



March 8 - Daylight Savings Time: Spring Forward; Set your clocks ahead one hour!

East Helena Pool Shark and His Team Place at World Tournament



Big Sky 406 pool team members from left: Steve Johnson, Junior Mann, Wade Theriault, Cody Theriault and Chip Anderson. All men are from Townsend except Cody, who is an East Helena resident. Photo Provided

MT43 News Reporter

The Big Sky 406 team of Helena Billiard Congress of America (BCA pool league) played in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the World Pool Tournament for the championship trophy last week.

The team, representing Montana in the BCA League Championship, February 18-28 at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino, was tasked with playing in a qualified BCA league for 8 weeks.

Team member, Wade Terrault, explained the team entered the Championship Bracket with their qualifying matches 9-6, win 8-7, win 11-4, loss 7-8 and a win 8-7. "With those wins, we qualified for the championship bracket ranked 24th. After a few bad roles, things just didn't go our way and we lost out. We ended up 65th in our division. Each of our players also shot singles in separate divisions based on Fargo ratings."

The Fishtale Tavern, Bunkhouse Bar and the Glass Slipper sponsored the team.

New Requirement for Voters

Angie Paulsen

Broadwater County Clerk & Recorder, Elections Administrator, County Surveyor,



Broadwater County Elections Office reminds voters to include their birth year on the return envelope when submitting absentee ballots, as required by MT House Bill 719.

Ballots missing this information may be rejected, so please double-check before mailing.

Voters can confirm the status of their ballot by visiting the My Voter Portal at <https://app.mt.gov/voterportal>, calling our office at (406) 266-3405, or emailing us at elections@broadwatercountymt.gov.

Your attention to this detail helps ensure your vote is counted accurately and securely.

Water Rights: A Critical Montana Issue (Part 2 of 4)

Eliza DuBose

Reporter for The Monitor; Boulder, Montana



This article was originally published in the inaugural East Helena Monitor 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

Water Rights, 7

Gianforte Extends Deadline for Landlords to Avoid Second-Home Tax

Eric Dietrich

Montana Free Press

State officials cited 'intermittent technical issues' with an online portal ahead of the March 1 deadline for landlords and homeowners.



The Oxbow Apartments, just off Huffine Lane and South Cottonwood Road in Bozeman. Photo Credit: Matt Standal, MTFP

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press. It is republished here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2026/02/26/gianforte-extends-deadline-for-landlords-to-avoid-second-home-tax/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262409%29&utm_source=2&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Landlords%20get%20a%20deadline%20extension&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262409%29

Gov. Greg Gianforte said Thursday that a "technical glitch" has spurred the state to extend an application deadline that thousands of Montana landlords need to meet in order to avoid the state's new second-home tax.

The deadline, which had been set for March 1, has now been pushed back to midnight on March 20, according to Gianforte and the Montana Department of Revenue.

Officials cited issues with the revenue department's online application portal amid a slew of last-minute filings as the reason for the extension.

"This extension is a direct response to intermittent technical issues with the department's online application portal caused by a high volume of last-minute filings," the agencies wrote in a Thursday release.

The second-home tax was passed by lawmakers last year in an effort to lower taxes on year-round resident housing. The concept, developed by Rep. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, was a major plank in Gianforte's 2024 re-election campaign.

Gianforte Extends Deadline, 7

Broadwater Commissioners Approve Prosecution Appointment, Public Health Grants and Airport Power Work

Rachael Brug

MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County commissioners opened their Feb. 25 meeting with a quiet public comment period — no one spoke in person or online — but moved through a packed agenda that ranged from a major federal transportation grant application to wildfire preparedness and public health services.

Winston Northwest BUILD grant submitted

Commissioners announced that the county's federal BUILD grant application for the Winston Northwest project was submitted Monday morning. The application was prepared in partnership with Great West Engineering and the Montana Department of Transportation.

Commissioners said the grant is highly competitive and they expect to hear back in roughly three to four months. They also noted the county received strong letters of support from U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale's office, the local school district, Greymont and other partners.

Commissioner Rick Meyer was reported to be in Washington, D.C., attending National Association of Counties meetings and expected to return depending on flight schedules.

Special deputy county attorney appointed for felony case

County Attorney Kevin Bratcher presented a resolution to appoint an Assistant Attorney General as a special deputy county attorney to assist with filing and prosecution in State v. Andrew Anderson.

Bratcher emphasized that when the Montana Attorney General's Office provides help through its Prosecution Services Bureau, there is no additional cost to the county for attorney fees. He said the Attorney General's Office covers its own personnel costs under statutory authority, while the county remains responsible for standard prosecution expenses such as witness fees, transcript costs and jury expenses.

Commissioners said the clarification was helpful for public understanding. With no public comment, the board approved the resolution unanimously.

Treasurer reports progress on balancing

County Treasurer Melissa Franks reported that January's books have been successfully balanced and that February balancing is underway, with completion expected in early March.

Franks said December remains about \$24,000 out of

Broadwater Commissioners, 7

PLAYERS of the WEEK



Basketball Manager - Kenzie Knaub
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Let's GO Bulldogs!



Kaitlyn Noyes
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Mishayla Lambott
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Taylor Cartwright
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Emmalin Fischer
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Trace Giomi
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Blake Graham
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Trenton Hoveland
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Tannen Tuffelmire
Townsend Booster Club Photo

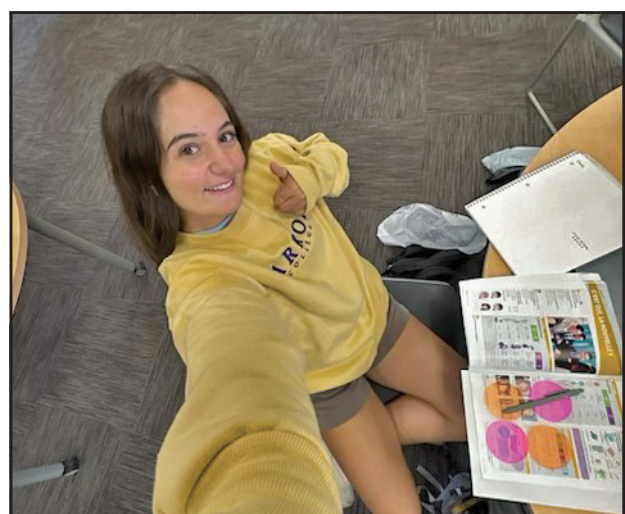
Broadwater High School Graduate Receives Scholarship

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Luci Horne, a 2024 Broadwater High School graduate, is one of 15 students who have received the Carroll College Roy F. Simperman Scholarship for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Simperman scholarship helps students in math, science and nursing programs. Horne is a Math major at Carroll. The 15 students will share \$236,647 awarded from both the Simperman Fund and the Elsie Corrett Memorial Scholarship fund, according to a release from Dr. Jennifer Glowienka, co-president of Carroll College. "These scholarships help make a Carroll education more accessible for students and families. They allow our students to pursue their calling here and then go on to lead, serve and make a lasting difference in communities across Montana."

Luci applied for the scholarship her senior year at BHS. She received it for her freshman year at Carroll and has continued to win the scholarship for her sophomore year and now this, her junior year.



Luci Horne takes a selfie while she's studying at Carroll College. Photo Provided

In an interview, Luci said competition was tough; she had to write an essay about a current problem in our society. She then spoke before the scholarship board of teachers, administration and Mr. Simperman and his wife. She received notice that she had won the scholarship on February 17. "I'll use the money for tuition, housing and to buy books," she explained.



Kaitlyn Noyes - Lady Bulldog Basketball vs. Three Forks
Kelly Morris Photography



Jazel Ragen - Pictures: Lady Bulldog Basketball vs. Whitehall
Kelly Morris Photography



Tannen Tuffelmire - Bulldog Basketball vs. Ennis
Kelly Morris Photography



Colby Flynn - Bulldog Basketball vs. Ennis
Kelly Morris Photography

Broadwater Conservation District Scholarship

Denise Donnelly
Broadwater Conservation District

Long-time Broadwater Conservation District board member and rancher Ted Flynn had a keen interest in all facets of nature and ecology. To honor Ted's memory, the Broadwater Conservation District offers this scholarship(s) to a student pursuing a career in Natural Resources, Conservation or Agriculture.

Scholarship(s) of \$500 to \$1000 are available to Broadwater County resident High School students pursuing education in Natural Resources, Conservation or Agriculture.

Application can be picked up from the Guidance Counselor at BHS or TFHS, from the Broadwater Conservation District office (415 S Front St - E St entrance) or found online at broadwatercd.org.

Application Deadline April 13, 2026

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



The Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner was a success due to these generous sponsors!

Thank You!

- Kolar Tire
- Townsend Rotary Club
- Representative Dr. Jane Gillette
- NorthWestern Energy
- Opportunity Bank of Montana
- Vigilante Co-op
- Broadwater Fair & Rodeo Association
- Careless Creek Pipeline & Equipment

- Graymont Western US
- Rocky Mountain Supply
- Ehlke Herefords
- Frontline Ag Solutions
- Montana Hydraulics
- Bruce Seed Farm
- Copy Cup

Along with our partners: Broadwater FFA and 4-H

Parent Teachers Association Hosts "Game On & Soup's On" Family Night



Parent-Teachers Association members present Game Night at Townsend Elementary School. Photo Provided

Traci Maughn
PTA Member and Vice President

The Townsend PTA recently welcomed school families to an evening of food, fun, and connection at its annual Family Connection Event, "Game On & Soup's On."

Families were invited to gather at the school for an all-you-can-eat soup and rolls dinner while enjoying a variety of games for all ages. Tables were set with classic board games and card games, giving families the chance to slow down, laugh together, and spark a little friendly competition. In the gym, larger and more active games offered kids (and parents!) an opportunity to burn off energy and join in the fun.

The event was open to all school families and designed with one simple goal in mind: bringing families into

the school building in a relaxed, welcoming way. The PTA believes that when families feel comfortable in the school space, students benefit. Becoming familiar with the halls, classrooms, and gym helps parents feel more connected to their child's everyday environment and strengthens the partnership between home and school.

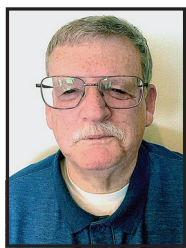
While the evening was filled with warm soup and warmer conversations, the PTA hopes to see even more families join in next year. Events like this are meant to build community, create positive memories, and remind students that school is not just a place for learning — it's a place where families belong, too.

The Townsend PTA looks forward to continuing to create opportunities that foster connection, support teachers and classrooms, and strengthen the school community.



AI: Is It All Just Hype?

Victor Sample



Every single day as I read through my news feed, I see 10-15 articles about AI; every day there are new articles quoting CEOs of very large companies stating that AI will usher in a new golden age for humankind or AI will destroy our society as we know it!

From Fortune Magazine:

"Elon Musk says saving for retirement is irrelevant because AI is going to create a world of abundance: 'It won't matter'"

From The Economist:

Kristalina Georgieva, head of the IMF (International Monetary Fund), has said that artificial intelligence is "hitting the labour market like a tsunami"; Jamie Dimon, boss of JPMorgan Chase, has forecast that America's biggest bank would soon need fewer employees; and Dario Amodei, who runs Anthropic, has predicted the technology his company is at the forefront of developing could wipe out "half of all entry-level white-collar jobs".

From Benzinga:

Bill Gates Says 'AI Will Change Society the Most'—Job Disruption Has Already Begun, 'Less Labor' Will Be Needed, And 5-Day Work Week May Disappear

From Futurism:

CEO of Palantir Says AI Means You'll Have to Work With Your Hands Like a Peasant.

Companies creating AI engines are raising TENS of Billions (with a "B") in investment money. Large technology companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta (Facebook) and IBM have laid off tens of THOUSANDS of employees that are "being replaced by AI".

However, I have read several studies by economists stating the data they see does NOT support the claim that the laid-off people are being replaced by AI. The CEO of OpenAI (creator of ChatGPT) has said that the massive layoffs are unlikely to be due to AI.

Instead, the data indicates that during and after the Covid pandemic, the government was pumping billions and billions of dollars into the economy to keep from slipping into a depression. Many large companies simply over hired. Now that the free Covid money is gone, companies are laying off the employees they over hired. Instead of blaming poor management, they are using AI as the scapegoat.

For all the hype about AI ushering in a new golden age, I also read article after article about companies having great difficulty implementing AI and those that have are not seeing the ROI (return on investment) they had planned on.

Amazon has a pure technology business called Amazon Web Services (AWS). AWS offers servers to companies for hosting their business processes or for storage. MT43News uses AWS for auxiliary data storage.

Recently, AWS suffered an outage affecting thousands of businesses. It was finally released that the reason for the outage was their AI engine making a bad decision.

I have read that AI is replacing computer programmers. Programmers no longer write code; programmers direct AI engines on what to implement and AI generates the programs. Last week, in a single day, IBM lost over \$40 Billion (with a "B") in market capitalization due to an article stating that AI is able to convert COBOL programs running on legacy hardware to modern languages.

I have also read that AI-generated programs are full of bugs (some very subtle bugs) that require a huge amount of human programming time to correct. Every once in a while, I ask Microsoft Copilot or Google Gemini to create code for me just to see how they do. Even for very simple tasks, they rarely create code that will actually run. Although I will admit I asked Copilot to generate a small amount of code to execute some geometry that would have taken me a full day to work out. The code Copilot generated in seconds did work and worked perfectly, saving me time.

Just this morning, I read an article that AI engines are analyzing existing programs to detect security problems in the code. They are reporting about 40% false problems; on the other hand, about 60% of AI-generated code has security problems.

AI has also had a dark social side. Many people have become addicted to having conversations with chatbots. I have seen several reports of people spending 10 hours A DAY or more having conversations with AI chatbots. Chatbots have been implicated in "helping" or even recommending suicides.

So, is AI a real boon to humankind as Elon Musk asserts? Will AI destroy our society as we know it as many, many people are asserting? OR is AI just hype; the topic of the day?

AI is definitely real; it is not going to disappear like pet rocks or hoola-hoops did. I have had a lot of fun with AI and written a lot of articles I hope people found amusing about my interactions with chatbots. BUT, I do seriously use AI every single day for a variety of different tasks.

I always double-check any answers or directions I get from AI, but I do start there. If I ask AI to generate any code (I have never asked AI to generate a full program), I always have to carefully review what it generates — it is rarely fully correct.

Only time will tell if AI will greatly benefit humans or destroy our society or, eventually, get past the hype and become just another tool we use.

AI is here to stay; we should all start to learn how to live with AI in our lives.

Anthropic is a leading company developing and implementing AI. Anthropic has a very full list of FREE online courses in AI; everything from learning to be "fluent" in AI to how to develop AI solutions. To learn more about AI, visit the Anthropic site at: <https://anthropic.skilljar.com/>

East Helena School Librarian Wins Teacher of the Year Award

MT43 News Staff Reporter

East Helena High School Library Media Specialist Marne Bender has been honored as the Innovative Teacher Librarian of the Year by the Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE). The award recognizes Bender's long-standing dedication to transforming education through technology and her unique ability to impact students across all grade levels.



East Helena School Librarian Marne Bender Photo Provided

A release from NCCE pointed out that Bender serves a special role within the district, spending half her day with kindergarten learners and the remainder as the library media specialist at the high school. She began teaching in 2009 and has been at the forefront of educational technology. She helped with the early implementation of iPads in the classroom. Once famously described as "part robot" for her ability to control a Smart Board from her neck-worn iPad and has since led successful transitions for students to 1:1 Chromebook learning.

Beyond her work at East Helena Schools, Bender has made contributions to the regional educational community. In 2014, she co-founded EdCamp MT-West, an "unconference" to foster collaboration among educators. The camp will celebrate its 13th summer session in 2026. She also serves as coach for East Helena High School's first Esports team, which she founded in 2019. Under her leadership, the team has secured multiple state titles.

Bender's recent work with students and staff focuses on navigating the complexities of student data privacy and how to integrate artificial intelligence tools. She launched the Story Squad, a program in which high school students read to elementary school students, bridging the gap between the oldest and youngest learners.

EHPS Superintendent Dan Rispens was thrilled that one of his teacher/librarians received this prestigious award: "Mrs. Bender is a dedicated educator who always seeks new ways to connect with kids and spark their interest. The East Helena Schools are fortunate to have her on our staff. We are all very proud of her accomplishments!"

In an email, Bender wrote, "I am honored and very grateful to NCCE for this award, which is truly a reflection of the EHPS librarians' collective dedication to our craft. I am so fortunate to be a part of a team that pushes me to do my best work every day. This award has energized me to continue to grow and deliver the high standard of excellence that our kids deserve!"



Broadwater County Board Vacancies

Broadwater County Commissioners

We invite interested residents to consider serving on a County Board. Your voice and involvement make a real difference in shaping the future of Broadwater County.

Current County Board openings include:

- Compensation Board (2)
- Townsend Mosquito Board (4)
- Three Forks Mosquito Board (5)
- Parks & Recreation Board (1).

If you have a desire to contribute, learn, and be part of local decision-making, we encourage you to submit a letter of interest.

Letters of interest can be mailed to Daylene Hansen, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644, or email dhansen@broadwatercountymt.gov

Townsend School & Sports

MARCH



Friday 6
• **NO SCHOOL**

Fri 6 - Sat 7
• High School Basketball Divisional Tournament @ Billings

Saturday 7
• 10:00 am: Middle School Wrestling at Butte

Monday 9
• 6:00 pm: Spring Sports Parent Meeting

Mon 9 - Thu 12
• 11:45am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL

Tuesday 10
• 3:00 pm: Middle School Wrestling at Anaconda
• 6:00 pm: School Board Meeting

Wednesday 11
• Middle School Science Fair
• 7:00 pm: Old Baldy - Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thu 12 - Sat 14
• High School Basketball State Tournament at MSU Bozeman

Friday 13
• **NO SCHOOL**

Saturday 14
• 9:00 am: Middle School Wrestling at Dillon

Sunday 15
• 12:00 pm: Annual County Contest - High School Foyer and Home Ec Room

East Helena Schools & Sports

MARCH

Sunday 8
• 8:00 am: Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward

Monday 9
• 5:30 pm: School Board Meeting EVMS

Tuesday 10
• 3:00 pm: K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday 12
• 3:00 pm: K-F Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday 13
• 8:30 am: Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival in Missoula

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

MARCH




Tuesday 10
• 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 11
• 10:00 am: Commissioner's Meeting

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library



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

*201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided*

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

**Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager**



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

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

MARCH

Wednesday 11
• 10:30 am: Storytime

Thursday 12
• Drop-in Crafts for Kids

Wed 18 & Thu 19
• 10:30 am: Storytime

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>

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 6

- 9:00 am: Alzheimer's Association Virtual Series- Exploring Care and Support **SEE PAGE 11**
- 10:00 am: Registration for Vigilante Electric's 88th Annual Meeting of the Members
- 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

Sunday 8

- 12:00 am: Trailhead Church: Great Church Chili Throwdown Potluck at Trailhead Church

Tuesday 10

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

Wednesday 11

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

Thursday 12


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

Friday 13

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

Saturday 14

- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
- 6:00 pm: Broadwater Community Theater's St. Patty's Day Fun Raiser at The Lodge **TICKET INFO ON PAGE 11**



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

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

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)
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.**

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

Job Opening

Part time position for an administrator- editor at MT43News.
Applicant will be versed in invoicing, account organizing and good with copy editing stories as they come to the paper.
Please respond to mtskydog@gmail.com or call Nancy at (406) 980-0592.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VERY PART-TIME HELP.

- **Must be available Every 3rd Thursday 10-5.**
- **Other hours available on an as-needed & available basis.**

Please stop by the store for more details.



CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Monthly Chamber Meeting



6:00 pm, March 19 at The Lodge.
All members of the community welcome!

Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale

Are you thinking about having a yard/garage sale or a rummage sale fundraiser this year?
Consider joining the Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale on July 18, 2026.
You hold the sale and keep all the profits – we will do the advertising. NO FEE to join the County-Wide Yard Sale.
Contact Pam at 406-422-7028 to be put on the map or for more information.

The Olde Place

**Herbs, Spices, Teas, Sprays
Antiques & Vintage Collectibles
Birds Nest Booth B-11 Townsend
Kathryn McBee & Family
406-570-0299**

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.



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

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

Support LOCAL Businesses

RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peking China
10 N Main St, Three Forks
(406) 285-3225
Dining Hours:
Tue - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM
Closed Monday
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: R equals H

IONYGBM YFPNYC CNQT GT
QRGWR FJFYXENBX ONJFP
PGTZGTZ PMWYFB RXLTP NI
DYMGPf: DPMOL EFMWR.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

KNIGHT MOVES

U	A	L
L		T
C	A	Y

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.

© 2026 King Features Syndicate

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!

Bane
RESCU _ _ _ _
Melody
DOHRC _ _ _ _
Coach
ETCHA _ _ _ _
Small
THENCs _ _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD

"I'm not used to eating lunch like this — what's for _____?"

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

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Lack of vitality
7 Neighbor of Florida
14 Garlicky sauces
20 In a rational manner
21 Unexpired driver's license, e.g.
22 Well-spoken
23 Whole bunch of baby felines?
25 Regions, weatherwise
26 Some reddish deer
27 Sex educator Shere
28 Jokester Jay
30 Viscous stuff
31 DVD- (data holders)
32 Make angry
33 Dogs that hunt egrets?
37 Fade away
38 B.A., e.g.
39 Corp. exec in charge of ads and branding
41 Locale
42 "Oh, gotcha"
43 Snacks that help physicists build atomic bombs?
47 Campus digs

DOWN
91 — Park (Edison's home)
92 Machinery wheel
93 Unwell
97 Package shipped to singer Dolly?
102 From the top
104 En — (in full court)
106 Free TV spot, in brief
107 "I taut I — a pudgy tatl!"
108 Med. group
109 Serenity in a rabbit colony?
112 Woody's den
114 U-boats, e.g.
115 Feel unwell
116 Andean land
117 French essayist
118 Singer Horne
119 Nag
122 Answer from poet Countee?
126 Greek goddess of wisdom
127 Phoenician goddess of fertility
128 "Could be"
129 Deny
130 Own

ACROSS
89 Paddy food
91 — Park (Edison's home)
92 Machinery wheel
93 Unwell
97 Package shipped to singer Dolly?
102 From the top
104 En — (in full court)
106 Free TV spot, in brief
107 "I taut I — a pudgy tatl!"
108 Med. group
109 Serenity in a rabbit colony?
112 Woody's den
114 U-boats, e.g.
115 Feel unwell
116 Andean land
117 French essayist
118 Singer Horne
119 Nag
122 Answer from poet Countee?
126 Greek goddess of wisdom
127 Phoenician goddess of fertility
128 "Could be"
129 Deny
130 Own

DOWN
131 Atlantic City hotel/casino
1 Request
2 Capital of Kenya
3 Buries
4 Doles (out)
5 Specks in la mer
6 "Anthem" author Rand
7 Benefit
8 Med. test worker
9 Balm additive
10 Playbill info
11 Befuddle
12 Some track runners
13 Lymphoid throat mass
14 Ravens' gp.
15 "Send me"
16 "Yes, yes!"
17 Food flatfish
18 Suffix with Benedict
19 Roads: Abbr.
24 Bun worn at the back of the neck
29 Savvy about
31 Fight arbiter
32 Co. shuffling
33 Expectation
34 That girl
35 Unstimulating java
36 Letter stroke

ACROSS
38 Protest at which people lie down
40 "Uncle" of old TV
44 Whole lot
45 U.S. spy gp.
46 "Uncle" of the U.S.
48 Singer Almee
52 "Of the day," on menus
54 VIPs at raves
55 DOJ agency
56 Tolkien fiend
57 Crooner
58 Often-dinged car feature
60 — -o'-shanter
61 Mao — -tung
62 Ending for ball or bass
65 DE-to-VT dir.
68 Dad's mate
69 Angry genre
70 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
71 Fishing boots
72 Animal's coat
73 The same: Prefix
74 Hiatus
75 Cartoonist
76 Wallet bills
78 Spouse's father, e.g.
79 Bad smell
80 Kind of parrot

DOWN
81 Refrigerator brand
82 Reluctant to be filmed
83 Glass edge
85 Latin "I love"
86 Non-Jewish
87 Comparable (with)
90 Robin's wear
94 "Son of," in Arabic
95 AI who drew L'I Abner
96 Patella
98 Natural gifts
99 England-to-France connector
100 Envoy's residence
101 — Angeles ball or bass
103 Authors
105 David of "NYPD Blue"
110 Justice Kagan
111 Niche sects
113 Buenos — South of Korea
117 Existed
118 Meg Mallon's gp.
119 Wok, e.g.
120 Greek vowel
121 Light beam
123 Notes before tis
124 Sis, e.g.
125 Swirly letter

LEGAL NOTICES

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



MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN 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

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BOYD MAXFIELD IVERSON, AKA BOYD M IVERSON, B MAX IVERSON Deceased.

Probate No DP-4-2026-0000005-IT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bo Brix Iverson has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Boyd Maxfield Iverson. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or their claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Silverman Law Office, PLLC, P.O. Box 4423, Helena, Montana 59604, or filed with the Clerk of the Broadwater County District Court. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct. Bo Brix Iverson

DATED this 18th day of February, 2026

Published March 6, 13, and 20, 2026

MNAXLP

Notice of a Floodplain Permit Application

Per the requirements of the County's Floodplain Regulations, Broadwater County is providing notice that a floodplain permit application has been submitted for the installation of a septic system and drain field at the Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic. The previous septic system and drain field had failed and were posing a health risk to the community and an environmental risk to the floodplain of the Missouri River.

A floodplain emergency notification form was submitted to notify the floodplain administrator that the work had been completed. A floodplain permit application was then submitted within 30-days after the emergency notification form was submitted. The septic system and drain field are below grade, and there are no substantial alterations made to the floodplain.

This project is located within a FEMA-regulated flood hazard area and is subject to review.

The project is located at 7687 US Highway 287, and is located in Section 30, Township 07N, Range 02E, Broadwater County.

The County will accept comments for 15 days following the publication of this notice.

For more information on this proposed project and floodplain permit application, or to provide public comment, contact the County's contract Floodplain Administrator, Kevin Angland, with Great West Engineering at 406-740-7250 or via email at: kangland@greatwesteng.com

Published March 6, 2026

MNAXLP

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou

Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Jared R. Bennett – Belgrade – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Thomas W. Norris – Helena – Speeding on Non-Interstate – Exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Kristian L. Morton – Bozeman – Operating without Liability Insurance in effect [1st] – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

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

Madison R. Skillicorn – Seeley Lake – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Tanya C. Boehm – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Tylor L. Cross – Helena – 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 program within one (1) month, follow treatment, and to be completed in four (4) months. Restrictive probationary license issued.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Bishop G. Walker – East Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK

Roberta J. Williams – Shepherd – Operating as Unlicensed Livestock Dealer – Failed to wait sixty (60) days to sell Cattle – Paid fines - \$335 fines



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Friday, February 27, 2026:
Judge Christopher Abbott

ADC-24-44 Joseph Daniel Karr was seen for a Hearing on a Warrant. The defendant was to return the sober link device and sign up for the 24/7 program in Lewis and Clark County. The defendant was released from jail with all Bond conditions previously in place. The defendant is required to appear 2x a day for the 24/7 program. (This was a Judge Mike Menahan case)

DDC-25-06 Jack Kenneth White appeared for a Change of Plea. After a discussion between the parties, the hearing continued until Friday, March 6, 2026.

DDC-25-07 Curtis Justin Smith appeared for the Sentencing in this case. After a discussion between the parties, the hearing continued for one month, on March 27, 2026.

DDC-25-61 Candy Stryker appeared for an Evidentiary Hearing on the Petition to Revoke. The parties addressed the Court and asked for a one-month continuance. The hearing is continued until Friday, March 27, 2026.

DDC-25-40 Richard Dee Anderson appeared on an Appeal on the Office of Public Defenders. After Mr. Anderson provided the Court with financial documents, the court ordered the Public Defender's Office to represent him.

DDC-25-28 Grant Anton Benson appeared for a Status hearing. The following dates were set: Omnibus, April 24, 2026; Pre-Trial, July 24, 2026; and Jury Trial, August 24, 2026.

More Court information:

A Hearing on a Warrant is when the defendant does something else wrong before the case is finished or they fail to show up for a Court hearing.

A Bench Warrant is then issued and when the defendant is found, they will be arrested and brought before the court to answer the issue.

An Evidentiary Hearing is for the defendant and the state to provide what evidence they have. The court must then decide whether to proceed or not.

Broadwater Commissioners, 1

balance and November is about \$83 out of balance, with both still under review. There were no public questions.

Public health seeks funding for homemaker, respite and nursing programs

Diane Thorne, representing the Broadwater County Public Health Department, presented three grant applications to the Rocky Mountain Development Council for programs running July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

The first was the Homemaker Program, seeking \$29,000 in state funds to cover wages, supplies, vehicle maintenance and fuel. Thorne said the program provides one to two hours per week of assistance per client, including house-keeping, shopping, transportation and meal preparation, serving elderly and low-income residents who live alone or have chronic illness.

The second was the Respite Care Program, seeking \$1,333 in federal funds with a \$333 county match. Thorne said the program provides one to two hours per week of caregiver relief so family caregivers can attend appointments and run errands.

The third was the Skilled Nursing Program, seeking \$9,000 in state funds to cover medical assistance wages and limited nursing support, requiring a physician referral. Thorne said services can include medication management, blood pressure checks and minor wound care.

Thorne told commissioners there are currently openings in the homemaker program and encouraged referrals. Commissioners suggested using the local newspaper to raise awareness, noting the paper regularly publishes county informational articles at no cost.

The board approved all three grant applications unanimously and thanked the department for serving vulnerable residents.

Wildfire mitigation resources highlighted

Ed Shindoll, chief of the Broadwater Rural Fire District and vice president of the Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group, and Lois Olsen presented wildfire mitigation programs available to Broadwater County residents.

The Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group, established in 2015, serves Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, and Jefferson counties. The presenters outlined services including free home ignition zone assessments funded by grants, fuel mitigation prescriptions for private property and cost-share mitigation projects when grants are available, typically structured as 75% grant-funded and 25% homeowner match.

They also described assistance in identifying evacuation routes for potential future grant funding and said the group provides wildfire education presentations.

Olsen highlighted the Firewise Demonstration Garden at the Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, which she said includes more than 150 drought-resistant and deer-resistant plants. The garden includes a searchable plant database and labeling system intended to help homeowners choose firewise landscaping options suited to Montana's dry climate.

Commissioners asked about the outlook for the upcoming fire season. Shindoll said conditions remain uncertain and will depend heavily on moisture and snowpack, adding that landowner preparedness will play a key role.

Subdivision exemption process remains under review

Community Development Director Nicole Brown continued the discussion from the Feb. 11 meeting about proposed updates to the subdivision exemption review process and application forms.

Brown said no amendments had been made since the prior meeting. Commissioners noted a public hearing on subdivision regulation amendments is scheduled for March 25 at 10:05 a.m., with legal notices already submitted.

Public comment was received from Chuck Hahn, who said the proposed documents may not go far enough, particularly regarding family transfer exemptions under recent legislative changes in Montana law. Han encouraged more detailed application requirements and referenced how other counties, including Gallatin County, are interpreting their authority.

Commissioners responded that the county review authority is limited by statute and said denying exemptions outside statutory authority could expose the county to litigation. No action was taken, and the item will remain on a future agenda.

Airport power work approved for future hangars

Airport Board Chair Adam McDonald presented a \$4,717 quote from Northwestern Energy to cut into a direct-buried primary power line and install a new junction can to serve future hangars at Townsend Airport.

McDonald said the expansion area includes newly constructed ramp and taxiway improvements, with multiple hangars planned. He said Lot 24 has already been leased and is expected to be constructed within 180 days.

Commissioners discussed two options: having the county pay the upfront installation cost and requiring each future hangar owner to pay to connect, or having the first hangar builder pay the full cost and seek reimbursement from future hangar owners later.

The airport board recommended the county cover the initial installation to avoid cost-sharing complications between private lessees. Commissioners approved the quote unanimously.

Claims approved

Commissioners approved payroll of \$275,889.95, claims totaling \$249,996 (including grant-funded airport improvements), and additional claims totaling \$30,385.94.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next regular commission meeting will be held the following Wednesday.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead, 1901-1978: American Anthropologist, Writer

Gianforte Extends Deadline, 1

The policy works by raising default tax rates for residential properties and offering exemptions that provide lower tax rates on owner-occupied homes and long-term rentals. Applications for those exemptions are necessary because the state’s tax code hasn’t previously required the revenue department to differentiate between residential properties being used as owner-occupied residences or long-term rentals versus second homes and Airbnb-style short-term rentals. The legislation’s backers wanted to tax the latter at higher rates in order to offset tax relief for resident housing.

MTFP reported earlier this week that the landlords for more than 100,000 rental units hadn’t applied for the exemption as of Feb. 19. That means they — and potentially their tenants — could be saddled with hefty tax bill increases as the second-home tax law treats their properties like vacation homes.

Most Montana homeowners, in contrast, were automatically qualified for an exemption by the revenue department after successfully applying for a property tax rebate last year. Homeowners who weren’t automatically qualified must also apply by the deadline

now amended to March 20.

While the second-home tax legislation explicitly required the application period to run from Dec. 1, 2025, to March 1, the revenue department said in Thursday’s release that a crush of last-minute applications had “created extenuating circumstances.”

“Our priority is to ensure that no Montanan is penalized due to technical difficulties with our filing systems given the magnitude of last-minute applications,” revenue director Brendan Beatty said in a statement.

The governor offered similar comments.

“State government should be customer-friendly and responsive,” Gianforte said. “Because of the overwhelming number of Montanans utilizing the portal to claim the lower tax rates, we are extending the deadline to ensure that no one is penalized by a technical glitch.”

Homeowners who live in their properties for at least seven months a year and landlords who rent to tenants on a long-term basis can apply for exemptions at homestead.mt.gov.

Homeowners, landlords and tenants can also check their home’s application status via a lookup tool on the revenue department website.

Water Rights, 1

of ground to cover.

Thankfully, retired water rights attorney Stan Bradshaw — who literally wrote the “Buyer’s Guide to 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 2 of 4

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.

Monitor: OK. And what are the parameters of actual beneficial use?

SB: I’m not sure that there’s a totally inclusive list, but all the usual suspects: domestic use, municipal use, agricultural use, industrial use, and lots of different iterations of all of those. Prior to 1973 the way people acquired water rights was they went out and put it to use. They’d dig a ditch or whatever, drill a well and put the water to use. And maybe they’d file a piece of paper with the county clerk & recorder’s office that laid claim to water.

But they didn’t have to seek any prior government approval. But the concept of priorities still existed — first come, first serve. So, if somebody felt their right to use water had been harmed by a new use, they could sue and go to court. But the remedy was all reactive. In essence, “I’ll do my thing, and if you don’t like it, you take me to court.” Under that system, prior to 1973 there were actually court cases which determined the rights of all the claimants on a given stream. Once a court decree was entered, the claimants on stream could hire a water commissioner (aka “ditch rider”) to go out and enforce the water rights according to their priority in time, and actually shut headgates as necessary to enforce the decree.

But in 1973 the legislature said, hereafter, if you want a new water right, you come to DNRC and apply for a permit. Now if you want to change your water right or create a new water right, you have to apply for approval.

When DNRC receives an application for new use or a change in use, it requires the applicant to show that this new water use or change in use is not going to adversely affect any other water rights. So, there is some protection in the process, for existing water rights, at least on paper. In short, the burden is now all on the applicant to show they aren’t going to harm any existing water right, which is dramatically different from pre-1973 when the burden was on existing water rights claimants to show harm.

Monitor: I’ve heard a lot in my reporting about closed basins. What is that exactly?

SB: Starting in the 1960s, Montana law provided that if any groundwater area showed signs of depletion or degradation, the department, on petition from local governmental entities or people with groundwater rights, could form a controlled groundwater area and restrict new depletions.

Then in the early 90s, after several seriously dry years, there was a growing conviction among agricultural water rights holders, municipalities, and instream flow advocates in many basins that, between the sheer number of existing claims and recurring instances of drought, available water supplies were being seriously stressed.

So, starting in 1991 and continuing in 1993, the legislature passed a series of statutes that effectively closed specific basins—including the upper Missouri Basin above Morony dam—to most new consumptive-use appropriations.

Ironically, the 1993 legislature also passed a statute specifically closing the Jefferson and Madison River basins to new appropriations, even though they are part of the upper Missouri River Basin. The basin closure statutes have changed the approach to new water uses in the basins where they are in effect.

Now, except during spring runoff — when the available water often exceeds demand — instead of going out and seeking

a new water right, anybody seeking water must change the use of an existing water right.

Monitor: Like in East Helena’s Red Fox Meadows subdivision, they’re potentially trying to figure out how to find and transfer water rights.

SB: When I read about that I thought this is just a quagmire. Unfortunately, it’s one that the DNRC aided in because they came up with really expansive permissions for doing a whole bunch of stuff, and Red Fox Meadows is one of those.

DNRC, for a long time, turned a blind eye to how even smaller irrigation wells collectively do this. And it’s not necessarily the fault of the people. They’re the ones stuck with the burden, right? The problem is the whole idea of the closed basins, of having one exempt well. But if you go in and you have one exempt, it’s really 10 or 50 or however many it is.

The law says, if you do a whole bunch of those and they’re the same water table, then you can’t just pretend each one is separate. If they’re all brought from the same aquifer and it’s the same development — and that’s part of what Red Fox is running into here right now — then they shouldn’t be treated as separate.

You should have to basically go through the process of explaining what the impacts are going to be, and maybe even having to put in a system that’s going to serve all those people. From a developer standpoint, that’s really expensive, but it is probably the more appropriate response.

We’ve looked at the direct and immediate connections of groundwater to surface water, and that’s what they’re running up against. That’s why the whole idea of exempt wells has come under the microscope, because there are places where they can show an impact, typically in smaller drainages. Would you see the impact of Red Fox Meadows on the Missouri? No, but you might see it on tributary streams.

The thing is, we behaved for the first 130 years of our existence as a state where water was an unlimited resource. And the relatively recent imposition of things like closed basins, controlled groundwater areas and required permits for changes to water rights — these are increasingly acknowledging that we don’t have unlimited supply. And I think, to be fair, we’re still struggling institutionally. We’re just struggling with how to make that work.

Monitor: I see. But how would the DNRC or users know their use is impacting other users?

SB: When they review a well for its impact on surface water, there’s two ways that it can affect surface water. One is that when you drill the well, you create what’s called a cone of depression. As you start cutting into that well, it draws water out of the table around the well, and that cone could make a direct impact on a stream. If the cone of depression and stream are intersecting it’s taking water out of this water table that eventually would have made it down to this tree, for instance. That’s a direct impact. That’s a threat. And the statute reads that if there’s a direct or immediate path, then you either can’t do it or you have to make some sort of adjustment.

As to impacts on other groundwater users, it’s often a matter of measuring the existing water table and projecting supply and depletions. This sort of thing provides livelihoods for a lot of consultants.

Monitor: Let’s get into historic use. Please explain how it’s important.

SB: Historic use is most often the focus of proposed changes to water rights. If we’re going to change a water right to accommodate new uses, we have to determine how that water right has been used — how much water is diverted and how much consumed (lost to evaporation and transpiration), and the patterns and timings.

If a proposed change would harm the use of an existing water right, DNRC may deny the application. In effect, the review of a proposed new use or change of an existing use is largely about protecting existing historic uses.

Monitor: And that’s why historic use is so important.

SB: Yeah, and a lot of the due diligence has to be not simply looking at that abstract, but going out on the ground and looking to see what went on. It’s looking at local records, talking to landowners who might still be alive.

I’ve actually gotten affidavits from landowners to say, X, Y and Z happened on these acres. And so if you can really dive into the weeds on it, and if it’s a serious enough issue, that’s what you can do. When buying a piece of property and reactivating a right, you really want to be as solid as you can, maybe go back prior to 1973. And if it doesn’t have a pre-1973 date, it’s not much of a water right.

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



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

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

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

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

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

Monday, March 9, 2026

1:00 PM Safety Meeting with Bill Malone, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Flynn Building

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Trust Board, Request to withdraw \$200,000 from the 1st Premier Trust Investment account to the Trust Board County Account

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Gravel Bar Consulting, LLC, Contract for Megan Bullock, Sanitarian

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Silos Building at 111 Beaver Dr and 65 Silos Road \$1,694,000 purchase price, Closing date May 12, 2026

10:15 AM Discussion/ Decision, Letter of Support for the BCDC Trail Vision Plan

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

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Coblenz Family Transfer; S9 T8N R1E. If needed, unless a decision was made at the March 4th Commission meeting.

10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, TimeClock Plus, LLC, 60 Month Contract Renewal in the amount of \$14,972.60

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 and renewing contracts
- Ongoing grants, grant applications
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders
- Mail

Debi Randolph, Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

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

lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

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

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

- 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
- Trust Board Meeting on March 17th at 11:30 AM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on March 17th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 PM

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

OUR WALK IN FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CENTER

SR. CENTER MEALS: Pineapple
MARCH 9 - MARCH 13 *Wednesday, March 11*
Chicken ALA King
Steamed Potatoes
Broccoli Spears
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Peaches

Monday, March 9
Hamburger on a Bun
Potato Triangles
Carrot Coins
Juicy Pears
Dessert

Thursday, March 12
Ham and Beans
Corn Bread
Italian Vegetables
Sweet Corn
Apricots

Tuesday, March 10
Sweet-N-Sour Pork
Fried Brown Rice
Oriental Vegetables
Purple Beets
Whole Grain Bread

Friday, March 13
Tater Tot Casserole
Garden Peas
Carrot Raising Salad
Whole Grain Bread
Spiced Apples

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

The Garden Bug **First day of spring**
This year, the vernal (or spring) equinox happens on March 20 at 10:46 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time. It is the astronomical beginning of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and of the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox occurs when the Sun crosses the "celestial equator" going south to north. - Brenda Weaver
Source: www.almanac.com
"The Goldfinch" by Albert Flamen (1655-60)

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

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

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

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

Townsend Council OKs Airport Parking, Advances Stump Carving Project and Reviews Street Bids

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



Townsend City Council members on Feb. 17 approved overflow parking for a June airport fly-in, advanced a long-planned tree stump carving project for Heritage Park, and reviewed early street maintenance bids as city officials continued work on water system communications and staffing.

Mayor Vickie Rauser opened the meeting with public comment. A resident raised concerns about low water pressure, asking whether the city was still operating on one well or pump.

Public Works Director Eric Crusch responded that the city is running two wells. The resident said multiple people have complained about low pressure and asked whether it was temporary. Crusch said the issue should be temporary and encouraged the resident to contact him directly so he could look into the specific residence. Rauser noted the city has received calls and has done some initial investigation.

Airport fly-in parking

The council approved a request from Broadwater County Airport Manager Dwight Thompson, who said the airport board is planning a fly-in and dedication of the new airport on Saturday, June 13.

Thompson said the event has been growing, with pilots planning to fly in and spectators expected for activities including a pancake breakfast hosted by a local 4-H group. He asked whether the airport could use part of a city parking lot north of the water tower for overflow parking if needed.

Council members noted the area has been used for overflow parking during rodeo and fair week and discussed ensuring the parking would not interfere with nearby farming operations. Council member JB Howick asked whether organizers would do a walk-through after the event to pick up trash. Thompson said youth groups may help, and he said the county planned to provide a dumpster. The council voted to authorize use of the requested parking space.

Heritage Park stump carvings

The council also approved an independent contractor agreement for a tree stump carving project at Heritage Park, following discussion of contract language and project details.

Tree Board Chair Patrick Plantenberg told the council the project is funded by a \$10,000 anonymous donation received two to three years ago, with the donor requesting the money be used for a special project. Plantenberg said the Tree Board worked with grade school students to develop ideas for carving two stumps in the park playground area.

The student-selected concepts were to carve one stump into a squirrel house and the other into a town bulldog, Plantenberg said.

Plantenberg said the Tree Board contacted a company called "Carve Me a Bear," based in Lincoln, Montana, and Nampa, Idaho. He said the company quoted \$9,975 for the two carvings. Plantenberg said the contractor told

him the carvings would be relief-style to reduce breakable protrusions because children will climb on them.

Council member Peter Simon, whom Rauser noted had drafted the basis for the contract when he served as city attorney, suggested edits, including setting an effective date of March 1 and shortening the completion timeframe to within four months of the effective date. Simon and other council members also discussed adding more specific project description language, including identifying the location as Heritage Park and describing the two carving themes.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kari Williams said staff would need to confirm whether a budget amendment is required. She referenced a previously discussed unspent budget item of about \$12,000 that had been anticipated for tree purchases; if the line item is broad enough for urban forestry, she said, a budget amendment may not be necessary.

The council approved the contract with the discussed changes.

Fire district MOU language

Council members also discussed draft language related to an agreement with the Townsend Rural Fire District. Council members and representatives from the volunteer fire department discussed whether the revised language was fair and addressed communication expectations if equipment or personnel are needed for a call.

Council members voted to use the language presented for the agreement and to continue negotiations.

Street maintenance bids

Crusch reviewed two street maintenance quotes included in the council packet and said staff attempted to obtain a third quote but did not receive a response.

Crusch said one quote from Hardrives Construction reflected a price of \$3.60 per square yard, while a quote from Helena Sand and Gravel was \$3.25. He said the difference could reflect whether the contractor would sweep up chip material and keep it.

Crusch said Montana Materials and Construction also walked streets with him and included a proposed "skim patch" on one area of alligatoring, meaning the quotes were not strictly side-by-side. He said staff planned to talk with both companies to make the bids more comparable, including clarifying whether the city would pick up its own sweepings.

Officials said the city is aiming to keep the street work under \$80,000 and noted that one bid assumed about 25,000 square yards while the other assumed about 17,000.

Press releases and staffing

The council approved water pressure press releases for immediate release after City Attorney Ed Guza and engineering input were incorporated into revised drafts.

Later in the meeting, Crusch told council members his second-in-command had resigned, following another recent resignation, and said the city had received eight applications for maintenance positions after an initial application period closed.

The meeting also included a discussion of well work planned for Well No. 2, including chlorination, and

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When he was in distress, he entreated the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

2 Chronicles 33:12,13

Detail of "The Prayer of Manasseh" (1929) by Hester Sainsbury

HELENA AREA DEATHS

Memory of Ray G. Anderson

Family of Ray G. Anderson

Ray G. Anderson, age 85, of East Helena
December 2, 1940 – February 21, 2026

The family of Ray G. Anderson is saddened to announce his passing.

AREA DEATHS

Larry L O'Connell

Family of Larry L O'Connell

March 30, 1950 – February 23, 2026

Larry O'Connell, 75, of Townsend, Montana, passed away February 23, 2026.

OBITUARIES

Annabelle Barnett

Family of Annabelle Barnett

Anne Barnett was born September 28, 1940, in Greybull, WY. She was the daughter of Paul and Retha (Laymon) Barnett. She was raised and educated in Greybull, WY, where she graduated from high school.

Anne worked and retired from the Family Medical Clinic in Townsend, MT.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren, sewing, tending her flowers and garden, as well as caring for the numerous stray dogs and cats that called her house their home.

Anne is survived by her sons, Robert (LeeAnne) Bennett and Scott Bennett; grandchildren, Jade Bennett, Jenna Bennett and Justin Schoenen; great-grandchildren, Lilli, Lucas, Annabelle and Jeffrey; and her siblings Bob (Carol) Barnett and Milton Barnett.

She requested no services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lewis and Clark animal shelter in Helena, Montana.



Annabelle Barnett
Photo Provided by Family of Annabelle Barnett

Brett Waters

Family of Brett Waters

Brett Waters answered his final call surrounded by love, leaving behind a legacy defined by service, leadership, humor, and unwavering compassion.

Brett began his fire and EMS career in 1977 in Red Lodge, Montana — a path that would become not just his profession, but his calling. Over the decades, he built an extraordinary career spanning both structural and wildland fire service, rising to leadership roles that shaped departments, teams, and people across the West.

He served as Fire Chief in Red Lodge, Montana, later becoming Fire Chief and County Fire Warden in Belgrade, Montana, as well as serving White Pine County, Nevada. From there, Brett continued his professional and leadership journey as a Fire Management Officer for the Nevada Division of Forestry and ultimately as the Wasatch Front Fire Management Officer for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

Brett's leadership extended nationally as a key member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, where he advocated for structural firefighters' cornerstones of the fire service.

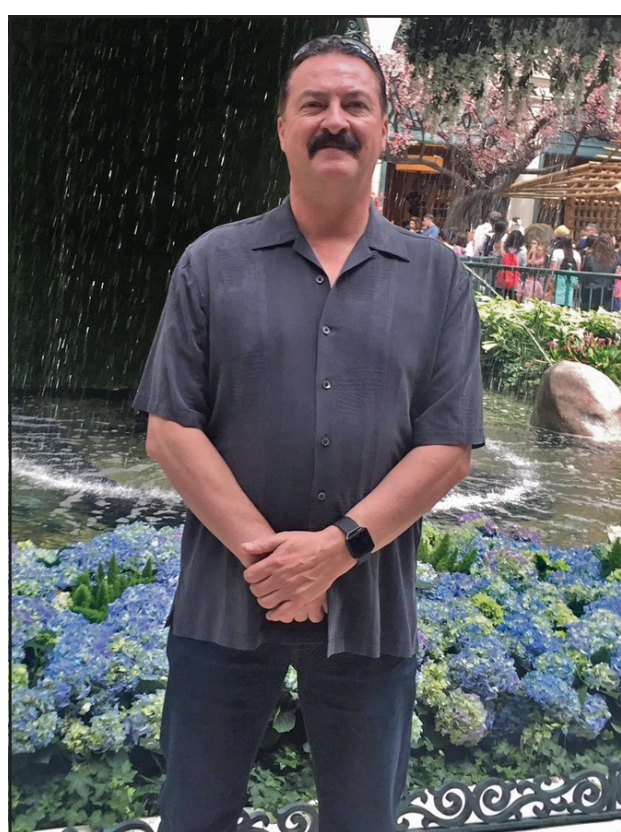
In the wildland arena, one of the most noteworthy wildfires Brett was involved in was the Yellowstone Park fires of 1988, where he led a strike team of engines to protect the entire town of Cooke City, Montana, from the blazes.

Brett began his Incident Management Team journey as a Structure Protection Specialist with a Northern Rockies Type 1 National Incident Management Team. He rose through the ranks to Operations Section Chief, then served seven years as Incident Commander of a Northern Rockies Type 2 National Incident Management Team. His final assignment concluded as the Incident Commander for the Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team 3.

His motto for Team 3 — "Be Nice" — reflected his belief that leadership and strength are rooted in kindness. Brett embodied the core values of the wildland fire community: Duty, Respect, and Integrity. He was a steady presence in chaos, a team player in every situation, and a selfless servant leader who always put others first.

While his professional accomplishments were many, Brett's greatest pride and deepest joy were his family: Sandy, Yvette, and Sheena.

Brett and Sandy met as ski instructors and were promptly compatible. They lived for each other and for their family, a belief that extended to all the people they



Brett Waters
Photo Provided by Family of Brett Waters

welcomed into their lives. Together since 1980, they built a partnership rooted in love, loyalty, laughter, and unwavering support. Known affectionately as "Dad" and "Mom" to many bonus sons and daughters, Brett and Sandy loved others unconditionally, with their ultimate pride and joy being their own two daughters. Their home and their hearts were always open.

Brett's preferred way to spend his time was simple — surrounded by friends, family, and those he loved most. Whether sharing stories over good coffee, offering advice, or quietly showing up when someone needed him, he made people feel valued and cared for.

He is survived by his devoted wife Sandy; daughter Sheena and her husband Jay, and granddaughter Laikyn; and daughter Yvette and her husband Matt. His legacy lives on not only through his family but through the countless firefighters, friends, and loved ones who were shaped by his guidance, humor, and example.

To know Brett was to know compassion, integrity, and strength — and to know that he was never far from good coffee and great conversation.

His impact on the fire service will endure for generations. His impact on those who loved him is immeasurable.

Service details will be shared at a later date.

If you wish to send condolences to Sandy and family, please message us and we will send you the info.

Weed of the Month: Catchweed Bedstraw

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



A problem in certain situations, catchweed bedstraw gets its name for two reasons. It's called catchweed because the stems have stiff hairs that "catch" on clothing or fur that comes tangled in it.

Bedstraw is recognition to its historical use as mattress stuffing. It's also an edible and medicinal plant whose leaves can be eaten raw or cooked. The fruits can be roasted and used as a coffee substitute. Another name for catchweed bedstraw is stickywilly.

Description & Habitat:

There is much debate on whether catchweed is native to North America. It is widespread across North America in a manner that suggests it is native. Others claim that it arrived in the fur of animals through the Bering Strait. The reality is that both are likely and it may be a combination that has led to its widespread nature across the continent.

Catchweed has square stems with backward turning bristles that allow the plant to cling to other plants, objects, clothing and fur. The stems can grow long but are not strong, so they will fall over to form a mat if they don't have anything to climb. Leaves are long and narrow, gathered in a whorl shape around each stem node. Flowers are very small with four white petals. Seedpods are tiny and brown and also have hook-like hairs that stick to nearly anything. It is a cool season plant that grows in the spring and may have another flush of growth in the fall. It is an annual plant (life cycle of one year) that only reproduces by seed. A mature plant can make more than 300 seeds.

While not a widespread issue across Montana, it can be problematic when conditions are right. It prefers shade to partial shade and moist soil. It is often found along the edge of woody areas and in landscape beds. It often grows close to the ground but can climb up and over other plants. It can form a mat across the ground that can cause people and animals to trip or stumble on the dense, sticky vegetation.



Catchweed Bedstraw
Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Management

Maintaining a healthy and dense lawn or plant community will help reduce catchweed. Seeds only stay viable in the soil for two years, so controlling seed production is critical with this plant. When it's young, the whole plant is easy to pull from the ground. Gloves are necessary. As it matures, the root system becomes strong with a week attachment at the base. It will likely break off at this point and can regrow from the roots. Tilling and hoeing can also be successful on young plants. Mulching is an effective control method where practical. Landscape fabric or organic mulch at least 3 inches thick is necessary.

Herbicides can be effective. Preemergent herbicides are a good option in lawns and perennial landscape areas. Commonly used post-emergent chemicals include Banvel, Trimec, Goal2XL and Roundup. Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicide. Common chemical names are used for clarity but do not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

For assistance on weed identification and management, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242.



We buy:
Gold, Sterling
Estate Jewelry
Native American Jewelry
Sterling Flatware
& Service ware
Vintage Watches and More

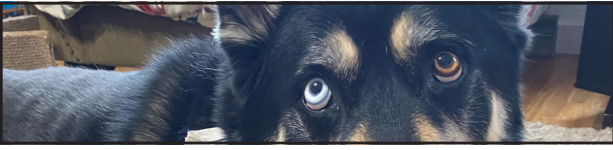


Check out our Google reviews!
Located:
Downtown Helena
357 Last Chance Gulch
(2nd floor of Barnes Jewelry)

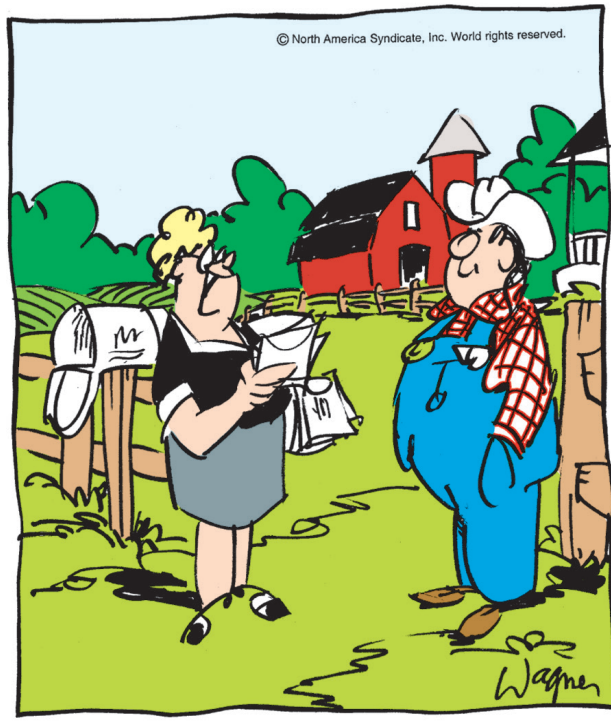
Store Open:
Tues - Wed - Thurs
10 AM - 5:30 PM
Best to make an appointment
406-502-1029
Weekend appointments available.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"We have a bumper crop of subsidy checks!"

TIZER MEATS
 Domestic Meat Processing and Wild Game Processing
 For details, call in or check our website!
 406-422-4822 | tizermeats.com

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

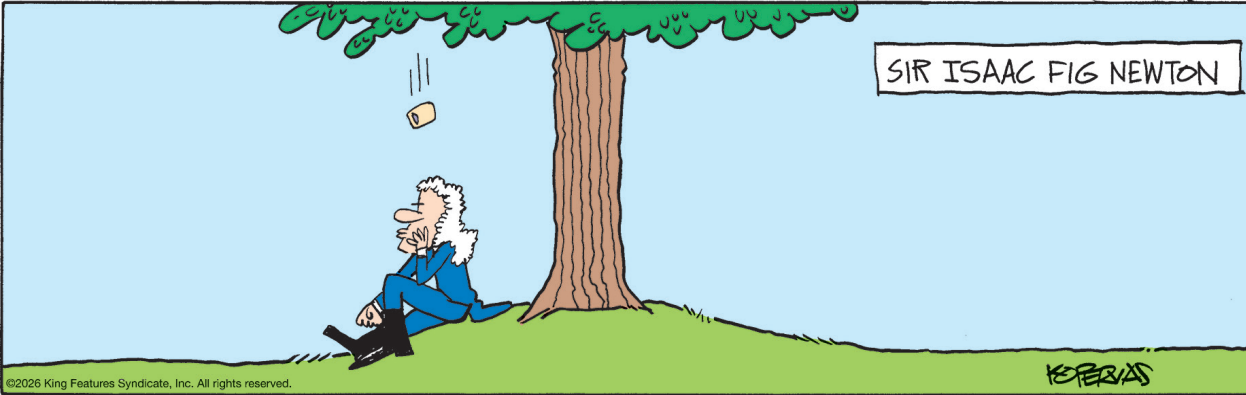
Super Crossword

Answers

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



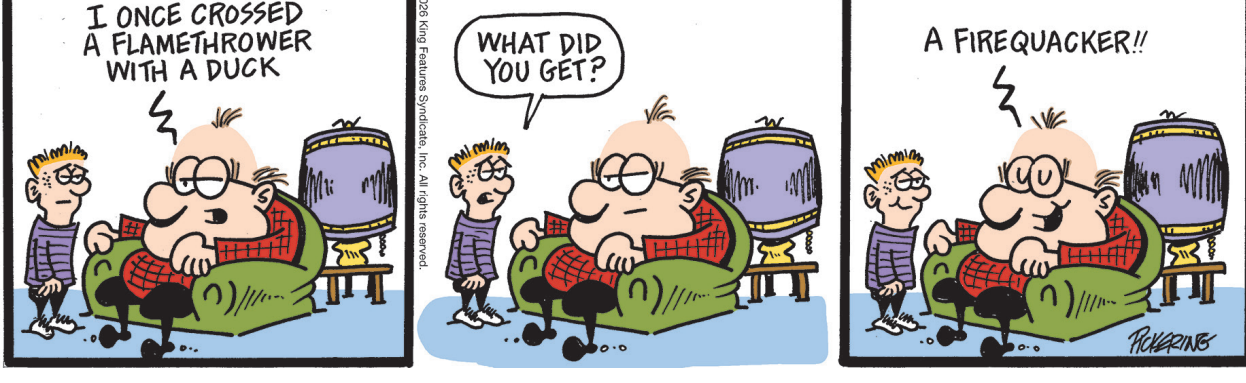
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

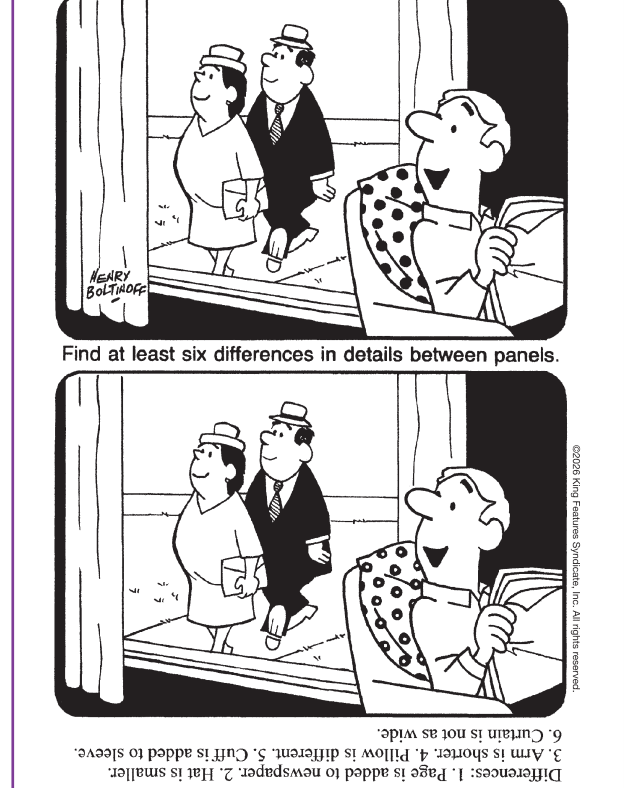
by Jeff Pickering



POPEYE BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

U	A	L
4	1	6
L		T
7		3
C	A	Y
2	5	8

ACTUALLY

CryptoQuip

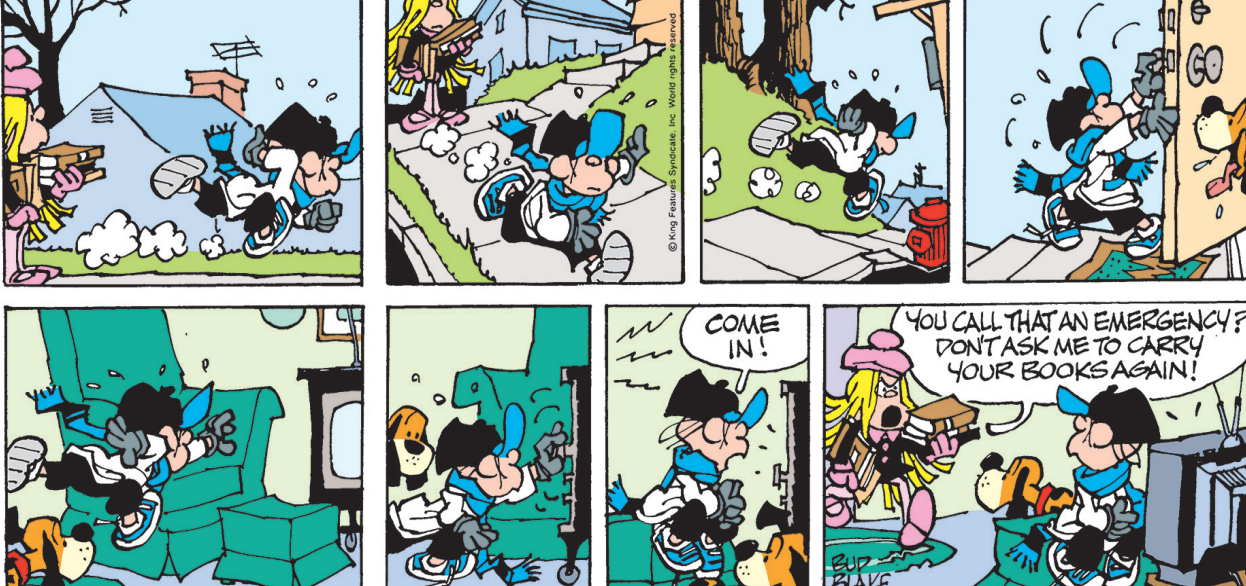
answer
 Florida resort town in which everybody loves singing sacred hymns of praise: Psalm Beach.

SCRAMBLERS

solution
 1. Curse; 2. Chord
 3. Teach; 4. Stench
 Today's Word
DESSERT

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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
 reserved. The contents of this newspaper may not be reproduced, redistributed or archived, in whole or in part, physically or electronically, without the written permission of MT 43 News, Inc.
 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.
Forms and Policies
 https://mt43news-business-services.com/node/124
 ©2023 MT 43 News, Inc. All rights

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
Montana Chapter


MARCH VIRTUAL SERIES

Friday, 9:00 am-10:00 am MST
Exploring Care and Support Services
Join us to learn how to best prepare for future care decisions and changes, including respite care, residential care and end-of-life care.
March 6 2026
[Link to register](#)

Friday, 9:00 am-10:00 am MST
Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's; the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia.
March 13 2026
[Link to zoom](#)

Weather Forecast

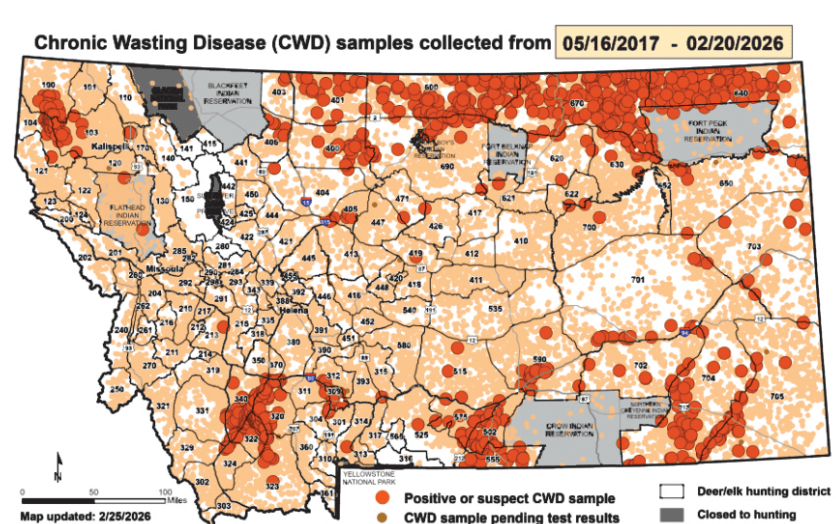
March

<p>Friday 6 High Temp: 42 Low Temp: 32 Wind: 12 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	
<p>Saturday 7 High Temp: 51 Low Temp: 31 Wind: 14 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 High Temp: 54 Low Temp: 36 Wind: 10 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>
<p>Sunday 8 High Temp: 57 Low Temp: 36 Wind: 12 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	<p>Wednesday 11 High Temp: 58 Low Temp: 38 Wind: 16 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>
<p>Monday 9 High Temp: 55 Low Temp: 42 Wind: 14 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	<p>Thursday 12 High Temp: 51 Low Temp: 23 Wind: 30 Rain: 0.036 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>

CWD is Spreading in Montana

Will deer and elk populations decline as a result?

Victor Sample
MT43 News



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurodegenerative disorder that sickens and ultimately kills ungulates such as deer, elk and moose over a period of months or years.

The disease is now well established in Montana, according to wildlife managers. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks told state lawmakers last month that the infection curve is climbing, particularly among white-tailed and mule deer. According to FWP's analysis, the disorder, first detected in 2017, is spreading in the Treasure State.

Amanda Eggert, reporter for the Montana Free Press, has written an excellent article regarding the future of Montana's deer and elk herds with CDW spreading across Montana.

Information in this article was excerpted from the Montana Free Press article. To read the full article, visit the MT43News website at <https://mt43news-business-services.com/mt43newsArticleViewPublished/7058/2196>

Map of verified CWD occurrences in Montana Hunting Districts
Credit: MTFPP

Map updated: 2/25/2026
MONTANAFWP

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!



TOPGUN Autobody
Townsend, MT

Car Detailing Available
406-266-3110
7685 US Hwy 287, Townsend MT
topgunautobodytownsend.com | topgunt3110@gmail.com

SPEED WORKS

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



Become a Classroom Mentor

Volunteer with the Foster Grandparent Program today.

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

Call 406-447-1680 or visit mdc.net

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.
Helping kids, strengthening communities.

AmeriCorps Seniors

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

Broadwater Community Theater

St. Patty's Day Fun Raiser

March 14, 2026 ~ At The Lodge

MUSIC BY ~ HELENA HANDBASKET

*Includes: Pot O' Gold 50/50, Four-Leaf Clover Draw, St Patty's Photo Booth ~ Dress for A Photo, Elf Games and Lucky Silent Auction
*Beer and Wine at the Donation Bar
*Catered Dinner at Table
Doors open at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6pm


Tickets are \$40 per person sold at The Bird's Nest or BCT Website:
<https://bctmt.org/>

BCT 2026 Sponsors: Jak's Heating and Air, Rotary Club of Townsend; The Lodge/ Tina Homann, Jeannie Mainwaring; Jan Hubber; Judy Schenk; Ron & MaryAnn Salladay; John & Tami Hahn; Chuck McLane; Bob Saxby

STOKE
Science + Technology + Outdoors
Knowledge + Entrepreneurship

THE LODGE
Broadwater Community Theater

Broadwater Community Theater 501C3 Purpose: To foster, promote, and increase the public knowledge and appreciation of the arts and cultural activities in Broadwater County through theater and the arts.



Billings Clinic
Broadwater

MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK
Member

Emergency Department
Always open. Always ready. 24/7

For more information about our services, call (406) 266-3186.
110 North Oak Street, Townsend, MT
billingsclinic.com/broadwater



Exceptional Emergency Care Right Here at Home!

Billings Clinic Broadwater has over 120 years serving our region with the best available care with shorter wait times.

Subscribe to MT 43 News and save!

	1Yr	2Yr	3Yr	
Print (In-Region*):	\$69	\$108	\$155	
Print (In-State):	\$89	\$145	\$200	
Print (In USA):	\$119	\$198	\$275	
Print (International):	\$145	\$245	\$340	
Print Snowbird**:	\$94	\$158	\$225	
Email-ONLY (PDF):	\$50	\$74	\$100	

Mail payment or deliver to 408 Broadway, Townsend MT 59644. You can also call with a credit card 406-266-0086, or visit www.MT43News.com

*In Region includes all Broadwater County, Helena, East Helena, Montana City, Clancy, Jefferson City, White Sulphur Springs and Three Forks

**Snowbird rate includes two address changes per year. Gift subscriptions are also available!

All print editions include option to receive PDF email.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

March 7

1903

North Creek Nuggets

Theo Johnson is employed in building a house for Mr. Torz. It isn't a nice house, but an icehouse.

Local News

H. Pettybone of Hassel spent a few days in town this week.

There are six families quarantined in Townsend at the present writing.

George Bailey of the lower valley paid his friends and the business houses of town a brief visit Monday. Mr. Bailey reports general conditions in the lower valley about "so-so".

J.D. Clark of Diamond City came out from Helena the fore part of the week and transacted business in our town for a day or two. Mr. Clark's family is residing in Helena for the winter on account of school privileges.

J.R. Stout of the Glendive Review departed for his home in Glendive on Thursday, accompanied by his eldest daughter, Luella, and Miss Clara Willet. His visit in town was shortened somewhat on account of so many cases of scarlet fever.

J.P. Marks had his pet bear killed last week. He had expected to keep young bruin until spring and then dispose of him to the management of the Columbia Gardens at Butte, but he was getting too large and cross for safety without an iron cage.

Miss Clara Watson came from Dillon this week, expecting to go over the range to her home, but being advised of the diphtheria cases in the Watson family, she concluded to wait a few days. She is the guest of Miss Alice Henton.

1925

Local News

W.J. Hazelton is driving a beautiful new Buick Coupe

these days. The car is of the classiest type, a country club model.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gillogly and children of Fort Logan are visiting Mr. Owen Gillogly and daughter, Margaret, this week.

Mrs. Geo. Gabisch went into Helena Tuesday to visit her son, Lawrence, at St. John's Hospital.

Students of the Toston high school motored through Townsend last Friday enroute to Helena, where they spent the day at the state capital visiting the Legislature.

Miss Bill Mary Smith stopped off in Townsend last Sunday evening and remained a day visiting her uncle Mark Frost and other relatives. Miss Bill had been in McAlister visiting friends for about three weeks and was returning to her work in the capital city.

1953

Winston News

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Whitehead and children enjoyed the DeMolay supper at the Temple in Townsend Saturday night.

Quite a number of Winston people attended Zipp's Free show in Townsend Monday evening.

The Winston school was closed Monday due to the fact that the stove smoked.

Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Bisby were Townsend visitors Saturday.

Social

Sam Gilstrap was honored on the occasion of his birthday anniversary Friday evening by his neighbors at a Chow Mein dinner. After dinner, pinochle was played with prizes going to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ulmer and Mrs. Ford Moore. Others present were Mr. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kirksey, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Miller, in whose home the party was given. Mr. Gilstrap received many useful gifts.

Gail Kieckbusch, charming little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kieckbusch, played hostess to a party at

her home on Canton Road Saturday. The occasion was her birthday anniversary and although she unwrapped many lovely gifts, she saw to it that all of her friends had a gay time playing games and eating birthday cake. Included were Sybil Snell, Martha Marks, Mary Jean Kirley, Terry Sullivan, Paula Plymale, Carol Stiner, Susan McElravy, Phyllis Nield, Judy Peters, Gerry Lewis, Charlene Adams and Betty Joye Daniels. Miss Gail was nine years old.

1970

Participates in Piano Recital

Miss Susan Hooks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hooks, participated in a piano recital given by the Bozeman Piano Teachers' Association, Friday, Feb. 27, in the music building on the MSU campus. Susan played the Sonatina Op. 36 No. 3 by Clementi in three movements, accompanied by Mrs. Kitto on the second piano. Hosts for the recital were Prof. Charles Payne and Prof. Henry Campbell of the MSU faculty.

Crow Creek News

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Williams and family entertained at dinner Saturday night for Mr. and Mrs. John Williams of Radersburg, Mr. and Mrs. John Ragen and two children and Mr. and Mrs. Don Plymale of Townsend.

Dirk Reister of Butte spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Horne and family. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Reister, came for him.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Kitto had as dinner guests Sunday, their son, Rod of Bozeman, Leonard Lambott of Rudyard and Miss Pearl Kitto.

Susan Webb of Missoula spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Webb, and Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. V.R. Cazier and son, Boyd, spent several days in Preston, Idaho and Ogden, Utah, attending to business matters and visiting relatives and friends.



It's not what you look like when you're doin' what you're doin'
It's what you're doin' when you're doin'
what you look like you're doin'



Historic Townsend Hardware
204 BROADWAY • PROUDLY SERVING TOWNSEND SINCE 1953

And it's the same thing when you heft one of these bad boys!

Weight training!



Helping Hands Thrift Store Will Be Opening Soon

MT43 News Staff Reporter

A place for Townsend residents to take their new and hardly used items has been missed this winter, as the adults' store on Pine Street has been closed since July 17 of last year.

Helping Hands Thrift Store and the Store for Kids will be reunited at 122 Broadway, the former Jeannie Steele building, according to manager Sheila Heavirland, who had taken a quick two minutes to talk about how the move is progressing. "It is a dream come true for us who believe in recycling and reusing," she said.

The huge amount of work sorting and moving mounds of clothes, toys, housewares, and finally dismantling and rebuilding shelving is being accomplished by around 15 volunteers, plus several others with pickups stepping in to move from one location to the other. The other

location was 323 Broadway. Her crew finished moving out of the old building on Friday.

The store will feature a soft opening on Tuesday, March 17. New store manager Susan Bohlken will supervise the 5,000 square foot facility, which will have separate rooms for men's clothing and a toy room for children to play while parents shop. Heavirland pointed out that they will take no furniture but would like tools and sports equipment for their "man cave".

The store could use more men's clothing and children's sizes 6 months to 3T in both boys' and girls' clothing.

Helping Hands Thrift Store board members, in addition to Sheila, include her husband, LaVerne, Sarah Holland, Alea Coker, and Dee Gannon. Jackie Kynett and Susan Bohlken are new volunteers on the board.

When the store opens on March 17, the hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Townsend Council, 8

updates on a volunteer fire department recruit class and reporting system transition.

Crosswalk safety concerns

During final public comment, a resident told council members he was "getting a little fed up" with crosswalk safety on Broadway Street, saying he crosses the street multiple times a day and feels he is nearly hit regularly by drivers who fail to yield.

The resident said he has experienced vehicles continuing through the crosswalk while he is still crossing, including an incident the day before the meeting when he said he was close enough to a truck to reach out and touch it. He said the issue is especially concerning because children cross the street near the school.

Council members discussed potential next steps, noting the crosswalk area is on a state highway and may require coordination with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). The resident said he would be willing to serve on a committee if needed.

Simons suggested the city may see more immediate results by treating the problem as an enforcement issue, such as asking the sheriff's office to increase presence on Main Street during peak crossing times. Crusch said he was aware of deputies who have stopped drivers for crosswalk violations but noted they cannot be there all day.

Council members also discussed visibility challenges during certain times of year when the sun is low and can be blinding for drivers. They questioned whether existing crosswalk signs flash during school hours; some said they had not noticed the signs flashing.

The discussion also touched on the limits of the city's authority to cite drivers. Council members asked whether Animal Control/Ordinance Officer John Stenzel could issue citations for crosswalk violations. Crusch said Stenzel does not have authority to pull over or detain drivers. Council members briefly discussed options such as deputizing an officer, but noted that would require academy training and sworn officer status.

Rauser said she would make phone calls to explore options.

The council adjourned after completing the agenda.



Helping Hands board members Sheila Heavirland, Sarah Holland and Susan Bohlken are working along with other volunteers to open Helping Hands for business March 17. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer