



Dear East Helena & Broadwater County Readers,

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



Broadwater County Experiences High Wind Damage

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The leaves blew off the banana trees here in Broadwater County’s Banana Belt Wednesday. During a state-wide extreme wind event where northern Montana towns saw winds of over 100 miles per hour, according to NOAA, the official said.

According to Meteorologist Amanda Wilson at the National Weather Station in Great Falls, Broadwater County’s highest wind gust was 85 miles per hour at the Ginger remote automated weather system (RAWS) immediately west of Townsend on River Road. At Spokane Creek Road, the wind clocked out at 75 miles per hour. Wind speed at the Toston Bridge showed 62mph.

One semitruck and trailer blew over at mile marker 68 on Highway 287, right at the end of the four- lane highway, around 1:00 p.m., according to Rural Fire Chief Ed Shindoll. The driver was not injured, but it took until the next day to right the vehicle.

A handicapped person was trapped in their camper on Tumbleweed Rd., off Antelope Road. The camper tipped over on its side, so the door was on the upside of the trailer, pinning the person in. Fire Department volunteers righted the camper and rescued the person. Shindoll said he did not know where the person was staying, since the camper, although stabilized, was not safe for occupancy.

Vigilante Electric was called out to repair five power poles that were blown down, Shindoll said, along with



One of the large Colorado blue spruce trees blew down, slightly damaging the pavilion during the December 17 windstorm.
Photo Credit: Pat Plantenberg, Urban Forester

a tree and a power pole that fell across Highway 437. It took four hours to reinstall power to the area. One power pole also blew down on Sandhill Lane.

Heritage Park lost one tree. A tree on South Cherry and one on C Street between Pine and South Spruce also went down also, Shindoll explained.

Townsend Student Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

MT43 News Staff Reporter

McKinley Ryan still shudders when she sees a dead animal lying beside the highway. She is not alone. Traveling along Montana highways, everyone sees hundreds of animal strikes. Because of her interest in animals, she chose the topic of animal strikes and how



Girl Scout Gold Award Winner McKinley Ryan displays the badges she has earned in the last ten years in the club.
Photo Provided

to end them for her entry to win a Girl Scouts USA Gold Award. She has received a letter of recognition and will receive her actual award in April of 2026, in Hawaii.

Her topic, “WeXRoads Too,” began during freshman year in 2023. The project aims to address the lack of education and resources about live animal strikes for young drivers. Based on a personal experience with her parents, whose car hit a deer, she has formulated the project to raise awareness, provide education and advocate for solutions to minimize the risks and impacts of hitting animals on the road.

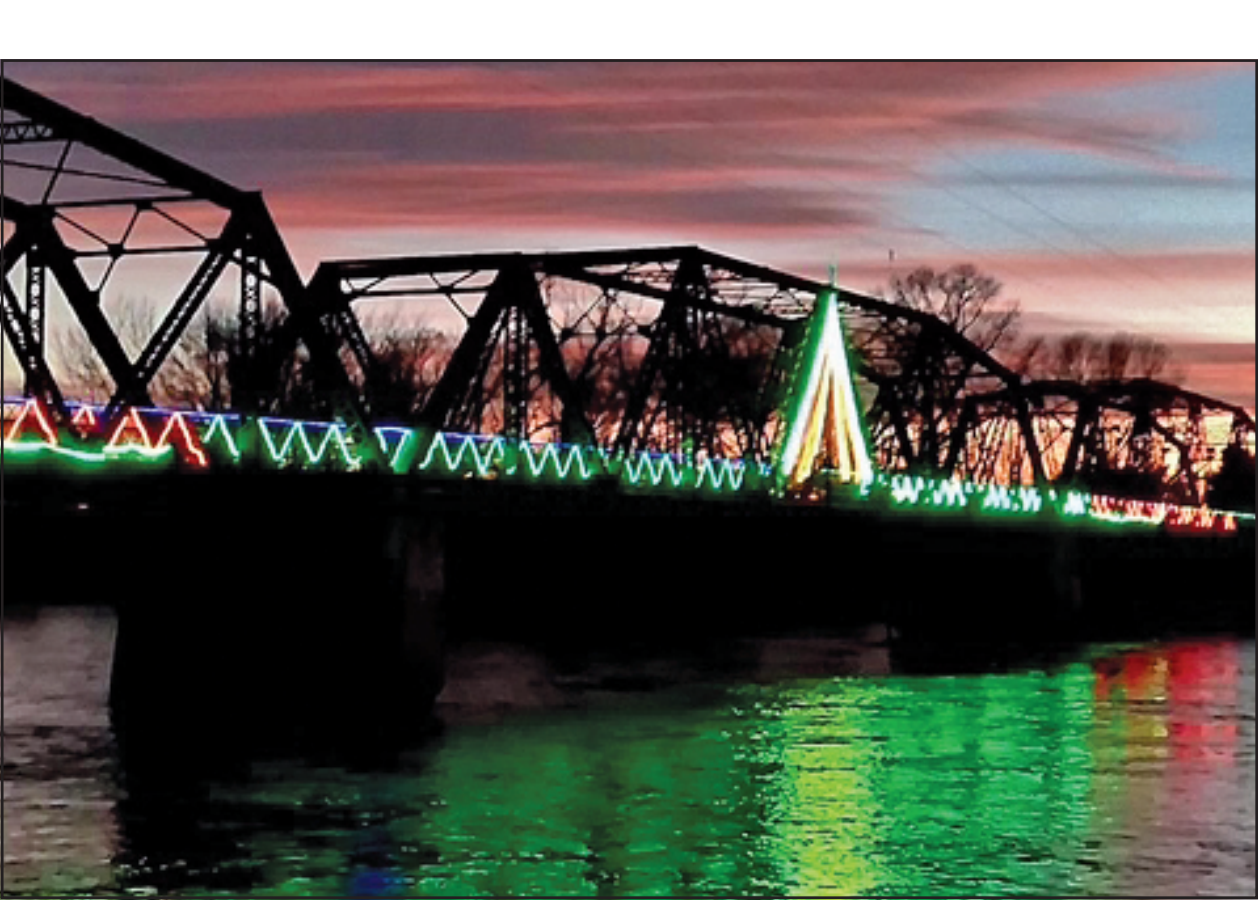
During the 80-hour project, McKinley built a website for young people to visit. She also researched the problem with Fish, Wildlife and Parks, where she learned there are 3,200 animal strikes each year in Montana. She also talked with emergency responders on the emotional toll it takes on drivers who hit animals. She formulated a tip sheet on how, as a driver, to be more aware of animals along the road, and what to do if the driver hits an animal.

The final part of her project included building a toolkit to advocate for safe animal crossing zones and

deterrent fencing. She fashioned the toolkit from a law passed by the 2023 Montana Legislature to build safe crossing for Montana’s wildlife, HB855. This satisfied the process, which encourages the Girl Scout to think beyond the community to the larger national and global community.

McKinley, age 16, has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and currently serves as a Girl Scout Ambassador through Girl Scouts of Hawaii Council, where she and her family lived before moving to Townsend in 2019. She began homeschooling in seventh grade, where she now studies guitar, foreign languages and agriculture. She aims to major in veterinary pharmacology at University of Montana when she finishes her high school studies.

The Gold Award in Girl Scouts is the highest of three awards a person can earn. To qualify to try for the gold award, each Girl Scout must win both the bronze and silver awards first. The bronze award is for 4th & 5th graders; the silver award goes to middle schoolers. High School students may apply for the gold award. McKinley has earned all three awards.



Christmas is special in Toston, thanks to people such as Jerry Norsby and Tom Helm who make sure the lights on Toston's river bridge glow every year.
Photo Credit: Julie Delger

Bulldogs Face Manhattan Christian

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



On Saturday, December 20th, the Manhattan Christian Eagles travelled to Townsend to take on the Bulldogs in a non-conference matchup.

The C squad boys' game was a close one, but the Eagles pulled away at the end to win the game 48-45.

The Junior Varsity game was won by the Bulldogs 68-56.

The Varsity game was also a close matchup. The Eagles did end with a win over the Bulldogs, 42-55.

The Lady Bulldog Junior Varsity played first, beating the Eagles 47-24.

The varsity girls' game also ended in a Bulldogs win, 43-23. Kaitlyn Noyes scored 18 points for the girls, and Bryleigh Erickson scored 9.

The next basketball games will be on January 2nd and 3rd. On Friday, January 2nd, the Three Forks Wolves will travel to take on the Bulldogs, and on Saturday, January 3rd, the Bulldogs will go to Twin Bridges to play non-conference games.

Boys Basketball: Red Lodge Tournament

Clint Watson

12/12/25-12/13/25

BULLDOGS vs RED LODGE

Townsend-	10	7	13	10	40
Red Lodge-	14	9	16	10	49
Townsend Scorers- Tavyn Anderson- 11, Blake Graham- 10, Trace Giomi- 8, Tannen Tufflemire- 6, Rylan Hoveland- 2, Braden Martin- 2, Kaden Richtmeyer- 1					
Rebound Leaders- Tavyn Anderson- 8, Tannen Tufflemire- 7, Trace Giomi- 6, Blake Graham- 5, Rylan Hoveland- 4, Trenton Hoveland- 2, Colby Flynn- 1					
Assist Leaders- Blake Graham- 4, Tannen Tufflemire- 4, Trenton Hoveland- 3, Tavyn Anderson- 2					
Steals- Trace Giomi- 2, Kaden Richtmeyer- 1, Braden Martin- 1					
Blocks- Trace Giomi- 1					
Deflections- Tannen Tufflemire- 6, Tavyn Anderson- 4, Trenton Hoveland- 1					
Townsend Shooting- 2pt- 16/55 29.1% 3pt- 2/16 12.5%					
Red Lodge Shooting- 2pts- 20/56 35% 3pt- 5/24 20.8%					
Townsend Free-Throws- 4/7 57.1%					
Red Lodge Free-Throws- 4/4 100%					

Coaches' Thoughts

Our first game of the season was riddled with lots of turnovers. We also hadn't adjusted to game speed yet. The Bulldogs had 20 turnovers and forgot to block out on several occasions. This resulted in low offensive output of 40 points, and we gave them too many second-chance points, resulting in the loss.

BULLDOGS vs COLUMBUS

12/13/25

Townsend-	11	8	11	8	38
Columbus-	12	14	3	19	48
Townsend Scorers- Tavyn Anderson- 12, Trace Giomi- 11, Tannen Tufflemire- 8, Braden Martin- 3, Trenton Hoveland- 2, Pierce Howard- 2					
Rebound Leaders- Tannen Tufflemire- 11, Trace Giomi- 10, Trenton Hoveland- 5, Tavyn Anderson- 3, Blake Graham- 2, Kaden Richtmeyer- 1					
Assist Leaders- Tannen Tufflemire- 2, Tavyn Anderson- 2, Blake Graham- 1, Kaden Richtmeyer- 1, Trace Giomi- 1					
Steals- Trenton Hoveland- 2, Trace Giomi- 2, Tavyn Anderson- 2, Blake Graham- 1					
Deflections- Trace Giomi- 5, Trenton Hoveland- 4, Tannen Tuffmire -4, Tavyn Anderson- 1					
Townsend Shooting- 19/39 35.9% 3pts- 2/10 20%					
Columbus Shooting- 2pt- 11/24 45% 3pts- 8/24 33%					
Townsend Free Throws- 4/8 50%					
Columbus Free Throws- 2/7 28%					

Coaches' Thoughts

We didn't turn the ball over as much against Columbus, and we did play a little better on defense. Trace Giomi had a great game with his 10 rebounds, 5 deflections, and his 11 points contributions. We switched up defenses at halftime and were able to hold the Cougars to 3 points in the third quarter. But when the fourth quarter came around, there Number ten hit 5 threes, which put the game out of reach at 38-48.

PLAYERS
of the
WEEK

Girls Basketball:
Bryleigh Erickson
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Boys Basketball:
Dallas Fligge
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Speech and Drama:
Chloe Johnson
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Wrestling:
Aiden Mosher
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Chamber Board Pleased with Christmas Stroll Turnout

MT43 News Staff Reporter

In their meeting Thursday night, Co-chairperson Anna Glueckert said the chamber was happy with the turnout and the proceeds for the Christmas Stroll this year.

Mainstreet businesses were very busy, plus the chamber, which hosts the Stroll, made about \$1,100, which it will put toward staging next year's Stroll. Chamber members had decorated Broadway, put together advertising and lined up gift baskets for raffles. They also organized the parade in which new Chamber member Kolar Tire had two lighted trucks. The Chamber currently has 40 members.



Stroll shoppers studied The Bird's Nest store's gift offerings at Townsend's Christmas Stroll.
MT43 News Photo

In other business, Glueckert explained the new rules for use of their electronic sign on Highway 287. As set out by the Montana Department of Transportation, the sign may be used for sponsorship purposes and support group recognition as well as community events. "To stay compliant with MDT signage rules, we must stick to 'Welcome to Townsend-Proud Home of Local Businesses' concept," she explained, "but we must avoid direct business promotion."

In a list of regulations sent by MDT, a QR code or short URL may be posted by businesses.

BUSINESS
SPOTLIGHT

Townsend Tire Purchased by Kolar Tire of Helena

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The former Townsend Tire business, 7689 Highway 287 in Townsend, is now owned by Kolar Tire of Helena. According to General Manager Greg Branson, Kolar runs three other locations, two in Helena and one in Three Forks.



Kolar Tire general manager Greg Branson and local store manager Stevie Boone braving the wind in front of the new Kolar Tire business on Highway 287.
MT43 News Photo

Branson, who has been with the company 12 years, said the business was started by Frank Kolar in 2010 in Helena. Kolar had been selling tires and doing auto repair from his garage with a startup fund of \$5,000. He has built up the tire and auto repair business to two full-service businesses in Helena with 85 employees across the locations. The Townsend location has 9 employees, including two mechanics.

Branson explained with a grin he has a high school diploma and an advanced degree in hands-on mechanical experience. He began work in a Mexican Restaurant. That is how he met Frank, who was a regular customer of the restaurant. A forceful and outgoing person, Branson had taken Toastmasters' training, a public speaking training program. He transitioned easily into managing and marketing. "We try to stress customer service in a timely manner to accommodate people. I have learned that the service we offer can really make a difference in somebody's otherwise bad day," he said.

Kolar Tire not only sells all brands and sizes of tires and services them but also offers roadside towing as well as brake work and oil changes. They do offer tires for agricultural equipment and tractor-trailer unit tires. In town, they offer free pickup and delivery to install new tires.

Stevie Boone, who manages both the Townsend and Three Forks locations, has worked in the business for 11 years, first for Townsend Tire and now Kolar. Hours for the tire store are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "We are on call 24/7 for towing and roadside services," she said.

What do you get for someone who has everything?

Give them a gift subscription to MT 43 News!
Local People. Local Stories.

Call or come by our office to order your gift subscriptions!
Mon - Fri, 10am - 2pm
406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway

MONTANA
HYDRAULICSLLC
Fabrication & Machining

NOW BUILDING
FLATBEDS

CUSTOM OPTIONS SPECIFIC TO YOUR TRUCK

(406) 594-1854

DOUBLE DIAMOND
FABRICATION

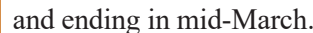
On Target, With the Broadwater Rod and Gun



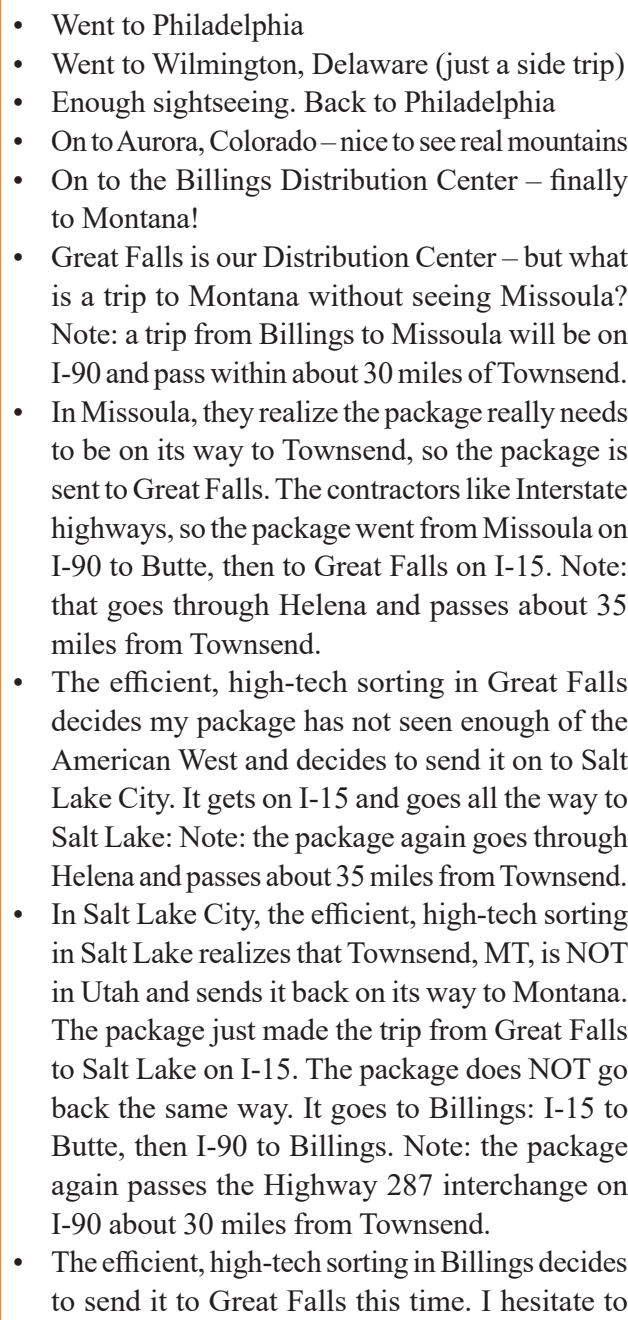
According to Schmidt, a professional DJ, he leads lessons at the Western Bar on Last Chance Gulch in Helena with a live band. In college, he performed as a jazz guitarist with the Montana State University


Cost for dance lessons will be \$15.00 per person. For Queen City Swing evening, the charge will be \$30.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.bctmt.com> or at the door. The Lodge is located at 131 So. Spruce, Townsend. For questions, please contact LaRinda at (406) 475-4016.

(c) 2025 King Features
Synd., Inc.



USPS: Efficiency at Its Best?

USPS: **Efficiency**, 4



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

Broadwater Food Pantry, 315 Broadway, Townsend, MT
Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable): January 3rd, 17th and 31st 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted Fridays Jan 2nd, 16th and 30th 9:00 to 11:00am
Monetary donations can be mailed to Broadwater Food Pantry, PO Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644
Donation boxes are available at Bob’s Market at check stands.
Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from local churches. The month of January is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
For questions, donations, appointments and emergency food supplies call 406-980-0800.

Townsend School & Sports

DECEMBER

Mon 29 - Tue

- 10: 00 am: Middle School Girls Basketball Camp - 63 Gym



Fri 2 - Sat 3

- High School Wrestling at Ronan

JANUARY

Friday 2

- FFA Alumni Bake Sale
- First Day of Middle School Girls Basketball Practice
- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Three Forks

Saturday 3

- 2:30 pm: High School Basketball at Twin Bridges

East Helena Schools & Sports

DECEMBER

Mon 22 - Fri, Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break

JANUARY

Saturday 3

- 1:00 pm: Boys Varsity/JV/Frosh Basketball at Browning

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR


DECEMBER

Monday 29

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting

Tuesday 30


- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting



LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library

HOURS:
Monday-Thursday: 4:00 - 7:00pm
Friday-Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00pm
Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461
Books & Babies Story Hour: Mondays 11-00am.-12:00pm the first 4 Mondays of the month.



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

CLOSED NEW YEAR DAY.

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager

HOURS:
Monday - Wednesday: 10 am- 6:00 pm.
Thursday and Friday: 10 am- 5:00 pm
Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm
Sundays: Closed



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

DECEMBER

Tuesday 30

- 1:00 pm: Kids Movie Time

Wednesday 31

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime
- 3:00 pm: Close

JANUARY

Thursday 1

CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR

Thank You!

We’d like to thank Tom Helm & Jerry Norsby for the great job again; for your work and time to keep the Christmas lights on the Old Toston Bridge.

*Thanks again,
Franklin & Judy Slifka*

USPS: Efficiency, 3

think about the route it took to Great Falls; I am hoping they didn’t send it back to Butte on I90 to get on I15 to Great Falls!

- This time, the highly efficient, high-tech sorting in Great Falls decides to send it directly to Townsend back down I-15 to Helena, of course.
- It finally arrives in Townsend!

For those of you keeping score: the highly efficient, high-tech sorting mishandled my package 3 times (Philadelphia, Billings and Great Falls). And at least 4 times (maybe 5 or 6 times) it passed 30-35 miles from Townsend: I-90 at Hwy 287 at least twice; I-15 at Helena at least twice before going to Helena one last time on its way to Townsend. If, for some god-awful reason, the package did go from Billings to Great Falls via I-90 to Butte, then I-15 to Great Falls, it would have passed within 35 miles of Townsend 2 more times.

Another package arrived at the highly efficient, high-tech distribution in Great Falls and got to visit Harlem, MT. Fortunately, without the aid of highly efficient, high-tech sorting devices, the postmaster in Harlem was able to quickly determine they do not actually deliver packages to Townsend and sent it back to the highly efficient, high-tech sorting in Great Falls!

While I am making fun of the USPS, I do appreciate our local USPS office. When I post a mail letter or package, it is always handled quickly and correctly. When a letter or package arrives here, I always get it that day or next day (depending on when the package arrives).

In addition, our local post office has been very accommodating and willing to help MT43 News get the paper out when the holidays get in the way. They have stayed late to ensure that the paper could get delivered on time.

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 26

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

Saturday 27

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

Mon 29 - Tue 30

- 11:00 am: **FREE** Hot Lunch and board games for ALL school-aged kids & teens @ Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway, Townsend
INFO ON PAGE 3

Tuesday 30

- 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 31

- 6:45 pm: Dance Lessons for the Swing Dance at The Lodge **MORE INFO ON PAGE 3**
- 8:00 pm: 2025 New Year’s Eve Swing Dance at The Lodge of Townsend **AD ON PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

JANUARY

Thursday 1

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

Friday 2

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

Saturday 3

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

Thursday 8

- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: January 15th, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

EGGS!

Eggs for sale! \$4.00 Dozen - Toston area
Call and leave message and I’ll call you back.
406-980-0650

ATTENTION!



Top Gun Auto Body Townsend is offering Gift Certificates for Vehicle detailing.

Call 406-266-3110 or stop by 7675 US Hwy 287 in Townsend!

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

FUND RAISER FOR HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Townsend has served Townsend with thrift stores since 2016 and has given the community over \$112,000 in aid during that time. Our stores have provided volunteer opportunities as well as a place to buy necessary items at reasonable prices. Since renting a building is unpredictable, we are launching a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a building large enough to house both of our thrift stores. **It’s time for us to buy our own HOME!**

As we are a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations to HHT are tax deductible. Donate today by depositing funds in “Helping Hands Building Fund” at Opportunity Bank.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at Helping Hands Townsend 4 KIDS & U2 Thrift Store or call 406-422-6043

FREE Thursday Dinners:

Giving Back to the Community

Sarah Tallwhiteman

The SAL has taken a much deserved break from serving their free homemade meals this holiday season, however, their partnership with diners to give back to Broadwater community has not!

A few months ago, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) were trying to find a way to bring the community of Broadwater County together to create a partnership that would benefit the people eating the meal and also support broader community services.

In November, they were able to donate \$500 to the Broadwater Food Pantry. This month, SAL is excited to report that, because of the community’s generous donations at dinner, they were able to donate \$250 to Broadwater Food Pantry and another \$250 to Broadwater County Christmas Connection!

SAL would like to extend many Thank Yous to those who come in and show support. Giving back is their mission, and what better time to give than the winter holiday season?

The Sons of the American Legion would like to invite those who have not been able to participate to come on in for dinner! It’s a fun and delicious way to be a part of giving to the community of Broadwater County!

Have you invited friends and family to the free homemade meals? If not yet, your next chance is Thursday, January 8th!

Dinner begins at 5:00 pm at the American Legion, Post 42, 211 Broadway, Townsend.

See you there!

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 SPECIAL Event with Food: Saturday 11/22/25 @ 1:00PM FREE Thanksgiving Dinner 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: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM 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-Fri6:00AM - 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 changincmerc.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
		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

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.
Clue: C equals M
T BYQ TCYPTQG EXCGOXS
BYMMTQP ZNYZ HJXATMG XA
YOJYNYC MTQBXMQ XQ Y
HGQQV Y BXHGGJ NGYS.
©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

“With this diet you can eat all you want just don’t _____ it!”

TODAY’S WORD

KNIGHT MOVES

R	S	E
R		E
A	T	U

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.
© 2025 King Features Syndicate

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A+ STORAGE

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

ALLIED MACHINE

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

BSE EXCAVATING

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

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

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

LEYLAND INSURANCE

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

MADISON RIVER PROpane

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

Mar Painting

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

MONTANA HYDRAULICS LLC

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

Special K

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

Schauber Surveying, Inc. Land Surveyors

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

CONTACT MT43 NEWS TO LIST YOUR BUSINESS NOW!

MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:00AM - 2:00PM
408 BROADWAY, TOWNSEND
406.266.0086

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword

SIX-E-SOMETHINGS


ACROSS
1 Audibly
6 Mission —, California
11 Spill the beans
15 Golf coups
19 Perceive
20 — Good Feelings
21 Many a “Hee Haw” character
22 Boxing event
23 Involuntary leg reactions
26 Stimulate
27 — yung (Chinese dish)
28 Rocket downer, for short
29 Relative of a tank top
31 “O Fortuna” composer
33 Some arm muscles, informally
35 No. on a road sign
36 “And that’s that”
37 Note that recommends a job applicant, e.g.
43 Wood-dressing tools
44 Pigsty stuff
45 In the thick of
46 Dark, gloomy rock genre
48 Fast, sporty auto
51 “My treat”
52 Greek “S”
54 Face cover
58 WWW address
59 Longer-than-normal prison term
62 Cat breed
65 Region
66 Long-unshaven
67 What “have solved” is in, in terms of grammar
73 Ad awards
74 Utilize a Juul device, e.g.
75 Aided in evil
77 In bed
83 Yoko of the avant-garde
84 Utters
85 Stimulate
86 “Dame” Everage
87 Cleric’s home
89 Oregano, e.g.
90 Telly watcher
91 “Help us!”
92 Cat food brand
96 Innermost parts
103 Cuba’s largest city
105 “Norma —”
106 Get it wrong
107 Cel figure
108 Fir or spruce
113 — Lingus
115 Cato’s 1, 101
116 Monopoly expense
117 2020 drama thriller film
120 El —, Texas
121 “Why should — you?”
122 Concur
123 Carried, as a load
124 Loads
125 Stitches up, often
126 Lunchtimes
127 Pack-toting equines
DOWN
1 Solicit
2 “The Raven” maiden
3 Done just a single time
4 Purpose
5 “It’s — vu all over again”
6 Pests like rats and roaches
7 Rile
8 Lobed body parts
9 “Piano Man” singer Billy
10 Proposed for consideration
11 Nominal military promotion
12 Poshness
13 Cain’s victim
14 Plagued (by)
15 Treated badly
16 Congress’ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
17 University of Oregon’s city
18 Spirited horses
24 Abated
25 Riga native, old-style
30 Old Iranian ruler
32 Disaster relief gp.
34 Insufficient claim
38 Futuristic sci-fi play of 1921
39 Single-named supermodel
40 Mortgage claim
41 Case for ova
42 Italy’s capital
47 Beige
48 Gloomy —
49 Level just below major league
50 Lucidness
51 Plow beasts
52 Feudal peon
53 Concept, in Calais
54 Signified
55 Jennifer of “The Switch”
56 Lint catchers
57 Lock partner
59 Memphis-to-Atlanta dir.
60 Has the gumption
61 Fare — well
63 Feline cries
64 Cato’s “to be”
68 Cathode-ray picture producer
69 Oom- (tuba sounds)
70 Sword type
71 “Ciao!”
72 Samantha Bee’s station
73 “NCIS” network
76 Stag’s mate
78 Prior to, in odes
79 Opposite of south, in France
80 That girl’s
81 Fix text
82 — nous (in confidence)
87 “The Simpsons” bartender
88 Admin. aide
89 With 118-Down, do a surfing stunt
90 Brewski container
91 Fastener fitting into a nut
92 Helper in the Himalayas
93 Lace into
94 “OK, but still ...”
95 Red Cross founder
96 Clara
97 Film director
98 Lubitsch and physicist
99 Mach
100 Actress
101 Suzanne
102 Epoch of the first whales
103 “Blade” star
104 “— a jealous mistress”
109 Jennifer of “Zero Dark Thirty”
110 “So nasty!”
111 Hence
112 Architect
113 Saarinen
114 Singer
115 McEntire
118 See 89-Down
119 Boxing wallops

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19												21						22		
23												25						26		
27																		30		
31																				
37																				
48																				
48	49	50																		
58																				
62																				
73																				
77																				
84																				
92	93	94	95																	
103																				
108																				
116																				
120																				
124																				

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

LEGAL NOTICES

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



NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 71-1-313, Verla L. Martin and Stacey Martin as BENEFICIARIES of the TRUST INDENTURE, recorded in Broadwater County on October 4th, 2023, at Book 255 Page 742, by TRUSTEE Helena Abstract and Title Company, given by GRANTORS Kara L. Parsons and Jeffrey D. Parsons do hereby give this NOTICE of SALE by SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE Rydel Peterson of RVP Law, PLLC.

The real PROPERTY subject to this NOTICE is: Tract B-Remainder Tract as shown on Certificate of Survey recorded in Book 1 of Plats, page 822, located in Section 13, Township 7 North, Range 1 East, P.M.M., Broadwater County, Montana.

This NOTICE is premised upon a default for non-payment of the principal amount and interest due and owing under the Indenture Note that was due on March 4th, 2025. The amount due under the Note is \$392,568 accruing interest at a rate of 7.49% per annum.

The BENEFICIARIES have elected to sell the PROPERTY to satisfy the obligation of the GRANTORS.

The DATE of the SALE is set for January 30th, 2026, at 2:00 pm MST at the Broadwater County Courthouse located at 515 Broadway St., Townsend, Montana, 59644.

You can contact Rydel Peterson at RVP Law, PLLC at 406-239-2500 for more information.

Published December 12, 19 and 26, 2025

MNAXLP

TOSTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Nomination Petitions for Water Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner for Division 3 (All lands east of US Highway 287) to be elected at the March 12, 2026 Annual Meeting may be picked up by qualifying landowners at the Toston Irrigation District Office, 8711 US Hwy 287, Toston, MT 59643.


The petitions must be returned to the District Office no later than December 28, 2025.

Published December 19 and 26, 2025

MNAXLP

Judge Granting a Full Stay Allowing ESA Reimbursements

Susie Hedalen
Superintendent Office of Public Instruction




Superintendent of Public Instruction Susie Hedalen announced today that a judge has granted a full stay through the end of the school year in the case Montana Quality Education Coalition and Disability Rights Montana v. State of Montana, allowing the Education Savings Account (ESA) program to continue operating for the remainder of the school year.

Under the court’s order, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will continue administering the ESA program, including processing approved reimbursements and payments, through June 30, 2026. The stay provides important stability and continuity for participating families and ensures that students particularly those with special education needs, can continue receiving the educational services that best meet their individual needs without disruption.

This stay is welcome news for families who rely on the ESA program. It allows students to remain in their educational placements and gives parents the certainty they need to plan for the rest of the school year.

OPI remains committed to serving Montana students and families, maintaining continuity for ESA participants, and administering the program with transparency and accountability. The State is also preparing to file an appeal of the underlying ruling. The agency will continue to comply fully with all court directives and will provide additional updates as the legal process moves forward.

Americanisms



“I try to believe like I believed when I was five ... When your heart tells you everything you need to know.”

— *Lucy Liu*

© 2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Justice of the Peace Report

of Montana as well as six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior

- Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting 1st offense – plead guilty - \$225 fines & fees
- Unlawful hunting from public highway – plead guilty - \$170 fines & fees as well as six months in Broadwater County jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior.
- Defendant to surrender hunting/fishing/trapping license with suspension of rights for a period of two (2) years

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Riley J. Herbolich – Helena – speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Samuel A. Hernandez- Guerrero – Bozeman – speeding on non-interstate-exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Pierce T. Teeuwen – Bozeman – reckless endangerment of emergency personnel/highway workers – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Zane A. Wallace – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate-exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

COUNTY CRIMINAL

Angelo Zacharias – Helena – Operating a vehicle without interlock device – plead guilty - \$435 fines & fees as well as six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail suspended for a period of six (6) months with good behavior.


Chareles J. Spery – Townsend – Disorderly Conduct – plead guilty - \$135 fines & fees as well as Book & Release

James C. Schilke – Greenough – Fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance in vehicle – owner or operator 1st offense – plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees with a suspended sentence of six (6) months with good behavior & payment of fines

Michael E. Hoar – Butte – Negligent endangerment (substantial risk – death/ serious bodily injury) – plead guilty - \$1,085.00 fines & fees as well as one (1) year in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all but seven (7) days suspended for one (1) year with good behavior as well as attendance at weekly AA meetings.

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

Logan C. Geick – Lolo – Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs / Controlled Substance – Transferred to District Court



Settlement Reached in Horse Creek Hills Water Rights Victory

Quincy Johnson
Communications Director Upper Missouri Water Keeper

Last week, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper reached a settlement in the Horse Creek Hills case, recouping the multi-year costs necessary to securing a precedential victory that protected senior water property rights from exempt wells and reaffirming the independent duty of local government to identify water resource impacts of subdivision development. The settlement comes on the heels of a Montana Supreme Court decision awarding attorney fees in the case. Therefore, the Supreme Court affirmed that prevailing parties are entitled to recover fees and costs when a case has statewide significance and is essential to protecting important public rights and interests.

“These attorney fees are a small price to pay compared to the irreparable harm the Horse Creek Hills development would have caused to our senior water rights, agricultural operations, and critical wildlife habitat,” said Charles and Carole Plymale, generational ranchers, longstanding senior water rights holders, and plaintiffs in Upper Missouri Waterkeeper et al. v. Broadwater County and DNRC. “We’re grateful to see justice served and the government held accountable for its wrongdoings. This decision is an important affirmation that all Montanans have the ability to stand up and defend their rights.”

In February 2024, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper won a landmark lawsuit, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper et. al. v. Broadwater County et. al.. This victory affirmed the duty of local government to evaluate off-site water resource impacts before approving subdivisions, which is already reshaping land-use decisions across Montana, limiting the misuse of “exempt” groundwater wells, and easing development pressure in rural valleys.

Under the Montana Declaratory Judgements Act, Montana courts may award attorney fees when “necessary

Townsend City Council Tackles Water Rights, Event Ordinance, and Bids Farewell to Doug Sitton

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



The Townsend City Council’s December meeting was marked by in-depth discussions on local water rights, the adoption of a long-debated event ordinance, and the heartfelt farewell of Council Member Doug Sitton, who attended his final meeting.

Water Rights and Wells: A Complex Challenge

Water issues took center stage as Councilman JB Howick introduced an informational update on the evolving legal landscape surrounding exempt water wells. He referenced a recent report from the Montana League of Cities and Towns, which details ongoing efforts to address the so-called “exempt well loophole” in state water law. Originally created in the 1970s to ease small subdivision development, the loophole has led to a proliferation of wells—raising concerns about impacts on agricultural water availability and sparking legal disputes, including the well-known Horse Creek subdivision case.

Councilman Howick urged the council to consider how potential changes to state law could affect Townsend. He pointed out that if the loophole is closed, undeveloped lots along Highway 12 might be required to connect to the city’s water system, which now extends along that corridor. He recommended that the council address non-contiguous water connections in the city’s next water ordinance review.

Representative Jane Gillette, attending as a guest, acknowledged the complexity and contentiousness of the issue. She described legislative attempts to find a compromise between agricultural interests and developers, noting that a recent bill died in the Senate on a tie vote. Gillette emphasized the importance of water system expansion and highlighted ongoing state funding for such projects. She also discussed the “use it or lose it” principle in Montana water law, explaining that municipalities must demonstrate beneficial use of their water rights or risk losing them.

The council also discussed the city’s current well capacity and the potential need for a fourth well in the future. Because Townsend is located in a closed basin, any new well would likely require water rights mitigation—meaning the city would need to offset any additional water taken from the basin, possibly by working with nearby water sources like Canyon Ferry.

Event Ordinance Adopted After Revisions

Another major item was the adoption of a new event ordinance, which establishes clear guidelines for permitting and public notification of events within city limits. After a public hearing and several rounds of revisions, the council made final tweaks to clarify language around application deadlines, animal control, and the process for announcing event permits. Council members agreed that the city should be responsible for announcing approved event permits at least 45 days before the event, ensuring transparency and adequate notice to residents.

The ordinance was adopted unanimously, with Mayor Vickie Rauser congratulating the council on reaching consensus after extensive deliberation.

Farewell to Council Member Doug Sitton

The evening concluded with a tribute to outgoing Council Member Doug Sitton. Sitton reflected on his years of service, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside fellow council members, city staff, and local organizations like the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce. He spoke candidly about the challenges and rewards of public service, noting the importance of listening, collaboration, and setting aside personal politics for the good of the community.

Council members thanked Sitton for his dedication and leadership, emphasizing the positive impact he has had on Townsend. Sitton assured the council he would remain an active and supportive member of the community.

The meeting adjourned with holiday wishes and a sense of accomplishment as the city prepares for the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

Townsend School District Trustee Filing Period

Brad Racht
Superintendent Townsend Schools

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

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

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

Mixed Reactions in Montana to \$12 Billion for Farmers

Jacob Olness
Montana Free Press

One industry group celebrated the news, another was more skeptical.



A farm in Big Sandy
Photo Credit: Jason Thompson, MTFP

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and is republished here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2025/12/08/mixed-reactions-in-montana-to-trumps-12-billion-aid-for-farmers/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28258726%29&utm_source=2

Representatives of Montana’s farming sector had mixed reactions Monday [Dec. 8] after President Donald Trump unveiled a \$12 billion farm-aid package aimed at helping U.S. producers — particularly those hit hard by the tariffs, falling crop prices and uncertainty about foreign markets.

Details remain scarce on how the funds will be distributed, but in a press release the administration framed the package as relief for farmers hit by “market disruptions, elevated input costs, persistent inflation and losses from unfair trade practices.” Several national agricultural interest groups note that many of those pressures stem directly from the administration’s own trade policies: aggressive tariffs and escalating trade tensions that have helped drive down demand for American products, especially from major buyers such as China.

In an interview Monday [Dec. 8], with Montana Free Press, Nicole Rolf, senior director of governmental affairs at the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, expressed optimism about Trump’s announcement.

“We’ve been asking for help for farmers to get through to next year. Twelve billion dollars will help them get through,” Rolf said, until government payouts to farmers included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed earlier this year kick in. Rolf also said she was pleased that “all of Montana’s major [crops],” which include wheat, barley and lentils, were included in the program.

Walter Schweitzer, president of the Montana Farmers Union, was less enthusiastic. He said farmers’ problems “today are almost wholly caused by tariffs,” citing both the affordability of inputs like fertilizer and the loss of markets to sell what farmers grow. He said the proposed \$12 billion package did not do enough to address the damage he tied to the president’s trade policies.

“This ‘bridge’ gets us to the middle of the river. We not only need to build a bridge across the river, but we need to build a road beyond,” Schweitzer said Monday. “We’re going to have to spend a lot of money to incentivize customers to come back to us when this is all over.”

According to a recent analysis by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, U.S. agricultural exports to China have dropped by more than \$6.8 billion since January — a decline of 73%. That trend reflects a sharp decline in demand for commodities, most notably soybeans. According to the same CSIS analysis, in the first two quarters of 2025, Montana experienced a much lower drop in exports to China, around 19%, than nearby North Dakota, which saw its exports to the third-largest market for U.S. agricultural products plunge by 85%.

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.
Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov>.

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

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

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

*There will not be a commission meeting
December 29th – January 2nd*

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

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

Thursday, January 1, 2026

All County Offices CLOSED ~ New Years Day

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

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

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments, by-laws approval, interlocal agreements and non-financial contract renewals
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail – ongoing grants
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050
drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

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

Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834
lricthtmyer@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 January 6th at 11:30 AM
- Fair Board Meeting on January 8th at 5:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on January 12th at 4:00 PM
- Planning Board Meeting on January 13th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on January 13th at 6:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on January 19th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 20th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 21st at 6:00 PM

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

It’s your future. Let’s protect it.®

Dustin Gillaspie

410 Broadway, Townsend, MT 406.442.0456

fbfs.com/find-an-agent/
dustingillaspie@mt

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

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

The Garden Bug

Frankincense

The English name for this tree derives from the old French *franc encens*, which means “pure light.” The aromatic compounds made within its tissues resist fungus and insects, and resin leaks out to solidify around wounds in its bark. Sparse forests of these trees grow in the dry ground of the southern Arabian Peninsula. It is there that the “Incense Road” was formed, bringing trade and wealth to this area for centuries. To grow a frankincense tree of your own, it is best to purchase it as a potted plant, rather than growing seeds.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: Koehler’s Medicinal Plants (1887), [laphamsquarterly.org, advicefromtheherblady.com](http://laphamsquarterly.org/advicefromtheherblady.com)

© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi

The Traveling Diners

Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi restaurant in Helena (2790 N. Washington) has been open for over 10 years. Having a bad experience with Sushi in Los Angeles many, many years ago, I had no desire to try Sushi again, so I never felt the need to go to Nagoya.

However, friends love Nagoya and wanted to go there; so, the Traveling Diners decided to try the restaurant – and we are delighted we did.

While the restaurant does have Sashimi/Sushi dishes, which we have heard are very good, we requested a seat at one of the Hibachi grills. Nagoya has a number of Hibachi grills that have U-Shaped seating around two grills that can seat 9-10 people at each grill. So, unless you have a very large party, you will likely share a grill with other diners. On our side of the grill, we shared with a family of 5 (2 adults and 3 young children) who were very friendly and fun dining companions.

All of the dinners include soup and salad. The soup was a mushroom broth and was okay – nothing special. Salad was an iceberg lettuce salad with a very good house dressing, but, in my opinion, they served it with far too much dressing.

We ordered a number of different entrée courses: chicken, shrimp and scallops, and steak. We each had a choice of rice or noodles with the entrees. All of our group had fried rice; our dining companions ordered both rice and noodles. Both additions were great!

All entrees except the steak were cooked with vegetables in a stir-fry style. Of course, in a Japanese Steakhouse, much of the fun is the show that goes with the cooking. Each of the Hibachi chefs is very personable as they cook and perform. I have always enjoyed



The cooking can be very dramatic
Photo Credit: The Traveling Diners

that aspect of Japanese Hibachi grills!

The food was excellent! I love grilled shrimp and scallops, but scallops can be very difficult to get right; not cooked long enough is raw (not good for me), and too long and they become very rubbery. Our chef cooked them perfectly! The beef filet steak was quite large and cooked perfectly. Our dining companions ordered a New York strip steak that was cooked perfectly.

After the meal, we were offered a tempting array of desserts, but one called out – a fried tempura ice cream. We have tried “fried ice cream” at many different styles of restaurants, and almost all of them were actually ice cream rolled in a mixture of sugar and cinnamon – no actual frying involved. Our waitress assured us the tempura ice cream was actually fried with a tempura coating, so we ordered one serving. It was fried; it was incredibly good; it was enormous. Four of us shared the dessert and there was a lot to go around!

We left feeling like perhaps we ate a little too much – and took home enough to have for another meal the next day.

While our group focused on the Hibachi grill-style food, our dining companions had several sushi items along with the grilled food. The sushi looked very good,



The 3 young children enjoyed the show as much as the food
Photo Credit: The Traveling Diners



Chicken stir-fry with fried rice
Photo Credit: The Traveling Diners

and our dining companions said it was excellent. The three young children also loved the sushi as well as the grill items.

We strongly recommend Nagoya! If you go, you may run into us there – we certainly intend to go back, probably often. I really need to try that steak!

Meatballs and Marinara: Montana Style

Jon Bennion

Montana Free Press

An appetizing nod to Meaderville’s ‘Little Italy’ legacy.

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press. It is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2025/11/03/meatballs-and-marinara-montana-style/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Montana%20Free%20Press%20stories%20available%20for%20republishation%3A%20%20TODAY&utm_campaign=RSS%20Republishation%20Email



Meatballs and marinara, Montana-style
Photo Credit: Jon Bennion, MTFP

One of the greatest culinary gifts I’ve ever received is a cookbook featuring recipes drawn from the many cultures that concentrated in Butte decades ago. The “Butte Heritage Cookbook” was given to me by a former state senator from the Mining City. It’s not just a good read — it’s one of the great historical documents of our state.

Most of us know that Butte had become quite the melting pot by the early 20th century, but the book’s diversity of recipes, reflecting Butte’s many assembled national backgrounds and ethnicities, is

nothing short of staggering.

One section of the book features Italian recipes. While Montana wasn’t a major destination for expatriates from Italy, some pockets of the state did see a mini-influx from southern Europe. Butte’s own “Little Italy” was once called Meaderville. You won’t find it on modern maps because it was razed in the 1950s to make way for open-pit mining, but its legacy is still alive.

The book’s Italian recipes are classics: lasagna, minestrone, chicken cacciatore and much more. But I noticed the glaring omission of a necessary Italian staple — there’s no recipe for meatballs. So I’m making my own little contribution to the memory of Butte’s Little Italy with this Meaderville meatball and marinara recipe.

The best meatballs are made with multiple meats, usually a trio of beef, pork and veal. Veal isn’t the easiest ingredient to find, so I use half beef and half pork. The different proteins help balance the meatballs’ flavor and texture. You can earn bonus Montana points by adding game meat to the mix. Just make sure to get sufficient fat in your grind. No one likes dry meatballs.

Grinding the meat fresh with a stand mixer always produces a better texture, and the rest of the ingredients have a better chance of getting incorporated more consistently, but you can easily make this recipe even if you don’t have a grinder. Whether you grind your own or use packaged meat, avoid mixing the meatballs too much. Overworked and overpacked meatballs can turn dense and tough.

The best marinara is a celebration of a few simple ingredients. Start with the best-quality canned tomatoes you can find and simmer them with a bit of olive oil and crushed garlic. The rest is just patience. This combination of bright, sweet sauce and savory meatballs will never be wiped off my kitchen’s map.

MEATBALL INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 pound freshly ground pork
- 1/2 pound freshly ground beef
- 2 tbsp whole milk
- 2 tbsp panko
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp fresh chopped Italian parsley
- 2 tbsp finely grated parmesan
- 1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp cracked black pepper
- 1 large clove (or two small cloves) finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 2 tsp fennel seed

MARINARA INGREDIENTS

- 28 oz. canned plum tomatoes in sauce
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 large clove (or two small cloves) garlic, peeled and crushed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- optional: fresh basil

First, make the marinara. Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Peel the garlic and smash it with the flat side of a knife. Pull the saucepan off the heat and add the garlic, swirling the oil carefully to flavor it. Remove the garlic from the pan before it browns and reserve it. Let the oil mostly cool before you add the canned tomatoes.

Bring the tomatoes to a simmer over medium heat and add the garlic back in with the salt. Simmer on low heat for half an hour, stirring occasionally, then blend the tomatoes with a hand blender. If you’re adding fresh basil, blend in a few leaves just before serving.

Now for the meatballs. Combine the panko and the milk to hydrate in a small bowl. In a larger bowl, place the beef, pork, egg, parsley, parmesan, salt, pepper, chopped garlic, red pepper flakes and fennel seed. Once the panko is hydrated, add that to the larger bowl as well. Thoroughly combine all ingredients, either with your hands (the best way) or in a stand mixer with the paddle attachment. Don’t overmix!

Form 2-ounce meatballs, slightly larger than golf balls. You should get about 9 or 10 meatballs from this recipe. Let them sit in the fridge for half an hour. In a sauté pan on medium heat, sauté the meatballs in a bit of olive oil, rotating occasionally to brown them evenly. Once they’re browned, drop the meatballs into the marinara and simmer for 5 minutes until they’re cooked through.

Serve with your favorite pasta, or as an appetizer with garlic toast.

Editor's Note:

When I was 5, my family moved to Meaderville, where we lived for 2 years. I have very fond memories of Meaderville. The Rocky Mountain Cafe in Meaderville was nationally famous and spawned many restaurants in Butte that served "Meaderville Style" food.

That style of restaurant has slowly faded in Butte, with only Lydia's making a half-hearted (and largely disappointing) attempt at "Meaderville Style".

Meaderville was swallowed up by the Berkely Pit and Butte is poorer for the loss of the tight knit community.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE WANTS TO INVITE YOU GUYS FOR DINNER. YOU STRIKE ME AS A GUY WHO LIKES MYSTERY AND A BIT OF DANGER, RIGHT?

GRIN and BEAR IT

© North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

“Don’t look at the picture, OK?”

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

I'M A SNOWFLAKE, A ONE-OF-A-KIND WONDER OF NATURE! I AM LIKE NO OTHER. UNIQUE... SPECIAL... I AM WINTER'S PRECIOUS PIXIE! I AM...

AAAAAAAGH!

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WHOA, BOYS, LAST FARM ON THE ROUTE. A FAMILY WITH A LITTLE FELLA NAMED GERALD LIVES HERE.

I RECALL THE ELVES HAVING SOME ISSUE AS TO WHERE TO PLACE HIM, ON THE NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST.

WOW, THERE'S ACTUALLY A DISCLAIMER AFTER HIS NAME.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

LOOKS LIKE I'M HAVING "ALPO" FOR DINNER TONIGHT.

... SINCE I'M IN THE DOG-HOUSE!!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MIHOLLAND

THOUGH OUR TIME TOGETHER IS BRIEF, IT IS NO LESS IMPORTANT TO ME. MY LOVE FOR YOU IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, TRUE.

STOP RECITIN' SONNETS T'YER BURGER AN' EAT IT, WEIRDO.

EXCUSE ME FOR APPRECIATING CULINARY ART!

PERFECTION AS ALWAYS, ROUGH HOUSE. A LITTLE EXTRA FOR YOUR TROUBLE.

SEE YOU AT DINNER, WIMPY!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HAPPY T'SEE WIMPY OR HIM PAYIN' FER FOOD.

HE'S CURRENTLY MY BEST CUSTOMER!

HOW'D WIMPY GET MONEY AN' TH' WILL T' PAY FER ANYTHIN'?

HE GOT A JOB! AND HE'S GOOD AT IT!

WOT ON EARTH COULD WIMPY DO FER A JOB?

HE'S A MALL SANTA! MOST POPULAR IN THE COUNTY.

WHO KNEW ALL WIMPY NEEDED T' STRAIGHTEN UP WAS T'WORK FER KIDS?

... ANOTHER TRICK IS TO MENTION TO YOUR DAD HE LEFT HIS PHONE UNLOCKED. IF HE ASKS IF YOU LOOKED AT IT, JUST GIVE HIM A DISAPPOINTED LOOK.

SANTA GUARANTEES YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT THIS CHRISTMAS! (WITH THESE TIPS)

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AT HOW GIVING HE'LL BE FOR CHRISTMAS.

THIS IS WHY I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU.

TIGER

NO

NOPE

NOT DOWN HERE

NOTHING

NOT IN HERE

NO

WELL, THIS CHRISTMAS

...IF WE ARE GETTING ANYTHING, IT MUST BE AWFUL SMALL

Barnes

Jewelry

357 N Last Chance Gulch,

Helena MT

406-442-3000

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TOPGUN

Autobody

Townsend, MT

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

406-266-3110

7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT

topgunt3110@gmail.com

topgunautobodytownsend.com

Super Crossword

Answers

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

TIZER MEATS

Don't forget to order your Prime Rib or Smoked Turkey for Christmas!

tizermeats.com | 406-422-4822

CryptoQuip

answer

I can imagine somebody calling that profile of Abraham Lincoln on a penny a copper head.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Weasel; 2. Abode; 3. Answer; 4. Alien

Today's Word

SWALLOW

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

R	S	E
R		E
A	T	U

TREASURE

MT 43 News, Inc.

Published & edited by the Board of Directors

Editors in Chief: Victor Sample and Nancy Marks

408 Broadway Street Suite A Townsend MT 59644-2323 (406) 266-0086

MT43News@MT43News.com

Deadlines

Stories, News & Letters to the Editor: Tuesday 12 p.m. Advertising: Tuesday 10 a.m.

ALL CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS MUST be submitted as as text document, word doc, etc. Pictures of documents WILL NOT be accepted.

newspaper may not be reproduced, redistributed or archived, in whole or in part, physically or electronically, without the written permission of MT 43 News, Inc.

ISSN 2833-2571 USPS Bulk Mailing Permit #43 First Publication Date: July 15, 2022

MT 43 News is published Thursday of each week in Townsend, MT. Its service area is Broadwater County, MT.

Affiliation

Letters to the editor, guest columns, Op-Ed, editorials and advertising do not necessarily reflect the opinion of MT 43 News, Inc. or any of its executives, employees, or advertisers.

Forms and Policies

https://mt43news-business-services.com/node/124

Greetings from Italy - Villa Comunale

Carolyn Peace

The Villa (city park) is situated along the Adriatic Sea. At the entrance is a marker placed by the Rotary Club of Trani. It reminds us of our own Townsend Rotary Club.

As you walk into the park, you cannot believe all of the flowers planted to mark the season. Today they are red and white and there are over 250 plants. Continuing on, you will face a large statue commemorating Italy's Liberation at the end of WWII.

Walking along the ancient wall you will find at one end a large aviary with a wide variety of birds, a turtle pond and a view of the lungomare (coastal walkway).

Midway, back towards the other end of the park, you will find mile markers that were once along the Appian Way (the ancient road that ran from Rome to Brindisi).

Continuing on to the other end of the park, you will find an exercise area, a play area for children and a paved walkway going up a hill. If you walk up the hill, you will see the Cathedral, the port entrance and the Bay of Trani.

In the center of the park there is a stage where various performances occur. Each Sunday during December and the first of January, the nearby towns will take a Sunday and send their city band to perform a free concert. This event is referred to as "the battle of the bands." We have seen several art and cultural events on the stage, all of which have been provided free of charge.

When I next write, I will tell you about Trani dressing up for Christmas. Buonganta (have a good rest of your day)!



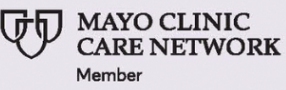

Statue in the Villa Communal
Photo Credit: Don Peace



Rotary Sign at the entrance to Villa Communal
Photo Credit: Don Peace



"Mile Marker" on the Appian way of ancient Rome
Photo Credit: Don Peace



January Visiting Specialists

From Billings Clinic Bozeman

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call **(406) 266-3186.**

Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

110 North Oak Street, Townsend, MT

billingsclinic.com/broadwater

Pediatrics

Dr. Claire Kenamore will be providing Pediatric services for children of all ages.

January 22




- Well-child visits for young children and adolescents
- Mental health
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten check-ups
- Sports physicals

Claire Kenamore, MD

Pediatrics Endocrinology

Dr. Margaret Siska will be providing Pediatric Endocrinology services for children of all ages.

January 22




- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- Disorders of growth and puberty
- Adrenal, pituitary, and thyroid gland disorders
- General endocrinology

Margaret Siska, MD

Urology

Physician Assistant, Daniel Mieler will be providing Urology services for adults.

January 2




- Non-invasive treatment
- Minimally invasive surgery
- General urologic surgery

Daniel Mieler, PA

OB/GYN

Physician Assistant, Carley Hennessy will be providing OB/GYN services for adult women.

January 20



- Contraception
- Menopause
- Family Planning
- STI testing

Carley Hennessy, PA

Subscribe to MT 43 News and save!

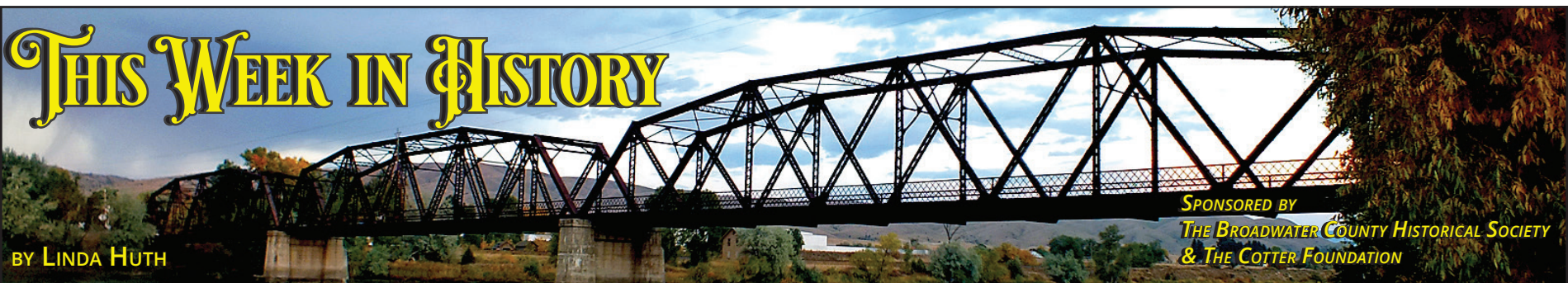
	1Yr	2Yr	3Yr
Print (In-Region*):	\$69	\$108	\$155
Print (In-State):	\$89	\$145	\$200
Print (In USA):	\$119	\$198	\$275
Print (International):	\$145	\$245	\$340
Print Snowbird**:	\$94	\$158	\$225
Email-ONLY (PDF):	\$50	\$74	\$100

Mail payment or deliver to 408 Broadway, Townsend MT 59644. You can also call with a credit card 406-266-0086, or visit www.MT43News.com

*In Region includes all Broadwater County, Helena, East Helena, Montana City, Clancy, Jefferson City, White Sulfer Springs and Three Forks

**Snowbird rate includes two address changes per year. Gift subscriptions are also available!

All print editions include option to receive PDF email.



December 25

1902

Local News
The compliments of the season to the “Star” readers.
Ed Carson of Helena spent Christmas with his brother A.C. Carson.
There are several of our town people logging in the mountains on Deep Creek this winter. They expect that a sawmill will be moved into that part of the country this winter or early in the spring.
“A white Christmas begets a green Easter” is an old adage, and we hope will prove true in 1903.
Harry McClure of Meagher Co. came over the range to spend Christmas with friends. He left Meagher Co. at 7 A.M. Wednesday and arrived in Townsend at 7 P.M. He reports heavy snow on the range.
O.T.H. Allen last week removed the principal part of his household furniture to the new house recently built at the mine in Johnnie’s Gulch.

1941

High School Seniors Joining Army Will Get Diplomas Now
Senior high school boys who enlist will be awarded their full diplomas of graduation. This ruling has been made by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Miss Elizabeth Ireland, and both W.L. Emmert, principal of the high school, and Mrs. Edith B. Fos, clerk of the board, have been notified of the ruling. The ruling applies to both the Army and the Navy.
Bob Williams, now serving his country in the Navy, enlisted when he was a senior.

College Students Home for Holidays
Trains and buses during the last week have brought

home for the holidays many Broadwater County young people from the colleges.
Dan McCarthy is home from Seattle from the University of Washington; Miss Frances White arrived Saturday from the U. of British Columbia; Miss Joan McCarthy arrived from St. Mary’s private school for girls at Leavenworth, Kansas; Bill Weed, Ross Bigler, Marie Serrett and Nina Koger are here from the University at Missoula; Eddie Daniels, Joe Kirscher, Edna Wallace, Tom Ellis and Ed Conrad are home from Montana State at Bozeman and William Mackey has arrived from Leland Stanford at Palo Alto, California. Miss Rose Sanz is home from the Havre Normal; Miss Alice D’Arcy, Miss Norma Morris and Lela Swartz from Billings Normal.
Lorraine and Isabelle Swartz are also attending school in Billings and are home.
Miss Audra Plymale and Miss Helen Daniels from Billings, teachers, are also here.

1958

Christmas Party
The telephone operators held their Christmas party at the telephone building Friday, Dec. 19th at 8:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Mrs. Lester Ballard, who retired last year after 15 years as an operator, Sue Duehr, Helen Karhoff, Patsy Evans, Verna Sears, Rita Hedberg, Margaret Goodian, Katie Duede, Myrna Clark, Darleen Doig, Helen Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth O’Dell. Refreshments were brought by the group, and an exchange of gifts was held.
Birthday Supper
A no-host surprise birthday supper for Mrs. Al Brothers was held at the home of her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Evans, on Sunday, Dec. 21st. Those who enjoyed the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Doig and David, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Guffey, Mr. and Mrs. Bill

Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. George Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Berberet, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Doig, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nelson, Mr. And Mrs. Vaughn Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Heuer, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Heberle, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Al Brothers.
After dinner court whisk was played by the group. Bill Flynn won men’s high; Darlene Doig won ladies’ high; Vaughn Evans won men’s low; Grace Berberet won ladies’ low and Thelma Heberle won the door prize.

1975

Townsend News
George and Florence Brammer celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at the home of Kathleen and John Jepson, amidst family, flowers and friends from everywhere. Well over 200 best wishes were extended to the former publishers of the Townsend Star. It was a beautiful reception and both the bride and groom were smiling and handsome. I’m sure we all wish them many more anniversaries.
Elmer and Dorothy Colby of Townsend were honored by their children on their 43rd Wedding Anniversary with a dinner party at the Fireside Lounge Saturday night. The party was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Colby, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Welch and Blaine, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Colby and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Miller.
East of Townsend News
Mr. and Mrs. Don Plymale and family and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lean and Jennifer of Butte were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Plymale.
Mrs. George Lots of Dillon visited briefly one day last week at the home of Mrs. Ed Neild.
Keith Kirscher attended the wedding of Denise Sample and Steve Rhordanz in Bozeman Saturday.
Monday visitors at the home of Annie Bisby were Wilma Masolo of Winston and Blanche Fauts of Whitehall.



Your New Year resolution to paint the bathroom isn't one of them...

An anonymous scientist might have said, “The universe tells us to paint while the days are warm! Ja!”





Historic Townsend Hardware

204 BROADWAY • PROUDLY SERVING TOWNSEND SINCE 1953

A Visit to Newly Opened Montana Heritage Center a Treat to the Senses

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Molly Kruckenberg smiled with satisfaction and appreciation at the opening of Montana’s finished historical museum, now called the Montana Heritage Center. The director of a years-long building project, Kruckenberg, rode on the tails of many Montanans who had worked since 2005 to upgrade the museum at the corner of Sixth and Roberts in Helena.

“The importance of finalizing this huge project for Montana showed at the ribbon cutting yesterday (December 02) when 400 people came to celebrate with us. The energy and excitement was really fabulous,” she said.



Montana Heritage Center Director Molly Kruckenberg stands in the expansive Lobby of the new center, now open to the public. MT43 News Photo

The Homeland Gallery, one of several, houses a menagerie of interactive exhibits with sounds to fit each exhibit, beginning with the prehistoric era. A woolly mammoth set of horns and head is shown living large with birds, fish and sea animals from Montana’s

time before the Indians. In a walk through time, next comes a buffalo, grizzly bear and coyotes with appropriate growls and bellows. Montana’s eight tribal nations are well represented with videos of women making beaded and porcupine quill clothing.
One of the most interesting eras shown is metal mining all over the state, particularly at Bannack, Virginia City and Helena. Exhibits display hydraulic mining, which is mining by fire hose and underground mining. In a surround sound exhibit, the viewer goes down in a Butte copper mine with the workers. Wells Fargo Bank donated its collection of huge gold pieces to the Museum, some the size of a child’s fist. Children are afforded their own zone with a train to ride.
The State Historical Society and the Museum struggled since 2005 to increase the size of its footprint, according to the website. Beginning when Governor Tim Babcock’s wife, Betty, tried her best to move the Museum to an empty Capitol Hill Mall. Several other sites were explored until the Sixth and Roberts site was chosen with state monies to begin construction. The 66,000 square foot addition came in at \$105 million, \$60million of which was covered by donors such as Dennis Washington and MSU graduate Norm Asbjornson.
According to Kruckenberg, the official grand opening will take place June 25-28, 2026, with a nod to the nation’s 250th birthday. The Museum is open seven days a week with varied hours. Please visit <https://mths.mt.gov/visit>.



The exhibit in the Prehistoric section displays the actual head and horns of a woolly mammoth along with a wild pig. MT43 News Photo



A huge hose nozzle used to wash gold from the sides of mountains fills this display. Diamond City, in Confederate Gulch on Canyon Ferry’s east side, was totally washed away by hydraulic mining. MT43 News Photo



Sounds of buffalo bawling and coyotes howling filled the air near this exhibit, making the experience interactive for the museum visitor. MT43 News Photo