

Townsend Middle School Students Hold Science Fair



Middle School Science 7th grade Fair winners from left: Sophia Demetriades, Myla Graveley, Bria Wellenstein, Kyra Heggen, Cotton Fryer, Layne Becker and Jackson Hines.
Photo Credit: Anna Shearer



Eighth grade Science Fair winners from left: Gabriel Krueger, Jayden Flynn, Everett Kirksey, Erilyn Strait, Juniper Campbell, Briar Schedel and Kathryn Six.
Photo Credit: Anna Shearer

Townsend Middle School 6th graders who will attend the State Science Fair in Missoula are from left: Rayna Cameron, Kaylee Flynn, Brock Hall, Carter Christensen, Ryker Krueger, Jacob Hildreth and Calvin McCauley.
Photo Credit: Anna Shearer

Anna Shearer
Townsend Elementary Teacher

The Townsend Middle School Science Fair was held on Wednesday, March 11th, at Townsend Schools. Over 50 judges from the community volunteered their time to judge the 6th, 7th and 8th-grade projects.

Students began preparing for the science fair in November, carefully planning their experiments, carrying them out, and analyzing the data they collected. In the weeks leading up to the event, students used their science classes to create data tables and graphs, research scientific explanations, and creatively assemble their display boards. They also spent time practicing their presentation skills in preparation for sharing their work with judges and visitors.

Students take great pride in their projects, and the opportunity to present their knowledge to

members of the community is taken seriously. Their hard work and dedication were evident throughout the event.

Project topics covered a wide range of scientific interests, from studying the impact of microplastics and testing the antibacterial properties of essential oils to exploring basketball fundamentals and examining how different lighting conditions affect the growth of mycelium.

The top seven projects in each grade level qualified for the State Science Fair, which will be held in Missoula, MT, on March 30th. The 6th-grade students who qualified are: Rayna Cameron, Kaylee Flynn, Brock Hall, Carter Christensen, Ryker Krueger, Jacob Hildreth, and Calvin McCauley. From 7th

grade, Sophia Demetriades, Myla Graveley, Bria Wellenstein, Kyra Heggen, Colton Fryer, Layne Becker, and Jackson Hines received the honor to move on to the State Science Fair. The qualifying 8th-grade projects belonged to Gabriel Krueger, Jayden Flynn, Everett Kirksey, Erilyn Strait, Juniper Campbell, Briar Schedel, and Kathryn Six.

Thanks to the support of our community members and parents who help make this event possible each year!

Candidates File to Run in School, Primary Elections *New Rules for Registering, Absentee Voting*

MT43 News Staff Reporter

New faces and new rules should make the 2026 School District and Primary Races in Broadwater County very interesting. Filing for office closed March 4.

Jean M. Hodges of Townsend is running for the District #1 School Board position. Vanessa Flynn retired early from her 3-year term. Judy Gillespie filed for that empty position and will be elected by acclamation. Also running for 3-year terms are incumbents Jason Kool and Chase Ragen.

In county races, District #1 County Commissioner's 6-year term is up for election. Incumbent Debi Randolph has filed again to run for the position. Running against her in the June 2 election are Audrey Wallester-Martin of Winston and Tim Ravndahl. The top two winners in this race will go to the general election on November 3.

For Broadwater County Sheriff and Corner's office, Undersheriff Mark W. Wood put his hat in the race. Also filing as a candidate for the office is Luis Espinoza of Three Forks.

The County Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools office will be open, as current Treasurer Melissa Franks is not running again. Michelle Beebe will be a candidate for the office, as will be Leona Nelson, both of Townsend.

Uncontested county races include Clerk and Recorder, Elections Administrator and County Surveyor Angie Paulsen, who has filed to run again. Also running for

their current offices are County Attorney Kevin Bratcher and Justice of the Peace Kirk Flynn.

New rules for voter registration, according to Elections Administrator Angie Paulsen, are notable: those who wish to register to vote may go to the Clerk and Recorder's office in the Courthouse the Saturday before the primary election between 8 a.m. and 5:00 pm. They may also register until noon on election day, but not the Monday before election day.

Laws enacted by the Montana Legislature changed the hours for registering because clerk and recorder offices in large population cities were finding themselves with long lines of people waiting to register in same-day registration, some until 4:00 a.m. on election day, Paulsen related.

A second, important change is that absentee voters must include the year of their birth on the affirmation envelope, as well as their signature and the date signed. Paulsen said her office will include a bright orange insert with the absentee's instructions to note the change.

Candidate spotlight interviews will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, so voters will have an opportunity to learn more about those running for office. Along the same lines of voter information, Townsend Education Association, the teachers' union, will be hosting a District School Board candidates' forum on Wednesday, April 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room. The public is invited.

Ridin' Rockin' and Livestockin' Broadwater County Fair 2026

Lauren McLaughlin
Broadwater County Fair Board Public Relations

The Ridin' Rockin' and Livestockin' Broadwater County Fair is gearing up to bring excitement, tradition, and family fun back to Townsend.

Community members and visitors alike are invited to enjoy a celebration of local agriculture, rodeo action, and live entertainment. Join us August 6th-9th, 2026!

Now is the time to start thinking about and working on your Open Class entries for this year. Do you happen to grow gorgeous flowers? Do you like to write short stories? Have a beautiful house plant? Do you have a secret family recipe for bread, cookies or jelly? Do you dabble with oil paints? Take stunning photographs? Raise your own livestock? Did you end up taking up a hobby of embroidery, knitting or quilting?

Then guess what! You are well on your way to making an entry into the Broadwater County Fair! The Open Class Departments are: Home Arts, Photography & Literature, Fine Arts, Painting & Artwork, Home Crafts, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Agronomy and Livestock. And each of these departments has many different classes to enter your projects! The opportunities are endless!

Copies of the Fair Book will be out by May 8th. These will be available in the Fair Office (416 Broadway St, Townsend), at a few businesses around town and on the fairgrounds website (www.townsendfairgrounds.com).

We are gearing up for a great event and hope to see you all there.

Fairgoers can look forward to rodeo events, livestock shows featuring local 4-H and FFA youth, live music, food vendors, and activities for all ages. The fair highlights the hard work of local ranching families while offering plenty of entertainment for the whole community.

The Broadwater County Fair Board encourages everyone to come out, support local youth, and enjoy a weekend full of rodeo thrills, great food, and hometown fun.

Stay tuned for event schedules and additional details as the fair approaches.

Irish Music, Irish Dishes Fuel St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser *Back Page*



Board members Candice O'Hara and Pat Plantenberg croon to "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

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

Turn to Page 7

Majority of Montanans Favor Legalized Corner-Crossing

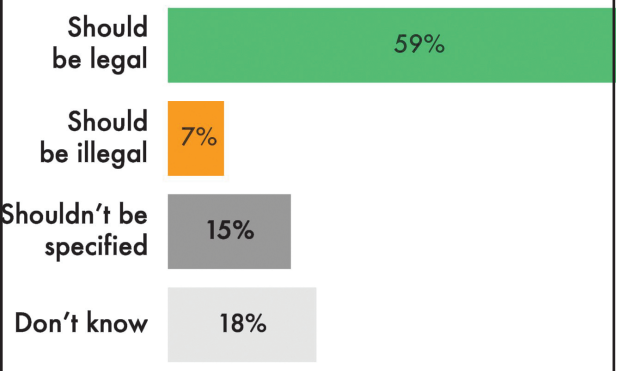
Amanda Eggert
Montana Free Press

A series of Wyoming court rulings have put a national spotlight on the public access created by checkerboard land ownership.

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2026/03/05/poll-majority-of-montanans-favor-legalized-corner-crossing/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262978%29&utm_source=2&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Montanans%20%E2%9D%A4%EF%B8%8F%20corner%20crossing&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262978%29

A strong majority of Montanans support making corner-crossing explicitly legal, according to a Montana Free Press-Eagleton poll.

What is your position on corner crossing?



Per responses to Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026 MTFP-Eagleton poll. Poll overall margin of error +/- 4.1%. Responses don't sum exactly to 100% due to rounding. Graphic: Scott Reinhard

Poll Results
Graphic Provided by Montana Free Press and Eagleton (Rutgers University)

Corner-crossing is the act of stepping from adjoining corners of public land where alternating sections of public and private land exist in a checkerboard pattern. While the practice has been the subject of a high-profile court fight in Wyoming, there is no clear statute on its legality — or illegality — in Montana law.

In the absence of an unambiguous statute or Montana-specific case law, some Montanans argue the practice is a lawful way to access public land, while others maintain that corner-crossing amounts to trespassing.

Nearly 60% of respondents to the MTFP-Eagleton poll agreed with the statement that corner-crossing “should be legal,” as compared to 7% who said it “should be illegal.” Another 15% said that policymakers shouldn’t pass laws “making it explicitly legal or illegal,” a position that maintains the ambiguous status quo. Nearly a fifth of respondents, 18%, said they “don’t know” in response to the question.

Pollsters found that the majority support for legalized corner-crossing spanned the political spectrum, but was strongest among self-described independents (65%) and Democrats (63%). For comparison, 53% of Republicans said corner-crossing should be legal.

For several years, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has maintained that corner-crossing is not legal in Montana. The agency has directed wardens investigating trespassing claims to pass citations to county attorneys, who may or may not pursue charges against the person in question.

A 2022 analysis by OnX, a smartphone mapping company, found that Montana has nearly 900,000 acres of “corner-locked” land. Most of that checkerboard land is a legacy of the century-and-a-half-old decision Congress made to boost railroad expansion by granting railroad companies every other square mile along new rail lines.

The question of whether corner-crossing is an act of trespassing came to a head in Wyoming in 2022, when pharmaceutical executive Fred Eshelman pressed civil and criminal trespass charges against four corner-crossing hunters from Missouri who came to the state to hunt on Bureau of Land Management holdings near Elk Mountain, where Eshelman owns a 22,000-acre ranch.

After a lengthy court fight, none of the charges stuck, with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals’ ruling that “the hunters could corner-cross as long as they did not physically touch” Eshelman’s land. The ruling technically applies only to states in that circuit: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Utah, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Since Montana is in a different appellate circuit, the ruling isn’t binding law here, although two groups in Montana — United Property Owners of Montana and the Montana Stockgrowers Association — filed briefs in support of Eshelman. Montana lawmakers in 2013 debated a bill to make the practice explicitly legal and another in 2017 to make it explicitly illegal. Neither of them passed.

There is at least one example in Montana of a corner-crossing hunter receiving misdemeanor charges after hunting on checkerboard land, although that case was different from the Wyoming case given that the corners weren’t perfectly aligned. In 2019, Paradise Valley resident Cody Cherry was cited for failure to obtain landowner permission to hunt. Due to a surveying quirk, a private ranch owned the 80-foot swath of land between the two corners of public land that Cherry attempted to connect on horseback.

AG WEEK IS MARCH 16-20

Broadwater County Farm Bureau

This week has been designated Ag Week to recognize the importance and contributions of agriculture to our nation and communities. Next Tuesday, March 24, is National Ag Day.



Agriculture is both an industry and a way of life. Broadwater County, located between the The Elkhorn and Big Belt Mountain ranges was established in 1898 largely based on its thriving agricultural economy. As soon as the gold rush to Montana began in the 1860’s, farmers and ranchers arrived to begin their work to feed the rapidly growing mining communities and associated military posts. Many families here trace their roots to enterprising folks who set up farms and ranches during gold rush days. In a testament to their hard work and tenacity, a good percentage of ranches in Broadwater County are still operated by their descendants. In spite of many changes over the past century and a half, agriculture remains the mainstay of our local culture and economy.

In 1867, there were 67,000 beef cattle in all Montana; today there are over 16,000 just in Broadwater County. There were 1,000 hogs in the state in 1866-67. In the early 20th century, Montana was home to an estimated 6 million sheep! Today, Broadwater County is home to over 3000 sheep and lambs, home to one of the few large sheep ranches left in Montana. The early agriculturalists here raised wheat, oats, barley, and hay for cash crops. Today our top cash crops are hay, wheat, barley, potatoes, and seed crops. Several early-day orchards and vegetable farms provided food for Broadwater and Meagher Counties. In addition, there were a number of dairies and poultry producers. Today we have one commercial dairy. Several families offer local produce for sale. Sugar beets were a significant crop in the county until the 1970’s. Prior to World War II, peas were a big crop; the former Zipp’s Tire building was once the pea processing plant.

Our county experienced a unique loss of productive agricultural land and numerous ranches when Canyon Ferry Reservoir was filled some 70 years ago. Some of the productive land loss was offset by the development of widespread irrigation in the Crow Creek Valley to replace the lost productive acres in the Canton Valley. Numerous families “pulled up their stakes” and resettled in other parts of Montana to continue their agricultural living. Other families moved to the Crow Creek valley to take advantage of the new irrigated farming opportunities there. Agriculture continues to be the primary economic driver in Broadwater County, closely followed by tourism and recreation.

Today, 585 Broadwater County residents are listed in the agricultural census as producers. 366 of them are younger than 65 years old. These folks are producing food and fiber on 464,721 acres of land. They are producing food for local consumption on small acreages. They are cowboys working cattle on vast areas. They are the operators of high-tech equipment planting and harvesting crops faster and more efficiently than ever before. The next sweater you buy may contain wool from fleece from our local wool producers. Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our local economy. They are dedicated supporters of our local schools, health care facilities, and main street businesses. You know many of them. Ag Week is your chance to show them your appreciation.

ADVERTISING WORKS!

Leonard Lambott and Toston Irrigation District have received more calls from their MT43 News ads than any other ads they have out there!

CALL US TODAY (406) 266-0086

MT 43 News
Local People. Local Stories.

Designed by MT43 News: Deadline- 10am Monday
Ads requiring proof before print: Deadline- 10am Monday
Pre-designed ads: Deadline- 11am Tuesday

CAREGIVER WORKSHOP: DEMENTIA EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Hosted by RMDC and Presented by Carroll College Sophomore Nursing Students

Join us for an interactive caregiver workshop focused on practical strategies, education, and support for those caring for individuals living with dementia.

Workshop Format:
-Educational stations to attend: you choose topics that interest you.
-Q&A, workshop feedback, + caramel rolls!

Who Should Attend:
Anyone who classifies themselves as a caregiver for a person with dementia.

Topics Covered:

- Understanding Dementia
- Therapeutic Communication + Relationship Centered-Care
- Managing Symptoms
- Caregiver Role Strain + Self-Care
- Home Safety + Daily Care
- Planning Ahead + Advance Decision Making
- Community Resources/Support
- Grief, Anticipatory Loss, + Emotional Impact

When + Where: Thursday, March 19th + Thursday April 16th
10:00 am @ The Senior Center - 200 S. Cruse Ave., Helena

Please contact Ryan, RMDC Resource Specialist, to RSVP (RSVP is not required for attendance)
406-457-7376

Professional Licensing is Important

Victor Sample

Gov. Greg Gianforte wants to explore making the path into the state’s 50 licensed professions easier for Montanans by streamlining licensing standards and has assembled a "Licensing Reform Task Force".

No one likes bureaucracy and red tape. I wrote an article about my ridiculous experience with government bureaucracy and obtaining an ID to file some IRS forms. But I have serious concerns about "streamlining" the licensing standards.

There are certainly areas that could be improved. Reciprocity (recognizing licenses from other states) could certainly be improved. Currently, many, if not all, professions requiring licensing require professionals licensed in other states to go through a lengthy licensing procedure in Montana.

When I go to a dentist or need eye surgery, I want to know that the licensed professional actually knows what they are doing. I don't want to have someone who "studied up on it" by Googling or asking AI how it's done! My eyes are pretty important to me - I want an actual ophthalmologist performing procedures.

I have a friend whose house burned down. The Fire Marshall determined the cause was faulty home wiring done by the previous homeowner, who was NOT a licensed electrician. I do not do electrical work on my own home because I explicitly do not want to burn my house down because I made an error in the wiring. If I need electrical work done, I want to know the person has actual qualifications.

If you have concerns about "streamlining" the licensing, let the governor's office know; let your state representatives know.

Governor's office:
Phone: 406-444-3111
Email: governor@mt.gov
Online Form: <https://governor.mt.gov/Contact/ShareYourOpinion>

Wylie Galt (State senator):
Phone: (406) 444-4800
Email: Wylie.Galt@legmt.gov

Jane Gillette (State Representative):
Phone: (406) 868-1549
Email: Jane.Gillette@legmt.gov

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

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

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

Barnes Jewelry

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

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.

OPEN POSITION

Department: Broadwater County Sheriff's Office
Position: Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator
Status: ¾ Time (32 hours per week)
Probationary Period: One (1) Year
Compensation: \$25.05 per hour
Benefits: Health Insurance, Sick Leave, and Annual Leave
Open Until Filled

Position Summary

Broadwater County is seeking a ¾-time (32 hours per week) Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator. Under the general direction of the Sheriff or Undersheriff, the DES Coordinator performs a variety of duties related to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and emergency management coordination.

The DES Coordinator is directly supervised by the Undersheriff and may work under the authority of the Sheriff and Captain on various incidents. This position requires independent judgment within prescribed standards set forth by Broadwater County policies, procedures, and applicable statutory provisions.

Applicants must possess a valid Montana driver's license and meet all requirements. Complete job description available at https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov/citizen_resources/employment_opportunities/job_postings

To apply: Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Undersheriff Mark Wood at mwood@broadwatercountymt.gov or deliver in person to the Broadwater County Sheriff's Office.

Equal Opportunity Employer Statement: Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be provided to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans' and disabled preference policies apply.

Print Date: March 13, 2026

Love Where You Live!

Rachael Brug



My name is Rachael Elliott-Brug, and I'm the owner of Reading Leaves Books here in Townsend. Like many of you, I wear a few hats—business owner, neighbor, community member—and I care deeply about the future of this town. I'm writing today to introduce myself in a couple of new roles that I'm honored to hold, and to share what I hope we can build together.

I currently serve as President of the Board for Visit Southwest Montana Tourism, and as the Montana Nonprofit Association's Rural Ambassador for Broadwater County. I'm also involved with the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce. While these titles may sound formal, the heart behind them is very practical: I want to help Townsend be a welcoming place to visit, and I want to make it easier for local businesses and organizations to share information, resources, and opportunities with one another.

In a small community, we all feel the impact of the seasons, the economy, and changing travel patterns. We also know how much a single weekend can matter—when an event brings people into town, when visitors discover a new favorite shop, when a family decides to stay for lunch instead of passing through.

Those moments don't happen by accident. They happen when we communicate well, coordinate when we can, and make it easy for people to see what Townsend has to offer.

One of my biggest goals in these roles is to help businesses and organizations promote themselves and the events that bring visitors to town. That includes the big, obvious things—festivals, markets, seasonal celebrations—but it also includes smaller gatherings that create community and give people a reason to come back: a workshop, a club meeting, a live music night, a fundraiser, a special menu, a grand opening. When we help each other get the word out, everyone benefits.

Another goal is strengthening the exchange of information and resources between local groups.

Sometimes that looks like sharing a calendar so events don't overlap unnecessarily. Sometimes it's connecting a new nonprofit with a business that can sponsor a raffle item. Sometimes it's simply making sure the right people know what's happening—so volunteers show up, so visitors plan ahead, so locals feel invited too.

Tourism and community development can sound like buzzwords, but at the local level they're really about relationships. They're about telling our story well, welcoming people warmly, and making sure that when visitors come to Townsend, they leave feeling like they found something special. And they're about keeping our own community informed and supported so that we can build a more vibrant economy—one that helps local businesses stay open, helps organizations grow their impact, and helps Townsend remain a place we're proud to call home.

If you're a business owner, part of a nonprofit, involved with a community group, or someone who hosts events (even occasionally), I'd love to hear from you. What are you working on this year? What do you wish more people knew about? What kind of support would make it easier to promote your work? The more we share, the more we can amplify each other.

To help with that connection, I'd also like to invite you to an upcoming gathering:

Southwest Montana Meeting

March 26 at 1:00 PM
American Legion (Townsend)
Lunch will be available for \$15 per person.
Please RSVP at townsend43chamber@gmail.com.

This meeting is a great chance to meet other folks who care about strengthening our region, share what's coming up, and find ways to collaborate. Whether you're representing a business, an organization, or you're simply interested in supporting Townsend's future, you're welcome.

Thank you for taking the time to read this—and for everything you do to make Townsend the kind of place people want to visit, and the kind of place we're lucky to live.

Helena-Lewis and Clark Announces Seasonal Hiring for Upcoming Recreation Season

Chiara Cipriano
USFS Public Affairs Officer

The Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest is hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and is encouraging local residents to apply.

"Our seasonal employees are the backbone of summer operations—keeping our campgrounds, trails, and recreation sites open, safe and welcoming for visitors," said Deputy Forest Supervisor Molly Ryan. "These positions offer meaningful work, hands-on experience, and the chance to support public lands close to home."

The Helena-Lewis and Clark is recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation and visitor services
- Trail and facility maintenance
- Active resource management

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hire events, already underway. Bringing on seasonal employees will

help improve trails, campgrounds and facilities for safer, reliable and enjoyable recreation experiences for all.

"Seasonal jobs can be a first step into a natural resources career, a way to build experience, or simply a chance to spend the summer working outside, added Ryan. "We encourage anyone interested to apply."

How to Apply

Applicants can view open job announcements and submit applications through USAJOBS.gov.

Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

Additional information about seasonal hiring and upcoming local recruitment events is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/working-with-us/careers>.

Working for the Forest Service

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit [fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers](https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers).

BREAKING NEWS

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

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ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
ANGIE PAULSEN

NOTICE OF CLOSE REGULAR REGISTRATION MAY 5, 2026, ELECTION TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD TRUSTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that regular registration for the **Townsend School District No. 1 Board Trustee Election on May 5, 2026**, will close at **5:00 PM on April 6, 2026**.

Note: If you miss the regular registration deadline, you can still register in person at the County Election Office until **noon on election day**.

All active and inactive electors are eligible to vote in this election. Inactive electors may reactivate their status by:

- Visiting the **Clerk and Recorder Office** in the Courthouse, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644,
- Requesting an absentee ballot, or
- Notifying the County Election Administrator in writing of their current residence.

If you are not currently registered, you can register by:

- Requesting a registration form from the County Election Administrator, or
- Submit a completed registration form by mail, provided it is received before the registration deadline.

If you have moved, please ensure your registration is updated to your current address.

DATED this 9th day of March 2026.

/s/ Angie Paulsen

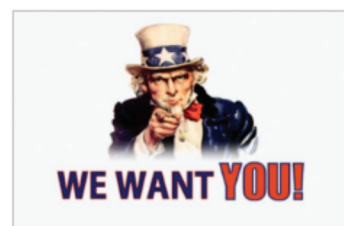
Broadwater County

Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor

Published March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 2026

MNAXLP

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY AS AN ELECTION JUDGE!
The Broadwater County Election Office needs YOU!

Training Session:

Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Community Room, Library, 201 N. Spruce, Townsend

Role of an Election Judge:

Election Judges help sign in voters, distribute ballots, and uphold election laws. If you are 18 or older, a registered voter, enjoy collaborating with people, and are willing to commit a long day, this role is for you. **Former judges must attend this training to continue serving.**

RSVP: Call (406) 266-9219 or email APAULSEN@BROADWATERCOUNTYMT.GOV. You can also mail the form below to confirm your attendance.

I am interested in being an election judge for Broadwater County and plan to attend the election judge training **FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026, 3-6 P.M.**


Mail, email, or call RSVP to Angie Paulsen at the Election Office, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644.

Name: _____
PH: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Townsend School & Sports

MARCH



Friday 20

- **NO SCHOOL**
- State FCCLA at Bozeman

Fri 20 - Sat 21

- Skills USA Welding Competition at Great Falls

Saturday 21

- Middle School Wrestling at Conrad

Sat 21 - Sun 22

- Youth Volleyball Tourney
- 8:00 am: EMT Class - K8 Commons

Mon 23 - Thu 26

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

Mon 23 - Fri 27

- 4:00 pm: MT Children's Theater - Stage Gym and Community Room

Tuesday 24

- 4:00 pm: PTA Meeting - Library Classroom

Thursday 26

- END OF Q3

Friday 27

- **NO SCHOOL - TEACHER PIR**
- 9:00 am: High School Tennis at Great Falls

Saturday 28

- 3:00 pm: Missoula Children's Theater Performance
- 11:00 am: High School Varsity / JV Baseball Vs. Huntley
- PROM

Sunday 29

- 5:00 pm: High School Basketball Banquet

East Helena Schools & Sports

MARCH

Mon 23 - Fri 27

- **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

MARCH



Tuesday 24

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

March 25

- 10:00 am: Commissioner's Meeting

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

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library



*201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided*

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

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS



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

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

MARCH

Tuesday 24

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

Wednesday 25

- 10:30 am: Storytime
- 3:30 pm: Kid's Matinee Movie

Thursday 26

- 4:00 pm: March Manga for Teens/Tweens

Friday 27

- 3:00 pm: E Helena Reading Circle Book Group

Join us for a spicy showdown!

\$50 Prize

CHILI

Cook-Off

\$5 to taste



BRING A POT OF YOUR FAVORITE CHILI!

Saturday, March 28, 2026
submit entries by 5:30 Tastings at 6:00

\$5 to taste all the entries then help yourself to a bowl

American Legion Post 42
211 Broadway Ave
Townsend, MT

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 20

- 9:00 am: Alzheimer's Association Virtual Series- Know the 10 Signs **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 21

- 10:00 am: Helping Hands **GRAND OPENING**, at 122 Broadway St
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Tuesday 24

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

Wednesday 25

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 6:00 pm: Broadwater Democrats Meeting at The Betsy, 217 Broadway **AD ON THIS PAGE**

Thursday 26

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

Friday 27

- 9:00 am: Alzheimer's Association Virtual Series- Managing Money **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: Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at Holy Cross Parish, 101 S Walnut **AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

Saturday 28

- 5:30 pm: Chili Cook Off at American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway Ave **AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945



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.**



Knights of Columbus FISH FRY!

When: Friday, March 27
Time: 5 - 7pm
Where: Holy Cross Parish, 101 S Walnut
Menu: Fish, Clam Chowder, Mac & Cheese, Potatoes and Coleslaw.
Prices: \$20 per Plate, \$8 Chowder Only, \$5 Mac & Cheese Only



Broadwater Democrats Meeting

Wednesday March 25, 6:00PM
All are welcome!

at The Betsy, 217 Broadway, Townsend
Questions: Call (406) 581-8538

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

EMPLOYMENT & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: PAGE 3

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: April 15th, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

Monthly Chamber Meeting

6PM Thursday, April 16
Location: TBA
All members of the community welcome!



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

LET US FEED YOU - AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY
Hosted with care by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

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

Do You Need Travel, Shopping or Cleaning Assistance?

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

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, 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 PUBLIC HEARING

According to MCA 7-6-4021, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Broadwater County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on April 1, 2026, at 10:05 am, in the Commission Meeting room, located at 416 Broadway St in the Flynn Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to adopt by resolution an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Anyone may appear at the hearing and have their comments heard regarding the amendment. Copies can be viewed or obtained in the Clerk and Records office or on the County website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov under public notices.

Published March 20 and 27, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROSEMARY LEE PENNINGTON, Deceased.

Probate No. CDP-26-06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated March 13, 2026.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

Gallatin Elder Law & Estate Planning PLLC

Attorney for Personal Representative

Published March 13, 20 and 27, 2026

MNAXLP

TOWNSEND K12 SCHOOL DISTRICT#1 NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE NONVOTED LEVIES

March 11, 2026

The Townsend K12 School District #1 is committed to financial transparency. 20-9-116 MCA requires the District to provide notice of its intent to increase non-voted levies in the ensuing fiscal year for certain funds. However, understanding the District's budgets requires considering all levy-supported funds. As a result, the proposed notice contains projections for all of the District's levy-supported funds

TOTAL - ALL FUNDS USING PRIOR YEAR TAXABLE VALUE:

Fund	2025-2026 Actual Levies		2026-2027 Projections						
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$300K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$600K home
General - OverBASE	\$ 932,332	90.25	\$ 932,331.50	50.11	\$ -	-40.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transportation	\$ 259,373	13.94	\$ 259,425.20	13.94	\$ 51.80	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$0.01
Bus									
Depreciation	\$ 126,997	6.83	\$ 126,996.80	6.83	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition	\$ 98,962	5.32	\$ 118,207.53	6.35	\$ 19,245.13	1.03	\$ 0.79	\$ 2.36	\$ 5.42
Adult Ed	\$ 23,502	1.26	\$ 27,518.86	1.48	\$ 4,017.02	0.22	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.49	\$ 1.13
Technology	\$ 50,000	2.69	\$ 50,000.00	2.69	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Flexibility	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 1,236,144	66.44	\$ 1,252,224.54	67.31	\$ 16,080.32	0.87	\$ 0.66	\$ 1.97	\$ 4.53
Building Reserve									
Permissive	\$ -	0.00	\$ 48,770.92	2.62	\$ 48,770.92	2.62	\$ 1.99	\$ 5.98	\$ 13.74
Building Reserve Voted	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Total	\$2,727,310	186.73	\$2,815,475.35	151.33	\$88,165.19	-35.40	\$3.60	\$10.80	\$24.83

These estimates are the District's best estimates at the current time. They are based on the current year's taxable value, as required by 20-9-116 MCA. **If the District's taxable value increases as expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increases will be less than presented here.** These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August.

Published March 20 and 27, 2026

MNAXLP

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

David F. Schafer – Bozeman – Operating with expired registration – failure to re-register – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Amber R. Soltis – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Michael L. Simmons – Kalispell – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Aurelio M. J. Ortegon – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Curtiss D. Hancock – Toston – Speeding on Interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Bradyn R. L. Gruber – Three Forks – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Katie J. Durmon – Hamilton – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - \$40 fines & fees

Kylee J. Degen – Winston – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Dylan W. Burling – Three Forks – Operate a Vehicle which has not been properly registered – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Nikki L. Taylor – Bozeman – MT Resident Operate with Foreign Drivers License over sixty (60) days. – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Gurleen S. Powar – Auburn WA – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed night limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Evan G. Blind – Glasgow – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – plead guilty - \$200 fine.

Janice L. Miller – Three Forks – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – plead guilty - \$70 fine. Court will defer imposition of sentence for a period of six (6) months with good behavior, payment of fine, as well as enrollment, attendance, and completion of traffic school within three (3) months.

Douglas R. Lloyd – Helena – Reckless Driving 1st offense – plead guilty - \$525 fines. Sentenced to ninety (90) days in Broadwater County Detention with the execution of all jail suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and completion of other programs. To be enrolled in ACT program within one (1) month and to be completed within four (4) months. Defendant to complete twenty (20) hours of Community Service within four (4) months.

Jackson D. William Powers – Bozeman – Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs 3rd offense – plead guilty - \$2,685.00 fines. Sentenced to one (1) year in Broadwater County Detention Center with execution of all but thirty (30) days suspended for one (1) year with good behavior and completion of other programs. To be

enrolled in ACT program within two (2) months, to be completed within four (4) months, followed by monthly monitoring for one (1) year. Restrictive probationary license recommended once eligible and after payment of reinstatement & administrative fees. Functioning interlock device required during probationary period.

Steven L. McMillan – Missoula – Aggravated Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs 2nd offense – plead guilty - \$2,585.00 fines. Sentenced to one (1) year in Broadwater County Detention with the execution of all but fifteen (15) days suspended for a period of one (1) year with good behavior & completion of other programs. To be enrolled in ACT program within two (2) months, to be completed within four (4) months, and monthly monitoring for one (1) year. Mandatory forty-five (45) day driver's license suspension. Restrictive probationary license recommended once eligible and after payment of reinstatement & administrative fees. Functioning interlock device required during probationary period.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Chase C. Feaser – Townsend – License, Permit or Tag Offenses – Alteration, attachment, Loan, transfer license – plead guilty - \$385 fines. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Detention with execution of all jail suspended for a period of six (6) months with good behavior.

Spencer Carlson – Bozeman – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting 1st offense – plead guilty - \$535 fine. Court will defer imposition of sentence for eleven (11) months with good behavior and payment of fine.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Parker J. Naylor – Choteau – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Kenneth P. Tanner – White Sulphur Springs – Driving without a valid drivers license – plead guilty - \$525 fines & fees

Tres Paulic Hunts His Enemy – Hardin – Aggravated Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs 2nd offense – plead guilty - \$2,585.00 fines. Sentenced to One (1) year in Broadwater County Detention with execution of all but fifteen (15) days suspended for one (1) year with good behavior & completion of other programs. To be enrolled in ACT program within two (2) months, to be completed in four (4) months, followed by monthly monitoring for one (1) year. Mandatory forty-five (45) day driver's license suspension. Restrictive probationary license recommended once eligible and after payment of reinstatement and administrative fees. Functioning interlock device required during probationary period.

COUNTY CRIMINAL

Tiffany B. Hotchkiss – Helena – Criminal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia – plead guilty - \$385 fine. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Detention with the execution of all six (6) months suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and payment of fine.

Jay E. Bahny – Helena – Criminal Trespass to property – plead guilty - \$285 fine. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Detention with the execution of all six (6) months suspended for a period of six (6) months with good behavior. Defendant to not enter the premises of, "Teaser's" for the duration of the suspended sentence.

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Connor A. Watson – Townsend – No / bad / inadequate Load Securement – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

David W. Klinkenborg – Toston – Defendant is charged with four (4) counts of criminal endangerment as well as one (1) count of Assault with a weapon. Given Curtesy Hearing. No Plea Taken. \$50,000 bond with conditions of release. 24/7 Alcohol Monitoring, Surrendering of Firearms, & waiver of extradition required prior to release, if bond posted. Given District Court Date.

Americanisms



"Turns out, when you're on the right path, opportunities begin to unfold along the way."
— Hoda Kotb

Townsend Council Awards Street Maintenance Bid, Hears Water Updates and Spring Events

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



Townsend City Council on March 3 accepted a street maintenance bid, heard updates on water system work and staffing, and began sorting through a timing snag in the city's new events ordinance as spring and summer activities ramp up.

After approving minutes from the Feb. 17 meeting, council members returned to street maintenance bids first discussed in February. Public Works Director Eric Crusch said staff revisited the Helena-area bid from Montana Materials and Construction and adjusted the comparison by removing skim patching and assuming the city would pick up chip material and handle sweeping.

With those changes, the Helena bid penciled out to about \$3.56 per square yard, Crusch said. The competing bid from Hardrives Construction of Billings was \$3.60 per square yard, but covered more total square yards — about 25,000 — while still keeping the overall project near the city's typical \$80,000 target for street maintenance.

Council voted to award the work to Hardrives Construction.

Crusch also reported progress on the city's water system. He said two "pass" bacteria samples were a

positive step, though installation work on equipment at the well has been slower than hoped. He also said crews are preparing to pour the floor at the new water tower site and that a generator at Well 3 is now online.

Council discussed ongoing issues with improper dumping in city garbage cans, including bulky items and construction debris. Mayor Vickie Rauser and council members said additional public education — including social media posts explaining what can and cannot go into household containers — could help prevent damage to equipment and higher costs.

Rauser also announced the city has hired two public works employees: Jake Wattenburger, who will start March 16, and Chris Ahern, who will start March 18.

In other business, Rauser said the American Legion plans to install 250th anniversary flags on Front Street this spring after securing a permit through the Montana Department of Transportation, with removal planned by year's end.

Rauser also said the Townsend Lions Club requested use of Heritage Park for an Easter egg hunt, but the city's new events ordinance requires a 90-day application — a requirement that took effect after the ordinance was adopted, leaving no transition period. Rauser said the Lions Club will attend the next meeting and the council may be asked to waive requirements for this year.

The council approved claims and adjourned.

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

Monitor: Looking forward, how do you see Montana water law evolving? What reforms might make the state's water regulations more transparent or successful?

SB: One key is getting Montana's water administration to the point where we have a handle on existing uses. That adjudication process, for all my frustration with it, is still one of those pieces of the evolution that's taking us from here to there.

For places like Red Fox subdivision this probably isn't feeling like an evolution right now. But we are seeing growing awareness that we can't just keep doing this accumulation of groundwater wells in developments that are fairly intensive users. At the same time, sometimes solutions come out of conflict. The Crazy Mountain Resorts and Red Foxes — they could drive some of the evolution. Hopefully, there's a critical mass by the next legislative session.

It's about recognizing that if you're going to build something that invites people to come, you need to at least on paper look at it on the front end and establish a limit. In the Broadwater case [Horse Creek Hills, which spurred the February 2024 decision against exempt wells], they didn't look at it at the front end. They just accepted the development.

We need to have a culture of review when it comes to the water, the DNRC piece of it, and the county level, reviewing these developments that are going to increase demand. Right now, we don't have that culture and it doesn't work very well. But I think we've at least seen baby steps towards that, such as in the Broadwater case, and maybe we'll see more as we go down the road.

The goal is to get to a point in our culture where we say, "Okay, you're going to put in a development here, a Horse Creek Hills or Red Fox, that's fine. But we've looked at it on the front end and you don't get to have four acres of lawn. You don't get to have this or that." We can come up with a laundry list of water conservation measures that must happen in those developments. And if they don't, you don't get approval.

A lot of dealing with existing challenges and growth is going to be changing the culture to making clear that the nice bluegrass lawn and 20-minute showers and other craziness we have now need to go away. And some of that will be by acculturation.

DNRC has an arm, the Drought Planning Office, and a lot of their work is educational. They go into basins and work to get people to do things that are more drought-resistant. I know some people there, and they're doing good work, but I don't know if they are empowered enough to expand the reach of that.

We need to find a way to educate a decent chunk of our population, to bring their hearts and minds to the idea that we have to change behaviors so we're not just using

up our water resources. That would go along with a more vigilant review and regulatory process, plus the DNRC could change new water rights and have, parallel to that, a good outreach and educational program for people who might be contemplating doing it and people ready to be more sustainable. The Southwest US has done more of this sort of thing than any place else, some successfully.

Monitor: And what steps might ranchers take to be more water-efficient?

SB: One of the things they can do is have on their diversion some form of measuring device. If it's in a ditch, it'll be what they call a flume. Flumes have to be placed necessarily precisely to get the water flow. That's something that is increasingly getting done. Measuring devices allow for diversions but don't block off the entire stream, and that's a good thing.

As we get further down the road on this, water disputes are going to crop up more. The whole thing is going to get more contentious, so having an accurate measurement of your water is going to be really important. In terms of things you can do to be more efficient in your use of water, you can line your ditch. That's not a cheap option. But it's something that some places have done, so they're not losing a lot of water out of the bottom of the ditch.

Some of the other things that come up have to do with how they apply their water and where they apply their water. Scrapers do that very efficiently, but they're not necessarily the least consumptive thing that you can do. The classic example is, I can grow one pound of hay per acre as quickly as three tons of hay per acre. But that's three times as much water going to the plants, so the whole issue of what makes us more efficient is fraught with its own complications.

For a lot of the full-time ditches, reducing the flow was always very cumbersome — the effort it takes to adjust that. Now, some of the better-funded ranches have started turning to remote control, like one of my old leases in the Blackfoot. They can remotely get a reading and control the diversion to reduce flows. As technology advances, there's going to be an awful lot of challenges for modifying these things.

Monitor: That's often the problem with conservation: it's great once you've done it, and usually saves money in the long run, but it's very expensive to get there.

SB: Other states are way out in front on this. They have more stuff going on in terms of restoration work and flow and leadership among the agricultural community that has led the change. It's been interesting to see that play out, because it's been very clear to me that a lot of the older hands in Montana don't have the resources. But if you can work with them, not only will they work with you, but they'll become your advocates.

Whereas, I did some projects with wealthier ranchers, and when they didn't quite get what they thought they wanted, all of a sudden, I was Satan's right-hand man. That's given me a lot of heartburn, because I see it happening more and more all over the state, like the golf course in the Crazies (to which Boulder sold bulk water).

Monitor: OK, so what keeps you up at night about the current system?

SB: The possibility that we've passed some tipping point and that even everything we can do will not be enough to fix this.

In Rock Creek, where I worked years ago, the water always ran across an open flat all the way into the fall. But in the last two years, there's nothing. And I don't know if there's been any major change in water use out there. What I do know is that the snowpack has been less. It's gone away quickly. And it's a system that is very much water table-driven.

All these pieces are dependent upon snowpack and water table and everything else. Right now, it's feeling like it's not enough, and I don't know what enough is. So that's what keeps me up at night, watching stuff that we worked on with really good people doing some amazing work, it's like spitting into the wind.

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.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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

Wednesday, March 25, 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, Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC) — Broadwater Trails Program Partnership Grant in the amount of \$190,000. \$31,500 due now with the remaining balance due if/when grants are approved in the future.

10:05 AM Public Hearing, Broadwater County Subdivision Regulation Amendments

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

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Debbie Kelley, Finance Officer/Payroll Manager, Insurance Review Committee rate increase proposal

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Resolution to use Wheatland TEDD Tax Incremental Financing Funds to Retain Courtney Ellis LLC for Purposes Outlined in MCA 7-15-4288

10:25 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

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 / Decision / Review / Signature — Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management — on-going advisory board appointments / Board bylaws
- 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

- Compensation Board Meeting on April 1st at 1:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on April 9th at 5:15 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on April 14th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on April 14th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on April 14th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on April 15th 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: MARCH 23 - 27
516 2nd Street, Townsend, MT 406-266-3995

Monday, March 23
 Beef Goulash
 Egg Noodles
 Italian Vegetables
 Golden Corn
 Whole Grain Bread
 Fruit Cocktail

Tuesday, March 24
 BBQ Pork Ribs
 Corn Bread
 Baked Beans
 Crisp Coleslaw
 Applesauce

Wednesday, March 25
 Carol's Meat Loaf
 Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
 Broccoli and Cauliflower
 Whole Grain Bread
 Plump Peaches

Thursday, March 26
 Chicken and Rice Casserole
 Green Peas
 Purple Beets
 Whole Grain Bread
 Apricots

Friday, March 27
 Chicken Fried Steak
 Steamed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Whole Grain Bread
 Fruit Crisp

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



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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

Weather Forecast March

<p>Friday 20 High Temp: 72 Low Temp: 50 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	<p>Saturday 21 High Temp: 69 Low Temp: 41 Wind: 25 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>
<p>Sunday 22 High Temp: 54 Low Temp: 34 Wind: 9 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 34</p>	<p>Monday 23 High Temp: 51 Low Temp: 36 Wind: 13 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>
<p>Tuesday 24 High Temp: 58 Low Temp: 39 Wind: 17 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	<p>Wednesday 25 High Temp: 58 Low Temp: 34 Wind: 22 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>
<p>Thursday 26 High Temp: 36 Low Temp: 23 Wind: 20 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100</p>	

The Garden Bug
Ox-eye daisy
 When in bloom, it's easy to see why this European native was introduced in the U.S. as a garden and florist ornamental in the 1800s. It now threatens as an invasive species in the wild. It is commonly found along roadways or spread across fields, meadows and lakeshores. Once established, it can spread rapidly by means of roots and seeds, crowding out native plants. The end result is of use to few wildlife species.
 Source: www.nps.gov - Brenda Weaver

Growing Raspberries in Montana

Allison Kosto
 MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Eating a fresh raspberry straight out of the garden brings flashbacks of my childhood and eating raspberries out of my mother's and grandmother's raspberry patches. My mom always had a huge raspberry patch. That is until my sister hit it with weed spray; a mistake we'll never let her live down. That was the end of the raspberry patch, but the memories have lived on. A few years ago, I added raspberries to our garden and those memories came flooding back.

While there are a few challenges with raspberries, they are still one of the easier berries to grow in Montana. They are classified into two bearing habits: June-bearing and everbearing. Despite their name, June-bearing raspberries will perform through most of the summer into August. They are the most common and only have one crop per year. Everbearing raspberries are less common and have two crops in the spring and fall. However, it is fairly common for the fall crop to freeze out, making June-bearing the more popular choice.

There are four types of raspberries: red, yellow, black and purple. Red June-bearing is the most common and are typically the hardiest. Yellow raspberries were developed from a color mutation and can also be hardy. Black is the least hardy. Purple raspberries are a hybrid between red and black. They are intermediate in hardiness and are less popular due to their strong flavor. However, the flavor holds up well for cooking and baking.

Raspberries prefer full sun. They can be subject to winter desiccation so protection from the wind will help reduce winter losses. Raspberries need supplemental moisture but don't do well in waterlogged soils. Wild raspberries, which are native to Montana, can share several diseases with cultivated raspberries, so plant at least 300 feet away from wild raspberries.

Ideally, raspberries should be planted dormant in the very early spring or late fall. However, they can be planted at other times as well with decent success. Plants should be set 2 to 5 feet apart. This might seem far, but they will fill in quickly with suckers. Use pruning strategies to maintain a bed that is 3 to 4 feet wide. Plants will not produce much or anything for the first year or two.

Pruning is critical for raspberries to maintain optimum production. Raspberries produce two types of canes. First-year canes are called primocanes and second-year canes are called floricanes. June-bearing types fruit on the floricanes. After they fruit, the floricanes can be removed, usually in the spring the following year. Everbearing types fruit a little differently with two crops on the same cane. However, they can also be removed after fruiting. Thin remaining canes to 6 inches apart. Raspberries tend to droop when they are heavy with fruit. They can be trained using a wire between posts to help keep them upright.

Fertilizer is often needed to produce higher yields. A soil test is ideal. If one is not available, a complete fertilizer (such as a 10-10-10) or a nitrogen fertilizer is most likely needed. Iron deficiencies are also common with raspberries due to the alkaline soils in Montana. Iron deficiencies result in interveinal chlorosis, where the leaf turns yellow, but the veins stay bright green. Iron fertilizer annually is beneficial for raspberries or as needed when symptoms appear.

There are a few different pests that can affect raspberries, including aphids, mites, pear slugs and root rot. Maintaining healthy vegetation is the best way to combat insects and diseases. Vertebrate pests such as birds, rodents and deer can also be an issue and may require fencing or netting. Raspberries are also subject to winter damage. Warm winters like this one are especially hard on raspberries if the temperature gets above 41 degrees for several days. If the temperatures fall again, it will kill the active tissue. Winter-damaged canes will often still survive but may have undersized leaves, yellowing and/or small fruit.

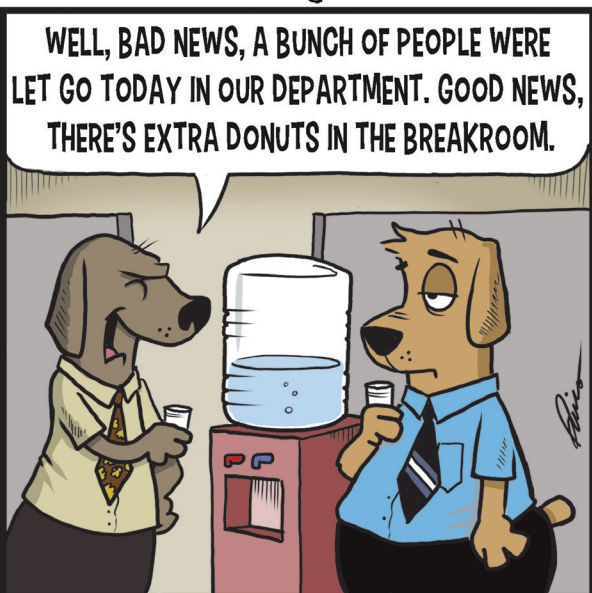
Contact your local MSU Extension Office for recommendations on managing pests and diseases, along with any other questions about growing raspberries. MSU Extension in Broadwater County in Townsend can be found at 416 Broadway or contact us at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

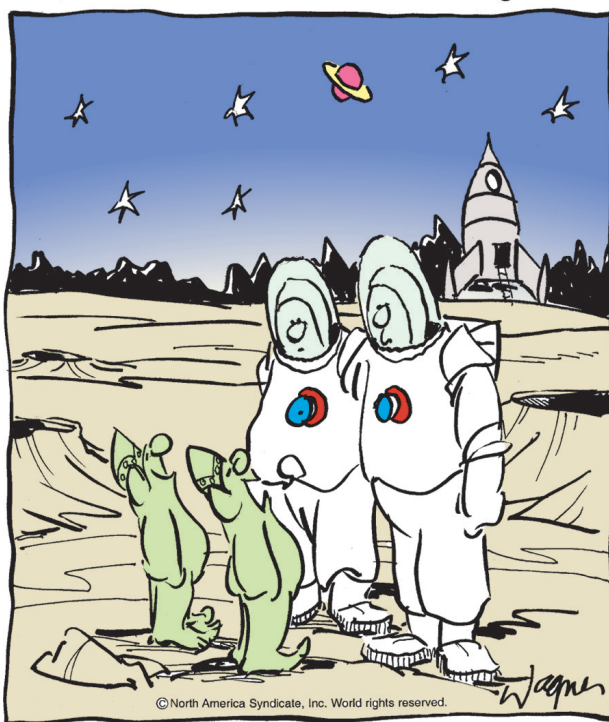
Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored...

Job 22: 21-23

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"You guys really wear diapers?"

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

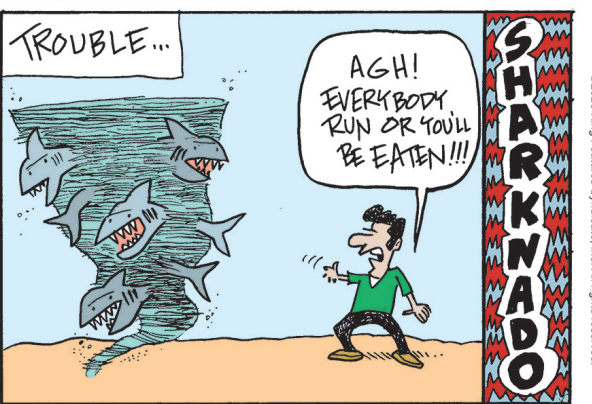
7	5	4	9	3	2	6	1	8
1	9	6	5	7	8	2	4	3
2	3	8	6	1	4	9	7	5
8	4	3	2	6	7	5	9	1
9	1	5	4	8	3	7	6	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	8	4
4	6	9	3	5	1	8	2	7
5	8	1	7	2	6	4	3	9
3	2	7	8	4	9	1	5	6

Super Crossword

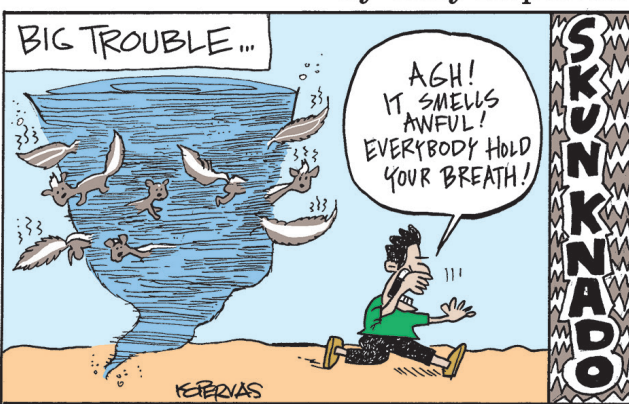
Answers

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M	A	M	A	T	O	F	U	L	I	P	B	I	T	E	R			
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A	V	I	S	A	E	O	N	P	O	E	M	B	A	N	G			
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P	R	E	S	I	D	E	T	A	U	O	R	A	D	C	O	R	D	
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Y	A	M	S	L	O	A	G	A	P	E	O	O	N	A				
E	X	O	T	I	C	I	S	M	E	C	H	T	P	R	E	F	A	B
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B	L	U	E	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	R	I	E	E	L	L	I	E
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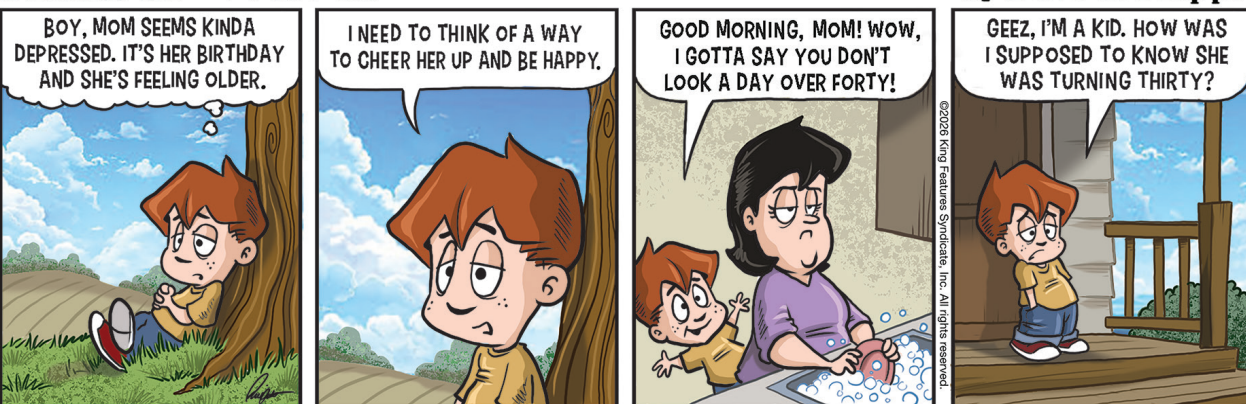
Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



Amber Waves

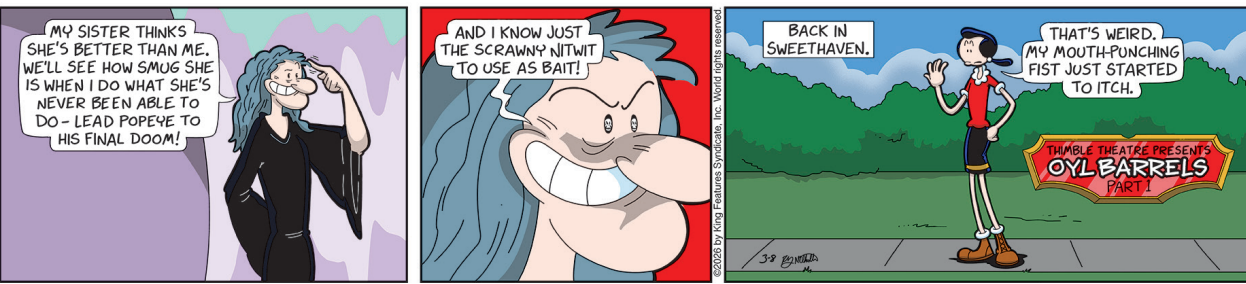
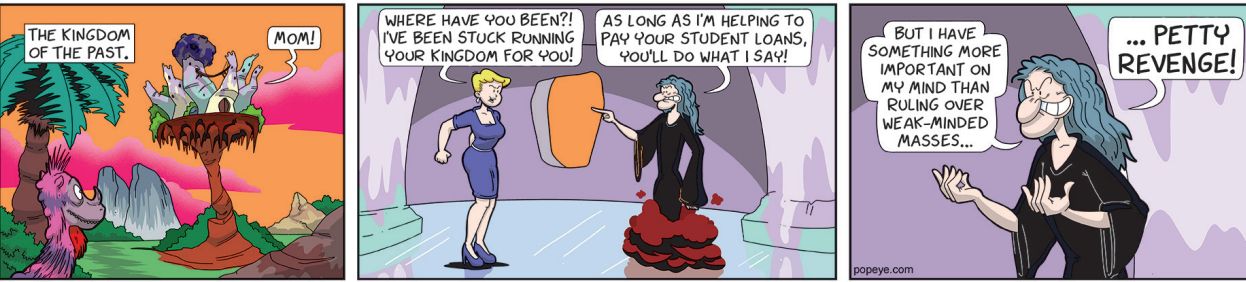
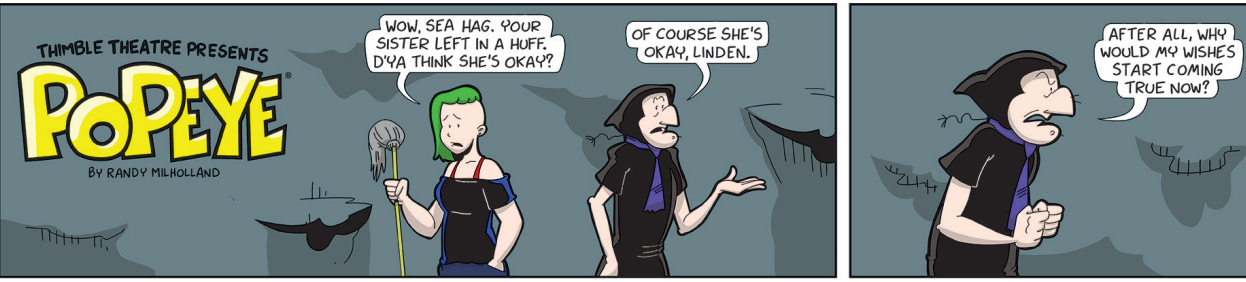


by Dave T. Phipps

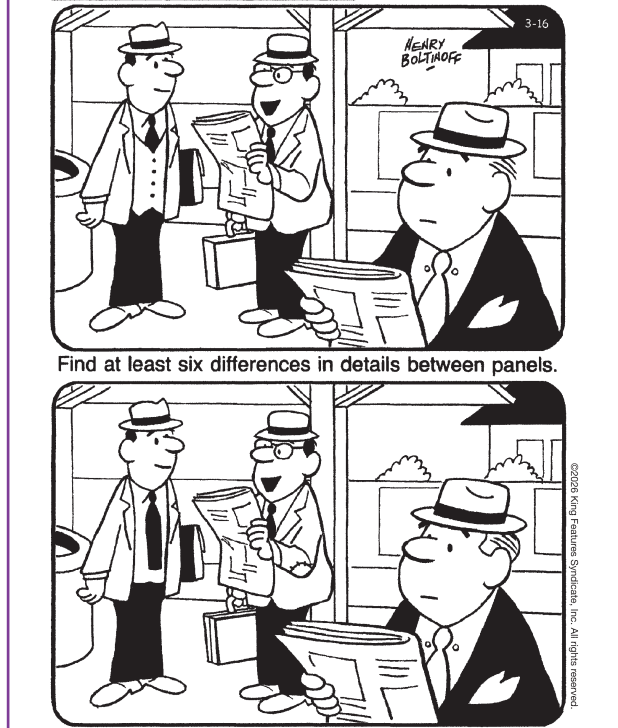
The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

S	O	F
3	6	1
L		H
8		4
B	I	W
5	2	7

FISHBOWL

CryptoQuip

answer
When I stretched my arms toward the church singers, you might say I was reaching to the choir.

SCRAMBLERS

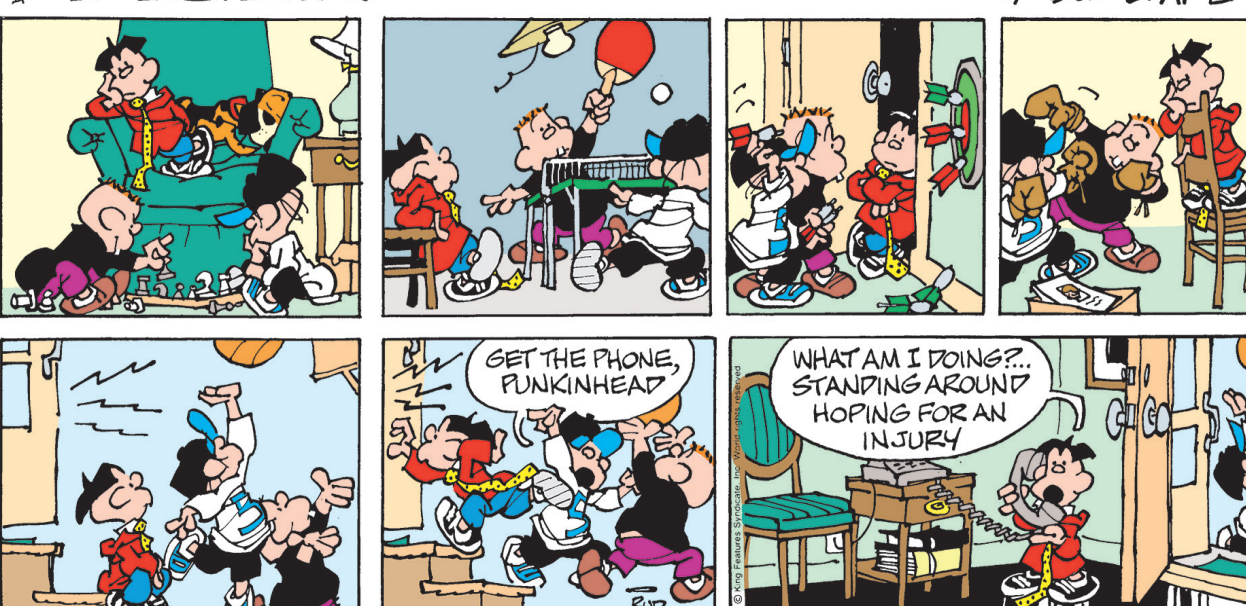
solution
1. Worsen; 2. Tier; 3. Erase; 4. Exile
Today's Word
SIXES

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OBITUARIES

Steven Duane "Steve" Hoy

Family of Steven Duane "Steve" Hoy

Steven Duane "Steve" Hoy, age 73, of Townsend June 5, 1952 – March 10, 2026

"I'm Glad You Guys Got to See Me"

Steve was born in Helena, Montana, on June 5, 1952, to the late Joanne Morris Hoy (King) and Rex Hoy.

Steve was our dad, our friend, our hero, and a husband to Cindy for 43 years. Anyone who took the time to know him, loved him. And he had many friends. He loved music and life to him was a song, and even though our hearts are broken at his passing, we rejoice in knowing that he has gone home and is now singing with Jesus. Steve was one of a kind. A dying breed of the old Montana ways. And they broke the mold after him. He grew up rough and tumble and because of that, he had his own way of looking at things. He was always straightforward and blunt. You never left off from having a conversation with him, wondering, "Gee, I wonder what Steve thought about that," because he was always sure to tell you exactly what he thought whether you like it or not. That sounds harsh but in reality, he had a very compassionate heart. And it was because of his genuine personality that his family and friends loved and respected him.

He loved his family. He was proud of his sons, Trampus, Caleb and his honorary son Tyler and several others that he had taken into his heart. He loved his daughter-in-law Darcy and he was proud of all the kids'

achievements in life. He loved his grandchildren Eli, Aiden and Brynlee and looked forward to the weekends when they would come and spend the night. He said it made our house happy for them to be there. He had several other grandchildren that he loved and cared about but they just lived too far away to get to spend much time with them. but definitely not forgotten!

Steve loved his brothers Mark, Mike, Vance, Andy, Pat, Rex, and sister LaLani. Their early years of growing up together left a lasting mark on his life and he enjoyed spending time reminiscing about their lives together. He had many stories to tell of his growing-up years and most people would not believe those stories though all of them were true. We tried to get him to write them down, and Cindy was successful in writing some of them down but others have died with him, known only to him and God. The world missed out because his life was colorful to say the least. One of his favorite expressions was, "NEVER HOLLER WHOA IN A MUD HOLE!" I think it was born out of his tough growing-up years.

Steve loved his friends. He enjoyed his weekly visits with his best bud Daryl and spent time making and listening to music with him and those times when friend Bruce and brother Rex would join them. Then there were several others; Don, DJ, Bill, Buddy, Wooten, Boone, Mark, Susag, and many others too many to name. Some have gone on and left this earth but others still remain.

Steve was a cowboy, a house painter, a wrangler, and was driving truck years ago when he broke his back in a couple of places and lived a life of constant pain. He loved to grow hay before his body started to give out. He loved to hunt and fish and be with his family and friends.

And Steve loved his wife Cindy and he will truly be



*Steven Duane "Steve" Hoy
Photo Provided by Family of Steven Duane "Steve" Hoy*

missed by her.

Steve is preceded in death by his mother, Joanne King, father Rex Hoy, brothers Andy, Vance and Pat Goyins.

Steve is survived by his loving wife, Cindy of 43 years, sons Trampus (Brandie) Hoy, Caleb (Darcy) Hoy, grandchildren Elijah Hoy, Aiden Hoy, Brynlee Hoy, Calvin (Kaydence) Hoy, Devon Hoy, Eve (Ty) Webb, Isaiah, Prince Hoy, Pharoah Hoy, and Blessing Hoy.

A funeral service will take place on March 20, 2026, at 2 pm at Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home, 3750 N Montana Ave., Helena, MT 59602. Burial will follow to Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 7100 N Montana Ave., Helena, MT 59602. Condolences may be shared at www.aswfuneralhome.com in memory of Steve.

Ruthie Knowles

Brian Knowles

*In Loving Memory of Ruthie Sharon Knowles
November 1, 1954 – March 12, 2026*

Ruthie Sharon Knowles, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and unwavering love.

While we were not ready to say goodbye, we find comfort in knowing that Ruthie has been joyfully reunited in Heaven with her parents, Arthur and Joann Tillotson, her brother, Michael Tillotson, and her beloved daughter, Anna Knowles.

Born on November 1, 1954, in Libby, Montana, Ruthie was the daughter of the late Arthur and Joann Tillotson. Growing up in the beauty of Montana, she developed a spirit that was as resilient as it was kind—a spirit she carried with her throughout her entire life.

Ruthie's greatest joy was her family. She was a

devoted mother to her son, Brian Knowles, and a cherished mother-in-law to Chantel Knowles, whom she loved like her own daughter. To her grandchildren, Brooklynn, Trevor, and Madison Knowles. She was a constant source of affection and magic. She took immense pride in their every milestone, and her influence will live on in them forever.

Beyond her devotion to her family, Ruthie was a cornerstone of her community. Finding immense fulfillment in her work with the Townsend Senior Citizens Center. Ruthie had a true servant's heart, dedicating countless hours volunteering and ensuring that her neighbors and friends felt seen, supported, and cared for.

Ruthie's deep passion for her lifelong love of flowers served as a beautiful reflection of her own bright spirit. She channeled this joy into her community for many years while working at Rocky Mountain Supply, where she took great pride in assisting others with their own flowers and gardens.

This same creativity flowed into her crafting and her kitchen, where she was a passionate baker known for sharing her treats with everyone she loved. Whether



*Ruthie Knowles
Photo Provided by Brian Knowles*

she was nurturing a delicate petal, working on a new craft project, or perfecting a recipe, Ruthie's life was defined by the way she helped things- and people- grow.

She is also survived by her siblings, who shared in her life's journey from the beginning: Betty Riley, Carol Anderson, Linn, Chuck, and Hannah Tillotson and many nieces and nephews. Together, they built a foundation of family bonds that remained the foundation of Ruthie's world.

Those who knew Ruthie will remember her for her generous heart and her ability to make everyone feel at home. She had a way of offering comfort and wisdom exactly when it was needed most. While we were not ready to say goodbye, we find peace in knowing her love remains an indelible part of our lives.

To honor Ruthie's legacy of service and her deep connection to her community, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made in her name to the Townsend Senior Citizens Center. These contributions will help continue the vital work and fellowship that Ruthie so passionately supported during her years as a volunteer, ensuring her spirit of giving lies on in the town she loved.

Visitation will be held at Anderson Stevenson Wilke and Retz Funeral Home in Townsend, MT, on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 2-5 pm.

Funeral Service will be held at the Trailhead Christian Church on Monday at 11 am, followed by lunch (she would not want you to leave without a meal and stories), March 23, 2026, and a graveside memorial located at Deep Creek Cemetery at 2:00 pm.

Ruthie Knowles

Mom, Gramma, Sister and Friend, you will be missed!



*Ruthie and Granddaughter Madison
Photo Provided by Brian Knowles*



*Ruthie and Grandchildren Brooklynn and Trevor
Photo Provided by Brian Knowles*



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HELENA OBITUARY

Cherish Elizabeth Hand

Family of Cherish Elizabeth Hand

The family of Cherish Elizabeth Hand (McMahan) is deeply saddened to announce her passing on March 2nd, 2026, in Great Falls, Montana.



Cherish Elizabeth Hand
Photo Provided by Family of Cherish Elizabeth Hand

Born on April 28th, 1978, in Arcadia, California, to Glen and Carolyn McMahan, she was the middle child. Cherish had two siblings, her older brother Rick McMahan and younger brother Dan McMahan.

Her childhood was filled with fishing, exploring the outdoors, and raising chickens. From the time she was a little girl, she loved animals, babies, the outdoors, her family, and crafting. She was extremely remarkable in her love, care, and dedication to others, and loved being a sister.

Cherish taught her youngest brother, Dan, how to read and even made up a sign language for the two of them to communicate with. She was outstanding in every aspect of the word.

Cherish lived a full and remarkable life, touching the hearts of everyone she met through her compassionate work as a nurse. She graduated from the College of the Redwoods School of Nursing in 1993 and went on to begin her nursing career in Southeast Alaska before continuing her service in Montana.

Cherish moved to Wrangell, Alaska, with her newlywed husband to start their life and first adventure together in the summer of 1993. She immediately fell in love with the pristine wilderness of Southeast Alaska and immersed herself in the community. She worked as an LPN at the Wrangell hospital, made communion bread every Sunday for our Island of Faith, Lutheran Church, of which the family was a member.

Cherish became a self-taught photographer and took great joy in capturing the beauty and life all around her. She took her kiddos beachcombing, to playdates, Tot-Gym, and exploring our island. She learned how to make fireweed honey, grow a garden, make sourdough bread,

and became the best chef a family could ever ask for. She was on the water as much as she possibly could, and our family was often spotted on the search for king salmon, halibut, and Dungeness crab. She had a funny habit of always out-fishing our dad and had a highly competitive spirit.

Cherish was a generous, kind, loving, and giving soul. She would make anyone feel heard, seen, valued, and supported. She gave herself in full to everyone, but especially her family. She showed us what true love, kindness, faith, and gratitude mean. She was the best mama, and we will miss her forever.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Brett Hand; her three children, Ashlyne Buhl (Justin Buhl), Ally Hand, and Jared Hand; and her father, Glen McMahan. She is also survived by her brother, Rick McMahan (Katrina), and their children, Ricky, Jeffrey, Ben, Samuel, Emma, and Ezera. She is further survived by her brother, Dan McMahan (Andrea), and their children, Sylvester, Danny, and Hannah McMahan.

She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Angela Sternberg (Ken Sternberg), and their children, Alex Sternberg, Derek Hand (Becca Hand), and their son, Raiden Hand. She is additionally survived by her brother-in-law, Trey Hand (Amy Hand), and their children, Emma (Joe Kunkl-eman) and Ethan Hand. She will also be dearly missed by many cherished cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, and extended family members.

A memorial service will be held in Helena on March 19th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. A celebration of life and potluck will follow at the Helena Valley Community Center. The family thanks the Great Falls Benefits ICU staff for their compassion and care.

FWP Offers Boater Safety Certifications

Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Obtaining a boating safety certification could save your life on the water this summer.

Visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/activities/boating/education> to find a boating safety course that works for you, from online to in-person, and even a home-study option.

In the 2024 U.S. Coast Guard review of incidents where instruction was known, 69 percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Where instruction was known, only 19 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received nationally approved boating safety instruction.

The report counted 3,887 incidents that involved 556 deaths nationwide, which led to \$88 million of damage to property because of recreational boating incidents.

The report also shows a Montana 5-year average of 6 deaths and 17.4 incidents.

Increase your safety on the water this summer

and take a boater safety certification course.

Approved online courses available here:

- fwp.mt.gov/activities/boating/education
- Get a free home-study packet by emailing Kylie Kembel at kylie.kembel@mt.gov
- In person: March 21, in Helena (space is limited) provided by the U.S.G.C. Auxiliary.

For more information, visit https://wow.uscgaux.info/pe_class_flyer.php?unit=NAT&course=33455php?unit=NAT&course=33455

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Know the 10 Signs

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MARCH 20 2026

[Link to zoom](#)

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

Managing Money

Join us to learn tips for managing someone else's finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning.

MARCH 27 2026

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

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THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

March 21

1903

Crow Creek

Miss Spangler visited with her brothers in Radersburg the first of the week.

O.T.H. Allen and son, Orlando, were in from the mine Sunday.

B.F. Bembrick returned from the county seat on Friday.

The Sheriff was in the valley the fore part of the week, summoning jurors.

Willie Williams, after spending the winter at the home of D.T. Williams, returned to his home in Butte last week. During his sojourn in the valley, this young man made many warm friends who regret his departure.

Local News

The people of our vicinity are considerably enraged over the gross misrepresentation of conditions in Townsend relative to contagious diseases, which appeared in the Helena Independent and Butte Miner of the 18th. Said papers stating that several deaths had occurred and a general panic was practically on. There has been but one death and while there have been several families afflicted with scarlet fever and diphtheria, all cases, with one or two exceptions, have been exceedingly mild.

1925

Local News

Miss Mary Elizabeth Matthews spent the weekend in Townsend with her school friend, Miss Gretchen Van Voast.

Miss Lillian Crittenden spent the weekend with Mrs. W.K. Parker at her home near Radersburg.

Mrs. K. Huth came down from her mountain home and enjoyed the day Tuesday visiting her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Mahony, in Townsend.

The show "Robinhood" was well attended on the two nights it was shown here last week and was a very

fine screen production. Miss Francis Carson played the music for the show on Sunday night and was very much enjoyed.

Mrs. Jos. J. Davey and sons arrived in Townsend on Sunday evening. They were accompanied by Miss Phoebe Kearns, who had gone to Deer Lodge a few days prior for a short visit with her sister, Mrs. Davey.

1953

Basketball Team Given Turkey Dinner

The final favor afforded the year's high school basketball team and perhaps the nicest was the big turkey dinner served by the seniors' mothers last Saturday evening at the F.L. Olsen home.

The dinner was served buffet style and places were marked at tables for the Coach and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweeney and their guest, Miss Beverley Reyman of Terry, Mrs. Dennis Scoffield and the fourteen athletes, Gordon Hinch, Dennis Scoffield, Ronald Olsen, Larry Kieckbusch, Gerald Olsen, Pete Sullivan, Jack Nash, Dwaine Marcotte, Glenn Kenney, Larry Boster, John Pierce, Dick Lavigne, and Marvin Doig.

The hostesses were Mrs. L. Dan Sullivan, Mrs. Chester Scoffield, Mrs. Hinch and Mrs. Olsen.

After dinner, the young people played games.

News About Town

Mrs. Esther Mockel has gone to Helena and has accepted a position as pastry cook for the Placer Hotel. Her daughter, Marion, will remain in Townsend to finish her high school year here.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank P. Nash returned Friday morning by plane from Las Vegas, Nev., where they had enjoyed a week in the Nevada sunshine.

Mrs. John Davidson of Powder River is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holloway.

Sharon Adams is spending a few days this week in Bozeman visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Goldstein and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blaisdell are preparing to move into the apartment vacated by Mrs. Esther Mockel in the hospital apartment house. They have sold their home

to Mr. and Mrs. John Manlove.

A very large crowd was in town Saturday night to hear and dance to the Three Keyboards at the Legion Club and attend the opening of the River Inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huth, Jr. and family of Helena spent the weekend in Townsend with Mr. Huth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huth, Sr.

Miss Sheila McCarthy arrived home on Wednesday from Spokane to spend a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fairfax G. McCarthy.

1970

East of Townsend News

Mrs. Ron Remick and Leigh of Conrad visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Toombs and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kirscher attended the Legion birthday party Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Whaley were in Bozeman last Wednesday.

LeRoy Bieber of Seattle is spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bieber and family.

David Brown spent Friday and Saturday nights with Eddie Shindoll.

A number of students are home for the spring break between quarters. John Marks, Jan Kirscher and Shelley Iverson from MSU; Edwina Neild and Scott Whaley from Western at Dillon.

Belated Birthday Party Honors Two Young Ladies

Miss Candi Whitehead and Miss Diana Walker were honored at a belated birthday party Saturday evening given by Miss Leslie Sherwood. The evening was enjoyed with games and music, and the guests of honor opened their gifts. Invited guests were Barbara Page, Barbara Harris, Patti Ragen, Vicki Trarbach, Carrie Harrigfeld, Tricia Perry, Jill Brammer, Cheryl Waling, Karen Sautter, Connie Ragen, Patti Copeland, Linda McHenry, Becky McLean, Debbie Robertson, Janet Richardson, Debbie Herbst, Janet Lanning, Lynn Grossman and Pat Huth.

CORRECTION!

We're sincerely sorry that we didn't ask enough questions. The new water tower will experience a live test mid-June before permanent activation late July or August. You heard us, it's a LIVE TEST in mid-June. The tower will be filled, then emptied. The process is expected to take an entire day (meaning the pressure will increase slowly, hold for a while, then decrease slowly). The city will announce the day this happens, but it might not know the day until about a week ahead of the test.

We still think a regulator is a good idea and we're still going to help. We're offering Cash Acme pressure regulating valves for COST + 50¢ (ask and we'll prove it). That's \$37.55 for a 1/2" valve and \$38.05 for a 3/4" valve. We'll contact you for payment when we place the order. Visit or call the store to sign up. We need your name, phone number and pipe size. The valves will arrive about the third week of April.

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Irish Music, Irish Dishes Fuel St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser



Helena Handbasket band members pause for a photo at the St. Patrick's Day fundraiser. From left Jim and Terry Gundersen, Candace and David Payne. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Dwight Thompson, fourth from left, give his wife Julie and friends Leona and Ken Nelson some line of blarney at the dinner Saturday. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The luck of the Irish was with those who ventured out on a cold and stormy night to enjoy music, food and dancing at the annual St. Patrick's Day fundraiser for Broadwater Community Theater (BCT) Saturday.

Emcee Pat Plantenberg, aka Elfrado, motivated the willing crowd to bid on trips, art, quilts and theater tickets. BCT President LaRinda Spencer commented, "Pat is a consummate comedian. He keeps people laughing and engaged."

Rachael Alexander of Down Home Catering provided a Guinness braised beef dinner and Helena Handbasket Bluegrass Band provided excellent Irish ballads and dance music. Vivian Boaz provided dessert of brownies and green mint ice cream. The crowd was served by STOKES students.

Funds raised from the annual dinner sponsor,

Missoula Children's Theater at Townsend Schools. They also underwrite music and theater camp scholarships and children's summer theater productions. The group brings the Queen City Swing band of Helena to the Lodge several times a year. The band will provide dance music on May 2nd. Dance lessons are planned as well. The group is working on a special production for the Montana 250 celebration on July 4 of this year.

Formerly known as the Ryland KM Foote Memorial Fund, Broadwater Community Theater has been introducing Broadwater County young people and those who are young-at-heart to the fine arts since 1996. People interested in theater and music are encouraged to attend the group's regular meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the Lodge. For more information, please contact LaRinda at (406)465-4016.



Townsend Schools music teacher, retired, Carla Amundson tickles the ivories with tunes during the band's break. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer