

**East Helena & Broadwater County News Inside**

**Four Townsend Bulldogs Place at the 2026 Montana State Wrestling Tournament B/C Class**



Gavin Schmele with a cow catcher before his 4th place pin vs. Joe Banks from Eureka  
Photo Credit: Becky Hunt



Gabby Rico running a half-nelson  
Photo Credit: Becky Hunt

**Becky Hunt**

Just to get a seat at the Montana All-Class State Wrestling tournament is a feat in itself. Not only did all five of your Dawgs make it to day three, another big accomplishment, four of them also brought home a State medal for the B/C Class.

*Isaac Brakefield, Freshman - 110 pounds:*

Isaac battled all the way back through the consolation bracket from an early loss, pinning Manhattan's Callan Dos Santos in the third round of Brakefields bloodround, securing him a 6th place medal.

*Parker Hunt, Senior - 144 pounds:*

After a tough loss in the quarter finals, Parker worked his way back through the consolation bracket. Hunt pinned Fort Benton's Wyatt Cline 43 seconds into the first round of consolation semi-finals, winning himself a 4th place medal.

*Gavin Schmele, Senior - 285 pounds:*

Gavin suffered an injury during his consolation semi-final bout with Eureka's Joe Banks. Gavin fought through the injury, pinning Banks in round two. Due to his injury, Schmele was unable to wrestle his last match of the season for 3rd vs. Baker's Logan Sherman, landing Gavin a 4th place medal.

*Lane Bantz, Junior - 285 pounds:*

Bantz, on the light side for the 285-pound bracket, fought two well-earned wins and two tough losses, ultimately falling one bout shy of the podium.

There were a total of 43 teams in attendance for the B/C Class. The 4 Townsend wrestlers battled hard and ranked their team in 11th place overall with a total score of 51.5.

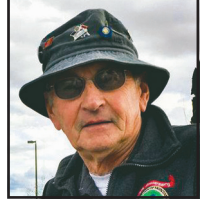
*Gabby Rico, Sophomore - 235 pounds:*

Rico wrestled in a bracket with 18 other girls from AA, A and B/C Class schools.

Gabby took 8th place, making history as Broadwater High School's first-ever female to land on the girls' Montana All State podium.

**Trees on Heritage Park Playground to be Carved Starting Next Week**

**Patrick Plantenberg**  
*Tree Board Chair*



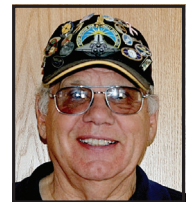
Two years ago, the Townsend Tree Board received a US Forest Service and MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation grant to help remove two large cottonwoods in the Heritage Park playground. They were left as 10-15-foot stumps to allow for carving them into characters. The Tree Board started reaching out to potential carvers to do the work.

The Tree Board also received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to do a special project in the city. In a thank-you letter back to the law firm representing the donor, the Tree Board stated the money would be used to plant new trees in McCarthy Park on South Harrison. This is the only park left that the Tree Board has not replanted in the last 20 years. In addition, the letter stated the two stumps would be carved into characters with the money.

The Tree Board contacted Townsend Schools and asked the elementary school teachers to bring the children to the park and send the Tree Board ideas for what the kids would like the trees carved into. Many great ideas were submitted by the children of Broadwater County, and two themes dominated, including carving them into a squirrel house and into the Townsend Bulldog.

**Townsend Boy is Featured on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fishing Regulations**

**Matt Nelson**



Ryker Krueger, the 12-year-old son of Kindergarten Teacher Ashley and his dad Eric Krueger, the pastor of the Mountain Valley Church here in Townsend, caught a huge Walleye Father's Day weekend at the Church's family campout on the East side of Canyon Ferry Lake. According to Eric, "We spend a couple nights over the weekend, families show up, bring games, and their fishing poles."

Ryker told his story: "Right when we got there, we all wanted to start fishing. We started fishing and on my second cast, I caught this big fish. We reeled the fish in because we thought it was a Carp. It was scaly, and we brought it in and I picked it up and one of my friends said, 'Wait, that's a Walleye!' Everybody was freaking out. Somebody said, 'That's a giant Walleye.' It was two feet long. So, I started running to camp and they shouted, 'Ryker caught a huge Walleye, come and see it.' And so, my dad and a couple of my friends of



Ryker Krueger and the photo of the huge Walleye he caught that the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks placed on their Fishing Regulations.  
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Mom and Dad came over to see it."

Eric, "The really cool, like God's story behind me, is that I was out at the house, and I was late at the camp

**Townsend Boy, 3**

**Last Chance to Apply for Homestead Tax Reduction**

**Montana State Department of Revenue Communications**

The online enrollment portal will close on March 1, 2026. Qualified Montana taxpayers only have a few more days to enroll their properties to receive reduced tax rates for their primary residences (homesteads) or long-term rental property.

The fastest way for taxpayers to enroll their property is online at [homestead.mt.gov](http://homestead.mt.gov). Mailing a paper application form will add processing time. Paper applications for the 2026 tax year received after March 1 are ineligible to be processed.

Rental property that is part of a primary residence, for example an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) or outbuilding, must be separately enrolled to qualify for reduced tax rates.

For more information or to enroll your property, please visit [homestead.mt.gov](http://homestead.mt.gov).

**Water Rights: A Critical Montana Issue**

**Eliza DuBose**  
*Reporter for The Monitor, Boulder, Montana*



*This article was originally published in the inaugural East Helena Monitor on December 17, 2025. It is reprinted with permission of The Monitor in Boulder, Montana.*

*Water has been all over the headlines lately, particularly in The Monitor.*

*From Boulder selling bulk water to a posh ranch-resort in the Crazy Mountains to an East Helena subdivision that needs to find a new water source, and from the state refusing to grant East Helena the water rights to the former ASARCO smelter lands to Clancy struggling to secure a reliable water source from more than a decade, there's a great deal of ground to cover.*

*Thankfully, retired water rights attorney Stan Bradshaw – who literally wrote the "Buyer's Guide to Water Rights, 9*

# Basketball Players Honored at Senior Night

**Bryleigh Erickson**  
BHS Sports Reporter



On Friday, February 20th the Bulldogs took on the Big Timber Herders for a non-conference matchup and the last game of regular season. It was senior night.

Nine seniors were recognized and their future plans announced. Blake Graham will be going on a mission after high school, and Trace Giomi plans to join the National Guard and play football for University of Montana Western. Trenton Hoveland will be playing football at University of Montana Western. Tannen Tuffelmire hasn't decided his future plans yet. The senior girls recognized were: Kenzie Knaub, who will attend Montana State University, Mishayla Lambott will attend Weber State University, Emmalin Fischer will play basketball at Rocky Mountain College. Kaitlyn Noyes plans to study business. Taylor Cartwright will compete in rodeo at University of Montana Western.

This group of seniors has been playing basketball together since 1st grade in the Elkhorn league. Although they have mixed emotions about ending their careers, they are ready for post-season and the last time they will play together.

The boys' team finished their conference play with a 6-win, 6-loss record. The girls' team finished with a 5-win, 7-loss record in conference play.

The day started with the C squad boys' game. The Bulldogs won their last game of the season. They beat the Herders 45-27.

The junior varsity boys also won their last game of the season. The score of their game was 51 to the Herders' 46.

The varsity boys lost in a tight matchup against the Herders. The end score was 54 to the Herders' 59 points. Tavyn Anderson led the Bulldogs with 13 points, and he also had 3 steals. Tannen Tuffelmire had 11 points and 5 rebounds. Trace Giomi contributed 9 points and 9 rebounds. Rylan Hoveland scored 10 points and also had 3 steals. Blake Graham scored 6 points and shot 100 percent from the free-throw line.

The Junior Varsity girls fell short in their last game this season. They lost the game 27 to the Herders' 36. Tevyn Newman led the Bulldogs with 8 points, and Kymber McCartney scored 6 points.

The varsity girls' game was another close matchup. The Herders pulled away at the end, so the Bulldogs lost the game 30 to 46. Kaitlyn Noyes led the Bulldogs with 13 points, and Jazel Ragen scored 6 points.

These games against Big Timber were the last for the C squad and junior varsity teams. The varsity teams will play in the district tournament next, and both teams are entering as 4 seeds. The boys' team plays on Wednesday, February 25th, at 3:30 pm against the Lone Peak Bighorns. The girls' team plays at 3:30 on Thursday, February 26th, against the Whitehall Trojans. The tournament is in Manhattan, and the teams play at Manhattan Christian High School.



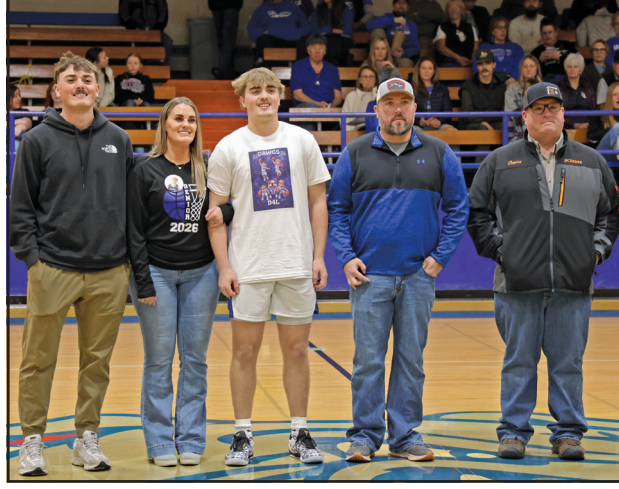
Mishayla Lambott and her mom. Mishayla plans to attend Weber State University in Utah.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Emmalin Fischer and her mom. Emmalin will play basketball at Rocky Mountain College in Billings.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Kaitlyn Noyes and her family. Kaitlyn will study business marketing and graphic design.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Trenton Hoveland and his family. Trenton plays to play football for University of Montana Western.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Trace Giomi and his family. Trace will play football for University of Montana Western and will join the National Guard.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Taylor Cartwright and her parents. Taylor will participate in rodeo at the University of Montana Western.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



Tannen Tuffelmire and his parents. Tannen has not decided his future plans after graduation.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer

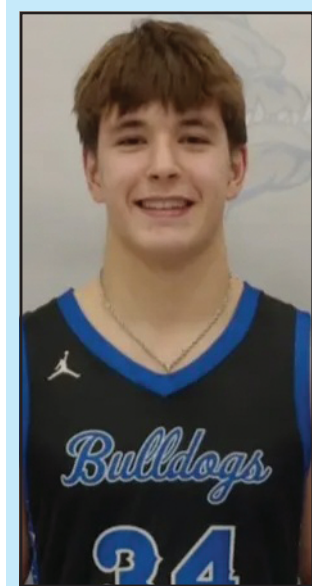


Kenzie Knaub and her family. Kenzie will attend Montana State University to join the nursing program.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer

## PLAYERS of the WEEK



Wrestling state qualifiers: Lane Bantz, Gavin Schmele, Parker Hunt, Isaac Brakefield, Gabby Rico  
Photo Credit: Alexa O'Dell



Boys Basketball: Trace Giomi  
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Jazel Ragen  
Townsend Booster Club Photo

## Boys Basketball Statistics: Townsend vs. Big Timber

Clint Watson

### Townsend vs. Big Timber

2/20/26

Townsend - 11 11 11 21: 54

Big Timber- 12 16 17 14: 59

Scorers- Tavyn Anderson-13, Tannen Tuffelmire-11, Trace Giomi-11, Rylan Hoveland-10, Blake Graham-6, Heston Vandencare-3

Lead Rebounders- Trace Giomi-9, Blake Graham-6, Tannen Tuffelmire-5, Trenton Hoveland-3, Rylan Hoveland-3, Tavyn Anderson-2, Heston Vandencare-1, Colby Flynn-1

Assists- Trace Giomi-2, Tavyn Anderson-2, Trenton Hoveland-1

Steals- Rylan Hoveland-3, Tavyn Anderson-3, Blake Graham-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1

Deflections- Trace Giomi-3, Tavyn Anderson-2, Rylan Hoveland-2, Trenton Hoveland-1, Tannen Tuffelmire-1

Townsend Shots- 2pts-19/33 57.6% 3pts- 2/24 8.3%

Big Timber Shots- 2pts- 15/29 51.7% 3pts- 8/23 34.8%

Townsend Free Throws- 10/19 52.6%

Big Timber Free Throws- 5/10 50%

Townsend Turnovers-9

Big Timber Turnovers- 15

### Coach's Thoughts:

We hosted the Big Timber Shepherders this past weekend and they got us by five points. It came down to them shooting better from behind the arc than we did, a lot better! They were 8 for 23 compared to our dismal 2 for 24, Ouch! I attribute that to their good execution of offense, and shooting their shots in rhythm, whereas our shots weren't. Anyway, we saw Trace Giomi pull down some great offensive rebounds to give our players another chance to score. It was good to see 4 of our players in double figures, and to see our shooting inside of the arc was pretty high at 57.6%.

We will play Lone Peak from Big Sky this Wednesday at 3:30 at the Manhattan Christian Event Center as we kick off our District 5B tournament.

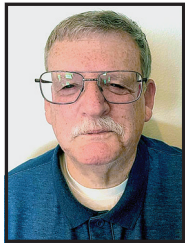


Blake Graham and his family. Blake will go on a mission for his church after graduation.  
Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Annual Photographer



## AI: Low Earth Orbit Data Centers

Victor Sample  
MT43 News



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.

Last week, we discussed that across the nation, there has been a massive pushback from communities where large data centers have been proposed.

From "The Hill":

"AI data centers are essential to winning the global AI race — but most communities don't want them in their backyards. It's easy to see why. These facilities are enormous, resource-intensive and often difficult for communities to digest. Local ambivalence or opposition — tells us something important: Data centers may be necessary in the global AI race, but they are not popular."

Large Data Centers have huge power requirements, consume tremendous amounts of water (for cooling) and produce a substantial amount of noise. A large data center can create as much noise as the traffic on a large, busy freeway. Not a desirable trait here in Montana!

However, there are a number of companies (SpaceX, Google, Microsoft, etc.) researching the possibility of putting large data centers in low-earth orbit satellites. These satellites would use solar energy to power the data center; would not require water for cooling and would produce no noise.

The ISS (International Space Station) solar panels generate enough power for a medium-sized data center. The technology exists to power a large data center in low earth orbit; it becomes an engineering and construction issue to build a large enough solar array to power a large data center.

As far as cooling, we have all seen space movies — it's cold in space. Seems like you could just build an open-sided structure with just enough structure to hold everything together and the cooling problems is solved!

Space is cold — or space is hot, depending on the level of sunlight being received. In direct sunlight, surface temperatures can reach 250 degrees Fahrenheit; when fully shaded the surface temperature can drop to -250 degrees Fahrenheit.

The lack of any air in space would act like a thermos; a server producing heat would be in its own bubble of heat — there is no air to move the heat away. Even in the earth's shadow, when the ambient temperature is -250 Fahrenheit, the server would be holding its own heat.

The lack of air, cooling liquids, and gravity to move things presents a major cooling challenge, but not an unsolvable one. Engineers and physicists have already developed several plans for solving a low earth orbit cooling issue for data centers. Again, it becomes an engineering and construction issue to build and deploy the cooling systems.

Noise is caused by vibrations. In space, there is nothing to vibrate; so, at least low-earth-orbit data centers wouldn't have a noise problem.

The last issue to be resolved is communications. Space Link provides high-speed internet access from low-earth orbit satellites. The AI engineers say we already have the bandwidth to service AI requests. But the current bandwidth is not sufficient to train the AI servers. That is a problem. Without training or continued "learning," AI servers are really not usable. Again, the best telecommunication engineers are working on a solution to the bandwidth issue — and I believe they can solve that issue.

Of course, our skies are being filled with satellites. I have seen estimates of over 33,000 objects in our Earth orbit — over 12,000 of them in low Earth orbit. In 2025, Starlink satellites performed around 300,000 collision avoidance maneuvers! As the number of satellites grows, collisions will become unavoidable. If a solar flare interrupted communications, there would be the possibility of many collisions. Collisions cause space debris, adding to the collision problem.

Low earth orbit data centers are being researched; they are not currently feasible. The problems are solvable and would eliminate the need for most, if not all, terrestrial-based data centers.

A lot of the research for this article was done with the help of Google Gemini — Google's AI engine.

The Montana Free Press reporter Amanda Eggert has written a great article about data centers proposed in Montana. She highlights 3 of the data centers - two of which are in Southwest Montana. To read the Montana Free Press article, visit the MT43News website at <https://mt43news.com>

## Townsend Boy, 1

because my well pump went out, so there was no water in the house. It turned out to be a perfect weekend to go camping, because we weren't going to have water all weekend. I remember that I was praying on the drive out there, because when you lose a pump, you get pretty upset. I remember praying, like, 'God, can You redeem this day?' Your prayers aren't long when you are angry.

When I arrived at the lake, all the kids came running. There were 40 people there. The kids shouted, 'Ryker caught a huge Walleye.' In my head, I think it is a Carp. It better not be a Carp. All the kids and the adults were just surrounding the fish, and they were really excited. I have always loved taking pictures, and I just had my iPhone on me, and the sun was setting, so I took a picture. And then I was on Facebook, and a FWP post came up that said, 'Hey, submit your hunting and fishing photos.' So, I just sent it off, forgot about it, and then a couple months ago they emailed me asking for permission to use it for the cover of the Fishing regulations. I thought, No way!"

Eric showed an actual regulation with the cover, which is about six inches long, and had it framed. Local photographer Kelly Morris enlarged it, and Eric had the enlargement mounted and framed. "Lifelong memory. I figure that the attendance at the camp will be greater next year."

Ryker said he caught the Walleye using a spinner. He caught it about two or three feet off the bank. 'There is like a dropdown about five feet off of it. Actually, it wasn't that bad.'" Eric said that Ryker just had to walk along the shore just a few feet. When asked if they ate it, Ryker joyfully exclaimed, "YES!" Eric responded, "With garlic and butter!"

Gabriel, Ryker's 14-year-old brother, and 7-year-old sister Lyric were two of the kids at the camp when Ryker caught this monstrous fish, and it was obvious during the interview that both of them, as well as Ashley and Eric, all shared the joy.

Congratulations Ryker, not only on catching this big Walleye, but with the Montana Fish and Wildlife publishing it on their fishing regulations.

## Broadwater Community Theater to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

### Broadwater Community Theater Communications

For our community's school children who take part in acting, the thrill of hearing "3,2,1 and ACTION" stays with them throughout their lives, shaping who they are and how they think about the world.

Broadwater Community Theater (BCT) has been bringing theater, music and art to Broadwater County's homeschooled and public school children since 1996. This year BCT will bring Missoula Children's Theater's Hercules to Townsend Schools in March. In early August, all children who are interested can take part in an original production. There are scholarships available to Grand Street Theater for kids kindergarten through 8th grade.

To finance these important theater offerings, BCT will be hosting the always fun St. Patrick's Day Fun-Raiser Saturday, March 14, at the Lodge. Pat Plantenberg, also known as "Elfrado," will host the event, which will feature silent auction trips and activities. Helena Handbasket will provide Irish music for jigs and reels.

Tickets are available online at [www.bctmt.org](http://www.bctmt.org). Tickets may also be purchased at The Bird's Nest. For more information, please call Pat at (406) 431-4615.

## Plymales Honored at Ag Appreciation Dinner

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Ranchers Chuck and Carole Plymale were honored Saturday night at the annual Broadwater Conservation District dinner, Ag Appreciation Day. The Good Neighbor Award is especially fitting for the couple who ranch at the foot of Duck Creek Road off Highway 284.



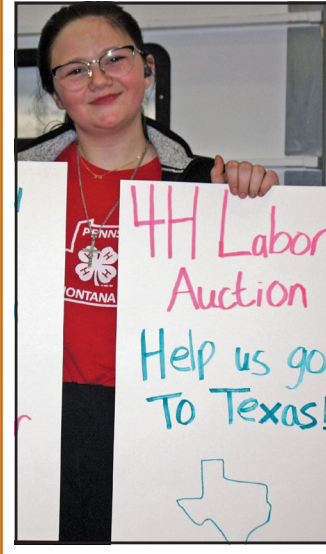
Ranchers Carole and Chuck Plymale are honored with the Good Neighbor Award. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Plymales represent the epitome of keynote speaker Jeff Mosley's commentary. Mosley is an MSU professor of range science and management at Bozeman. Things are different in Montana now, he said, but Montana ranchers and farmers must keep their values in being empathetic to newcomers, reaching out to help them understand our fragile land conservation ethic



Brittney Jones accepts the Ag Business award for Headwaters Livestock Auction Yards. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Plymales run a generational operation with their children, as did Chuck's parents. Chuck and Carole have thrown themselves into making ranching a beautiful way of life and Broadwater County a welcoming place to live. Chuck was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2023. He served as president and secretary of Broadwater Farm Bureau and served as a volunteer fireman as well as brand inspector. Carole taught in Townsend



4-H Exchange Club member, Autumn Henke, holds signs to encourage buyers to purchase "work for pay" laborers to raise money for their upcoming trip to Texas. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Schools for 19 years, is active on the board of Broadwater Community Foundation and served as musician of the Holy Cross Church. They helped their neighbors with branding and vaccinating. Carole summed it up: " Good neighbors make good neighbors."

Turn-out for the dinner, held at the Watson Event Center, was exceptional with over 200 people attending. Chef Gayle Watson's prime rib dinner was served by Broadwater 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America Club members. Conservation District

Chairman Dallas Diehl presented the Business of the Year award to Headwaters Livestock Auction and the Steward Award to longtime fisheries management biologist Ron Spoon. Spoon, now retired, has worked with farmers and ranchers and their water projects 36 years.

4-H Club Exchange members offered to "work for pay" during a rousing auction, led by auctioneer Jim Davies, which raised hundreds of dollars for the members' upcoming trip to Nueces County, Texas this year. They will host the Texas club next year.

Members currently serving the board, in addition to Diehl, are Kelly Ingalls, Darrell Baum, Greg Field, Rick Van Dyken, Jim Beck, Herb Argabright and Daniel Davis.

## Thank You

STOKE is deeply grateful for every donor who contributed to our fundraiser. While we can't name everyone individually, we want to honor and appreciate all who supported us—your generosity strengthens our programs and makes everything we do possible.

### Here are a few of our generous supporters:

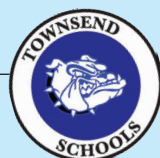
- Showdown Ski Area
- Bob's Supermarket
- Pat Plantenberg and Mary Mystic
- Ron Salladay
- Carla Amundson & Rick Garrison (Music)
- Lone Mountain Coolers
- Theresa Flynn and Rauser Durocs
- REI
- Philipsburg Sapphire Mining
- Broadwater Blooms
- RMS
- Kolar Tire
- Bob's Supermarket
- Capital Sports
- Reading Leaves
- Katria Photography
- Jeanne Mainwaring
- Jan & Sarah McAlpine

- Tina Homann
- Teddy & Teresa Lewis
- Missy & John Rauser
- Goose Bay Glass
- Top Gun
- Hamilton Honey
- Patagonia
- Lewis & Clark Brewing
- Sharon Dunn
- Montessori School
- Sarah Kirksey
- Tamie Hahn
- Montana State-Shaped Candle
- Canyon Ferry Brewery
- Brider Brewing
- Lauren Douglas
- Plants Etc.



## Townsend School & Sports

### FEBRUARY



- Friday 27**
- **NO SCHOOL**
  - 3:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling
- Fri 27 - Sat 28**
- High School Basketball District Tournament @ Manhattan Christian
- Saturday 28**
- Little Guy Wrestling Tournament - both gyms

### MARCH

- Sunday 1**
- 10:00 am: Townsend Youth Baseball Tryouts - 63 Gym
- Mon 2 - Thu 5**
- 11:45 am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL
- Tuesday 3**
- 7:30 am: FFA Alumni Breakfast - Community Room
  - 7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - The Bridge
- Wednesday 4**
- 8:00 am: Public Health: Tabletop Exercise for PHEP
  - 7:00 pm: Old Baldy - Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps
- Thursday 5**
- 3:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling at Butte MAC
  - 6:00 pm: Seed Starter Class - Library Classroom
  - 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club at the Library
- Thu 5 - Sat 7**
- High School Basketball Divisional Tournament @ Billings
- Friday 6**
- **NO SCHOOL**
- Saturday 7**
- 10:00 am: Middle School Wrestling at Butte

## East Helena Schools & Sports

### FEBRUARY

- Friday 27**
- 8:00 am: 227! Day
- MARCH**
- Monday 2**
- 6:00 pm: 1st Grade Spring Program
- Tuesday 3**
- 6:00 pm: PTO Meeting at EVMS
- Wednesday 4**
- 6:00 pm: Swing into Spring Band Benefit
- Thursday 5**
- 6:00 pm: 5th Grade Band Concert

## BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

### MARCH

- Tuesday 3**
- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- Wednesday 4**
- 10:00 am: Commissioner's Meeting



## LIBRARY HOURS

### Broadwater School and Community Library



201 N Spruce St, Townsend  
Photo Provided

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

## EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS



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

### Andrea Eckerson Branch Manager

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

### FEBRUARY

- 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
- MARCH**
- Wed 4 - Thu 5**
- 10:30 am: Storytime

## 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 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

### MARCH

- Monday 2**
- 10:00 am: Monthly WIC Clinic at Broadwater County Health, 124 Cedar
  - 1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club
- Tuesday 3**
- 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 4**
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

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

- Friday 6**
- 10:00 am: Registration for Vigilante Electric's 88th Annual Meeting of the Members **SEE AD FOR DETAILS**
  - 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 7**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

- Thursday 12**
- 7:00 pm: Toston Irrigation District Annual Meeting **SEE AD ON PAGE 6**



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

**Distribution days ( 1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)**  
March 7th and 21st 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
**Donations of food items** are accepted Friday March. 6th, 20th 9:00 to 11:00am  
**This month donation suggestions:** Ground Beef, Tuna, Canned Pasta, 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.  
March is Mountain Valley Church  
For questions, Donations appointments and Emergency Food supplies **call OUR NEW PHONE number (406) 916-0034.**

## Landlords Who Don't File for Tax Relief Could Cause Steep Rent Increases

Victor Sample  
MT43 News

Tenants could see rent increases if landlords fail to apply by next week's deadline.

With a March 1 deadline looming, data from the Montana Department of Revenue indicates that landlords for as many as three-quarters of the state's rental housing units haven't applied for an exemption that would shield their properties from hefty tax increases as the state's new second-home tax is fully implemented on this fall's tax bills.

Unless tens of thousands of landlords successfully apply in the coming days, long-term rental properties across the state could be hit with a double-digit increase on tax bills — an expense that could translate to steep rent hikes for tenants.

This article is excerpted from a Montana Free Press Article by Eric Dietrich, Deputy Editor - Montana Free Press.  
To read the full article, visit the MT43News website at <https://mt43news.com>

## 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
-----------------------------------	--

#### 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



**Date:** TBA  
**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](http://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  
TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED UNTIL 3/2/26

**Peking China**  
10 N Main St, Three Forks  
(406) 285-3225  
Dining Hours:  
Tue - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM  
Closed Monday  
TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED UNTIL 3/5/26  
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: X equals L

HI YWSHBA UFEUXF'V  
TFXZBYJXS KWEUV ZXMZSV  
IZXX HB ZXHABFK UZWZXXFX  
UZHVV, H'K YZXX GJFT  
GME-GFZWFK.

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### KNIGHT MOVES

O	M	S
S		N
E	I	I

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!

Budding

ENCANTS

Soar

LEGID

String

NEWIT

Fastener

TRIVE

TODAY'S WORD

"Sorry to keep you waiting, I thought she'd never stop \_\_\_\_\_!"

# LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE**

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

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS

**ACROSS**  
1 Stew morsels  
5 G-man, e.g.  
8 Bun-topping seeds  
15 Razor brand  
19 "That's —!"  
20 God, in Turin  
21 Perk up  
22 Picnic pests  
23 "Secret Love" singer having two opposing personalities?  
26 Performs like LL Cool J  
27 2007 documentary about the U.S. health care system  
28 Pick-up-sticks math game  
29 Suffix with 110-Across  
30 "Aquaman" star Jason  
31 "Seven Year Ache" singer buying goods at wholesale?  
37 — kwon do  
39 Change habitats  
40 Brigitte of "Contempt"  
41 Not smart  
44 Height: Abbr.  
45 Ghana's capital  
47 Biol. or geol.

**DOWN**  
1 Paw bottoms  
2 "The Time Machine" race  
3 Guys staffing military flights  
4 Watch brand  
5 Count up  
6 Designer Versace  
7 Playing (with)  
8 — Diego  
9 Conclusion  
10 "Ransom" actor Gary  
11 Mennonite sect  
12 Soft rock?  
13 Archaic verb suffix  
14 In position  
15 Overseas  
16 List of players, in sports  
17 It shows a pupil's grades  
18 Analyze  
24 "Rescue us!"  
25 — Hess (former oil giant)  
30 Jazz singer Carmen  
32 Visa rival, for short  
33 Soothes  
34 "— boy!"  
35 "La Brea" network

**ACROSS**  
49 Star of many silent Westerns creating an ensemble?  
53 Butterfly food  
55 Cineplex — (old theater)  
56 Alternatives to coffees  
57 Distinctive times  
59 Wife of Zeus  
60 Stimp's pal  
61 Go — ride  
63 Luau gift  
64 "ER" co-star  
67 "Sleuth" co-star portraying a policeman?  
71 Boot parts  
74 Silent "yes"  
75 Network on the telly, with "the"  
76 Wall Street deg., often  
79 Head, in Pau  
80 Pare down  
82 Speller's clarification  
84 Cute, cutely  
86 Scottish language  
89 Frequent USO show performer wishing earnestly?

**DOWN**  
92 Raw rock  
93 Interrupt dancers, say  
95 Coach Parseghian  
96 The way things are now  
97 Swings about, as one's arms  
99 Exercise goal  
102 Has too much, briefly  
103 "Mame" star weighing people down?  
108 Turin locale  
109 Kin of "equi-"  
110 Inflated head  
111 Beginning  
114 Telly  
115 "Oliver!" Oscar nominee being zany?  
120 Writer — Stanley Gardner  
121 Iron or tin  
122 Classic auto  
123 Robert of "The Sopranos"  
124 In view  
125 Got narrower  
126 It's opposite NNW  
127 Other, in Spain

**DOWN**  
36 "Nuts!"  
37 One-on-one instructor  
38 Positive pole  
42 "I believe," to texters  
43 Iniquitous  
45 Pungent  
46 "— ching!"  
48 Tax-deferred svgs. plans  
50 Motionless  
51 "Hud" actress Patricia  
52 Huck Finn, for one  
54 Burn a bit  
58 Williams of tennis  
62 Lync poem  
63 Huck Finn, for one  
65 Prez called "Ike"  
66 Net pop-ups, e.g.  
67 "Uptown Girl" singer Billy  
68 Oxide, e.g.  
69 Flatus' home  
70 Play award  
71 "Let—" ("Frozen" song)  
72 Time soon to come  
73 Suspension bridge part  
76 Popular food seasoning  
77 Corrow, e.g.

**PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS**  
78 Vast chasm  
81 Slugging stat  
82 Crucial artery  
83 Went across  
85 Print quality stat  
87 In a very cold manner  
88 Pick out  
90 Welcome  
91 Poet Ogden  
94 China's Mao — tung  
98 Actress Quinn  
99 Blossom  
100 Mystery awards  
101 English biscuits  
103 Some Miller beers  
104 Arm muscle, informally  
105 Words on a help desk  
106 NYC rep starting in '19  
107 Rock — (Brazilian music festival)  
112 Weizman of Israel  
113 Novice  
115 Fast plane  
116 In the style of  
117 Suffix with alp brand  
118 "Inc." relative  
119 Female deer

## 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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Townsend

Date: February 17, 2026

CITY ADVISES RESIDENTS OF POTENTIAL PLUMBING IMPACTS FROM INCREASED WATER PRESSURE  
City of Townsend – The City is notifying residents that they can expect increases in city water pressure as the new water tower comes online and is tested, disinfected, and ultimately placed into service. The testing and disinfecting process is anticipated to occur in June 2026, with final tank operation expected in July/August 2026. While the new tower is intended to improve water delivery and service reliability, it may have unintended effects on household plumbing systems.

Water pressure is expected to increase from 50-55 psi to 71-77 psi. The increase in pressures may place strain on pipes, fixtures, and appliances, potentially leading to leaks or service pipe bursts. Residents are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Check your water pressure using a pressure gauge available at most hardware stores.
- Install or inspect a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) to maintain safe household pressure levels.
- Monitor for leaks in service piping and around faucets, toilets, and appliances.
- Schedule a plumbing inspection if you notice unusual noises, water hammer, leaks, or sudden changes in flow.

For questions or assistance, please contact the City at (406) 266-3911 or email at cityoftownsend@townsendmontana.net.  
Vickie Rauser, Mayor

*Published February 27, 2026*

MNAXLP

### Subdivision Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Broadwater County Commissioners will be taking comments regarding amendments to the Broadwater County Subdivision Regulations.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 10:05 am in the Flynn Building located at 416 Broadway Street, Townsend.

The proposed amendments are posted on the Broadwater County website at [www.broadwatercountymt.gov](http://www.broadwatercountymt.gov).

Written comments are also being accepted.

*Published February 27 and March 13th*

MNAXLP

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

## Young Cattlemen May Apply for Conference Leadership Program

**Kenii Reese Lairy**

*Montana Stock Growers Communications Director*

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) is now accepting applications for the 2026 Young Cattlemen’s Conference (YCC). This national leadership and advocacy program will be held May 28 through June 4, 2026. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 2026.

The Young Cattlemen’s Conference is designed for cattle producers ages 25 to 50 who are interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the beef industry and strengthening their leadership skills. Coordinated by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), the conference brings together young cattlemen and cattlemen from across the country for an in-depth look at all segments of the beef supply chain.

Throughout the week-long program, participants will travel alongside peers from other states, visiting key industry operations and engaging directly with leaders who shape the future of beef production. The conference also includes a day on Capitol Hill, where attendees will meet with members of Montana’s congressional delegation to discuss policy issues impacting cattle producers and advocate on behalf of the industry.

MSGA will select up to two individuals to represent Montana at the 2026 Young Cattlemen’s Conference. Selected participants will receive financial support covering the cost of program registration, as well as a \$500 travel stipend. This support is provided through MSGA’s Young Stockgrowers and the Montana Stockgrowers Foundation (MSF). Applicants must be members of both the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association to be eligible.

To learn more about the Young Cattlemen’s Conference or to apply online, visit [www.mtbeef.org](http://www.mtbeef.org).



**Valerie Hornsveld**  
MT43News Reporter



*Friday, February 20, 2026 before Judge Kathy Seeley*

CDC-24-38 Tylor David Castona, Pretrial hearing. The parties addressed the Court, stating that they had come to an agreement, so a Change of Plea will be heard on Friday, March 20, 2026. The trial date was vacated.

CDC-25-32 Sherrae Marie Eva – Status Hearing. The Court scheduled the Pretrial for June 19, 2026.

CDC-21-28 Joshua Ross- Admit/Deny Hearing. The defendant denied the Amended Charges against him and a Sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2026.

### Correction to Sheriff's Report

In the Sheriff's Report in the February 20, 2026, issue of MT43News, it was reported that Big B Readymix donated the labor and the materials.

Justin Hoveland with RT squared LLC, and Jeremy Lessley with Rock Hard Construction donated all the Labor.

Nate Brown with Big B Readymix, along with Helena Sand and Gravel, donated materials. Each discounted their invoice for materials.

## Justice of the Peace Report

**Samuel Anagnostou**

*Justice Court Clerk*

### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Sara A. Wyant – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed night limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

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

Payton S. Houtary – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Jesse M. Curtiss – Townsend – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Callum G. Cook – Way Castle Pines, CO – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Rustin A. Willems – Belgrade – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Mia M. Swartz – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

David M. Johannessen – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Jack L. Sangray – Townsend – Turning when unsafe to do so – Alford Plea - \$85 fines & fees

Reese H. Wickens – Clancy – Owner permitting operation of vehicle without liability insurance [2nd] – plead guilty - \$385 fines & fees. License plates and registration surrendered for ninety (90) days. Defendant to provide proof of insurance to MVD. Restrictive probationary registration issued.

- Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – plead guilty - \$70 fines & fees

### BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Quinn W. Prescott – Boulder, CO – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Memphis H. Labonte – Toston – Owner permitting operation of vehicle without liability insurance [1st] – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Zane W. Mussmann – E Townsend – Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs [1st] – Plead Guilty - \$685 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Detention Center with the execution of all but one (1) day suspended for six (6) months with good behavior. Defendant to enroll in the ACT class within one (1) month and complete within four (4) months. Restrictive Probationary license issued.

### MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Jared M. Cook – Helena – Fail to register O/S MV when used for hire or person gainfully employed in Montana – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

**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](mailto:mt43news@mt43news.com) or call 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday!

## Congressman Troy Downing Visits Townsend

MT43 News Staff Reporter

After filing at the Montana Secretary of State's office to run for the 2nd District US Congress seat, incumbent Troy Downing made a stop at Billings Clinic Broadwater to tour the updated hospital facility.

Downing traveled from Washington D.C. after the US House of Representatives recessed because of what Downing characterized as the Democrats forcing the shutdown over "some very unfortunate incidents in Minneapolis," as reported in a Billings Gazette article by Alex Mitchell February 20.

Congressman Downing said in an interview he is especially interested in how rural hospitals such as Billings Clinic Broadwater are faring, since he served as Montana State Auditor under Governor Greg Gianforte. During a tour with CEO of the hospital, Justin Tiffany, Downing expressed his full support of critical access facilities. "I see so much difference in health care between the haves and the have nots. Having access to these local hospitals offers essential healthcare to everyone," he said.

He went on to explain that as part of President Donald Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" the rural health transformation bill set aside \$50 billion for rural healthcare, of which Montana will receive the 4th largest allocation in the country. "We must stay in touch with rural health care stakeholders to make sure they have adequate nursing staff and that we meet the need for providers. It is so hard to convince providers to serve in small communities," he said.

He went on to say that the government has had a slow response to adequately financing Medicaid: "We have yet to solve the problem of how to serve citizens on both Medicaid and Medicare. The bottom line is trying



Congressman Troy Downing visits CEO Justin Tiffany at Billings Clinic Broadwater. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

to provide services for both government programs."

According to Tiffany the facility offers telehealth services, which allows patients to reach specialty services they would not ordinarily have access. Downing is interested in telehealth services because it offers not only specialty providers but also meets the needs of rural residents for mental health issues.

Currently three other candidates have filed for Montana's 2nd Congressional District seat. Sam Lux, a farrier from Great Falls and Helena Attorney Brian Miller, both Democrats. Mike Eisenhauer, a cardiologist from Great Falls has filed for the office as an Independent candidate.

## New License Year Starts March 1

Fish, Wildlife and Parks

*New license year starts March 1, here's what you need to know:*

New Year's Day for many outdoor recreationists in Montana is March 1. This is the day everyone can buy their 2026 hunting and fishing licenses and apply for special draw licenses and permits. It's also the day when recreationists need to renew their conservation license to support the state lands they use.

This year, hunters and anglers will see quite a few changes that are worth paying close attention to. These changes come from legislation passed by the 2025 Montana Legislature and new regulations adopted by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Licenses for the 2026 license year can be purchased starting Sunday, March 1. If you plan on being in the field on that day, you can buy your license online.

Hunters and anglers buying their license in person at a local business will see some changes as FWP is transitioning to a License Ambassador program. This change will move all licensing sales to Montana's online licensing system. This allows FWP to add additional businesses that would like to sell licenses and move away from the old point-of-sale systems that were unreplaceable and outdated.

As always, you can buy and apply for licenses online and at your local FWP office as well. Note that some businesses who used to sell licenses may not anymore. To find a License Ambassador, see the map.

*Deer:*

Some of the biggest changes hunters will notice are with deer regulations. In December, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted several hunting district-specific changes to deer licenses and permits. The commission also made some regulation changes aimed at protecting mule deer numbers and managing hunting pressure. These include:

Many Mule Deer B Licenses will be valid only on private land. Check your specific hunting district.

Residents can only hold up to three deer licenses, including their General Deer License. This is down from up to eight in past years.

Nonresidents continue to be limited to one Deer B License, unless they draw a combo license and then they can hold two.

Like always, make sure to read the regulations prior to buying or applying for any licenses or permits. The regulations for your hunting district may have changed.

*Elk:*

*Regulations changes approved by the commission include:*

The quota of the 799-20 Elk License is 325. A second antlerless Elk B License will be available to any holder of an Elk Permit in hunting districts 702, 704, or 705, subject to the same restrictions in time, open areas, and limitations associated with the permit.

All Region 1 Elk B Licenses will only be valid on private land.

*Black bear:*

The commission also established Black Bear Permits in two bear management units in FWP Region 5, south-central Montana. The deadline to apply for these permits is April 1. Hunters can also accrue bonus points for black bears.

*Antelope:*

The quota of 900-20 Licenses (archery antelope) is 5,600. Region 3 is no longer in this bundle and was placed in its own pool with 500 licenses.

The Region 3 Antelope Archery Licenses are 399-20.

*Bighorn sheep:*

Montana has five unlimited bighorn sheep hunting districts. This year those licenses will only be issued through a drawing.

Hunters applying for any unlimited opportunity will no longer participate in the bonus point program. This keeps hunters from spending their bonus points on an unlimited draw.

*Shed hunters:*

The 2025 Montana Legislature passed a law that implements a Nonresident Shed Hunting License for Montana's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Additionally, this new law prohibits nonresidents from picking up antlers on WMAs for the first seven days they are open to the public in the spring. Most WMAs open to the public at 12 p.m. on May 15. However, some have different openings dates. Nonresident shed hunters must review the regulations for the WMA they are looking to visit. There are no changes for resident shed hunters.

A Shed Hunting License for nonresidents costs \$50.

*License and application fees:*

*The 2025 Montana Legislature passed laws adjusting several license fees. The new fees are as follows:*

- Nonresident Base Hunting License fee increased from \$15 to \$50
- Fee for resident and nonresident Crane and Swan License - \$10 and \$75 respectively.
- Application fees \$10 resident, \$50 nonresident
- Resident Migratory Bird License increased from \$5.50 to \$10

*Increased Resident Upland Bird and Sportsman's Combo License fees:*

- Upland bird from \$7.50 to \$10
- Sportsman without Bear from \$62 to \$64.50
- Sportsman with Bear from \$77 to \$79.50
- Increased Nonresident Upland Bird (season and three-day) and resets combination license fees:
- Upland Bird (season) from \$110 to \$127
- Upland Bird (three-day) from \$50 to \$60
- Big Game Combo to \$1,312
- Elk Combo to \$1,112
- Deer Combo to \$760

*Upland Birds:*

The 2025 Montana Legislature passed a law that limits nonresident upland game bird hunting seasons. In 2026, nonresidents hunting on public lands and privately owned lands that are a part of a hunting access program begin hunting 10 days later than residents for all species except mountain grouse.

## Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



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

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

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

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

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

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

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

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

**10:00AM** Discussion /Decision, Approval of Broadwater Rod and Gun Club grant for the Sporting Clays Expansion in the amount of \$23,350.94 from Broadwater County Trust Board

**10:05 AM** Discussion /Decision, Approval of Broadwater County Search and Rescue grant for a new lake boat in the amount of \$123,726.50 from Broadwater County Trust Board

**10:10 AM** Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Coblenz Family Transfer Exemption Request; S9 T8N R1E

*Thursday, March 5, 2026*

**2:00 PM** Working meeting with the Commissioners and MBAC, CAO office, to discuss planning and projects in the Wheatland Targeted Economic Development District

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](mailto:drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov)

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

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair  
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213  
[jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov) E-mail: [commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov](mailto:commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov)

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

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

- Trust Board Meeting on 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
- Fair Board Meeting on March 19th at 5:15 PM

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**SR. CENTER MEALS:** Sauce  
**MARCH 2 - MARCH 6** Green Beans  
Sweet Corn  
Garlic Bread  
Sweet Pears  
Dessert

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

**Monday, March 2**  
Cabbage Rolls  
Mashed Potatoes  
California Vegetables  
Whole Grain Bread  
Sweet Peaches

**Tuesday, March 3**  
Baked Cod  
Rice Pilaf  
Carrot Coins  
Butter Beans  
Whole Grain Bread  
Fruit Cocktail

**Wednesday, March 4**  
Spaghetti with Meat

**Thursday, March 5**  
BBQ Chicken Breast  
Wid Rice  
Key Largo Vegetables  
Purple Beets  
Whole Grain Bread  
Pineapple

**Friday, March 6**  
Baked Ham  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Garden Peas  
Tossed Salad  
Whole Grain Bread  
Cinnamon Applesauce

## AREA DEATHS

**Daniel Stover**  
**Family of Daniel Stover**  
Daniel Stover, 81, of Townsend, MT, passed away February 12, 2026

**Memory of Justin Lee Duane Yancy**  
**Family of Justin Lee Duane Yancy**  
*Justin Lee Duane Yancy, age 43, of Townsend December 2, 1982 – February 19, 2026*  
The family of Justin Lee Duane Yancy is saddened to announce his passing.

## Trualta - Personalized Caregiver Support

**Michele Mathot**  
RMDC Agency on Aging

Rocky's Agency on Aging has introduced a new individualized online support service for family caregivers who provide daily care to loved ones. This service is designed to meet caregivers where they are, offering personalized support, practical resources and guidance to help ease the challenges of caregivers.

What is Trualta?  
Trualta is offered through Rocky's Agency on Aging at no cost to eligible caregivers. Treatable is an online education and support program for family caregivers. It offers short, easy-to-understand lessons that help caregivers feel more confident and prepared when caring for an older adult or someone with ongoing health needs.

To learn more about the Trualata program, visit the MT43News website at <https://mt43news-business-services.com/Trualta>

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



**Dustin Gillaspie**  
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT  
406.442.0456  
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**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

## A Guide to Spring Yard and Garden Care

**Allison Kosto**  
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



With the mild winter, it seems like the urge to work in the yard and garden has come earlier this year.

The good news is that there are some things that can be done early. However, there are a few tasks that should wait until we are further out of the danger zone of cold weather.

One major reason to delay spring cleanup is that winter debris can protect pollinators and overwintering insects. Butterflies and moths typically overwinter in chrysalids in dead leaves and plant stalks. Native bees hide in a variety of places depending on species, including leaf litter, underground burrows within an inch or two of the surface or hollow stem cavities. Disturbing their winter havens early can increase death loss when a cold snap comes along.

Normally, February is still within the ideal window for winter pruning. However, this year it should be done cautiously. If the tree or shrub is still dormant, then it is safe to prune. If the tree is starting to come out of dormancy, then you need to be careful about how and when you prune. Heading cuts, which are pruning cuts that remove only part of a branch, should be avoided once a tree starts to come out of dormancy. This is because it can trigger the lower buds and encourage growth.

However, as long as the weather is above 40 degrees for at least 2 more days, you can still make thinning cuts. A thinning cut is when you remove an entire branch or stem. It's also okay to prune any damaged or dead branches. This can be done any time of year. It's important to note that for trees that are budding out, there is an elevated risk of frost damage this spring that could kill sections of the tree and require further pruning later. Although trimmed hedges are not common around here, late winter and early spring is also the best times for trimming to allow for rapid recovery.

After pruning trees and shrubs, you can turn your attention to other plants and projects. Raspberries, gooseberries and currants can often be pruned in March (later in March may be better). If you have compost, this is also a good time to rotate or transfer the compost. You can spread finished compost on flowerbeds and the garden, but still need to wait a little longer before mixing it in.

Typically, by late March, we also recommend applying dormant oil if needed. Dormant oil is used to kill overwintering pests on trees such as aphids, scale insects, mites and leafrollers. Using dormant oil may need to be done earlier this year because it should be done when buds are tight but not swelling or leafing out.

For the most part, trees don't need fertilizer. However, if you've had nutrient issues in the past or have production fruit trees, spring is the best time to fertilize in late March to early April.

When April comes, you really dig into spring cleaning. Once temperatures are consistently above 55 degrees, it is safe to do the rest of the perennial bed cleaning, which may include removing old above-ground growth, cleaning up leaves and so on. April is also the time to transplant trees, shrubs and perennials, including berries. Summer and fall flowering perennials such as hosta, daylilies and mums can also be divided this time of year. Spring-flowering perennials should be divided in the fall.


Also, during April, start monitoring your soil temperature. When soil is consistently 40 degrees F or higher, you can plant early cool-season crops such as carrots, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas, radishes and spinach. Onion sets can often go in as early as mid-April.

Lawn growth is often inconsistent in the spring based on soil moisture and location within the yard. It may benefit from a mow by late April to allow for more even growth and help clean it up. Early spring lawn fertilization is not as important as fall fertilization. However, if you want to boost spring green-up, it can be done in April. If you only want to fertilize once in the spring, aim for around Memorial Day.

Trees should be budding and leafing out by April or early May. Monitor them for winter damage. If fungicides are necessary, these are typically done in the spring. Read the label now and mark your calendar, so you know when to apply. Some fungicides need to be applied more than once.

Living in Montana is always an adventure, as is gardening. Enjoy the mild winter and make the best of it because it might not be the same next year! For gardening or plant questions, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or [allison.kosto@montana.edu](mailto:allison.kosto@montana.edu).

**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**



In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.  
Genesis 7:11,12

Detail of "The Flood" by Clare Leighton (1952)

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## Broadwater Robotics Visits Boeing Manufacturing Facility in Helena



The Broadwater Robotics team gathers in the Boeing Helena lobby during their visit, with model aircraft displayed behind them. Photo Credit: Roger Flynn

Roger Flynn  
STOKE

Students from Broadwater Robotics recently had the opportunity to tour the Boeing manufacturing facility in Helena, getting a firsthand look at how engineering and advanced manufacturing happen every day. The visit gave students a chance to step outside the classroom and see STEM careers in action at a world-class manufacturer.

The Helena facility produces highly specialized aerospace parts, including wing attachment systems used on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Boeing 777, along with engine mounting hardware found on aircraft flying all over the world. While these parts aren't visible to passengers, students learned just how important they are. Every component must be built with extreme accuracy to handle the forces aircraft experience during flight.

One of the biggest highlights was walking the production floor and seeing the massive multi-axis metal machining tools up close. Students watched as large blocks of metal were slowly shaped into complex parts through precise, computer-controlled movements. The machines were enormous, but the precision was incredible — often working within tolerances measured in thousandths of an inch. For students familiar with programming and fine-tuning their robotics competition builds, it was easy to see the connection between what they do and how these

components are manufactured.

The visit began with a welcome and safety overview from Lean Practitioner Paul Witham before the group headed onto the floor. Tool fabricator Bobbie McCauley and NC Programmer Kyle Beto then led the tour, explaining how programming, tooling, and skilled craftsmanship all come together to produce aerospace components. Hearing directly from professionals working in the field helped students better understand what STEM pathways can look like beyond school.

Experiences like this are especially meaningful for young students. Seeing advanced technology, problem solving, and teamwork inside a global manufacturing environment helps connect robotics, math, and science lessons to future opportunities. As Broadwater Robotics coach Dr. Adam Six shared, "It was such a great opportunity to take students to see and experience manufacturing at this scale. These are the critical parts that keep the products literally airborne. It really gave the students a tangible connection to the world around them, in a time when 'virtual opportunities' are becoming increasingly commonplace."

Broadwater Robotics would like to sincerely thank Boeing and especially Paul, Bobbie, and Kyle for welcoming the team and taking the time to share their work. Opportunities like this help students see that world-class innovation and STEM careers aren't just something they read about; they're happening right here in Montana.



Broadwater Robotics students stand in front of the Bulldog school bus holding a Boeing banner after their tour in Helena as snow falls. Photo Credit: Roger Flynn

## Townsend Lions Club: Flags for First Graders

Richard Heida  
Townsend Lions Club

On February 16th, Presidents' Day, the Broadwater Lions Club gave their yearly presentation of the American Flag to the first graders of Broadwater Elementary School.

This presentation consisted of a history of the American Flag, including who ordered the first flag to be made, who made the first flag, how many American Flags have there been, what the stars and stripes represent and what the colors of the flag stand for.

The 62 first graders were well informed as to the fact that it was Presidents Day and some of that holiday's history and some of our flag's history as well. Credit needs to go to the great first-grade teachers we have at our school.

Helping in this year's presentation were Lions Richard Heida, LeAnn Coffman and Club President Dela Chatriand. The Lions were also honored to have the assistance of Commander Linda Cosineau and Jen Dalrymple from American Legion Post 42, who showed the first graders the proper way to fold, handle and display the flag.

When the presentation was over, each first grader was given an American Flag, an American Flag Refrigerator magnet and a flyer showing all of the official American Flags.

## MABA Celebrates Secure Domestic Supply Chain for Crop Protection Tools

Chris Averill  
MABA Executive Director

On Wednesday, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order stating that the domestic production of elemental phosphorus is necessary for both defense manufacturing and agriculture, invoking the Defense Production Act to ensure an adequate supply of glyphosate-based herbicides. In response, the Montana Agricultural Business Association (MABA) issued the following statement:

"Food security is national security, and President Trump's Executive Order makes that abundantly clear," said Tanner Hoversland, Board President for the Montana Agricultural Business Association. "We've heard from our members time and time again their fear that domestic production of glyphosate will cease as a result of endless litigation, leaving American farmers vulnerable to poor quality or even harmful foreign made product. MABA and its member companies are thankful for this action, which demonstrates to America's agribusiness community and producers this Administration's support for domestic agriculture. We hope this order will result in continued access to safe, domestically produced glyphosate for our farmers and ranchers."

The Trump Administration also recently listed potash and phosphate, both of which are essential to the production of fertilizer, as critical minerals, underscoring their vital nature in national security, including food production.

**VIGILANTE ELECTRIC CO-OP INC.**  
**88th Annual Meeting OF THE MEMBERS**

Friday, March 6, 2026

Registration 10:00 AM  
Meeting 11:00 AM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

University of Montana - Western  
Beier Auditorium - 710 S Atlantic Street, Dillon

For more information regarding the Annual Meeting, please visit our website [www.vec.coop](http://www.vec.coop).

**NO RSVP REQUIRED**

**FEBRUARY 27 NATIONAL STRAWBERRY DAY**

**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 [rmdc.net](http://rmdc.net)

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

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Gold, Sterling  
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Sterling Flatware  
& Service ware  
Vintage Watches and More

**RC Jewelry MT**

Check out our Google reviews!

Located:  
Downtown Helena  
357 Last Chance Gulch  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Barnes Jewelry)

**Store Open:**  
**Tues - Wed - Thurs**  
**10 AM - 5:30 PM**

**Best to make an appointment**  
**406-502-1029**  
**Weekend appointments available.**

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps



**GRIN and BEAR IT** by Wagner



"We've translated that signal from outer space. ... Someone's wife wants him to pick up a loaf of bread on the way home from Mars."

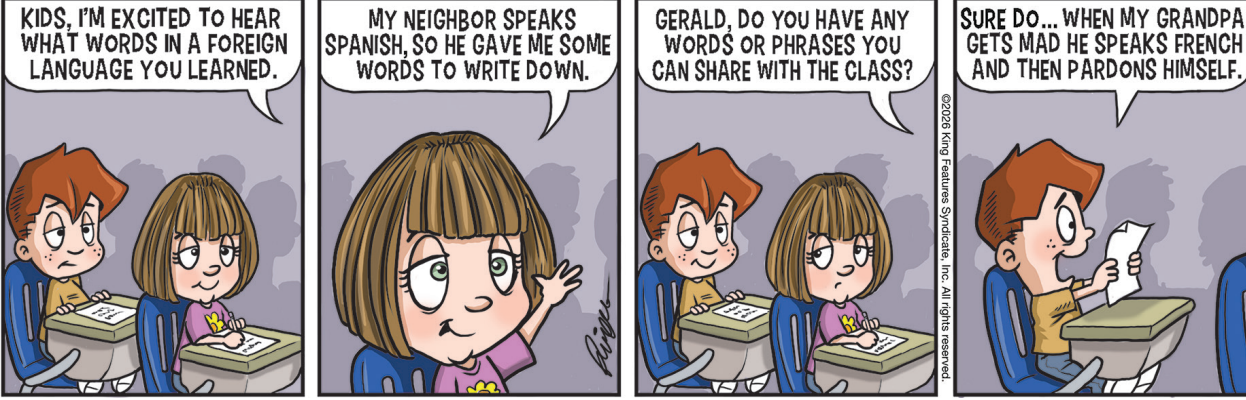
**Out on a Limb**



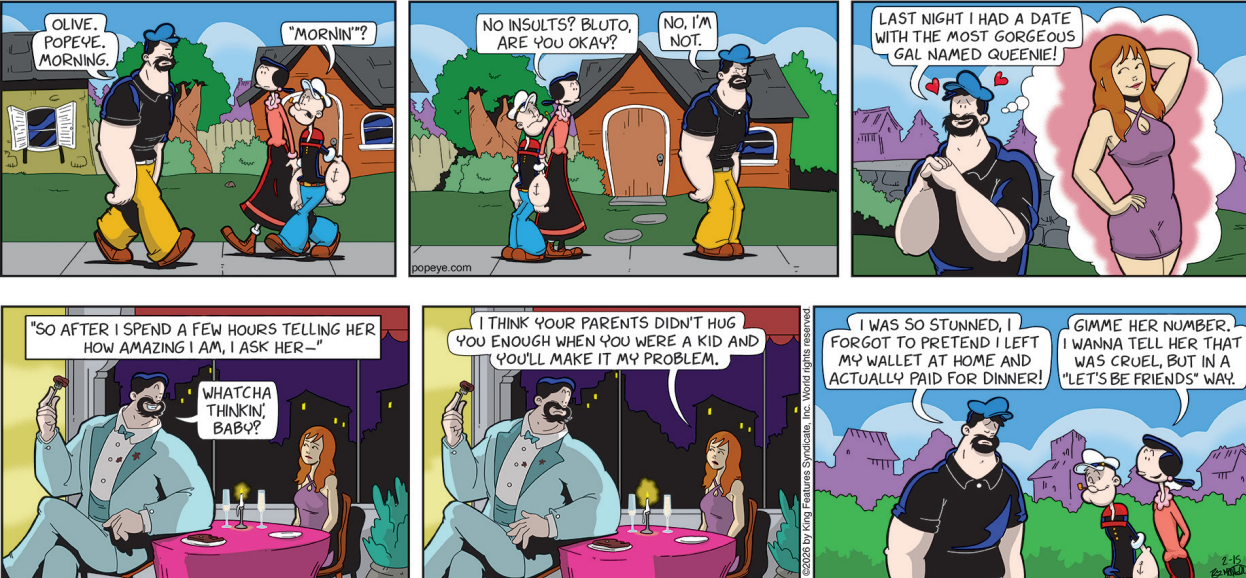
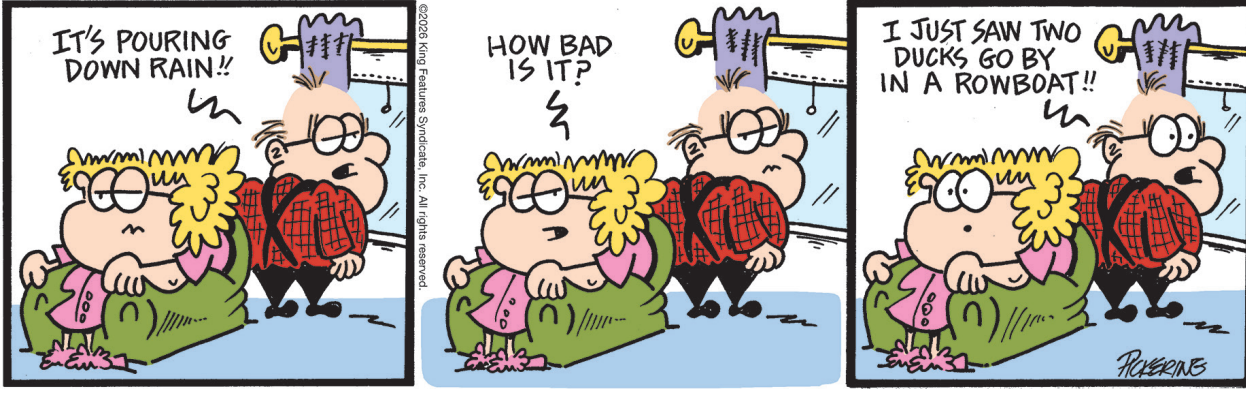
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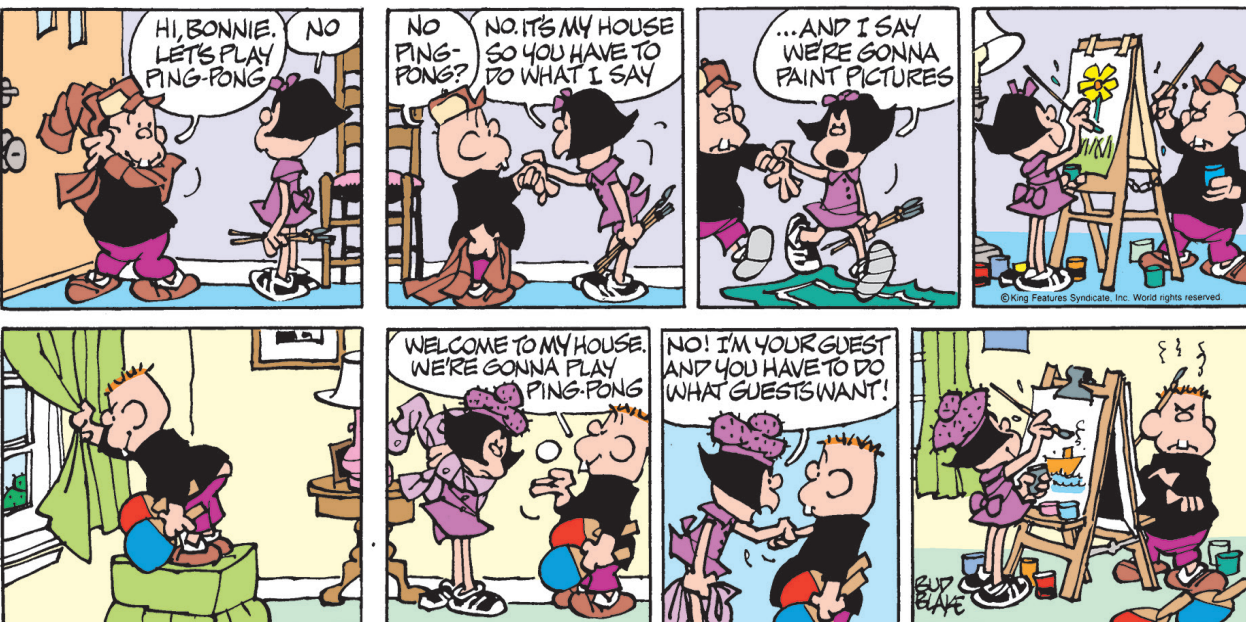
**Amber Waves**



**The Spats**



**TIGER**



by BUD BLAKE

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**Barnes Jewelry**

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

**Super Crossword**

Answers

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

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**CryptoQuip** answer

If crying people's melancholy drops always fall in aligned parallel pairs, I'd call them two-teared.

**KNIGHT MOVES** Answer

O	M	S
7	2	5
S		N
4		8
E	I	I
1	6	3

**EMISSION**

**SCRAMBLERS** solution

1. Nascent; 2. Glide  
3. Twine; 4. Rivet

Today's Word  
**LISTENING**

**MT 43 News, Inc.**

Published & edited by the Board of Directors

Editors in Chief: Victor Sample and Nancy Marks

408 Broadway Street Suite A Townsend MT 59644-2323 (406) 266-0086  
MT43News@MT43News.com

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

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

**DEADLINES**  
Stories, News & Letters to the Editor: **Tue 12 p.m.**  
Advertising: **Tue 11 a.m.**  
Pre-Designed: **Tue 11 a.m.**  
MT43 Designed & Ads Needing Proof: **Mon 10 a.m.**

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

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# Whispers of the Past

Shelley Douthett



It's been a good winter season to work out at the cemetery. I've finally gotten some things finished out there during this warm winter. The ground isn't frozen so digging and resetting some of the stones has been both satisfying and possible. I also discovered there are many multiple-part headstones that have lost the glue that held them together. I discovered this when I began working on little Harry Thayer Hoover's headstone.

As I was scrubbing away, it felt really tippy so I stood up and took the top off. Then, the main writing part of the stone wobbled so I carefully laid it down on the ground. Next, the base part holding it up came right off and finally, the square stone set in the ground was lifted out of the not very flat ground. No wonder it was tippy.

I sprayed all pieces with water and then a mix of Dawn dish soap and water and scrubbed them. I washed them off with water and then sprayed the pieces with a special ultra soapy stuff called D2 Biological Solution. While I waited for it to do its magic, I looked around the cemetery, wondering what other headstones are losing their grip and could possibly tip over in the next few years.

I took out my little notebook and golf pencil and walked around the whole part of the inside circle of the property, testing each stone. There were 29 stones needing to be re-epoxied. Yikes. And this isn't even the whole cemetery.



Hoover Headstones  
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

I am going to need some help in the coming years. Headstones are heavy and I am old. I need some brute strength or someone who can make a tripod block and tackle to lift and hold the parts as they get new epoxy. I ordered and received a special epoxy from a company that makes this just for headstones, but the temperature must be in the 70s at a minimum to set. And I've watched enough YouTube videos to know exactly how to mix it and set it. Because headstones are so heavy, a little goes a long way, and I can hardly wait to try it.

Back to little Harry. When I first started on his headstone, I thought his name was Harry Thayer and when I tried to find more information about him, I got nowhere. After cleaning the face of the stone, I discovered his whole name was Harry Thayer Hoover. No wonder I couldn't find him in the records. He died in 1877 at one year, 4 months and 9 days from diphtheria. No other family was nearby in the cemetery, so I took the information from the headstone, his parents being D. and H.A. Hoover, and tried to find where they came from or went to. I'm still looking and not giving up. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, I'm scrubbing more on his main headstone, cleaning out the nooks and crannies with a toothbrush and plastic picks where the darker moss, fungi and lichen hang out. It's looking better all the time. It will never be as nice as when it was first put in but at least it's readable now. And being my usual ADD self, I've moved to a couple other headstones and started the process of digging out all the nearby cactus, doing a cursory scrub down, and getting ready to give them the same attention to detail. It continues to be a peaceful and gratifying kind of work.

After I load up all the tools and buckets of my work back into my car, I wander around for a few minutes, looking at the beauty of our surroundings, take a deep breath of clean air, say a little prayer, call the dogs, and slowly mosey on back home.

Job worth the time.

# Stepping On Program

Michele Mathot, RMDC Agency on Aging

**Volunteers Wanted!**

**Stepping On**  
For Falls Prevention

Help seniors in your community live independently longer!

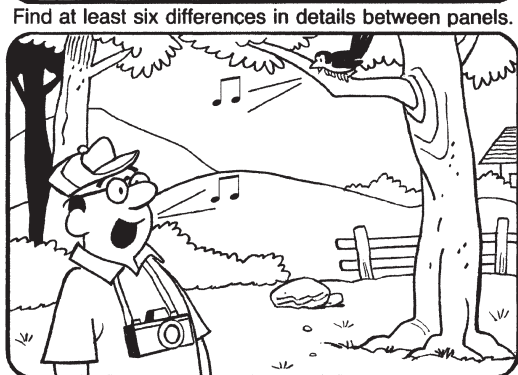
Become a volunteer Stepping On Falls Prevention Instructor!

- Cost of training and lodging is covered by Rocky's Agency on Aging.
- Training: Helena, MT March 24-26

Call Michele for more information:  
(406) 441-3985  
mmathot@rmdc.net

# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Camera is lower. 2. Music note is higher. 3. Rail is added to fence. 4. Cap is different. 5. Hill is added. 6. Tree trunk is thicker.

**HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES**

# Weather Forecast

## February & March

**Friday 27**  
High Temp: 56  
Low Temp: 35  
Wind: 16  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

**Saturday 28**  
High Temp: 54  
Low Temp: 34  
Wind: 6  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

**Sunday 1**  
High Temp: 51  
Low Temp: 40  
Wind: 6  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

**Monday 2**  
High Temp: 54  
Low Temp: 34  
Wind: 10  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100



**Tuesday 3**  
High Temp: 57  
Low Temp: 36  
Wind: 13  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

**Wednesday 4**  
High Temp: 60  
Low Temp: 38  
Wind: 13  
Rain: 0.0  
Snow: 0.0  
Cloud Cover: 100

**Thursday 5**  
High Temp: 52  
Low Temp: 42  
Wind: 14  
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

# Water Rights, 1

Montana's Water Rights" – recently found the time to sit down with me to touch on all these topics as well as the history of water rights and how they're shaped today. We chatted for so long, in fact, that the interview had to be broken into multiple articles.

This is part 1 of 4

The Monitor: What concepts do you think are the most important for people to understand water rights in Montana?

Stan Bradshaw: The most important one that a lot of people I don't think understand, is water right is a property right. Not only is it a property right, our Supreme Court has declared it a real property right. So it's like an attribute of real estate now, that's not understood by most folks.

The follow-up on that is that a water right doesn't endow ownership in the water. Under the terms of the state Constitution, Montana owns all the state's water—groundwater, surface, and atmospheric—in a trust for the use of the people. So, a water right is a right to use water. You'll hear the axiom "use it or lose it", which underscores the idea that a right to use water can be lost through non-use, or what's called abandonment.

If you have a water right and fail to use it for 10 years, and you express, by your actions or words, some intention to no longer use it, you lose that water right. So, it's not just non-use. It's non-use with some evidence of intention to not use it. And we actually have some old cases in our judicial history where the water right has been not used for at least a decade plus and the Supreme Court said, well, that doesn't necessarily mean they didn't intend to use it.

Monitor: OK, tell me a bit more about that.

SB: Let's say we have a water right established in 1890 that has been actively used on that property ever since. If the owner sells that land with no mention of the water rights, the ownership of the water right travels with land on that sale. But it is possible to sever the water right from the sale by specifically withholding it within the terms of the conveyance.

Monitor: Is that a reflection of Montana's historical understanding and handling of water?

SB: Yeah, I think a lot of it is grounded in the 1860s, when folks were taking a lot of water from streams in the course of mining, they'd get in fights over who got the water. It was eventually resolved by establishing a system of first come, first serve, as the bottom. And over time, as we started putting water to new uses—irrigation, domestic uses, other industrial uses--more uses spread over different landscapes. Then, "first in time, first in right" became the standard. This means the date of your first use is the priority date of your right. In water-short years, the rights that date back the farthest are prioritized and more valuable.

Monitor: It does seem terribly complex. Is there a point at which it might be better to just start over on water law and rewrite it?

SB: If you just say we're going to lay a whole new system on this, what you'll have then are people with a water right saying, 'Wait a minute, we can't do this without due process. This is a piece of our property. You can't just do that without compensating me.' I've thought about this a lot, and yeah, it has a nice ring to it – we can just go in and start over.

But it would be really, really difficult, and very contentious. People base their lives on this. It's a weird system, but it's what we have. If I'd been around in 1860 I would have set it up differently. But now we have 150 years of this. There's a lot of stuff nobody could have known at the time when they were making these laws. But now that we do know, we have to make laws that make sense.

Monitor: What are some of the biggest misconceptions about water rights?

SB: Some people who buy irrigated land with a water right served by a ditch, they don't want to irrigate it but they want to keep using the ditch as a nice water feature. They may have been told that they can protect their water right by simply running it down the ditch. Well, the short story is, if you're irrigating the bottom of the ditch, that's not a beneficial use. In an overtaxed watershed, this can create a lot of ill will. So, the idea that you have to apply the right through a specific beneficial use at a specifically described place of use is really important.

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# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY  
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

## February 28

1903

### Toston Topics

Dick and Joe Hossfeld were down from the Berg to the dance Friday night.

The Northern Pacific has been unloading ties here for the spring work.

Miss Maud Pennell, our popular schoolteacher, took in the dance in Townsend the 20th.

T.O.C. Plunket paid Townsend a short visit Wednesday.

Walter Brisbin of Townsend came up and took in the dance Friday night.

Thomas Toston stepped off the westbound train Saturday.

The river has not been as jammed up here for several years as it now is. This warm weather will perhaps start it down the river and many are afraid it will damage the bridge.

Frank Shull has a contract for getting out the ties for the N.P.R.R. Co. He will get them out near the Norton sawmill.

There was a meeting held at the hall one evening this week at which the people of the district decided to dedicate the new schoolhouse by giving a play and dance March 13th, the proceeds to be used for buying furniture for the new schoolhouse.

1925

### Winston News

The third and fourth grades had a contest in the multiplication tables last Friday. The third grade won by 60 points. Those in the third grade are Jerry Kennedy, Marjorie Miers, John Miles, Marlyn Biever, Louise Gulker and Helen Meyer.

The children in the primary room who have been neither tardy nor absent during the month ending

Feb. 20 are Joyce Taplin, Rosella Mires, Delores Diehl, Marie Myles, Erma Sass, Majorie Mires, Louise Gulkker, Marilyn Biever, Mary Diehl, May Moody, Ralph Sokovich, Ellwood Taplin, Jerry Kennedy, John Myles, Warren Myles, Earl Lenehan and Harold Moody.

Mrs. Carpenter invited a few of her friends to a turkey dinner at her home on Friday evening.

A dance was given at the Mires Hall Friday evening by Mr. Frank Lenahan and Mr. Harry West. The Crescent Orchestra furnished the music and a very good time was enjoyed by all.

1953

### Girl Scouts in Home Talent Play March 9th

Girl Scouts of Troop 2 will present their own home talent show Monday, March 9 at 8 o'clock in the high school gym.

Scouts are calling their show "The Rehearsal". It is based on an original "school daze" theme and will include songs, round dances, a square dance, tap dances and skits.

Everyone interested in the program is invited to attend. There will be no admission but a free will offering will be taken at the close of the program to help pay for the use of the parish house, where the Scouts meet.

Girls taking part in the program are Marilyn Barroughs, Judy Collins, Helen Damuth, Dorothy Deadmond, Ann Etwiler, Joan Jeffries, Jan Kieckbusch, Pat Kirley, Joyce Massey, Carol Ann McElravy, Mardee McElwee, Adalee Olsen, Judy Olsen, Karen Ann Olsen, Roberta Queen, Sandra Sitton, Judy Snell, Beth Thompson, Kay Thopmson, Grace Tinting, Diana Ulmer, Binkie Wallace, Marilyn Young and Diana Schiltz.

Girl Scouts are sponsored by the Townsend Women's Club. Members of the club are permitting the Scouts to use their meeting night to give their program.

1970

### Cub Scouts Hold Annual Blue and Gold Banquet

The annual Cub Scout Blue and Gold banquet was held last Thursday evening with approximately 95 people in attendance.

The program included a welcoming ceremony by the Webelos Den, group singing, a poem by Mr. Elaine Huckins, and the presentation of awards.

The following boys were present with achievement awards: Gary Gabisch, bear; Darwin Harrison, wolf; Mark Gee, bobcat; Phil Kenney, sportsman; and Steve Cook, sportsman.

Guests at the banquet included Mr. and Mrs. Garrison Rains, president of Townsend Rotary club which sponsors Pack No. 298; Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ingersoll, neighborhood Scout commissioner for the Prickly Pear Scout District; Mary Smith a former den mother; Herb Sprout, who furnished music for the entertainment; the pack committee members; the Club Leaders; the Cub Scouts and their parents. The Rainbow Girls assisted with serving the dinner.

### Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Massa of Havre were visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Massa and Penny over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Olsen and children of Dillon were weekend guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Olsen.

Ed Sherwood was in Missoula over the weekend visiting his son, Skip, student at the university and doing some skiing at Ski Bowl.

Visiting with Mrs. W.F. Bristow several days last week were her sister-in-law and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Abney of Harlowton.

Miss Paula Plymale, who is employed in Missoula, was visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Plymale, during the weekend.

Among students home from the University of Montana, Missoula, over the weekend were Carol Geisser, Lance Davis and Mike Ragen.



## Seed Starting Class #2

March 5<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00pm

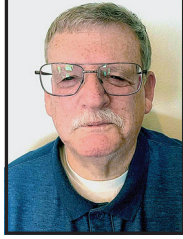
Broadwater Library Community Room  
2<sup>ND</sup> & N. Spruce, Townsend

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!*

## Rocky's Agency on Aging Visits Townsend Senior Center

Victor Sample



On Wednesday, February 18, Michele Mathot and Danielle Horton from Rocky's Agency on Aging visited the Townsend Senior Center. Rocky's Agency on Aging is a division of Rocky Mountain Development Corp (RMDC). In Townsend, RMDC operates the Townsend Sr. Center and the Townsend Headstart program.

Approximately 20 - 25 seniors had a terrific meatloaf lunch and listened to a small presentation

from Michele. Michele talked about the programs and services that Rocky's Agency on Aging has for Seniors. Danielle Horton is a Medicaid specialist and was available to answer any questions the seniors had regarding Medicaid.

Michele hosts a "Stepping On Falls Prevention Program" at the Helena Senior Center.

*"Stepping On Falls Prevention Program" is a 7-week program that offers*

- Balance & strength exercises
- Home safety tips

- Medication reviews
- Expert advice from physical therapists, pharmacists, and more. Gain more strength, better balance, and increased confidence and independence!

Michele would like to see the program offered at the Townsend Senior Center, but needs a volunteer(s) to run the program. A volunteer for the program would receive special training by RMDC in Helena. The Cost of the training and lodging in Helena will be covered by Rocky's Agency on Aging.

Anyone interested can contact Michele at (406) 441-3985 or email her at [mmathot@rmdc.net](mailto:mmathot@rmdc.net)



Michele Mathot and Danielle Horton visit the Townsend Sr. Center bringing "SWAG" with them! Photo Credit: Vic Sample



Michele speaking to the 20-25 seniors present Photo Credit: Vic Sample