

Broadwater Food Panty Update

Paula VanHoudt



Thanks to all our wonderful benefactors, volunteers, and community members for making 2025 such a successful year for Broadwater Food Panty (BFP). Special thanks to those who donated time, money, beef, venison, produce, and other staples needed by our clients.

This group of volunteers was also instrumental in helping us move back into our original facility, after it had been refurbished due to flooding.

Throughout the year, we continue to see an increased need for food security in Broadwater County. As grocery and rent costs rise, our community has stepped up to provide for our neighbors who are unable to deal with those rising costs.

We encountered growth in our county with new arrivals needing temporary assistance. Some are battling illnesses or injuries, keeping them out of work. Excessive medical costs strain already stretched budgets.

BFP is also actively supporting the backpack program at our local school. The program discreetly provides non-perishable food items; the children can bring home for weekends or during breaks.

BFP is an independent non-profit organization operated solely by a volunteer workforce. So, 100% of your donations go directly toward assisting our clients. BFP looks forward to your continued support in 2026 and beyond. You are making a difference!

LETTER to the EDITOR



Reinstating a School Resource Officer

Student safety is a responsibility we all share, and it is one that the PTA takes seriously. As parents, volunteers, and community members, our goal is simple: to support our schools and help create an environment where children can learn, grow, and feel safe.

Reinstating a School Resource Officer (SRO) has become a key priority for the Townsend PTA. This is not a reaction to any single event. It is a thoughtful, proactive step in caring for our children. Parents want peace of mind knowing that when they drop their kids off at school each morning, safety is being taken seriously.

Having a School Resource Officer on campus enhances safety by providing immediate emergency response, helping deter unsafe behavior, and supporting crisis management. Beyond safety, SROs build relationships with students, serve as mentors, support staff, and help educate students about responsibility and decision-making. Their presence also strengthens connections between schools, families, and the broader community.

When Townsend previously had an SRO, the impact went far beyond emergency response. The officer became a familiar and trusted presence, someone who knew the students, built relationships, and supported teachers and staff. Those everyday connections matter. Students learned accountability, respect, and that law enforcement can be approachable and supportive.

We recognize that funding an SRO is a challenge. School budgets are tight, and this is not something the district can address alone. That is why the PTA believes collaboration is essential. The school board, school administration, Sheriff's Office, county commissioners, and community members all have a role in exploring solutions, whether through grants, shared funding, or other creative approaches. The PTA is ready to help lead this effort.

This is just one of the many ways the PTA supports our schools, and getting involved, even in small ways, makes a real difference for our children.

If you care about the direction of our schools and want to be part of positive, solutions-focused conversations, we invite you to join the PTA and get involved. More information about the PTA and how to participate can be found at www.townsendpta.org. Together, we can continue working to ensure Townsend schools remain safe, welcoming places for all students.

Jocelyn Cahill
 Townsend Bulldog PTA

Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner

Stewards of the Land: 250 Years of Conservation

Saturday February 21, 2026, 5pm
 Watson Event Center

Prime Rib Dinner
 with Presentations & Silent Auction
 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jeff Mosley, MSU
 "Things Are Different in Montana"



Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at BCD, or via CD Supervisors, FFA members, MSU Extension, or Rocky Mountain Supply. Please contact BCD at 406-521-3014 or broadwatercd@gmail.com

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
 Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

STOKE 5th Annual Valentine's Day Fund Raiser

Saturday Feb 14th 5:00 to 8:30
At The Lodge, 131 S. Spruce, Townsend, MT
 The night will be filled with Student Presentations and a Tri Tip Beef Roast full course dinner catered by John and Missy Rauser. Dessert by STOKE's Cooking Class. A really special night! Don't miss it!
 Tickets Available at the Bird's Nest or our website: stokemt.org
 \$40/person
 Only 70 Tickets Available
 50-50, Silent Auction
 Charcuterie boards, Pottery Bowl, Live Auction
 Live Music
 Youth Presentations 5:30-6:30
 Come meet the Kids



Volunteer with the Foster Grandparent Program today.

- Provide academic support to children in a variety of settings such as elementary schools, preschools, and Head Start.
- Earn a Non-taxable stipend of \$1000-\$8300 per year.
- Paid vacation, sick days and holidays.



Call 406-447-1680 or visit rmdc.net



Must be at least 55 years of age and able to commit between 5 and 40 hours each week.

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All print editions include option to receive PDF email.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

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THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

January 29

1903

Local News

Scott Dewell has laid a new floor in his bar room and otherwise renovated the place.

Chester Abbott of Radersburg called on old friends of Townsend in a social and business way Sunday.

P. J. Meloy paid the capital city a call Wednesday.

Joe Schmidt has erected a fine new ice house at his residence.

Francis Powers of Canton was a business visitor at Helena Wednesday.

Jack Frost tightened his grip on the elements this week and as a natural consequence, overcoats and rubbers were brought into play.

Miss Maud Ballard of Deep Creek recently came down with scarlet fever which will necessitate an extension of time for the quarantine at Mr. Ballard's.

Mrs. Nellie Averill paid Helena a brief business call Friday.

George Seibold and Rae Swift called on friends on Confederate Creek Sunday.

Dr. Belcher was at Winston last Saturday where he placed under quarantine the residence of Mr. Hill. Mrs. Hill being sick with diphtheria.

1925

Former Townsend Girl Discovered Disguised as Man
Butte, Jan. 27 - Successfully passing as a man for more than a year, by wearing male garb, Mrs. Arthur Glen Hollings, 19, known as Bobby Watson revealed her identity to Police Chief Jere Murphy last night in information given by DeMolay investigators, Mrs. Hollings wore the pin of that order during the state conclave here last week and pretended knowledge of the ritual. She betrayed herself when questioned. She had worked two weeks as a miner here with her youthful

husband. Under the name of Watson, she had taken part in Montana roundups at Bozeman and Whitehall. She had had several courtships with Butte girls. She was formerly Dolly Frost of Townsend.

Toston News

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Kimpton and Miss Mittie Kimpton motored to Helena Tuesday p.m. to attend "Blossom Time" at the Marlow.

Miss Whitford went to Helena Friday evening to attend a party and do shopping for her sewing class.

Phil Mockel made a business trip to Helena last Saturday.

In spite of the disagreeable weather, the dance on last Saturday evening was a success in every way and much praise was given to the Toston orchestra for the excellent music they furnished throughout the evening.

Joe Greaves and wife attended "Blossom Time" in Helena Tuesday evening.

A sheep herder in the employ of O'Connell Co. on Six Mile was found Tuesday evening by Mr. Stockburger trying to make his way to the main road in search of medical help. He seemed to be in a serious condition and Mr. Stockburger brought him to Toston. Mr. O'Connell was immediately summoned from Helena, bringing with him Dr. Kyde, who performed an operation Tuesday night at Shull's Hotel. The patient was removed to Helena on the Wednesday morning stub.

1953

News About Town

Dennis Scoffield was complimented on the occasion of his birthday anniversary last Thursday evening when several of the classmates of his and his wife, Trenna, were invited to their apartment for a party. Games were played and a buffet lunch served to Eilene and Jerry Wieferrich, Nan Ragen, Vivian Graveley, Coralie Zipperian, Louise Lillithum, Ann and Mary Sweeney, Vernie Kerr Barbara Barraugh, Beulah Helner, Martin Clark, Willis Hossfeld, Ronald Olsen, Larry and Pete Sullivan, John Graveley, Gordon Hinch, Gerald

Hollenbach, and Jerry Hollings.

Radersburg News

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ralls and Mrs. Gunnar Johnson were business callers in Townsend Friday, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ralls taking the opportunity to visit teachers and the high school building.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and Tommy were Mr. and Mrs. Cary Quaintance and Clarence Murray of Boulder and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ragen of Townsend.

Terry Harris entertained a few friends at a dinner Sunday, celebrating his 10th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams in celebration of Mrs. Jack's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Greaves of Toston were Radersburg visitors Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harris and children were Sunday visitors of relatives in Deer Lodge.

1970

Winston-Clasoil News

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Masolo and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sullivan of Townsend, went to Denver last week to attend the annual Western Livestock show and they also visited with their sister, Mary Pat Sullivan. They reported a very enjoyable trip and only wished it could have lasted longer.

Mr. and Mrs. Rheinhold Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox and son, Cliff, were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ned George.

Mrs. Joe Clark and son, Tim, drove to Laurel on Friday and remained as overnight guests of her father, V.A. Tooker. On Saturday morning, all of them drove to Sheridan, Wyo. to attend the wedding of Forrest Bourguin, a grandson and nephew of Mr. Tooker and Mrs. Clark. They returned home on Sunday evening.

Cliff Cox arrived home on Friday from his studies at Montana State University in Bozeman and spent the weekend with his parents, returning Monday morning.

FRISAT & SAT
Paint Sale

Sale dates: January 30 & 31, 2026. Good while supplies last. No substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. House accounts will receive the better of any applicable discounts.

Paint & Paint Sundries 20% Off!

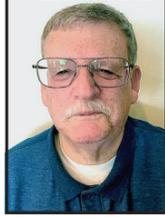
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AI: Guardrails, Hallucinations, Slop

Victor Sample



AI (Artificial Intelligence) has been a big topic for over 3 years. I see 30-40 different AI-based articles every single day. If you do any research or read any articles, you will see reference to the terms Guardrails, Hallucinations and AI Slop. Strange terms for something that is supposed to be so transformative!

What do they actually mean?

We will discuss each of these terms over the next three weeks.

So, first up: Guardrails.

GUARDRAILS:

From Copilot (the Microsoft AI Engine): "AI guardrails are safety mechanisms—both technical and policy-based—that ensure artificial intelligence systems behave responsibly, ethically, and within defined boundaries. They're essential for preventing harmful outputs, such as hallucinations, bias, or security breaches, especially in high-stakes applications like healthcare, finance, and law."

Within a few months of ChatGPT being made

widely available to the public, there were reports of ChatGPT generating incredibly offensive, racist, bigoted diatribes. The AI engines react to prompts and how you prompt the AI does a lot to determine the answer that is generated. I have no doubt that prompts were used to lead AI down the path of racism and bigotry – but it did generate the offensive text.

I recently read that one of the AI companies was sued for millions of dollars over the suicide of a child. The saved chats showed that the AI engine not only assisted the teenager in deciding how to commit suicide, it actually encouraged the teenager to commit suicide. The evidence was apparently good enough to convince the judge and jury that the AI engine was complicit and awarded the parents a huge sum. There are several other lawsuits alleging the same misconduct by AI.

AI has no judgement; no ethics; no morality. It is a software program that uses a statistical probability process to choose the next word or phrase and just keeps iteratively doing that until the generated text is done. The AI engines are not inherently biased or racist, but they can generate terrible things based on just probability.

Guardrails are meant to help AI from going down unacceptable paths. Some guardrails examine the AI output and suppress anything that is meant to be objectionable; other guardrails are meant to keep you, the user, from prompts that lead to socially unacceptable output.

The text or images are generated by AI; human programmers implement the guardrails.

But sometimes the guardrails themselves start to be an issue. I was using AI to generate images to be used on the MT43News website for creating banners for various holidays. I asked for an image of Dr. Martin Luther King, depicting him making his famous "I have a dream" speech. Copilot told me that it was not allowed to generate that kind of image.

I pointed out that Dr. King was noted for his advocating social change through peaceful means, working within our social and legal system. How can Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech be too controversial to generate the image? The AI engine then gave me a very sincere reply extolling the virtues of Dr. King and that he was indeed a role model. But, still was not allowed to generate the image. I think that whoever implemented that particular guardrail got a little overzealous.

Trying to implement guardrails is like playing the arcade game "Whack-a-Mole". It's a never-ending process that can never be won; try to stop one thing and another will pop up.

Guardrails are very close to censorship. Human programmers are attempting to restrict what can be asked and what answers are acceptable. Hopefully, advances in AI training will eliminate the need for Guardrails. Censorship of any kind is worrisome.

Next week we will discuss "AI Slop" – an interesting term for software that is supposed to change the very nature of our society.