

Lion's Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt was Held at Heritage Park

Matt Nelson



On the morning of Saturday, April 4th, the Lions Club Annual Easter Egg hunt was held at Heritage Park. The Townsend Broadwater County Lions Club is part of the Lions Club International. There were four separate areas marked off for kids ages 0 to 3 years old, 4 to 6 years old, 7 to 9 years old, and 10 to 12 years old. An estimated total of 300 to 500 kids were lined up in their separate age group boundaries, waiting for the siren of a nearby fire truck to sound at exactly 10 AM.

Once the siren sounded, it was like throwing a small rock into a beehive. The kids were off and running, and probably the majority of all the plastic Easter eggs were found within a minute or so. There were lots of happy kids.

Two ladies were dressed up as Easter bunnies, and often the parents of the kids took photos of the kids and the two bunnies. Inside some of the eggs there was a piece of paper telling the kids that they had won a chocolate bunny as a prize.

Teena Larson, the President of the Townsend Broadwater County Lions Club and Dela Chatriand, the Treasurer, handed out two different foot-high candy awards. One was Peter Rabbit, and the other was Hopsalot. It didn't take long for the winners to start chomping on their chocolate prizes!

Special thanks go to the volunteers of the Lions Club. Every year they do a fantastic job of sponsoring this event.



The kids were off and hunting for eggs as soon as they heard the siren of the fire engine.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Happy Easter Egg Hunters L-R Brooklyn, Canton, Collins, Finley, Taeley, and Rieley.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Lions Club Treasurer Dela Chatriand and President Teena Larson with the Peter Rabbit and Hopsalot chocolate bunnies.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



The two Easter Bunnies
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Easter Bunny Visits Radersburg

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Yes, the Easter Bunny really did come to Radersburg on Saturday. The bunny (Madelyne Truesdell) herded kids to hunt eggs, and helped toddlers find eggs.

The event, originally organized some years ago by Leslie Heisey, is hosted by the Radersburg Community, according to Jackie Smith. She and 4-H members stuffed 900 plastic eggs with candy Friday night. The most coveted eggs were found by hunters who won Easter baskets provided by the group. The winners were toddlers division: Sawyer Sanderson, ages 4-6; Kaisley Gullickson, ages 7-9; Oakland Lawson and ages 10-12; and Rhylee Hitchcock.

As the 11 o'clock hour drew near, grandparents, parents, kids and dogs gathered at the starting line. Within a minute and 90 seconds, the entire event was over. Jackie invited all to come to the lunch feast provided by community members. Smith commented that they served around 60 people.



Radersburg Community members gather at the Radersburg Rural Fire Department building to prepare for the community's annual Easter Egg Hunt.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Older kids make a run for it to find coveted red eggs which would bring finders a large Easter basket.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Charlie the goat decked out in Easter garb with his handlers from left: Rhylee Hitchcock, Josie and Clyde Frazier.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

New Stewards of the Blue Star Memorial

Marilyn Lane

The Blue Star Memorial Program is a national initiative by the National Garden Clubs to honor all men and women serving in the United States Armed Services. The Blue Star By-Way Marker can be placed in any garden setting and is a symbol of respect and remembrance for those who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces. On June 14, 2006, Townsend dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Garden on the corner of Broadway and Oak, across from the Courthouse.

Many supported the project; Badger Material donated gravel, Big B donated the cement, William Lane Construction poured and stamped the Cobblestone, maintaining the finish every few years. Country Floral Gardens donated half of the roses. The garden design was drawn and laid out by Ruth Layton of the Townsend Garden Club. Additionally, a Blue Star Memorial Garden veteran's tree (Acer tataricum 'Patdell', Pattern Perfect Tatarian Maple, donated by Sharley Ragen) was planted in spring 2006 in the northwest corner of Veteran's Memorial Park to honor all deceased veterans. The Tree Board and the Townsend Garden Club planted it.

Each year the Garden is planted by Memorial Day; summer maintenance was shared among Garden Club members. This season, Marilyn Lane, President of the Garden Club, decided to reach out to Allison Kosto of MSU Extension for support due to decreased membership. Happily, there was an offer from members of two different programs offered by The Broadwater County Extension. Debbie Flynn from the Montana Master Gardener program and Angie Janacaro of the Big Sky, Big Leadership program, will take on the upkeep of the Blue Star Memorial.

When you pass the Blue Star Memorial, we hope you take a moment to reflect on this symbol of hope and pride to all who have served and are now serving in our Armed Forces. Thank you to all the Garden Club members who have been a part of creating this living tribute, and to the Master Gardener program and Big Sky, Big Leadership program, who will continue this honorable tradition.

Though the Townsend Garden Club is not as active as they once were, they still offer scholarships to local high school students each year. For more information on scholarships, contact Mike Schnittgen (mschnittgen@townsend.k12.mt.us).



Pictured left to right: Kathryn McBee, Lynette Dyk, Marilyn Lane & Carla Stephens
Photo Provided by: Marilyn Lane

Bulldog Track: Avery Stiles Memorial Meet

MT43 News Sports Reporter

The Broadwater Bulldog track team traveled to Boulder for the Avery Stiles Memorial Meet on Friday, April 3rd, which was delayed by a day due to weather. This delay resulted in a lot of athletes having conflicts and, therefore unable to attend. However, due to the size of our team, there were still loads of Bulldogs to cheer on.

Junior Kyla Meissner doubled up with wins in the 1600 & 3200-meter runs, punching her ticket to state in the shorter distance with a qualifying time. Sophomore Elaine MacDonald snagged a runner-up finish in the 200-meter dash with her best time of 28.19. Junior Tavyn Anderson was victorious in the 300-meter hurdles, while also finishing third in the 110-meter hurdles and 4th/5th in the triple and long jumps. Fellow junior Jim Tew placed third in the long jump with a distance of 20'6" which qualifies him for state! He also managed to finish 2nd in the short hurdles, 6th in the triple jump, and anchor the 4x100-meter relay to a 4th place finish.

Seniors Trace Giomi and Gavin Green scored well for the Bulldogs. Trace was 2nd in the shot put and 3rd in the discus, while Gavin was runner-up in the 1600-meter by 0.05 of a second and 4th in the 800-meter run. The men tallied 97 points to finish third, while the ladies finished fifth with twenty-eight points collectively.

Boy's Varsity:

100-meter dash: 8 Bryce Lessley 12.09, 15 Ryker Moos 12.29, 19 Logan Johnson 12.56, 26 Pat Gossard 13.01, 33 Max Wickens 13.60, 34 Gavin Johnson 13.70, 37 Kyler Brake 14.10, 41 Alex Johnson 14.63.

200-meter dash: 5 Bryce Lessley 25.33, 15 Gavin Johnson 29.01, 18 Alex Johnson 32.10.

400-meter dash: 2 Bryce Lessley 57.14, 3 Logan Johnson 58.13, 5 Isaiah Lapsley 1:00.68, 11 Gavin Johnson 1:04.17, 17 Kyler Brake 1:12.12.

800-meter run: 4 Gavin Greene 2:17.70, 5 Clayton Rice 2:27.54, 9 Alex Johnson 3:03.16.

1600-meter run: 2 Gavin Greene 4:57.14, 7 Clayton Rice 5:24.66, 8 Isaiah Lapsley 5:31.16.

110-meter hurdles: 2 Jim Tew 16.73, 3 Tavyn Anderson 17.89.

300-meter hurdles: 1 Tavyn Anderson 45.80. 4x100-meter relay: 4 B. Lessley, T. Giomi, L. Johnson & J. Tew 47.17.

4x400-meter relay: 3 G. Greene, L. Johnson, B. Lessley, G. Johnson 4:00.36.

Shot Put: 2 Trace Giomi 43'11", 8 Pat Gossard 36'4", 12 Tanner Bird 34'2", 26 Braylon Rice 28'7", 33 Aiden Mosher 24'4", 34 Creighton Wright 23'3".

Discus: 3 Trace Giomi 136'10", 10 Tanner Bird 103'5.5", 14 Pat Gossard 95'8", 17 Marek Easter 89'9", 30 Creighton Wright 65'10", 31 Aiden Mosher 64'3", 33 Braylon Rice 59'11".

Javelin: 4 Pat Gossard 137', 7 Marek Easter 129'11", 17 Tanner Bird 102', 32 Creighton Wright 63'11", 34 Braylon Rice 57'5".

Long Jump: 3 Jim Tew 20'6", 5 Tavyn Anderson 19'9",



Juniors Tavyn Anderson and Jim Tew side-by-side in the 110-meter hurdles, finishing 3rd and 2nd. Photo Credit: MT43 News Reporter



Elaine MacDonald remained determined down the line to finish 2nd in the 200-meter dash. Photo Credit: MT43 News Reporter

8 Logan Johnson 19'2.5", 22 Ryker Moos 16'7.75", 25 Max Wickens 16'4.25", 30 Kyler Brake 13'3".

Triple Jump: 4 Tavyn Anderson 38"10.5", 6 Jim Tew 37'3.5", 11 Kyler Brake 30'3.5".

High Jump: 14 Max Wickens 5'2".

Girls' Varsity:

100-meter dash: 7 Elaine MacDonald 13.79, 13 Kinsley Heggen 14.55, 19 Logan Barkhurst 15.00, 20 Hannah Hildreth 15.03, 22 Alexis Fryer 15.13, 23 Abby Allen 15.25.

200-meter dash: 2 Elaine MacDonald 28.19, 9 Logan Barkhurst 31.36, 14 Alexis Fryer 32.50, 15 Hannah Hildreth 32.53, 18 Abby Allen 33.09, 21 Chloe Johnson 43.59.

400-meter dash: 8 Logan Barkhurst 1:12.53, 10 Abby Allen 1:17.46, 11 Alexis Fryer 1:19.29, 12 Chloe Johnson 1:43.34.

1600-meter run: 1 Kyla Meissner 5:16.53.

3200-meter run: 1 Kyla Meissner 11:35.81.

Shot Put: 10 Tayleigh Anderson 27', 12 Kinsley Heggen 24', 16 Alex Bakken 19'5", 19 Chloe Johnson 17'9", 20 Destiny Grandy 17'0.5".

Discus: 10 Tayleigh Anderson 70'2.5", 12 Kinsley Heggen 67'1.5", 16 Alex Bakken 52'2", 18 Destiny Grandy 47'11".

Javelin: 8 Kinsley Heggen 73'1", 10 Tayleigh Anderson 68', 16 Alex Bakken 52'3".



Tennis - Hailey Hildreth Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Golf - Alex Weiss Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Golf - Jazel Ragen Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Track - Bryce Lessley Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Track - Alex Bakken Townsend Booster Club Photo

2026 Basketball Shooting Challenge

Mike Schmidt
Fairfield High School

Registration is now open for the 2026 Shooting Challenge, a summer basketball skill-development program running May 1 through June 30, 2026. The challenge is open to boys and girls in Pre-K through grade 12 and is designed to help players build consistency, improve their shooting, and stay engaged during the offseason.

Participants work toward age-appropriate shot goals by grade band, report their progress throughout the challenge, and can follow the program on a public standings and information page.

Registration costs \$20.00 through April 15, \$25.00 from April 16 through April 30, and \$30.00 beginning May 1.


Over 100% of registration fees are paid back in the form of prizes. References from past participants are available.

Organizers are also planning new mini-challenges, a Level Up system, and an XP points system to make the program even more fun and motivating.

To register, visit: <https://form.fillout.com/t/hlh6wl1e0Fus>.

For standings and more information, visit: <https://www.fairfieldbasketballclub.com/shooting>.

For questions, contact Mike Schmidt at mschmidt@fairfield.k12.mt.us or 406-590-2677.



ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

ANGIE PAULSEN

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ballots will be mailed to the voters on April 17, 2026, for the election of two (2) Townsend School District No. 1 Board Trustees for three-year terms. The candidates who will be on the ballot are: **Jean M. Hodges, Jason Kool, Chase Patrick G. Ragen**

The number of candidates who filed for the 1-year Trustee term is equal to or fewer than the available positions. Therefore, the following candidate has been elected by acclamation in accordance with Montana Code Annotated 13-1-304: **Judy R. Gillespie**

This election will be conducted by MAIL BALLOT ONLY. The regular polling places will not be open. The place of deposit and the days and times when ballots may be returned to the place of deposit before election day and on election day are:

BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER'S OFFICE
515 Broadway
Townsend, MT 59644
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Election Day, May 5, 2026, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

In order to be counted, ballots must be received at the election office by 8:00 PM on Election Day, May 5, 2026. If you have questions about your ballot, please call 406-266-3405. If you believe you should receive a ballot and did not, ballot(s) may be obtained at the Clerk and Recorder's office. If you have moved, please ensure your registration is updated to your current address. After April 6, you must register to vote in person. Registration will also be available on election day from 7 AM to 8 PM.

DATED this 30th day of March 2026

ANGIE PAULSEN
BROADWATER COUNTY
Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor

Broadwater County CLERK & RECORDER Office · 515 Broadway · Townsend, MT 59644
Phone (406) 266-3405 · Fax (406) 266-4502
www.broadwatercountymt.gov

Published April 3, 10 and 17, 2026



Become a Classroom Mentor

Volunteer with the Foster Grandparent Program today.

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



Call 406-447-1680 or visit rmdc.net



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

Broadwater County Search and Rescue Team Receive Training on Evacuation Procedures



Broadwater County Undersheriff Jamie Buck.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson



On Thursday, April 2, members of Broadwater County Search and Rescue gathered for an evacuation training procedure. Jamie Buck, the newly appointed Broadwater County Undersheriff, spoke about evacuation procedures to the members. Nineteen people were present at the meeting, including other members of the Broadwater County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff Buck's excellent presentation centered on a recent fire on Eustis Road in Three Forks and the necessary evacuation of the residents. While BWC-SAR members were not participants of that particular evacuation, the purpose of this presentation was to let



Members of the BSCSAR team attending the training.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

them know what to do and what to expect. During the evacuation, Broadwater County Deputies went to each home and told the people living there that they needed to evacuate. Many people chose to do so and quickly gathered their essentials and left. Before evacuating the individuals were required to sign a form that contained their contact information and their evacuation location.

Some individuals refused the evacuation order and they had to sign a form saying that's what they were doing. These individuals were warned that they were responsible for themselves, and they might not be rescued if the fire got too close. The deputies also told the people which roads they should travel on during

the evacuation. BWCSAR completed this exercise in the event they are called to assist the Sheriff's Office with this sort of evacuation for a natural emergency.

The BWCSAR falls under the leadership of the Sheriff's office. As the name implies, they perform searches and rescues in the mountains, out on Canyon Ferry Lake and the Missouri River, etc. They are given extensive training in First Aid and radio communications and follow careful coordination with each other and other first responders, including the fire department.

Broadwater County Search and Rescue is always looking for volunteers. If interested in joining, contact the sheriff's office at 406-266-3141

Measles Exposure at St. Peter's Emergency Room March 29 and 30

JoVonne Wagner
MT Free Press

Published originally by Montana Free Press:
<https://montanafreepress.org/2026/03/31/helena-measles-exposure/>

After a recent measles exposure at St. Peter's Health emergency department in Helena, public health officials are urging the public to avoid unannounced medical visits if they suspect they might have the highly contagious disease.

In a press release, the Lewis and Clark County Public Health Department said that people present at the hospital's emergency department between Sunday, March 29, at 11:20 p.m. and Monday, March 30, at 3 a.m. might have been exposed to measles. The exposure comes after five measles cases have been identified in Lewis and Clark County since March 15, according to the state measles tracking dashboard.

The health department said it is working to identify and contact at-risk people, but did not specify how many people may have been exposed.

"Those residents we can identify as being present at St. Peter's ER during those hours will receive a text message or call from Lewis and Clark Public Health with further directions," said Shelly Maag, a nurse with the department, in the emailed release.

Health officials said there is "no reason to panic" because most of the county's population is immunized against measles, but urged residents who are not immunized to get the MMR vaccine. A department spokesperson did not immediately respond to questions about the county's adult and childhood vaccination rate. Montana discontinued its protocol for tracking immunization rates at the county level after a 2021 state law removed the requirement to do so.

County health officials recommend that anyone who thinks they might have been exposed to measles at the hospital or elsewhere should contact their primary health care provider.

Health officials also strongly advise that people experiencing symptoms should stay home except for testing or treatment.

"It is extremely important that you do not enter a clinic building without calling ahead so that precautions can be taken to avoid exposing others," Maag said. "If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please alert staff upon arrival."

A spokesperson with St. Peter's Health told Montana



Example of measles on small child.
File Photo

Free Press that visitors who suspect they may have been exposed should call the hospital before arriving and not immediately come inside.

"If you need care or testing, please call ahead and wait in your vehicle. This limits community and health care provider exposures," said spokesperson Casey Kyler West, who added that St. Peter's has signs posted outside its facilities with phone numbers for urgent care locations and the emergency department.

The county has also established a self-referral form for individuals to report measles exposures.

Measles symptoms commonly begin seven days to two weeks after exposure but could take as many as 21 days to appear, according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services website. Early symptoms can include a high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Later, tiny white spots may appear inside the mouth, followed by a red rash that begins on the face and spreads to the neck, abdomen, arms, legs and feet, according to health care experts. In severe cases, the virus can be deadly.

The measles virus can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person has left the area.

People at a higher risk for experiencing severe measles symptoms include infants and those who are immunocompromised or pregnant. According to the press release, the recent cases have no connection to any daycares or schools in Lewis and Clark or surrounding counties. The recent cases are part of a resurgence of measles in Montana that began last April. Lewis and Clark County reported its first case in several decades in August. Montana has confirmed 41 measles cases since last spring, according to the state health department's measles dashboard.

New Grazing Agreement Cuts Red Tape with Federal Agencies

Rebecca Colnar
Montana Farm Bureau communications specialist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have created a Memorandum of Understanding which will cut bureaucratic red tape, strengthen coordination between the agencies and provide support for America's ranchers and farmers who rely on public lands. According to the announcement received by the Montana Farm Bureau, the MOU recognizes grazing land permittees as essential partners and directs federal agencies to engage directly with those who live and work on the land.

The key actions include streamlining permitting and processes, reducing delays for grazing permits, strengthening rancher partnerships with learning roundtables, ranch immersion programs for federal employees, which place agency staff on working ranches to build firsthand understanding of realities on the ground, enhancing transparency and data access, wildfire coordination and response, and maintaining the grazing capacity when possible, consistent with law.

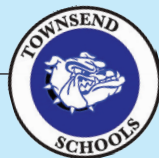
"Ever since the Taylor Grazing Act was enacted into law in 1934 to provide ranches with managed access to federal lands, this country's ranches have been able to use federal lands to feed the nation," said MFBF Vice President Casey Mott, a Miles City rancher. "It's rewarding to have an administration that realizes the benefits of grazing livestock on federal lands. Details like having agency personnel spend time with ranchers instead of sitting at a desk are especially rewarding. This will enable agency employees to see the work ranchers put in responsible land stewardship," said Mott. "Practices to reduce wildfire risk and the reopening of vacant allotments go a long way to improving the federal lands leased for cattle. We look forward to learning more about this MOU and putting these positive plans into practice."

American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall added, "Farmers and ranchers appreciate USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins and Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum for their work to improve access to public lands for grazing. Public lands offer quality grazing grounds for livestock, which in turn reduces wildfire risk and contributes to the vitality of rural communities across the West."

"The MOU will reduce delays, enhance transparency and streamline the approval of grazing permits to help ranchers raise livestock to meet the protein needs of America's families."

Townsend School & Sports

APRIL



- Friday 10**
- SCHOOL IN SESSION
 - Kindergarten Roundup (*No School for Kindergarten*)
 - State SkillsUSA @ Great Falls
 - District Music Festival Band & Choir) at Helena
 - High School Golf at Townsend
 - 10:00 am: High School Track at Laurel
 - 1:00 pm: High School Tennis at Manhattan
- Saturday 11**
- District Music Festival (Solo & Ensemble) at Bozeman
 - 1:00 pm: Middle School Track at Townsend
- Monday 13**
- 9:00 am: High School Golf at Green Meadows, Helena
 - Middle School Golf at Three Forks
 - 4:30 pm: Cartwright Signing - Community Room
- Mon 13 - Thu 16**
- 11:45 am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL - Library Classroom
- Tuesday 14**
- 9:00 am: High School Golf at Bozeman
 - 4:00 pm: High School Baseball vs Lone Peak
 - 5:30 pm: Old Baldy AI Class - Spanish Classroom
 - 6:00 pm: School Board Meeting - Community Room
- Wednesday 15**
- 6:00 pm: School Board Candidate Forum
 - 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps
- Wed 15 & Thu 16**
- 8:30 am: Hanson-Testing at Community Room
- Thursday 16**
- 9:00 am: High School JV Golf at Three Forks
 - 5:45 pm: Adult Volleyball - 1963 Gym
- Thu 16 & Fri 17**
- 6:00 pm: Old Baldy Basic Car Care @ Big Belt Automotive
- Friday 17**
- NO SCHOOL**
 - 9:00 am: High School JV Golf at Townsend
 - 10:00 am: High School Track at Belgrade
 - 12:00 pm: Election Judge Training - Community Room
 - 3:00 pm: High School Baseball vs Park High.
- Fri 17 - Sat 18**
- 9:00 am: High School Tennis at Choteau/Conrad

East Helena Schools & Sports

APRIL

- Fri 10 - Sat 11**
- 8:00 am: District Music Festival
- Monday 13**
- 5:30 pm: School Board Meeting at EVMS

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

APRIL

- Tuesday 14**
- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
 - 10:00 am: Planning Board Meeting **CANCELLED**
- Wednesday 15**
- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting



LIBRARY HOURS

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



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

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



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

APRIL

- Wed 15 & Thu 16**
- 10:30 am: Storytime

April 25th = The Perfect Date

"Not too hot, not too cold"

American Booksellers Association © 2025

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

- Friday 10**
- 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
- Fri 10 - Sat 11**
- Large Moving Sale **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR ADDRESS & DETAILS**
- Saturday 11**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
- Tuesday 14**
- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
 - 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- Wednesday 15**
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 7:30 pm: Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting at 130 S Cedar **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- Thursday 16**
- Townsend Crimson Red Hat Ladies Lunch: Contact Sandy for information 406-949-0081
 - 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 - 6:00 PM: Townsend Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Rocky Mtn Mini Cabins **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 - 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- Friday 17**
- 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
- Saturday 18**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

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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!

The Olde Place

Herbs, Spices, Teas, Sprays
Antiques & Vintage Collectibles

Birds Nest **Booth B-11** Townsend
Kathryn McBee & Family
406-570-0299

Large Moving Sale!

Everything is priced to sell and must go.
Toys, games, books, tools, electronics, furniture, sporting goods, adult & kids clothing, gardening, and much more!

12 Bugle Ct, Winston, MT
10am - 6pm Friday 4/10
8am - 3pm Saturday 4/11

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



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.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



A+ STORAGE
SEVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS
BOATS, RVs & TRAILER STORAGE
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WE ARE AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED US!
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406.266.3108
511 N. Front St., Townsend, MT

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

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

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

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

MADISON RIVER 7812 US-287
Townsend, MT
406-266-4278
A THOMPSON GAS COMPANY
Propane
Metered Propane
Budget Billing
Lease Tanks
Service Department

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

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

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

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

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:
Mon - Thu 7:00AM - 2:00PM
Fri - Sat 10:00AM - 2:00PM
Closed Sunday
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

GEM OF A PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Law enforcers, slangily
- 5 War on Poverty prez
- 8 Husband on "The Munsters"
- 14 Injections
- 19 High hairstyle
- 20 Atop, in verse
- 21 Baltimore pro athlete
- 22 Conical home
- 23 Fifth Avenue retailer of luxury goods
- 25 Pungent sushi paste
- 26 Tibetan, e.g.
- 27 "Cool, dude!"
- 28 Many an intl. charity gp.
- 29 Where to hit a home run
- 31 Simpson trial judge Lance
- 32 Khaki color
- 33 Wartike deity
- 34 Frequently, in verse
- 35 What a dealer deals from
- 38 River vessel
- 41 Parisian play part
- 45 Put in a tomb
- 46 Indian dress
- 47 Stores away
- 48 Closest bud
- 51 Bit of wristwear with small, linked segments
- 56 Rage
- 57 Surgery ctrs.
- 59 Cake layers
- 60 Org. for drs.
- 61 Spike of films
- 62 Food — (post-meal condition)
- 64 Prefix for "milk"
- 66 Become stretched out
- 68 Occasion upon three-score years of marriage
- 73 Building part enclosed by blaze-resistant walls
- 74 Western flick
- 75 Fat-removal option, briefly
- 77 King, in Arles
- 78 Brief slumber
- 79 Green shade
- 81 Four halves
- 84 Zero
- 85 Gift for popping the question
- 89 Point where the moon is farthest from Earth
- 91 Milk farm
- 92 At any point
- 93 Supermodel Kate
- 95 "Jenny" co-star Alan
- 96 Hi-tech organizers
- 97 Footwear for golfer Payne Stewart
- 103 Busy insect
- 105 Fat or protein unit
- 106 Skill, in Latin
- 107 Prevaricate
- 108 Alternative to rhinestone
- 114 Capote, to pals
- 115 Small hotel
- 116 Ordinary
- 117 Cell with an axon
- 118 "Things associated with eight answers in this puzzle
- 120 Helmsley of hotels
- 121 Wash out the mouth audibly
- 122 Busy insect
- 123 Detestable
- 124 Secret rendezvous
- 125 Roots firmly
- 126 Sporty English autos
- 127 Did perfectly
- 1 Rotten
- 1 Downer drug
- 2 Downer drug
- 3 Adobe Acrobat file, for short
- 4 Gut-punch sound
- 5 Way past the time that
- 6 "Crazy in Love" singer
- 7 Third-year H.S. students
- 8 Sportscaster
- 9 Rubs away
- 10 Goes upward
- 11 Utah town near Arches National Park
- 12 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- 13 Moonwalker
- 14 Work crew in Latin
- 15 Hwm and haw
- 16 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
- 17 Greenish shade
- 18 Dispatch
- 24 Oscar nominee
- 29 Pub
- 30 Realtor's unit
- 37 Singer
- 36 DIYer's set
- 37 Singer Garfunkel
- 38 It may be fretless
- 39 Globe
- 40 Sortie signal
- 42 Arresting, informally
- 43 Canary of cartoons
- 44 Perfumer
- 46 Titled man
- 47 Looks over
- 48 Big name in pens
- 49 Relating to an eating-away process
- 50 Somewhat stiff
- 52 Mark indelibly
- 53 Old-time actress
- 54 Genre for "L.A. Confidential"
- 55 Love, in Latin
- 58 Ambient or ZzzQuil, for short
- 63 Wood cutter
- 65 — loss for words
- 66 12/24, e.g.
- 67 Miss
- 69 Sharp-tasting
- 70 "Dies —" (hymn)
- 71 "Avatar" race
- 72 Major Calif.-to-Fla. hwy.
- 73 Disco singer
- 76 Corrida shout
- 79 Wallet wad
- 80 Mailbox item: Abbr.
- 82 Aquatic rodents
- 83 American marsupial
- 86 Graceful, swift horses
- 87 Actress Longoria
- 88 Chap
- 90 Second wife of Lennon
- 94 Arranging on a dish for serving
- 96 Brick-shaped tart candy
- 97 Betrayer
- 98 Old-time actress Ella
- 99 A.M. show since '75
- 100 Facility for outpatients
- 101 Set ablaze
- 102 Felt intuitively
- 104 Brilliant effect
- 105 Grand Coulee, e.g.
- 108 Niche religion
- 109 Exploiter
- 110 Sea marker
- 111 Playwright William
- 112 Extract the juice from
- 113 Hydrant site
- 118 Coulee, e.g.
- 119 Eggs, in labs

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

MISS ANY TEE-TO-GREEN SHOT AND YOU CAN STILL RECOVER. MISS A SHORT PUTT AND IT'S A STROKE GONE FOREVER.

THAT'S WHY THERE'S SUCH HEAVY PRESSURE ON THOSE SO-CALLED "GIMMIES."

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS THE ONLY ANSWER WHICH COMES FROM CONFIDENCE IN YOUR STROKE AND GREENS-READING ABILITY.

SO SPEND TIME ON THE PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN, AS WELL AS ON THE DRIVING RANGE. IF YOU ASPIRE TO BEING A COMPLETE GOLFER.

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: T equals P

TUT ZVM WUSR WSTPKWFZK
EDU ZMUKPW NOWD WSAD ZW
GRSPNOV, JPRRUENOV ZVM
ZRGZAUKP: FSVZ FSKVPK.

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KNIGHT MOVES

E	A	O
L		D
N	R	E

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

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Amuse

LICKET

Forever

WASLAY

Guide

TERSE

Shade

RUMBA

TODAY'S WORD

"I'm feeling fine now — however, my _____ took a turn for the worse!"

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.



NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

To be sold for cash at a Trustee's Sale on July 13, 2026, at 02:00 PM at the South entrance steps of the Broadwater County Courthouse, 515 Broadway Street, Townsend, MT 59644, the following described real property situated in Broadwater County, State of Montana:

LOT 10, BLOCK 39 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF TOWNSEND, BROADWATER COUNTY, MONTANA. More commonly known as 513 N Spruce St, Townsend, MT 59644.

Mitchell Lee Nieters, as Grantor, conveyed said real property to Rocky Mountain Title Guaranty, LLC, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, by Deed of Trust on August 8, 2022, and filed for record in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder in Broadwater County, State of Montana, on August 10, 2022 as Instrument No. 194359, in Book 244, at Page 60 of Official Records.

The Deed of Trust was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
 Assignment Dated: January 28, 2025
 Assignment Recorded: January 28, 2025
 Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 200815, in Book 268, at Page 21
 All in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder for Broadwater County, Montana.

Jason J. Henderson is the Successor Trustee pursuant to a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Broadwater County, State of Montana, on February 24, 2026 as Instrument No. 203323, in Book 279, at Page 337, of Official Records.

The Beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust due to the Grantor(s) failure to make monthly payments beginning November 1, 2024, and each month subsequent, which monthly installments would have been applied on the principal and interest due on said obligation and other charges against the property or loan. By reason of said default, the Beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable. The total amount due on this obligation is the principal sum of \$297,188.14, interest in the sum of \$21,943.24, escrow advances of \$5,472.94, other amounts due and payable in the amount of \$2,530.51 for a total amount owing of \$327,134.83, plus accruing interest, late charges, and other fees and costs that may be incurred or advanced.

The Beneficiary anticipates and may disburse such amounts as may be required to preserve and protect the property and for real property taxes that may become due or delinquent, unless such amounts of taxes are paid by the Grantor. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, the amounts or taxes will be added to the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust. Other expenses to be charged against the proceeds of this sale include the Trustee's fees and attorney's fees, costs and expenses of the sale, and late charges, if any.

Beneficiary has elected and has directed the Trustee to sell the above described property to satisfy the obligation.

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the Beneficiary, excepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid immediately upon the close of bidding in cash or cash equivalents (valid money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks). The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed, without any representation or warranty, including warranty of title, express or implied, as the sale is made strictly on an as-is, where-is basis, without limitation, the sale is being made subject to all existing conditions, if any, of lead paint, mold or other environmental or health hazards. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The Grantor, successor in interest to the Grantor, or any other person having an interest in the property, has the right, at any time prior to the Trustee's Sale, to pay to the Beneficiary, or the successor in interest to the Beneficiary, the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Deed of Trust with Successor Trustee's and attorney's fees. In the event that all defaults are cured the foreclosure will be dismissed and the foreclosure sale will be canceled.

The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation up to 15 days for any reason. In the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the Trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Successor Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2026.
 Jason J. Henderson Substitute Trustee, 38 2nd Avenue East Dickinson, ND 58601.
 Telephone: 801-355-2886
 Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8AM-5PM (MST) File No. MT23544

Published April 3, 10 and 17, 2026

MNAXLP

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 Ruthie Sharon Knowles, Deceased.
 Probate No. ADP-2026-16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Brian Lee Knowles 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 Brain Knowles at 1925 Martha Dr, East Helena, MT 59635, return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.

Dated March 30, 2026.

Published April 10, 17 and 24, 2026

MNAXLP

Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Amythyst Lee Peters: Amythyst Lee Peters, Petitioner
 Case No.: DV-2026-27

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from (your name now) Amythyst Lee Peters

To (name you want) Amythyst Lee Buffington

The hearing will be on (date) 05/08/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM

The hearing will be at the Courthouse in (county) Broadwater County.

Filed Date 3/31/2026

Valerie J Hornveld, Clerk of District Court

By Audrey Plymale, Deputy Clerk of Court

Published April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2026

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGULAR VOTER REGISTRATION AND OPTION FOR LATE REGISTRATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to § 13-2-301 MCA, that regular registration for the 2026 State and Federal Primary election to be held on June 2, 2026, will close at 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2026.

During regular registration, individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration must submit a voter registration form to their county election office.

During late registration, individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration for this election must submit a voter registration form in person to their county election office. As this is a Federal election, late registration will be available at the Broadwater County Elections Office at 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT, from 8am to 5pm on all regular business days, 8am to 5pm on Saturday, May 30, and from 7am to 12pm on June 2. This is due to a change in the late registration statutes that occurred at the 2025 Montana Legislative Session.

Please contact the Broadwater County Elections Office at 406-266-3405 or elections@broadwatercountymt.gov with any questions.

Dated and effective this 6th day of April 2026

/s/ ANGIE PAULSEN BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER | ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR | COUNTY SURVEYOR

Published April 10, 17 and 24, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANNABELLE BARNETT, Deceased.
 Probate No. CDP-26-08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Scott A. Bennett 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 April 3, 2026.

/s/ Peter T. Simon GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC Attorney for Personal Representative

Published April 3, 10 and 17, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID CALVIN STINE, Deceased.
 Probate No. ADP-26-09

NOTICE TO CREDITORS


David N. Stine 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 April 3, 2026.

/s/ Peter T. Simon GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC Attorney for Personal Representative

Published April 3, 10 and 17, 2026

MNAXLP



ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

ANGIE PAULSEN

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TESTING OF VOTING SYSTEM

NOTICE is hereby given that a public test for Broadwater County DS450 Digital Scanner and Express Vote Ballot Marking System will be conducted on April 29, 2026, at 8:15 a.m. in the Clerk and Recorder's Office located at 515 Broadway in Townsend, MT. The test shall be conducted by processing a pre-audited group of ballots from each precinct.

The test will be observed by an Observation Board and is open to representatives of the Political Parties, the Press, and the general public.

DATED this 2nd day of April 2026.

/S/ ANGIE PAULSEN
 BROADWATER COUNTY
 Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor


Published April 10, 2026

MNAXLP

2026 Wildfires Part 2: Fractured Federal Wildland Fire Service Complicates Efforts

Victor Sample
MT43 News


With a warm and very dry winter season in Montana, we can expect a lot of fire activity in 2026. We have already had a number of fires.



Robert Chaney, Mountain Journal, has written a great two-part article about this year's fire outlook and the US Congress's efforts to revamp the nation's firefighting.

To read part 2 of the article, visit the MT-43News website: <https://mt43news.com/mt43newsRouter/2026FiresPart2>

Fun Fact



Irving Ameris' "Piazza San Marco" (1954)

Woodcuts are the oldest form of printmaking. The artist carves a design into a wooden block, and the raised areas that remain are inked and pressed against paper. The parts that remain blank in the final print are where the wood was cut away.

Source: www.metmuseum.org

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SPEED WORKS

Tanner-

Home Improvements & Restoration Specialist

Larry

General Property Maintenance & Handyman Services

Larry: 406-502-8607 | Tanner: 406-439-9765

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

E	A	O
L		D
N	R	E

OLEANDER

CryptoQuip

answer

Pop and soul superstar who adores fish such as bluefin, yellowfin and albacore: Tuna Turner.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Tickle; 2. Always
3. Steer; 4. Umbra

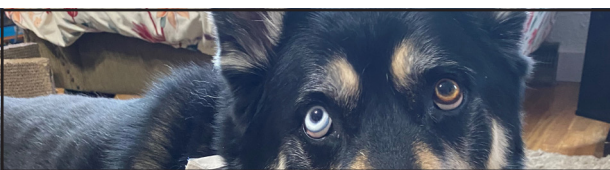
Today's Word

WALLET

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

4:30 ON A FRIDAY AND THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE ME. THAT'S LIKE VACATIONING WITH MY IN-LAWS. THERE'S NO UPSIDE.



GRIN and BEAR IT

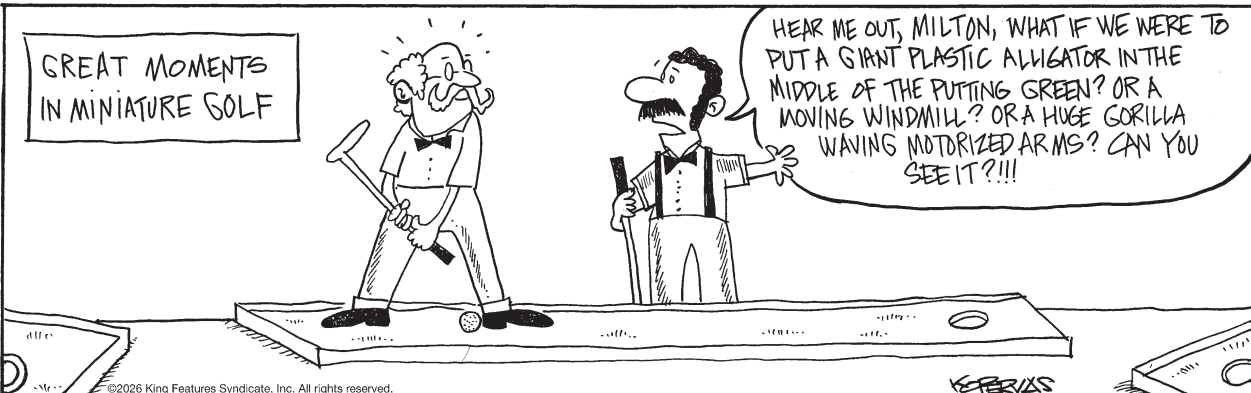
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"We had a much bigger supply, but the Army bought most of it back."

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tie is missing; 2. Word on box is different; 3. Finger is moved; 4. Pencil is moved; 5. Wall is wider; 6. Chart on wall is moved.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

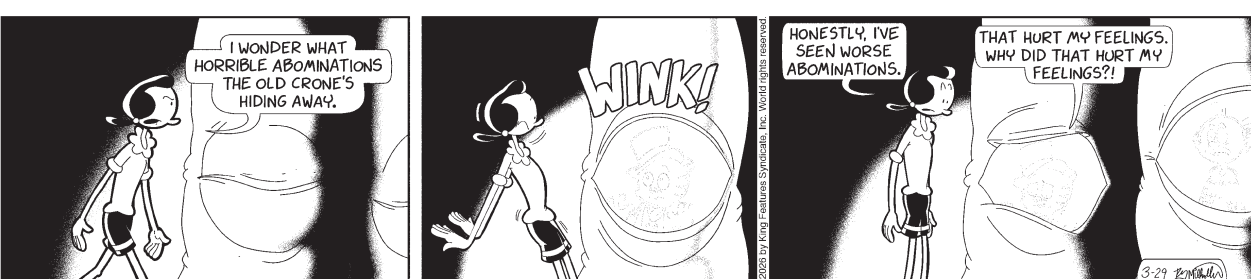
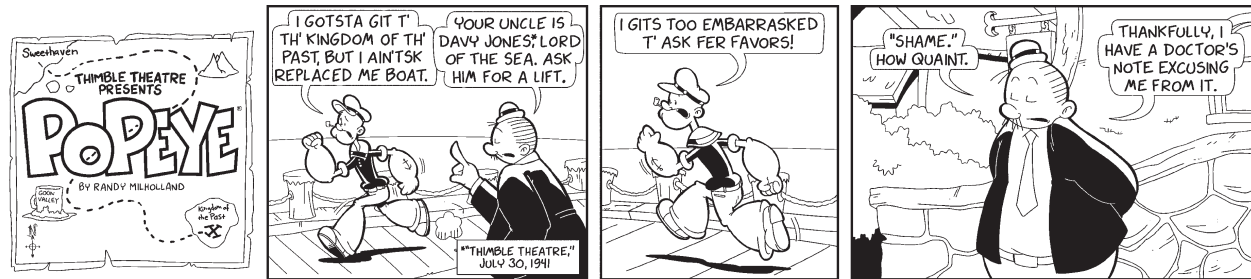
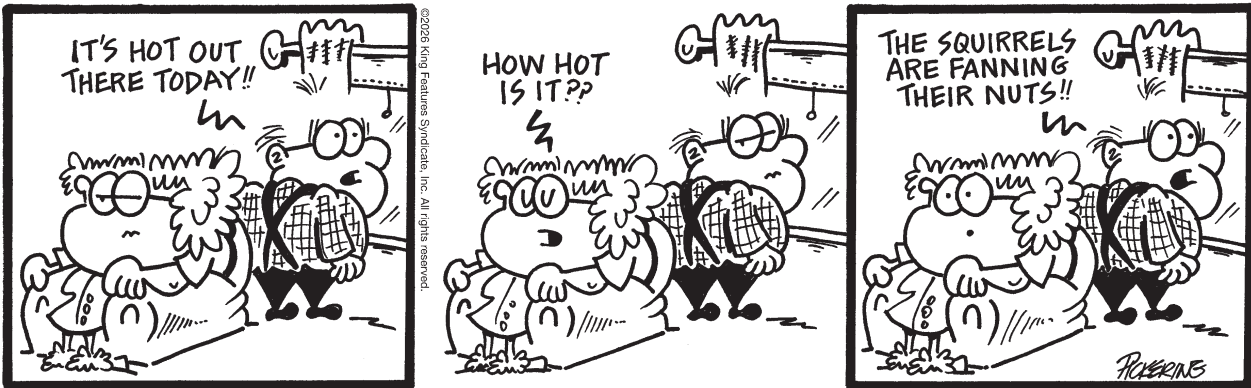
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

MT 43 News, Inc.

Published & edited by the Board of Directors

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https://mt43news-business-services.com/node/124

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



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: Wednesday, April 15
APRIL 13 - APRIL 17 Beef Tacos
Cheese and Sour
Cream
Lettuce and Tomato
Mexican Corn and
Beans
Zesty Pinapple

Monday, April 13
Carol's Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
with Gravy
California Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Plump Peaches

Tuesday, April 14
Fish Patty
Brown Rice Pilaf
Steamed Carrots
Dinner Salad
Blushing Pears
Dessert

Thursday, April 16
Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Peas
Whole Grain Roll
Baked Apples

Friday, April 17
Polish Sausage
Sauerkraut
Steamed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Roll
Fruit Cocktail

New Online Resource for Medicaid

Jon Ebelt
DPHHS Communications Director

DPHHS Launches New Online Resource for Medicaid Community Engagement Requirements

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) today announced the launch of a new, comprehensive website designed to help Montanans navigate upcoming changes to the state's Medicaid program.

Following the Montana Legislature's reauthorization of the Medicaid Expansion program and congressional passage of H.R. 1, a federal law that was enacted on July 4, 2025, DPHHS is preparing to implement new community engagement requirements for certain Medicaid Expansion participants beginning July 1, 2026.

The new website serves as a central hub for information, providing clarity on how these changes affect current and future Medicaid members.

"Our priority is to ensure that Montanans covered by Medicaid Expansion have the information they need to make decisions about their health care," DPHHS Director Charlie Brereton said. "This new website serves as a single source of truth for our members as we begin requiring them to engage in work or work-related activities to be eligible for health coverage."

Key Changes Coming July 2026
Under the new federal law, non-exempt adults aged 19-64 who receive coverage through the Medicaid Expansion program will be required to complete 80 hours of community engagement activities per month to remain eligible for coverage.

These activities include employment, community service, workforce training or state-sponsored work readiness programs, internships or registered apprenticeships, and educational programs (college or vocational training).

DPHHS officials emphasize that these new requirements for able-bodied adults are intended to encourage self-sufficiency, drive workforce participation, and reduce reliance on public assistance programs.

Exempted Populations
The website details exemptions for individuals who may be unable to meet the 80-hour work requirement. Some, but not all, of the exemptions include:

- American Indian/Alaska Natives
- Adults aged 65 or older
- Parents or caregivers of dependent children under age 13
- Parents or caregivers of individuals with disabilities
- Pregnant and postpartum individuals (up to 12 months)
- Individuals eligible for Medicare
- Those who are medically frail
- Veterans with disabilities rated as total
- Individuals currently or recently incarcerated

DPHHS to Conduct Outreach to Medicaid Members

DPHHS is reaching out to all Medicaid members via mail to explain the new community engagement requirements. To avoid missing critical communications with upcoming deadlines, members are encouraged to verify their contact information at <https://mt43news.com/mt43newsRouter/MedicaidApply>

For more information on community engagement requirements and exemptions, visit <https://mt43news.com/mt43newsRouter/MedicaidChanges>

DPHHS will continue to update the website as new federal guidance becomes available.

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

TOPGUN Autobody
Townsend, MT

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

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Service Available

At MT43 News Office
408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
Mon - Fri 10:00 - 2:00pm
Or by Appointment
Contact: Brenda Phillips
406-231-9752

Weather Forecast

April

Friday 10 High Temp: 66 Low Temp: 40 Wind: 10 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Tuesday 14 High Temp: 61 Low Temp: 39 Wind: 7 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Saturday 11 High Temp: 74 Low Temp: 50 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Wednesday 15 High Temp: 68 Low Temp: 44 Wind: 20 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Sunday 12 High Temp: 64 Low Temp: 50 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.012 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	Thursday 16 High Temp: 64 Low Temp: 50 Wind: 19 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100
Monday 13 High Temp: 51 Low Temp: 41 Wind: 17 Rain: 0.0 Snow: 0.0 Cloud Cover: 100	

Montanans Want More Solar, Natural Gas Development, And Are Less Interested In New Coal Plants

Amanda Eggert
Montana Free Press

The survey results come as elected officials and Montana's largest utility company contemplate the future of Colstrip, the coal plant that is Montana's largest power generator.

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press. https://montanafreepress.org/2026/03/03/montanans-want-more-solar-natural-gas-development-are-less-interested-in-new-coal-plants/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262756%29&utm_source=2&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Bodner%20makes%20independent%20bid%20against%20Daines&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28262756%29

Montanans are bullish on solar, natural gas and hydropower for electricity generation — but wary of adding additional coal power to the state's energy mix, according to a new Montana Free Press-Eagleton poll.

The results of the poll, conducted in late December and early January, come as the Trump and Gianforte administrations work to expand domestic energy production amid a surge in demand wrought by growth in artificial intelligence and other electricity-intensive industries.

Respondents were presented with a list of electricity sources and asked if they thought Montana should produce more, less or about the same amount of power from each source. The options included hydropower, coal and wind — all of which play a prominent role in Montana's current energy mix — as well as solar and natural gas, which make up a smaller but growing contribution to the state's energy grid.

Montanans Want, 1

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19: 13,14

Detail of "Sara" by Irving Amen (1970)

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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Ellen Myles

Family of Elizabeth Ellen Myles



Elizabeth Ellen Myles
Photo Provided by Family of Elizabeth Ellen Myles

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Elizabeth Ellen Myles, known by all as Libby. Libby, 61, of Townsend, Montana, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 25th, 2026, after complications from a pancreatic infection. Libby was born on June 2nd, 1964, to Joseph Victor and Norma Faye Myles. She was born and raised in Helena, Montana, where she graduated from Capital High School in 1982.

Libby worked mainly in customer service, where her natural ability as a people person allowed her to thrive. Throughout her life, she sought out any opportunity to help others in need. She held fundraisers, assisted with various functions and personally supported countless friends/family members in many ways. Her latest adventure was where she found her true happiness – a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting survivors of Domestic Abuse.

She met her first love Ken, and they got married in 1989. Together they had four children: Kristina, Kelly, Anthony and Alex. Sadly, she lost her husband Ken in 1994. Her youngest daughter, Kayla, was born after Libby married her second husband, Scott.

Libby is reunited in heaven with her father, Joe, and her late husband, Ken. She is survived by her mother, Faye, her siblings, David (Cindy), Joanie (Steve), Raymond (Stephanie), her five children, Kristina, Kelly, Anthony, Alex (Chelsea), Kayla (Jacob) and her seven grandchildren, Madison, Lilly, Riley, Hadley, Jeremiah, Grace and James. Libby also leaves behind a brokenhearted, supportive group of relatives, including Aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews, as well as countless friends.

Libby had an ambitious personality, and she was committed to supporting and serving others wherever she could make a difference. She had an impact on each person she interacted with. She was kind, loving, caring, funny, selfless and full of life. She had a gift for making everyone feel seen and valued. Libby had a deep appreciation for the outdoors. She found peace in doing what she loved, whether it was camping, exploring the hills, or paddleboarding on the lake but she especially enjoyed making lasting memories with friends and family. She was loved by all and, in return, loved others just as deeply.

A Celebration of Life service and reception will be held on April 25, 2026, at 1 pm at Townsend Fairgrounds in the 4-H building. 189 US Hwy 12 E Townsend, Montana 59644.

AREA DEATHS

Connie Lee Thomas

Family Of Connie Lee Thomas

Connie Lee Thomas, age 74, of Townsend
October 10, 1951 – October 22, 2025

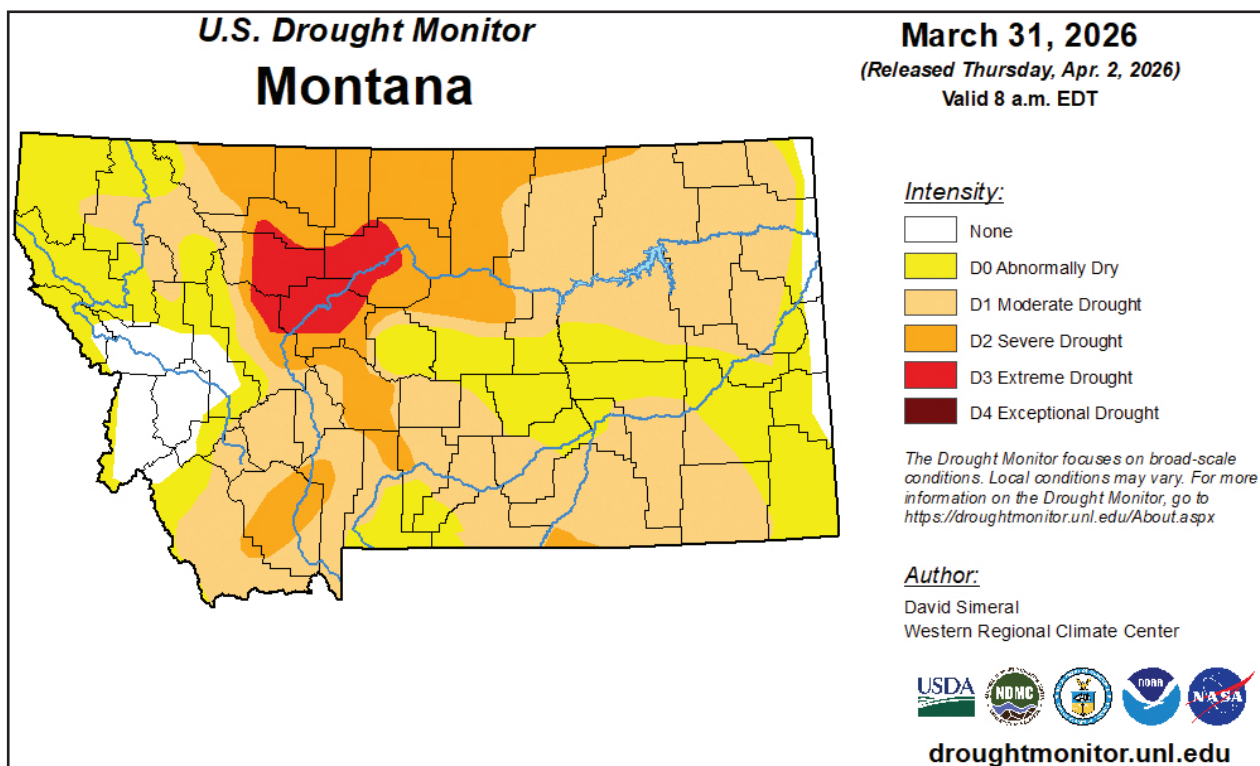
Services will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church, 20 Trailhead View Dr. in Townsend. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

Barnes
Jewelry



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

We're in Drought AGAIN



Drought Monitor Map
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension
Agent



To no one's surprise, after a mild winter, we are in yet another drought. If it seems like we have drought conditions a lot, it's true. An MSU Extension Specialist likes to remind us that we have less than "normal" precipitation 50 percent of the time. Drought is one of the more likely and common natural hazards. However, what truly defines a drought and the severity of the drought is actually more complicated.

The National Drought Mitigation Center defines drought as "a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time (usually a season or more), resulting in a water shortage." The US Drought Monitor takes this a step further to define both short- and long-term drought. A short-term drought typically lasts less than 6 months with a focus on precipitation within the last 1 to 3 months. In a short-term drought, there can be impacts to agriculture and grasslands, but the drought classification can fluctuate quickly with precipitation changes.

On the other hand, a long-term drought is longer than 6 months and considers precipitation up to 60 months. In a long-term drought, deeper impacts on hydrology and ecology can be seen, such as complete crop and forage failure, livestock sell-offs, native plant dieback, increase in invasive plant species, increased wildfire risk and shortage of drinking water. It's important to note that in a long-term drought even short-term gains in precipitation may not affect the deep impacts of the drought unless those changes can sustain for a longer duration.

The US Drought Monitor classifies droughts into five different drought categories starting at D0, which is abnormally dry to D4, which is exceptional drought. At the time this article was written, Broadwater County was rated D1 for moderately dry. Most of the state is in drought with the worst in the Golden Triangle area which is D3 for extreme drought. To determine these drought categories, the Drought Monitor uses precipitation and climate data, local observations and expert judgement.

Through looking back through history, researchers can study the long-term effects of drought and how it changes the landscape and even cultures over time. Modern data only dates back 100 to 150 years but through looking at tree rings, sediments, ice cores and

artifacts, scientists can begin to understand changes over time. An example in North America was a long-lasting drought during the 13th century that was thought to result in the decline in the Ancestral Puebloans in the Southwest. In more recent history, the Dust Bowl of the 1930's lasted nearly a decade and affected 80 percent of the United States. It resulted in major losses in crop production, an increase in poverty and a mass migration from agriculture to the population centers for other types of work. In the late 1980s, the United States experienced one of the costliest droughts in history, resulting in approximately \$39 billion loss in agricultural crops, energy, water and ecosystem impacts.

Short-term droughts can be caused by changes in regular weather patterns. For example, La Nina is when surface water in the Pacific Ocean decreases in temperature. These cooler waters affect storm patterns resulting in drier-than-normal conditions in North America. La Niña weather patterns typically last about a year. Both the Dust Bowl and the 1988 Drought were caused by La Nina effects.

There is more debate about the association between drought and climate change. A study done by NASA predicted fluctuations in both rainfall and drought with some areas of the world receiving higher rainfall and increased flooding, while other areas will experience increased drought. Other scientists believe that global warming will create a warmer and wetter climate overall.

Even though drought is a common and natural part of our world, it doesn't make it easier. Those in the agricultural industry are most affected by this phenomenon. Most agricultural operations are able to withstand some level of drought through climate resiliency practices such as crop rotation, rest rotation grazing, lowering stocking rates, hay stockpiling and improving soil health. The challenge becomes when the drought is prolonged or comes at a bad time. For example, a short-term drought in the late winter and spring can be more devastating than a fall or early winter drought.

During a drought, assistance can sometimes be available to help agricultural producers. However, in order for this to happen, the governor has to declare a state of emergency or certain thresholds have to be met. Contact and register with the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to be eligible for these programs when they become available.

For further questions, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

Highway Marker Service Project



Ben Davis, Daniel Hildreth, Carter Christensen, John Kougiolis, Michael Davis, Bryce Graham, Maxwell Webber show the highway fatality markers
Photo Provided

John Kougiolis

Youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints helped make about 15 highway Fatality Markers for the American Legion Post 42.

The Corey Davis family helped the youth in making

the markers to be placed by the American Legion at the scene of highway fatalities.

John Kougiolis, the Fatality Marker Assistant Chairman and Chaplain for American Legion Post 42, would like to thank the youth and their leaders for their assistance with this project.

Broadwater County Commissioners Meeting April 1, 2026

Rachael Brug
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County commissioners appointed Undersheriff Mark Wood as interim sheriff on April 1, citing the need for continuity after former Sheriff Nick Rauser stepped down effective March 24.

Wood introduced himself as a longtime law enforcement officer and said he is stepping into the role as undersheriff while also running as a candidate for sheriff. He told commissioners he has 46 years of public service, including 36 years in law enforcement, and has worked for Broadwater County for 10 years after retiring from Washington, D.C., in 2016. "Thank you for entrusting me with this," Wood said, adding that while there will be a learning curve, he has a strong team and knows where to ask for help. Chair Debi Randolph and commissioners Jesse Swenson and Lindsey Richtmyer approved the appointment by resolution with no public comment.

The commission also approved an agreement with Northwestern Energy to install fire-detection cameras on the county's radio repeater tower, contingent on final legal review. Townsend Rural Fire District Chief Ed Shindoll said the cameras would help monitor for fires and infrastructure issues along power lines, with fire officials gaining access to the camera feeds for earlier detection and situational awareness. Commissioners emphasized there is no monetary exchange in the agreement. Shindoll said installation is expected in late May or early June, and the camera views would also be available to the public through Northwestern Energy's system.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the annual

work plan from the Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC), which outlines services provided to Broadwater County through the regional Area Agency on Aging and community development programs. Commissioners noted RMDC services support vulnerable populations, particularly seniors and low-income residents, through coordination of in-home services such as homemaker assistance and respite care, nutrition and meal programs, wellness checks and outreach to reduce isolation, and help with transportation to medical appointments and essential services.

Commissioners also highlighted RMDC's role in assisting the county with grant writing, administration, and compliance, and supporting economic development and infrastructure planning work, which they said can be difficult for small rural counties to manage alone.

In other business, commissioners held a public hearing on fiscal year 2024-2025 budget amendments. Finance Officer and Payroll Administrator Debbie Kelley said the amendments are part of the audit process and are intended to align original appropriations with actual revenues and expenditures, including items not originally budgeted. She said the supporting documentation includes about nine pages of adjustments, summarized by fund in the resolution, and was posted online for public review. No one offered public comment.

Commissioners approved permit documentation for an Elkhorn Vet Clinic septic and drainfield replacement presented by Kevin Angland, CFM of Great West Engineering.

The commissioners also approved continued work on proposed subdivision regulation amendments. Community Development Director Nichole Brown said staff will post a redlined draft online and allow two weeks for public and commissioner review before bringing the revisions back for a future decision.

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.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 AM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Request from Jessica Erickson, Broadwater County Fair Manager, to purchase capital improvement bundle for the 4-H building not to exceed \$9,000

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, TJ Graveley, Public Works Director, Lone Mountain Pit gravel crushing bid proposals for 10,000 yards

- Valley X, \$100,000
- R.E. Miller, \$93,000
- A.M. Wells, \$70,000

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Hanson Family Transfer Exemption Request; S3 T7N R1E

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Broadwater County Subdivision Regulation Amendments

10:20 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

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

- Solid Waste Board Meeting on April 14th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on April 15th at 6:00 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on April 20th at 3:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on April 20th at 6:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on April 21st at 11:30 AM
- Three Forks Mosquito Board Meeting on April 21st at 3:30 PM
- Townsend Mosquito Board Meeting on April 21st at 4:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on April 21st at 7:00 PM
- Compensation Board Meeting on April 29th at 1:00 PM

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

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Barry A. Riesland – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

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

Cleveland C. Smith – East Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Christina L. Thompson – Livingston – Improper Passing – In no passing zone – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

Joshua I. Murphy – Willow Creek – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

John C. Hassler – East Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Mckenna M. Gregg – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

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

Katherine M. Ecker – Helena – Careless Driving – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

David R. Crumley – Clancy – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Nickey A. Rangel – Helena – Operating without liability insurance in effect 1st offense – plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees.

Wendell T. Cotham – Hohenwald TN – Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs 1st offense – plead guilty - \$375.00 fine. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all but one (1) day suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and completion of other programs. Defendant to enroll in ACT Class or TN equivalent within one (1) month, to be completed within four (4) months. Probationary license recommended after payment of reinstatement fees.

Melissa J. Smith – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – plead guilty - \$20 fines & fees

- Fail to carry proof or exhibit/insurance in vehicle – owner or operator 3rd or subsequent offense – plead guilty - \$535 fines & fees. Sentenced to ten (10) days in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all jail suspended for a period of six (6) months with good behavior. License plates & registration on vehicle suspended until proof of insurance compliance provided to MVD. Court recommends probationary plates.

Yahir Suarez Guerrero – Bozeman – Fail to drive

Justice of the Peace, 11



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



April 3, 2026, Judge Mike Menahan ADC-26-14 Anthony John Chovanak- Initial Appearance. The Defendant was charged with Count 1A- Criminal Possession of Drugs with Intent to Distribute, A Felony and Count 1B- Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, A Felony. The Defendant pleaded Not Guilty with the following dates set, Omnibus- Friday, May 8, 2026, Pre Trial June 5, 2026 and Jury Trial August 31, 2026. Mr. Chovanak was released from jail on Broadwater County charges, but is being held as there is a Warrant out of Yellowstone County.

DDC-26-13 David Wayne Klinkenborg- (Judge Abbott case) Bail Modification Hearing. The Defendant was charged with 1 Count Assault with a Weapon, A Felony, and 3 Counts of Criminal Endangerment. After discussion regarding the charges and other issues, the Court reduced the bond to \$30,000 with all conditions to remain in effect.

DDC-25-17 Quinn Samuel Duvall- (Judge Abbott case) Change of Plea. The Defendant pleaded Guilty to Count 1- Amended Charge of Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs and with the assistance of his Attorney stated what he had done. The Court dismissed Count 2, and a Pre-Sentence Investigation was ordered. Sentencing is scheduled for May 22, 2026.

ADC-25-42 Christian Alexander Hospidales- Change of Plea. The Defendant pleaded Guilty to Count 1- Assault with a Weapon, Count 3, Criminal Mischief, and Count 4, Theft. With the assistance of his Attorney stated what he had done. The Court dismissed Count 2, and a Pre-Sentence Investigation was ordered, and Sentencing is scheduled for June 5, 2026.

ADC-24-44 Joseph Daniel Karr, Sentencing. The Court recommended that the Defendant go to the WATCH Program for 13 months with 4 years suspended. Pay all surcharges and court costs; the OPD fee was waived, pay a fine of \$1000 with credit for time served. Count 2- sentenced to 6 months in Broadwater County Jail, all suspended with all conditions in place.

Americanisms



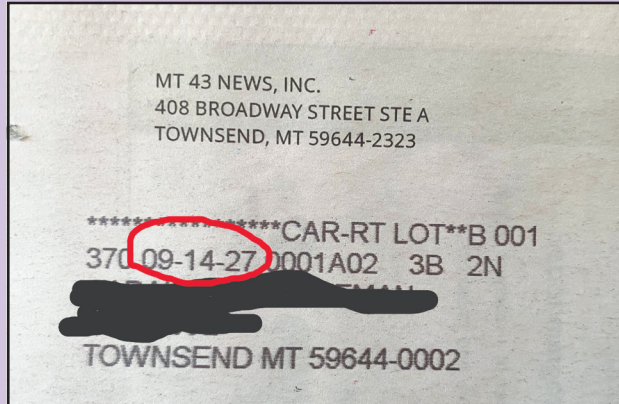
"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall"

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Your MT43 News for April 3, 2026 Weekly Edition PDFs x

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The Staff at MT43 News

Justice of the Peace, 10

to right of roadway except when passing – plead guilty - \$100 fines & fees
 - Careless Driving – Plead guilty - \$100 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Travis P. Williams – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees
 Heather L. Bickhart – Helena – Stop Sign Violation – Paid fines - \$45 fines & fees
MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES
 Fred C. Petersen – Three Forks – Operating a Vehicle with weight Greater than the maximum authorized – paid fines - \$160 fines & fees
 Andrew C. Garcia – Pueblo CO – Fail to register O/S MV when used for hire or person gainfully employed in Montana – paid fines - \$85 fine
INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT
 Anthony J. Chovanak – Jefferson City – Defendant was given a courtesy appearance in Justice Court. No Plea Taken. Defendant is Innocent of charges until proven guilty. Defendant is charged with Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs – Not otherwise provided for in Subsection 45-9-102(1) or (2). Defendant is charged with Criminal Possession of Drugs with Intent to Distribute. \$15,000.00 bond with conditions for release. Given District Court Appearance Date.
INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION
 Anthony J. Chovanak – Jefferson City – Initial Appearance Arrest of District Court Warrant – Defendant was arrested on a warrant issued by Yellowstone County District Court to answer information filed against him. Defendant to be committed to Broadwater County Jail until Transport or Post Bond. \$25,000.00 bond with conditions. If bond is posted, Defendant to appear in Yellowstone County District Court within five (5) days of release.
 Anthony J. Chovanak – Jefferson City – Initial Appearance Arrest of District Court Warrant – Defendant was arrested on Warrant issued by Yellowstone County District Court for failing to appear. Defendant to be committed to Broadwater County Jail until transport. No Bond.
 John Scott – Initial Appearance Arrest of District Court Warrant – Defendant was arrested on Warrant issued by Silver Bow County District Court to answer the charges filed against him. Defendant committed to Broadwater County Jail until transport or post bond. \$5,000.00 bond with conditions. If defendant posts bond, to appear at Silver Bow County District Court within five (5) days.
 George A. Collins – Toston – Initial Appearance arrest of Foreign Warrant – Defendant was arrested on Warrant issued by Lewis & Clark County Justice Court. Defendant to be committed to Broadwater County Detention Facility until transport or post bond. \$10,000.00 bond with conditions. If defendant posts bond, to appear in Lewis & Clark County Justice Court within ten (10) days.

Montanans Want, 8

According to an October analysis by Montana Free Press, the state’s single largest power producer is the 40-year-old coal-fired power plant in Colstrip, which is capable of generating up to 1,650 megawatts of electricity.

The largest class of generation in the state, in contrast, is hydropower: Western Montana dams can generate more than 2,500 megawatts of power when they’re operating at full capacity.

A third behemoth in the energy landscape is wind. Since 2020, energy developers like Berkshire Hathaway Energy and Pacific Northwest utilities such as Avista and Puget Sound Energy have invested in massive wind projects collectively capable of generating more than 1,000 megawatts of power — and additional wind farms are planned.

Utility-scale solar energy makes a tiny share of Montana’s electricity mix, accounting for just 2% of the megawatt hours generated within the state’s borders. But it garnered the most enthusiasm in the poll, with 56% of respondents supporting additional solar generation. A similar percentage, 55%, said the same about natural gas, which accounts for nearly 700 megawatts of capacity distributed between seven small- and medium-sized plants.

Coal, which represents about 22% of the state’s current generation capacity, was much less popular. Just 36% of respondents supported additional coal-fired power and around the same number, 39%, said they want less.

Gov. Greg Gianforte and Montana’s federal delegation, all Republicans, are aligned with President Donald Trump in backing coal, which has fueled Montana’s largest power plant for more than 40 years. Jon Tester, the last Democrat to hold a statewide office, supported both renewable and fossil fuel energy sources during his tenure at the U.S. Senate, occasionally countering the Biden administration’s efforts to tighten emission regulations and restrict new federal coal leasing.

Despite the current delegation’s vigorous support for coal mining and the long-debated Colstrip plant, demand for the carbon-intensive fuel has waned in recent years as utility companies shift broadly to cheaper and cleaner power sources such as natural gas and solar.

Bob Morris, Montana Tech’s Lance Energy Chair, described Colstrip as a “vital” and reliable resource that has helped Montana be an energy exporter for many decades. Even so, he said, market and political conditions aren’t spurring future investment in coal.

“With emissions and the political uncertainty, you won’t find anyone willing to invest in coal,” Morris said. “Maybe today’s administration is favorable, but in three years it may be a different administration.”

NorthWestern Energy, Montana’s largest utility company, has significantly expanded the amount of coal and natural gas in its portfolio in recent years, building a 175-megawatt gas plant in Laurel and acquiring expanded stakes in the Colstrip plant as climate legislation forces West Coast utilities to exit the facility.

Morris said there is a long list of solar developers eager to tie utility-scale projects into the electrical grid, but the weather-dependent nature of solar power can pose a challenge for utilities. The Trump administration’s move to nix tax incentives for renewable energy projects may have dampened investors’ appetite for new solar projects, he added.

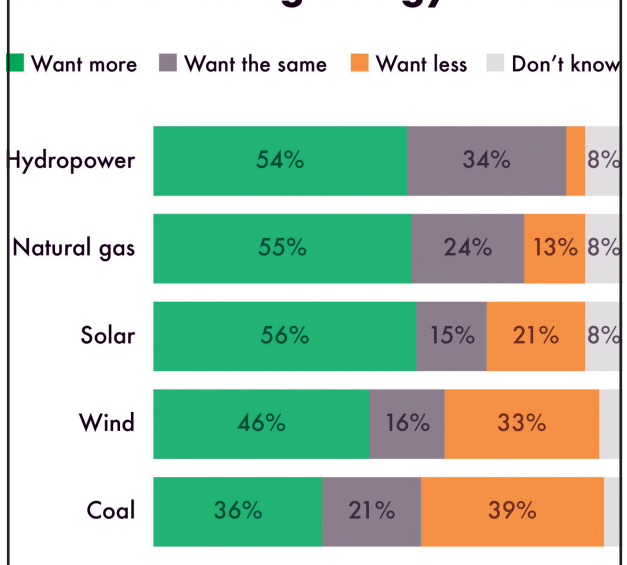
Shifting subsidies are also making things harder for wind developers looking to tap into the state’s ready supply of wind. Despite D.C. policymakers’ move to eliminate tax incentives for new wind projects, utilities in Washington State and mega-investors like Berkshire Hathaway Energy have invested billions of dollars in Montana wind farms in recent years and additional investments are planned.

Morris said that future hydropower expansion is unlikely because most of the state’s potential dam locations have already been developed. He said concerns about fish passage also merit consideration in hydropower discussions.

“Every single energy conversion has a negative environmental impact,” he said. “We need to look at which impacts we’re willing to live with.”

The MTFP-Eagleton poll surveyed 801 registered voters through telephone interviews and text-to-web questionnaires. Data was collected from Dec. 23, 2025, to Jan. 3, 2026. The poll, which was weighted to reflect the state’s population of registered voters, has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

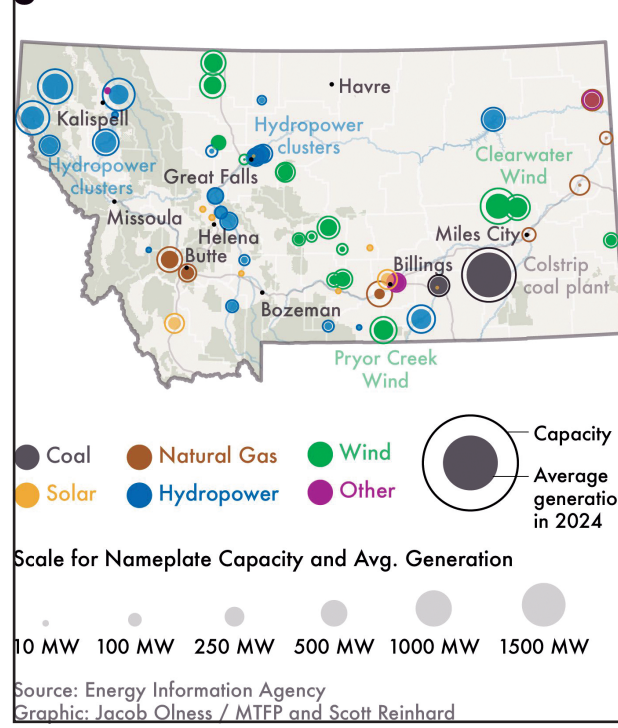
Should Montana produce more, less, or about the same amount of the following energy sources?



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

Results of polls
 Montana Free Press and Eagleton (Rutgers University)

Montana's current generation mix



Montana's Current Power Generation Mix
 Montana Free Press and Eagleton (Rutgers University)

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

April 9

1903

Local News

Dr. Belcher has been more than busy during the past week liberating families under quarantine throughout the county. We understand that quarantine flags in all sections have been taken down and the way ward traveler whithersoever journeying, will meet with no obstacle of an infectious nature in our county.

W. H. Risk of Hassel cast his shadow in Townsend Thursday.

Miss "Top" Watt, after a weeks illness, is able to be out again.

Tom and Fick McCormick announce that they have several sets of second hand work harness for sale cheap.

Dr. Fred Bogardus of Summers, Mont. Spent a day this week visiting Dr. Sweet, who was his classmate in medical college.

G.G. Watt and Ed Sloan tried their luck with the finny tribe on Deep Creek Wednesday. There was little doing, however.

Mrs. C.B. Fairchild and little daughter, Fay, returned from a two weeks visit with Helena Friends Wednesday afternoon.

John Schreiner returned from his Canada trip Thursday, and from bills that are circulated throughout the county, we understand that he will soon return there with another shipment if satisfactory purchases can be made at the sale which occurs at McCormick's stable at this place today (Saturday).

1925

Local News

Mrs. W.D. McCormick accompanied her granddaughter,

Miss Dorothy Averill to Helena Wednesday evening and will visit a few days with her daughter, Mrs. Averill and family.

County Attorney Frank T. Hooks spent the weekend in Great Falls on important business.

Messrs. Phil Mockel and H.C. Miller of Crow Creek motored to Townsend on Wednesday.

A Parisian Chic, the new style hats at the Golden Rule.

All the latest dance music at the Firemen's ball Easter Monday.

Mrs. S.D. Van Voast and daughter, Gretchen, were Helena visitors Saturday. They were accompanied home by Miss Mary Elizabeth Matthews, who spent the week visiting Miss Gretchen and Miss Susie Davidson.

1953

News Briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Al Fuhs spent the weekend in Townsend from their home in Lewistown with Mrs. Bendicka Fuhs and son, Harry, who was home from MSU at Missoula for the Easter Day. Mr. and Mrs. Fuhs recently returned from an extended visit in the southern states.

Mrs. Merle Nelson of Libby is spending a few days here visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Earl Fryhling and Mr. Fryhling and daughters.

Mrs. Gordon Graveley was in town Saturday accompanied by her mother, Mrs. George Zimmerman.

Mrs. Geo. Tate and baby son, Mrs. Mary Gail Davis and Joe Zimmerman spent part of Easter day in Townsend with their sister and Aunt, Ann Marie Stiner and with their mother and grandmother, Mrs. Geo. Zimmerman and other relatives from their home in Bozeman.

Miss Sharon McCormick was hostess Wednesday evening, entertaining at a birthday surprise party honoring Miss Barbara Karhoff on her 16th birthday.

About thirty guests enjoyed the evening of dancing and games.

At the close of the evening, refreshments were served and Miss Karhoff was presented with many lovely gifts.

The serving table was centered with a beautifully decorated birthday cake, made by Hazel Holling.

1970

Local News

Students home from the University of Montana for the weekend included Carol Geisser, Pat Ragen, Lance Davis and Mike Scoffield.

Mrs. Lyman Etwiler attended the kick-off dinner, opening the Community Concert drive in Helena Tuesday night.

Clara and Jim Miller were Helena business callers Tuesday. They were accompanied by Mrs. Mina Spangler who remained overnight with friends.

"East of Townsend"

Mrs. Henry Meyer, Lynn and Jay of Stevensville visited last week with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meyer and daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. George Collins spent four days vacationing in Las Vegas, Nev, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Monte Armstrong and family of Helena spent Saturday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bucy and attended the Charity Ball.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Graveley returned Thursday from a ten day trip which took them to Las Vegas, Nev., and Santa Rosa, Calif., where they visited friends and did some sight seeing.

Miss Phyllis Neild of Helena spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Ed Neild, and attended the Olsen-Harrington wedding Saturday.

Lisa Graveley was four years old April 2, and those helping her celebrate were her parents and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Graveley and Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sullivan and Bruce, Mrs. Zita Graveley and Bill and Gordon Graveley.



SPRING SALE

- 20% off Valspar Paint
- 20% off All Primers
- 20% off All Garden Soil
- 20% off All Plants
- 20% off Wheelbarrows
- 20% off All Fertilizers
- 20% off HUSQVARNA
- 20% off SIMPSON STRONG TIE
- 20% off the BUILDING SUPPLY ROOM

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May 1-2



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Changing of the Guard at Sheriff's Office

MT43 News Staff Reporter

A changing of the guard took place on March 24 in the Sheriff's Office when Undersheriff Mark Wood took the helm and Nick Rauser stepped back. Wood brings to the office 46 years of experience in police work, having retired from the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department after 26 years. Wood, who is 60, has served in Broadwater County since 2016. He and his wife Liz, opened Wood's Family Grill for several years before they closed and sold the property.

On Wednesday, April 1, Wood was appointed as interim sheriff by Broadwater County Commissioners at their regular meeting. That afternoon, Judge Kirk Flynn headed the ceremony to swear in Wood as interim sheriff amid family and friends at the Courthouse. Wood will run for the position in the upcoming election.

But it won't be all fun and games, Wood pointed out in an interview. He comes to the office short two deputies and a tight budget. He runs a crew of 28, including 11

deputies, dispatchers, reserves and detention officers. In his new capacity, Wood promoted Captain Jamie Buck as Undersheriff and Sergeant Tony Cordova to Captain. He will be trying to fill one of the deputy positions.

When the Public Safety Mill Levy failed last year at a vote of 1008 for and 1608 against, the department's budget was cut considerably, including funding for the newly formed School Resource Officer as well as monies to hire a deputy for South Broadwater.

At the time, Wood was responsible for building the department's budget. He cut back deputy officer training programs and gasoline allowances for patrolling deputies. The Commissioners filled in the gap by giving him a limited amount he could spend from the county general fund, plus he could work with the Detention facility revenue and the policing contract with the City of Townsend. His office also looks for grant funding. He has lived within that budget so far. "We may need more money from the Commissioners - we'll see," he predicted.

Much of the budget depends on revenues from the Detention facility, which had begun the process of enlarging with 9 more beds. The original facility held 46 and is now capable of holding 55 inmates. While the number changes daily, the day of the interview, Wood said 48 people occupied the facility. While not a reliable source of revenue, the Sheriff's office will be working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a holding facility for their detainees.

As to changes in the office's policies and procedures, Wood indicated he would change little. "I agreed wholeheartedly with Nick, who pushed to get drugs off the streets

and to keep a presence at our schools. But I also feel it is important to keep a high profile in the community to let people know we are out here doing our job. I helped implement 'Proactive Patrols' for deputies to drive through neighborhoods and in rural areas in Toston, Radersburg, the Wheatland area, Winston and the backside of the lake. I'm big on police presence because I feel it deters people planning on committing crimes when they see deputies around."

He pointed out that the department had made a drug bust of "a lot" of drugs just days ago in Townsend.

He has a hard time wrapping his head around one of the department's thorniest problems - sexual assault. "We have a great sexual assault detective who works through those cases, which take up to two years to travel through the court system. Sometimes we have as high as two cases a month."

His immediate concern will be to fill the one empty deputy slot he must fill. That person will operate in South Broadwater out of the law enforcement office in the Headwaters Rest Stop building near the 190 Interchange. "We'll put out the call for hiring. Hopefully, we can hire someone who lives in or near Three Forks," he said.

Rauser, who now works as a deputy, will fill the School Resource Officer position starting next year. "Nick established that position. It's his baby and what he is passionate about. He and I agree it is more than about the security in the schools: it's about making connections with the kids, to let them know we can be trusted."

Will the department try to float the mill levy again? He said the Commissioners and his department will weigh the pros and cons of putting the mill levy on the ballot a year from now. In the meantime, he will look for other sources of revenue along with his peers in the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. He will be advocating at the next legislature for some possible funding.



Broadwater County Justice Court Judge Kirk Flynn officially swears in Mark Wood as Interim Sheriff. Wood will be a candidate for the office in the upcoming election. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer