

East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside

Five Bulldog Wrestlers Advance to All-Class State Championships

Becky Hunt

Your Townsend Bulldogs High School wrestling team attended the 2026 Western Class B/C Divisionals Tournament held at the Butte Civic Center February 13th and 14th. A total of 22 teams showed up to battle it out and secure a place at the Montana State tournament.

With only 7 wrestlers competing in the event, the Dawgs finished strong with an overall team placement of 7th. Five of those 7 will go on to the All-Class State event at the MetraPark Center in Billings February 19-21.

Jace Wellenstien and Nick Humphreys both battled hard on the mats, losing out in their blood round, falling just short of qualifying for State.

Divisionals Placers

- 110# - Isaac Brakefield took 3rd place
- 144# - Parker Hunt Divisional Champ
- 190# - Lane Bantz took 3rd Place
- 285# - Gavin Schmele Divisional Champ
- 235G# - Gabby Rico took 2nd place



Wrestling Team
Photo Credit: Becky Hunt

Billings Clinic Broadwater

Announces Visitor Entrance Updates to Improve Safety & Security

Joe Salyer

Billings Clinic Broadwater Public Relations Liaison

Beginning Monday, February 16, Billings Clinic Broadwater will implement important updates to visitor entrances and door access procedures as part of an ongoing effort to maintain a safe and secure environment for patients, visitors, and staff.

Under the new process, all visitors will enter through the Main Clinic Entrance during regular hours, seven days a week. This change creates a single, clearly identified entry point for visitors and helps staff better manage access throughout the building.

After 8:00 PM, visitors will be directed to use the Emergency Room (ER) Entrance.

Hospital CEO Justin Tiffany emphasized that the Emergency Room remains open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is always available to care for the community's emergency health needs.

"No matter the time of day, our ER team is here to help," Tiffany shared. "These changes do not affect access to emergency care in any way."

"These updates allow us to better balance accessibility with safety," Mr. Tiffany noted. "We want patients and families to feel welcomed while also ensuring we are managing access responsibly during all hours of operation."

He reiterated that these updates reflect a continued commitment to patient care and facility safety. As a critical access hospital, the facility will always ensure that patients and visitors have access when care is needed, especially in emergency situations.

Community members with questions are encouraged to ask staff upon arrival, who will be happy to assist with directions or access needs.

EAST HELENA NEWS

Plans Progressing for New East Helena Library

MT43 News Reporter

Lewis & Clark Library planners are heavy into the design phase of the new library building in East Helena, according to Director John Finn.

Finn explained in an interview the library board traveled to Portland to see six library buildings that have been built there: "We needed hard information on new library designs that are built in public parks. It's a new idea for us."

The planned 11,000 square-foot building will be in JFK Park by the municipal swimming pool and near

Prickly Pear Trailhead. The Lewis & Clark Library board arranged with the City of East Helena for an upgrade of the area parking lot for ownership of one acre in the park.

Lewis & Clark Library is a government nonprofit whose operations are funded 100 percent by a 2008 mill levy passed by Lewis & Clark taxpayers. The Lewis and Clark Library Foundation funds additional "wish list" items. Last year, the Foundation underwrote \$3million for the new bookmobile, which will be in operation beginning in April.

The proposed cost of building the new library in East Helena will run \$7million, Finn explained, with

\$2million from a capital funds savings account as well as private donations and other monies. "We will not ask for a public bond issue or extra tax requests," he said.



The new library building will be in East Helena's JFK Park on the city's north side.
Photo Provided



JFK park hosts family picnics, playgrounds and is the beginning of Prickly Pear Trail.
Photo Provided

More East Helena News: Pages 4 & 9

Debi Randolph Announces Re-Election Campaign for Broadwater County Commissioner

Debi Randolph

Broadwater Commissioner



I am excited to announce my intention to seek re-election to the Broadwater County Commission, reaffirming my commitment to service, transparency, and community-focused leadership.

I am currently attending the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Mid-Winter Conference in Billings, and upon my return to Broadwater County, I will complete the formal registration process to declare my re-election efforts.

It has been a privilege to serve Broadwater County as a Commissioner. I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past few years, and I believe there is still important work to be done.

Two of my priorities have been listening to residents and maintaining transparency in local government. Being a commissioner isn't about politics; it's about people. It's about making thoughtful decisions that

protect our way of life, strengthen public safety, and ensure the public has a voice in county government.

While experience matters, I also believe that accessibility and listening remain central to the role of a county commissioner.

I will continue to be available and welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with residents as the election process moves forward. During my last campaign, I hosted several 'Doughnuts with Debi' events, and I plan to do that again. If you and your neighbors have questions, I'd be happy to schedule a neighborhood meet-and-greet.

Residents can contact me directly during the campaign:

- Campaign Email: electdebi2026@gmail.com
- Cell Phone: 406-451-6035 (text preferred)
- Texts and voicemails will be returned after 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends
- Facebook: Debi Randolph Broadwater County Commissioner

PLAYERS of the WEEK



Boys Basketball: Colby Flynn Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Janeth Garcia Townsend Booster Club Photo



Wrestling: Parker Hunt Townsend Booster Club Photo

Bulldog Basketball Hosts Jefferson Panthers and Ennis Mustangs in Conference Matchup



Teyvn Newman shoots a three-pointer in the girls' game against Lone Peak. Bryleigh Erickson BHS Sports Reporter



Tavyn Anderson looks to set up a play in the varsity win against Ennis on February 14th. Bryleigh Erickson BHS Sports Reporter

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



Vs Jefferson Panthers
On Thursday, February 12th, the Bulldogs played the Jefferson Panthers at home. The Bulldogs hope to improve their record for seeding in the district tournament coming up soon.

The C squad girls played a half game and ended the game down 2-16. Ella Toney scored the Bulldogs' only points.

The junior varsity girls' game was also a loss for the Bulldogs, 24 to Jefferson's 64. Ella Toney scored 7 points, Emily Taves scored 5 points, and Kymber McCartney scored 4 and shot 100 percent free throws.

The girls' varsity game was a tight race. In the end, Jefferson pulled away and won the game 55 to 44. Kaitlyn Noyes scored 21 points to lead the Bulldogs, and Emmalin Fischer scored 11 points.

The boys' junior varsity game was another close match-up, but Jefferson pulled away at the end. The Bulldogs lost 40-45.

The boys' varsity game was a great game. After losing to the Panthers earlier in the season, the Bulldogs beat them 62 to 55. Tavyn Anderson led the Bulldogs with 26 points and 5 steals. Tannen Tuffelmire contributed 16 points and 7 rebounds. Rylan Hoveland scored 9 points and had 4 assists. Trace Giomi helped the Bulldogs, too, with 7 points and 8 rebounds.

Vs Ennis Mustangs

Bulldogs Basketball Hosts Ennis Mustangs in last Conference Game

The Bulldogs basketball teams played Ennis on



Tannen Tuffelmire
Kelly Morris Photography



Kaitlyn Noyes
Kelly Morris Photography



The Lady Bulldogs Bryleigh Erickson drives to the basket during Saturday's game against the Ennis Mustangs. Kelly Morris Photography



The Bulldogs Tannen Tuffelmire with the Bulldog's play of the year so far, a slam dunk during Saturday's game against the Ennis Mustangs. Kelly Morris Photography

Basketball Statistics: Townsend vs Ennis and Jefferson

Clint Watson
Townsend vs. Ennis
Townsend- 14 15 9 19: 57
Ennis - 12 7 9 12: 40
Lead Scorers- Tannen Tuffelmire- 14, Tavyn Anderson-12, Colby Flynn-10, Rylan Hoveland-7, Trace Giomi-6, Blake Graham-3, Bryce Lessely-3, Dallas Fligge-2
Lead Rebounders- Tannen Tuffelmire-10, Trace Giomi-6, Colby Flynn-6, Blake Graham-5, Tavyn Anderson-3, Bryce Lessely-1
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-6, Blake Graham-2, Rylan Hoveland-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Colby Flynn-1, Bryce Lessely-1
Steals- Blake Graham-2, Tavyn Anderson-2, Rylan Hoveland-1, Colby Flynn-1, Trace Giomi-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1, Trenton Hoveland-1
Deflections- Blake Graham-2, Trace Giomi-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Colby Flynn-1, Rylan Hoveland-1
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 22/40 55.0% 3pts- 3/13 23.1%
Ennis Shots- 2pts- 9/28 32.1% 3pts- 5/23 21.7%
Townsend Free Throws- 4/8 50.0%
Ennis Free Throws- 7/14 50.0%
Townsend Turnovers- 12

Ennis Turnovers- 14
<i>Coach's Thoughts:</i>
We were ready for the Ennis Mustangs, and I guess you could say we corralled them on the corners and sidelines. We bothered them so much that they only made 14 baskets and 7 free throws. Our guys were really inspired by their comrades on the bench and they seemed really energetic! Tannen got his first dunk in a game, and he did it in the 4th quarter; the bench just erupted! These guys really support each other. Colby Flynn came off the bench to pitch in ten points and grab 6 boards. Tannen had quite a game with 14 points, 10 rebounds, and one dunk. It was a team effort, especially when you realize that they really creamed us at their place.
Townsend VS. Jefferson
Townsend- 21 16 11 14: 62
Jefferson- 16 14 13 12: 55
Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-26, Tannen Tuffelmire- 16, Rylan Hoveland-9, Trace Giomi-7, Blake Graham-4
Lead Rebounders- Trace Giomi-9, Tannen Tuffelmire-8, Blake Graham-6, Tavyn Anderson-3, Heston Vandencacre-2, Colby Flynn-1, Rylan Hoveland-1
Assists- Tavyn Anderson-6, Rylan Hoveland-5, Blake Graham-3, Heston Vandencacre-3, Tannen Tuffelmire-2, Trace Giomi-2

Steals- Tavyn Anderson-7, Rylan Hoveland-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-1, Trace Giomi-1, Blake Graham-1, Bryce Lessley-1
Deflections- Rylan Hoveland-8, Tavyn Anderson-5, Bryce Lessley-2, Trace Giomi-2, Tannen Tuffelmire-1, Blake Graham-1, Heston Vandencacre-1
Townsend Shots- 2pts- 24/53 43.5% 3pts- 2/9 22.2%
Jefferson Shots- 2pts- 16/40 40.0% 3pts- 6/22 27.3%
Townsend Free Throws- 8/19 42.1%
Jefferson Free Throws- 5/9 55.6
Townsend Turnovers- 13
Jefferson Turnovers- 21
<i>Coach's Thoughts:</i>
I think our guys wanted to redeem themselves after getting beat by the Jefferson Panthers by 40 points earlier this year. We trapped the Panthers very aggressively, we crashed the boards, and we executed on offense. I think we kind of surprised the Panthers with a 21-point first quarter. Tavyn Anderson moved the ball really well, resulting in his six assists and 26 points. Tavyn also led on the defensive campaign with 7 steals and 5 deflections. When you meet the offense with Rylan Hoveland and Tavyn up top, the opposing point guards have a little trouble. I was really proud of the guys in many ways! Our last home game will be Friday, February 20th, with the C-teams starting at 3 pm.

STOKE Fundraiser Brings in Record-Breaking Donations



Students talk about their experience with the STOKE Ski and Snowboard Program. From left to right: Titus Kirksey, Everett Kirksey, Jayden Flynn, Pat Plantenberg, Harper Kucinski, Junior Kucinski
Photo Credit: STOKE

Roger Flynn
STOKE

The Townsend community gathered to show their support at STOKE’s 5th annual Valentine’s Day fundraising event. The event was held February 14 at the Lodge of Townsend and celebrated the organization while raising money for its youth programs. Strong attendance and generous support from local families and businesses made it the most successful fundraiser in STOKE’s history.

STOKE, which began in January 2020, stands for Science, Technology, Outdoors, Knowledge, and Entrepreneurship, and provides local youth no-cost opportunities to learn and explore outside the classroom. The organization currently serves approximately 120 students from Broadwater County through programs including robotics, skiing, pottery, video production, outdoor education, cooking, choreography, and other activities designed to help students build confidence and discover new interests. Funds raised during the Valentine’s event help sustain and grow these programs throughout the year.

The evening began with presentations from students and volunteers. Students shared personal experiences from their time in STOKE programs, speaking about the skills they learned, friendships they built, and confidence they gained through participation. Presentations from robotics, skiing, pottery, and video club members gave attendees a clear look at the impact STOKE has on local youth.

“It’s pretty amazing to think STOKE started with just a cup of coffee and an idea, and now look where it is,” said board member Tina Homann. “We’ve grown a lot, and it really shows how much this community cares about giving kids more opportunities.”

Guests then enjoyed a full-course tri-tip beef roast dinner catered by John and Missy Rauser, who also generously donated the meat for the meal. Salad was served in handmade pottery bowls created by Teddy and Teresa Lewis, leader of the STOKE pottery program. Many of the pottery pieces were also available for purchase, allowing supporters to take home functional artwork while directly supporting youth programming.

A silent auction featured items donated by local businesses and community members. Among the featured items were wooden bar and table stools crafted by Ron Salladay. The stools, priced at \$125 each, are also available for purchase at The Bird’s Nest, with all proceeds benefiting STOKE programs. Organizers credited strong community participation as a key reason the fundraiser was such a success.

Adding a Valentine’s element to the evening was a cornhole-style game featuring a heart-shaped target. Participants who landed a toss through the heart earned the chance to read a poem written evening master of

ceremonies and staunch STOKE supporter, Pat Plantenberg. Some poems came with prizes, while others encouraged players to try again, creating plenty of laughter throughout the night.

The fundraiser highlighted the strong support STOKE continues to receive from the Townsend community. Donations, volunteer time, and contributions from local businesses help keep programs

accessible and allow the organization to continue serving youth across Broadwater County.

“STOKE would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone in our community who has donated their time, resources, and support over the past six years,” said Amanda Domino. “Your generosity has made it possible for us to offer opportunities and experiences that would otherwise be out of reach for so many kids and families in Broadwater County. We are deeply grateful for all you’ve helped us build and for the impact you continue to make.”

With continued community support, STOKE plans to keep expanding opportunities for Townsend youth and introducing kids to new experiences.



Destiny Grandy displays her handmade jewelry, part of her entrepreneurship venture.
Photo Credit: STOKE



Carla Amundson graciously provided live music during STOKE’s Valentine’s Day fundraiser at the Lodge of Townsend. (Not pictured: Rick Garrison of the Queen City Swing Band, who also performed on trumpet.)
Photo Credit: STOKE



AI: Data Center Controversy

Victor Sample



Every single day as I read through my news feed, I see 10-15 articles about AI. Many of those articles are about the need for massive AI Data Centers to hold the required servers.

The data center would require construction bolstering jobs, at least temporarily, in the area of the data center. Construction materials would be purchased, bolstering the economy of the regions. And, of course, these data centers are large and contain a lot of expensive servers, all adding to the tax base of the county.

I have read there are at least 6 AI data center proposals for Montana. In addition to AI data centers, Bitcoin mining requires large data centers and companies like Google need large data centers for all of their data, including videos on YouTube. Amazon needs large data centers for their AWS (Amazon Web Services) processing that provides services for thousands of companies. MT43News is an AWS customer utilizing the data storage offered by AWS.

So why is there any controversy?

From Gizmodo (online posting): At least 25 data center projects around the country were canceled last year due to opposition from the local communities, according to research from intelligence platform Heatmap Pro.

On the Great Falls morning news, I have seen clips of AI Data Center opponents testifying at the Butte/Silver Bow County meeting against a proposed AI Data Center in Butte.

Data Centers (whether they are for AI, Bitcoin Mining, etc.) use a huge amount of water. The large servers generate massive heat and require massive amounts of water to cool the servers.

From the Guardian: Datacenters consume vast amounts of water and those facilities geared toward AI are especially intensive. One large-scale datacenter can consume as much as a million gallons of water per day.

From time-to-time there have been companies that have inquired about property in the TEDD (Targeted Economic Development District) at the south end of Broadwater County for building data centers. So far, none have gone beyond requesting information about infrastructure and pricing but imagine a data center there that was consuming a million gallons of water a day.

An even bigger issue is the huge amount of power required.

From the Guardian: Datacenters consume vast amounts of power; AI Datacenters are particularly power-intensive. One large-scale datacenter can use the same amount of electricity as a small city. The International Energy Agency estimates total electricity from data centers worldwide could double through 2026 from 2022 levels – roughly equaling what is used by the entire country of Japan per year.

If all six of the Data Centers proposed to Montana came to fruition, Northwest Energy could not supply those data centers without building new power generation plants – again, jobs and local economy boost, and property taxes. But, how does Northwest Energy pay for those new power plants – with rate increases approved by the Montana PSC?

Even after the plants are built, energy will be a scarce commodity. Scarce resources and high demand always lead to higher prices. Another trip to the PSC and another rate hike.

According to an article by Amanda Eggert of the Montana Free Press: In a petition before the Public Service Commission, a coalition of groups working on energy, climate and social justice issues argued that hundreds of thousands of Montanans will face higher bills unless the state’s utility regulator provides stricter oversight of NorthWestern Energy, the state’s largest utility. NorthWestern Energy has inked agreements with at least three data centers that will, if built, require every megawatt of energy the company can currently generate, and then some.

From Yahoo News: On Jan. 6, The Washington Post covered what it called "the data center rebellion", a series of localized efforts to stall or prevent the construction of new buildings.

As the newspaper noted, broad pushback — much of which is in deeply rural areas — is remarkably bipartisan. Residents of Silver Springs, Oklahoma, have been fighting to prevent the construction of a data center on farmland while local officials advocate for tech firms.

Skyrocketing electricity bills are among the reasons many Americans oppose the construction of data centers. The facilities strain local water supplies, a drain on public resources rivaled only by their immense energy consumption.

There is a recent article in the Montana Free Press by Amanda Eggert that explores 3 proposed Data Center projects in Montana – two of which are in Southwest Montana (near Butte). To read the article, visit the MT-43News website at <https://mt43news.com>

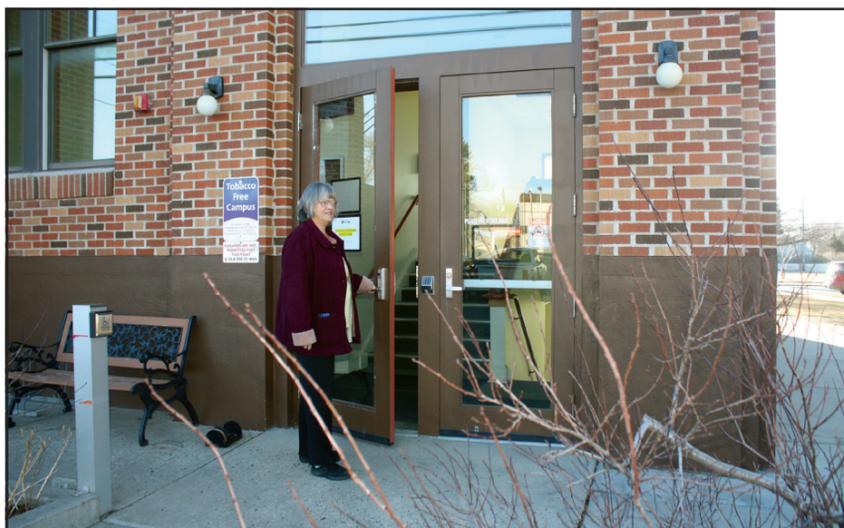
Fortunately, in face of opposition to terrestrial-based data centers, there are a number of companies, including SpaceX, that are researching the viability of low-earth-orbit satellite Data Centers. THAT is an interesting idea: solar powered, no water consumption. . .

Changing Up Court House Entrances for Safety

MT43 News
Staff Reporter

Plans have been in the works to upgrade safety at Broadwater Courthouse for some time. Within the past few weeks, those safety measures have been put in place. Because government officials in various counties have been accosted with threats and even guns. County Commissioners Jesse Swenson, Debi Randolph and Lindsey Richtmyer have equipped each county office with secure windows through which customers can speak with county employees.

To better facilitate entry to the courthouse, the commissioners have set up the back door, between the building and the hospital as the only open entrance. Commissioner Richtmyer explained customers have



The courthouse back door will serve as the main entrance to ensure safety of employees and more convenience for customers. Dedicated parking spaces serve visitors next to the backdoor.
MT43 News Photo

ready access to dedicated parking near the door, which is near the building’s elevator, eliminating the need to use the stairs.

Other government buildings will be making these changes, which are proactive, Commissioner Randolph pointed out. “We want to make sure our employees, as well as the public, are safe.”

Townsend School & Sports

FEBRUARY



- Friday 20**
- NO SCHOOL
 - 3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Big Timber (Senior Night)
- Fri 20 - Sat 21**
- State High School Wrestling - Billings
- Saturday 21**
- Little Guy Wrestling - 63 Gym
- Sat 21 - Sun 22**
- 8:00 am: EMT Class - K8 Commons
- Monday 23**
- 6:00 pm: District Budget Meeting - Community Room
 - 7:00 pm: Curriculum Committee Meeting - Community Room
- Mon 23 - Thu 26**
- 11:45am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL
- Tuesday 24**
- 8:30 am: Special Ed Testing
 - 4:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling @ Home
 - 4:30 pm: 6-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday 25**
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy - Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps
- Wed 25 - Sat 28**
- High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian
- Thursday 26**
- 3:30 pm: Middle School Wrestling @ Butte East
- Friday 27**
- NO SCHOOL
- Saturday 28**
- Little Guy Wrestling Tournament - Both Gyms

East Helena Schools & Sports

FEBRUARY

- Monday 23**
- 12:30 pm: **Early Release**
- February 24**
- 3:00 pm: Parent Teacher Conferences at EVMS
- February 25**
- 8:00 am: 8th Grade Visit to Montana State University
 - 3:00 pm: Parent-Teacher Conferences at EVMS
- February 27**
- 8:00 am: 227! Day

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

HOURS:

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

Andrea Eckerson Branch Manager



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

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 23**
- 1:00 pm: Teen/Tween Matinee Movie
- Wednesday 25**
- 8:30 am: One Book Montana Coffee and Talk at Galaxy Roasting
 - 10:30 am: Storytime
- Thursday 26**
- 4:00 pm: Middle Grade Book Club One Book Montana Discussion
- Friday 27**
- 3:00 pm: Reading Circle Book Group Discussion
- Saturday 28**
- 10:00 am - 1:00 pm: One Book Montana Author Visit and Book Signing with author Janet Fox

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 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Friday 20**
- 9:00 am: Alzheimer's Association **FREE** Virtual Care Education: Communicating Effectively **SEE REGISTRATION LINK ON PAGE 11**
 - 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

- Saturday 21**
- 5:00 pm: 2026 Annual AG Appreciation Day at Watson's Event Center
 - 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

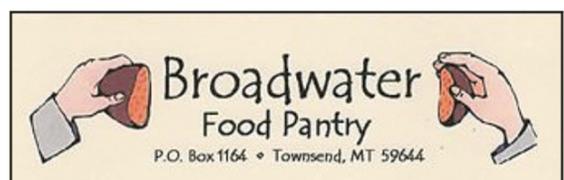
- Tuesday 24**
- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
 - 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

- Wednesday 25**
- 6:00 pm: Broadwater Democrats Meeting at the Betsy **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 - 7:30 pm: Simple Gospel Story: 108 N. Front Street at 108 N. Front Street
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

- Thursday 26**
- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 - 7:00 pm: Townsend Rotary Club Open House at The Lodge of Townsend
 - 7:30 pm: Alzheimer's Association **FREE** Virtual Care Education: Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors **SEE REGISTRATION LINK ON PAGE 11**
 - 6:00 pm: Mail and Munchies - Townsend Library at Broadwater County Library
 - 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

- Friday 27**
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

- Saturday 28**
- 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)**

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



- Monday 23**
- 5:00 pm Parks and Rec Board
- February 24**
- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
 - 11:30 am: Trust Board Meeting
- February 25**
- 10:00 am: Commissioner's Meeting

Broadwater Democrats Meeting

Wednesday February 25, 6:00PM
 All are welcome!
 at The Betsy, 217 Broadway, Townsend
 Questions: Call (406) 581-8538

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM
 American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway, Townsend.
HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!
 Join us for a hot, delicious meal - no cost to you.
DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED to help us continue supporting our community.

QUESTIONS? MENU? VOLUNTEER?	STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM (406) 266-3611
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LET US FEED YOU - AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY
 Hosted with care by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

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

Monthly Chamber Meeting



March 19th, 2026, 6PM
Location: TBA
 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.

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

HELP WANTED

Old Baldy Golf Course is looking for a new superintendent/groundskeeper.
 For more information, visit our website at oldbaldygolf.org/careers or call Jesse Swenson at 406-949-1722.

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: N equals V

NFQV QFEOHGIS OICG-OIHGFCV
AQTS BOITJOMCTQFA GI
RWTCYFQI MOEGJWQIGO:
ROI JFQIOIAW NOEGTB.

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KNIGHT MOVES

O	W	S
B		R
C	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!

Fly
TEAVIA

Notebook
RIBEND

Walk
REDITS

Press
NAKED

"This is delicious — I must really be _____!"

TODAY'S WORD

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
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C - (406)980-1100

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Saturday 9:00 - 4:00
Sunday 9:00 - 3:00

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LEYLANDMT.COM

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

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Interior Al Nyhart
Exterior (406) 223-3074

YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE

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

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

ACROSS
1 Soft drink giant
9 Pappy
12 "Botch- —" (old hit song)
15 Masticate
19 Oval wind instruments
20 Took too far
22 Put concrete on
23 Start of a riddle
25 Partially
26 Heir, often
27 Penta- plus one
28 Spitting beast
30 Everything
31 Unusual
34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
39 Riddle, part 2
44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
45 Curvy letter
46 Given a permanent post
47 Cereal grain
48 Computer menu option
50 Prefix with chemistry
53 Curiosity's planet
54 Riddle, part 3
60 Palatable

DOWN
1 Female whales
2 Eight, in Peru
3 "Misery" actor James
4 Prado display
5 102, to Nero
6 Walk- — (small roles)
7 Plastering strip
8 Arthur of tennis
9 Troy of "A Summer Place"
10 Gardner or DuVernay of film

ACROSS
61 Computer menu option
62 Revise, as a manuscript
63 Yank's home
66 Try to be like
69 A couple of
71 Mice, e.g.
73 House divs.
74 Kinda
77 And higher, as in price
80 Perfect
81 Riddle, part 4
85 Dalai —
88 Contaminate
89 Big burden
90 Sports draw
91 Paper-folding craft
94 Part of BTW or OTC
96 "Allow me to assist"
99 End of the riddle
103 Allergy sufferer's device
104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
105 Audit org.
106 Spy's device
107 With
112-Across, "Hold on!"
109 Sneak attack
112 See
107-Across
115 Akron's state

DOWN
11 Biden's party. Abbr.
12 Basketball coach Rupp
13 Re-sol linkup van —
14 Boiled, salted soybeans
15 1040 pro
16 Dance similar to the tango
17 Unsainly soul
18 Marshy habitats
21 Holy artifact
24 Trade show
29 "So true!"
31 Fertilizable cells
32 Chip go-with
33 Actress Bo
35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
36 Intense beam
38 Some reunion-goers
39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
40 Living ink squirter
41 Assistant
42 Idaho's capital
43 Person doing penance
44 One searching for water with a divining rod

DOWN
49 Tariff
51 Sporty truck, in brief
52 Daiquiri base
55 "Cool" cash amount
56 Very little, as of salt
57 Tantrum
58 Brian of electronica
59 Give as a bonus
63 Like wasted food
64 In a theatrical manner
65 Snoozing
67 Shoe tip
68 Like Nin's writings
70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
72 Baseball great
75 Old Pan Am competitor
76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
78 ET's craft
79 Fail to keep one's cool
81 Return to base after a fly ball
82 — noun
83 See
126-Across
84 "Likewise"

DOWN
85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
86 Wyoming tribe members
87 Small swine breeds
92 Several
93 Plant-eating sea mamma
95 Catches in a snare
97 "Planet Money" aier
98 Includes
100 People lugging things
101 Politician Mo. Mark or Tom
102 Ship's rigging
116 "Well well!"
118 Charged atom
119 Animal park
120 Rx watchdog
121 Dude
122 Suffix of enzymes

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.



TOSTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

The 2026 Annual Meeting and Election of Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner for Division 3 (All lands east of Highway 287) will be held at the Toston Irrigation District Office, 8711 US Highway 287

Published February 20 and 27, 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, and 27, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN RE THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM R. LANE, Deceased.

Probate No. CDP-2026-04

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Marilyn Lane has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, c/o Valerie A Balukas, PO Box 1789, East Helena, MT 59635, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2025

/s/ Valerie A. Balukas

Published February 20, 27 and March 6, 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

Justice Court Report

Samuel Anagnostou

Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

Kimberly C. Dickinson – Billings – Seatbelt Violation – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Rebecca J. Self – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Nicholas R. Benson – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Jesse T. Yurk – East Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Ava A. Velez – Yardley PA – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Willson M. Moore – Bozeman – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Taryn F. Lodge – Belt – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Meghan M. Kronfuss – Bozeman – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Michael D. Bowman – Upper Marlboro MD – speeding on national 4 lane – exceed night limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Noah M. Borrer – East Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Oscar E. Guzman Ramirez – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

McKenzie L. Wardell – Billings – Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$685 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all but one (1) day suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and completion of other programs. Defendant to enroll in ACT class within one (1) month and completed within four (4) months.

Cimeri K. Miller – Bozeman – Fail to carry proof or exhibit/insurance in vehicle – owner or operator [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$285 fines & fees.

Heidi J. Thompson – Great Falls – Operating without liability insurance in effect [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$285 fines & fees

Dawson J. Wood – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – Plead Guilty - \$70 fines & fees

- Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$135 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with all six (6) months suspended with good behavior.

Todd E. Dale – Bozeman – Operating without liability insurance in effect [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$285 fines & fees

- Operate a vehicle which has not been properly registered – Plead Guilty - \$30 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

William Harmon – Helena – Stop Sign Violation – Paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Jonathan J. Mills – Helena – Owner permitting operation of vehicle without liability insurance [1st] – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Laraasha Luster – Gulfport MS – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Willie L. Denboer – Lincoln – Fail to follow conditions and requirements of special permit – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION

Shayla M. Williams – Townsend – Defendant was arrested in Broadwater County for a Warrant issued by Ennis City Court, State of Montana. The Defendant is to be held until transfer to Ennis City Court or posting of \$1,000.00 Bond. If Bond is posted, Defendant to Appear in Ennis City Court.

Pablo F. Gonzalez – Defendant was arrested in Broadwater County for a Warrant issued by Meagher County District Court, State of Montana. Defendant is to be held until transfer to Meagher District Court or posting \$25,000.00 bond. If Bond is posted, Defendant to Appear in Meagher County District Court.



Valerie Hornsveld

MT43 News Reporter



Good day! This week I am going to discuss a Change of Plea (COP) hearing.

This hearing is held when the parties have come to an agreement on the charges against the defendant. Sometimes, in a change of plea, the parties have come to an agreement on a lesser charge, so that is considered an Amended Charge. Another might be that the defendant only pleaded to one or a few of the charges. This usually does not happen, but sometimes the defendant will plead to all the charges against them.

After the Change of Plea, the Sentencing Hearing is either held or scheduled for another day.

February 13, 2026, Judge Mike McMahon
BDC-25-30 Lukeus Gallegos appeared before the Court to enter a Change of Plea.

The defendant pleaded Guilty to Count 2- DUI 4th offense (felony) and Count 5- failure to give notice of accident by Quickest means/apparent damage over \$1000. The remaining offenses were dismissed.

The Court reminded the defendant that all previous bail conditions remain in place.

Sentencing is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2026.

Sheriff's Office Report

MT43 News Staff Reporter



Sheriff Nick Rauser
Photo Provided

Sheriff's office employees have been busy this month. According to Sheriff Nick Rauser, the impound lot near the Cedar Street Canister Site has been finished. The lot, which has been in progress for some time, will be used to house impounded vehicles. The labor for the building was donated, as was the concrete and pouring from Badger Materials.

"We were paying for storage to house those vehicles, so now we have a secure place for evidence," he explained.

Graymont Western Lime plant donated just under \$8,000 to buy the department a new drone for use in investigation work. One deputy will attend the federal drone operator's class. Rauser explained use of a drone is important in search and rescue operations, especially in Canyon Ferry Lake. Before the department had its own drone, it paid for those services from providers.

Parent Teachers Association members have been active in trying to bring back the School Resource Officer at Townsend Schools. Rauser pointed out that the position is not only about safety in the school, but a large part is about building relationships with kids. Although the Sheriff's Department is trying to find solutions, they have not been able to find grants that pay for wages. "The SRO position is so important for safety and for quick response to any dangerous situation that may come up," he said.

Broadwater County has few immigrants, so the Sheriff's office has had no immigration incidents. He explained, "We are not out actively looking for illegal immigrants. But we do have to be there if federal agents are involved in a case. We need to be there as law enforcement members. We are a nation of laws, so we must follow them."

Homestead and Long-Term Rental Tax Relief Passes Halfway Point

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Thousands of Montana property owners have already successfully enrolled to receive property tax relief, according to a release from the Montana Department of Revenue.

As of January 15, the department has enrolled 7,936 homestead and 11,155 long-term rental properties to receive the reduced rates.

Qualified Montana homeowners and owners of long-term rental property have until March 1 to enroll their homes they have lived in for at least 7 months this year, or rentals that have been rented for at least 7 months.

The fastest way for taxpayers in Broadwater County to enroll their property is to go to the County Courthouse, where the Montana Department of Revenue maintains an office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please go to homestead.mt.gov.

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

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



The Scoop on Poop: *Livestock Manure Management*

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



As we all know, our county has grown exponentially in the last decade. People who move to subdivisions often have a desire to own livestock. You may be one of these people. However, each subdivision has its own covenants and rules regarding livestock ownership and management. This is because owning livestock is complex, especially on small acres. Large ranches have more space and flexibility to manage and care for livestock. However, on small acres, you have a limited amount of space to work with and have the additional complication of being close to neighbors who are watching (or smelling) your every move. Careful planning and consideration are needed for livestock on small acres, from grazing management to manure, which is the focus of this article.

Accumulated manure is an issue because it can lead to issues with health, odor, pest and water quality problems. Not to mention that most neighbors don't want to be living next to a pile of poo. It's really amazing how quickly it can accumulate, too. A single horse can produce 35 to 50 pounds of manure and urine a day, which equals 11 cubic yards or 9 tons each year. This doesn't even consider bedding or hay waste that also often accumulates with animals. Planning ahead on how to take care of manure is essential.

In most cases, you are going to need to find a way to stockpile the manure either short-term or long-term. Stockpiling manure is as simple as it sounds. It's choosing a location to create a pile of manure, bedding and discarded hay. However, this location should be chosen carefully. For convenience, you want it somewhat close to the animals' housing, but that shouldn't be the only consideration. It should be somewhere that does not accumulate water. You also don't want a steep location that threatens runoff into streams or lakes. Manure can contain pollutants, including bacteria, phosphorus, nitrogen and organic matter that threaten aquatic ecosystems as well as humans. Finally, consider aesthetics.

Be considerate of your neighbors and people driving by. The stockpile area should be firm, ideally lined with gravel or concrete. A slight slope (1 to 3%) is ideal, but not too much as mentioned earlier. It is also beneficial to have a vegetative strip around or below the manure stockpile to function as a filter.

Composting is another option for manure that potentially has greater benefits but is more labor-intensive. Composting takes manure and material and turns it into a high-quality soil amendment. A pile left alone is not composting; it is decomposing. True composting takes work and includes adding moisture and aerating (turning). When done correctly, the center of the pile will reach 140 degrees F, which kills pathogens and aids in decomposition. Another important downside of composting is that the odor is typically stronger than traditional manure stockpiles. This is important to take into consideration on subdivisions, especially if you are composting a large quantity of material.

The next important consideration is what to do with the material. Compost is much more versatile. It can be used on gardens, lawns and pastures as a soil conditioner. However, stockpiled manure should be used more carefully because it is not fully broken down. Manure should be stockpiled for at least three years prior to using it in a garden or lawn. Chances are that if you have livestock, then you are likely also have a pasture or grazing area. A common solution is to purchase or rent a manure spreader and spread it out on this area. You should do this at least four weeks before grazing. Be cautious about spreading too heavily because it can smother the grasses.

Sometimes it may not be feasible to stockpile or compost on your own property, and the waste needs to be hauled away. You might be lucky to find a landowner who will take it for you. If not, you can always take it to public waste disposal sites. Broadwater County will accept manure at its Indian Creek transfer station. Because manure is considered agricultural waste, it is not included in your general assessment fee. The cost to dump it here is \$65 per ton. Another option is Logan Landfill, which will accept manure at the rate of \$10 per ton. It is recommended that you call first to either location before bringing it, so they are ready for you.

We all know that poop is one of the less fun parts of owning livestock, but it's part of the deal. Planning ahead can make a world of difference! If you have further questions about manure management or caring for small acres, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

Broadwater County Commissioners Hear Election Updates, Parks Plans and Sheriff's Office Report

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



TOWNSEND — Broadwater County commissioners on Feb. 11 heard updates on upcoming local elections, county building security changes, parks and trail planning, and ongoing efforts to refine how the county reviews subdivision exemption requests.

Chair Debbie Randolph opened the meeting with public comment, where Clerk and Recorder and Elections Administrator Angie Paulsen outlined key election dates and the candidates who filed for Townsend School District No. 1 trustee positions.

Paulsen said the district has two open seats for three-year terms and one open seat for a one-year term. By the filing deadline, Jean Hodges and Jason Cool filed for the three-year terms, along with Chase Ragan, also for a three-year term. For the one-year term, Judy Gillespie filed and will be appointed by acclamation, Paulsen said. The school election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.

Paulsen also previewed the 2026 federal primary and general election cycle and said candidate filing for county offices opens Feb. 17 and closes at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4. She said the shortened filing window is a statewide change intended to help election administrators prepare ballots because the school election and June primary fall close together.

Paulsen listed filing fees, which she said are set in Montana law and generally tied to base salary. Fees she cited included \$353.39 for justice of the peace; \$353.39 for clerk and recorder/elections administrator/surveyor; \$355.39 for treasurer and superintendent of schools; \$721.93 for county attorney; \$392.21 for sheriff/coroner; and \$363.39 for county commissioner.

County Building, Community Events

During commissioner comments, Randolph said the county is still working through the possibility of purchasing the Silo building using ARPA funds that were set aside for an emergency building. She said the issue is still in process and could return to the agenda in early March.

Randolph also addressed public questions about changes to courthouse doors, saying the adjustments are intended as a long-term public safety measure for residents and employees. Commissioners asked the public to bring questions directly to the commission rather than relying on rumors.

Randolph also thanked volunteers, donors and the sheriff's office for support at a Super Bowl party held at the school for middle and high school students, saying about 45 students attended.

Parks and Trails

Carol Hatfield, who identified herself as a member of the Broadwater County Parks and Recreation Board, told commissioners the board has been busy since January. Hatfield said two members resigned and one new citizen was recruited and approved, leaving the board with four members. She encouraged additional applicants so the board can return to an odd number of members.

Hatfield said the board updated its recreation plan evaluation and report from 2023 and reviewed projects and priorities as recommended in that document.

She said the board also issued letters of support for trail-related efforts, including a Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC) application to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for a Trail Stewardship Grant to resurface the asphalt trail north of Townsend. Hatfield said the board hopes to hear about that grant in April.

Hatfield also said the board issued a letter to the Montana Trail Coalition related to trail planning and a pilot-county effort. She said the Montana Trail Coalition may place Broadwater County into a later phase focused on pursuing funding because the BCDC trail committee has already completed scoping, planning and a vision trail plan.

Hatfield said board members are also working with the BCDC trail committee on implementation and are developing a checklist for citizens who want to propose projects on two county parcels at Canton Lane and in the Centerville area. She said cleanup is expected on the Centerville property over the summer ahead of a December deadline for a Fish, Wildlife and Parks recreation trail grant.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Nick Rauser told commissioners the sheriff's office recently completed an impound lot project, allowing the county to move vehicles out of paid storage units. Rauser credited community donations, including labor for concrete work, for helping reduce costs.

Broadwater County Commissioners, 8

Broadwater County Commissioner Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioner



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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

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

10:00 AM Monthly report from Broadwater County Treasurer, Melissa Franks

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Diane Thorne, Public Health Department Administrative Assistant

- 2026-2027 Homemaker Grant Application, \$29,000
- Respite Grant Application, \$1,333
- Skilled Nursing Grant Application, \$9,000

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Ed Shindoll and Lois Olsen, Tri County Fire Safe Working Group presentation

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Exemption Review process and application amendments

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

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

- 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
- Board of Health Meeting on March 16th at 3:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on March 16th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on March 17th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 PM

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

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
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 23 - 27

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

Monday, February 23
Sloppy Joes on a Bun
Baked Beans
Carrot Raisin Salad
Pineapple

Tuesday, February 24
Roasted Turkey
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Plump Peaches

Wednesday, February 25
Pork Chops
Steamed Potatoes
Sliced Beets
Whole Grain Bread
Apricots

Thursday, February 26
Tuna Noodle Casserole
Green Peas
Carrot Coins
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Pears
Dessert

Friday, February 27
Montana Pasties
Key Largo Vegetables
Sweet Corn
Whole Grain Bread
Fruit Cocktail

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

LETTER to the EDITOR

We've Strayed from the Constitution and True Conservative Values

In regards to Eric Sorenson's letter, I have to admit that I'm in total agreement.

In what I believe to be a MAGA community, I think it took a lot of courage to express himself in this manner. I, too, am a long time conservative, but am amazed at how far we've strayed from the Constitution and true conservative values.

The government killing, and in my opinion, murdering US citizens in our streets, illegally imposing tariffs on nations because our president didn't like the tone of the other president's phone call, sticking our noses in other countries' business, not for American betterment, but for others.

I'm not sure how we got to this point, but if we truly want to save ourselves, we have to start working together. We can't allow those in power to continue to tear us apart. "United we stand, divided we fall." The phrase has never been more relevant.

We're standing at a crossroads; we can either show some mutual empathy and work together or let hatred tear us apart.

It's our choice, choose wisely.

John Ulmer
Townsend

SPEED WORKS
Tanner-
Home Improvements &
Restoration Specialist
Larry-
General Property Maintenance &
Handyman Services
Larry 406-502-8607 | Tanner 406-475-5435

Broadwater County Commissioners, 7

Rauser also said the office received a drone donated by Greymont and that a deputy is nearing certification to fly it. He said the drone could be used for searches, unsafe situations and crime-scene documentation.

Rauser said a jail remodel project is complete and invited commissioners to tour the improvements.

He also addressed questions he said he has received about immigration enforcement, stating the sheriff's office is not Immigration and Customs Enforcement and does not have authority to enforce federal law. Rauser said that if federal agencies request assistance, the sheriff's office would respond to help ensure safety, but he does not view illegal immigration as a major local issue.

Rauser and Undersheriff Mark Wood also discussed ongoing efforts to restore a school resource officer (SRO) position. Rauser said he was meeting with the school superintendent and PTA later that day and said he hopes an SRO could return next school year, though funding remains the main obstacle.

Rauser said grants can help with equipment or limited costs but typically do not cover the full ongoing wages, which he estimated at roughly \$100,000 per deputy per year. He said one federal program can provide partial funding for a limited period before local funding must fully sustain the position.

Wood said he is pursuing additional funding through the Broadwater County Trust Board and is also exploring a trust board grant for a search-and-rescue boat. He thanked commissioners and community partners, including Rotary, for help with prior grant efforts.

Subdivision exemptions and family transfers

Community Development and Planning Director Nichole Brown asked commissioners to table a Hansen family transfer exemption request, saying the county is shifting to a best practice of requiring both a family transfer affidavit and an exemption application form. Brown said she had notified the Hansens that an application is needed and that once submitted, the 20-working-day review timeline under Montana law would restart.

During public comment, resident Chuck Hahn asked how the county would handle a previously approved family transfer that relied only on an affidavit. Brown said she would defer to County Attorney Kevin Bratcher for guidance.

Commissioners voted to table the Hansen request. Brown later asked commissioners to table the Cope-lands family transfer for the same reason, saying the applicant understood the need to submit the exemption application.

Brown also walked commissioners through a proposed, more formal subdivision exemption review process and an updated exemption application form. The process includes a pre-application meeting, submission requirements, and a new certificate-of-survey (COS) review committee intended to provide another layer of review before items reach the commission for a decision.

Commissioners said they want additional time for public review and scheduled the exemption process and application amendments to return on Feb. 25. Hahn urged the county to ensure the application captures needed written documentation, noting recent legal changes and increased penalties related to subdivision regulation evasion.

Brown also asked commissioners to pause action on broader subdivision regulation amendments and instead hold a new public hearing later in March, citing additional proposed changes and the need to compare county regulations with model rules provided by the Montana Association of Counties. Commissioners tentatively discussed a March 25 public hearing date.

The commission approved minutes from multiple prior meetings and approved claims, including a payroll amount of \$285,210.75. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Montana Aerospace Scholars at the Montana Learning Center

Matt Nelson



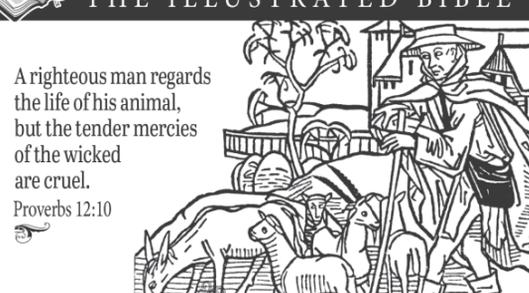
Located near the north shore of Canyon Ferry Lake, the Montana Learning Center (MLC) is partnering with NASA to host the Montana Aerospace Scholars (MAS) program, one of only 5 NASA High School Aerospace Scholars programs in the country. For more information, go to NASA Partnerships.

Designed for motivated high school students, MAS offers two competitive tracks: one for freshmen and sophomores (F&S) and another for juniors and seniors (J&S). More information and student applications are available for each track level on the NASA Partnerships webpage.

A Two-Phase Competitive Program:
Montana Aerospace Scholars begins with Phase One, which opens March 1. During this initial stage, students

MT Aerospace Scholars, 9

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
Proverbs 12:10

Detail of 15th-century woodcut

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The Garden Bug

Planning your growing space

- Consider a **container garden** if you have a small space or a patio. Compact veggies like peppers like to grow in pots.
- For smaller properties, a **raised garden bed** gives more space and control than containers, but less permanent than in-ground beds. They're great for root crops, onions, garlic, cabbage, zucchini and squash.
- An **in-ground garden** works if there is full sun, good soil and space for what you'll grow. This requires the most time and effort. Corn, tomatoes, winter squash and perennial herbs like more space to grow. - Brenda Weaver

Source: thehomesteadchallenge.com

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OBITUARY

Mary Margaret Garman

Family of Mary Margaret Garman

Mary Margaret Garman, age 69, of Townsend
January 25, 1957 – February 12, 2026



Mary Margaret Garman
Photo Provided by Family of Mary Margaret Garman

Mary Wood Garman (69) was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at home with her loving family at her side after a short battle with cancer.

With grace, curiosity, and an unwavering devotion to her family, Mary lived a life filled with purpose and love. A devoted mother of four, she found joy in nurturing young minds through teaching, expressing herself through music, and exploring the world alongside those she loved most. She approached everything in life with an enthusiasm and generosity that left a lasting impression on all. Her warmth and wisdom touched everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Mary was born in Devils Lake, ND to Robert and Margerie (Gonvick) Wood on January 25th, 1957. She attended Minnie H. Elementary and graduated from Central High School in 1975. She completed a BA in Education at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and an MS degree in Health and Human Development at Montana State University in Bozeman. Though she enjoyed her work as a licensed therapist, she found her way back into her original career as a teacher and knew this was truly her niche. She taught at Dunseith High School from 1980-1982 and at Bryant Elementary and CR Anderson Middle School in Helena from 2002 to 2023. She loved teaching and she impacted countless children through her work with the Special Education program in Helena.

Her love of music really showed with her involvement with her accordion trio, Not Quite Ripe, Helena Tuba Society, New Horizons Band, and the Capitol City Band. She faithfully played for Sunday Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church for many years. She always said God needs more piano players. She also directed and helped with countless music productions and shows over the years. Her kids' childhood was full of music.

Mary is survived by Jack Garman, her spouse of 42 years. She also had four children: Emma (Will) Hyde of Stevensville, MT; Anthony (Karla) Garman of Billings, MT; Pamela Garman of Billings, MT; and Claire (Jerry) Hunter of Grandview, WA. Her grandchildren included Cadence Hyde, Alaina Hyde, Rose Hyde, Maria Hyde, Eleanor Hyde, Isaac Hyde, Andre Hunter, and Amari Hunter, along with many other family and friends who will miss her dearly. She is preceded in death by her parents and her younger brother Robbie.

Mary was very appreciative of the care and support she received from the Bozeman Health Cancer Center, especially Dr. Maye. She also greatly appreciated the warm care she received from Enhabit Hospice Care, especially Ellery.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10 am on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 101 S Walnut St., Townsend, MT 59644. Burial followed to Holy Cross Cemetery, Townsend, MT. A reception was held after the burial at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Condolences in Mary's memory can be shared at www.stevensonwilke.com.

MT Aerospace Scholars, 8

complete online coursework focused on space exploration, STEM concepts, and related career pathways. The curriculum introduces participants to real-world aerospace challenges while building critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

Students who successfully complete Phase One may be selected to advance to Phase Two, the MAS Summer Residency program held at MLC's lakeside campus:

- Freshmen & Sophomores attend a five-day residency in late June.
- Juniors & Seniors attend their residency session in early July.

The residency experience immerses students in hands-on activities such as mission design, team-based engineering challenges, and proposal development—mirroring the collaborative work of real aerospace professionals.

Preparing Students for the Future:

Montana Aerospace Scholars is designed for students curious about the boundless opportunities space exploration offers. Beyond learning about rockets and planetary science, participants gain exposure to a wide range of aerospace and STEM careers.

Through teamwork and mentorship, scholars develop valuable skills that extend far beyond the program itself—communication, leadership, analytical thinking, and adaptability. The experience helps students envision and prepare for life after high school, whether that path leads to college, technical training, military service, or direct entry into the workforce.

Participation and Support:

According to Executive Director Ryan Hannahoe, the program expects approximately:

- 15 juniors and seniors
- 15–20 freshmen and sophomores for this year's cohort.

Scholarship assistance is available for students who qualify, helping ensure that motivated learners can participate regardless of financial circumstances.

For more information about Montana Aerospace Scholars and to apply, contact Ryan Hannahoe at MontanaLearningCenter@gmail.com or call 406-475-3638.

Montana Aerospace Scholars continues to inspire the next generation of innovators—right from the shores of Canyon Ferry Lake.



Ryan Hannahoe, the Executive Director of the Montana Learning Center, is standing by the 32-inch telescope.
Photo by Matt Nelson

Ryan Hannahoe serves as Executive Director of the Montana Learning Center, where he has led the development and overseen the construction of its astronomy program. Before entering the field of science education, Ryan worked in astronomy and, during college, interned on NASA's James Webb Space Telescope mission—the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope.

About the Montana Learning Center:

Located at scenic Canyon Ferry Lake, the Montana Learning Center is a statewide STEM education hub offering youth summer camps, teacher professional development, and Montana's largest public-access telescopes. In partnership with Montana State University, MLC helps facilitate NASA's Northwest Earth & Space Science Pathways (NESSP) program, expanding aerospace and Earth-space science education across Montana.

REMEMBER: Applications must be submitted by February 28th!

EAST HELENA NEWS

East Helena School Board Approves Policies, Personnel Actions in Feb. 9 Meeting

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



The East Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees met Feb. 9 for a regular meeting that included routine approvals, updates from district leadership on enrollment and instruction, and action on policy and personnel items.

Board Chair Scott Walter called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, trustees approved the agenda and moved through a consent agenda that included approval of prior meeting minutes and the district's claims and warrants.

No members of the public offered comment during the public comment period.

District Updates

Superintendent Dan Rispen reported that district enrollment remains stable compared to projections. He said staffing levels have been adjusted to match enrollment needs and to maintain appropriate classroom coverage.

Rispen also highlighted ongoing professional development for staff, describing a focus on instructional consistency and student achievement growth. He said training efforts are aligned with district goals, including literacy and standards-based instruction.

In addition, Rispen told trustees the district is monitoring state-level legislative developments that could affect school funding and policy. He said the district will continue tracking proposals and provide updates as needed.

Facilities and long-term planning were also part of the superintendent's report. Rispen said maintenance priorities are being evaluated with an emphasis on proactive planning to reduce the need for emergency repairs.

Principal Report

Brandon Crusat, principal, provided an update on academic progress and student support initiatives. He said literacy efforts remain a priority, with intervention systems being implemented to provide targeted support for students who need additional help. Teachers are reviewing student data regularly to guide instruction and monitor progress.

Attendance was also discussed as an ongoing focus area. District leaders said overall attendance is steady, while staff continue working with families to address chronic absenteeism when needed.

School climate efforts were highlighted as well, including student recognition programs and community-building activities intended to support a safe and positive learning environment.

Business and Activities

Business Manager Laura Boltz reviewed current fund balances, budget projections and upcoming financial obligations. She reported that expenditures are tracking within budget expectations and revenues remain consistent with projections.

Boltz said the district is also watching inflation-related cost pressures, including utilities, transportation and supplies. She emphasized conservative budgeting and continued fiscal responsibility as the district moves through the year.

Activities Director Shaun Murgel reported strong participation in winter sports programs and said scheduling adjustments have been made as needed due to weather and facility coordination. He also noted positive sportsmanship reports and thanked coaches and volunteers.

Murgel said the district continues monitoring academic eligibility to support students both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

Board Action

In old business, trustees discussed policy revisions that had been tabled at a previous meeting and voted to approve the policy revisions as presented.

In new business, trustees reviewed personnel recommendations and approved personnel actions as presented.

Trustees also discussed upcoming calendar items, including district events, committee meetings and legislative updates affecting schools.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



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& Service ware
Vintage Watches and More



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(2nd floor of Barnes Jewelry)

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10 AM - 5:30 PM

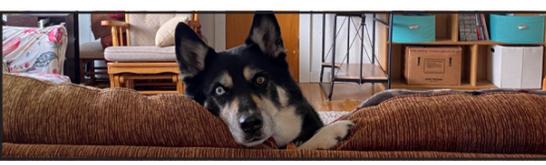
Best to make an appointment

406-502-1029

Weekend appointments available.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

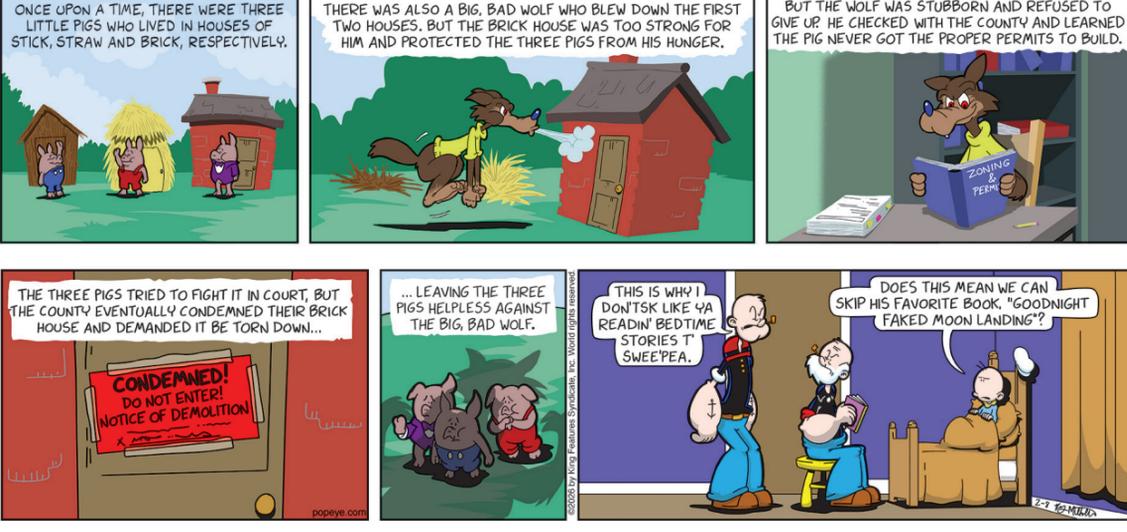
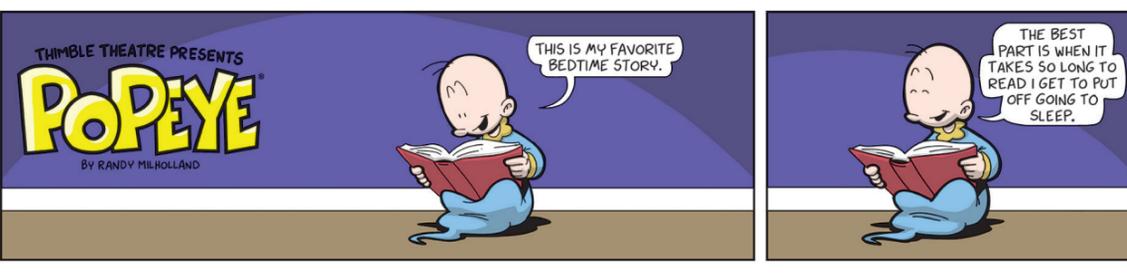
AWARD FOR SHORTEST TIME ANYONE WAS EVER A GUNSLINGER IN THE OLD WEST...



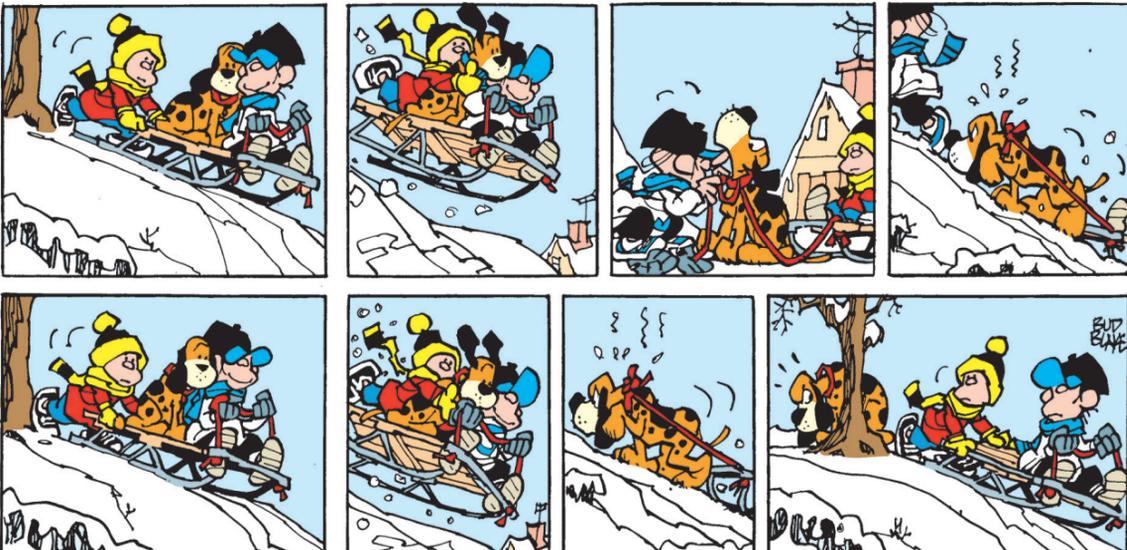
Amber Waves



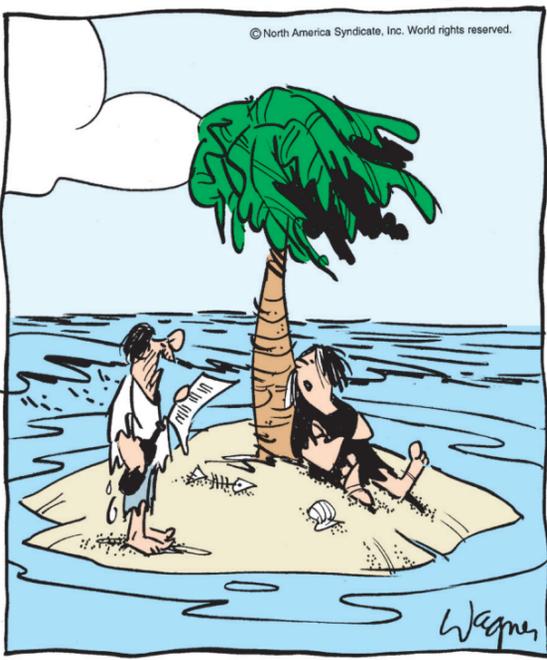
The Spats



TIGER



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"Hey, this is a great deal on refinancing!"

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer 5 7 3 9 6 2 1 4 8 9 4 6 8 7 1 5 2 3 8 2 1 4 5 3 6 9 7 1 8 4 2 3 5 9 7 6 2 9 5 6 8 7 3 1 4 3 6 7 1 4 9 8 5 2 6 3 9 7 1 4 2 8 5 4 1 8 5 2 6 7 3 9 7 5 2 3 9 8 4 6 1

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

Super Crossword Answers COCACOLA DAD AME CHEW OCARINAS OVERDID PAVE WHATISTHENAMEOFA ABIT SON HEXA LLAMA ALL ODD PHILIP AMANDA MOVIE ABOUTACHAMELEON DICAPRIO ESS TENURED OAT EDIT NEURO MARS WHOMAKESA FORTUNE AS SAPID EXIT EMEND USA EMULATE TWO RODENTS RMS SORTA ONUP IDEAL THE OWNER OF ABANDAGE LAMA TAINT ONUS TIE ORIGAMI THE ICANHELP MANUFACTURING COMPANY EPIPEN ODETTE IRS TAP WAITA RAID SEC OHIO THELIZARDOFGAUZE GOGH EARLOOP ENDUSERS OSSO EDS NOS STAYEDAT

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CryptoQuip answer Very relaxing anti-anxiety drug manufactured in southern California: San Fernando Valium. SCRAMBLERS solution 1. Aviate; 2. Binder 3. Stride; 4. Knead Today's Word STARVED

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This February is the anniversary of 100 years of officially recognizing Black History in America! This year's theme: Commemoration of Black History.



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

Michelle Mathot, Rocky's Agency on Aging

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

Become a Classroom Mentor

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 mdc.net

ROCKY MONTANA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. Improving lives, strengthening communities.

AmeriCorps Seniors

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

Weather Forecast February



Friday 20	High Temp: 32
Low Temp: 13	
Wind: 12	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	
Saturday 21	High Temp: 28
Low Temp: 16	
Wind: 12	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	
Sunday 22	High Temp: 32
Low Temp: 14	
Wind: 9	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	
Monday 23	High Temp: 44
Low Temp: 26	
Wind: 17	
Rain: 0.024	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	
Tuesday 24	High Temp: 46
Low Temp: 26	
Wind: 10	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 80	
Wednesday 25	High Temp: 47
Low Temp: 31	
Wind: 11	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	
Thursday 26	High Temp: 48
Low Temp: 35	
Wind: 19	
Rain: 0.0	
Snow: 0.0	
Cloud Cover: 100	

SHOULD WE BRING BACK THE WEATHER? LET US KNOW!

406-266-0086, 408 Broadway, Townsend or mt43news@mt43news.com

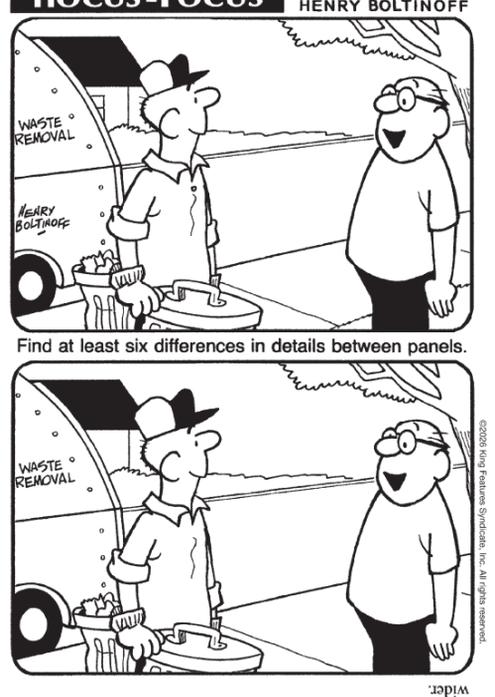
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406-422-4822 | tizermeats.com

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is missing. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidewalk is wider.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Montana Stock Growers Accepting Applications for Summer Internships

Kenii Reese Lairy
Montana Stock Growers Communications Director

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) is encouraging college students to submit applications for the 2026 Summer Internship Program. The deadline to apply is March 1 and the internship duration will be from May through August.

The MSGA Summer Internship Program was created to provide students with a hands-on experience of the various facets of association event planning and execution, policy development, social media engagement and coverage, and member engagement. This internship program is made possible with the support of the Montana Stockgrowers Foundation.

"MSGA's Summer Internship is a chance for college students to build meaningful industry connections and develop the leadership skills needed to shape the future of agriculture," said Raylee Honeycutt, MSGA Executive Vice President. "We encourage students who are passionate about the beef industry to apply and be part of the work that supports Montana ranch families."

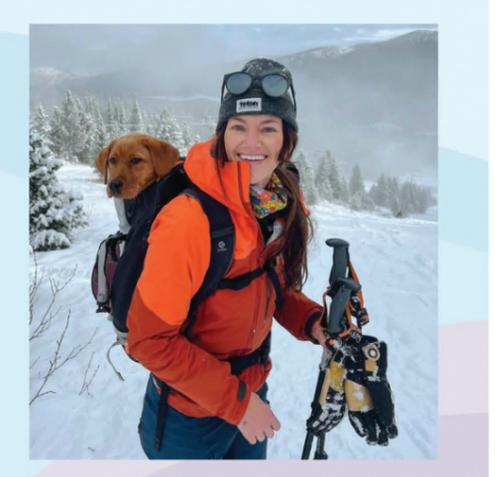
The selected candidate will be responsible for assisting the Director of Marketing and Communications with all formal association communications, including public relations, external communications, member communications, and event management.

For more information about the summer internship program or to apply, visit www.mtbeef.org

Billings Clinic
Broadwater

MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK Member

Welcome to Townsend Kelley Olson Physical Therapist



Kelley Olson

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

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

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

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

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (406) 266-3186. 110 North Oak Street, Townsend, MT 59644 billingsclinic.com/broadwater

Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

February 21

1903

Duck Creek Nuggets

Prof. Miles is now putting up ice for W.C. Daniels. Heavy winds have been raging around Canton. Our storekeeper has lost his moustache and a reward of a yellow dog is offered.

Local News

W.C. Whaley, after spending a few days at the capital city, returned home Sunday.

There were 929 tons of coal consumed by the N.P. at this station the month of January. Those who are not familiar with the facts concerning the business done in this vicinity will be interested to know that during the month of January there were 339 passengers left this station, 115 tons of oats shipped and 12 tons of general merchandise, while during the same time the receipts of the station in a commercial way were 258 tons of commercial coal, 24 tons of flour, 22 tons of brick, and 35 tons of general merchandise.

1925

Great Motion Picture to be Shown Here

One of the greatest, if not the greatest, film productions of the age is "Abraham Lincoln," which will be shown at the Rex Theater in Townsend on Sunday and Monday of the coming week, February 22nd and 23rd.

It is a great drama of the life and character of the real Abraham Lincoln, whose character is cleverly depicted by George Billings, whose impersonation of this great man is most remarkable. The play gives again in motion

pictures a version of the life of our sixteenth president. When ex-United States Senator Cornelius Cole met George Billings, who impersonates the great man, he exclaimed: "You look so much like Lincoln that I was shocked when I first saw you. I last saw President Lincoln the afternoon of the day he was assassinated, and you look enough like him to be him."

1953

Brownie Scouts Participate in Investiture Ceremonies for Two Troops.

The two Brownie scout troops held Investiture Ceremonies in the Legion Hall February 10th. The program consisted of a number of Scout requirements, including exemplification of Girl Scout laws, repeating their promises and patriotic procedure.

At the start of the meeting, which was public, two Girl Scouts, Carol Stiner and Karen Grover, advanced the flags. Guards were Darel Ann Johnson, Helen Braley and Patty Chamberlain.

After the singing of the national anthem, the Candle-light ceremony was presented, during which the Girl Scout Laws were repeated by second-year Scouts.

The following were presented with pins and clusters for 1st year work: Charlene Adams, Linda Bucy, Betty Joe Daniels, Donna Fogland, Gail Kieckbusch, Marietta Lanning, Jerry Ann Lewis, Susan McElravy, Judy Peters, Cathy Bucy and Karen Grover, and Sybil Shell. As each received their awards, they repeated the Brownie Scout Promise.

Those receiving the 2nd year Brownie pins were Helen Braley, Carol Ann Cartwright, Patty Chamberlain, Darel Ann Johnson, Patsy Kelly, Mary Jean Kirley, Carol Stiner and Wendie Williams.

After singing the Brownie song and the closing

song, the flags were retired.

Music for the ceremonial was played by Kitty Kelly, and lunch was served by the Brownies.

Leaders and assistant leaders of the Brownies are Mrs. Ronald Kelly, Mrs. Schalbrack, Mrs. Don Williams and Mrs. Leroy McElravy.

1970

Radersburg News

Tim Hysel and Doyle Miller drove as far as possible and then snowshoed into the Miller cabin Sunday.

Sam Harris of Helena visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Harris, recently.

Art Sitton entered St. Peter's Hospital last Wednesday for an operation on his leg. He returned home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Benny Skillman of Whitehall spent the weekend at their home here.

Bill Harris is working for Norm Bruce north of Townsend.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nilson, Jane Williams and daughter, Dawn Marie, of Helena, were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Williams.

Toston Briefs

Mrs. Dolores Wambolt and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leanhart were Friday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hardgrove.

Mrs. Loilla Flynn, Mrs. Marie Flynn and Louise were Sunday dinner guests at the Bill Flynn home.

Cathy Miller was a guest at a birthday party honoring Barb Randolph Saturday. Patti Johnson, who was also a guest, spent the weekend with Barb.

Miss Jean Berberet, who is employed in Lincoln, Nebr., is now visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Berberet, and friends in Bozeman.



Seed Starting Class #2

March 5TH, 7:00pm

Broadwater Library Community Room
2ND & N. Spruce, Townsend

Free to the Public! Come join Monica Howick for 90 minutes of hand-on instruction about starting a variety of seeds in our area. Material will be provided, but if you have seed containers you want to use, please bring them.

Come play in the dirt with us!

Special Olympics Event Attracts Veteran Polar Plunger

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Last week in the parking lot of the new Town Pump in East Helena, hundreds of Special Olympians and their supporters cheered and hooted while Phillip Holcombe of Helena dove belly-first into a huge pool of icy water. The plunge was Holcombe's 22nd time at diving for Special Olympians.

Holcombe first began his support of the group in 2004 when he was matched with a best buddy, "Travis," when they were in high school. "Travis and I have been best buddies ever since," he explained.

Holcombe is a welder with his own business in Helena who has perfected his signature belly flop. He praised the supporters and athletes who train for Special Olympics. "These folks are near and dear to my heart. If they can be so dedicated and passionate about what they accomplish, so can I," he said.

Montana Special Olympics Sweetheart Polar Plunge, a major fundraising event organized by Law Enforcement Torch Run. Supporters and special needs people alike jump in a huge pool with floating ice, outside, only to raise awareness and funds for Montana's special needs folks. Law Enforcement Torch Run, started

in 1981, is now a global organization. According to Melissa Nichols, coordinator for the event, her group heads the annual Torch Run for the Special Olympians as well as the many plunge events held across Montana. The East Helena event is one of the most successful.

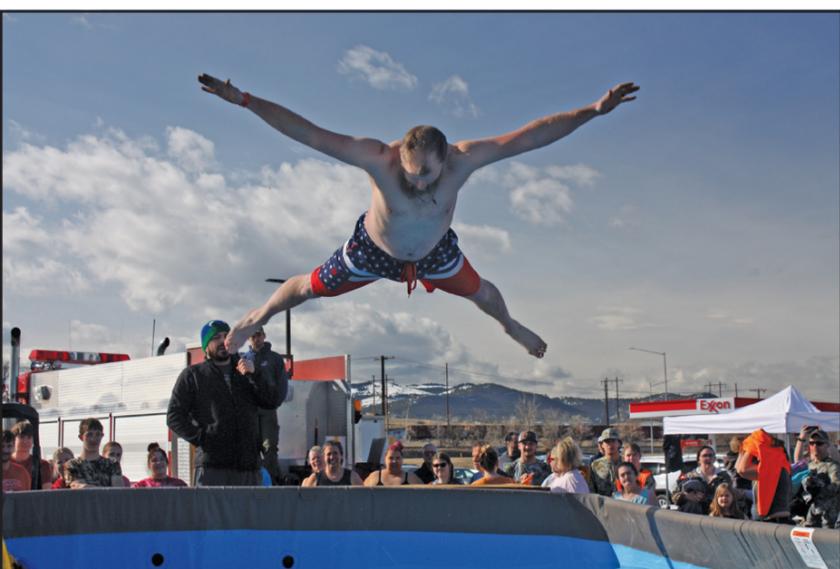
Ten teams from a wide group of businesses and nonprofits participated in the event in 60-degree weather. Sixty-three people took the plunge, then jumped in the hot tub provided by the East Helena Fire Department. The event raised around \$13,000. Each team is tasked with raising pledge money before they participate in the event.

Glendale, East Helena and Lewis & Clark Fire Departments were on hand, as well as East Helena



Helena Halos Special Olympics Athlete, Tanner Davis, presents the torch, accompanied by Lewis & Clark Sheriff's Deputy Alicia Bragg. Emceeding the event was Torch Run Director Sargeant Domingo Leveque-Zapata. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Police Department and Lewis & Clark Sheriff's Office. Major supporters of the event are General Distributing, Murdock's, Opportunity Bank, Carroll College and Westmont. Also involved were East Helena VFW Post 10010, Aspen Dental and Sleeping Giant Lanes.



Veteran Polar Plunger Phillip Holcombe in his signature belly flop. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Two guys and their sweethearts take the plunge. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer