

Broadwater Educational Foundation Awards Classroom Grants, Celebrates Successful Trivia Night Fundraiser



*First Place Winners: Irish Mafia
(l to r) Jeff Kirksey, Sarah Kirksey, Cory O'Brian, Tony O'Brian, Isabell O'Brian, Aiden O'Brian, Kim O'Brian
Photo Provided*



*2nd Place Team: Savvy Cavy
(l to r) Lynn Reynolds, Jill Flynn, Jeana Ruchert, Rusty Ruchert, Ross Chewning, Siobhan Flynn, (not pictured: Shannon Flynn)
Photo Provided*

Jennifer Beatty
Broadwater Education Foundation

The Broadwater Educational Foundation (BEF) continues to strengthen educational opportunities for students across the Townsend School District, awarding classroom grants while celebrating another successful year of community-supported fundraising.

Founded over nine years ago, BEF's mission is to promote academic excellence by enhancing classroom opportunities and experiences for K-12 public school students. Since its inception, The Foundation has awarded more than \$16,000 in grants, supporting a wide range of classroom needs, from handheld weather meters and soil testing equipment to novels, DNA replication kits, video production equipment, costumes, ukuleles, art supplies, phonics curriculum, magazine subscriptions, and ladybug habitats.

During the most recent grant cycle last fall, BEF

awarded grants of up to \$250 to several local educators.

Recipients included:

- Shae Bruursema — cultural cuisine groceries in Family and Consumer Science classes
- Emily Hatfield — classroom novels
- Lisa Larson — classroom novels
- Olga McNulty — piano melodicas
- Monique Prevel — fidget-based learning games

BEF, 2



*3rd Place Team: Tequila Mockingbirds
(l to r) Brandon Harris, Claressa Harris, Missy Racht, Mark Wood, Brook Hatfield, Wendy Graveley, TJ Graveley and kneeling Carol Hatfield
Photo Provided*

4-H Members Compete in Contests

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Contests have a long history in the 4-H program and are a fun way for 4-H members to receive recognition, learn new skills and build confidence.

This year, the 4-H County Contest Extravaganza took place on Sunday, March 15th at the Methodist Church and Broadwater High School.

Kicking off the afternoon was the Communications Contest. This was formerly known as the Speech and Demonstration Contest but has expanded to several different categories. There was an outstanding turnout for this contest with 13 entries.



*Grace Christensen and Ella Kosto participate in the Hooked on Cooking Contest.
Photo Credit: Allison Kosto*

In the senior division, Kaitlyn Noyes participated in Career Communications where she is expected to complete a job application, cover letter, resume and job interview. She received a purple ribbon and the overall prize.

Senior member Abigail McCauley participated in three different presentations, including one prepared speech and two illustrated talks. She received two purple ribbons and one blue.

Addy Mosher also had multiple entries with an illustrated talk and an impromptu speech and received blue ribbons in both.

Rounding out the seniors was Rigoberto Delgado with a red ribbon for his illustrated talk. Seniors who receive a purple or blue ribbon are eligible to attend Montana 4-H Congress in the event.

Moving on to the junior division of the Communications Contest, Calvin McCauley took the overall prize and a purple ribbon with his illustrated talk on cow identification. Also receiving a purple ribbon for



*Cloverbuds - Kathryn Six, 4-H teen leader from the Toston Blue Ribbon 4-H Club, leads a Cloverbud activity.
Photo Credit: Jennifer Beatty*

his illustrated talk was Evan McCauley. Blue ribbon illustrated talks were Jasen Rose, Magdalena Delgado and Ryal Lancello. There was one entry in the video category, Madison Cederberg, who received a blue ribbon as well.

Next was the Hooked-on Cooking Contest where members, ages 8-13, cook and develop skills for a safe, nutritious and proper presentation of food. This contest also received a substantial increase in entries

4-H Members, 2

Broadwater Commissioners Hear Spring Roadwork Plans, Public Health Update and Delinquent Tax Report

Rachael Brug
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County commissioners heard updates on spring road work, public health, and county finances during their March 18 meeting, held without Chair Debbie Randolph, who was away on other county business. Commissioners Jesse Swenson and Lindsey Richtmyer conducted the meeting, approving minutes and a claim at the close of the session.

Public Works Director T.J. Gravely told commissioners

residents should expect to see graders and other equipment across the county as crews begin spring hauling and shaping. Gravely said crews have been working on the north end of the valley and the back side of the lake, including Avalanche and Gravely Lane, and were working on Lower Confederate. A brief storm that brought rain and snow "kind of screwed them up pretty good," he said, adding that the public was frustrated but understanding.

Gravely also provided an update on the long-running Old Town Bridge project. Dirt work between the two

Broadwater Commissioners, 2

Happy Easter!

Holy Thursday: 4/2 @ 6:30 pm
 Good Friday: 4/3 at 6:30 pm
 Easter Sunday: 4/5 at 4:30 pm

Holy Cross Church — 101 S. Walnut St.



Lions Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4

Dela Chatriand
 Townsend Lions Club

The Broadwater County Lions' annual Easter Egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Heritage Park, also known as the swimming pool park. The hunt will start when the fire truck siren sounds at promptly 10:00 a.m.

The event is open to youths from 0 to 12 years of age. The hunt is broken down into age groups of 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Prizes will be awarded to those who find specially marked eggs in each age group.

The Easter Bunny and the Easter Lion have agreed to make a special appearance at the event!



Easter Bunny and Easter Lion
 Photo Provided

ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT!
 JOIN US FOR FUN & EGG-CITING PRIZES!

HOSTED BY RADERSBURG COMMUNITY & RADERSBURG CEMETERY

APRIL 4
11:00 AM

RADERSBURG SCHOOL

> A DONATION ONLY LUNCH WILL SERVED AFTERWARDS (PORK & BEEF SANDWICH WITH THE FIXINGS)

BEF, 1

- Missy Racht — classroom novels
- Karee Reiman — middle school playground equipment and audio headsets
- Holly Smedley — emotional regulation support tools
- Jason Thomas — genetics lab materials
- Andrea Tullos — simulation and strategy-based learning games
- Karen Walton — music books, concert music, and a xylophone stand

In addition to grantmaking, BEF highlighted the success of its largest annual fundraiser, Trivia Night, held Thursday, March 19. The event drew strong community participation, with 13 teams and as many as 104 players competing across six rounds and a final challenge question, totaling 61 questions and a possible 160 points.

Trivia categories ranged from 1990s grunge music clips and partial logo identification to celebrity tattoos, March Madness, and romantic comedies. The final question, challenging teams to identify the three races and their state locations that make up the Triple Crown, was correctly answered by only three teams.

Top finishers included:

- First Place: The Irish Mafia
- Second Place: Savvy Cavy
- Third Place: Tequila Mockingbirds

The event was supported by dedicated volunteers, including members of the Townsend PTA, and was described as both highly competitive and full of energy and laughter. Proceeds from Trivia Night directly support BEF's classroom grant program.

BEF extends sincere appreciation to its donors and community members whose generosity makes these grants possible. The foundation also recognizes the family of Mike Ferrat for memorial funds supporting music and arts education, and the friends and family of Tom Arensmeyer for memorial funds supporting mathematics-focused grants.

Community members interested in supporting the foundation or learning more about its work are encouraged to contact BEF President Jackie Smith at 406-459-3064 or via email at BroadwaterEdFoundation@gmail.com.

4-H Members, 1

with five individuals or teams. The theme this year was "Happy 250th Birthday America!" Some participants incorporated the theme into their dish, while others decorated a baked item related to the theme. They could participate individually or with a partner.

The overall winner for Hooked on Cooking, receiving a purple ribbon, was Hannah Chavez with her berry-filled cupcakes. Purple ribbons also went to the team of Grace McLaughlin and Magdalena Delgado, who cooked a whole picnic spread, and Kaylee Cederberg for her taco dish. Blue ribbons were awarded to a team of Grace Christensen and Ella Kosto. Josie Frazier received a red ribbon for her patriot parfait.

Cloverbuds, who are members aged 5 to 8 years old, were able to participate in an educational activity. The number of Cloverbuds participating more than doubled compared to last year. The participants were Oliver Delgado, Clyde Frazier, Abigail Lancello, Ryann Mace, Cody Martin, Molly McLaughlin, Talon Romo, Ellie Rose, Colton Schaffer, Liam Simon and Amelia Six.

After the contests, participants played games, were recognized and received ribbons. Congratulations to all of the participants on a wonderful day! THANK YOU to all of the 4-H leaders, parents and judges who helped with the event! We couldn't have done it without you! For more information about 4-H, please contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or broadwater@montana.edu. 4-H is a youth development program of Montana State University Extension.

Broadwater County 5th Grade Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest

Linda Southall
 Townsend Tree Board

Dear homeschool, parochial school or private school student and parents:

The weather has been weird the last few months. It doesn't seem to know what season should be appearing. The calendar indicates that spring is here. With the coming of spring, some people are thinking of Arbor Day.

In Broadwater County, Arbor Day is partly celebrated with the Broadwater County fifth-grade Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest. In 2004, the Townsend Tree Board began this competition to raise kids' awareness of trees and their importance to the kids themselves and to the community. In other words, kids need to be asking the following questions. Why are trees important to me? What do trees do for my community and me? The local tree board wants fifth-grade students to participate in the above contest, not only to further their understanding and appreciation for trees, but also to win some tangible awards.

All fifth graders who participate in the Broadwater County fifth-grade Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest will receive a gift coupon for a scoop of ice cream from The Mint Cafe. There will be three top winners in this competition. The third-place winner will be presented with a \$20 check from the City of Townsend. The second-place winner will get a \$30 check from the City. Finally, the first-place winner will be rewarded with a \$50 check. The top-placing student will receive a framed picture of his or her poster as a keepsake. Another framed picture of the top poster will be made to be displayed at either the Townsend Elementary School or the Townsend City Hall.

The theme of the 2026 Broadwater County fifth-grade Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest is "Trees have helped grow America for 250 years". This theme coincides with our nation's 250th birthday. Trees have been used to build America. Native Americans used wood products from trees.

For example, Great Plains Indians used wooden poles to stabilize their tipis or tepees. They made hunting spears and arrows from wood. They pulled killed buffalo on wooden platforms called travois. As European settlers moved westward from the eastern seaboard of the United States, they used wood products for log cabins, covered wagons, and cooking and heating fuel.

John Chapman, known better as Johnny Appleseed, planted apple trees and gave away apple seeds and sprouts. He wanted not only to build the tree population, but also to feed people. In 1872 (nearly 100 years after Johnny Appleseed was born), the state of Nebraska celebrated its first Arbor Day. It was founded with the great help of Julius Sterling Morton, a newspaper publisher, who saw the need for planting trees as a way of preventing major soil erosion and keeping nutrients and moisture in the soil.

You, fifth-grade child, have been aided by trees to grow. Do you eat apples and oranges? These are fruits from trees that help you grow. Do you assist your family in getting firewood? Firewood will keep you warm and growing. Do you hunt or hike? Being out in the woods among the trees will help develop or grow your mind, body and soul.

If you, fifth-grade student, are interested in participating in the Broadwater County fifth-grade Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest, please have your parents or guardian contact me, Linda Southall, at (406) 266-3863. I can mail you a packet that will include the rules and schedule for the competition.

Posters are due on April 23, 2026, by 4:00 pm at the Townsend Elementary School.

It is my hope that you will take part in this tree poster contest, which helps celebrate our nation's 250th birthday.

EASTER

Good Friday Service - 6pm
 Easter Sunrise Service* - 7am
 *11 Diamond Gulch Rd
 Easter Service - 10am

20 Trailhead View Dr.
 Townsend, MT
www.trailheadchristianchurch.com
 406-266-4406

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 Music & Lyrics by Michael McGill

Performance: March 28
at 3pm
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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.

4th of July Activities Remain on Chamber Agenda

MT43 News Staff Reporter

At a March 19 meeting of Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce, member Doug Sitton reported that he had secured Heritage Park for Saturday, July 4 for a celebration to possibly include a military flyover and a venue for businesses, the school and nonprofit organizations to take part.

He emphasized that since the holiday is on the weekend, he feared participation may be low since many people will not be in town. Tim Pool, head of American Legion Post #42 committee for the celebration, emphasized that the Legion plans to lead the parade, not organize the parade, according to Sitton, who has also contacted someone to perform a fireworks display. He encouraged organization heads to contact him if they are planning to be involved in the day's activities, even though the Chamber is not officially heading up the celebration.

Eve and Vern Parrow of Extreme Plumbing and Heating, Belgrade, will be organizing the 2026 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament. Chris McFadden of Townsend Marine led the event last year. This tournament, headed for many years by TACC vice chairman Doug Breker, started in 1999.

Mrs. Parrow, who is a veteran Walleye tournament organizer, said she will try to make this a much bigger event this year by reconnecting with other walleye groups in Montana. This event is part of a Walleye tournament circuit, which has members all over Montana. She will work with TACC members through fundraising and executing the event, scheduled for June 26 and 27. "Our job is just to get the event in front of the locals as well as bring in fishermen from other groups in the circuit," she emphasized.

In recent years, tournament participation has been down. The Canyon Ferry tournament's unique draw in past years has been its \$10,000 prize pool, based on participation. "We must have 125 teams to meet that goal," according to Breker, "hopefully with Eve and Vern's leadership, we'll see that many folks come to fish."

Chairman of the Upper Missouri River Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited, Sam DesChene, was also present at the meeting. He said he has contacted Montana 4-H groups to get them involved in sports fishing.

In news of other planned Chamber activities, Sitton



Chamber sign on Highway 287 promoting Townsend activities and events
Photo Credit: Rachael Brug, Secretary, Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce

said he was unable to reserve the Broadwater County Fairgrounds for the annual All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), slated for June 6 and 7, as the dates had already been filled. He confirmed that Top Gun Auto and AdaZ businesses had generously offered their parking lots north of town for the event. Still to confirm with the US Forest Service, Townsend District, is the route. Open registration begins April 1st.

Secretary Rachael Brug, owner of Reading Leaves bookstore, encouraged members to get involved in the Southwest Montana Tourism organization, which encourages tourists to visit our area. Brug is currently the president of the board. She is also Broadwater County's ambassador for the Montana Nonprofit Association. Southwest Montana Tourism held its quarterly meeting at the Legion in Townsend on March 26th.

Also discussed was the possible takeover of the county-wide garage sale, scheduled for July 18 this year. Missouri Valley Marketing headed the garage sale but is no longer a working group.

The next chamber meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm, April 16, at Rocky Mountain Mini Cabins at 7843 Hwy 287.

Broadwater County Boards Advance Spring Projects, Budgets and Summer Planning

Rachael Brug
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Across five county boards in mid-March, Broadwater County officials and volunteers tackled a familiar mix of springtime work: lining up budgets, preparing for

busy summer seasons, and trying to stretch local dollars into bigger community wins. From trail funding and park programming to airport oversight, public health updates, and fairground upgrades, the meetings offered a snapshot of what's moving now—and what decisions are coming next.

Broadwater County Boards, 7



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: _____



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Weekend appointments available.



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



Townsend School & Sports

MARCH

Friday 27

- **NO SCHOOL - TEACHER PIR**
- 9:00 am: High School Tennis at Great Falls
- 4:00 pm: MT Children's Theater - Stage Gym and Community Room

Saturday 28

- 3:00 pm: Missoula Children's Theater Performance **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 11:00 am: High School Varsity / JV Baseball Vs. Huntley
- 7:30 pm: PROM

Sunday 29

- 5:00 pm: High School Basketball Banquet

Monday 30

- 1st Day of Middle School Spring Sports Practice

Mon 30 - Thu 2

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

Tuesday 31

- High School Golf at Hamilton
- Middle School Spring Sports Practice
- 5:30 am: Old Baldy AI class - Spanish Classroom

Tue 31 - Sat 4

- FFA State Convention at Great Falls

APRIL

Wednesday 1

- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms: Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 2

- High School Tennis at Great Falls
- 3:00 pm: High School Track at Boulder
- 6:00 pm: CDL Class - Bulldog Buslines in the Spanish Room
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club - Library

Fri 3 - Mon 6

- **NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**

East Helena Schools & Sports

MARCH

Monday 30

- School Resumes

APRIL

Thursday 2

- 6:00 pm EHHS Pre-District Choir Concert


Friday 3

- 8:00 am Little Lante's Screening

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School and Community Library

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



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager

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



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

MARCH

Friday 27

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

APRIL

Wed 1 & Thu 2

- 10:30 am: Storytime

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday 31

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- APRIL



Wednesday 1

- 10:00 am: Commissioner's Meeting
- 10:00 am: Public Hearing to adopt by resolution an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

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: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee
- 5:00 pm: Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at Holy Cross Parish, 101 S Walnut **AD ON THIS PAGE**

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

Tuesday 31

- 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

APRIL

Wednesday 1

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 2

- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 6:00 PM: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
- 6:30 pm: Holy Thursday at Holy Cross, 101 S Walnut **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 3

- 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 Mountain Grounds Coffee
- 6:00 pm: Good Friday Service at Trailhead Church, 20 Trailhead View Dr. **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 6:30 pm: Good Friday at Holy Cross, 101 S Walnut **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**

Saturday 4

- 10:00 am: 2026 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at Heritage Park **INFO ON PAGE 2**
- 11:00 am: 2026 Radersburg Easter Egg Hunt at Historic Radersburg School **INFO ON PAGE 2**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Sunday 5

- 7:00 am: Easter Sunrise Service with Trailhead Church, 27 Diamond Gulch Rd. **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 10:00 am: Easter Service at Trailhead Church, 20 Trailhead View Dr. **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 4:30 pm: Easter Sunday at Holy Cross, 101 S Walnut **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**

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

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

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)
 April 4th & 18th 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted Friday April 3rd & 17th 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. April is Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
 For questions, Donations appointments and Emergency Food supplies **call OUR NEW PHONE number (406) 916-0034.**

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

EMPLOYMENT & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: PAGE 3

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

Join us for a spicy showdown!

\$50 Prize

CHILI

Book-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

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

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

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

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: April 15th, 7:30PM
 At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
 See Board Meeting Agenda at: https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov/community/rural_fire_board.php

Monthly Chamber Meeting

TOWNSEND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

6PM Thursday, April 16
 Rocky Mtn Mini Cabins, 7843 Hwy 287
 All members of the community welcome!

Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale



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

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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

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

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406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

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Support LOCAL Businesses RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

American Legion Hall
211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611
Dining Hours:
Tuesday= Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM
Thursdays 5:00PM= FREE Community Dinner
SPECIAL Event with Food:
St Patty's Day Meal:
5PM Saturday 3/14/26
Bar hours may vary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Support LOCAL Businesses
RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY
Dates and times may vary due to events, seasons or holidays. Call the restaurant with any questions. Happy Dining!

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate
◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

MEAGER MEAL

ACROSS
1 Colon's meaning in analogies
5 Casino IOU
9 Honcho
13 Fruits to bob for
19 Flow slowly
20 Jay of jest
21 Sinful
22 Artist Monet
23 Free
25 — avis (unusual thing)
26 Ottawa's land
27 Start of a riddle
30 By means of
31 Response to a punch
32 Clunker
33 State whose cap. is Boise
35 Riddle, part 2
46 Touch-me — (explosive plants)
48 Cellphone game, often
49 — Trapp family
50 Stable animal
51 Riddle, part 3
58 Locality
59 Squirms, as in pain

60 Film critic Roger
61 Propelled a bicycle
63 Acting prize
64 Made a run for it
65 — extra cost
66 The, in Paris
67 Riddle, part 4
73 Pool length
76 "Jeepers!"
77 Margarine, quaintly
78 — salts
82 Vocalist with the 2018 hits "Boo'd Up" and "Trip"
84 Lyric poets
86 Sweet wine of Portugal
88 Map out
89 Riddle, part 5
92 Gobble down
94 Big Brit. lexicon
95 Tooth doctor's org.
96 Auth. unknown
97 End of the riddle
104 British verb suffix
105 Toward a boat's back

107 Klutzy type
109 Riddle's answer
120 Regain a conscious state
121 Challenge
122 Fitness club machine
123 Consolidator
124 Iran's home
125 "Jeepers!"
126 Around H'wood, e.g.
127 Go to bed
128 Comply with
129 Lone
130 Novelist Jennifer

DOWN
1 Caesar's "vidi," translated
2 "Late Night" host Meyers
3 Able to read minds
4 Express a view
5 Musical staff symbol
6 One who saves the day
7 Wild about
8 Pomeranian, e.g.
9 Deprived (of)

10 Egg-shaped
11 Assistant on iPhones
12 Pomeranian, e.g.
13 Accumulate, as interest
14 Modeling compound for kids
15 Twinge of guilt, e.g.
16 Oahu feast
17 Water whirl
18 Briny body
24 Sharp remark
28 Cry of Homer Simpson
29 Actor Byrnes or fielder Roush
33 Halved
34 Entryways
36 Go very fast
37 Numbered musical work
38 FedEx rival
39 State firmly
40 Variety
41 Like most musical works with five sharps
42 Civil rights figure Parks
43 Dentist's tool
44 Lauder of cosmetics
45 Oboe inserts

47 Occupy, as a table
52 Morel or enoki, informally
53 Narrate
54 Comply with
55 City that's home to Tufts University
56 As far as
57 Carnival shelter
62 End of a college's URL
64 Go very fast
65 Earlier
68 Language of Bangkok
69 Infamous Idi
70 Ye — Shoppe
71 Relaxation
72 Met offering
73 Cartoon skunk Pepé
74 Islamic God
75 "Oro y —" (Montana's motto)
79 Representing
80 Often-twisted cookies
81 French river or department
83 "... some kind of —?"
84 Ran in the wash
85 Q7 or A8 carmaker
86 Lead-in to care or gap, in health care
87 Impose — on (illegalize)
90 Gear tooth
91 Owens
93 Book of hymns
98 From the distant past
99 High degree
100 Conquer
101 That gal
102 A-list groups
103 Yummy
108 Apt first name for a general?
109 Actress Skye
110 Leave off
111 — pot (congestion clearer)
112 Cain's father
113 Flower jar
114 Lake abutting Ohio
115 Thus
116 Close tightly
117 Lose vibrancy
118 Spanish pot
119 — Bator, Mongolia
120 Mean mutt

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

MOST "TOPPED" SHOTS ARE CAUSED BY SWINGING DOWN SO STEEPLY THAT THE CLUBHEAD NEVER GETS LOW ENOUGH TO CONTACT THE BACK OF THE BALL. IMPROVING THE OVERALL SWING MECHANICS IS THE ONLY SURE CURE.

BETTER GOLFERS' "TOPS" ARE USUALLY THE RESULT OF THE LEGS AND BODY GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD AT IMPACT RELATIVE TO THE HANDS AND CLUBHEAD, SIMPLY SWINGING LESS AGGRESSIVELY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE LOWER BODY, USUALLY FIXES THE PROBLEM.

CryptoQuip

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

KR ROY GMHHTLXL' LKHMMC,
MCY MD ROY GMLR FMFTHKE
BMBXRKNHL ROY MDDYE NL
K ETLRU LCKNH.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Display **EARPAD**

Process **RAMENN**

Crazy **LAMENT**

Divine **SCARED**

TODAY'S WORD

"First of all, we want _____ bills..."

KNIGHT MOVES

N	M	C
N		N
A	I	O

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.
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LEGAL NOTICES



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

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JUSTIN LEE DUANE YANCY, Deceased.

Probate No. DDP-26-07

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated March 27, 2026.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC
Attorney for Personal Representative

Published March 27, April 3 and 10, 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

NOTICE FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The City of Townsend is accepting letters of interest for an open council position in Ward I, which includes the territory north of Broadway and east of Cedar St.

This position is an appointment and will serve from the time of appointment until December 31, 2027. The current compensation is \$120 per month.

Should the appointed person want to continue in the position, they may run for the position in the November 2027 election.

If you reside in Ward I, please submit a letter of interest to City Hall, 110 Broadway, Townsend, MT.

For further information, please contact the city office at (406)266-3911.

Published March 27 and April 3, 2026

MNAXLP

Public Notice

A+ Storage does hereby give notice to the following customers renting storage units containing household goods and miscellaneous items that this property will be sold to satisfy rent past due, fees and costs.

Joe Hinds. Unit F-12

Public sale will be held on April 4th, 2026, at 12-1 PM at A+ Storage, located at 21 Cemetery Ln.

Published March 27 and April 3, 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 Recorders office or on the County website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov under public notices.

Published March 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				Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$300K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$600K home
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills			
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



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Friday, March 20, 2026
Judge Kathy Seeley

CDC-24-38 Tyler David Castona - Change of Plea. Defendant pleaded guilty to 9 of the 18 charges. Count 3, Hunting, fishing, or trapping without a License, Count 4, Unlawful possession or transport of a Game Animal, Count 5- Hunting, fishing, trapping without a license, Count 7 Unlawful use of Equip while hunting, artificial light, Count 9 Hunting or killing over limit Elk, Amended Charge 12, Hunting or killing over limit, Deer, Amended Count 15 Hunting or killing over limit, deer, Amended Count 16 Unlawful use of Equipment while hunting game animal, and Amended Count 18 Fail to obtain landowner's permission for Hunting 1st offense.

With the assistance of his attorney, the defendant stated what he had done. The court dismissed the remaining 9 counts. Sentencing is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2026.

BDC-26-12 Rubén M. Estrada Juárez - Information. Defendant was charged with Count 1- Driving under the Influence(4th) and Count 2 Displaying license plates assigned to another vehicle. The defendant pleaded not guilty and the following trial schedule was set, Omnibus, May 8, 2026; Pretrial- August 14, 2026; and Jury Trial – October 5, 2026. Defendant was released with conditions (Judge Mike McMahon case)

CDC-25-05 Elijah Lloyd Ticknor - Sentencing - Count 1- Driving Under the Influence (4th offense). The defendant was sentenced to the Montana State Prison for a period of 3 years, all suspended, on the condition he completes an appropriate treatment program and pays a \$5000 fine. Counts 2 and 3 were dismissed.

BDC-26-11 Barbara Lee Degroot - Information - The Defendant was charged with Criminal Possession of dangerous drugs, Methamphetamine and Count 2 - Criminal possession of drug paraphernalia. The Arraignment is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2026, before Judge Mike McMahon.

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Natalie Wenzel – East Townsend – speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

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

David Baetge – Casper, WY – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Emma Mutsaers – East Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Shane Hope – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Jacob Torgerson – Helena – Owner permitting operation of vehicle without liability insurance 2nd offense – plead guilty - \$375 fines & fees. License plate suspension until proof of insurance provided to Motor Vehicles Division.

- Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – plead guilty - \$45 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Levi Warner – Crystal River, FL – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Alona Vodegel – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Elias Aby – Laurel – Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Americanisms



“Champions keep playing until they get it right.”
– Billie Jean King

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Broadwater Commissioners, 1

bridges is complete, he said, and the county is waiting for asphalt plants to open—typically around April 15, though he said plants could open as early as April 1. Once paving is complete, Old Town should reopen, finishing what Gravely described as a four-year process. Looking ahead, he said he expects to seek bids to crush about 10,000 yards of gravel at Lone Mountain this fiscal year, with an estimated cost of about \$85,000. Gravely and Richtmeyer also discussed posting a road-maintenance priority explanation on the county website to help residents understand why some roads are graded more often than others.

In a separate note, Gravely clarified that the county's solid waste operation is not responsible for early-morning garbage pickup in town, saying that service is handled by the city. He said revenues at the landfill are growing, driven by increased intake of trees and non-household waste, and that new landfill decals are expected in the office on Thursday, with mailings planned for April and May. Replacement decals cost \$10, he said.

Public Health representative Ruby Taylor reported low levels of flu and COVID-19 cases in the county and no measles cases. She said flu shots are available through the end of June and noted a vaccine grant from the Broadwater Community Health Foundation, with payment plans available when needed. Taylor also said the department is planning a summer bike rodeo, likely in June.

County Treasurer Melissa Franks reported the county balanced for February—three months in a row—and said the office collected \$111,157.25 after delinquent tax letters went out, with a remaining delinquent real property balance of \$339,386.34. Franks said the county is aiming for an April audit and is working to clear outstanding payroll and claims items that may be contributing to a discrepancy commissioners said had been around \$217,000, with about \$117,000 potentially identified so far.

Commissioners later approved the March 4 minutes and a single claim totaling \$45,323.75, then adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Broadwater County Boards, 3

*Broadwater County Trust Board
(Canyon Ferry Trust):*

The Broadwater County Trust Board focused on how to turn local trust dollars into larger outside investments, voting unanimously to commit up to \$190,000 in support of future trail grant applications. Chair Steve McCullough and Vice Chair Kim Kondelik led a discussion on a request presented by Carol Hatfield on behalf of the BCDC/Trails Committee, which asked for upfront funding to cover “pre-application” work—engineering, survey, design, and grant preparation—aimed at making future applications more competitive. The request included \$31,500 for early work, plus potential match commitments tied to grant awards, with the broader goal of leveraging Trust support into as much as \$1.3 million in outside funding. Board members discussed timing and risk, including the importance of keeping match funds protected as cash rather than exposed to market swings. The board also reviewed financial figures that members said still needed clarification, and noted that Trust funds come from donations and contributions rather than taxpayer dollars.

Broadwater County Parks & Recreation Board:

The Broadwater County Parks & Recreation Board continued building out its roster and summer priorities, welcoming new member Amy Currence and renewing its push to fill at least one vacancy. Chair Carol Hatfield and Vice Chair Jennifer Dalrymple led a meeting that also included members Wendy Graveley and county staff support, including Nichole Brown (manager/county liaison) and Aubra Lewis (administrative assistant), with Commissioner Liaison Lindsey Richtmyer also involved. The board discussed the practical challenge of staffing and volunteer capacity—an issue that shapes everything from event planning to ongoing maintenance—and emphasized the value of broad community representation on the board. The group’s work this time of year typically sets the table for summer programming and project coordination, and members signaled they want to keep the momentum going as the weather improves and outdoor use increases.

Broadwater County Airport Board:

The Broadwater County Airport Board’s spring agenda centered on keeping the Townsend/Broadwater County Airport functional and ready for seasonal activity, including ongoing coordination with county decision-makers on infrastructure and operations. Airport oversight often involves a mix of regulatory compliance, maintenance planning, and long-range improvement discussions, and the board’s work feeds into county budgeting and contracting decisions. In recent county discussions, airport-related items have included power and utility work and the practical realities of scheduling projects around weather and contractor availability—constraints that become especially visible in rural public works planning. The airport board’s role is to keep those needs visible and organized so that when funding opportunities or maintenance windows open, the county

is ready to act.

Broadwater County Board of Health:

The County Board of Health continued monitoring seasonal illness trends while looking ahead to warm-weather prevention and outreach. Chair Tiffany Jayne and Vice Chair Adrienne Frazier, along with board members David Bugg and Alyssa Lawrence, discussed updates tied to public health operations and community education, with Ruby Taylor serving as Public Health Director and board liaison in a non-voting role. The board also includes a vacancy for a member serving a three-year term, and Dr. Campbell serves as the county health officer/medical officer. In recent updates to county leaders, the health department has reported relatively low flu and COVID-19 activity and has continued promoting vaccination access, while also planning community-facing events such as summer safety programming. The board’s work often happens quietly, but it shapes how the county prepares for outbreaks, coordinates grants, and delivers services that residents may only notice when something goes wrong.

Broadwater County Fair Board:

The Broadwater County Fair Board used its March 12 meeting to push forward both nuts-and-bolts facility planning and the “fun” side of fair season, approving budget steps and discussing entertainment, rentals, and fairground improvements. Fair Manager Jessica Erickson walked members through budget updates and upcoming timelines, with Commission Liaison Jesse Swenson answering questions about how fair budgets move through county processes. The board approved an updated budget and then voted to pursue a budget amendment of up to \$9,000 to bundle several capital needs into one request, including a floor scrubber (with discussion favoring a model with a recovery tank), five six-foot banquet tables, two chair racks, one set of bleachers, and an allowance for replacement chairs as needed. Members also discussed how to boost “under the tent” activity after a slow year, refining a schedule for strolling magician Mickey O’Connor and exploring local musicians—potentially through a Facebook call for performers. Other ideas ranged from background music and karaoke to revisiting a paint party with a more appealing design, continuing fair games, and considering a mechanical bull option, discussed at roughly \$800 per day with waivers handled by the operator. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 5:15 p.m.

What to watch next:

With spring budgets and summer calendars taking shape, the next round of meetings will likely bring more concrete decisions: finalizing match commitments and timelines for trail grants, filling open seats on boards, locking in fair entertainment contracts, and translating public health planning into visible community outreach. For residents, the through-line is simple: these boards are where many of the county’s practical decisions get tested in public—one line item, one project, and one season at a time.

Department of Commerce Announces Virginia City, Nevada City Concessionaire Leases

Brian Miller

*Independent Record and Montana Standard
Managing Editor*

This article was previously printed in the March 21 Independent Record and printed here with the author's permission.

There will be 10 returning concessionaires and five new ones operating businesses in Virginia City and Nevada City this summer, the Montana Heritage Commission and Department of Commerce announced Thursday.

The announcement comes about three months after the department canceled and reissued new leases for businesses operating in the two historic cities, as well as for Helena’s Reeder’s Alley, which included new revenue-sharing requirements.

Those new requirements rankled some lessees, as did the quick turnaround for them to make a decision on whether to sign the new leases. The properties are owned by the Montana Heritage Commission, which is attached to the Department of Commerce, and some of the owners sued the department earlier this year over the changes, though the suit was closed in early February.

The department said part of the reason it was reviewing and redoing leases was in response to the former Heritage Commission executive director embezzling \$380,000 from the commission between 2020 and 2024. He received a three-year prison sentence in January and was ordered to pay \$280,000 in restitution.

The department and commission said Thursday 10 concessionaires agreed to the new lease terms and will be back this year: They include Bale of Hay Saloon, Brewery Follies, Calamity Janes, Destination Virginia City (Fairweather Inn/Annex and Nevada City Cabins, Montana Picture Gallery, Ruby Chang’s, Stephano’s

Fine Art Gallery, Virginia City Coffee Depot, Virginia City Trading Company, Wild West LLC (Bonanza Inn, Harding Home, Meagher Cabin and Daema and Corbett House).

There will be new concessionaires at Bob’s Place, The Shop at the City Bakery, Star Restaurant and Bakery, Virginia City Opera House, and the Wells Fargo Bar & Grill.

Both Bob’s Place and the Wells Fargo Bar & Grill will be operated by Montana retail, hospitality and restaurant company SharBert Enterprises. Star Bakery and Restaurant will be operated by Stark Summit, LLC, led by Marcus Stark, who comes in with a decade of restaurant experience, the department said.

The Virginia City Opera House will be operated by the University of Montana Western Theatre Program under the direction of Stephen Alan Seder, an assistant professor of theater and artistic director who performed with the Virginia City Players for 10 years.

The Shop at the City Bakery, founded by Rebecca Miller and Matthew Chambless, carries home goods, candles, ceramics, wellness items, books and things for the pantry — all sourced from small businesses.

“After actively working to fill leases, the Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana Heritage Commission are excited to see retail shops, restaurants and galleries as well as entertainment and hospitality venues, preparing to welcome customers this summer,” Department of Commerce Deputy Director Mandy Rambo said in a statement. “These historic cities have been beloved destinations for generations of Montanans and out-of-state visitors, and Commerce is dedicated to supporting their long-term stability.”

Performances in Virginia City this year include “The Bat,” running from June 17-19; “Vaudeville’s Greatest Hits,” running from July 24 through Aug. 2; and “Xantippe,” running from Aug. 5 through Sept. 6.

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. Written public comment must be received by 5pm the day before the meeting. This allows time for comments to be reviewed before the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

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

Monday, March 30, 2026

2:00 PM Closed-door litigation strategy meeting, Flynn Building

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Rocky Mountain Development Council, requesting approval for the 2026-2027 Community Services Block Grant Work Plan

10:05 AM Public Hearing, Adopt by resolution the FY24/25 Budget Amendment

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Debbie Kelley, Finance Officer, Adopt by resolution the FY24/25 Budget Amendment

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

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Elkhorn Vet Clinic septic and drain field replacement application and permit documentation

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Resolution to appoint Mark Wood Interim Sheriff

10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Subdivision Regulation Amendments

Friday, April 3, 2026

9:00 AM Meeting with three+one for a progress update on review of county investments

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

lrlichtmyer@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
- 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
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on April 20th at 6:00 PM

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SR. CENTER MEALS: MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

Wednesday, April 1
Montana Pasties
Broccoli and Cauliflower
Tossed Salad
Apricots
Dessert

Monday, March 30
Sloppy Joes on a Bun
Baked Beans
Carrot Raisin Salad
Baked Apples

Tuesday, March 31
Roasted Turkey
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Plump Peaches

Thursday, April 2
Chicken ALA King
Steamed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Golden Pears

Friday, April 3
Baked Cod
Rice Pilaf
Carrot Coins
Lima Beans
Sweet Peaches



Dear Editor,
The Broadwater County Republican Central Committee is proud to announce the endorsement of Dr. Jane Gillette for re-election to House District 77 for the upcoming 2027-2028 legislative session. Dr. Gillette has been a tireless champion for her Broadwater County constituents, advocating for meaningful property tax relief, decreased government spending, closing loopholes for illegal immigration, and directing resources to where they are needed most, such as our vulnerable populations.

A staunch defender of public safety, freedoms, and lean and accountable government, Dr. Gillette is endorsed by many other like-minded leaders and organizations. Her deep understanding of the issues that impact our agricultural communities, including water rights, has earned her the Farm Bureau Golden Windmill Award, as well as the support and admiration of Ag leaders throughout Broadwater County and the state.

Dr. Gillette embodies the ethos and values of the Republican Party. A true conservative, Dr. Gillette has maintained an unparalleled voting record of supporting conservative causes and values. As Chair of House Appropriations for Health and Human Services, Dr. Gillette's leadership has ensured that necessary programs are fiscally supported while reigning in unnecessary, wasteful overspending and government overreach.

The Broadwater County Republicans wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Jane Gillette for re-election to HD 77.

Ed Regan, Chairman
Broadwater County Republican Central Committee

Weather Forecast
March & April

Friday 27 High Temp: 55 Low Temp: 31 Wind: 12 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Tuesday 31 High Temp: 41 Low Temp: 32 Wind: 15 Rain: 0.0600 Snow: 0.498 Cloud Cover: 100
Saturday 28 High Temp: 62 Low Temp: 40 Wind: 11 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Wednesday 1 High Temp: 53 Low Temp: 36 Wind: 14 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Sunday 29 High Temp: 68 Low Temp: 47 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Thursday 2 High Temp: 52 Low Temp: 42 Wind: 17 Rain: 0.012 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Monday 30 High Temp: 66 Low Temp: 44 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	

Spring Turkey Hunting Season Opens April 15

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Nonresidents must wait 10 days to hunt public or access program land

HELENA – Montana's spring male turkey season opens April 15. Turkey hunters can purchase a turkey license for a general area at FWP offices, a License Ambassador location or online.

A new regulation requires nonresident hunters on public lands and privately owned lands that are a part of a hunting access program to wait 10 days later than residents for all upland game bird species except mountain grouse.

Regulations are available at FWP offices, license providers and online at fwp.mt.gov.

When transporting a spring turkey in the state on Montana, hunters must keep one leg and foot naturally attached for evidence of sex. Montana law requires landowner permission for hunting on all private land.

All Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program enrollments are currently closed and only open during the fall hunting season. Similarly, most Block Management Areas are also closed, but some are open for spring turkey opportunities. No shed hunting, hiking or other recreational activities are allowed on these properties without landowner permission. Be sure to check the FWP website for the dates and locations these properties open.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/hunt/access/blockmanagement for more information.

Sandfire Resources America Inc. & The Meagher County Stewardship Council Achieves Framework for a Community Benefits Agreement

Nancy Schlepp
VP of Communications and Government Relations

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT, March 17th, 2026 - Sandfire Resources America Inc. ("Sandfire America" or the "Company") and the Meagher County Stewardship Council ("MCSC") have advanced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a framework for a binding Community Benefits Agreement ("CBA") associated with the proposed Black Butte Copper Project ("BBC"). Since 2019, Sandfire America and the MCSC have worked collaboratively to develop a CBA to ensure that the Meagher County community realizes long-lasting benefits from the operation of the proposed underground copper mine. Through the CBA, this partnership formalizes the Company's commitment to Meagher County while establishing a framework for ongoing engagement between the Company and the community.

This MOU is guided by three core objectives:

- Ensuring that the mine operation delivers significant and long-term socioeconomic benefits within Meagher County;
- Protect and enhance the natural environment of the region; and
- Promote transparency and ongoing communication between the Company and the community.

Andrea Massey-Farrell, Board Chair of the Meagher County Stewardship Council, shared, "This CBA framework reflects the priorities voiced by our community and a shared commitment to long-term viability. It ensures the benefits of developing the mine are shared with the great people of Meagher County."

Lincoln Greenidge, CEO of Sandfire America, continued by sharing, "This agreement reflects years of collaboration with the Meagher County community in creating multiple levels of benefits. Our collaboration represents a meaningful step forward for both the Black Butte Copper Project and the Meagher County community, illustrating what is possible when responsible resource development and community priorities advance together."

Community priorities were identified through extensive public engagement. To guide this process, substantial outreach with local residents was conducted through focus groups, committee meetings, and a community-wide town hall event.

These priorities include:

- Establishing a Long-Term Community Investment Fund, supported through annual contributions based on a contribution model associated with the project's operations, intended to support initiatives strengthening Meagher County well beyond the operational life of the mine;

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel...

Philippians 4: 2,3

Details of portraits done by Pablo Picasso, from 1948-1969

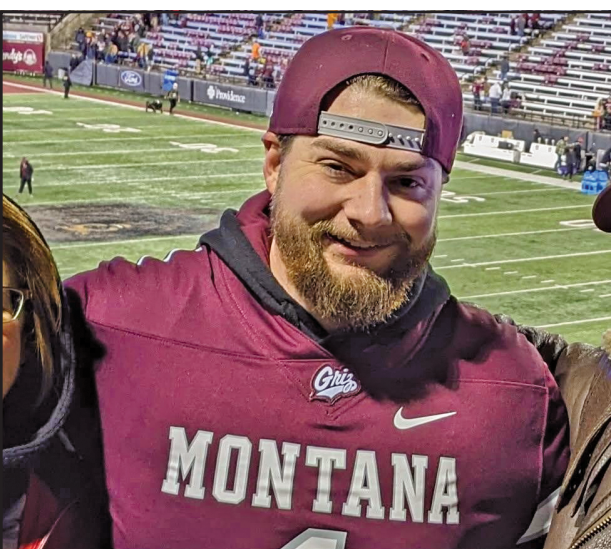
SPEED WORKS
Tanner-
Home Improvements & Restoration Specialist
Larry
General Property Maintenance & Handyman Services
Larry: 406-502-8607 | Tanner: 406-439-9765

EAST HELENA AREA DEATHS

Jacob Chester Bright

Family of Jacob Chester Bright

June 27, 1998 – March 19, 2026



Jacob Chester Bright
Photo Provided by Family of Jacob Chester Bright

It is with heavy hearts that the mother, Julie Bright and his brother, Justin Bright, announce the death of Jacob.

Jacob's death was a result of a motor vehicle accident on early Thursday evening, March 19th, near East Helena.

Debra D. 'Deb' Redmond

Family of Debra D. 'Deb' Redmond

February 8, 1958 – March 17, 2026



Debra D. 'Deb' Redmond
Photo provided by Family of Debra D. 'Deb' Redmond

Debra D. 'Deb' Redmond, age 68, of East Helena, passed away on March 17, 2026.

A Celebration of Deb's Life will be held at a later date and will be announced when set.

William Cecil "Bill" Summers

Family of William Cecil "Bill" Summers

June 30, 1937 – March 22, 2026



William Cecil "Bill" Summers
Photo Provided by Family of William Cecil "Bill" Summers

William C. "Bill" Summers, age 88, of East Helena surrounded by family passed away at his home in East Helena Sunday afternoon March 22, 2026.

Funeral services celebrating his life will be 11:00 a.m. Monday, March 30, 2026, from the Friendship Baptist Church in Montana City, MT. A reception will follow in the social center of the church. Burial with military honors will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Memorial Shelter at the Montana State Veteran Cemetery at Ft. Harrison, MT.

OBITUARIES

William Rhea "Bill" Alley

Family of William Rhea "Bill" Alley

April 11, 1944 – March 17, 2026

William Rhea (Bill) Alley passed away at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in Helena, MT, with his family by his side after a brief illness. He was 81 years old.

Bill was born on April 11, 1944, in Butte, MT, to Alice Rhea (Matson) and Harry Charles Alley. He was the second of their four sons, joining his older brother Harry Jr and later welcoming younger brothers Roy and Andy.

Bill's early years were spent on the family ranch west of Whitehall, MT, where he learned to care for cattle, sheep, and the land. By nature, he was gentle and kind, with a strong work ethic he carried throughout his life, and a well-developed sense of humor. He found joy among the animals, especially the dogs and cats he loved so much. It was here that his lifelong love of animals took root.

He attended high school in Whitehall, where he played tuba in the band and football. In later years, an injury to his right knee, sustained in his junior year, would still trouble him. Still, he always enjoyed telling the story of how it happened. He would begin by saying he was the starting center, when during practice, another player fell on him. With a big game the next day, the coach asked if he could play, and his answer was always some version of "yes, I can, put me in, coach!" He played his heart out on that injured knee.

In the Fall of 1963, Bill met his future wife, Evelyn Boyd, in the Montana State University marching band, where he played the tuba and she played the baritone horn. They were married on September 11, 1965, and shared more than 60 years side by side. They had a grand life together.

After graduating from MSU in 1967, Bill taught for one year in Clyde Park, MT. As the Vietnam War intensified, he joined the United States Air Force, and after Basic training, completed Officer Training School. While stationed overseas in Thailand, his oldest daughter, Kimberly Anne, was born. He loved to tell the story that as a Communications Officer, he learned of her birth even before receiving the official announcement from the Red Cross. Bill was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain in 1973.

He and his young family returned to Montana, where he taught for one year in Havre. In 1974, the family moved to Townsend, MT, where they made their home. After settling in Townsend, Bill and Ev welcomed their son William Rhea Jr and daughter Karen Marie. During many summers, Bill took his family on trips to Yellowstone National Park, where they would camp in West Yellowstone and explore the park together. One summer, he took them to Glacier National Park, and by 1984, the family was ready for longer adventures. After purchasing a Dodge Caravan, they traveled to Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, went to the amusement park Lagoon, and visited the Great Salt Lake.

These trips became a cherished tradition, leading to family trips in 1986 to San Diego, in 1988 to Chicago, and in 1997 to Denver. As a baseball family, their trips were planned around where the Chicago Cubs were playing. Known then as "Big Bill" and "Little Bill," he and his son shared a love of the game, with Little Bill playing Little League while Big Bill managed the team and umpired countless games.

Bill made a lasting impression not just through what he did, but how he did it. He showed his children the importance of kindness and respect. For example, when collecting Cubs autographs, he encouraged his son to ask politely, "Mr. Sandberg, may we please have your autograph?" rather than shouting or pushing ahead of others. Through his example, his kids learned to treat others with patience, humility, and respect.

Bill was a teacher in the Townsend School system from 1974 until his retirement in 2010. Over 36 years in the classroom, he taught Chemistry and Physics, as well as Algebra I, II and pre-calc as needed, and in the late 80's, the computer language Basic. He was deeply dedicated to his students and took great pride in educating hundreds throughout his career.

He had a gift for breaking down challenging subjects and making them understandable, always striving to make learning both engaging and fun. His dry sense of humor

Richard "Dick" Black

Family of Richard "Dick" Black

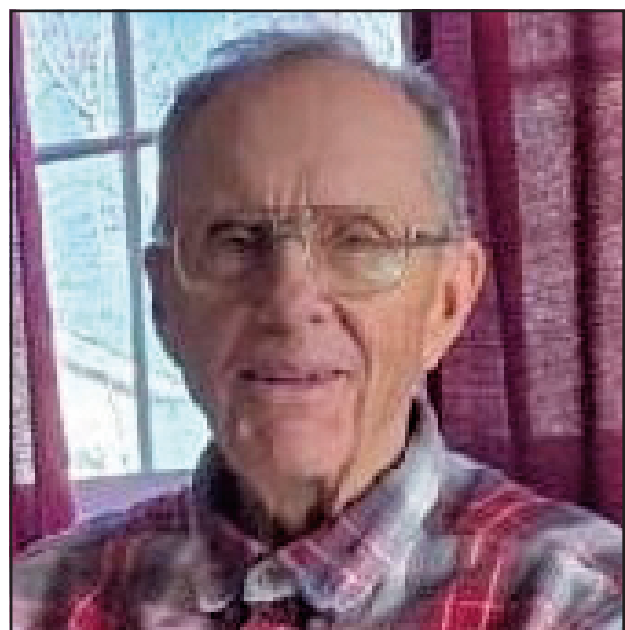
Richard "Dick" R. Black, 80, of Helena, passed away in the early hours of March 18, 2026, at his home.

He was born on August 12, 1945, to late Fred and Vera Black. Dick was a graduate of Townsend High School and then attended the University of Montana Western in Dillon. He enlisted in the US Navy, serving overseas during the Vietnam War. After honorably serving his country, Dick became a Gas Service Technician with the Montana Power Company in Helena and retired after over 30 years of service.

Dick spent his life enjoying the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and camping with his sons and close friends. Dick always had a project or two in the works and gave his time freely to anyone who needed his handyman skills. He continued these hobbies into his retirement, with his surviving partner in life, Nina Denzin.

Surviving family members also include two sons, Jason (Tracey) Black of Polson, MT and Ryan (Rachel) Black of Helena, OH; honorary daughter, Laurie McPherson; seven grandchildren, Ashleigh Taylor, Tyra (Colin) Taylor, Jeffrey Taylor, Dalton Black, Kelsey Black, Trent Black, and Morgan (Andy) Merrick; three great-grandchildren, Jason, Emmett, and Alena; and a sister, Beverly Schmit of Helena.

He was preceded in death by siblings Donna O'Leary



William Rhea "Bill" Alley
Photo Provided by Family of William Rhea "Bill" Alley

and wit was known in his classroom. One year, when his son was in his Chemistry class, a fellow student wondered aloud why his son had an A. Bill jokingly replied, "Well, he should – he wrote the tests." Everyone in the classroom broke out laughing. This moment captures his wit and humor, and the memorable environment he worked so hard to create while educating young minds.

To Bill, teaching was more than simply educating on a subject. It was deeply important to him to challenge students to think critically, reason through the problem, and apply the logic he was imparting. He knew students might not choose a career in his subjects, but he also knew the ability to reason and think with logic would last them for a lifetime.

In addition to teaching, Bill held a variety of other jobs to support his family. He and Evelyn managed the Townsend Housing Senior apartments for many years, he worked at the sawmill, served many summers as the county mosquito manager, and, for more than 30 years, proudly worked at Deep Creek Cemetery.

Bill lived his life in service to others. He proudly served his country in the Air Force, devoted himself to his students, and supported young athletes by managing Little League teams and refereeing basketball games. He served his community on the Board of Directors for the Broadwater Food Pantry and was an active member of the United Methodist Church.

But most of all, he loved serving his family and serving the Lord. He was at his best when helping someone or meeting a need he knew would make a difference. For many years, he gladly donated blood, knowing his blood type was rare and often needed for NICU babies. His love of kids extended beyond his own family and students to tiny babies he would never meet, trusting his donation could help those in need.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother, Alice; his father, Harry; and his older brother Harry Jr. He is survived by his loving wife, Evelyn, of Townsend; his daughter Kimberly Martin of Helena; his son, Bill (Tami) Alley of Polson; his daughter, Karen (Mark Douglass) Alley of Helena; his younger brothers Roy of Whitehall and Andy of Plentywood; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Bill's cremains will be laid to rest in Deep Creek Cemetery. In honor of his memory and legacy, the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his name to the Broadwater Food Pantry, the Broadwater Community Foundation, or the Deep Creek Cemetery. Bill was deeply committed to these causes, and such donations will continue to support the community he so loved to serve.

A memorial service in celebration of Bill's life will be at 2:00 PM Friday, March 27, 2026, at the Townsend United Methodist Church, 200 N. Cedar St in Townsend. Burial with military honors will follow at Deep Creek Cemetery, located at 50 Deep Creek Road.

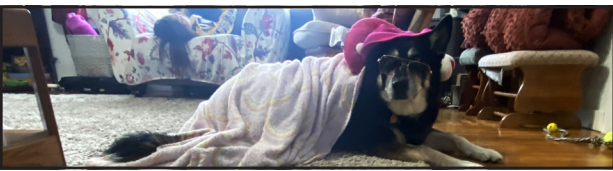
The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center and Cooney Healthcare and Rehab Center for the exceptional care and compassion they showed to Bill and his family. The nurses, doctors, and staff at the VA provided attentive and thorough care, and the team at Cooney offered compassionate support to both Bill and his family during his short stay, as well as the St. Peter's hospice nurses who provided him care.



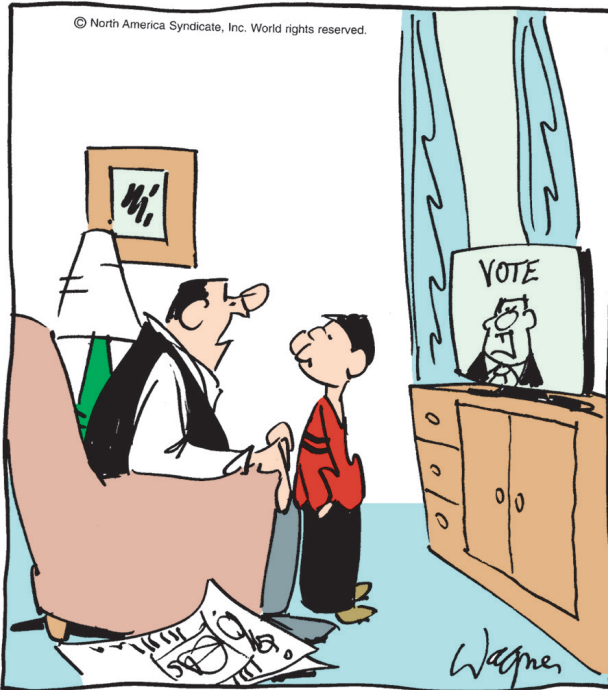
Richard "Dick" Black
Photo Provided by Family of Richard "Dick" Black and Glen Black.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no scheduled visitation or services. A private gathering of his immediate family will take place at a later date.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

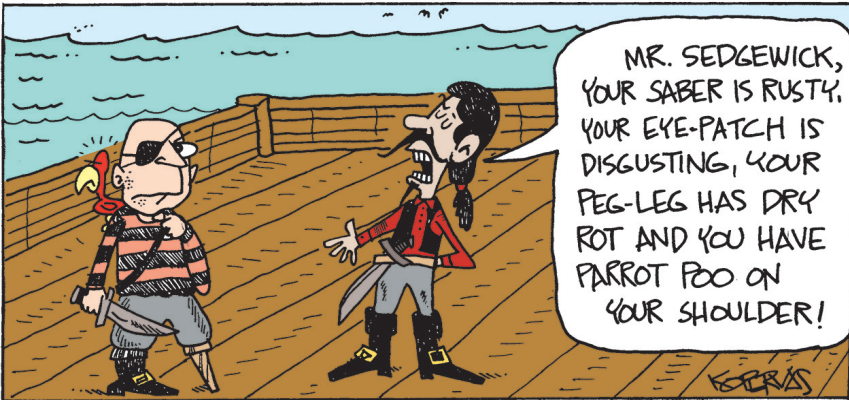
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Super Crossword

Answers

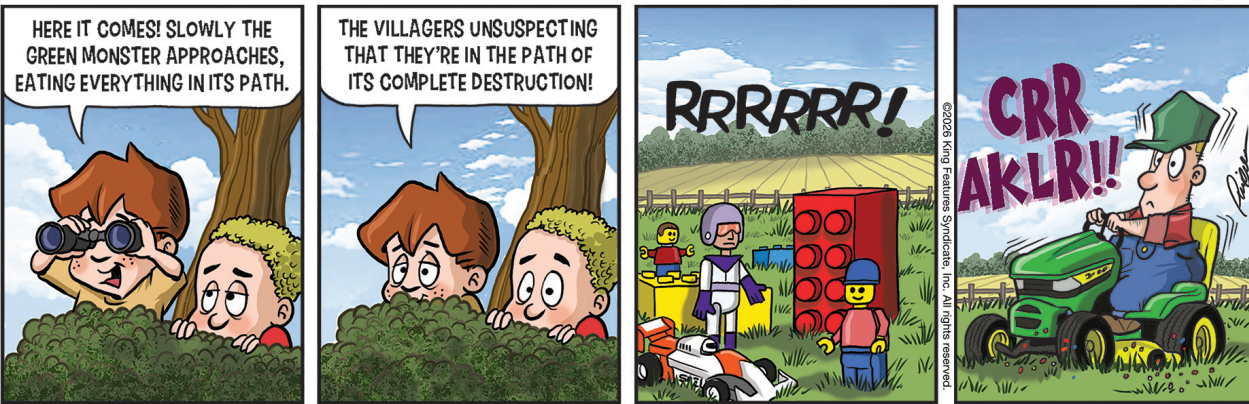
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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

Amber Waves

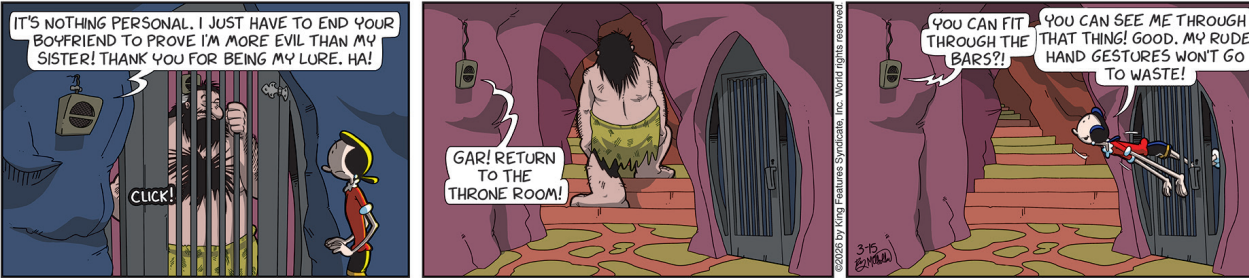
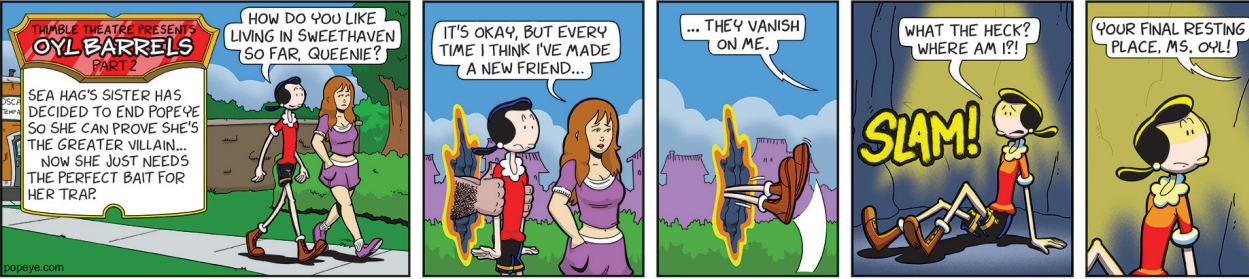
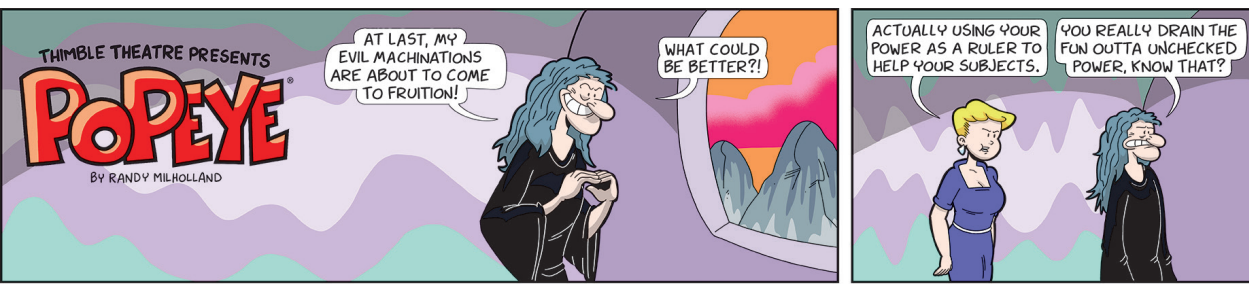


by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

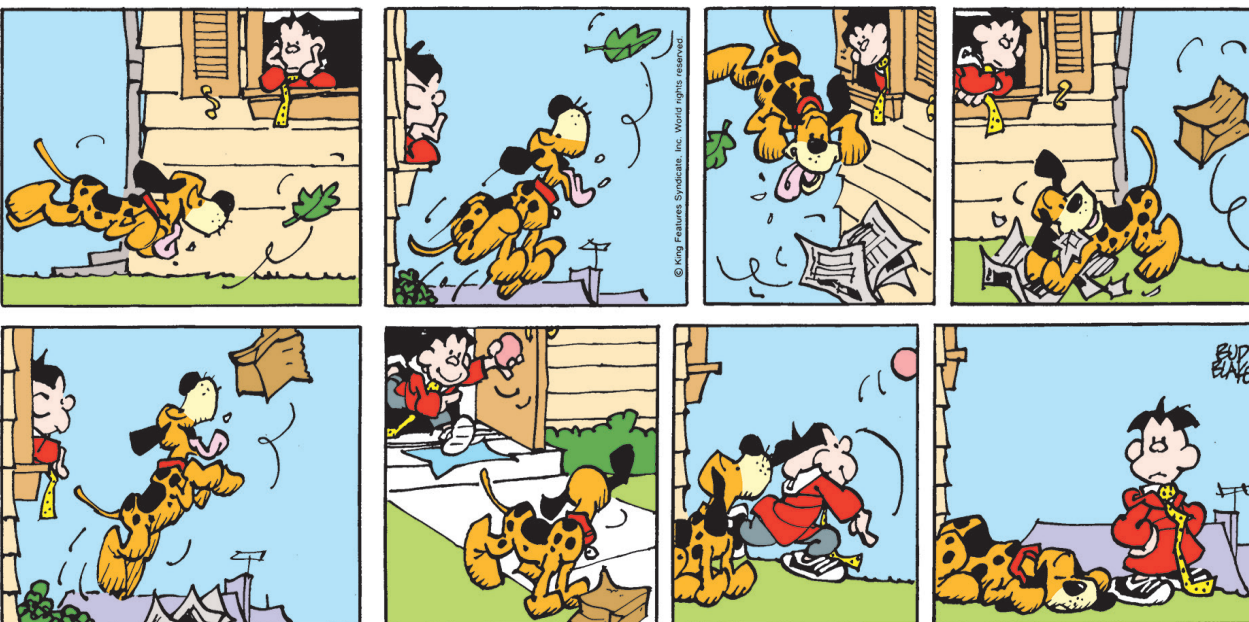


by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

N	M	C
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CINNAMON

CryptoQuip

answer
 At the mollusks' saloon, one of the most popular cocktails they offer is a rusty snail.

SCRAMBLERS

solution
 1. Parade; 2. Manner
 3. Mental; 4. Sacred
 Today's Word
SEPARATE

MT 43 News, Inc.

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 Advertising: **Tue 11 a.m.**
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Whispers of the Past

Shelley Douthett



John Hanson Marker
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

Let's talk about the railroad, the Northern Pacific Railroad. The town of Centerville was started in 1870. It was platted and lots were sold, ranches were born, people came. Centerville was deemed well-suited for potential ferry and steamboat business on the Missouri River. Surveyors for the railroad decided not to use the Centerville location. In 1878, an area about a mile south was selected for the route location. There was nothing there until the railroad set up a depot and from then on, a town sprang up with the land platted, platted and lots sold. Most of the businesses and residents moved pretty much everything to the new town, Townsend, over the years.

I've researched cause of death for the folks interred at Centerville and been amazed at the number of deaths that can be attributed to the workings of the railroad. Trains were deadly for workers and citizens. Just thinking about the kind of deaths these were makes me a little queasy.

Robert Smith, a quartz miner from Ireland, was struck by a train engine in 1917. The county paid \$10 for his burial.

Charles Sheldon, a worker for the Sullivan Gold Mining Company, was killed by a train while driving during a blizzard near Winston in 1936.

John G. Rickman was a brakeman who was buried in a landslide that had caused the train to go off the tracks near Lombard.

C. J. 'Shorty' Moody was a porter on the train. Cause of death unknown. He was only 26 years old.

John C. Hanson was a section foreman for the railroad at Lombard and was killed in an accident that broke both femurs and his neck. He died of internal injuries at the age of 47. He has a nice headstone with a sign that says 'Railroadman'.

These are just a few of the people who lost their lives due to the railroad. There may be more out at Centerville, but their stories are lost. I'm guessing there are more in some of the cemeteries scattered



John Hanson Headstone
Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

around what became Broadwater County. John Hanson is the only one with an actual headstone. The rest are somewhere in the Centerville Cemetery but are unmarked. I often wonder if their families knew what became of them.

In the meantime, I've been working a bit out there, chopping out cactus, restoring the rock borders around gravesites, and pruning shrubs. Birds of all kinds are making their appearance, and I've already yelled at the robins not to poop on the headstones. It seems like the gulls have come early but it's fun to watch them bob and weave in the wind currents as they go by. There's no sign of life on the osprey nest platforms, but they still have a month or two to make an appearance. Gophers are everywhere and I get a kick out of watching my dogs, Tank and Maizy, chase them. I keep filling up the gopher holes with cactus and rocks.

Work out there will stall soon when I get my knee replaced in the next week. I wonder if I'll finally look graceful getting up and down off the ground after surgery. Time will tell. I'm just glad no one sees me now.

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- Sandfire, 8**
- Supporting educational programs and youth initiatives that expand opportunities for local students;
 - Establishing an Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund dedicated to Meagher County to support new and existing small businesses and encourage economic diversification; and
 - Environmental Stewardship and Transparency through:
 - Initiatives that enhance the resilience of the Meagher County environment and the Smith River watershed near the project area;
 - Weed management around the mine site and nearby waterways while supporting broader regional weed control efforts consistent with best practices and existing landowner agreements; and
 - Working with an independent water/environmental consultant to provide additional transparency and technical review of environmental monitoring information.

"Signing the MOU represents a landmark voluntary partnership demonstrating how responsible underground mining can work in concert with local communities to support economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, and long-term community vitality," said Nancy Schlepp, VP of Communications and Government Relations for Sandfire America. "Our Company motto is 'Doing it right from the beginning,' and what better way to encompass this mission than taking care of our community that directly supports Black Butte Copper."

A binding decision to proceed with the framework described above remains subject to final approval of the CBA by the governing authorities of both Sandfire America and the MCSC. The entire document can be found on the MCSC website at <https://meaghercountystewardshipcouncil.org/>




Ask the Philanthropy Expert

MCF Gift & Estate Planning Director
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Heather Ohs

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

March 28

1903

Local News

Mark Timmons, of Winston, paid this section a pleasant call Monday.

John Galvau and wife of Hassel took the morning train Wednesday for Helena.

Bennie Thompson spent a few days in the vicinity of Bozeman last week in quest of some fine stock cows.

Hugh Broderick, who has been located at Winston for a year, has returned to Confederate where he will hold forth during the summer at the old place.

Arthur McGugin has removed to Radersburg and commenced operations as tonsorial artist in that place. Arthur knows how to fix the boys up as to please their best girls.

1925

Local News

Leo Connors is confined to his home this week with a slight attack of measles.

Father Kelly of Mr. St. Charles College was in Townsend Sunday and preached the sermon in the morning at Holy Cross Church.

Henry Westergreen and J.R. Malicole of Winston were business callers in Townsend Thursday.

Adnah M. Kimpton of Radersburg spent Monday in Townsend.

Mr. and Mrs. D.J. McCarthy of Helena were Townsend visitors on Tuesday of this week.

Don't overlook the bargains in all kinds of jewelry at Horner's Saturday.

Jim Perkins and Jim Marks of Helena are in Townsend

today (Thursday) transacting business.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gabisch were capital city visitors on Monday driving home in the evening in a new Chevrolet car.

1953

4-H Club Notes

Canton Homemakers 4-H Club

The Canton Homemakers 4-H Club organized March 19 at the home of the leader, Mrs. Sewell Marks. Mrs. John Plymale, assistant leader.

The following officers were elected: president, Barbara Shuman; vice president, Elaine Bieber; secretary-treasurer, Barbara Neild; report Marcia Neild; recreation leader, Irene Bieber. Our project is sewing. Other members present were Barbara Plymale, Julia Bieber, Janice Kieckbusch, Carol Miller, Kay Gilstrap, Judy Snell, Delores Merrit, Myrna Davison.

Record books were passed out and first, third and fifth pins were awarded. The next meeting will be April 2nd at the Neild home.----Marcia Neild Reporter.

Old Baldy 4-H Club

The Old Baldy 4-H club held a meeting at the home of Jim Van Meter on March 19, 1953.

We practiced judging and made plans to go to the Winter Fair in Bozeman with our leader, Sewell Marks. After the meeting refreshments were served by Mrs. Van Meter.----Jim Van Meter, Club Reporter.

Stitch 'N Stir 4-H Club

The Stitch 'n Stir club met in the home of Diana Schiltz on Mar. 16, 1953. The members present were Adalee Olsen, Ann Etwiler, Marie Shindoll, Karen Ann Olsen, Mardee McElwee, Judy Olsen, Carole Ann McElwee, and Joyce Massey. Each member read poems they made

up about themselves.

Diana Schiltz demonstrated how to make a tailor tack stitch.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Schiltz.----Joyce Massey, Reporter

1970

Four Area Youths Place in Annual Electric Fair
Vigilante Electric's annual Electric Fair, which this year drew a total of 72 entries, saw four area youths place in the various categories. They are as follows:

Electric Constructed – Steve Stanfill, Toston, first.

Electric Demonstration – Ray Webb, Toston, First; Steve Berberet, Toston, Second and Bill Kirley, Townsend, Fourth.

Has Respect for Local Hospital

Roland Fisher of Helena, who was in Townsend Monday to present a certificate to Broadwater Hospital will be remembered by a number of local citizens as the victim of a serious gunshot wound, and a patient in the hospital back in 1942.

He and a companion were hunting down in Canton Valley when the companion stumbled and his shotgun went off accidentally and shot young Fisher. The wound was so large that the youth stuck a shirt in the hole to slow the bleeding until Fisher could be moved to the hospital. Norman Bruce, then sheriff, Dr. McKillican, Gene Connors, the late Dr. Nash, Howard Doggett and perhaps others, waded in real deep snow to bring the victim out on a stretcher.

Monday Fisher said, "I have a great deal of respect for this hospital...I am alive today because of its efficiency and fine doctors".

Back in those days, blood banks were not immediately available and a number of local people gave blood to save the life of Fisher.

Wylie Galt Rolls Out New Property Tax Cap Initiative

Tom Lutey
Montana Free Press

A new initiative to cap local property tax increases at 2% was rolled out Monday by Republican legislator Wylie Galt of Martinsdale.

The initiative would amend the state Constitution to cap property tax increases by all local governments at 2%, except for increases related to property improvements, like a new deck, or new property such as newly built homes. The cap applies to "residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, timber and all other property tax classifications."

This is the third property tax-related initiative attempting to qualify for the 2026 ballot. Two have already been approved for signature gathering.

As a state senator, Galt was instrumental in passing two property tax bills in the 2025 Montana Legislature that created a \$90 million homeowner tax rebate and restructured property taxes, creating a lower rate for primary residences while raising rates for non-primary residential properties.

Two of Galt's fellow Republican senators, Taxation Committee Chair Greg Hertz and Majority Leader Tom McGillvray, along with former state Sen. Keith Regier, are suing over the new tax law, arguing that Galt's bill, backed by Gov. Greg Gianforte, changed too many sections of the law at once. If the lawsuit is successful, there's a chance the state could be ordered to reset tax law to 2024 terms.

"While the property tax reforms, I think HB 231, and SB 542, and Senator Galt sponsored one of those, have helped alleviate residential property taxes across the board, people still want more relief," said Travis Hall, spokesperson for the initiative.

Hall was Gianforte's senior adviser, but left the administration earlier this year. "Montanans still want relief, and ultimately this is going to be their decision in November after it qualifies for the ballot."

On average, county property taxes grew 6.19% a year between 2001 and 2022, Hall said. The statistic comes from the Legislative Fiscal Division.

To make the ballot, the initiative will have to pass scrutiny by the state legislative services division and Attorney General Austin Knudsen, a process that can take several weeks. If approved for signature gathering, the initiative will need the qualified signatures of more than 60,000 Montana voters by June 19 to qualify to appear on the November ballot.

Local government officials contacted for this article on Monday said they didn't yet know enough about the initiative to discuss its effects.

The cap wouldn't apply to school district mills or levies, or to tax increases approved by a majority of voters.

"I'm proud of the reforms we made with Gov. Gianforte in 2025 to permanently cut property taxes for 80% of Montana homeowners, but we must do more," Galt said in a press release. "We need to cap property taxes to make things more affordable for Montanans."

The author of two property tax cap initiatives that have already qualified for signature gathering, former Republican state legislator Matt Monforton, said Galt's initiative allows too many exceptions to effectively limit local property tax growth.

"This is exactly what you would expect from the tax-and-spend Republicans in charge of our state," Monforton said. "We can start off with the exceptions that are in subsection three, which is the fact that a simple majority of voters can raise taxes, and the so-called cap doesn't apply to school districts. Those are the two biggest drivers of property taxes."

Monforton is the attorney representing the legislators suing the state over the new property tax law passed in 2025.

Monforton's Constitutional Initiative 129 would "limit the annual increase in the valuation of a primary residence to 2% when assessing property taxes unless there are changes to the residence or a change of

ownership. New primary residences would be assessed at fair market value as of Jan. 1 of the year following their construction."

Monforton's Constitutional Initiative 130 would "limit annual increases in the valuation of real property to 2% when assessing property taxes unless there are changes to the real property or a change of ownership, in which case the real property would be assessed at fair market value starting Jan. 1 of the following year."

For both initiatives, purchases or transfers of real property between spouses or between parents and children are not considered changes in ownership for assessment purposes. CI-130 adopts the primary residence tax classification created by the 2025 Legislature.

The legislative fiscal division has 14 days to review Galt's initiative and suggest necessary changes, after which the attorney general has 30 days to check for legal sufficiency, meaning that Galt could hear back from the state with next steps by early May at the latest.



Senator Wylie Galt
Photo Provided