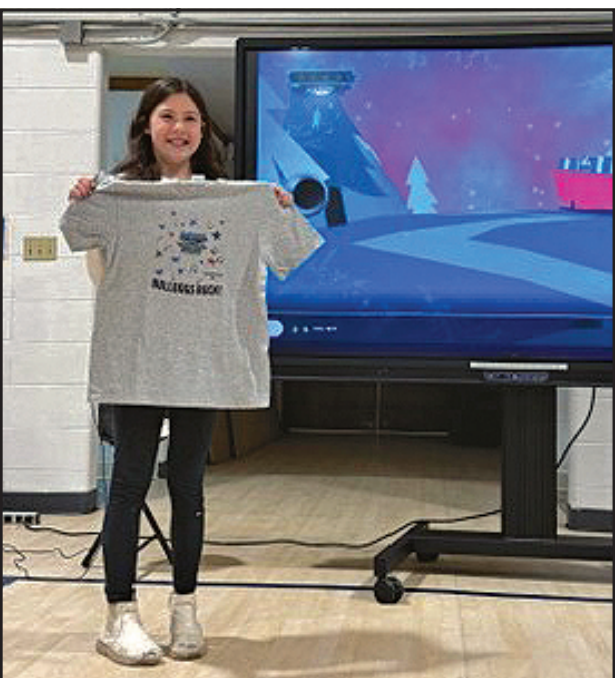


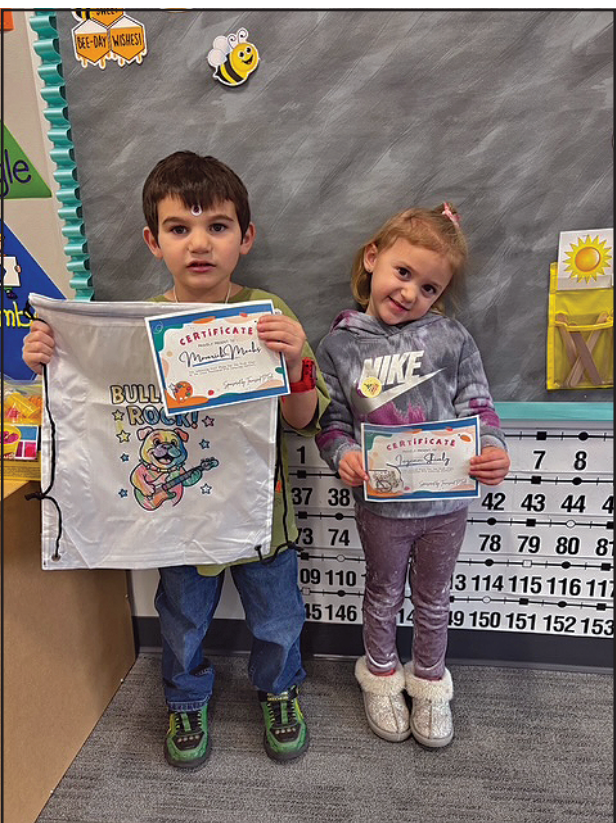
East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside

Fourth Grader Arielle Carlson Wins Townsend Bulldog T-Shirt Design Contest



4th grader Arielle Carlson was the overall winner of the Elementary School t-shirt design competition. Photos Provided by PTA

Traci Maughn
PTA member



Pre-Kindergartners Maverick Meeks, Logan Shively
Photos Provided by PTA



Kindergarten winners, Beau Shively and Libby Maughan
Photos Provided by PTA

The PTA recently announced the winners of its annual T-Shirt Design Contest during a school assembly, celebrating the creativity and artistic talents of students from Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. This popular tradition invites students to submit original artwork to represent school spirit and be featured on a commemorative PTA T-shirt. The Overall Winner for 2025 is Arielle Carlson, whose design stood out among many impressive entries and is featured as this year’s official T-shirt design. Arielle also earned first place in the fourth-grade category.

Additional winners were recognized across all grade levels. In pre-kindergarten, Maverick Meeks earned first place, and Logan Shively earned second place. Kindergarten winners included Beau Shively in first place and Libby Maughan in second place. In first grade, Canton Cartwright received first-place honors, followed by Jillian DeLaTorre in second place. Second-grade winners were Maverick Ahren in first place and Louise Cahill in second place. In third grade, Ryal Lancello earned first place, and Bentley Hoppe earned second place. In fourth grade, Arielle Carlson placed first, and

River Spurlock placed second. Fifth-grade winners included Liv Mace in first place and Alexander Hoeger in second place. The PTA extends congratulations to all participants and winners and thanks the teachers, volunteers, and families who helped make the annual T-Shirt Design Contest a success. Events like this continue to highlight student creativity and strengthen school pride throughout the school community.

More Photos of Winners on Page 2!

STAY ALERT AND
EDUCATED ABOUT
FRAUD AND SCAMS!

WARNING

Avoid Scammers -
Prevent Fraud

Mary Ellen Schnur

MONTANA FARM
BUREAU FEDERATION

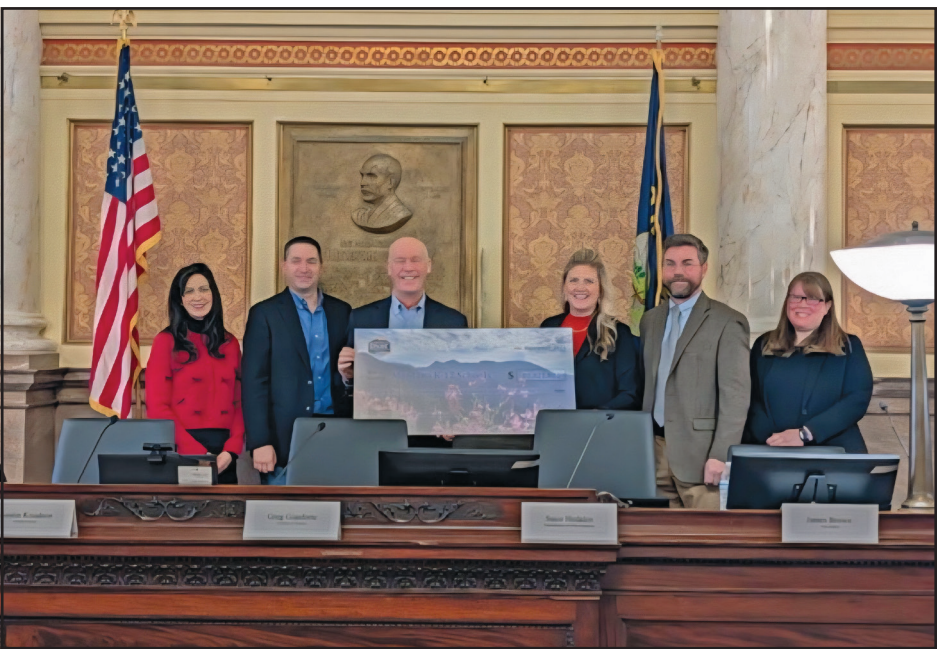
We hear about it every day. Someone has been scammed of money or property. Someone's identity has been stolen to commit fraud. Montana's Consumer Protection Office and the Office of Securities both have expertise available to assist citizens in avoiding scams and fraudulent financial transactions. Broadwater County Farm Bureau will host presenters from these agencies at an informative meeting on Monday evening, January 12, at the library community room, Townsend. All interested people are invited to attend.

Montana’s Public Schools Will Receive \$80.8 Million

Governor Gianforte, Superintendent Hedalen, Director Kaster

Governor Greg Gianforte, Superintendent Susie Hedalen, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Director Amanda Kaster today announced Montana’s public schools will receive \$80.8 million generated from state trust land revenue. “Since taking office, we’ve ensured DNRC has responsibly managed state trust lands to invest in Montana’s public education system,” Gov. Gianforte said. “Thanks to their work, we’re able to make an \$80 million investment to make sure our students have the resources they need to succeed and reach their full potential.” State trust lands are managed to support long-term, sustainable revenue for Montana’s public schools and other trust beneficiaries. DNRC oversees more than five million acres of state trust lands, generating income through a diverse portfolio that includes agricultural and grazing leases, oil and gas development, forest management, commercial real estate, and recreational use. These combined efforts contribute to stable and

meaningful support for Montana’s K–12 education system. "Thanks to responsible stewardship of state trust lands by the Montana Land Board and DNRC, Montana’s schools can better meet the needs of our students. As State Superintendent, I see firsthand how these investments support classrooms and change lives. We are truly grateful for these partnerships and our shared commitment to Montana’s kids,” said Superintendent Susie Hedalen. This year’s distribution represents continued dedication to responsible resource management and strategic planning to ensure consistent returns for Montana’s students, teachers, and communities. “Supporting Montana’s public schools is one of our highest priorities. It’s a privilege that through the stewardship of our state trust lands, we help provide students and teachers across our state with the technology, tools, and classroom resources they need to thrive. DNRC remains committed to investing in education for Montana students today and for generations to come,” said DNRC Director Amanda Kaster. Revenue distributed to the Office of Public Instruction



Montana Land Board members being presented State Trust Land Revenue check
State of Montana Photo

(OPI) is used by school districts statewide to enhance educational opportunities. These funds help support technology modernization, school safety upgrades, facility maintenance, classroom resources, and other district-identified priorities that strengthen student learning environments. Montana will continue to prioritize responsible management practices and long-term state trust land stewardship to ensure that future generations of students benefit from these public assets.

May this new year bring joy, peace and many blessings to you all!



MOUNTIE MOOSE BAKERY
wishes Everyone
Happy New Year
406.266.5800 | 109 BROADWAY ST, TOWNSEND

Cheers to a New Year



GOOSE BAY HANDBLOWN GLASS
101 S. Front St., Townsend, MT 59644 | 406-266-4496
cactusflat.gundersens@gmail.com | www.goosebayhandblownglass.com



Happy New Year 2026
Start the year right with a hot meal at
The Mint Cafe!
305 Broadway St, Townsend

Townsend Plays Manhattan Christian @ Home

Clint Watson
Townsend- 12 8 9 13 42 Manhattan Christian- 12 16 8 19 55 Townsend Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-22, Blake Graham-9, Bryce Lessley-4, Braden Martin-2, Tannen Tufflemire-2, Colby Flynn-2, Trace Giomi-1 Rebound Leader- Tannen Tufflemire-4, Terrace Giomi-4, Tavyn Anderson-3, Colby Flynn-2, Kaden Richtmeyer-2, Blake Graham-2, Braden Martin-1, Pierce Howard-1, Rylan Hoveland-1 Assist Leaders - Tannen Tufflemire-4, Tavyn Anderson-2, Kaden Richtmeyer-2, Braden Martin-1 Steals- Trace Giomi- 2, Colby Flynn- 1, Bryce Lessley- 1, Ryla Hoveland- 1, Blake Graham- 1, Tavyn Anderson- 2 Blocks- Colby Flynn- 1, Trace Giomi- 1 Deflections - Trace Giomi- 2, Colby Flynn- 2, Kaden Richtmeyer- 1, Tavyn Anderson- 5, Bryce Lessley- 1 Townsend Shooting- 2pts- 9/32 28.1% 3pts- 4/15 26.7 Manhattan Christian Shooting- 2pts- 19/26 73.1 3pts- 2/14 14.2 Townsend Free Throws- 6/10 60% Manhattan Christian Free Throws- 7/10 70% Manhattan Christian Turnovers- 18 Townsend Turnovers- 10

Coach's Thoughts:
Our game against Manhattan Christian was a story of giving up too many offensive boards and shooting poorly (28%) from 2-point land. MCHS shot 73% from inside the arc and 14% from 3-point land. Tavyn Anderson had a standout game, making 22 points, 5 deflections, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists. As our team improves, we will be making better decisions on shot selection and we will need to rebound better.



BULLDOG T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS

Read about it on page 1!



Ryal Lancello and Bently Hoppe won the 3rd grade contest. Photos Provided by PTA

Townsend Plays Whitehall @ Home

Clint Watson
Townsend- 16 11 9 17 53 Whitehall- 9 4 8 9 30 Townsend Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-13, Blake Graham-5, Braden Martin-2, Tannen Tufflemire-14, Colby Flynn-2, Trace Giomi-3, Dallas Fligge-2, Pierce Howard-2, Heston Vandenacre-6, Kaden Richtmeyer-2, Rylan Hoveland-2 Rebound Leaders-Trace Giomi- 4, Tannen Tufflemire- 4, Tavyn Anderson- 3, Blake Graham-2, Kaden Richtmeyer- 2, Colby Flynn- 2, Bradan Martin- 1, Pierce Howard- 1, Rylan Hoveland- 1 Assist Leaders- Tannen Tufflemire- 4, Kaden Richtmeyer- 2, Tavyn Anderson- 2, Braden Martin- 1 Steals- Dallas Fligge-2, Rylan Hoveland-2, Blake Graham-2, Tavyn Anderson-1, Tannen Tufflemire-1, Trace Giomi-1, Kaden Richtmeyer-1, Braden Martin-1, Pierce Howard-1, Jim Tew-1 Blocks- Tannen Tufflemire-1 Deflections- Tavyn Anderson-5, Blake Graham-3, Trace Giomi-2, Kaden Richtmyer-2, Dallas Fligge-2, Braden Martin-2, Rylan Hoveland-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-1, Colby Flynn-1, Pierce Howard -1, Jim Tew-1, Bryce Lessley-1 Townsend Shooting- 2pts- 19/42 45.2% 3pts- 2/16 12.5% Whitehall Shooting- 2pts- 5/21 23.8% 3pts- 4/22 18.2% Townsend Free Throws- 9/23 39.1% Whitehall Free Throws- 8/27 29.6% Townsend Turnovers- 16 Whitehall Turnovers- 15

Coach's Thoughts:
In our first home game this year, we hosted the Whitehall Trojans. Luckily, we outrebounded the Trojans 59 to 32. We only shot 9 of 23 from the free-throw line, so we definitely need to improve in that area. Overall, we had great effort from our guys. Tannen Tuffelmire netted 14 points, grabbed 4 rebounds, and dished out 4 assists. Tavyn Anderson scored 13 points.

Plan Ahead for Hunter, Bowhunter and Trapper Courses

Fish, Wildlife and Parks

HELENA – Every year, as hunting and trapping seasons approach, FWP's phones start ringing off the hook. Parents, new hunters and seasoned outdoorsmen alike are all looking for one thing: a last-minute education course to get certified before the season opens. Unfortunately, by that time, options are often limited – or completely unavailable.

That’s why FWP encourages everyone to plan ahead when it comes to Hunter, Bowhunter and Trapper Education. Early preparation is the single best way to ensure a smooth start to your season.

Why timing matters

The bulk of FWP's education programming takes place in the spring and late summer/early fall. These are the critical windows when volunteer instructors are most available, which allows for the widest variety of course formats and locations across the state. Once the seasons begin, instructor availability drops significantly, and course offerings become sparse.

Waiting until the last minute often means facing frustrating situations:

Courses are full or already completed.

Limited locations or inconvenient times are your only choices.

Increased stress for students and families trying to meet deadlines.

Missed opportunities to participate in the season you planned for.

Sometimes life gets busy and plans change, but when it comes to certification, early action is the best strategy.

Who needs to plan ahead?

If you’re new to hunting or trapping – or if you’re mentoring someone who is – it’s important to know the requirements. In Montana, anyone born after January 1, 1985, must complete a Hunter Education course before purchasing a hunting license. Bowhunter and Trapper Education are also required for certain licenses and tags.

Plan Ahead, 6



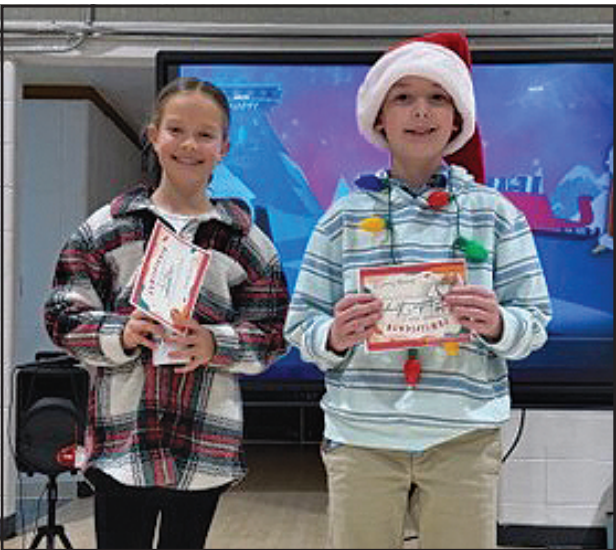
1st grader winners, Canton Cartwright and Jillian DeLaTorre Photos Provided by PTA



Maverick Ahren and Louis Cahill won in Second Grade Photos Provided by PTA



Fourth graders Arielle Carlson and River Spurlock won the t-shirt design contest in their class. Photos Provided by PTA



Fifth Graders Liv Mace and Alexander Hoeger Photos Provided by PTA

The Versatile Mexican-Style Meatball

Eileen Clarke
Rifles and Recipes



Make a Mexican-style wedgie sandwich out of these meatballs and sauce (just top them with Monterey Jack cheese) or make it as written: a more traditional dinner with rice.

Either way, these meatballs are as tasty as the traditional Italian ones. And you can customize the heat with the enchilada sauce you choose: mild to hot. I always use mild, but I’m a buttered-noodle kind of person.

And while we’re talking about the enchilada sauce, I’ll point out that I wrote this recipe up for Slice of the Wild several years ago. At the time, Bob’s Thriftway carried Old El Paso brand, and El Paso still offered a 19-ounce can in enchilada sauce.

Things have gotten smaller since then, as we all know, but when following a recipe, the ratio of ingredients needs to stay close. Wet to dry, meat to carbs. You get the idea. The good thing is some other brands carry 19-ounce cans of green enchilada sauce, but two 10-ounce cans (what used to be the 12-ounce variation) add up to just an ounce more sauce than this recipe calls for. Go ahead, buy the Old El Paso at Bob’s and dump that extra ounce in. 5% more sauce isn’t going to make a big difference.

One more recipe note. I haven’t bought ‘bread crumbs’ in years. I use hard rolls. (For convenience, I stash some in the freezer, then microwave them for a quick-thaw when I need them.) And I even stopped toasting the rolls—to make them dry before tossing them into the food processor. Instead, I tear up room-temperature rolls, pulse them a few times in the food processor until they look like ‘crumbs’ and pour them into the ground meat and eggs. Moister bread crumbs mix more easily than drier ones, co-mingling with the other flavors and ingredients more easily without drying them out. That cuts down prep time, eliminates a step or two and even tastes better.

Mexican Meatballs and Rice

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground venison
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup loosely packed chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 19-ounce can green enchilada sauce
- 3 cups cooked rice (from 1 cup raw)

Cooking

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Combine the ground venison with the eggs, bread crumbs, cilantro, garlic powder, salt, and pepper.
- Shape into 1 1/2-inch diameter meatballs and arrange on 1 (or 2 if necessary) cast iron skillet in a single layer. (You should have about 16.) Pour the enchilada sauce over the top and bake 25 minutes, uncovered.
- When done, pour over the rice and serve.

I’m sad to say this is my last column for MT43News. I have loved sharing wild game recipes with you, but like a lot of people, I’ve come to the time when retirement sounds even better. However, Slice of the Wild: 100 Venison Recipes, and my other wild game cookbooks will still be available at Birdie’s, Reading Leaves, and Goose Bay Handblown Glass.

If they’re out, just give me a call. 406-521-0273. I live in Townsend.

Editor's Note: Eileen has been a contributor to MT43News since we began publishing. We will miss Eileen's recipes and her great humor.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sun is smaller. 2. Fence post is taller. 3. Headlight is different. 4. Side mirror is missing. 5. Bottom of shirt is different. 6. Tree branch is missing.

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Weed of the Month: Locoweed



White Locoweed
Photo Credit: Matt Lavin, Bozeman

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Contrary to how it sounds, locoweed is not a single type of plant. It is actually referring to a group of plants that consists of about 25 toxic legumes that are native to the Western United States. The most common in our area is white locoweed. There are some general distinguishing characteristics among locoweeds and control recommendations are relatively the same for all of them.

Description & Habitat

Locoweeds, sometimes called crazyweed, are in the pea family (legumes) and also include many species of milkvetch. They are found in mountains, foothills and plains. Locoweeds are perennial plants (life cycle of more than one year). Populations tend to be cyclic. This means that populations will fluctuate with environmental conditions. They might boom during wetter years and die out during drought years. Seeds have long viability in the soil, up to 50 years, which allows this to happen.

Common characteristics among all types of locoweeds. They can be erect or prostrate, depending on the variety. Stems and often the leaves are hairy. Instead of one big leaf, they have several leaflets grouped together along the stem like a comb. Flowers resemble pea flowers. They can be a variety of colors but most commonly are white, pink or purple.

The major concern with locoweed is its toxicity to livestock. Interestingly, though, it’s not the plant

itself that is toxic. There is a fungus that lives between cells in the leaves that causes a toxic alkaloid called swainsonine. The fungus doesn’t harm the plant and appears to be a symbiotic relationship that has evolved over generations.

Signs of poisoning, which include depression, dull hair coat, loss of muscular control, extreme nervousness, withdrawal and inability to eat or drink, appear 2 to 3 weeks after continuous grazing on the plant. Unlike some other poisonous plants, locoweed is palatable, especially in the spring before other plants are available. Swainsonine clears the body quickly, though so animals can tolerate a small amount of locoweed. It’s the long-term, consistent grazing that is an issue and often results in death. Animals who exhibit symptoms may never fully recover.

Management

Oftentimes, it is not necessary to remove an entire stand of locoweed. Thinning or reducing is often sufficient or altering management practices so that livestock are not grazing rangeland when the risk is the highest. For example, delaying turnout to when there is more forage available and locoweed is fully mature and less desirable to livestock.

Herbicides are generally used when control is needed. Common chemicals include 2,4-D. Curtail, Escort and Tordon (restricted use). Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicides. Common chemical names are used for clarity, but do not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

For assistance on weed identification and management, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.



For Whom the Belle Tolls by Jaysea Lynn

Rachael Brug

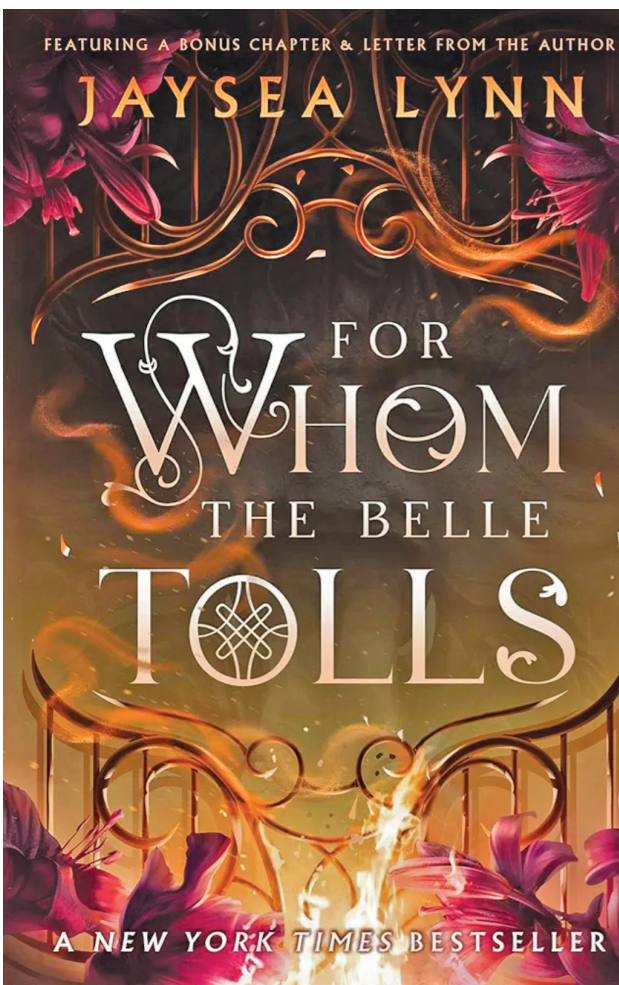


Jaysea Lynn’s debut, For Whom the Belle Tolls, is a genre-blending adventure that offers a fresh, emotionally resonant take on the Afterlife. Fans of Sarah A. Parker and Callie Hart will feel right at home in this imaginative, romance-tinged fantasy, but Lynn’s voice and vision are uniquely her own.

The story follows Lily, a young woman who finds herself unexpectedly thrust into the Afterlife. Rather than a somber or chilling journey, Lily’s after-death experience is vibrant, witty, and—surprisingly—full of hope. Lynn’s world-building is a treat: deities queue up for coffee, fae dart through realms, and the rules of life and death are bent with delightful irreverence. But it’s Lily’s journey into Hell—armed with her customer service skills and biting sarcasm—that truly sets this novel apart. Instead of fear, there’s curiosity and humor; instead of despair, there’s growth and a sense of belonging.

Lily’s relationship with Bel, a demon general with a magnetic presence, is the heart of the novel. Their friendship is authentic, their banter sharp, and the slow-burn romance is both healing and electric. Lynn explores themes of grief, acceptance, and the transformative power of connection, all while keeping the tone playful and deeply human. Readers who struggle with the concept of death may find comfort in the way the Afterlife is reimagined—a place where endings are beginnings and love can bloom in the most unlikely places.

What stands out most is Lynn’s ability to balance humor with heartbreak. Within the first forty pages, the story delivers both tears and laughter, making it a



For Whom The Belle Tolls, By Jaysea Lynn
Screenshot From: S&S/Saga Press

cathartic read for anyone who’s ever wondered what comes next. For Whom the Belle Tolls is a beautifully written, surprisingly uplifting exploration of loss, love, and the magic that lingers beyond the veil. Highly recommended for anyone seeking a heartfelt escape and a new perspective on what it means to move on—and to live, even after death.

Thank You!

Thank You Vigilante Electric, for your quick response to the downed power line. My knights drive red trucks.

~Deep Creek Resident

Townsend School & Sports

JANUARY



Friday 2

- NO SCHOOL
- FFA Alumni Bake Sale
- First Day of Middle School Girls Basketball Practice
- High School Wrestling at Ronan
- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Three Forks

Saturday 3

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

Mon 5 - Thu 8

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

Tuesday 6

- 6:00 pm: Speech and Drama Judge Training - Community Room

Wednesday 7

- 7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - The Bridge
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 8

- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Lone Peak

Fri 9 - Sat 10

- High School Wrestling at Cut Bank

Friday 9

- NO SCHOOL
- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Manhattan

Saturday 10

- Speech and Drama at Laurel
- 2:00 pm: Free-Throw-A-Thon at 63 Gym

East Helena Schools & Sports

JANUARY

Saturday 3

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

Monday 5

- 8:00 am: School Resumes

Tuesday 6

- 3:00 pm: All Boys and Girls Basketball at Frenchtown
- 6:00 pm: PTO Meeting at EVMS

Thursday 8

- 4:00 pm: All Girls Basketball at Dillon

Friday 9

- 6th Grade Ski Day

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

JANUARY



Tuesday 6

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- 11:30 am: Trust Board

Wednesday 7

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library

HOURS:


Monday-Thursday: 4:00 - 7:00pm

Friday-Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00pm

Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

Books & Babies Story Hour: Mondays 11-00am.-12:00pm the first 4 Mondays of the month.



201 N Spruce St, Townsend

Photo Provided

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson

Branch Manager


HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am- 6:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday: 10 am- 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm

Sundays: Closed



Lewis & Clark Library East Helena Branch, 16 E Main Street in East Helena.

Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

JANUARY

Tuesday 6

- 4:00 pm: Teen/Tween Gaming Event with Food

Wed 7 - Thu 8

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime & Activity

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM

American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway, Townsend.

HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!

Join us for a hot, delicious meal - no cost to you.

DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED to help us continue supporting our community.

QUESTIONS? MENU? VOLUNTEER?

STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM (406) 266-3611

LET US FEED YOU - AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY

Hosted with care by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

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

Saturday 3

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

Monday 5

- 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 6

- 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 7

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

Thursday 8

- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend
- 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 9

- 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 Mountain Grounds Coffee

Saturday 10

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

Monday 12

- Broadwater County Farm Bureau will host informative Fraud and Scam Avoidance Meeting at the library community room, Townsend



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.

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

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

Top Montana News for 2025 and What to Expect in 2026

Amanda Eggert

Montana Free Press

Data centers, grizzly bears and wild weather are on the horizon for 2026.

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2025/12/29/the-year-in-montana-environment-climate-public-lands/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Montana%20Free%20Press%20stories%20available%20for%20republication%3A%20%20TODAY&utm_campaign=RSS%20Republication%20Email

As 2025 closes out, Montana Free Press reporters are reflecting on the work they’ve done over the course of the year — and what they expect to be writing about heading into 2026.

When people ask what I report on for Montana Free Press, I have a stock answer: water, wildlife, energy, climate, land use and public land management. It’s a chaotic beat in a normal year: I might chase down judicial orders on Endangered Species Act litigation one day, wade through energy utility filings the next and close out the week by reporting on a proposal to pull rare earths from one of the country’s most infamous toxic pits. This year? With the Montana Legislature in session and a federal administration change, this year was an especially chaotic year.

The 2025 Montana Legislature engaged with issues of biennial concern, such as exempt wells, as well as more recent developments such as the Held v. Montana constitutional climate ruling the Montana Supreme Court issued last December finding that the young plaintiffs’ right to a “clean and healthful environment” for present and future generations also includes the right to a “stable climate system.”

Unsurprisingly (to me at least!), there are now lawsuits related to both of those issues. This December, more than a dozen of the Held v. Montana plaintiffs challenged the Republican-controlled Legislature’s

Top MT News, 9



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 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 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

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: X equals O

CGURTH YRFGXJ ZRLRUGJH
YHROQTGJL AWXOXF XY CGL
PROHT ZRZZRIF PGOW YIGAHTF:
ZRJROHH YRGT.

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KNIGHT MOVES

U	E	F
I		S
S	F	X

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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“By the way, when are you going to clean out the _____?”

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!

Chant
DABALL

New
LOVEN

Ruler
ERGENT

Collect
GEARTH

TODAY’S WORD

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SHANE TEW
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MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:00AM - 2:00PM
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406.266.0086

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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Super Crossword CORNER TO CORNER

ACROSS

1 Fishhook end
5 Neophyte
9 Negate
15 "Kapowl!"
19 "— Ben Adhem" (Leigh Hunt poem)
20 Whole bunch
21 Opposed (to)
22 Nevada city on I-80
23 Mild-flavored lettuce
24 Dawn's direction
25 Common corsage flower
27 2019 buddy-cop action-comedy film
29 Leaning Tower city
31 Co-avenger with Electra
32 Wooden shoe
34 Bestow
38 Feedbag grain
39 Jaguar, e.g.
41 "It's not — deal"
43 Guy who helps people get out of jail
48 Attila the —
49 "I pass," in cards

51 Bic — Stic
52 Add up to
53 March 15, e.g.
55 Emperor before Caligula
58 In the direction of
62 Unsafe
64 Convent VIP
65 Quilt, e.g.
66 Small bouquets
68 Monkey in "Aladdin"
69 Die-hard devotees
70 What this puzzle's solver does when filling in the upper-left to lower-right diagonal?
74 8-11 p.m., TV-wise
78 Exec's deg.
79 Tattle
84 Old Russian revolutionary
85 German for the verb "love"
88 Sheer fabric
89 States of oneness
90 Filename display area
92 Not far at all
93 GQ or Us

94 Send forth
96 Some pinchers, for short
98 Completed
99 Male sibling by birth
105 Asian fusion restaurant chain
106 Taxing org. of water
107 French body of water
108 Like an ode
110 Marjanovic of the Rockets
112 Memory loss
116 Like eyesores
118 Citigroup alternative
121 Item for surfing on one's stomach
125 Work for
127 Impose — on (forbid)
128 Arm bone
129 Princess Beatrice's mom
130 Ran away
131 1967 Peter Sellers film, with "The"
132 Casual tops
133 Brines, e.g.
134 Lays (down)
135 Spin — (do like Spider-Man)

DOWN

1 Streisand, to friends
2 Slightly
3 Vigorous quality
4 — Gump Shrimp Company
5 Mechanical-looking dance
6 Pro vote
7 Rub roughly
8 Sight-related
9 Beach hut
10 "Selma" director
11 DuVernay
11 Lincoln loc.
12 Boohoo
13 Canadian gas choice
14 NBA star James
15 Twists to pull free
16 Sun output
17 Poker cost
18 Hardness
scale inventor
26 Take in a novel, e.g.
28 Abba of Israel
30 Boohoo
33 Leg bone
35 Popular office plant
36 Building wings
37 Hitting stat
39 Bird sound

40 Video's counterpart
42 Last name of the Bee Gees
44 Eight-armed creatures
45 The second Mrs. Trump
46 Actress Eve
47 Bird homes
50 Cheapen
54 Enjoy a slope
56 McEntire of country
57 Lead-in to a proposal
59 Bake-off needs
60 "As if that — enough ..."
61 Pooch sound
63 Aden citizen
65 — -de-sac
67 Composer Erik
69 Ocean floor
71 Mouth or face, slangily
72 Rescue squad VIP
73 Upscale Swiss watch brand
74 — tucked out
75 Of kidneys
76 "The Princess Bride" character
Montoya
77 The Engi-neers' sch.

80 It's charged
81 Knotted like shoelaces
82 Huxtable mom on TV
83 Goat groups
85 Limber
86 Black, in verse
87 Honcho
90 Mambo king
Puate
91 Ricochets
95 Janitorial tool
97 Deli heroes
100 Last Greek letters
101 Actor Arnaz
102 Court filings
103 Pianists' exercises
104 Road semi
109 Staff symbols
111 Addis —, Ethiopia
112 Be up against
113 Yard pest
114 Not any
115 Aid in crime
117 New Haven university
119 Local theater, informally
120 Door handle
122 Iron —
123 Iron —
124 Tear
126 No longer in the mil., e.g.

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MFW Hunting Regulations, 6

Fish and Wildlife Commissioners have heard growing concern and frustration with hunting pressure from nonresident hunters, particularly in eastern Montana.

The commission approved an amendment to the regulations that would cap the sale of a particular nonresident deer license. This cap would essentially cut the number of these licenses available to nonresidents by about 2,500.

“The reason that I brought this forward was to start discussion,” said Commission Chair Lesley Robinson during the Dec. 4 commission meeting. “And something has to be done. We have a lot of overcrowding.”

Mule deer

Mule deer declines, particularly in eastern Montana has been a concern for the public, the commission and FWP. During its meeting, the commission made an effort to address some of these concerns. First, in 2026 and 2027 most mule deer B licenses will be valid only on private land. The commission also reduced the total number of deer licenses a resident can hold from eight to three.

These changes follow changes the 2023 Legislature made, which reduced the number of deer B licenses a nonresident could hold to one, although nonresident holding a combo license may possess two deer B licenses.

Additionally, in 2024 FWP reduced the mule deer B licenses down to the minimum number within the quota set by the Commission in Region 7, which was 1,000 tags. FWP has also reduced the number of deer B licenses available in other regions, especially Region 6.

The number of deer B licenses sold by FWP in 2024 was the lowest since 2016. This reduction in deer B licenses is a direct response to declining mule deer numbers.

Other commission actions

General:

The archery regulations were changed to remove the let-off for hunting bows. Prior to this, the let-off was a maximum of 80 percent.

Antelope:

The quota of 900-20 licenses (archery antelope) was increased from the FWP proposal of 5,100 to 5,600, but Region 3 was removed from this bundle and placed in its own pool with 500 licenses.

Bighorn Sheep:

Three quotas were adopted for these licenses: 250-20 any ram: 1; 680-30 adult ewe: 1; 680-31 adult ewe: 1.

Adjustments to bighorn sheep hunting district 250 to remove the geographical boundary that was described as “valid in portion of HD south of Nez Perce Road and West Fork Road.” This change made the sheep license valid throughout the entire hunting district.

All bighorn sheep hunting districts that are currently designated as either-sex were changed to any ram for all limited opportunity drawings.

Black Bear:

The archery black bear fall sub-quota was retained in all black bear units with harvest quotas, but the archery sub-quota percentage allowed increased from 20 to 30 percent of the total fall quota.

Hunters may purchase and accrue bonus points for any limited black bear permits.

Hound hunting season was extended to June 15 to coincide with the end of hound training season.

In Region 2, the boundary where hound hunting is allowed was changed to mirror the occupied grizzly bear polygon.

Mountain Lion:

The winter season dates were changed to Dec. 1 to May 25. Mountain lion hunting with hounds is prohibited in occupied grizzly bear habitat after April 14. A single license is all that is required to hunt mountain lions in open areas and the special limited and unlimited licenses were eliminated as recommended by FWP. Quotas will be established in June.

Deer and Elk:

The quota of the 799-20 elk license was increased from 280 to 325. A second antlerless elk B license will be available to any holder of an elk permit in hunting districts 702, 704, or 705, subject to the same restrictions in time, open areas, and limitations associated with the permit.

All Region 1 elk B licenses will only be valid on private land.

Eliminate all antlerless elk archery opportunity in Region 1.

All other hunting regulations were approved as proposed by FWP.

For more information, please visit the Fish and Wildlife Commission page for the Dec. 4 meeting.

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.

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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

10:00 AM Commission election of officers

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Resolutions and Policies for 2026

- Resolution Establishing Mileage, Lodging, and Per Diem Rates for Broadwater County Business Travel
- Resolution Establishing Hours of Operation
- Resolution Establishing Regular Meeting Dates and Times of Broadwater Commission
- Resolution Establishing Meeting Agenda and Open Meetings Policy
- Resolution Establishing Broadwater County Public Process Policy

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
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050
drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

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

Lindsey Richtmyer
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834
lrlichtmyer@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
- 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)

MSU Ag Department Helps Farmers Use New Technologies

Regan Cotton
MSU News Service

In new research published recently, work by a Montana State University scientist aims to explore the gradations in elevation-dependent changes in climate, including in mountainous ecosystems like those in Montana and the Rockies.

John Knowles, an assistant professor in MSU’s Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agriculture, is one of nearly two dozen authors from around the world on the new paper, titled “Elevation-dependent climate change in mountain environments.” The work was published Nov. 25 in the journal Nature Reviews Earth & Environment.

Because they are difficult places to collect consistent data, mountain ecosystems around the world have been understudied in terms of changes in climate or long-term weather trends, Knowles said. That idea led to the research collaboration, which was led by British scientist Nick Pepin.

The new paper is a follow-up to a 2015 publication, also led by Pepin, that identified the concept of elevation-dependent warming, or EDW: the observation that changes in temperature happen fastest at higher elevations.

“Mountains are important for so many reasons,” Knowles said. “They’re sentinels of change, meaning we often detect changes first in mountain environments before lowlands.”

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.

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



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



MT 43 News
Local People. Local Stories.

OBITUARY

Pamela J. McGuire

Family of Pamela J. McGuire

November 29, 1953 – December 22, 2025



Pamela J. McGuire

Photo Provided by Family of Pamela J. McGuire

Pamela J. McGuire, age 72, of Helena, passed away Dec. 22, 2025.

A Viewing will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 2, 2026, at Faith Baptist Church, Townsend, with a Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church, Townsend.

Burial will follow the service at Deep Creek Cemetery in Townsend. A Reception will be held at Faith Baptist Church after the burial.

Service Schedule:

Viewing:

9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 2, 2026

Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd.

Townsend, Montana 59644

Funeral Service:

11:00 a.m.

Friday, January 2, 2026

Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd.

Townsend, Montana 59644

Burial:

Following the service

Friday, January 2, 2026

Deep Creek Cemetery

Townsend, Montana 59644

Reception:

Following the burial

Friday, January 2, 2026

Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd.

Townsend, Montana 59644



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Top MT News, 4



This December, more than a dozen of the Held v. Montana plaintiffs challenged the Republican-controlled Legislature's changes to environmental and climate laws, arguing they don't go far enough to protect their court-recognized rights
Photo Credit: Thom Bridge, Independent Record

changes to environmental and climate laws, arguing they don’t go far enough to protect their court-recognized rights. The month before, a diverse coalition of groups sued over something the Legislature didn’t do: revise water policy to protect senior water-right holders and conservation protecting healthy aquatic ecosystems. The Montana League of Cities and Towns and its coalition of co-plaintiffs faulted lawmakers for failing to rein in a loophole residential developers have relied on for decades to appropriate billions of gallons of groundwater for rural residential developments.



Stretches of the Upper Blackfoot River dried up completely amid a persistent drought centered over west-central Montana in 2025.
Photo Credit: Chris Boyer, LightHawk.org

Other stories that made waves in Montana this year include a lawsuit that seeks to protect instream flows on blue-ribbon fisheries amid record-low streamflows documented in several western Montana rivers. I also covered a highly unusual enforcement action the state’s water-right regulator took against a luxury golf course development in the Shields River Valley and the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision not to take up an appeal of a Wyoming case regarding whether corner-crossing is an act of trespass, a decision closely watched by hunters and access advocates in Montana.

In the midst of all this, the Public Service Commission, the elected utility board that wades through reams of dry regulatory documents, managed to keep their meetings spicy in 2025 with plenty of fiery interpersonal conflicts. Along the way, the commission made some major decisions that are a big deal for the two-thirds

of Montanans served by NorthWestern Energy, the state’s largest utility.

I expected major changes to environmental policy at the federal level this year, but I was taken aback at how swift and sweeping they were as President Donald Trump moved to undo many of his predecessor’s energy and water quality prerogatives regarding coal mining, power plant emissions, water quality standards and open-space initiatives.

Finally, MTFP also reported on the Custer Gallatin National Forest’s decision in January to authorize the controversial land swap in the Crazy Mountains, fallout from mass Forest Service layoffs and the rollback of the ‘roadless rule’ designed to protect intact wildlife habitat.

WHAT’S ON THE HORIZON IN 2026?

2026? There are three big issues on my radar for 2026. I expect that data centers will play a starring role in energy and water discussions in the coming months. By the year’s end, I anticipate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will attempt to remove federal protections for grizzly bears, which is a big deal for other wildlife in their midst and a range of land-management decisions. Finally, I’ll note that I’m writing on a rainy late-December evening, a week after temperatures in Bozeman reached 61 degrees and two weeks after a deluge of rain inundated Lincoln County, prompting multiple disaster declarations and leading to tens of millions of dollars of damage. I am, unfortunately, bracing for our warming climate to generate similar weather aberrations in 2026.



By the end of 2026, I anticipate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will attempt to remove federal protections for grizzly bears.
Photo Credit: Charlie Lansche



Which Browser is Best

Shane O'Neill
SlashGear

This article was originally published on the web by SlashGear: <https://www.slashgear.com/2060490/microsoft-edge-google-chrome-download-warning/>

When you think of a web browser, odds are your mind immediately jumps to Google Chrome. Since launching in 2008, Chrome has become the dominant web browser, regardless of the device. Thus, it makes sense that Microsoft, whose Microsoft Edge is a direct competitor to Google Chrome, has constantly been trying to attract users to use its browser. The company's latest attempt to keep people from ditching Edge — which is the default browser in Windows 11 — in favor of Chrome is to emphasize Edge's advantages over Chrome, painting it as the superior option to Google's widely-adopted alternative.

When you try to download Chrome via Edge, you're now served a series of pop-ups from the latter urging you to rethink your decision. Instead of begging for your business, though, one pop-up spotlights the security benefits of browsing with Edge — mainly private browsing, password monitoring, and enhanced protection against online threats. Clicking on the link attached to said pop-up will then bring you to a page with further details on how Edge keeps you safe. Other pop-ups center on user artificial intelligence tools, price comparison tools while shopping, tab syncing across devices, battery life, and more. Time will tell if this strategy pays off for Microsoft,

as it tries to win some market share from Google Chrome. The fact is, at this point, which browser is best for you is up to your own wants and needs.

Browser options extend far beyond Edge and Chrome. Even though Chrome is considered the default web browser to many, and there's nothing wrong with using it, there are merits to others. The aforementioned Edge is indeed regarded as slightly more secure than Chrome, and it tends to use less RAM and CPU. It can use its own extensions along with those in the Chrome library, and it can sync data with other Microsoft and Windows services. Not to mention, it has features that Chrome doesn't offer, such as Split-Screen mode for multiple windows, and Collections, a method of collecting pages and notes and sending them to Microsoft Excel, Word, or PowerPoint.

Going beyond the two heavy-hitters that are Chrome and Edge, one finds other strong options like the Brave browser. Brave is one of the best secure web browsers available and offers fewer ads while surfing the web, shorter load times, even less RAM and CPU usage, and a higher level of privacy than more mainstream competitors. Though it does cost money, Kagi's Orion browser is another alternative for the security-conscious. This browser also prioritizes privacy, efficiency, and speed, though it's only available on macOS and iOS as of December 2025, with versions for Linux and Windows still in development.

Microsoft seems intent on convincing users that Edge is the way to go over Chrome, and perhaps these new pop-ups will encourage people to stick with Edge on their Windows PCs. It's worth remembering, though, that it's more than just a two-horse race.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT MY FAMILY REUNION? JUST ACT NATURAL, BE YOURSELF AND STICK TO THE CUE CARDS I MADE YOU.



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GRIN and BEAR IT



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



IT'S GREAT YOU CAN TALK, BUT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, "I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, GLENN" EVERY TIME I STEP ON THE SCALE?

HA...

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



AHHHH!!

OH MAN, THAT HURT! NOT TO MENTION REALLY SCARY AND SUPER DANGEROUS.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!!

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I'M GOING IN TO HAVE MY NAILS DONE.

GREAT!!

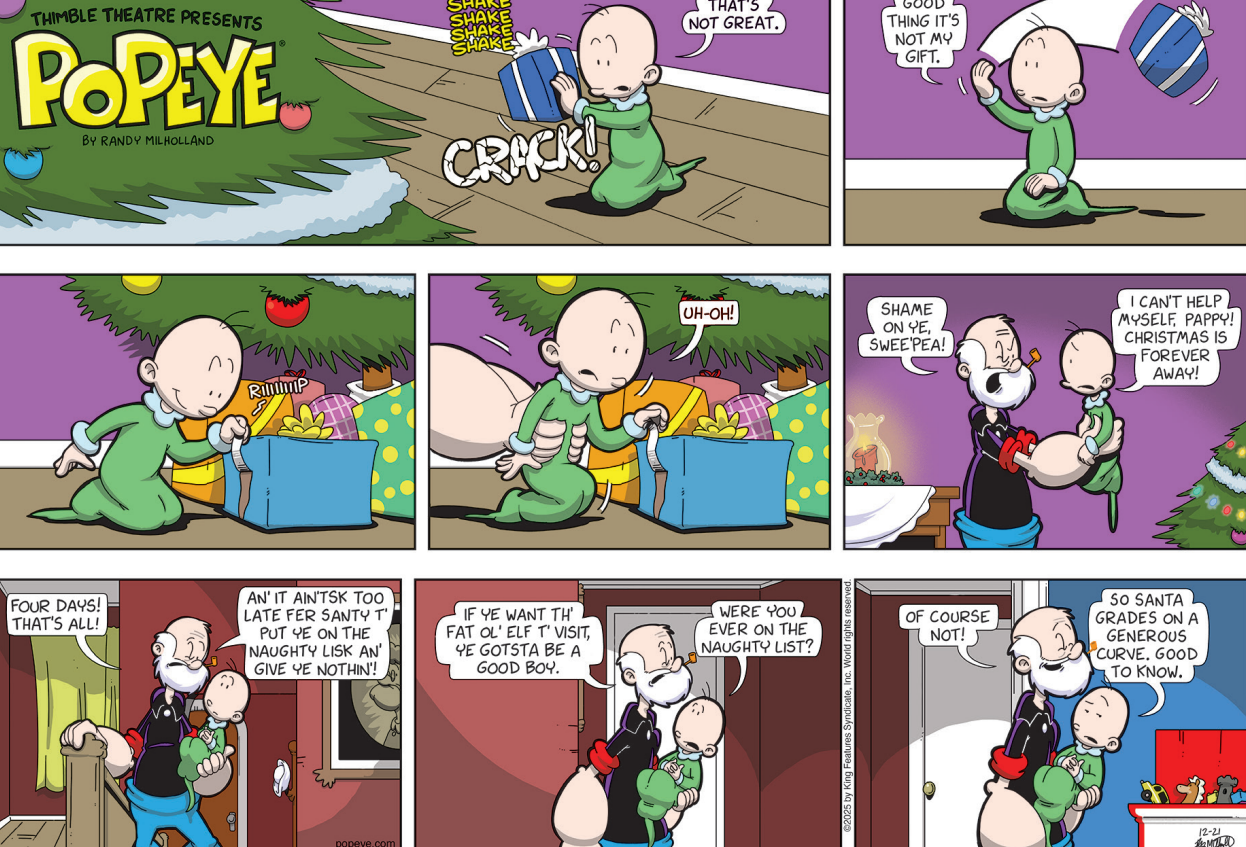
...TAKE MY SCREWS IN AND HAVE THEM DONE TOO.

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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

CRACK!

THAT'S NOT GREAT.

GOOD THING IT'S NOT MY GIFT.

SHAME ON YE, SWEETPEA!

I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, PAPPY! CHRISTMAS IS FOREVER AWAY!

FOUR DAYS! THAT'S ALL!

AN' IT AIN'TSK TOO LATE FER SANTY T' PUT YE ON THE NAUGHTY LISK AN' GIVE YE NOTHIN'!

IF YE WANT TH' FAT OL' ELF T' VISIT, YE GOTSTA BE A GOOD BOY.

WERE YOU EVER ON THE NAUGHTY LIST?

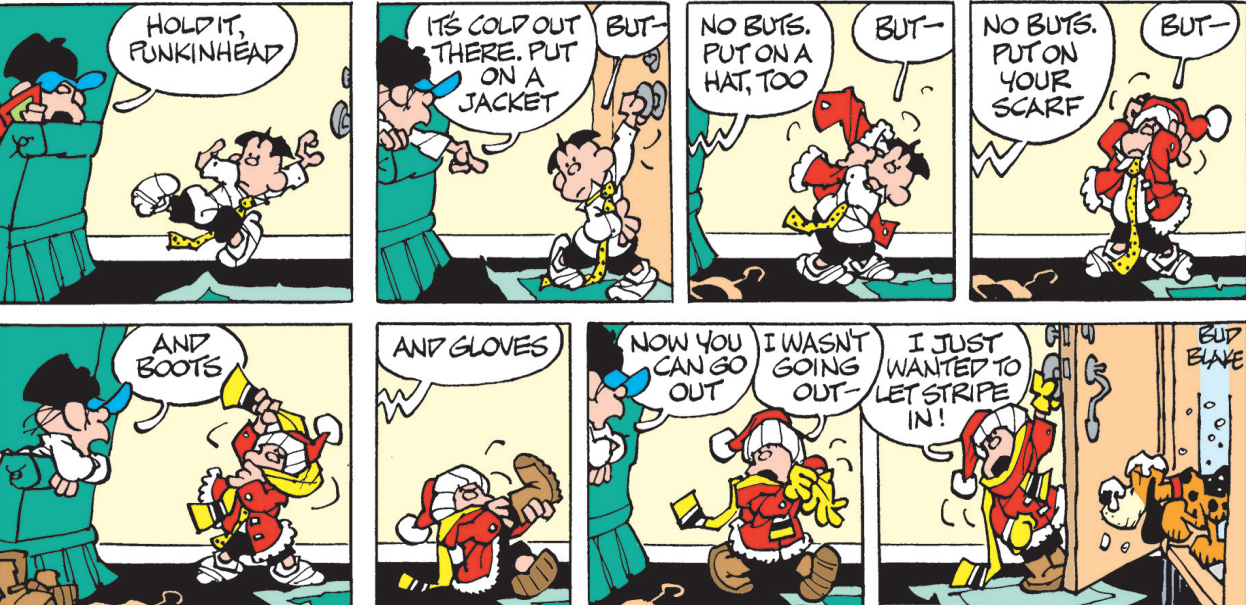
OF COURSE NOT!

SO SANTA GRADES ON A GENEROUS CURVE. GOOD TO KNOW.

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HOLD IT, FUNKINHEAD

IT'S COLD OUT THERE. PUT ON A JACKET

BUT-

NO BUTS. PUT ON A HAT, TOO

BUT-

NO BUTS. PUT ON YOUR SCARF

BUT-

AND BOOTS

AND GLOVES

NOW YOU CAN GO OUT

I WASNT GOING OUT-

I JUST WANTED TO LET STRIPE IN!

BUD BLAKE

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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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CryptoQuip

answer

Bizarre fashion magazine featuring photos of big water mammals with flippers. Manatee Fair.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Ballad; 2. Novel; 3. Regent; 4. Gather

Today's Word

GARAGE

—KNIGHT MOVES—

Answer

U	E	F
2	7	4
I		S
5		1
S	F	X
8	3	6

SUFFIXES

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Billings Clinic, Montana State University Research Project Aims to Address Indigenous Cancer Care Challenges

Joseph Salyer
Billings Clinic

Billings, MT— Montana’s largest university and largest health care system are partnering for a research project focused on identifying and addressing cancer care barriers and challenges for American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities.

The two-year grant-funded project, called CONSTELLATION, is a partnership between Billings Clinic and Montana State University. It aims to confront disparities in cancer care for AIAN patients and communities by building a networked, community-driven model of equitable cancer care across Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas.

Unique barriers such as geographic challenges, limited services and mistrust of health care systems in AIAN communities can create delayed cancer diagnosis and difficulties accessing care. This results in the lowest five-year cancer survival rates in the United States, with mortality reaching 164.7 deaths per 100,000 in rural and frontier regions.

The initiative emphasizes close collaboration with indigenous leadership, culturally grounded communication,

and digital innovation to transform cancer care access in frontier areas.

“Everyone deserves access to high-quality cancer care, no matter where they live,” said Hansjorg Schwartz, PhD, MD, Billings Clinic Medical Director of Research and the project’s co-primary investigator. “We know that there are specific challenges and needs in Indigenous communities, and our goal is to work with these communities to develop cancer care programs that work for the people who live there.”

To do this, CONSTELLATION will:

- Identify and co-define barriers to cancer treatment and research participation through AIAN-led listening sessions, mapping, and community advisory councils.
- Co-design and pilot culturally appropriate interventions, such as population-specific patient navigation tools and provider education focused on cultural humility, trust, and shared decision-making.
- Develop and share a replicable model for tribal-serving and rural health systems, supported by an open-access digital toolkit and policy brief.

“By strengthening partnerships between communities, academics and health care, we want to expand quality,

culturally safe cancer care and research access for American Indian and Alaska Native communities,” said Elizabeth Johnson, PhD, RN, Co-Director of MSU’s Biomedical Innovation for Research and Development (BioReD) Hub and project co-primary investigator. “We want this to be something that can be used across the U.S. to develop a national model for addressing cancer disparities in underserved and sovereign populations.”

“I am excited about this project because it emphasizes partnership between community members, academic collaborators and healthcare partners,” said Billings Clinic Research Scientist Morgan Chamberlin PhD, RD. “This collaboration is essential to the work; meaningful progress in accessible and culturally safe cancer care for AIAN communities can’t happen in isolation — it requires shared insight, trust, and effort across all sectors.”

Schwartz, Johnson and Chamberlin will co-lead CONSTELLATION, which is funded by a grant from the American Cancer Society and Pfizer.

For questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Johnson (elizabeth.johnson37@montana.edu, 406-994-2499) or Joe Salyer (jsalyer@billingsclinic.org, 406-657-4677).

2026 Big Sky Pulmonary Conference

DPHHS

The Montana Asthma Control Program is excited to share information for the 2026 Big Sky Pulmonary Conference.

2026 Big Sky Pulmonary Conference
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
<https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsRouter/2026Pulmonary>
BSPC Save the date 2026

The Montana Asthma Control Program (MACP) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services are pleased to announce that the 2026 Big Sky Pulmonary Conference (BSPC) will be held March 5 - March 6, 2026, at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort.

The BSPC is a continuing education conference for health professionals, which highlights promising methods of preventing and managing respiratory illness and associated risk factors according to evidence-based guidelines. The 2026 conference will feature topics such as managing cystic fibrosis, considerations for lung transplant, remote monitoring in patients with lung disease, wildfire smoke research, sleep health, breastfeeding and pulmonary health, chronic cough from a primary care perspective, pediatric asthma, and more.

BIG SKY

PULMONARY

CONFERENCE

FAIRMONT
HOT SPRINGS

PublicHealth 406

MONTANA
ASTHMA CONTROL
PROGRAM

MONTANA
DPHHS

MARCH 5th - 6th, 2026

www.umt.edu/ces/conferences/bigskypulmonary

The Big Sky Pulmonary Conference is a continuing education conference for health professionals, which will highlight promising methods of preventing and managing respiratory illness and associated risk factors according to evidence-based guidelines. Sessions will be presented by physicians and other health professionals including experts in pediatric and adult pulmonary care. This conference will be offered in-person as well as online via Zoom.

INTENDED PARTICIPANTS

Primary Care Physicians

Internists
Pediatricians
Family Practitioners

Medical Specialists

Pulmonologists
Allergists
Cardiologists
Hospitalists
Critical Care Physicians
Sleep Physicians
ENTs

Primary Care Physicians

Nurse Practitioners
Physician Assistants
Pharmacists
Respiratory Therapists
Nurses
Allied Health Professionals
Students in Health Fields
Community Health Workers
Other Interested Health Professionals

To make your lodging reservation, please call Fairmont Hot Springs Resort at (800) 332-3272 and reference the "Big Sky Pulmonary Conference." You may also go online to www.fairmontana.com and enter the group ID 31070, no password needed. Room rates start at \$179/night plus fees, until February 9th, 2026.

directly to assist with this. Amy can be reached at amy.saltzman@mso.umt.edu or (406) 531-4032.

What to Know:

- March 5th- March 6th, 2026, at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort
- In-Person/Virtual attendance options available
- \$250 registration fee
- Opt-in for the complementary pre-conference spirometry training

The MACP is now accepting nominations for the Excellence in Pulmonary Care Award. The Excellence

in Pulmonary Care Award honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, innovation, and impact in the field of pulmonary health. This award recognizes excellence across all areas of pulmonary health and is open to professionals working in both clinical and non-clinical roles. If you would like to nominate a colleague to be recognized, follow the link and complete the nomination form or visit the conference website. Awardees will be recognized at the conference.

Conference registration is now open! Interested parties can find more details and register online at About the Conference | University of Montana.

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

COVER THE LINE

At the net, you often need to stand a little bit more toward the sideline than the middle of the court. For instance, when you hit your volley into a corner, move with the ball, slightly toward the side your volley landed on.

Think about moving at the net like you are dancing with the ball, moving in unison with it. So when the ball lands on the right side, you move slightly to the right, etc. Moving with the ball cuts down on the room the opponent has to pass you down the line.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

B

ECAUSE A BALL HIT FROM LONG, WET OR FLOPPY GRASS CARRIES LESS BACKSPIN IT FLIES LOWER AND ROLLS FARTHER THAN NORMAL. LEARN HOW TO ADJUST FOR SUCH "FLIER" SITUATIONS.

ONE WAY IS TO SWING BACK AND DOWN MORE STEEPLY TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF GRASS COMING BETWEEN BALL AND CLUBFACE. HOWEVER, THE EASIEST WAY FOR AVERAGE PLAYERS IS SIMPLY TO TAKE LESS CLUB AND ALLOW FOR MORE ROLL.

SPORTS QUIZ

Ryan A. Berenz

Questions

1. In November 1994, George Foreman won the heavy-weight championship at age 45 by knocking out what 26-year-old boxer?

2. Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry Sloan became the first NBA head coach to win 1,000 games for one team when he accomplished the feat in 2008. With which club did Sloan reach the milestone?

3. Sister Jean, a member of the Sisters of Charity of

the Blessed Virgin Mary religious order, became famous as the chaplain of which men's college basketball team that reached the NCAA Final Four in 2018?

4. Between NASCAR drivers Ned Jarrett and his son Dale, who has more season championships in the sport's top series?

5. The 2015-16 Golden State Warriors set a new NBA record for highest regular season winning percentage with .890. What was the team's record that year?

6. In 2017, who became the first American woman since Miki Gorman in 1977 to win the New York City Marathon?

7. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson played one season as a member of which Major League Baseball club in 1976?

Answers

1. Michael Moorer.

2. The Utah Jazz.

3. The Loyola Ramblers.

4. Ned, with two (1961, 1965). Dale has one (1999).

5. 73-9.

6. Shalane Flanagan.

7. The Baltimore Orioles.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

January 1

1903

Local News

M. Gurnett cast his shadow on the streets of the capital city Saturday.

Mrs. J.J. Hindson, who had been in town during Christmas visiting her daughter, Mrs. J.P. Marks, returned to her home in Helena Saturday.

S.P. Brooking and wife, who are residing at Hassel, came down and visited their son, W.H. Brooking, over New Years.

The scarcity of coal that has prevailed in our local market so far this winter promises to be temporarily relieved. The Townsend Mer. Co. have unloaded two cars in the last week and will have two more next week for their customers.

There were nineteen students who passed the 8th grade at the recent examination. Ten of them hail from Townsend and nine from outside districts. Should these students apply for admittance to the county high school they will have to be admitted, which would necessitate employing another teacher in the school. It so happens that the levy will permit the board to secure the services of another teacher, in which event our school will take on a new dignity and life.

D. Belcher put in a session fumigating the Winston school house the fore part of this week.

A party of young folks spent a very pleasant evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Padden and incidentally beheld the fading glories of the old year as they passed forever beyond recall, except in memory's sweet dream and watched the more brilliant hue of the New Year as it swung into view just past midnight on Jan. 1st. Those who participated in this pleasant watch meeting were the Misses Henton, Bucher, Kimber and Zimmerman, besides the Allen girls, and Messrs. Zimmerman, Smith, Seibold, F.E. Allen and D. Anderson.

The Deep Creek schoolhouse was fumigated Wednesday, preparatory to continuance of school next week.

1925

Here and There in the Valley

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Horne are moving this week from the Round Grove ranch, where they have lived for two years, to their home place.

All of the schools of the valley closed for Christmas vacation last Friday with appropriate and well rendered programs, and most of the teachers are spending their vacations here as school will open again on Monday, January 3rd.

Miss Mae Mahony of Helena spent Christmas with her mother and brother near Canton.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Gaab entertained at Sunday dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bruce and family.

Miss Elva Fuhs of Toston is spending her vacation with her parents.

1953

Social

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tomcheck were hosts Tuesday evening to the employees of the Townsend Chevrolet and their wives and husbands at a Christmas party.

Movie films were shown during the evening, after which a buffet dinner was served to Mr. and Mrs. John Bucy, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Garnet, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Deadmond and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kelly.

Gifts were presented to the employees by Mr. Tomcheck.

News About Town

Miss Eleanor Schwisow of Helena spent the holiday in Townsend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Schwisow and family.

Helen Daniels came from Billings to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. H.M. Daniels.

Mrs. Elizabeth Nash and two daughters of Bozeman were Christmas Day guests in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank P. Nash and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hopkins came out from Helena for Christmas with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. Garrison Rains and four children.

Among the pre-nuptial parties for Mr. and Mrs. John Ragen, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Prescott were host and hostess on Friday evening at a dinner party at the River Inn.

Those who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Gillespie, Dr. Patrick Ragen, Miss Sheila McCarthy, Dick Doggett, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Williams, Miss Lois Schreiner, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gabisch, Don Rees, Miss Roxy Ward, Pat Hooks, Sharley Williams and John Ragen and Mrs. Walter Ragen and Mrs. John Williams.

1970

Masons to Hold Open Installation Monday Night

Valley Lodge No. 21 AF&AM will have a group of grand officers from Helena assist in installing officers at the Masonic Temple Monday evening, Jan. 5, starting at 8 o'clock. This will be an open meeting and friends are invited to attend. Following installation ceremonies, ladies of the Eastern Star will serve refreshments in the dining room.

Elected officials to be installed for the ensuing year will be: DeVon Domer, worshipful master; Ray Nydegger, senior warden; Lawrence Poe, junior warden; Bill Guffey, treasurer and Charles Plymale, secretary.

Mr. Domer has named the following appointive officers to be installed: Frank Holloway, chaplain; Bud Richtmyer, marshal; Randy Anderson, senior deacon; Lowell Johnson, junior deacon; Norman Bruce, senior steward; Merle Sears, junior steward and Donald Williams, tyler.

Local News

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Del Wallace for dinner Sunday were their sons-in-law and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Johnson and two children and Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Plummer. The occasion was in celebration of Mrs. Plummer's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Watterson and family were in Bozeman to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson.

Mrs. Signa Anders returned last Saturday from San Jose, Calif., where she had been visiting her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anders and family. She was accompanied home by Harry Jr., who will attend the University of Montana in Missoula.

Spending the holidays with their mother, Mrs. Paulie Ragen, and Brian and Mary, are Jim Ragen, student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., Mike Ragen, attending the University of Missoula, and Tim Ragen from Western Montana College, Dillon.

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If you're wondering why the hammer claws are missing... blame it on the A.I. image tool we use. Yeah... A.I.... not quite ready to become our evil overlord... yet....

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Author Explores Complicated Life of Jeannette Rankin

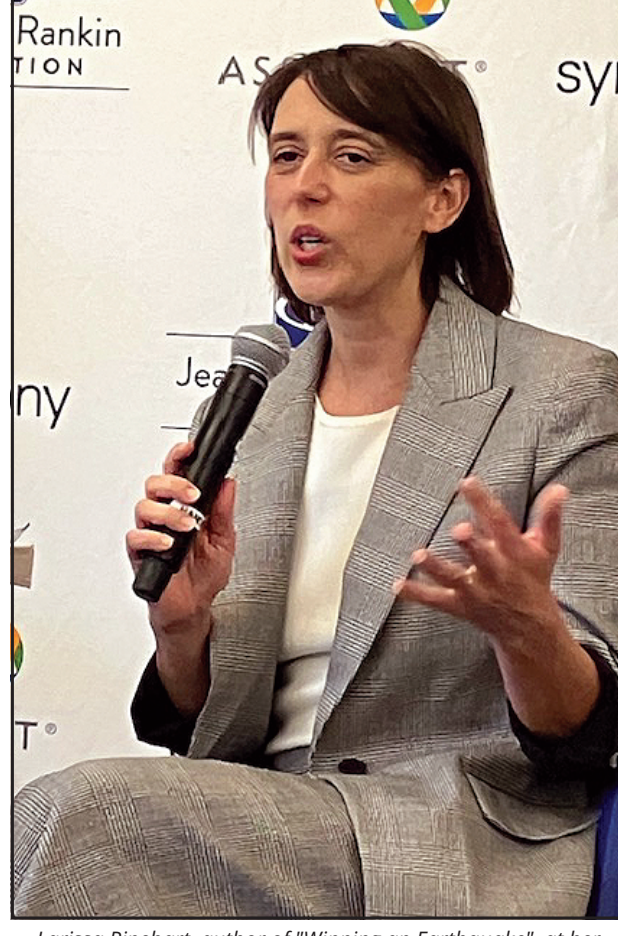
MT43 News Staff Reporter

At a Lewis and Clark Library book signing event in Helena one Sunday, author Lorissa Rinehart engaged a group of 40 book readers in little-known facts about the first woman in Congress, Jeannette Rankin.

In the book cover insert, Rinehart explains Rankin was born on a ranch near Hamilton, Montana. She knew how to ride a horse, make a fire and read the sky for weather – all skills women knew in the late 1880s when Rankin was growing up. Rankin fought for women's right to vote in the Suffragette movement of the early 20th Century, but her political life centered around her vision as a pacifist. She was the only person in Congress to vote against both the First World War and World War II. Rankin was a peace activist, a workers' rights activist and a champion of democratic reform, including everyone's right to vote. She was elected to Congress as a Republican in 1917 and again in 1941.

When the author began taking questions from the audience, she was delighted and surprised to learn how many people in the audience had personal connections to Jeannette and the Rankin family, including Jeannette's brother Wellington D. Rankin. The Rankin family had several pieces of property in Broadwater County. One particularly well-known ranch house is at the base of Avalanche Gulch and is now protected as a National Historic Register site.

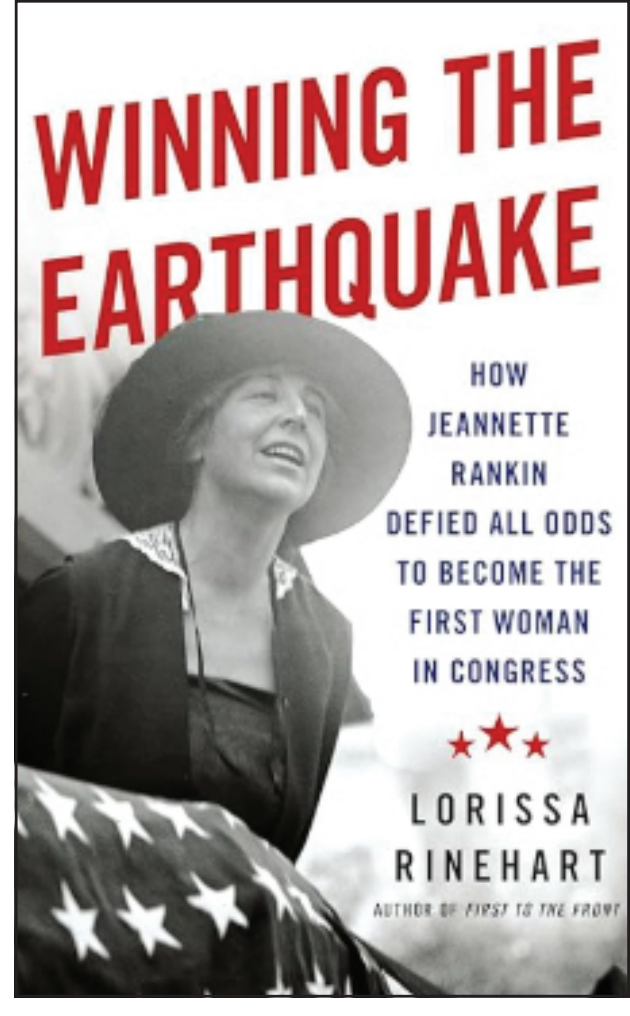
Other connections included people who knew



Lorissa Rinehart, author of "Winning an Earthquake", at her book signing at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena.
MT43 News Photo

Belle Weinstein, Jeannette Rankin's campaign manager and a good friend. Contemporaries of Rankin, Weinstein and her sister Freda Fligleman were very active politically in Helena in the mid-1950s and 60s. Their family owned Fligleman's Department Store on Last Chance Gulch.

Jeannette Rankin's brother, Wellington, married a Meagher County woman, Louise Galt. His estate



passed on to the Galt brothers of White Sulphur Springs and Broadwater County.

Rinehart's new book is "Winning the Earthquake," a reference to a quote from Rankin who explained her pacifist standing: "You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."

The book is available at the School and Community Library for those interested in checking it out.