

East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside

Robotics Team Wins State, Headed to World Robotics Championship



Broadwater Brainiacs celebrate their first-place trophy for winning the state robotics competition. From left to right: Coach Jim Strait, Sky Sellay, Coach Bobbie McCauley, Courtney Webber, Kathryn Six, Everett Kirksey, Andrew Beatty, MSU mascot Champ, Erilyn Strait, Titus Kirksey, Karter Schmaus, Jayden Flynn, Coach Spencer Sellay, Coach Dr. Lisa Brown, mentor Max Sellay, Coach Jessica Crusch, Coach Roger Flynn. (Not pictured: Coach Dr. Adam Six)
Photo Credit: Roger Flynn



Brainiacs team members prepare for their innovation presentation on a new approach to documenting stone features
Photo Credit: Roger Flynn

Roger Flynn

The Broadwater Brainiacs robotics team took first place at the Montana State Robotics Competition on Saturday, Feb. 7, earning the chance to represent Montana at the World Robotics Championship in Houston, Texas, this spring.

The Brainiacs are part of Broadwater Robotics, supported by STOKE, a local nonprofit that provides students with hands-on opportunities to explore STEAM (activities, outdoor adventures and other free educational programs for Townsend youth.

The Brainiacs competed against 35 other teams at the state competition at Montana State University after advancing through one of four qualifying tournaments held across the state. In total, more than 100 teams

competed statewide, and the Brainiacs finished on top with the highest combined score. That score includes robot design, innovation presentation, core values and the robot game itself—meaning the team had to perform well in every part of the competition. It was a high-energy day of judging, robot matches and teamwork, culminating in the awards ceremony.

This year's theme was archaeology, and the Brainiacs' innovation project focused on better ways to document stone features. The team researched real-world challenges, including meeting with professional archaeologists, among them team mentor and archaeologist Jim Strait, and presented ideas on how technology could help preserve and record those important sites.

Team member Andrew Beatty said the moment they realized they had won came as a surprise.

"It was fun, but more like exciting. No one on the

team realized we had done that well until right at the last," he said. He credited their success to "all that hard work, meeting every day and practicing."

Coach Spencer Sellay said the win shows what happens when a youth program grows over time.

"These programs are student-driven. We start them in elementary school with learning and competition. Now those kids have moved up to middle school. This is the first year we have a sustaining program," he said.

Sellay also praised the judging at the state event.

"The judging was outstanding. They were a broad swath of MSU professors—archaeology, computer science and many others with an interest in robotics."

The Broadwater Brainiacs will travel to Houston on April 29 to compete against more than 160 middle school teams from across the United States and around the world.

Applications for Homestead Property Tax Relief Due March 1

MT43 News Reporter

If you own a home or agricultural land or have a long-term rental property, you may apply for tax relief from the Montana Department of Revenue. But you should do it soon; applications are due March 1, 2026.

The application period began December 1, 2025. You must have owned your home and lived in it at least 7 months of 2026. If you own a long-term rental property, that is, if your renter will be living in the house for 7 months of 2026, the property also can qualify for tax relief through the program.

Agricultural parcels of 160 acres or more qualify for the relief, as do forest service lands that are leased. Mobile homes and manufactured homes qualify for tax relief as well and are assessed separately from the land on which they sit.

Your property taxes must be current on the property.

Since the Montana Department of Revenue phone number and website are currently overrun with inquiries, the homeowner's best bet is to apply directly at Broadwater Court House Department of Revenue office, which is in the basement of the courthouse. The office is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. An appointment is not necessary. Application forms may be obtained there and turned in there.

Historic White Cottonwoods Removed in Heritage Park

Patrick Plantenberg
Tree Board Chair



On February 3 and 5, two old white cottonwoods were removed in Heritage Park by the Townsend Tree Board and the City of Townsend Public Works crew. People have been asking why they needed to be taken down. The Tree Board removed two other white cottonwoods in the Heritage Park playground three years ago and left the stumps standing to be carved into wooden sculptures. They will hopefully be carved this spring.

Cottonwoods are not desirable trees in a park setting because of their tendency to break in snow and windstorms. The Tree Board has been wanting to remove the cottonwoods in the park ever since a cottonwood failed in a city park in Billings and a person was seriously injured. The city of Billings was sued, and luckily, they had documented their actions taken to prune and care for the tree over the years. As a result, the lawsuit was settled for much less than the original claim.

The Tree Board inspects city park trees after every wind and storm event to look for broken and fallen branches. The white cottonwoods in the park have been pruned several times over the last 20 years. The white cottonwoods had several dead limbs removed last fall before Fall Fest. One of the trees taken down

was showing some rot in the center of the tree.

Just how old were the trees? The Tree Board asked a couple of Forest Service employees to look at the stumps and give us an estimate of their age. The best one could determine is that they were planted after the Broadwater County Courthouse was built and after the Rotary Club was established in Townsend. They were not as old as a resident who lives on McMaster Hill. They were probably planted after the "Big One" - WWII. They were certainly planted before the Tree Board was established.

New trees have been planted nearby to replace the two trees removed and two more trees will be planted this spring to replace them over time. If you have any questions, please call Patrick Plantenberg, Tree Board Chair, at 406-431-4615.

Water Your Trees

Tree Board

The weather is DRY!
Please water your trees,
especially the Evergreens.



BLM, USDA Forest Service Announce 2026 Grazing Fees

Brittany E. Jones
Chief of Communications - Department of the Interior

The federal grazing fee for 2026, as calculated by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, is \$1.69 per animal unit month for lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

An animal unit month or head month — treated as equivalent measures for fee purposes — is the use of public lands by one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The newly calculated grazing fee takes effect March 1, 2026. The fee will apply to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by BLM and nearly 5,550 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The formula used for calculating the grazing fee was established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act and has remained in use under a 1986

presidential Executive Order. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per animal unit month/head month, and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25% of the previous year's level.

The annually determined grazing fee is established using a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per animal unit month/head month for livestock grazing on public lands in Western states. The figure is then calculated according to three factors: current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. In effect, the fee rises, falls, or stays the same based on market conditions.

BLM and the Forest Service are committed to strong relationships with the ranching community and work closely with permittees to ensure public rangelands remain healthy, productive working landscapes. The grazing fee applies in 16 Western states on public lands administered by BLM and the Forest Service.

Permit holders and lessees may contact their local BLM or Forest Service office for additional information.

PLAYERS of the WEEK



Girls Basketball: Kaitlyn Noyes
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Basketball: Rylan Hoveland
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Wrestling: Gavin Schmele
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Boys Basketball Statistics

Clint Watson

TOWNSEND GOES TO LONE PEAK

Townsend- 8 18 17 20: 63
Lone Peak- 8 11 7 27: 53
Lead Scorers- Tannen Tuffelmire-19, Rylan Hoveland-11, Tavyn Anderson-10, Heston Vandenaere-9, Trenton Hoveland-6, Trace Giomi-6, Colby Flynn-2
Rebounders- Trace Giomi-9, Trenton Hoveland-6, Tannen Tuffelmire-6, Heston Vandenaere-5, Colby Flynn-4, Rylan Hoveland-4, Tavyn Anderson-3, Bryce Lessely-1
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-5, Trenton Hoveland-4, Rylan Hoveland-3, Trace Giomi-2, Colby Flynn-1, Bryce Lessely
Steals- Tavyn Anderson-5, Rylan Hoveland-4, Trenton Hoveland-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1, Heston Vandenaere-1
Deflections- Trace Giomi-3, Rylan Hoveland-3, Tavyn Anderson-3, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Heston Vandenaere-2, Trenton Hoveland-1
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 18/38 47.4% 3pts- 7/14 50.0%
Lone Peak Shots- 2pts- 13/28 46.4% 3pts- 7/30 23.3%
Townsend Free Throws- 6/15 40.0%
Lone Peak Free Throws- 6/7 85.7
Townsend Turnovers- 23
Lone Peak Turnovers- 22

Coach's Thoughts:

The Lone Peak Bighorns gave us quite a bit of trouble with their 1-2-2 press. It's a good thing that we started making a lot of shots. At one point, we were shooting a little over 60% from the three-point line. We saw some good things from most of the players at some point during the game, but especially Rylan Hoveland and Tavyn up top on the zone, combining for 9 steals. Tannen had a nice game with 19 points and 6 rebounds. Heston Vandenaere got into the action with three three-pointers and 5 rebounds. Tavyn Anderson and Trenton Hoveland combined for 9 assists as they made great passes. Our next games this week will be hosting the Jefferson Panthers on Thursday and then we will host the Ennis Mustangs on Saturday.

TOWNSEND SUFFERS LOSS TO MANHATTAN

Townsend- 13 11 15 12: 51
Manhattan- 20 18 11 14: 63
Lead Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-22, Tannen Tuffelmire-11, Trace Giomi-9; Rylan Hoveland-4, Trenton Hoveland-3, Dallas Fligge-2
Rebounders- Tannen Tuffelmire-5, Tavyn Anderson-4, Trace Giomi-4; Trenton Hoveland-3; Rylan Hoveland-2, Bryce Lessely-1
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-3, Trenton Hoveland-1, Rylan Hoveland-1, Trace Giomi-1
Steals- Trace Giomi-7; Tavyn Anderson-2, Rylan Hoveland-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-2; Trenton Hoveland-1, Heston Vandenaere-1
Deflections- Trace Giomi-4, Rylan Hoveland-2, Tavyn Anderson-5, Tannen Tuffelmire-4, Trenton Hoveland-2
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 16/34 47.1% 3pts-3/18 16.7%
Manhattan Shots- 2pts- 12/27 44.4% 3pts- 12/27 44.4%
Townsend Free Throws-10/19 52.6%
Manhattan Free Throws- 3/5 60%
Townsend Turnovers-16
Manhattan Turnovers-20

Coach's Thoughts:

We let the Tigers get an early jump on us with a Technical Foul and a three-point make to start the game. It turns out that the Referees don't think you should dunk the ball during warmups! We were down 14 points at halftime and just couldn't gain back the difference as Manhattan hit 12 of 27 from behind the arc during this game. There were a few bright spots in the game, however, as we saw a great shooting night for Tavyn Anderson with his 22 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists. Our guys really tried to get stops and get back on top with Trace's 7 steals and 4 deflections. Tavyn and Tannen combined for 9 steals as well. We got outlasted more times than I care to mention, so that will be a thing to get better at: transition defense.

Bulldog Basketball vs Manhattan and Lone Peak



Ryan Hoveland
Kelly Morris Photography



Trent Hoveland
Kelly Morris Photography

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



BULLDOGS TRAVEL TO MANHATTAN

On Thursday, February 5th, the Bulldogs basketball teams travelled to Manhattan to play the Tigers in a conference matchup. Last time they met up, the varsity girls beat the Tigers, and the varsity boys lost in a close game.

The C squad boys' game started the day off, and the Bulldogs lost 47-60. The Junior Varsity boys had an exciting game and finished above the Tigers, winning 53-52. Heston Vandenaere led the Bulldogs with 20 points, and Rylan Hoveland scored 10 points. The C squad boys team and Junior Varsity boys have 3 games left this year, February 12th, 14th, and 20th. After that, their season will be finished.

The Varsity boys' game was also an exciting game, but the Bulldogs lost 51-63. Tavyn Anderson led the Bulldogs, scoring 20 points. Tannen Tuffelmire scored 11 points, and Trace Giomi scored 7 points. Trace Giomi also helped the Bulldogs with 7 steals and 2 offensive rebounds.

The C squad girls played a half game and lost to the Tigers 12-14. Ella Toney led the Bulldogs by scoring 10 points, and Hannah Hildreth had the other 2.

The Junior Varsity girls also fell short, losing their

game 31-50. Ella Toney scored 11 points, Kymber McCartney scored 9 points, and Tevyn Newman scored 6 points.

The Varsity girls' game was a roller coaster. The Bulldogs and Tigers exchanged leads throughout the game, but the Tigers ultimately ended up winning 62-58. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs with 27 points, and Bryleigh Erickson had 10 points.

BULLDOGS FIND SUCCESS AGAINST LONE PEAK

On Saturday, February 7th, the Bulldogs varsity teams travelled to Big Sky to play the Lone Peak Bighorns. These were conference matchups, and both teams hoped to win their game in preparation for the district tournament soon.

The Bulldogs ended up winning the girls' varsity game 63-51. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs, scoring 17 points. Emmalin Fischer followed with 16 points, and Bryleigh Erickson had 13 points.

The boys' game was an exciting win for the Bulldogs: 63 - 53. Tannen Tuffelmire scored 19 points to lead the Bulldogs, and Rylan Hoveland scored 11 points and had 3 steals. Tavyn Anderson scored 10 points and had 5 rebounds.

Next, the Bulldogs will host the Jefferson Panthers on February 12th and the Ennis Mustangs on February 14th. Both games are conference matchups and will help determine the rankings for the district tournament at the end of February.



Janet Garcia and Emmalin Fischer
Kelly Morris Photography



Bryleigh Erickson
Kelly Morris Photography

"Where You're a Neighbor Not a Number!"
HERITAGE
Food Store
Serving the community for 50 Years!

Class up your Valentine's Day with steak, wine and more from your local grocer!



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FFA January Report

Gavin Schmele
Broadwater FFA Reporter



January 13, 2026, Officer Meeting:
The Officer's white elephant gift exchange happened after business was discussed

January 19, 2026, Spring Districts:
Winter Districts were held in Dillon on the 19th. The Sales, Horse, and Parliamentary Procedure teams all competed and all qualified for state. The Parli team took 1st, the Sales team took 2nd, and the Horse team took 3rd.

Sales Team - Aiden Kitto, Rigo Delgado, Jakob Rainey, Alex Kitto

Horse Team - Gavin Schmele, Alexis Fryer, Emma Delgado, Sawyer Harrigfeld

Parliamentary Procedure Team - Kaitlyn Noyes, Ashley Sanderson, Emma Delgado, Lexi Davies, Cheyanne Douglas, Abigail McCauley

January 20, 2026, Chapter Meeting:
The Chapter meeting was held in the Ag Ed room at lunch. 25 people were in attendance and lunch was pulled pork provided by the alumni.

January 20-21, 2026, KMON:
On the 20th, the Sales team competed in Cascade. On the 21st, the Agronomy and Livestock teams competed in Great Falls with the awards taking place after Livestock had concluded. The Sales team took 8th overall and the Agronomy team took 2nd.

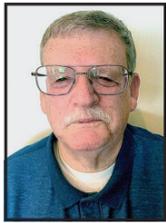
Agronomy Team - Aiden Kitto, Spencer Braaten, Lexi Davies, Gavin Schmele

Livestock Team - Spencer Braaten, Cheyanne Douglas, Abigail McCauley, Makenzie Truesdell



AI Hallucinations

Victor Sample



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

What do they actually mean?

Next up is actually my favorite: AI Hallucinations! Hallucinations have been a great source of amusement for me, and I have written about several of the hallucinations I have encountered.

How can software hallucinate? Let's explore that concept.

NEXT UP: AI HALLUCINATIONS

From Microsoft Copilot: "An AI hallucination is when a generative model (like a large language model or image generator):

- Produces content that is factually incorrect, logically inconsistent, or entirely fabricated

- Presents that content with high confidence and fluency, making it hard to detect.

This can include:

- Invented quotes or citations
- Nonexistent legal cases or scientific studies
- Imaginary people, places, or events
- Incorrect math or logic presented as truth

WOW! That sounds pretty scary. As it turns out, it is very scary!

I once wrote about my interaction with ChatGPT (the first publicly available AI product) regarding Gary Cooper and whether he was a native Montanan. Despite admitting that Cooper was born in Helena and graduated from Helena High School and that Helena is indeed in Montana, ChatGPT refused to recognize that he was a native of Montana. ChatGPT even admitted that both the Merriam Webster and Cambridge dictionaries define native as where someone was born, but would not concede that Cooper was a Montana native.

In researching the failure, the hallucination is common and is related to confusing actual criteria with cultural criteria. The fact that Cooper spent 3 years in school in England led ChatGPT to the conclusion he was not a native of Montana. AI does not recognize facts or have judgment; it relies on statistical probability.

In another case I wrote about, after Montana State University won the FCS national championship in January, I asked Copilot how many times MSU had played in the championship game since 2020; Copilot answered twice. I already knew that was incorrect. I

did eventually get the correct answer, but it took a lot of effort. When I asked Copilot why the failure, the answer was a temporal issue. The event was too recent. Copilot said "modern systems" avoid that issue by doing searches. This event occurred weeks ago, not years ago; "modern systems" seems like a strange distinction.

My other encounter with hallucinations is the scariest. After the state announced which companies were awarded Federal Bead money to provide statewide high-speed internet access, I asked if anyone had been awarded Bead money to provide fiber cable to the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake. The answer was yes; Montana Internet Corporation had been awarded Bead money to provide fiber cable to the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake. Copilot even cited the Broadwater County Broadband Board as the source of the information.

Since I am the chairman of the Broadwater County Broadband Board, I knew that the answer was totally wrong. After many questions, Copilot admitted that the original answer was not based on fact and that there is actually no evidence that Bead money was awarded to provide fiber cable on the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake.

Today, I asked Copilot about that incident. The answer is that AI Engines do not answer based on facts; they answer based on the highest probability word or phrase. The statistical probabilities led Copilot to answer that Montana Internet was awarded money to run the fiber cable. Copilot even admitted that many times AI Engines will FABRICATE sources that sound authoritative, like the Broadwater County Broadband Board.

AI Engines do not deal in facts; AI Engines do not have common sense; AI Engines do not exercise judgment (good or bad). When prompted with a question, the Engines use the probability of the next word or phrase to answer.

A book on AI gave this as an example of an AI hallucination:

An AI engine is trained on documents up until 2022; after that, it receives no new information to incorporate into its statistical probabilities. When asked who won the 2023 World Cricket championship, it very confidently gave the wrong answer. It named two past champions – neither of whom played in the 2023 championship match.

AI does not know facts; AI does not know what it does not know. When prompted, AI will always answer (unless very human guardrails prevent the question from being asked) because they just look at the statistical probabilities rather than facts.

When answering the Cricket Championship question, AI determined from the past results that the two teams it mentioned were the champions!

AI is being incorporated into everything; sometimes you might know, many times you will not. AI Hallucinations are real; the answers given might be correct – they might be a hallucination.

That is scary!

Townsend Council Approves Budget Amendments, Backs Sheriff Grant and Expands Tree-Watering Contract

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



TOWNSEND — The Townsend City Council on Feb. 3 approved a set of budget amendments, signed off on a letter supporting a sheriff's office grant request, and voted to make the city's tree-watering contract year-round as officials discussed infrastructure needs and upcoming street work.

The meeting opened with a public hearing on budget amendments. City officials said appropriations needed to be increased in the comprehensive insurance fund and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) fund to accommodate final cash transfers into the general fund.

Council approved increases of \$18,731.90 for the comprehensive insurance fund and \$13,463.05 for the PERS fund. A third amendment increased the general fund by \$30,000 for legal services. No public comment was offered during the hearing.

Council also approved minutes from its Jan. 20 meeting and noted Councilman Peter Simon was ill and absent.

Andrea Dabley addressed the council on behalf of a small group participating in the Big Sky Leadership Program through the MSU Extension Office. Dabley said the statewide program requires participants to complete a community service project and that the group is in the early idea stage and not requesting city funding.

Dabley outlined four potential volunteer concepts — "adopt a park," "adopt a trail," "adopt a garden," and "adopt a wall" — and asked where help would be most useful.

Public Works Director Eric Crusch said the small flower garden in Memorial Park could use additional attention. He said the local gardening club historically helped maintain it, but participation has declined. Crusch also suggested curb maintenance as another need, noting overgrown grass along curbs can contribute to long-term damage.

Crusch told the group that projects should be coordinated on a case-by-case basis with public works, and council members emphasized that volunteers should check in before starting work.

Council next reviewed a draft letter of support for the Broadwater County Sheriff's Office as it applies to the Broadwater County Trust Board for Panasonic Toughbook laptops for on-duty deputies.

The letter states the equipment would improve communication between deputies in the field and the Broadwater County 911 dispatch center, strengthening emergency response and public safety in rural and recreation-heavy parts of the county.

Undersheriff Wood told council the current computers were purchased about eight years ago and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11, requiring replacement at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Wood said Rotary and the Trust Board have already contributed funding. Mayor Vickie Rauser asked if there was any objection to her signing the letter; none was raised.

Council then turned to a contract change requested by Patrick Plantenberg, chair of the Tree Board. Plantenberg said recent warm winters have created conditions where trees may need watering in December and January — something he said was uncommon in past years.

The existing contract runs from March through mid-November. City staff reported \$5,872 remaining in the irrigation budget, a cash balance of \$24,053 in the Urban Forestry Fund, and \$12,000 remaining for tree purchases.

Council clarified that watering is not paid through water bills and that the Tree Board receives \$10,000 annually from the general fund for watering. Plantenberg said the contractor submits monthly hour reports to the city clerk.

Council voted to amend the contract language so the contractor can provide services annually as deemed necessary by the Tree Board, with automatic one-year renewals.

Crusch provided a public works update, including the replacement of a failed lagoon blower at a cost of about \$18,000. He said the equipment was about seven years old and that manufacturers recommend replacement between seven and 10 years. Council discussed rotating replacement of the remaining two blowers over time.

Crusch also flagged uncertainty around future PFAS testing requirements and potential wastewater treatment upgrades, saying shifting standards make long-term planning difficult. Council asked for a three-to-five-year outlook on capital needs.

On street maintenance, Crusch said he contacted three contractors for chip sealing this spring and summer and recommended work on the 100 block of North Cherry, the 100 block of South Cedar, and Pine Street from D Street to Fourth Street.

Crusch reported that several large cottonwood trees are being removed in Heritage Park due to rot and falling limb risk, and another was removed in McCarthy Park because structural cracks posed a hazard. He said replacement trees are planned.

The mayor also read a report from Fire Chief Shawn Simon, who is working to move the department's reporting system to ESO, reviewed emergency access to a new building site, and said recruit firefighter classes have started with three new city recruits expected.

GUEST EDITORIAL

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

Roundabouts Would Make HWY 287 Safer

I recently finished reading the second of two articles in MT43News about the dangers on Highway 287. In both articles, there was no mention of roundabouts, which are implemented for safety and speed reduction.

Before moving here from Minnesota 25 years ago, I was exposed to the proposal and implementation of a roundabout. The civil engineer involved faced several negative comments at public hearings, but implementation resulted in an elimination of serious accidents requiring an ambulance. The city now has several.

In my travels, I have also seen roundabouts used on highways. On a 15-mile stretch of four lanes in Arizona, there are seven roundabouts at current and future development

crossings, slowing the speed of traffic and allowing safe entry from side roads.

I understand there may be those opposed to a roundabout or other traffic control feature, one at the Silos and one at Winston, but I find it hard to argue with the fact that serious injuries or deaths could have been prevented had there been a roundabout or other traffic control feature present.

In closing, I am in support of the pursuit of grant funding to help reduce the dangers on Highway 287 between Townsend and East Helena.

Sincerely,

Ron Salladay
Townsend

Townsend School & Sports

FEBRUARY



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

Monday 16
 • FFA District Career Development Event
 • 3:30 pm: Middle School Wrestling @ Butte East

Mon 16 - Thu 19
 • 11:45 am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL

Tuesday 17
 • 9:30 am: Special Ed Testing - community room
 • 4:30 pm: K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday 18
 • 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps
 • 8:30 am: Special Ed Testing

Thursday 19
 • Q3 Midterms
 • 8:30 am: Student Council District Meeting at East Helena
 • 6:00 pm: Family Connection Game Night - K8 Commons

Thu 19 - Sat 21
 • State High School Wrestling - Billings

Friday 20
 • **NO SCHOOL**
 • 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Big Timber (Senior Night)

Saturday 21
 • Little Guy Wrestling - 63 Gym

Sat 21 - Sun 22
 • 8:00 am: EMT Class - K8 Commons

East Helena Schools & Sports

FEBRUARY

Monday 16
 • 5:00 pm: **NO SCHOOL** - Presidents Day
 • 6:30 pm: Booster Club Meeting at EHHS

Wednesday 18
 • 3:00 pm: Parent Teacher Conferences - EHHS

Thursday 19
 • 3:00 pm: Parent Teacher Conferences - EHHS
 • 6:00pm: 6th Grade Band and Choir Concert

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



Tuesday 17
 • 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
 • 6:00 am: Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Wednesday 18
 • 10:00 am: **NO Commission Meeting**

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
 Photo Provided

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

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS



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

Andrea Eckerson
 Branch Manager

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

FEBRUARY

Monday 16
 • **CLOSED** for Presidents' Day

Tue 17 & Wed 18
 • All Day: Craft Swap **Drop Off**

Wednesday 18
 • 8:30 am: One Book Montana Coffee and Talk at Galaxy Roasting

Thu 19 - Sat 21
 • All Day: Craft Swap **Pick Up**

Friday 20
 • 3:00 pm: Matinee Movie and Craft Event

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS & RECORDERS



\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE.

The Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders is again sponsoring two scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 for graduating seniors planning to attend an IN-STATE SCHOOL. The last day of application acceptance is March 13, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Application forms are available at the Clerk and Recorder's office at the courthouse in Townsend, the Guidance Counselors at Three Forks High School, or Townsend High School.

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk and Recorder's office located at the Broadwater County courthouse by Friday, March 14, 2025. Applications will be judged based on scholarship, need, school and civic involvement. The two winners and alternates will be notified after May 1, 2025, and the scholarship will be given directly to the school of the student's choice after the school has accepted the student. /s/ ANGIE PAULSEN BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644 apaulsen@broadwatercountymt.gov

BROADWATER COUNTY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

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
 • 1:00 pm: Townsend Cat Rescue Bake & Craft Sale at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee

Saturday 14
 • 5:00 pm: 2026 STROKE Valentine Fundraiser at The Lodge of Townsend
 • 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Tuesday 17
 • 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 18
 • 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 • 7:00 pm: Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting at Townsend Fire Station, 130 So Cedar St **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 • 7:30 pm: **FREE** Simple Gospel Story: 108 N. Front Street at 108 N. Front Street

Thursday 19
 • Townsend Crimson Red Hat Ladies Lunch, the 3rd Thursday- Contact Sandy for information 406-949-0081
 • 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 • 6:00 PM: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
 • 6:00 pm: Townsend Chamber of Commerce Meeting at The Mint **AD ON THIS PAGE**
 • 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 20
 • 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 21
 • 5:00 pm: 2026 Annual AG Appreciation Day at Watson's Event Center **TICKET INFO ON PAGE 10**
 • 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945



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

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

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

Monthly Chamber Meeting



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

A Helping Hand

Do you need assistance with travel to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, light housekeeping?
 Monthly charge. Call Brandie at (406) 980-1937 or email brandie.reichman@yahoo.com

WANTED

I want to buy a Home, Lot, Parcel or Acreage in the vicinity of Highway 284 East of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.
 Could buy outright, trade for what I have, or will consider other options.
 Call Dick at 406-581-5635. Please leave message if no answer.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Montana Public Service Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$38.50 per month, and business services are \$52.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Support LOCAL Businesses

RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

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

CryptoQuip

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

COEHOEMQK YVEY E TKOGRGK
QWGTEML NMYKMJKJ YW
QETYROK YVK FKOL EOWGE
WC TEOEJNBK: VKEFKM-BQKMY.

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KNIGHT MOVES

A	A	E
L		C
D	S	O

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!

King: HICLAP
Inset: ALIYN
Weight: REDBUN
Feint: ODDEG

TODAY'S WORD: _____

"First they fill you with chicken, then _____"

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

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

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 Relatives of pistachios
8 Mail-related
14 Baio and Turov
20 Wife of Nero
21 Fingers-in-ears syllables
22 Headwear for Mr. Peanut
23 Golden State hoopster who lives for Saturdays and Sundays?
25 Existence
26 Days of yore, archaically
27 Ruling group
28 Schleppe through the entrance
30 Ballesteros of golf
33 Groom, e.g.
35 Exemplary Houston hoopster?
38 San Antonio hoopster scaling a mountain?
42 Suffix with lion
43 Guy in the fam
44 High peak
45 Heavily
46 Health club
48 Gyro bread
49 Semi fuel
51 Cowardly Denver hoopster?
55 "Mom"
58 Start eating
59 Org. against pollution
60 Redding of R&B
61 Event for stunt pilots
64 — -Z (total)
65 Foot part
68 Brooklyn hoopster using a rod and reel?
71 Phoenix hoopster preparing a typeface for printing?
74 Frau's "Oh!"
75 Girl in the fam
76 Name originally proposed for Utah
78 Gas guzzler
79 Reindeer kin
80 Notion, to Fifi
81 Damsels
84 Los Angeles hoopster originally from New England?
90 Train in the pool
92 All excited
93 Mtn. stat
94 Tested for fit
97 "— culpa!"
98 "Stillmatic" rapper
99 Footed vase
101 Sacramento hoopster holding power?
103 Eco-conscious Charlotte hoopster?
107 Livy's lang.
108 Words in an analogy
109 Some nobles' domains
110 Jamaican pop genre
112 Baby wolf
114 Justification
116 Chicago hoopster devoid of spontaneity and emotion?
122 Sock with diamond patterns
123 "Seinfeld" character
124 Shrunken Asian lake
125 Some vowel sounds
126 Phrase structure
127 Lower than
DOWN
1 Mooring beast
2 High card
3 Fr. holy woman
4 Olajuwon of the NBA
5 Daredevil Knievel
6 Power sources with spinning sails
7 Tearful
8 Strategize
9 Rowers' tools
10 35mm camera inits.
11 Alteration pro
12 Not silently
13 Huge
14 Directs
15 Buyable apartments
16 Vision-related
17 Have high aspirations
18 Bit of ink art
19 Pigeon
24 Flying needs
29 Collect bit by bit
30 Cousin of a jack mackerel
31 Oval-shaped
32 Spiteful
34 Even one
35 Capital of Bavaria
36 One-named Deco master
37 Exactly
39 Pollen eaters
40 "Get 'em, Spott!"
41 Syllable after "oom"
46 Broiling bar
47 Church seat
48 Club swingers' gp.
50 Meeting period, informally
52 Picked
53 — pot (sinus-cleaning product)
54 "Once — a time ..."
56 Dillydallies
57 Dark half of a Chinese circle
60 Birds — feather aggregation website
62 News
63 Precipitous
64 "— girl"
65 Giant waves
66 Paid more than
67 Musician Brian
69 Capri, e.g.
70 Adidas rival
72 Pro —
73 Celtic speaker
77 Piece for seven
79 Heart test, for short
80 Ailing
82 Apathetic response
83 Ding- —
84 Light half of a Chinese circle
85 Lab gelatin
86 Horse feed holders
87 Body of rules
88 Verdi's "— tu"
89 Fix illegally
91 Pudding starch
95 China's Zhou
96 Day, in Peru
99 Open, as a new rug
100 Some French wines
101 Make a new digital image of
102 Dry dog food
104 Class that's a cinch
105 "Blue" singer LeAnn
106 Hockey great Cam
110 Capital of Yemen
111 Lego alternative
113 — Bator
114 Jogged, e.g.
115 History unit
117 Smack
118 Taxi
119 D.C.'s nation
120 Tennis call
121 "— -di-dah!"

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 Name Change of Kylie Elizabeth Larsen:

Kylie Elizabeth Larsen, Petitioner

Case No.: CDV-2026-13

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) Kylie Elizabeth Larsen

To (name you want) Kylie Jaymes Hamilton

The hearing will be on (date) 03/20/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM

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

Filed Date 02/02/26

Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court

By Desiree Taves, Deputy Clerk of Court

Published February 13, 20, 27 and March 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 DEVICES 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 DEVICES 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

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

HAZEL BERNICE HERRICK, Deceased.

Probate No. DDP-26-03

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated February 13, 2026.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC

Attorney for Personal Representative

Published February 13, 20 and 27, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

OF VINCENT JEX HUNSAKER, Deceased.

Probate No. DP 4-26-2

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JEX HUNSAKER has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said 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 be mailed to JEX HUNSAKER, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Swandal Law PLLC, 305 E. Lewis Street, Livingston, Montana 59047, and filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

DATED this 4th day of February, 2026.

SWANDAL LAW PLLC, REBECCA R. SWANDAL

Published February 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 2026

MNAXLP

Justice Court Report

Samuel Anagnostou

Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Haidyn G. Steele – Manhattan – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Julie M. Simonsen – Winston – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Andrew D. Russell – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Rayce M. Cloninger – Belgrade – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Joseph N. Cox – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Jason H. England – East Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

- Operate a vehicle which has not been properly registered – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Christian O. Flores Matamoros – Belgrade – Unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle on highway – paid fines - \$75 fines & fees

Amanda U. George – East Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Jacob P. Horton – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Raven L. Kennedy – Belgrade – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Benjamin T. Schrempp – Belgrade – Speeding on Interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$40 fines & fees

Justin W. Spengler – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines \$70 fines & fees

Tyrus A. Torgerson – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Theodore W. Wells – Bozeman – Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - \$55 fines & fees

Daniel A. Sanchez XIX – Toston - speeding on national 4 lane exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Justice Court, 7



Court Terms and Friday 6 Session

Valerie Hornsveld

MT43 News Reporter



Good day! Before I start with our weekly Court news, I would like to take a couple of minutes to explain a little about the filing of a Criminal Case and how the hearings are set and what they mean.

Broadwater County shares 4 Judges with Lewis and Clark County and together we make up the First Judicial District Court of Montana. Each of our judges has an assigned letter and week in which they preside over our Law and Motion Hearings on Friday. The Honorable Mike Menahan, his letter assignment is A, and he has the first week of the month for his trials, Law and Motion Hearings. The Honorable Mike McMahon has the letter B, and he has the second week for his trials and Law and Motion Hearings. The Honorable Kathy Seeley has the letter C and has the third week for her trials and Law and Motion hearings. The Honorable Christopher Abbott has the letter D and has the fourth week for his trials, and Law and Motion Hearings.

To start a Criminal Filing, the County Attorney files a Motion to file Information with the Clerk of the District Court's office. The Clerk's office files the motion and the computer assigns the Judge for the case. The Clerk then sends the Motion to file to the assigned judge for review and signature. Once the Judge has signed the motion, it is sent back to the clerk's office for the Information to be filed and the case is now ready for hearings to be set.

The first hearing to be set is the Initial Hearing. At this Hearing, the defendants meet with the Judge. The Judge explains the Charges and possible punishment to the Defendant.

The second hearing is the Arraignment. This is the time for the defendant to plead Guilty or Not Guilty to the Charges. Dates for future hearings are set at this time. Sometimes the Arraignment hearing is held at the same time as the Initial Hearing.

The third hearing is Omnibus. This hearing is only held if there has not been an Omnibus Memorandum filed into the case. The Omnibus hearing or Memorandum addresses anything needing discussed before the Pretrial.

The fourth hearing is the Pre-trial. The Pre-trial is the final hearing before the trial. The Judge provides final instructions to the attorneys of what is needed for the trial.

The last hearing is the Jury trial. This hearing is held before a Jury. Evidence is provided by the parties. After the evidence, the Jury will deliberate and come back with a Verdict.

More Court terms next week.

Friday, February 6, 2026, Judge Michael Menahan DDC-26-08- Timothy Earl Denton and DDC-26-09- Rebecca Sue Swanton. These are Companion cases, so their Initial Hearings were held at the same time.

The parties both have three of the same charges and possible punishments:

Count I: Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, a felony, the Defendants purposely or knowingly possessed a dangerous drug, methamphetamine. Possible Penalty: This offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5000 and a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

Count II: Criminal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a misdemeanor, the Defendants Purposely or knowingly possessed with intent to use drug paraphernalia, a glass pipe, to ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a dangerous drug. Possible Penalty: This offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 and a term of imprisonment not to exceed 6 months.

Count III: Endangering Welfare of Children, a felony, the Defendants knowingly caused a child to be exposed to or have contact with methamphetamine, or be exposed to or have contact with methamphetamine paraphernalia, in the residence of the child, or in a structure or outdoor location where the child might reasonably be expected to be present. Possible Penalty: This offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 and a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

The Parties were prepared to go to the Arraignment Hearing. The Defendants both plead Not Guilty to the charges. The Court set dates for the other hearings before the Honorable Chris Abbott.

BDC-25-24 Dennis Michael Hinchey appeared in Court on a Bench Warrant issued for failure to appear for a final pretrial. The Court had the hearings rescheduled for the Pretrial and Jury trial before the Honorable Mike McMahon, the defendant was released. Defendant was instructed to show up for the pre-trial and trial.

Defendant was released with all previous conditions of Bond in effect.

ADC-26-3—Molly Marie Gardener appeared in Court for her Arraignment. The defendant plead Not Guilty to Count 1-Assault with Weapon and Count II-Kidnapping. The Court set dates for the Omnibus, Pretrial and trial before the Honorable Mike Menahan.

Justice Court, 6

- Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees
- Unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle on highway – paid fines - \$75 fines
- Katie A. Abramowski – Yelm, WA – Operating without liability insurance in effect [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees
- Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – plead guilty - &70 fines & fees
- Mark W. Thompson – Bozeman – Operating without liability insurance in effect [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines
- Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – plead guilty - \$70 fines
- Austin P. Eidum – East Helena – Seatbelt Violation – plead guilty - \$20 fines
- Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – plead guilty - \$85 fines
- Fail to carry proof or exhibit insurance in vehicle – owner/operator [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines
- Seatbelt violation – plead guilty - \$20 fines

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

- Christopher G. Byles – Wrightston, NJ – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines. Deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six (6) months.
- Cody M. Wiggins – Yampa, CO – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines. Deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six (6) months.
- Aiden A. George – Steamboat Springs, CO - Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting [1st] – plead guilty - \$285 fines. Deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six (6) months.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

- Lynn D. George – St. Billings – speeding – exceed restricted/special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - \$55 fines
- Lonnie L. Stewart – Townsend – Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked [2nd] – plead guilty - \$135 fines
- Kaydnce S. M. Synness – Helena – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – plead guilty - \$75 fines
- Operating without liability insurance in effect [1st] – plead guilty – plead guilty - \$285 fines
- Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – plead guilty - \$70 fines
- Dominick S. Davenport – Townsend – Operating without liability insurance in effect [4th] – plead guilty - \$525 fines. Sentenced to ten (10) days in Broadwater County Jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior.
- Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked [2nd] – plead guilty - \$85 fines. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution suspended for six (6) months with good behavior.

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.

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners

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

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

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

No Commission Meeting

The Commissioners are attending a MACo Conference February 16th – 18th.

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
richtmyer@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

- 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 23rd at 5:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on February 24th at 11:30 AM
- Trust Board Meeting on March 10th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on March 10th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on March 10th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on March 12th at 5:15 PM

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

Americanisms



“We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves.”
– Henry Ward Beecher

Bridge Work, Election Deadlines and Treasury Reconciliation Lead Broadwater County Commissioners' Meeting

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



TOWNSEND — Broadwater County commissioners on Wednesday heard updates ranging from election filing deadlines and bridge work on Oldtown Road to a continuing effort to bring the county treasurer’s books back into balance — a step county officials said is necessary to prevent the state from withholding certain funding.
County Elections Administrator Angie Paulsen opened public comment with a reminder that candidate filing for Townsend School Board trustee seats closes at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. Paulsen said three positions are open: two three-year terms and one one-year term. As of the meeting, Judy Gillespie had filed for the one-year term.
Paulsen also noted the next candidate filing window — for county seats — opens Feb. 17 and runs through March 4.
During public comment, Steve Kurk of Oldtown Road in Three Forks thanked the county and commissioners for their involvement in replacing bridges on Oldtown Road. Kurk said the bridges are complete and crews are finishing riprap work along the river and road work. He contrasted the nearly five-year timeline for the Oldtown project with a separate bridge at Bear Canyon that, according to a news report he cited, was removed and is expected to be repaired by April.

Commissioners also approved an agreement requested by County Attorney Kevin Bratcher to contract with Salo Law PLLC for assistance with a backlog of “requests for prosecution,” or cases where a crime report is made but a suspect is not immediately arrested. Bratcher said the contracted attorney, Jordan Salo, has prosecution experience in Gallatin County and with the Montana Department of Justice.

Under the agreement, Bratcher said Salo would review reports, draft charging documents, request additional

investigation when needed, or decline charges when evidence is insufficient. Bratcher and his deputy would continue handling court prosecution. Bratcher said the rate is \$100 per hour and the work would continue as needed until the backlog is reduced.

Later, commissioners tabled a Copelands family transfer exemption request to the Feb. 11 meeting. Community Development Director Nichole Brown told commissioners the request should be treated as a new exemption filing after a previous version was withdrawn in December. Brown said the affidavit form being used comes from the Montana Attorney General’s Office and is now the standard form for family transfers.

Resident Chuck Hahn raised concerns that county subdivision regulations require an application in addition to an affidavit and said commissioners must use the criteria in those regulations to approve or deny the exemption.

Treasurer Melissa Franks provided an update on the county’s cash reconciliation work after a letter from the Department of Administration’s Local Government Services warned of possible withholding of certain state funding. Franks said she is working through January’s numbers with help from Nancy at the Montana Association of Counties and guidance from the county’s auditor, with a goal of showing three consecutive months balanced.

County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki said audit findings in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 flagged cash control issues and that the amount the county was “off” increased over time. Jarocki said the county is currently off by about \$170,000 and is working to reduce that discrepancy and balance “on the nose” for three straight months to satisfy Local Government Services.

Commissioners also approved claims totaling \$835,374.69, \$43,958.59 and \$82,081.50. Officials said the largest set of claims largely reflected Oldtown Bridge expenses covered by grant funds.

Commissioners reminded the public that there will be no commission meeting the week of Feb. 16 due to travel to a conference. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

OUR WALK IN FAITH

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](https://www.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

SENIOR CENTER

SR. CENTER MEALS: FEBRUARY 16 - 20

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

Monday, February 16

CLOSED for President's Day

Tuesday, February 17

Birthday Dinner
BBQ Pork Bits
Corn Bread
Baked Beans
Crisp Coleslaw
Applesauce
Birthday Cake

Wednesday, February 18

Carol's Meat Loaf

Mashed Potatoes
with Gravy
Broccoli and
Cauliflower
Whole Grain Bread
Plump Peaches

Thursday, February 19

Chicken and Rice
Casserole
Green Peas
Purple Beets
Whole Grain Bread
Baked Apples

Friday, February 20

Chicken Fried Steak
Steamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Fruit Crisp

NOTARY PUBLIC



Notary Service Available

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

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



**Common
Sense**

BY BILL GARWOOD

LIFE: What Can I Say, It's All a Long Strange Trip!

We are ALL alive, if not, this newspaper has a huge, long-distance distribution list.

What does "life" mean to each of us? That's right, I'm asking you, don't look around like I'm not talking to you! We all have our routines for each day or week. We all get up in the morning, do our daily ablutions, washing up, etc. I will NOT go into detail!

Then we go about our day, work, play, shopping. Whatever we need to get done. We each have our own way of doing things, in the way we are comfortable doing them. If you are married, you most times coordinate with your significant other to set up or move around your various schedules. This is life in its simplest form. Then, the many times mentioned "Mr. Murphy" shows up unannounced. And everything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

I think we all wish for just a few hours more in the day to get things done; it never happens. If we plan a bit better, we can get several things done at once. Example: we need to wash clothes; we also need to mow the lawn and take out the trash. We do not need to sit around while the clothes wash... plenty of time to do other things. Then we put the clothes in the dryer and have more time to get things done.

I know it sounds easy, but this actually is. Unless you have a house full of "Rug Rats, Curtin climbers, Crumb snatchers, Yard apes." Then you are busy most of the day. Then your other needs to step up and, even though they are tired, help out. You see, they eat, sleep, crap, etc. In that house too!

But I digress; we each have our own routine. Usually, things are a bit different each day. If every day is the same, look around for Rod Serling. Because you are in the "Twilight Zone" (hear the music? Do de do doo de de doo.) You know you do. Life can be drudgery, but it always has its moments, usually around Saturday nights.

I'm not going to go on about stopping to smell the roses - again. Those poor roses have been snorted up enough. But slow down and look around at our local area. Right now, we are having an incredibly warm winter. We ALL know the other muck boot is about to drop, I mean it IS winter in Montana!

Want a laugh? Next time you are in one of our wonderful local stores, especially Walmart, look past what you came in there for and really look around at all the bizarre things they sell. "What is that, and what on God's green Earth is it for?"

Good fun, I know we all work hard, but if we can't look around and laugh a bit, we will burn out! I'm talking to you, Alex (checker at Bob's); get happy! You are surrounded by happy, crazy people; I'm one of them. Enjoy your job; eat more candy!

Stay well, fellow Townsendites.

From Cage-Free to Organic: Decoding Egg Terminology

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Recently, my daughter and I were studying eggs at the grocery store. I'll be honest

that up until a few months ago, I never really paid attention to the price of eggs. I typically went to Costco, grabbing whatever was cheapest. Last year, my family got chickens and recently found ourselves with extra eggs. My daughter, who is doing poultry in 4-H, decided to start selling eggs to fund her project. We didn't know how to price them, so we started paying closer attention. On this particular day at Winco, a dozen eggs ranged from \$1.48 to \$6.48. That's a 125% price difference! Studying the eggs further, we saw lots of different terminology, especially with the more expensive eggs. Words such as cage-free, organic, farm fresh, pasture-raised, omega-3 and free-range. I think there may be more egg marketing words than there are for meat! What do all these words mean? Are they worth the price difference?

Just like with labeling meat products, the USDA regulates some label language of eggs. This means that in order to use a word on the label, it must meet USDA standards. The regulated terms include organic, cage-free, free-range and no hormones added. The label also includes the egg grade, size and packing information. Unregulated terms include natural, farm-fresh, vegetarian-fed/raised, omega-3, pastured-raised and others.

Organic: This is subject to the most regulation from the USDA. All organic eggs must be from free-range hens (see below) with access to the outdoors. They must only be fed certified organic feed. If they have pasture access, it must qualify for organic certification as well. Additionally, the hens have not been given antibiotics.

Cage Free: Another term regulated by the USDA. Hens are allowed to roam free indoors and have access to fresh food and water. They must have enough space to exhibit natural behaviors such as scratch areas, perches and nests.

Free Range: Also regulated by the USDA. The main difference between free-range and cage-free is that free-range chickens are required to have access to the outdoors.

Pastured Raised: This is not a regulated term, so it does not have a defined meaning. It is likely intended to mean that hens spend most of their lives outdoors with frequent changes to their pasture area.

Antibiotic-Free: In the United States, all eggs are free of antibiotics and antibiotic residue. The use of the term "antibiotic-free" is intended for eggs from hens that have not been treated with antibiotics.

No Hormones: In the US, hormones are not allowed in egg production. Every egg is already hormone-free, so when this terminology is used, it is for marketing leverage.

Nutrient-Enhanced or Omega-3 Eggs: These are eggs from hens that are fed a special diet to enhance certain nutrients in the eggs, such as vitamin E, omega-3, fatty acids, or lutein. For example, hens that are fed a vegetarian diet consisting of canola, flaxseed and linseed are typically higher in omega-3 fatty acids than other eggs. However, this label is not regulated or tested unless there is a complaint.

Natural or Farm Fresh: These terms are not regulated, so using the terms "all natural" or "naturally raised" really has no meaning and are used in marketing to attract buyers. All eggs are natural.

Vegetarian-Fed: Even though this term is not regulated, it is intended to mean that the hens are only fed a vegetarian diet and no meat or fish products or by-products. Generally, these hens are kept in cages or at least indoors so they cannot forage and eat insects or worms.

Pasteurized Eggs: This is different than pasture-raised eggs. Pasteurized is a food preparation term that means the eggs have gone through a heat process to destroy bacteria. However, it is not high enough to cook the eggs. Pasteurization increases shelf life and decreases bacteria. These eggs are becoming more common due to an increased interest from immunocompromised individuals.

Grading: Egg processors are not required to grade their eggs, but many choose to certify their quality. Grade AA eggs have clean, uniform-colored shells and strong whites. Grade A eggs, the most common in stores, have whites that are a little runny. Grade B eggs have some discoloration to their shells.

Color: In general, white eggs come from white hens. Brown and other colored eggs come from colored chickens. Yolk varies in color as well, which is related to the hen's diet. However, yolk color does not necessarily relate to or change egg nutritional value.

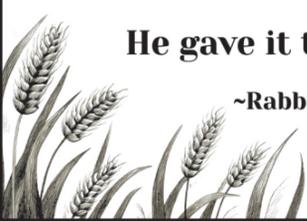
There you have it! After putting this all together, egg labeling is truly more complicated than meat! The main takeaway is that eggs are all natural, hormone-free and a healthy choice for your diet as a high-quality source of protein, all nine essential amino acids and vitamins B12, B2, D, selenium and choline. You can't go wrong choosing eggs, so pick the source that best matches your values and price point. And when possible, shop local and support a local farmer. For more information, contact me at allison.kosto@montana.edu or 406-266-9242.

**"Don't be surprised when they
don't understand your dream.**

Hashem didn't give it to them.

He gave it to you."

~Rabbi Shmuel Reichman





FREE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS TO VA MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Easy to schedule!

- Schedule a VA or VA referred appointment
- Call **(406)519-0401** and ask for a ride
- Provide date, time, and location of appointment

**If calling for another Veteran, have their name, DOB, SSN, and location they need to be picked up from*

- Free local and long distance rides
- One on one, door to door service
- May bring a caregiver or spouse
- Wheelchair accessible transportation available



GREAT PLAINS VETERANS SERVICES CENTER



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Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

406-266-3110

7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT

topgunt3110@gmail.com

topgunautobodytownsend.com

Broadwater Robotics Team Wins at the State Finals



Broadwater Robotics L-R - Coach Roger Flynn, Coach Spencer Sellay, Coach Jessica Crusch, Gavin Green, Cooper Nichter, Trenton Essary, Liam Wells, Aiden Kitto, Sam Smith, Kay Crusch, Nik Toney, Karolyn Schmaus, Coach Dr. Lisa Brown, Coach Adam Six, and Coach Bobbie McCauley. Not pictured is Coach Jim Strait.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Free Transportation for Veterans to VA and VA-Referred Appointments in Broadwater County

Anne Hall
American Legion

The Great Plains Veterans Services Center (GPVSC) continues to strengthen support for Montana's rural Veterans through its expanding Transportation Program. This no-cost service provides safe, reliable rides to VA and VA-referred medical appointments across 45 rural counties, ensuring Veterans never miss critical healthcare due to distance or lack of transportation. Powered by the VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grant, the program has grown significantly since launch, reflecting increased demand for long-distance transportation support in highly rural communities.

Recently, Communications Specialist Lindsay Hill visited Legion Post 42 in Townsend to promote the program and met with Legion Commander Linda Cousineau, Auxiliary President Peggy Long, and Sons of the American Legion Commander Matt Miller. Passionate about the program and helping Veterans, Hill hopes that partnering with local organizations will help increase awareness of the program and encourage Veterans to sign up for rides with GPVSC. She wants every Veteran who coordinates care with the VA to know that they have this opportunity for transportation with door-to-door service at no cost, and said, "It is not about whether or not our Veterans can drive or have a car; this is just a way to thank our Veterans for their service. I can only imagine the stress of addressing medical concerns and this service is nice because they have at least one less thing to worry about. Our drivers have company vehicles that are regularly maintained, and they are also kind and compassionate, so our Veterans will benefit from some camaraderie too."

To meet expanding needs, GPVSC has invested in new all-terrain vehicles and added four wheelchair accessible vans in the last year. Additionally, they prioritize the recruitment of veteran-friendly drivers who understand the unique challenges faced by Montana's Veterans. Any Veteran with a VA-referred appointment can request a ride with at least 48 hours' notice at (406) 519-0401, ensuring timely access to essential medical services at no cost.

GPVSC remains committed to bringing rural Montana Veterans wherever they need to go, regardless of how near or far the appointment is. Every mile brings Veterans closer to the care they deserve.

Matt Nelson



Nik Toney, Kay Crusch, Liam Wells, Karolyn Schmaus, Gavin Greene, Aiden Kitto, Cooper Nichter, Trenton Essary, and Sam Smith, students from Broadwater High School, and members of the Broadwater Robotics Team, competed against 23 other high schools at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman on Friday, February 6th for the state championship in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC). Jessica Crusch, Dr. Lisa Brown, Spencer Sellay, Adam Six, Roger Flynn, Bobbie McCauley, and Jim Strait do an excellent job of coaching the students.

FIRST is the acronym FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY. Broadwater Robotics is part of STROKE, which stands for SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, OUTDOORS, KNOWLEDGE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP. They ran 7 matches and one practice match.

This year's FIRST Tech Challenge game, DECODE, centers around shooting plastic balls into elevated hoops on a fast-moving field. Robots race to collect balls, line up, and fire at the targets under pressure. The match is a two-and-a-half-minute match with 30 seconds of autonomous and two minutes of remote control. The robots are controlled via Wi-Fi by the students operating iPads. The programming itself is very complex and done by the students.

Coach Roger Flynn was pleased with how the team performed. "It was a hard-fought day, but the kids never gave up. We've come a long way since the Helena qualifier held at Carroll College on January 17th, and you could see improvement in every match at Bozeman," he said. Coach Flynn also reflected on the season as a whole: "This is a great group of students. Just making it to State was a big accomplishment for us and something we can build on. Taking second place in the RTX Innovate Award was a really strong finish for Broadwater Robotics."

RTX is an aerospace company. This is the description for the award: The Innovate Award, sponsored



Seniors Aiden Kitto and Gavin Greene are recognized for their years of participation in the FIRST Tech League program.
Photo Credit: Coach Roger Flynn

by RTX, is a prestigious honor in the FIRST Tech Challenge robotics competition, celebrating the team with the most creative, ingenious, and effective "out-of-the-box" robot design solution. It recognizes elegant, robust, and functional designs—either for a whole robot or a specific mechanism—that reliably solve game challenges.



This is the ball-tossing robot built by the Broadwater Robotics Team.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

All the teams that competed at MSU work hard and are very dedicated and bright. They all have that hope of winning and going to the National Competition in Houston in April. Unfortunately, the Broadwater Robotics team did not win, but it wasn't for a lack of trying. They can have great pride knowing that they made it to Second Place. This is only the third year since the formation of the team. They have nothing to be ashamed of. The winning team was Fusion out of Helena.

Special thanks go to the sponsors, who are STROKE, Townsend Rotary, The Lodge of Townsend, Ace Hardware of Townsend, Graymont, Bob's Supermarket, Broadwater Equipment Services, Opportunity Bank, Green Wing, Squatch Country Construction Services, Systems Northwest, Boeing, the Birch Family, Sim and Robin Hofman, and the Gianforte Family Foundation for their support of Broadwater Robotics.

Congratulations to the Broadwater Robotics Team for making it to the State Finals.

Alzheimer's Association Montana Chapter: February's Free Virtual Care Education Series

Michelle Mathot, Rocky's Agency on Aging



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

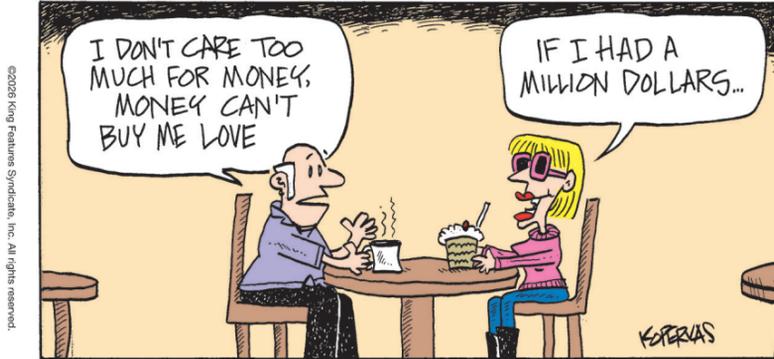


GRIN and BEAR IT by Wayne



"I can't say enough about the side effects!"

Out on a Limb



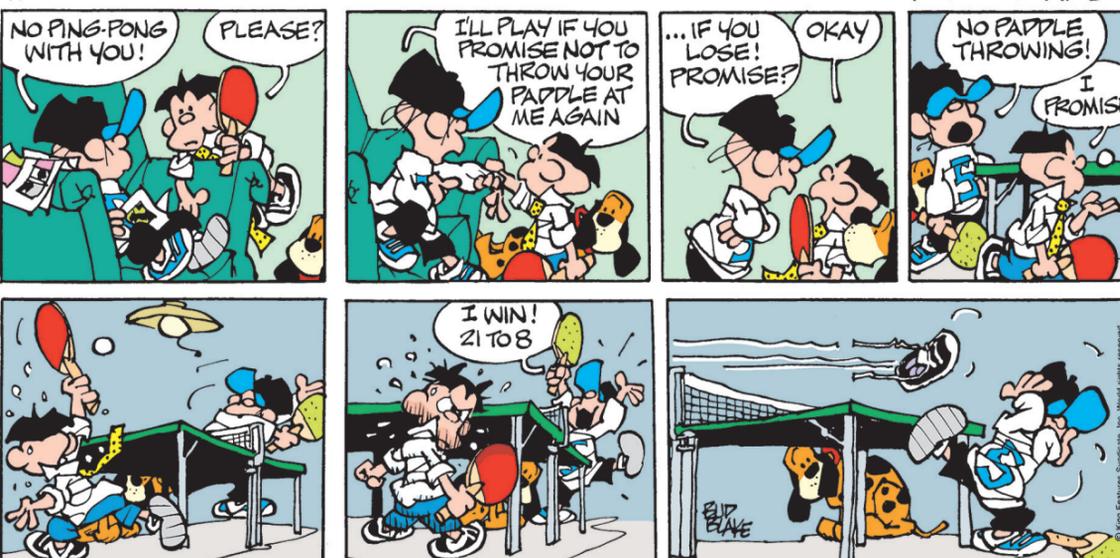
Amber Waves



The Spats



TIGER



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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Barnes Jewelry

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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

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CryptoQuip
answer

Fragrance that a perfume company intended to capture the very aroma of paradise: Heaven-Scent

SCRAMBLERS
solution

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

Today's Word
BALONEY

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

A	A	E
2	7	4
L		C
5		1
D	S	O
8	3	6

CASELOAD

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Women's Healthcare and Specialty Services Continue at Billings Clinic Broadwater

Joe Salyer
Billings Clinic Broadwater Public Relations Liaison

For many women in Broadwater County, knowing where to turn for healthcare and being able to receive care close to home is important. At Billings Clinic Broadwater, women's healthcare services remain available, supported by a coordinated care model designed to keep care close to home.

Patients may schedule regular primary care appointments with Derek Weiss, NP or Dr. Paul Engstrom, both of whom care for patients of all ages, including children. They serve as the foundation of care at Billings Clinic Broadwater and help coordinate any specialty services that may be needed.

For the next few months, Billings Clinic Broadwater is also welcoming Dr. Ed Stein, an experienced physician who previously practiced full-time at Logan Health in Eureka. Dr. Stein will work on a part-time basis to help support patient care while a new physician is onboarded. He will assist with acute care needs, sick visits and emergency department follow-ups. While he will not be taking on a permanent patient panel, his presence provides important added support for the community.

For women's health visits, patients can be seen locally by Carley Hennessy, who travels to Townsend once each month from Bozeman. Her OB/GYN and women's health services include contraception, menopause care, family planning, and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing. This model allows women to continue receiving trusted, comprehensive care without the need to travel outside the community.

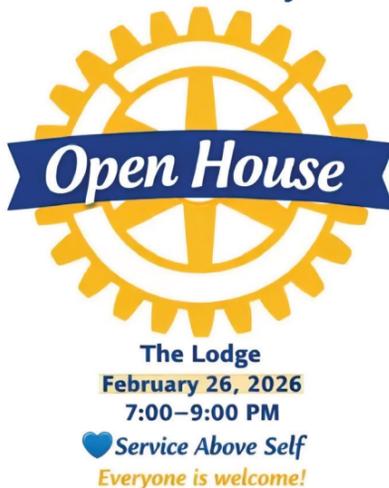
In addition, families have access to pediatric specialty services through monthly visits from Dr. Claire Kenamore, a pediatric provider from Bozeman. She offers well-child visits, mental health evaluations, immunizations, kindergarten check-ups, and sports physicals, helping support children's care locally alongside the primary care team.

Patients who require follow-up care after minimally invasive or general urologic surgery can be seen locally by Physician Assistant Daniel Mieler, who provides ongoing urologic care during monthly visits to Townsend.

Specialty care for children with hormonal or metabolic conditions is also available through monthly visits from Dr. Margaret Siska, a pediatric endocrinologist. Her services include care for children with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, disorders of growth and puberty, adrenal, pituitary, and thyroid gland disorders, and general pediatric endocrinology services.

Appointments at Billings Clinic Broadwater are available for both primary care and specialty services. Patients may schedule visits with local providers or visiting specialists, all of whom work closely together to ensure care is coordinated and accessible. Together, this approach reflects an ongoing commitment to ensuring women, families, and patients across the Broadwater community can continue to access high-quality care right here at home.

Townsend Rotary Club



Weather Forecast February

Friday 13 High Temp: 50 Low Temp: 33 Wind: 10 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Monday 16 High Temp: 55 Low Temp: 36 Wind: 24 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Saturday 14 High Temp: 49 Low Temp: 35 Wind: 12 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Tuesday 17 High Temp: 42 Low Temp: 27 Wind: 17 Rain: 0.012 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Sunday 15 High Temp: 48 Low Temp: 38 Wind: 10 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Wednesday 18 High Temp: 38 Low Temp: 26 Wind: 7 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
	Thursday 19 High Temp: 39 Low Temp: 25 Wind: 14 Rain: 0.012 Snow: 0.168 Cloud Cover: 100

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

Identity Theft Awareness Week

Michelle Mathot
Rocky's Agency on Aging



American adults lost \$47 billion to identity fraud and scams in 2024, according to an

AARP-sponsored report from by Javelin Strategy & Research. The problem is huge, and our personal information can be compromised through everything from sophisticated data breaches to simple mail theft. Below are some key steps to help protect you and your loved ones.

REDUCE YOUR PAPER TRAIL

- Set up online access to your bank and credit card accounts and enroll in paperless billing to reduce the risk of physical theft of your personal information.
- Shred sensitive documents—such as bank statements, tax forms, and medical bills—before discarding them.
- Keep your Social Security card stored securely at home, and avoid leaving any personal information in your car, even if it's locked.

STRENGTHEN YOUR SECURITY MEASURES

- Use strong and unique passwords for each account, enable multifactor authentication whenever it's offered, avoid public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions, and install reputable security software on your devices.
- Monitor your credit report for suspicious activity and consider freezing your credit with all three major credit bureaus to help prevent criminals from opening accounts in your name.
- File your tax return as early as you can—tax identity thieves who have obtained personal information often try to file first. You can go to irs.gov to request a personal identification number to associate with your return each year; IRS won't process your return without it, adding an important layer of protection.

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

- Make sure your social media accounts are set to private and avoid oversharing information such as your birthday, hometown, family members, or education history.
- It's risky to enter personal information into AI programs or chat tools; chat logs are not a confidential resource.

Investing in Reliability

Helena to Three Forks Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project

NorthWestern Energy is investing in a new 74 mile natural gas transmission pipeline from East Helena to the Three Forks area. This project links the western and eastern portions of NorthWestern Energy's natural gas system and will strengthen service reliability for our natural gas customers and improve resilience, especially by relieving congestion and bottlenecks during extreme cold when demand is high.

The route will run southeast from East Helena toward the Logan area. The exact alignment will be finalized once all easements are obtained. NorthWestern Energy has secured permits from the Bureau of Land Management to follow an existing utility corridor across nine miles of BLM managed public lands.

Project Timeline

Construction is projected to begin in 2027 and will take approximately three years.

Safety First

The 16 inch steel pipeline will be installed underground, with land restored to its original condition. All pipe sections are manufactured to rigorous federal and industry standards and inspected before installation.

NorthWestern Energy patrols each foot of pipeline annually to confirm system integrity.

Commitment to Stewardship

Environmental reviews, cultural assessments, hydrology, land use considerations, and community input all help guide the route. NorthWestern Energy works closely with landowners, agencies, and local partners to meet environmental expectations.



Learn more about the project's progress by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera



Delivering a Bright Future

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Rabbit's ear is different. 4. Log is different. 5. Ear flap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ears moved.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

February 14

1903

North Creek Nuggets

Thos. Johnson is employed hauling wheat for a few days.

Frank Lenahan, who has been working for J.G. Pickering, has begun to hunt horses with the Perkins boys.

Winston Notes

Quite a pleasant surprise party was given at the Durnen Hotel. Tuesday eve. in honor of Mrs. John Fitzpatrick and her daughter, Mrs. Mamie Riley of Nevada Creek, who are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Durnen. The party later retired to the Yeoman Hall when dancing was indulged in and refreshments were served.

We are very glad to report that at the present time there are no cases of diphtheria here, it being the first time in three months that all cases of quarantine have been raised.

1925

Williams is Awarded Damage of \$2,524 in Suit Against N.P. RY

Verdict in favor of Thomas Williams, plaintiff against the Northern Pacific railroad, awarding him damages of \$2,524.84, was returned last night by the jury in the trial of the case in Judge A.J. Horsky's department of the district court.

Williams, a Radersburg stockman, sued for damages of \$3,000 on the ground that the railroad company failed to make cars available to him at Toston for a shipment of cattle, after the cars were promised for a day certain, at which time Williams had his cattle at Toston ready to load, after a long drive from his home ranch.

He missed a favorable market, and the cattle's lost weight had to be put back on.

Gunn Rasch and Hall were counsel for the railroad and Rankin and Dyll for Williams.

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. D. Ballard and daughter, Mary Alice spent the week end visiting relatives in Logan.

Mrs. Manley of the valley spent Monday in Helena.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Ward were Helena visitors Wednesday of this week.

The Old Timers dance is scheduled for February 20th at the Townend Auditorium. Everybody young and old will have a good time.

Toston News

Wm. Stubblefield left Tuesday night for Chico Springs where he hopes to be benefited by special treatment.

Thomas Holker spent a few days last week in Helena as a witness in the Tom Williams case against the Northern Pacific R.R. for failure to furnish cars for shipment of cattle.

1953

Crow Creek News

Crow Creek was well represented at the Charity ball in Townsend on Saturday night, the writer having counted twelve couples. Crow Creek can be proud of their chairman, Mrs. Earl Webb, who arranged such a successful ball.

Radersburg News

Eddie Etzwiler of Townsend was an overnight guest of Steve Ralls Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams of Townsend came over Sunday to get Joann, who had spent the week end with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Broadwater moved from Townsend to Radersburg this week.

Cards received by local people indicate Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Doughty are having themselves a good time in Hawaii.

Mrs. W.D. Williams and Mrs. Oscar Nilson accompanied by Mrs. Esther Mockel of Townsend were Helena visitors Thursday.

A regular meeting of Bluebelle Rebekah Lodge was held Thursday. Lunch was served after the meeting to Jennie Hoveland, Bertha Erickson, May Sitton, Millie Wilder, Pearl Barraugh, Dorothy Sitton and Hazel Holling of Townsend and Erma Kramp, Peggy Sitton, Ida Sitton, Eunice McElwee and Edith Smith of Radersburg.

1970

Crow Creek News

Dan and Maurice Hunsaker were in Bozeman Friday attending a farm seminar which was held at the Armory.

Among those attending the Winter Fair in Bozeman during the week were Mr. and Mrs. Jed Stanfill, Bill Kimpton and son, Brian, Kenny Kitto, Mr. and Mrs. Al Kimpton, Cliff and Kathy and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hensley.

Judy Smith, who is attending business college in Butte, spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith. Other weekend guests were Martha Montgomery, Beth Stocker and Kathy Munro of Helena.

Birthday Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Kolberg and family were hosts Sunday afternoon in honor of their daughter, Jill's first birthday and Judy Smith's 19th birthday dinner. A delicious chicken dinner was served to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith and family, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lewis and family.



You slew the ogre and beat your way through the wall of thorns...

...now if you could just open the dumb door.



GUEST EDITORIAL

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

A Year of Putting Montana Farmers and Ranchers First

Mike Foster

State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency
- Montana

Since January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump has been working around the clock to put American Farmers First after inheriting one of the toughest farm economies our country has faced in decades. Here in Montana, farmers and ranchers know the challenges firsthand – rising input costs, volatile markets, extreme weather, and years of policies that prioritize bureaucracy over producers.

This year, President Trump and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins have worked at record speed to deliver real relief and long-term reforms, working hand-in-hand with the Farm Service Agency to ensure these resources are reaching our farmers and rural communities right here at home.

The Trump Administration has delivered more than \$30 billion in ad hoc assistance to farmers nationwide since January 2025.

Here in Montana, this includes \$209.1 million through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP), \$124.2 million in disaster relief through the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP), and \$144.2 million in assistance for specialty crop and livestock producers. These programs are helping farmers recover from weather disasters, inflation, and market losses that have been left unaddressed for years.

Just as important, the Trump Administration strengthened the farm safety net through legislation in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. For the first time in more than a decade, statutory reference

prices for major commodities were raised by 10–21 percent, and more than 30 million new base acres were added to Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs beginning in 2026. Crop insurance was also made more affordable, saving farmers over \$400 million annually, with expanded support for beginning farmers and ranchers, a critical investment in the future of agriculture.

USDA is also working to lower farmers' costs by restoring competition and cutting red tape. New actions with the Department of Justice are targeting price fixing and anti-competitive behavior in key input markets like seed, fertilizer, and equipment. Partnerships with the Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have also led to significant reforms to the H-2A program. An Interim Final Rule published by DOL in October reformed the H-2A Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR)—providing over \$2 billion in annual savings for farmers—and a Final Rule published by DHS reduced the time it takes to navigate the H-2A application process by allowing concurrent filing. These reforms help make the H-2A program more affordable and accessible, ensuring producers have access to the labor they need at a more affordable cost.

USDA has been prioritizing the purchase of healthy, U.S.-grown commodities with the intent to purchase up to \$970 million in this year alone, under Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935. These purchases support farmers while supplying food banks, schools, and nutrition programs – strengthening agriculture and food security in Montana's communities and regions.

One of the most significant actions of this year

was the announcement of \$12 billion in Farmer Bridge Payments – designed to help farmers weather ongoing market disruptions, elevated production costs, and continued volatility while longer-term reforms take hold. This bridge assistance reflects President Trump's commitment to ensuring farmers are not left behind as the farm economy recovers.

These payments are intended to provide stability and certainty for producers as USDA continues to deliver disaster assistance and implement the improvements made under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. While SDRP signups are ongoing, USDA is ensuring farmers have access to immediate relief today while positioning them for expanded market opportunities ahead.

Under President Trump's leadership, we are rebuilding American agriculture to be stronger, more competitive, and more resilient. The Trump Administration is expanding global market access for American agriculture. New trade deals and frameworks with more than 15 countries are opening doors for U.S. beef, grains, dairy, specialty crops, and biofuel exports. These wins matter here in Montana, where exports support farm income, rural jobs, and long-term economic growth.

At the Farm Service Agency, our mission is simple, but bold: serve farmers, not bureaucracy. The Trump Administration's Farmers First agenda is delivering real results: relief today, stronger safety nets tomorrow, and expanded markets for the future – but this is just the beginning.

Every day, the Farm Service Agency will continue to fight for Montana's farmers and ranchers to ensure they have the tools, freedom, and opportunity to succeed for generations to come.