

East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside

Broadwater Bulldogs Take 2nd Place Class B Drama Team



Lyrique Bryant, Noah Borrer, and Ava Boaz are Class B State Champions in Humorous Theater!
MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater Bulldogs snagged the second-place Drama Team trophy for Class B this past weekend. Congrats Bulldogs!
MT43 News Photo

The Broadwater Bulldogs collected the 2nd-place Class B Drama Team Trophy this past weekend at the Class B/C State Championships! Every member of the team qualified for the state competition held this past weekend at home in Townsend Schools. When placing in the finals of an individual event, each competitor is also earning points for their team; therefore, contributing to the team Sweeps. The Broadwater Bulldogs were edged out of the top spot this year by the Huntley Project Red Devils, another powerhouse in the world of Speech, Debate & Drama.

There were 42 competing schools at the state competition, where 271 entries, comprised of 327 individual students, contended in 18 Montana High School Association sanctioned speech, drama, and debate events. The two-day contest consisted of four rounds of competition followed by (depending on the event) a semi-final and

a final round. Single judges scored the preliminary rounds, while the subsequent rounds had three judges a piece. Scores from all rounds and all judges are totaled to determine the winner of each event.

Teammates Noah Borrer, Ava Boaz, and Lyrique Bryant were crowned the Class B Humorous Theater State Champions! Their piece highlights two prospective employees battling it out to work at Build-a-Bear. Senior Noah Borrer has competed in Classical Theater the past two seasons with back-to-back third-place finishes, while sophomore Ava Boaz also competed in Classical last year, finishing second.

The Bulldogs had two dramatic entries that took fourth place, one in Solo and one in Theater. Senior Hannah Hall has been our steadfast Dramatic Solo

competitor over the years. She finished fourth this year, with a fifth-place finish last year and second the year before. Fellow senior Aubrey Wells, along with scene partner Chloe Johnson, followed up their Divisional Championship with fourth at state. Aubrey improved on her fifth-place finish in the same event last year, where she partnered with her sister, Savannah.

Junior Kyla Meissner was the lone female in the finals of Humorous Solo, landing sixth place overall. She was second last year in the same event and second in her debut season in Humorous Theater. Advancing to the semi-final rounds but just missing the finals were: Ayden Thompson in Humorous Solo, Tessie Hughes in Dramatic Solo and the team of Angel Sentinall, Sarah
Drama Team, 2

**Broadwater County Search and Rescue Team
Practice Ice Rescue**

Matt Nelson



Eric Crusch, Mike Speedy, Richard Tramp, Tim McAlpine, and Sean Dolan, all members of the Broadwater County Search and Rescue (BCSAR) team, went to the White Earth Campground at Canyon Ferry Lake for Ice Rescue Training on Saturday, January 31st. They have a special Ice Rescue Response Unit, which is a small, enclosed trailer, to utilize.

First aid equipment and a specially designed pontoon rescue boat that folds up for transport are located inside the trailer. When deployed, each of the two platforms on the pontoon boat is wide enough for one person to kneel or stand on, and the person being rescued rides in the middle section of the pontoon boat platforms.

Four of the five men put on yellow survivor suits that are made by Mustang Survival and donated by the Gallatin Madison Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited. The suits are designed to be warm. The ice was about six inches thick near the shoreline. At the beginning of the exercise, Mike and Sean took the pontoon boat to about fifty feet from the shoreline, and Mike broke up the ice in a wide circle so the person being rescued could go in. Sean went into the water, and Mike helped him out and onto the middle of the pontoon boat. Eric,



Eric Crusch, Tim McAlpine, Sean Dolan, Mike Speedy, and Richard Tramp
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Mike Speedy, Tim McAlpine, and Sean Dolan are on the pontoon boat and being towed to shore
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Tim, and Richard pulled on two ropes to bring both Sean and Mike back to shore.

For the next go around, Sean and Tim extracted Mike out of the icy water, and then the next time Mike and Sean extracted Tim. For each of these three rescues, the person being extracted either lay face down on top of the ropes between the pontoons or stood facing forward. For the fourth and final exercise, the team consisted of Richard and Tim, with Mike in the middle. Only this time, Mike lay down on his back, with his feet pointing back towards the hole in the ice. He said he liked this method much better.

While nobody wants to fall through the ice or even into ice-free water, it should be a comfort to know that there is professional help available to be extracted. The BCSAR team is always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please call Eric Crusch, the president of the team, at 406 521-0275, and contact the BW County Sheriff's office to get an application.

**EAST HELENA NEWS
Sweetheart Polar Plunge
Returns to East Helena**

Amy Bliss

Montana Special Olympics Communications Director

Valentine's Day will find Special Olympians taking part in the Sweetheart Polar Plunge at the new Town Pump in East Helena. The event, a fundraiser for Montana Special Olympics, will take place at noon on Saturday, February 14.

The event has grown from the first one held in Whitefish, Montana, in 1999 to 14 plunges now held across the state every year. The event raises more than \$350,000 annually. Funds raised are used for training, competitions, health programs and leadership training for Montana Special Olympic athletes.

**Broadwater County Trust
Board Continues to Provide
Funding for 2025 Projects**

Broadwater County Trust Board



This is part one of a four-part series of articles, highlighting the projects

that the Broadwater County Trust Board (BCTB) has supported this past year.

In April of 2025, the Broadwater County Trust Board, in cooperation with STOKE and the Big Sky Leadership organization, processed a grant in the



Volunteers working on the pickleball courts
Photo Credit: Broadwater County Trust Board

Broadwater County Trust Board,

PLAYERS of the WEEK



Speech & Drama:

2026 Humorous Theater State Champions: Lyrique Bryant, Noah Borrer, Ava Boaz

Townsend Booster Club
Photo on Front Page



Wrestling: Kylie Briceno
Townsend Booster Club
Photo on Front Page



Boys Basketball: Trenton Hoveland
Townsend Booster Club
Photo on Front Page

Bulldog Basketball Statistics for Three Forks and Big Timber

Clint Watson

BULLDOGS AT THREE FORKS

Townsend - 10 14 12 9: 45
Three Forks- 14 17 15 17: 63
Scorers- Bryce Lessley-14, Colby Flynn-8, Trace Giomi-8, Tanen Tuffelmire-8, Tavyn Anderson-4, Heston Vandenaere-2, Trenton Hoveland-1
Lead Rebounders- Bryce Lessley-8, Trenton Hoveland-5, Trace Giomi-4, Tannen Tuffelmire-1
Assists- Trenton Hoveland-6, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Bryce Lessley-2, Heston Vandenaere-1, Dallas Fligge-1
Steals- Bryce Lessley-3, Tavyn Anderson-2, Trenton Hoveland-1, Rylan Hoveland-1
Deflections- Tavyn Anderson-4, Bryce Lessley-3, Trenton Hoveland-3, Rylan Hoveland-1
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 20/34 58.8% 3pts- 0/10 0.0%
Three Forks Shots- 2pts- 24/38 63.2% 3pts- 3/6 50.0%
Townsend Free Throws- 5/15 33.3%
Three Forks Free Throws- 5/10 50.0%
Townsend Turnovers- 13
Three Forks Turnovers- 13

Coach's Thoughts:

Our guys played the Three Forks Wolves pretty well, as we got the same number of shots off as they did, 44 apiece. They just made more than we did. We had a tough time stopping their three big guys, consequently they got our guys in a bit of foul trouble early. Overall, the coaches were proud of how well we competed against them; we just need to get a little better shot selection the next time we play them.

BULLDOGS AT BIG TIMBER

Townsend - 9 8 13 19: 49
Big Timber- 21 9 19 13: 62
Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-19, Tannen Tuffelmire-9, Trenton Hoveland-6, Rylan Hoveland-5, Heston Vandenaere-4, Trace Giomi-4, Colby Flynn-2
Rebounders- Trenton Hoveland-7, Tannen Tuffelmire-6, Tavyn Anderson-4, Trace Giomi-3, Bryce Lessley-3, Heston Vandenaere-2, Rylan Hoveland-1, Dallas Fligge-1
Assists- Trace Giomi-3, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Bryce Lessley-1, Tavyn Anderson-1, Trenton Hoveland-1
Steals- Tavyn Anderson-3, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Bryce Lessley-1, Rylan Hoveland-1, Trace Giomi-1
Deflections- Tavyn Anderson-5, Tannen Tuffelmire-3, Rylan Hoveland-2, Bryce Lessley-1, Trace Giomi-1
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 19/50 38.0% 3pts- 2/11 18.2%
Big Timber Shots- 2pts- 17/27 63.0% 3pts- 7/23 30.4%
Townsend Free Throws- 5/12 41.7%
Big Timber Free Throws- 6/11 54.5%
Townsend Turnovers- 10
Big Timber- 19

Coach's Thoughts:

We were a little flat when taking on the Big Timber's Herders. We had many opportunities to score in the first half, but the ball wouldn't go in. We got down by 13 and then played even with them the rest of the game, unable to close the gap. It was good to get Rylan Hoveland back on the hardwood as he had some bad luck with a foot injury and severe sickness, so he returned after missing 3 weeks of practice. We need to shoot closer to 50% from inside the arc and above 30% from behind the arc and we just didn't accomplish that. Hopefully, in our upcoming games, we will move the ball a little better, shoot it in rhythm, and increase our odds. We were also out of position in defense too often, and plan to fix some of these issues before tournaments. We travel to Manhattan this Thursday, where the "C" will get started at 3 pm, and then on Saturday, we tip off at 2:30 versus Lone Peak in Big Sky, where there will only be Varsity games.

Drama Team, 1

Morgan & Simon Sanchez in Humorous Theater.
The source material for any Classical Theater piece must be at least 75 years old and can be serious or humorous in nature. Our team of Emmalyn Estrada, Zoey Osborne, Brynlee Neimier & Lucas Feller finished in seventh place with their take on the classic fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen of "The Emperor's New Clothes." Aspyn Bantz, Alanna Powers, Sondra Tittle & Rylie Burns teamed up to take eighth place with the baseball classic by Abbot & Costello, "Who's on First."
Townsend's speech team was composed of lone competitor, Shalyn Sentinella. Her Original Oratory

about confidence has been successful all season, culminating in a fourth-place finish at state. She competed in Informative last year with a speech about the Rubik's Cube, also placing her fourth.
The Broadwater Bulldogs have won the team Class B State Drama Championship five out of the last seven years. An amazing task, magnified now with three additional second-place trophies in a total of eight years. Coach Denise Bakkum and her daughter, Joy, have endless enthusiasm for this sport. With their hard work and dedication, along with the loss of only four seniors, the future continues to look bright here in Townsend.
Congratulations Bulldogs! And we look forward to next year!

Bulldog Basketball Teams Travel to Three Forks and Big Timber



Taylor Cartwright
Kelly Morris Photography



Mishayla Lambott
Kelly Morris Photography

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



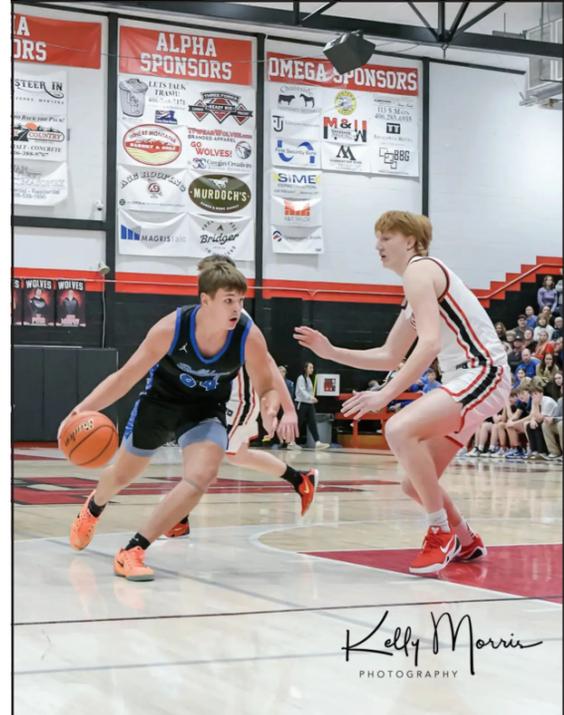
Bulldog Basketball teams travel to Three Forks

This past weekend, the Bulldogs basketball teams travelled to Three Forks to play the Wolves. Both girls' and boys' varsity teams lost to the Wolves earlier this season.
The C squad boys' game resulted in a win for the Bulldogs, 40-35. The C squad boys have had a successful season so far, with wins against almost every team they've played.
The junior varsity boys also won their game, 52-42. Rylan Hoveland scored 12 points, and Dallas Fligge scored 10 points.
The varsity boys' game was a close loss for the Bulldogs, 45 to 63. Bryce Lessley led the team with 14 points, and Tannen Tuffelmire and Trace Giomi both scored 8 points.
The Wolves won the C squad girls' game 26 to the Bulldogs 19. Ella Toney scored 9 points, Addy Mosher scored 6 points, and Tayleigh Anderson and Hannah Hildreth both scored 2 points.
The junior varsity girls' game was another loss for

the Bulldogs, 31-52. Tevyn Newman scored 16 points, and Ella Toney scored 13 points.
The Bulldogs lost the varsity girls' game 51-64. Kaitlyn Noyes scored 25 points, and Emmalin Fischer and Bryleigh Erickson both scored 10 points.
Bulldog Basketball teams travel to Big Timber for a Non-Conference Game
The following day, the Bulldogs traveled to Big Timber to play the Herders. This was a non-conference game. The C squad girls did not play, and the C squad boys lost their game to the Herders.
The junior varsity girls lost their game 25-53. Mishayla Lambott scored 13 points, and Emily Taves scored 6.
The varsity girls lost their game 50-61. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs with 18 points, and Emmalin Fischer scored 10 points.
The junior varsity boys won their game 42-31. Heston Vandenaere scored 10 points, and Koleby Clark scored 7 points.
The varsity boys lost their game to the Herders 49-61. Tavyn Anderson led the team with 19 points, and Tannen Tuffelmire scored 9 points.
The Bulldogs will travel to Manhattan on February 5th and to Lone Peak on February 7th. Both games are conference matchups, and the Bulldogs hope to better their record before the upcoming district tournament.



Tavyn Anderson
Kelly Morris Photography



Trace Giomi
Kelly Morris Photography

Oro Fino Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution Announces Education Scholarship

Gale Kramlick
Chapter Regent Oro Fino Chapter, DAR

The Oro Fino Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution announces a one-time scholarship award of \$2,000 for a senior preparing to graduate from high school. Four scholarships are available. Applicants must be residents of Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, or Meagher County, be preparing to enter a branch of

the Montana University system, and be planning to study education.
Counselors and Student Advisors in the four-county region schools will offer Information and applications for the scholarships. The application period starts January 25, 2026, and the deadline for returning the completed applications is June 1, 2026.
For further information, contact the Oro Fino Chapter Scholarship Chair, Jean O'Connor, at joconnor122@gmail.com.



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Volunteers working on basketball courts
Photo Credit: Broadwater County Trust Board

TECH TALK



AI: Guardrails, Hallucinations and AI Slop

Vic Sample



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

Next Up: AI SLOP

AI SLOP:

From Microsoft Copilot: "AI slop refers to the flood of low-effort, low-quality content generated by artificial intelligence—often created for clicks, SEO, or monetization with little regard for accuracy, originality, or human value. It's become a major concern across social media, publishing, and search engines, especially since 2024."

Neal Mohan (CEO of YouTube) has been very vocal about AI Slop: "It's becoming harder to detect what's real and what's AI-generated." "To reduce the spread of low-quality AI content, we're actively building on our established systems that have been very successful in combating spam and clickbait."

If you use Facebook at all, you have been subjected to a flood of AI Slop. Outrageous "headlines", totally fictitious pictures claiming all sorts of attention-getting titles. Lots of incredibly cute and adorable videos that are all fantasy, created by AI.

After the FBS College Football Championship game (Indiana vs. Miami), I saw a number of AI-generated

posts that were outrageously provocative. Claiming the Miami coach or the Miami quarterback was stating the game was rigged; that the refs were told to make sure Indiana won; that the Miami quarterback had seen high school teams better than Indiana.

Of course, none of that was true. The Facebook posts were apparently inspired by the fact that a few Miami players left the game without congratulating the Indiana players. That is a long, long way from making the claims in the Facebook posts. Somebody is just trying to garner clicks from outrageous claims – all generated by AI.

I have seen images of terrible tragedies claiming death or serious injury to a great number of politicians, sports stars, and movie/television celebrities. Rarely is there any grain of truth in the headlines on these images.

As Neal Mohan noted, it is harder and harder to detect what is real and what is AI-generated fiction. I read an article detailing how to detect a real image from a deep fake AI image; it was filled with arcane details and would take hours to examine an image to MAYBE determine it was a fake.

In this very divided time, many people are making claims about all sorts of things – especially politics. It is almost impossible to tell from just reading or seeing AI-generated material (of course, if the AI-generated text, images, or videos agree with our views, it is pretty easy to judge them true).

If there is something that catches your attention, you need to verify it by doing research from valid sources that can PROBABLY be trusted. AI is being used for everything, and we all have to be vigilant.

amount of \$30,000 to help fund the McCarthy Park Tennis Court Repair Project. This project repaired the tennis/pickleball and basketball courts. The grant covered filling the existing cracks, replacing the tennis net and net posts, buying new pickleball nets, purchasing a tarp to cover the courts, and replacing the basketball backboards and hoops. In addition, parking curbs were placed in front of the tennis and basketball courts. Students and tennis players from the high school, as well as many other volunteers, worked to make this project a reality.



Progress: a job well done
Photo Credit: Broadwater County Trust Board

The Broadwater County Trust Board (BCTB) was established to oversee and manage the Broadwater County Trust Fund created by the sale of cabin properties along the north end of Canyon Ferry reservoir in the 1990's. The purpose of the fund is to support recreational projects in the county. The interest from the investment of the trust fund principle is accessed through a grant process, screened and managed by the Trust Board. Their recommendations for grant approval and payments are sent to the County Commissioners for action. All contracts and disbursement of funds are completed by the Broadwater County Commission.

The BCTB meets monthly to receive, discuss, approve, and manage grant applications, which satisfy the criteria set forth in the Trust's by-laws. These criteria can be found on

BROADWATER BLOOMS

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Be sure to stop in for our Valentine's Coffee Specials!

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the Trust website at <https://broadwatercountytrustboard.com/about>

BCTB welcomes ideas and proposals from the public to improve Broadwater County recreational facilities and their use. The BCTB usually meets the second Tuesday of every month at 11:30 AM. Grant application forms can be found on the BCTB website at <https://broadwatercountytrustboard.com/about>



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We offer welcoming, coach-led workouts for all levels, focused on proper movement, accountability, and progress you can feel. Come train with us and see what it means to live and move on cloud 9.

STOKE 5th Annual Valentine's Day Fund Raiser

Saturday Feb 14th 5:00 to 8:30

At The Lodge, 131 S. Spruce, Townsend, MT

The night will be filled with Student Presentations and a Tri Tip Beef Roast full course dinner catered by John and Missy Rauser. Dessert by STOKE's Cooking Class. A really special night! Don't miss it!

Tickets Available at the Bird's Nest or our website: stokemt.org

\$40/person
Only 70 Tickets Available

50-50, Silent Auction, Charcuterie boards, Pottery Bowl, Live Auction

Live Music 5:30-6:30
Youth Presentations
Come meet the Kids

VALENTINE'S DAY IS ON THE WAY!

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



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

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

406-266-0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend

Townsend School & Sports

FEBRUARY



Friday 6

- NO SCHOOL

Fri 6 - Sat 7

- Middle School Girls Basketball at Three Forks Tourney

Saturday 7

- 2:30 pm: Varsity Only High School Basketball at Lone Peak
- High School Wrestling at Manhattan

Sunday 8

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

Monday 9

- 4:00 pm: Middle School Girls Basketball at Three Forks
- Middle School Wrestling First Day of Practice

Mon 9 - Thu 12

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

Tuesday 10

- 6:00 pm: School Board Meeting

Tue 10 - Wed 11

- 8:30 am: Special Ed Testing

Wednesday 11

- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 12

- 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Jeffersons

Friday 13

- NO SCHOOL - Teacher PLC Day
- Divisional High School Wrestling at Butte Civic Center

Saturday 14

- 1:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Ennis

East Helena Schools & Sports

FEBRUARY

Monday 9

- 5:00 pm: School Board Meeting at Eastgate

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



Tuesday 10

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

Wednesday 11

- 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

FEBRUARY

Friday 6

- 4:00 pm: Watch Party for Brooklyn Book Festival's Virtual Day features Chris LaTray

Tuesday 10

- 4:00 pm: Teen/Tween Switch Gaming Event

Wednesday 11

- 8:30 am: One Book Montana Coffee and Talk at Galaxy Roasting, 10 W Main St, East Helena
- 10:30 am: Storytime

Thu 12 - Sat 14

- Blind Date with a Book

Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner

Stewards of the Land: 250 Years of Conservation

Saturday February 21, 2026, 5pm
Watson Event Center

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



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

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Friday 6

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

Fri 6 & Sat 7

- 6:00 pm: Galentines Bestie Bash! Paint your Partner, at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee

February 7

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

Sat 7 & Sun 8

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

Tuesday 10

- 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 11

- 7:30 pm: Simple Gospel Story: 108 N. Front Street at 108 N. Front Street
- 1:00 pm: Assistance in applying for and receiving Military Benefits at American Legion Post 42
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 12

- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 13

- 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 14

- 12:00 pm: Sweetheart Polar Plunge at the new Town Pump in East Helena **READ MORE PAGE 1**
- 5:00 pm: 2026 STOKE Valentine Fundraiser at The Lodge of Townsend **AD ON PAGE 3**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Wednesday 18

- 7:00 pm: Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting at Townsend Fire Station, 130 So Cedar St **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**

Thursday 19

- 6:00 pm: Townsend Chamber of Commerce Meeting at The Mint **AD ON THIS PAGE**

Saturday 21

- 5:00 pm: Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner at Watson Event Center **AD WITH TICKET DETAILS ON THIS PAGE**



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

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

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)
 February 7th and 21st 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted Friday Feb. 6th, 20th 9:00 to 11:00am

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

Monetary donation can be mailed to PO Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644.

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

Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from local churches.

February is Holy Cross Catholic Church

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

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: PAGE 7

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

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

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

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

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

QUESTIONS? MENU?	STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM
VOLUNTEER?	(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).

Monthly Chamber Meeting

February 19th, 2026, 6PM
 at The Mint
 All community members welcome!



LETTERS to the EDITOR



Anne Frank

Ten years ago, we visited Auschwitz and many of the camps where the Jews were held and murdered. We walked through these camps; we read or heard the history of hate to certain people. Anne Frank's diary reflects the horrors of her time, capturing the essence of fear and persecution during the Holocaust, with her words resonating in today's discussions about human rights and immigration.

Context of the Quote:

Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who went into hiding during World War II to escape Nazi persecution, wrote in her diary about the "terrible things happening outside." On January 13, 1943, she described the fear and chaos surrounding her, noting how "poor helpless people are being dragged out of their homes," and families are torn apart. This entry poignantly illustrates the brutal realities faced by many during the Holocaust, where individuals were forcibly removed from their homes, often never to return.

In America, this will never happen.
 In America, we can criticize government leaders without being arrested or the media being shut down.
 Right??

**Sharon Obrigewitch
Townsend**

Stand up!

In the name of decency, grace and love stand up!
 At the direction of an amoral president and with the blessing of our congressman, the United States government is now murdering civilians in the streets. As a nearly 50-year conservative voter, I implore you to join arms with those you love, those you don't know, and those on the other political "side" to condemn this behavior.

Let's refuse to act like Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. We're better than this. Stand up for a better union offering liberty and justice for all.

**Erick Sorenson
Townsend**

BREAKING NEWS

DID YOU KNOW... MT43News keeps you updated between printed editions?!

Visit MT43News.com
 Look for local updates and even a few newsworthy items that didn't make print!

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RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

American Legion Hall
211 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-3611
Dining Hours:
Tuesday= Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM
Thursdays 5:00PM= FREE Community Dinner
SPECIAL Event with Food: N/A
Bar hours may vary

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

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

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

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

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

Bread and Butter Cafe
205 Broadway St, Townsend
(406) 266-3025
Dining Hours:
Tue - Fri 7:00AM- 2:00PM
Sat 7:00AM- 12:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Menu available on Facebook

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery
310 S Front St, Townsend
(406) 266-9087
Dining Hours:
Mon - Fri 7:30AM - 7:00PM
Sat 8:00AM - 7:00PM
Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Menu:
Facebook
changinmerc.square.site

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

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

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend, MT

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

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **K** equals **L**

VTTFAVX L YEHI KGVXTO
EBTVPK BG HEB L KLOXT
IEVC GS YTLB, L YLV FTHKLOT
"CFAST'P BGG PIGOB."

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KNIGHT MOVES

A	Y	S
I		L
L	C	F

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Plan **DANAGE**

Cache **RHOAD**

Glow **LEGAM**

Brisk **DRAIP**

TODAY'S WORD

"I wondered why you never returned my _____."

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE

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

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Thank U, Next" singer Grande
7 Yachts, e.g.
12 Keto dieter's nutrient calculation
20 Right-rear bowling target
21 Like Viking script
22 Call to have food delivered
23 Chief justice before William Rehnquist
25 Runaway
26 Fruity drink
27 Reclined
28 Actress Russo
30 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
31 Makeovers
33 Application to improve blood flow
39 Stew legume
41 Glazer of "Broad City"
42 Gold, in Italy
43 Person not getting deserved acclaim
48 Chilly tourist lodge
53 New Mexico art mecca
54 Old New York theater
55 Whirled
58 To a greater extent
59 Phased-out cartoon storekeeper
60 Greek cheese
61 Easels, e.g.
63 Susa's ancient land
64 Take care of
66 Bikers' association
70 Tunes for two
72 Permissible
73 Tiny bits
74 Curveball that breaks over the plate at the very last second
78 Wine vessel
81 Wrinkly tangelo
82 "Joan of Arc" actress Sobieski
83 Acorn trees
85 Grassy tract
86 Wrecked
89 Santa winds (some winds)
90 Agra dress
91 Feels ill
92 Hip-hop band
94 Thaw after winter
96 Roadhouse
97 Writer Wilde
100 "Fancy that!"
101 Pilot's heading indicator
108 Newton who was knighted
112 Met solo
113 Fishing rod
114 \$5 bills, slangily
116 H.S. lab class
117 "The Velvet Fog"
121 Its menu might include the ends of seven answers in this puzzle
125 Web pop-up, e.g.
126 Be of help to
127 King of pop
128 Salted-away sums of money
129 Mails in, e.g.
130 Isis' brother
DOWN
1 In combat
2 Novelist Charles
3 Way to mark losses
4 Fourth mo.
5 TV ratings
6 Chlumsky of "Veep"
7 Musical Mars
8 "Gang"
9 Filmmaker Lee
10 — del Fuego
11 TV part
12 Center points
13 Previous to
14 NFL goals
15 OK grade
16 Bow go-with
17 Turbine part
18 — Vista, Mexico
19 Purse piece
24 Pen brand
29 U.S. intel org.
32 Musical work
34 Like swamps
35 Gp. in the Arab League
36 Quadrennial games org.
37 City near Provo
38 NYC area near the Village
40 Go along with
43 37-Down's state
44 Wine valley of California
45 Brief audio file
46 All the rage
47 Midterm, e.g.
48 "500" race
49 Mine vehicle
50 Prevaricates
51 Genesis twin
52 Bausch & —
55 Cheap cigars
56 St. Patrick's Day event
57 "I give up!"
60 Absconded
61 — Artois
62 — -fi flick
65 — it out (fighting)
67 Mary-Kate of "Beastly"
68 Latching, e.g.
69 LGA info
71 Fa-la linkup
74 Aaron in the "Hamilton"
75 Water, in Chihuahua
76 Get in return
77 Mimic a lion
79 Descended
80 Toward dawn
84 Actress Nicole — Parker
87 Funny Idle
88 Fail to
90 Agile
91 City in Iowa
93 Half of bi-
94 Sink down
95 Hired Japanese hostesses
97 Yoko of "Two Virgins"
98 Taco toppers
99 Split with an ax, say
101 Actor Matt
102 Actress Ryan
103 Small brooks
104 Absorb the loss, in slang
105 Opinion pieces
106 Lou who won three Grammys
107 Japanese sash
109 Hate
110 Garlic mayo
111 Makes do
115 Danish shoe brand
118 Undivided
119 Rule, informally
120 "Zine"
122 Delhi bread
123 Carried out
124 — Lanka

LEGAL NOTICES

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



Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Kolter Howes:

Kolter Howes, Petitioner

Case No.: ADV-2026-5

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the district Court for a change of name from (your name now) Kolter Ryan Douglas Howes

To (name you want) Kolter Douglas Smith

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

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

Filed Date 1/05/26

Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court

By Beth Campbell, Deputy Clerk of Court

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

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of Jessica Andersen-Wear, Deceased.
CAUSE NO. BDP-2025-20

Honorable Mike McMahon

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jessica Andersen-Wear, deceased. All persons having claims against deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed return receipt requested to:

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

Dated this 20th day of January, 2026.

Published January 23, 30, February 6, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Cause No. CDV-2024-53

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

TESELLE MARITAL TRUST A,
DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2004,
Plaintiffs,

Vs.

SAGER AND TESELLE FAMILY TRUST, SAGER DISCLAIMER TRUST, CATHERINE MAE SAGER, GEORGE W. SAGER, SAGER FAMILY TRUST, A/K/A SAGER FAMILY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS, UNKNOWN, CLAIMING OR WHO MIGHT CLAIM ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, OR INTEREST IN OR LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S OWNERSHIP OR ANY CLOUD UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, WHETHER THE CLAIM OR POSSIBLE CLAIM IS PRESENT OR CONTINGENT, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF

GEORGE W. SAGER, CATHERINE MAE SAGER, LUCILE ANN TESELLE AND BEN R. TESELLE, DECEASED,
Defendants.

THE STATE OF MONTANA TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKNOW, CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, OR INTEREST IN OR LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFFS' TITLE, WHETHER THE CLAIM OR POSSIBLE CLAIM IS PRESENT OR CONTINGENT, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF GEORGE W. SAGER, CATHERINE MAE SAGER, LUCILE ANN TESELLE AND BEN R. TESELLE, DECEASED:

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

Within twenty-one (21) days, after service of this Summons by Publication on you, you must serve on the Plaintiffs an answer to the Verified Complaint for Quiet Title or a motion under Rule 12 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. Do not include the day you were served in your calculation of time. The answer or motion must be served on Plaintiffs' attorney whose name and address are listed above.

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title. This action is brought for the purpose of quieting title to the reap property situated in Broadwater County, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

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

Section 14: SW ¼ ; all that portion of the NE ¼ and the SE ¼ lying North and East of Old Town Road.

Section 14: Tract 2B-B as shown on Certificate of Survey Number 154577, recorded in Book 2 of Plats, page 132.

Section 15: E ½ ; EXCEPTING THEREFROM Lot 1 of Certificate of Survey recorded in Book 1 of Plats, page 864; FURTHER EXCEPTING THEREFROM the Interstate 90 right-of-way.

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

Section 10: S ½; EXCEPTING THEREFROM those parcels conveyed to the State of Montana and the Montana Department of Transportation recorded in Book 42 of Deeds, page 507, as Document Number 177202, and as Document Number 177210.

You must file your answer or motion with the Court.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Audrey Plymale

AUDREY PLYMALE

Clerk of the District Court

Published January 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

MNAXLP

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou

Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Aviles, Neveah – Billings – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Barrios, Joel – Gallatin Gateway – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Cordes, Derek – Willow Creek – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Delp, Roger – Castle Rock CO – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Gebhardt, Brock – E Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate - exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Gould, Kevin – Missoula – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Houck, Hunter – Great Falls – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Hunt, Deonte – Galveston TX – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Lashley, Max – Helena – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees - Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Martinez, Alvaro – Belgrade – Driving without a valid Drivers License – paid fines - \$235 fines & fees - Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - \$95 fines & fees

McMurray, Daysha – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Mortag, Sophia – Great Falls – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Riccio, Anthony – Palm Coast FL – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Rowe, Michael – Cardwell – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

- Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Reynoso, Jeremy – Great Falls – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Shook, Logan – Vancouver – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Shuman, Jayden – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Slead, Carter – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Stringer, Kaden – Billings – Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - \$95 fines & fees

Taylor, John – East Helena – Stop Sign Violation – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Vick, Colton – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Walker, Amberly – Ronan – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – plead guilty - \$55 fines & fees

Ragen, Chasepatrick – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – plead guilty - \$20 fines & fees. Deferred Imposition of sentence for one (1) month with good behavior.

Marquez, Monieco – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed night limit of 70mph – plead guilty - \$20 fines & fees

- Driving Motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked 2nd offense – plead guilty - \$185 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in

Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all but two (2) days suspended with good behavior.

Harrison, Deanna – Helena – Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked 1st offense – plead guilty - \$135 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County jail with the execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior.

Garcia, Alberto – Bozeman – Driving without a valid drivers license – plead guilty- \$235 fines & fees

- Speeding on non- interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – plead guilty - \$70 fines & fees

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Culver, Graham – Bozeman – Operate Motorboat without proper registration or validation decals – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Konstanzer, Vanja – Bozeman – Stop Sign Violation – Paid Fines - \$85 Fines & fees

Reiter, Kaden – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Sandish, William – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Wamsley, Regina – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Lesh, Marjorie – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – plead guilty - \$70 fines & fees

Broadwater County District

Court January 30

MT43 News Reporter

In Judge Christopher D. Abbott's court, Michael Andrew Baudour received a sentence of 8 years at the Montana Department of Corrections with 5 years suspended for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Criminal Endangerment. It is Baudour's 7th DUI felony. During sentencing, Baudour pleaded guilty to all charges and apologized.

According to Broadwater Sheriff's Deputy Chase Rasmussen, Baudour was stopped after he almost clipped construction workers. Defense attorney Qasim Abdul-Baki presented a witness who testified that Baudour held a manager's job, had a family and had finished addiction treatment during his 60 days in jail on another conviction in Butte Silver Bow from February of 2023. He also received a \$500 fine, 100 hours of community service and will need to write a written apology to Deputy Rasmussen. The sentence will run concurrently with his Butte Silver Bow conviction. Baudour will begin his sentence February 11, at the Department of Corrections Pre-Release Center in Helena.

Judge Abbott ruled for Baudour to serve his time at the Helena Pre-Release Center so he can be close to his family. However, the judge pointed out that running from cops is a serious business, that he needs to be held accountable. Judge Abbott admonished Baudour with these words: "People speak well of you. You have a lot of things going for you now, but a record catches up with you."

Richard Dee Anderson was arraigned on 3 counts: Driving Under the Influence of alcohol, having no valid driver's license and driving an improperly licensed vehicle. This is his 4th offense with 3 prior convictions. His court hearing is set for February 27.

In a hearing to provide evidence, 8-year veteran deputy Jordon Grimsrud was grilled by Grant Anton Benson's defense attorney, Brent Flowers, about whether Benson was properly arrested for DUI. After a first review of Grimsrud's body camera video, Judge Abbott ruled he would review the video again before he would decide whether to proceed with the case.

Christopher Stevens Killmeyer, 43, of Belgrade, was sentenced to 5 years with 5 years suspended for his 4th DUI offense when he was stopped by officers on March 20, 2023. He has pleaded guilty to the charges.

Kara Diane Lekse had an omnibus hearing to decide what evidence can be presented and any other legal proceedings that can be addressed before her trial. She was charged August 2, 2025, with criminal possession of dangerous drugs, methamphetamine, driving without a valid license and an active warrant out of Judith Basin County. The officer who stopped her found a pipe, a weight scale, some white crystal-like substances and a black pistol in her car.

Josuah Ross appeared before Judge Abbott on a Sept. 19, 2021, charge of breaking and entering, criminal mischief, family member assault and obstructing a peace officer.

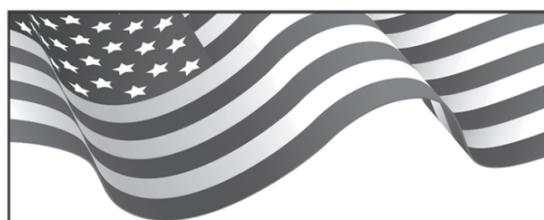
Curtis Justin Smith was found guilty of criminal mischief and threat of bodily injury. Judge Abbott set sentencing for February 27, 2026 so that Smith can enter an addiction treatment program.

Jerold Cecil Wiederholt petitioned the court to be released from having to register as a sex offender and to leave to file his 2006 conviction of sexual intercourse without consent. Neither Wiederholt nor his attorney, Robert Stephens were present in court, so action on the petition was moved to February 27, 2026.

Two other cases before Judge Abbott's court were private, involving an estate hearing and a parenting decision.

If you are unfamiliar with the legal terms, visit our website for explanations: <https://mt43news-business-services.com/LegalTerms>

Americanisms



"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

— Edith Wharton

The Montana Office of Public Instruction Announces the Summer Food Service Program

Susie Hedalen
Superintendent Office of Public Instruction

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) announces the ongoing availability of summer meals for children via the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in preparation for summer 2026. The SFSP is made possible by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and offers free, nutritious meals to all children and teens 18 years or younger throughout the summer months.

Children are especially susceptible to food insecurity over the summer when they no longer have access to school meals. The SFSP provides an opportunity to bridge this gap by offering meals at eligible sites throughout the summer. These sites are generally situated in public areas where at least 50% of children qualify for free and reduced school meals. Children 18 years or younger may receive a free meal at open sites.

The non-congregate service model for the SFSP will be an available option again this summer at approved participating sites. Non-congregate service may operate in rural locations and allows children to pick up meals to take home in a grab-n-go style, rather than eating on-site like the traditional congregate method of meal service. The non-congregate service model is utilized to allow greater flexibility for families in rural communities to participate in the SFSP.

OPI seeks additional community partners to operate as sponsors or sites for the SFSP in summer 2026.

Sponsor applications open March 2nd, 2026. OPI will be accepting applications from:

- Public and private nonprofit schools
- Local government agencies
- Private nonprofit organizations

How can you help your community?

Become an SFSP site. Reach out to existing Summer Food Service Program sponsors to add open sites at schools, community centers, parks, pools, libraries, or other eligible locations kids gather in the summer months. Check out the USDA Area Eligibility Mapper to see eligible locations for 2026.

Become an SFSP sponsor. Eligible sponsors include public and private nonprofit schools, local government agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. Program sponsors operate sites at eligible locations in their community during the summer months. Sponsors of the SFSP handle the financial, administrative and food service responsibilities, and training of SFSP sites. Sponsors are reimbursed at a set rate for meals served to eligible children. For more information, follow this link to the USDA website for information on becoming a sponsor.

Help publicize local SFSP sites. Here are some tools for advertising 2026 Montana SFSP sites:

Advertise in the SFSP at your neighborhood, workplace, school, community center, daycare, or wherever you see fit. Visit our website for flyers.

To find SFSP sites, visit this link: Summer Meals Site Finder. This map is updated in late spring/early summer when sites begin operating for the year.

Learn more about the MT OPI Summer Food Service Program by clicking here. If you are interested in becoming a summer sponsor or site, please contact Sarah Kuhn at sarah.kuhn2@mt.gov or (406) 594-9747.

The deadline for sponsors to apply to operate the 2026 SFSP is May 15th, 2026. Existing approved 2026 sponsors can add sites at any point throughout the summer.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

ANGIE PAULSEN
Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor



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

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

Available Trustee Positions:

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

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

DATED this 20th day of January 2026.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

Employment Opportunity – Clerk and Recorder's Elections Office



Broadwater County is currently seeking a highly motivated individual for a Full-Time Elections Assistant. The successful candidate must be able to manage and maintain the voter registration

system in Broadwater County; assist Election Administrator in organizing and conducting elections in the County to comply with State election laws; work under the Election Administrator. Attention to detail, ability to work within deadlines, proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, discretion, and customer service skills are essential. Occasional evening hours may be required.

The wage is \$21.50-22.50/hr, DOE, with an excellent health benefits package. A copy of the full job description may be obtained at the Clerk and Recorder Office at the Broadwater County Courthouse, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644, or by emailing apaulsen@broadwatercountymt.gov. Resumes may be sent to the same email. Position is open until filled. Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

City of Townsend Job Announcement:

Maintenance Worker position available. Maintenance Worker I or Maintenance Worker II.

Wage Classification for Maintenance Worker I is \$15-\$27 per hour DOE. Wage Classification for Maintenance Worker II is \$17.50-\$29.50 per hour DOE.

The position includes a full benefits package. Applicants will be considered for either position, depending on qualifications.

Applications and Job Descriptions can be found on the city's website at townsendmontana.net or at the City Hall 110 Broadway Townsend, MT.

Please drop off applications with a resume (optional) in a sealed envelope to City Hall by Friday Tuesday, February 17, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. The position will remain open until filled.

City of Townsend is an equal opportunity employer.

Court Reporter Job Opening

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



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

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

Must be able to commit to one-year contract.

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

Broadwater County Commissioner's Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

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

10:00 AM Carol Hatfield, Broadwater County Parks and Recreation update

10:05 AM Sheriff's Office update

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Hanson Family Transfer Exemption Request; S3 T7N R1E

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Subdivision Regulation amendments

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Exemption Review process and application amendments

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Coblenz Family Transfer. If needed, unless a decision was made at the February 4th Commission meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Board of Health Meeting on February 12th at 3:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 12th at 5:15 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on February 17th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on February 18th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on February 19th at 5:15 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on February 24th at 11:30 AM

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SR. CENTER MEALS: FEBRUARY 9 - 13
516 2nd Street, Townsend, MT 406-266-3995

Monday, February 9
Swedish Meatball
Steamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Apricot Halves

Tuesday, February 10
Baked Chicken
Rice Pilaf
California Vegetables
Diced Beets
Whole Grain Bread
Blushing Pears

Wednesday, February 11
Beef and Veggie Stew
Fresh Baked Biscuit
Tossed Salad with Garbonzos
Zesty Pineapple Dessert

Thursday, February 12
Roast Pork
Mashed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Fruit Cocktail

Friday, February 13
Tilapia
Macaroni and Cheese
Carrot Coins
Green Peas
Plum Peaches

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Service Available

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

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



WHY Would Any Sane Person Want A.I. ANYTHING?

First off, do the words: Artificial Intelligence not even sound stupid? So, you don't want to think for yourself, and you want something to do your work for you! Doesn't that sound a bit like having Mommy live your life for you? "Oh, I don't know what to write or can't figure out how to add or subtract numbers. Let alone how to figure out a Flaming plain old analog clock" (you know the ones with actual hands).

I would ask "What are you Stupid?" but I don't want to hear the answer. Ok Example: Waaaay back in the 1950s, there was a movie called "Colossus the Forbin Project". The story was about a scientist who created a supercomputer; yeah, one that took up an entire room! (Like I said, old film) The computer learned and began to reason. It became sentient; alive; it began to reason like a human brain. Yeah...Uh OH! And of course, some ignorant person asked it, "What can we do to make Earth better?" Then the computer came back with "get rid of all the carbon-based lifeforms!" For those of you actually understanding, that's us! Humankind.

You see, cold logic, computers might learn and begin to reason. However, they will never have human thoughts and compassion. So cold logic, say "hey, the planet would be great without humans." Despite how you might think, without us, there is nobody left to appreciate Earth!

In the movie, the computer links up with all the other nuclear computer control computers and is going to destroy all life. (Yes, Poindexter, even the animals.)

A.I. is artificial. How many times do you get in trouble because of spell check on your phones? Yep, A.I. is only playing.....for now!

We humans do make mistakes, but we learn. (Except when certain Government types want to keep us in the dark ages.) Not going there! Think for yourself, take responsibility for your own actions! Make your own mistakes and learn from them. Be human, don't just lie down and give in to the Matrix. Machines won't ever be your friend! They just exist until a human tells them what to do. And you do NOT want them thinking for themselves.

Animals have instincts, humans have reasoning and intuition. Machines have bupkus! Nothing but cold, hard logic that we put into them. Machines do not think about us. I do know that some vehicles have personalities (a story for another time). If you give in to the whole A.I. so-called revolution, don't be surprised when the world is in flames. Then you might be, oh gee golly gosh darn, inconvenienced by your cell phone and gaming computer shutting off. For good!

You have been warned!
Stay well, oh my people, stay safe.

GUEST EDITORIALS
Guest Editorials reflect the views of the author and not MT43 NEWS

Your Most Important Vote

Four years from now, you'll cast a vote that might seem inconsequential in today's heated political climate: you'll vote for whether or not a Montana State Constitutional Convention should be held.



If you're feeling a little underwhelmed by that statement, you're not alone. But I ask you to trust me when I say it really will be one of the most important votes you cast in your lifetime. Montana's Constitution requires the public to decide, once every ten years, whether or not to take a long, hard look at the document. It's important. It's necessary. And the requirement exists because of people just like you.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Montana Constitution Roadshow put on by Upper Seven Law. The Roadshow is a free, non-partisan presentation that introduces the public to the (quite frankly!) amazing history of the state's fundamental law and the unique aspects of that law. Aspects that don't appear in many (often any!) other state constitutions, nor even the U.S. Constitution.

Did you know that none of the 1972 Convention delegates were elected officials? Did you know the delegates included farmers, ranchers, lawyers, teachers, housewives... ordinary people? Did you know that Montana's is the only constitution to require schools to teach about indigenous cultures? Did you know that important aspects of the Constitution come from courageous women who stood alone to ensure rights were protected? Did you know that during the 1972 Convention that a raging liberal sat next to a fanatical conservative due to an unusual seating order — and they not only didn't beat the snot out of each other, but they contributed meaningfully to the Constitution and became life-long friends?

I didn't! The 90-minute presentation was worth every second of my time, and I want everyone to share in it. I'd like to hear from you about interest in bringing the Montana Constitution Roadshow to Townsend! It would be free to the public and I'm very serious when I say that everyone, absolutely everyone, even if they're familiar with Montana history, should attend. Voting for a Montana Constitutional Convention is, perhaps, the only vote you'll cast where both the "yes" and the "no" are equally important because both are an affirmative statement that you want the rule of law in Montana and are willing to live under it.

No law is perfect. No constitution is perfect. The 1972 Convention knew this and framed a document that echoes the very best efforts of our Founding Fathers (and Mothers!). It's a document to be proud of even if you think it could use a bit of tweaking. You'll have that chance in just four years. Think about it. Every student in Broadwater High School today will be voting whether or not to hold a convention! I'd love to schedule Upper Seven Law to present twice in one day, once to the High School and once, later that same evening, to the public. It's worth every second of your time (I can't say that enough!). If that's something you'd like to see, please drop me an email at KeithJr@Howick.org or throw me a text at (801) 690-5462.

No one can be proud of Montana and not be proud of its Constitution. The document and its history are amazing!

No survey this round, just a request to hear from you. Please remember that while I am a member of the Townsend City Council, these opinions are my own and do not reflect the opinion of other council members or any policy of the city. Local government works best when it hears from the people! And this is one of the many ways we're trying to hear everyone's voice. Thank you!

JB Howick
Townsend City Council, Ward 1

The Garden Bug

The rose variety "**Gertrude Jekyll**" was named "World's Favourite Rose" by the World Federation of Rose Societies at its May 2025 convention held in Fukuyama, Japan. Rose enthusiasts all over the world love its vibrant pink color, its elegant shape, large blooms loaded with petals from late spring through fall, and its exquisite perfume. A Gertrude Jekyll rose needs a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight per day during the growing season, well-draining soil and adequate air circulation around it.

— Brenda Weaver
Source: theflorajournal.international, www.bhg.com, www.worldrose.org

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Song of Solomon 2: 13,14
"Blue Nude 2" by Henri Matisse (1952)

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

Dustin Gillaspie
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT
406.442.0456
fbfs.com/find-an-agent/
dustingillaspie

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

OBITUARY

Deborah J. Etwiler

Family of Deborah J. Etwiler



Deborah J. Etwiler
Photo Provided by Family of Deborah J. Etwiler

With great sadness, we mourn the passing of our Debbie. Due to failing health, she passed away on January 31st at Barrett Hospital in Dillon, MT.

She was born in Townsend, MT, on October 5, 1950, the youngest of nine children.

She graduated from high school in Great Falls, MT and attended Western Montana College in Dillon, MT for a short time.

She moved to Glenrock, WY where she gained employment with Pacific Power & Light. Her career spanned 30 plus years. After her retirement she returned to Townsend, MT and lived in her home there for 14 years. She spent the last month of her life in the care of Pioneer Care & Rehab in Dillon, MT.

During her life she enjoyed family, cooking, camping and fishing, following wrestling on TV, word searches and crossword puzzles. She was an enormous Elvis Presley fan and had an impressive collection of memorabilia.

She is survived by two brothers: Edward (Sharon) of Great Falls, MT, David (Linda) of Homer, AK, three sisters: Delores White of Townsend, MT, Lucinda Iverson of Waconia, MN, Kathleen Doege (Dan Engdahl) of Gillette, WY and several nieces and nephews. She was, and always will be, "Aunt Debbie".

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Patrick Finnegan, two brothers, Glenn and Richard and one sister, Anita.

A memorial is planned for a later date.

Her kindness, fairness and honesty will always be remembered by her family and friends close to her. She will be missed.

AREA DEATHS

Paul Corrigan

Family of Paul Corrigan

Paul Corrigan, 74, of Townsend, MT, passed away January 25, 2026.

Max Iverson

Family of Max Iverson

Boyd Maxfield Iverson, aged 82, passed away on January 27, 2026.



Weed of the Month: Common Buckthorn

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



In the fall of 2025, a vigilant landowner brought a sample into the Extension Office that was quickly confirmed as Common Buckthorn. Common Buckthorn is a Montana noxious weed that was previously not identified in Broadwater County. This led to a chain reaction and the local Weed District has since discovered several thriving populations of Buckthorn in the county, including within the City of Townsend and on the backside of the lake. This is a very important weed to watch for in the upcoming year.

Description & Habitat

Native to Europe and Northwest Asia, Common Buckthorn was introduced to North America in the 1700s for medicinal purposes. It became naturalized in some areas in the 1800s due to extensive use in hedges. It has now been found in most Montana counties. It prefers moist soil but is highly adaptable. It can be found in forests, fence rows, pastures, fields and roadsides.

Common buckthorn is considered a large shrub or small tree and can grow 6 to 25 feet tall. The bark is brown to gray, while the inner bark has a distinctive orange or yellow color. You can expose the inner bark by scraping the bark with a knife, key or fingernail. Another key identifying feature is that the tips of the twigs have sharp thorns. Leaves are oval, glossy, dark green with finely toothed edges. Leaves stay green late into the fall, often beyond most native woody plants. Common buckthorn is dioecious, which means there are separate male and female plants. Only the female plants produce berries, which are purplish-black berry-like fruits that are about one-quarter inch in diameter. It is often confused with chokecherry, but the berries of Common Buckthorn are slightly bigger.

The plant spreads by seed, often by birds or small mammals that eat the fruit. Common buckthorn can outcompete native vegetation to form dense thickets. It can impact wildlife presence and habitat use. It is an alternative host for the crown rust fungus of oats, which can reduce oat yield and quality. Eating the bark, leaves and berries can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Management

Early dedication is key to keeping it from spreading further. Fruit-bearing trees are much easier to identify. Fall is an ideal time for monitoring, because of the visible foliage and black fruit.

Seedlings can be controlled by hand-pulling or mowing. Occasional burning will not eliminate common buckthorn. Repeated burns may be effective but are often not practical. There are currently no biological control agents for Common Buckthorn. Goats have been known to graze young plants.

Herbicides can be effective and should be done in combination with stump cutting for larger trees (larger than 6 inches in diameter). Cutting without herbicide will result in the tree sending out new shoots. Apply the herbicide within 15 minutes of cutting the tree. Late fall applications are recommended to reduce injury to desirable vegetation. Most common herbicides include Milestone, Garlon, Triclopyr, Roundup or a combination. Trees may suffer even with herbicide treatment and may need to be retreated. Any plants that are removed should be piled and burned to reduce seed spread. 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 control, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or the Broadwater County Weed District at 406-266-9243.

A Warning Letter in the Mail from Blue Cross Blue Shield's Data Service Provider

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



If you are a user of Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) medical insurance, you may have received a letter last week from Conduent, a California document processing service who handles the insurance company's client insurance information.

According to a press release this paper received in October 2025 from the Montana State Auditor's office, Blue Cross Blue Shield had a major data breach putting the personal and medical information of up to 462,000 Montana customers at risk. The Auditor's office explained that, according to BCBS, the breach may have exposed names, addresses, birth dates, billing and medical data, phone numbers and other sensitive information between October 21, 2024, and January 13, 2025.

If you received a letter last week from Conduent, the Auditor's office strongly urges you to carefully review Explanation of Benefits statements you receive about your doctor's appointments or procedures and if there is anything questionable, report it to James Brown's office at (406) 444-2006.

Conduent Services also suggests you sign up for their free monitoring services and obtain a credit report from the three credit reporting services-Equifax, Experian and TransUnion to check if any fraud has taken place affecting your credit rating.

If you received the letter, act promptly. The free identity monitoring services end March 31, 2026. For questions, contact Conduent Services at (866) 559-4749.

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



Montana Chapter

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL SERIES



Friday, 9:00 am-10:00 am MST

Building Foundations of Caregiving

explores the role of caregiver and changes they may experience, building a support team and managing caregiver stress.

Feb

6

2026

[Link to register](#)

Or call our helpline at (800) 272-3900



Thursday 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm MST

Supporting Independence

focuses on helping the person living with dementia take part in daily activities, providing the right amount of support and balancing safety and independence while managing expectations.

Feb

12

2026

[Link to register](#)

Or call our helpline at (800) 272-3900



Friday, 9:00 am-10:00 am MST

Communicating Effectively

teaches how dementia affects communication, including tips for communicating well with family, friends and health care professionals.

FEB

20

2026

[Link to register](#)

Or call our helpline at (800) 272-3900



Thursday 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm MST

Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

details common behavior changes and how they are a form of communication, non-medical approaches to behaviors and recognizing when additional help is needed.

FEB

26

2026

[Link to register](#)

Or call our helpline at (800) 272-3900



Volunteer with the Foster Grandparent Program today.

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



Call 406-447-1680 or visit rmdc.net



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

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"You've got to stop putting your foot in your mouth, Senator!"

When mail feels overwhelming, We're here to help!

Have you received mail from Social Security, Medicaid, SNAP or another program that you don't understand or haven't opened yet?

Bring it to **Mail & Munchies**.

We'll open it together and explain what it means.

- No judgement
- No pressure
- Free snacks, coffee and tea!

Join us at Mail & Munchies:

Townsend Library
201 N Spruce Street
February 26, 2026
6:00pm-8:00pm

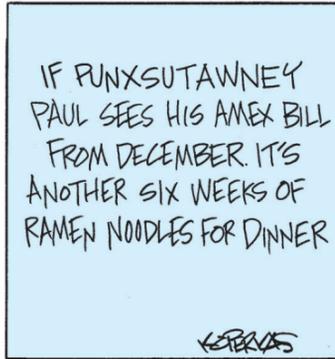
Many people avoid opening the mail because it feels overwhelming. This space was created for that.



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



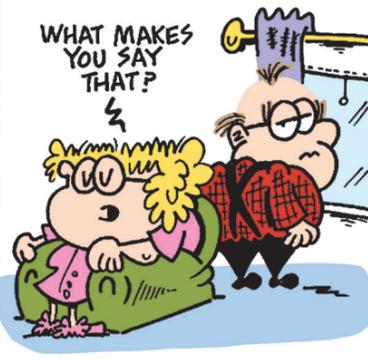
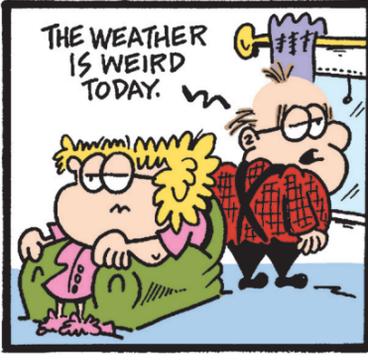
Amber Waves



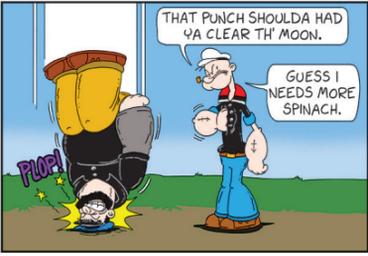
by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

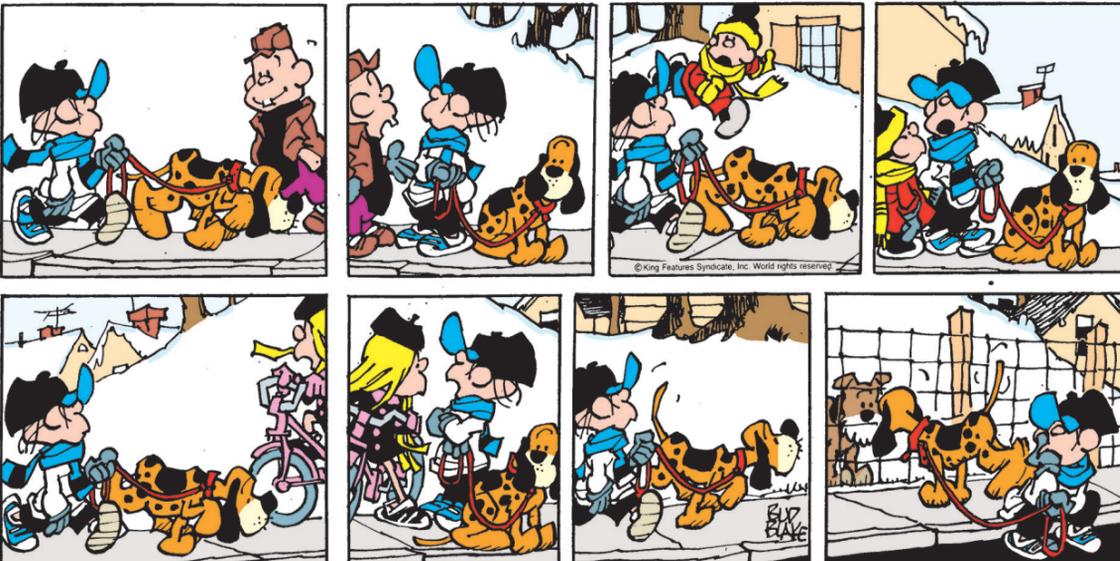


by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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CryptoQuip
answer

Needing a much longer utensil to cut a large hunk of meat, a man declared "Knife's too short."

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

A	Y	S
5	8	3
I		L
2		6
L	C	F
7	4	1

FISCALLY

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Agenda; 2. Hoard; 3. Gleam; 4. Rapid

Today's Word
LADDER

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

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

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.

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**SHOULD WE BRING BACK THE WEATHER?
LET US KNOW!**

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or mt43news@mt43news.com

Weather Forecast

February

Friday 6
High Temp: 54
Low Temp: 38
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 7
High Temp: 53
Low Temp: 39
Wind: 10
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 8
High Temp: 54
Low Temp: 39
Wind: 12
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 9
High Temp: 48
Low Temp: 37
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 10
High Temp: 39
Low Temp: 32
Wind: 11
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.168
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 11
High Temp: 33
Low Temp: 29
Wind: 11
Rain: 0.024
Snow: 0.084
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 12
High Temp: 43
Low Temp: 25
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100



Old Baldy shown here on January 11, a cold, overcast Sunday afternoon. In spite of low hanging clouds, the sun reflected the light on the river in an unusual way. Photographer Linda Melton said she is able to shoot many good photos of the mountain, but this photo was most unusual.
Linda Melton, River Road Resident

GUEST EDITORIALS

Guest Editorials reflect the views of the author and not MT43 NEWS

The Montana Legislature needs to reform the Public Service Commission

Senator Gayle Lammers, R-Hardin, and Rep. Bob Carter, D-Missoula



Senator Gayle Lammers - Hardin
Photo Provided by Gayle Lammers



Representative Bob Carter - Missoula
Photo Provided by Gayle Lammers

For more than two decades, the Montana Legislature has attempted to flip the switch on the inherent structural problems with the Public Service Commission, the primary body responsible for regulating investor-owned monopolies throughout the state.

One only needs to scan the news headlines to see some of the problems plaguing the PSC. Allegations of misconduct, abuse, harassment, and unprofessionalism would cast a dim light on any work environment, which may be the reason for the shocking number of executive directors the agency has cycled through. It is said the PSC tends to be a parking spot for retired legislators who want to earn a six-figure income.

Montana deserves better.

First, we need to reform the process that allows for a politically charged culture. The challenges faced by the commission are inevitable when it is organized as a political popularity contest. There are no minimum professional or experience requirements to run for the PSC. Winning an election does not qualify one to do the serious job of regulating utilities. At a minimum, regulators should be required to have regulatory, technical or industry expertise - this is not the case in Montana.

The current PSC structure dates to 1974, and Montana is only one of ten remaining states that still elect their commissioners to this important statewide agency.

The first draft of our proposed restructured PSC uses

a three-step process to appoint commissioners:

- 1.) The Montana House of Representatives (or likely a committee designated by the House) will research and choose a slate of candidates for an open PSC seat based on a set of minimum professional qualifications.
- 2.) The governor chooses an appointment from a highly qualified slate of candidates.
- 3.) The Senate confirms the governor's choice.

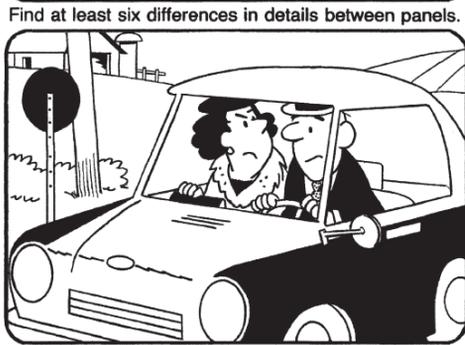
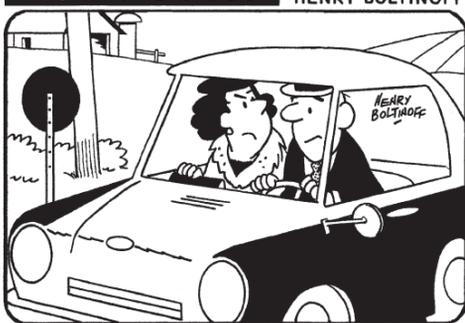
It sounds simple, right? Of course, the devil is always in the details, and there are many details yet to work out. Key questions include: How strict to make the professional requirements? How many years will they serve? How to remove some of the politics from what should be a regulatory body? Should the Senate confirmation require a simple majority or more to ensure broad acceptance? Should there be a cooling-off period to prevent conflicts of interest with the regulated industries? Do we dissolve the current commission and start fresh with newly appointed professionals? These are just a few of the questions we intend to answer over the next year before the full legislature meets again.

On January 15, we presented our draft proposal to the legislative Energy Interim Committee and the committee voted unanimously to move forward with an initial bill draft proposal. Our bill draft includes many concepts that are working well in other states, and we will continue our efforts to reach out to stakeholders across the state over the next year while we refine this proposed policy. Integrity and transparency will be key to our bill drafting process to make for a better Public Service Commission here in Big Sky Country.

The energy picture in Montana has shifted over the past decade and will change even more in the future. The importance of modernizing the PSC cannot be overstated. In an era of increasingly complex energy challenges, we need an updated regulatory structure to balance affordability, reliability, and forward-thinking strategies. It is time to reject the status quo and provide consistency to the regulatory process. A reformed PSC is one that will ensure regulatory decisions are made to drive long-term economic growth and a brighter future for our citizens and businesses alike.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

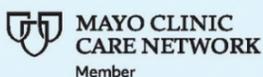


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Side mirror is moved. 2. Grille is different. 3. Sign is taller. 4. Door handle is different. 5. Fence is different. 6. Headrest is added.

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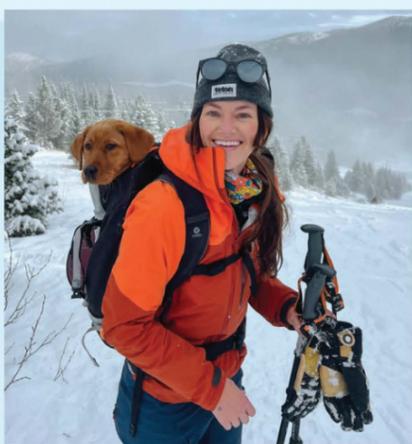
Billings Clinic
Broadwater



Welcome to Townsend

Kelley Olson

Physical Therapist



Kelley Olson

Kelley is originally from Devils Lake, North Dakota and attended the University of North Dakota where she received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Kelley gained experience in a variety of settings while she was a travel PT, working in Arizona, North Dakota, Minnesota, and eventually Montana in 2019. She worked in Harlowton for the past 6 years, before joining Billings Clinic Broadwater.

Kelley enjoys the variety of patient care that a rural community has and loves to work with people of all ages.

Kelley is certified in Integrative Dry Needling (CIDN) and received her Pelvic Floor Certification through the Institute of Clinical Excellence. She also has training with the use of Graston Technique for use of Instrument-Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization and training with Mulligan Concept of Mobilization with Movement.

Outside of work, Kelley enjoys all things outside with her dog, Revel. She can be found either skiing, biking, trail running, backpacking or camping, and is also a part-time photographer.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

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& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

February 7

1903

Radersburg Items

Will Duff and a man by the name of Walters had a very close call at the Blacker mine Sunday night. As Will Duff was pushing a car of ore toward the shaft and was within about 20 feet of the mouth, 50 sticks of giant powder, which were being thawed at the bottom, exploded, knocking him down and rendering him unconscious for a short space of time. His hat was blown from his head and twisted all out of shape, while his eardrums were nearly burst by the force of the explosion. Mr. Walters, who was a short distance behind Duff, was thrown down and his face bruised, otherwise he was uninjured, though his watch was blown from his pocket and hung by the chain when he came out. Like most other serious matters, there were some ludicrous incidents happened. For instance, a man who was farther down the tunnel and not injured at all by the explosion, became bewildered and, in trying to make his escape, ran full tilt into a solid rock wall instead of out of the exit as he expected. The steel bucket, weighing 500 pounds, hanging in the shaft, was literally blown to pieces and (according to the engineer who judged by the slack in the cable) must have been blown 30 feet high.

1925

Local News

Mrs. John Freeser is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Gene McCarthy and family this week, having come from her home in Two Dot ten days ago.

Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Hardy and two daughters were Helena visitors Friday afternoon, enjoying the movie "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

Mrs. Wm. George and Mrs. W.K. Parker spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Townsend visiting Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Neild and family.

Mrs. Mahony of the valley spent Wednesday in Townsend.

Fred Schmitz motored to Helena Monday of this week and was accompanied by Mrs. W.D. McCormick, who visited her daughter Mrs. Fred Averill and family for the day.

J.S. Connors greeted friends in Townsend Tuesday morning, having been away for a week at Alhambra Hot Springs.

Toston News

Chas. Watkins was a business visitor in Townsend Friday.

Mrs. Stubblefield went to Helena Thursday to accompany Mr. Stubblefield home from the hospital where he has been for treatment.

The Toston orchestra played for the dance at the Kimpton schoolhouse Saturday night. All report a good time.

Mrs. Otto Anderson and Mrs. Harry Mackey left for Butte, where they will visit for a few days with the former's daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Hob Lorentz.

Bish Williams and wife were up from Townsend Sunday for a visit at the Winslow Williams home.

1953

10th Birthday Celebration for Carol Horne

Carol Horne was ten years old February 1st. On the preceding Saturday at the Methodist Youth Center she was hostess to a Valentine party in observance of the event to the following little friends: Beth Thompson, Helen Braley, Darel Johnson, Madelene Massa, Robbin Alley, Wendy Williams, Patsy Kelly, Cathy and Linda Bucy, Caroline Cartwright, Donna Fell, Carol Campell, Martha Marks, Phyllis Nield, Bonnie Marcotte, Helen Damuth, Billie Hugulet, Niel Stewart, Gary Myers, Douglas Head and Dean Massa.

In games played, the winners were Helen Braley, Dean Massa, Carol Horne and Robbin Alley.

Pink and white favors were used and each guest had an individual cake lighted while the big cake centered

the table.

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Ragen, Mrs. Robert Kapiinos and Mrs. James Ragen motored to Big Timber Thursday for a day's visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. Schneider and family.

Airman 3/C "Doc" Kieckbusch of Topeka, Kan. arrived in Townsend Sunday to spend a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kieckbusch, and his brothers Don and Larry.

Claud Cartwright and daughter, Sherry, and George Kapinos motored to Dillon Friday for a brief visit. On their return they were accompanied by Mary Ann and Bobby Kapinos, who will visit here for a few days before returning with their parents to their home in Seattle.

Mrs. William Duehr and daughter, Sue, motored to Bozeman Thursday for a day's visit with friends.

1970

Toston Briefs

Jema and Scott Miller and Jema's roommates, Diane Johnston and Sandy Jeff, all students at Rick's College, Rexburg, Idaho were weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Miller and Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Flynn attended the Townsend-Manhattan game at Manhattan Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bieber Jr. and family were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bieber Sr. and family.

Mrs. Gladys Van Vliet and Vicki of Butte and Mr. and Mrs. Murrill Finch and Heather of Helena visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Plummer and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Johnson and Patti, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rauser and family and Steve Berberet were among Toston people attending the Winter Fair in Bozeman Saturday and Sunday.

A birthday party was held in honor of Franklin Slifka Friday evening. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Ken Witman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Slifka, Mrs. Gladys Johnson, Mrs. Jean Johnson, Mrs. Harry Johnson, Mrs. Vera Quinn and Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Cass.

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BCDC Trails Committee Update

Carol Hatfield

BCDC Trails Committee and Chairman of the Broadwater Co. Parks and Rec Board

Broadwater County Development Corporation Trails Committee Launches New Era of Collaboration and Community-Driven Trail Development.

Broadwater County's outdoor recreation network is gaining fresh momentum as the Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC) Trails Committee advances its Trails Vision Plan and begins forging new partnerships across the region. With multiple projects underway and growing support from statewide and regional trail organizations, the committee is positioning Broadwater County as a leader in collaborative, community-driven trail development.

A Vision for a Connected Future

The Trails Vision Plan, adopted after months of public input and mapping work, outlines a long-term strategy to expand and improve trail access throughout the county.

The plan emphasizes connectivity between neighborhoods, public lands, and recreation destinations, while also prioritizing safety, accessibility, and stewardship.

Committee members describe the plan as a "living roadmap" that will guide project development for years to come, ensuring that new trails reflect community priorities and strengthen Broadwater County's outdoor recreation economy.

Front Street Asphalt Trail Improvements Move Forward

One of the first projects to advance under the Vision Plan is the maintenance and improvement of the North Front Street asphalt trail, a heavily used walking and biking route in Townsend. The trail has become a daily fixture for residents of all ages, and resurfacing

and safety upgrades are planned to extend its lifespan and improve accessibility. BCDC has applied for the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Trail Stewardship Grant for funding to get this project started.

The project reflects the Vision Plan's commitment to preserving existing assets while planning for future expansion of the community's paved trail network.

River Paddlers Trail Takes Shape Along the Missouri
Another major initiative is the proposed River Paddlers Trail, which identifies a series of designated access points, interpretive features, and safe launch areas along the Missouri River. The concept has generated strong enthusiasm among paddlers, anglers, and local businesses who see the river as an underutilized recreational corridor.

The project aims to highlight the Missouri River's natural beauty while improving safety and access for boaters, kayakers, canoeists, and paddleboarders. This project is in partnership with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust who oversees a portion of the River Paddlers Trail in Gallatin County with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Regional Partnerships Strengthen Local Capacity

Two important partnerships that the BCDC Trails Committee sought advice from on the Trail Vision Plan are the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLTL) and the Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT). Both groups bring decades of experience in trail planning, land conservation, and community engagement.

Now in a significant step forward, the BCDC Trails Committee has strengthened collaboration efforts with these two respected regional organizations that will help refine the county's trail planning processes, explore new funding opportunities, and learn from successful trail systems in neighboring communities. GVLTL and PPLT have expressed enthusiasm for supporting a

county that is proactively building a long-term vision for recreation and open space.

Pilot Project with the Montana Trails Coalition
Broadwater County will be working with the Montana Trails Coalition as a pilot project, giving the BCDC Trails Committee access to statewide expertise in trail funding, policy, and advocacy. The coalition's support will help the county navigate grant opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and elevate local trail priorities at the state level.

Committee members say the pilot project is a major milestone that will accelerate progress on both current and future trail initiatives.

Community at the Center

As these projects and partnerships move forward, the BCDC Trails Committee emphasizes that community involvement remains essential. Public meetings, volunteer opportunities, and open house events will continue throughout the year as the Trails Vision Plan is implemented.

With new collaborations, active projects, and a clear long-term strategy, Broadwater County is stepping into a new chapter — one where trails, open spaces, and outdoor recreation play a central role in the county's quality of life and future growth.

If you are interested in being a part of the BCDC Trails Committee, please come to the next planned meeting on February 12 at 6 pm at the Lodge in Townsend. We are seeking volunteers with skills and interests in the trails program: marketing, public relations, media, design of logos, signs and posters, or actual trail construction-related work and fundraising activities. Contact Al Christophersen, Trails Committee lead 406-439-0197; John Hahn, BCDC President, 406-202-1050; or Carol Hatfield, Broadwater County Parks and Recreation Board Chair, 406-431-9656.