

Celebration 250 Flags Fly on Broadway Street

MT43 News Reporter

Townsend residents have recently realized we are about to celebrate 250 years of our country's founding. American Legion Post #42 members hung new USA 250 flags to commemorate the occasion on May 2nd. According to Tim Pool, the group hung about 50 flags, both on Broadway and Front Street. All parts of Post #42 participated, including Post members, Women's Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion, the group who organizes the free Thursday dinners at the Legion. Pool, who is organizing the Legion's part in Townsend's 4th of July parade, had ordered the flags in February with the celebration in mind. He pointed out the flags will fly above the Rotary banners on each pole. Each flag bears a bald eagle, the cross and the words "250 years of Freedom."

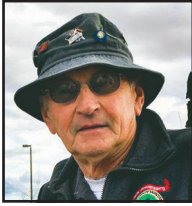
Pool feels strongly about the celebration: "I'm very patriotic. I think we are actually living history at this moment with the celebration. I think we should be excited about celebrating the occasion to honor the history of the families and their loved ones who served our country."



American Legion Post #42 members who helped hang commemorative flags on Broadway are from left: Tim Pool, Chris Wright, Jr., Shirley Wilson and Mike Lohman. Photo Provided

Townsend Tree Board Receives Award

Patrick Plantenberg
Tree Board Chair



Tree City USA is the nation's most iconic community forestry recognition program. It all started 50 years ago in 1976. The Tree City USA recognition program was founded through a partnership with U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, with a goal to help communities grow stronger and more resilient. That first year, 42 communities were recognized.

In 2025, 50 years later, there are now 3,636 Tree City communities, and 49% of the nation's population lives in a Tree City USA. Townsend has had a Tree Board since 1990. They have applied for and have been awarded Tree City USA status for 26 years. To qualify as a Tree City USA, a community must meet four core standards: a tree board or department, a public tree care ordinance, a minimum annual expenditure of \$2 per capita on tree care, and an Arbor Day observance. Congratulations to Townsend for planting and caring for its city trees.



Townsend Elementary 5th graders and teachers helped plant a Linden tree on North Spruce Street, next to the school parking lot for their Arbor Day event. The Linden replaces a dying green ash tree that was removed last winter. Photo Credit: Patrick Plantenberg

Two Nurses Honored at Billings Clinic Broadwater

Justin Tiffany
Chief Executive Officer, Billings Clinic Broadwater

Billings Clinic Broadwater is proud to announce that Tiffany Jayne, Director of Nurses, has been awarded the Billings Clinic Outstanding Nurse Leader Award for 2026. Tiffany's leadership, commitment to safe patient care, and support for her team have set a remarkable standard for nursing excellence within the organization. Chief Executive Officer Justin Tiffany announced the awards this week.



Tiffany Jayne, RN, Billings Clinic Broadwater Director of Nurses. Photos Provided

Patience Lynn has also been honored as the first recipient of the Billings Clinic Broadwater Values in Action award. Patience embodies the hospital's core value of being kind through her consistently positive attitude that creates a welcoming and encouraging environment for both patients and staff. Her willingness to help others and strong work ethic make a meaningful difference.



Patience Lynn, RN, recipient of Values in Action award. Photos Provided

Each year at the beginning of May, healthcare organizations across the country celebrate Nurses Week and Hospital Week. Billings Clinic Broadwater stands as a pillar of strength and support, offering a place for all. Whether in times of crisis or moments of hope, the hospital's nurses, medical professionals and support staff nurture the well-being of neighbors, families and friends, according to CEO Tiffany.

"The staff's tireless commitment not only saves lives but fosters trust, comfort, and connection within the Broadwater community," he concluded.

Notice of Interim Rate Adjustment Request

Jo Dee Black
NorthWestern Energy

NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern") serves notice pursuant to ARM 38.5.503 that it has filed with the Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission"), via its Application in this docket, a request for an interim rate increase for the propane supply rates for its Townsend, Montana customers. The proposed rates reflect current propane supply costs based on the Propane Supply Agreement, costs associated with propane plant usage and carrying costs, and the Unreflected Propane Supply Cost Account ("UPSCA") Balance.

This docket commenced on April 30, 2026, when NorthWestern made a filing including a Fact Sheet, exhibits, and workpapers with the Commission. NorthWestern requested the proposed propane rates become effective on an interim basis for service on and after June 1, 2026.

Notice, 6

Primary Election Candidates and Their Profiles
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Voter Information
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Primary Election Candidates and Their Profiles

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



Broadwater County and Legislative District 77 voters will vote for their choice of candidates who are running for county offices and for Legislative District 77 representative. The candidates' family information, education, and reasons for running for office are submitted here. We are also visiting candidates for non-partisan offices that will be on the general election ballots in November.

Absentee ballots were mailed from the Elections Office May 8. Completed ballots must be at the Elections Office at the County Court House, 515 Broadway, by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 2nd. Depending on where district voters live, in-person voting will take place in Winston, Toston and at Broadwater County Library and Community Room in Townsend.

County Commissioner Six-Year Term

Debi Randolph, Incumbent, Townsend



Debi Randolph
Photo Provided

Debi Randolph, age 63, is running as incumbent for county commissioner. She was first elected in 2021 and has served on the three-member board for five years. She attended high school in Sherwood, Oregon and Lexington, Kentucky. She attended Portland State and Oregon State University, majoring in agriculture education. She lived in Boise, Idaho, where she worked in advertising sales. When she moved to Townsend in 2010, she worked a short time at Townsend Seeds and then managed a Madison River fly fishing lodge. She filed for Broadwater County Commissioner in 2021. She has two sons and two granddaughters.

If she is re-elected, her priorities are protecting property rights, maintaining fiscal responsibility, improving infrastructure, supporting public safety and ensuring government transparency and accountability.

Listing the Commissioner's successes in her term, she pointed to:

- Improvements in the county website
- The use of TextMyGov to allow residents to communicate with the government by text
- Regular articles to the newspaper from the county departments

She also instituted public meetings regarding the county budget.

Tim Ravndal, Townsend



Tim Ravndal
Photo Provided

Tim Ravndal, age 67, is an Anaconda, Montana native. He lives in the county with his wife, Chris, and has three grown children. He graduated from Anaconda High School and attended Butte Vocational Technical

College, training in mechanics. He worked at auto dealerships.

He moved to Townsend in 1985, where he worked for RY Timber for many years. He also ran Tim's Auto Service in Townsend. He ran twice for House District 68, once in 2013 and again in 2020. He also ran for County Commissioner in 2002. In 2022, he established Broadwater County News, a local newspaper, when the Broadwater Reporter ceased publishing. He closed Broadwater County News publication in 2023. He currently owns and manages the online publication Conservative News for Montana.

If elected, Tim plans to restore transparency to the commission and accountability of Broadwater County government. His main focus is to end the current Commissioners' discussion-decision policy at the same meeting. He feels that discussing important issues such as okaying new subdivisions or family transfers, passing department expenditures or appointing new employees and making the decision to do so in the same public meeting does not serve the public's interests. He would approve a forensic audit of the county's budget to make the commission more accountable.

Audrey Walleser, Winston



Audrey Walleser
Photo Provided

Audrey Walleser, age 46, Winston, Montana, has filed to run for the open seat on the Broadwater County Commission. She has a son who is at college in Bismarck, North Dakota, and a grown daughter who lives in Great Falls. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in agriculture communications and political science from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in American government from American Public University in West Virginia. She will get her PhD in domestic policy from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. June 1st.

She has worked in public service for 26 years and now serves as an analyst for Montiva, a firm which provides environmental, social, and governing (ESG) standards for businesses.

Walleser is running for the office because she believes the county needs stronger leadership with an emphasis on policy and needs to have better communication between the commission and its constituents. She advises voters to do their research on each candidate and to learn how to successfully engage with government entities.

LEGISLATIVE HOUSE DISTRICT 77 CANDIDATES

Deb Hansen, Manhattan



Deb Hansen
Photo Provided

Deb Hansen, age 73, is running as a Democrat for

Legislative House District 77. She lives near Manhattan with her husband, Mike Funk. They have one grown child. She has a bachelor of science from the University of Illinois and an MBA in accounting and finance. Her career in financial management included banking, advertising and senior living placement services. She has operated Life Support Coaching, LLC since 2018 as a Certified Life Coach and Senior Living Advisor.

She is active in the Democratic Party. If elected, Hansen plans to work toward giving people a choice for an opportunity to keep public lands public, to protect the environment and resources safe from exploitation and to protect our most vulnerable citizens with affordable health care and childcare.

Jane Gillette, Incumbent, Three Forks



Jane Gillette
Photo Provided

Jane Gillette, 55, is the Republican candidate for Legislative House District 77. She was born in Tacoma, Washington and moved to Montana in 2005 to serve as a Captain at Malmstrom Air Force Base. She served in the US Air Force from 2002 to 2013. She currently works as a researcher and healthcare consultant. She and her husband, Chris, live outside Three Forks on the Jefferson River. They have three grown children.

She has a master's degree in public health from University of Montana and a Doctorate in Dental Surgery from the University of Washington. Her bachelor's degree is in biology from Pacific Lutheran University. She has several advanced degrees in organizational leadership and value-based healthcare.

Gillette has served three terms as a legislator. First elected in 2020, she served 4 years representing House District 64. After the Districts were redrawn, she was elected to a third term representing House District 77. If re-elected, this will be her fourth term in the Montana Legislature.

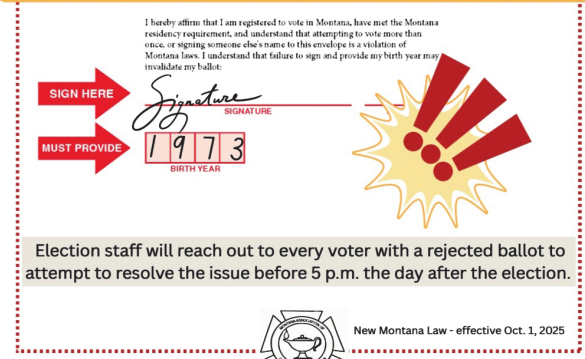
As an incumbent, if re-elected, her goals for the 2027 session would be to address Montana's high property taxes, protect water and property rights in relation to data centers, and securing the public's right to know with respect to ballot initiatives and elections.

Non-Partisan Offices that Will Be on the General Election Ballot in November:

- Mark Wood, Sheriff/County Coroner** – candidate, serving an interim term appointment
- Luis Espinoza/Sheriff/County Coroner** – candidate
- Leona Nelson/County Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools** - candidate
- Angie Paulsen, Incumbent**, candidate for County Clerk and Recorder, Elections Administrator and County Surveyor
- Kirk Flynn, Incumbent**, candidate for Justice of the Peace.
- Kevin Bratcher, Incumbent**, candidate for County Attorney

MUST INCLUDE YOUR BIRTH YEAR and SIGNATURE

BALLOT WILL BE REJECTED IF NOT INCLUDED!



MORE VOTING INFORMATION ON PAGE 9

GUEST EDITORIALS

Guest Editorials reflect the views of the author and not MT43 NEWS

Reflections of a School Board Member

Chase Ragen

As I have reflected on the last three years representing the community where I grew up, I feel very blessed to have had this experience. As a constituent recently told me (one who has served on a school board as well), no one really understands unless they have served.

Small communities, like Townsend, can prove challenging having relationships and friendships with educators in the district adds a level of pressure and uneasiness. The local newspaper coined last week's election as an "upset". For my supporters that is probably true, however, from a personal level; this is a relief for me. Those of you who know me well understand how much I have on my plate.

From a school board perspective, I do have some minor concerns moving forward. The concerns I have now pale in comparison to three years ago when I knew I needed to run to help make a difference. It is unfortunate that the recent school board candidate forum was not recorded, as I felt that would have been beneficial for our community to make an informed decision on their ballots. I would like to highlight a few things that were addressed during that forum, as well as some closing thoughts.

I ran on a platform of school safety and getting a School Resource Officer on campus as the number one goal. The board accomplished this right away with a close 3-2 vote. However, I know now the school board member who voted against it has seen the benefit of this position. I am confident with Mr. Racht's leadership as superintendent and commitment to safety that this position will once again be a reality for our school in the very near future.

My biggest challenge over the past three years was to turn the tide of some counterproductive behavior. As a participant in the establishment of our Townsend District Strategic Plan and Vision, I am pleased with the outcome.

Many of our outstanding teachers and educators also attended the planning meetings and one of the common themes was "accountability". This was refreshing for me to hear. However, when the board received the final draft at a board meeting to memorialize, there really wasn't anything to that effect in the plan.

I identified this shortcoming and that we needed to add a clause about "professional behavior" being the standard. The board all unanimously agreed and amended the document. Now our administrators have a document to help back up their recommendations. This document is so critical for our Superintendent, as it lays out clear expectations our community has for the position. Additionally, I'm happy to report that at our most recent board meeting, the district saw the results of this based on Mr. Racht's recommendation on the matter.

Why is my standard of accountability, professionalism, and professional behavior in the education field so high? As a fellow 1994 BCHS classmate of mine reminisced the other day, we had a magical experience attending Townsend Schools. From Mrs. Turcotte's Hokey Pokey, Judy Colbert's warm hugs, Mr. C's renditions of John Denver in music, Mrs. Poole's "Dick Clark's hits of the 60's", John Hilton's "Oregon Trail", Tom Arensmeyer's "Caveman and Dumb Son", Mr. Flynn's Math Competitions, and Chuck Harvey's hall of fame coaching and PE class, etc. The list goes on and on.

And to also mention the administrators we had, Mr. John Ryan and Al McMillian were nothing short of extraordinary. Yes, the standard I have for our school is very high because those were my experiences here in Townsend and that is what I want for ALL our kids in the community. The truth is, a positive experience at school with professional educators and teachers makes a world of difference in the future of our students and our community. Let's all want and fight for that in our local school!

With that said, I stand by every decision I made over the past three years. Are there some things that I would have done differently? Of course. That's learning. That's education. However, my outcome would have been the same: it's all about the students, period. The exceptional teachers and educators we have also believe this.

I want to thank all my constituents and supporters over the past 3 years. It was very refreshing for folks to reach out and to encourage me when I was facing some difficult situations and delicate decisions. Through all of that, I maintained the "high road," and I'm glad for it. After all, we are a small community with awesome values. Thank you for all of your support over the last few years. Go Bulldogs!!

School Board Election Held May 5 by All Mail-In Voting

MT43 News Staff Reporter



Jean Hodges sworn in as school board trustee by Elections Administrator Angie Paulsen. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Reporter

Jean Hodges, new to Townsend in 2020, and a grandma to two Townsend Elementary School students, scored an upset in the School District Board Trustee race May 5 with a win over incumbent Chase Ragen.

Hodges received 794 votes with Ragen tallying 648 votes for a three-year term. Jason Kool, also an incumbent, received 1,020 votes, according to the unofficial vote released by Clerk and Recorder and Election's Administrator Angie Paulsen late Tuesday night. Adam Brakefield serves on the board, as does Judy Gillespie, who was appointed to fill a one-year term vacated by Vanessa Flynn. Jason Noyes, who has chaired the board for seven years, has served on the board for three 3-year terms. His present term ends May of 2027.

Noyes thanked Flynn and Ragen for their service to the board. He said, "Every year there are one or two seats up for election and the potential for change. Our goal is that the board, as a whole, continues to provide consistent governance and support to the district leadership team and staff with student achievement at the forefront of the decisions we make."

Both Kool and Ragen served on the board through tumultuous issues, including whether to institute a 4-day school week, choosing athletic coaches and the ongoing battle concerning school district finances.

Hodges said in an interview she would try to get up to speed on school issues by first taking the MHSA training course for school board trustees. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a Certified Public Accountant. She worked as an internal auditor for the State of Oregon and as a comptroller for the municipality of Juneau, Alaska. She has extensive knowledge in federal and state agency reporting. Hodges will be sworn in at a June school board meeting.

Both Hodges and Gillespie were sworn in Tuesday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. by Elections Administrator Angie Paulsen at the School and Community Library room at the school. The regular board meeting followed.

Bulldog Junior Varsity Tennis Team Competes Against Three Forks and Granite

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



On May 5th, the Bulldogs Junior Varsity tennis team travelled to Manhattan to compete against Three Forks and Granite Junior Varsity teams. They won 4 games and lost 6. They only played 6 sets for every game, starting at 0 to 0.

In singles, Avery White won her match against Three Forks 6-3. Ella Toney won her match 6-1. Tessie Hughes won her match 6-4. Emma Delgado lost her match 1-6. Kay Crusch lost her match 3-6. Shannon Burne and Haedyn Poe both lost their match 0-6.

In doubles, Kay Crush and Haedyn Poe pulled out a win against Three Forks 6-2. Avery White and Ella Toney lost their match 4-6. Emma Delgado and Tessie Hughes lost their match 2-6, and Kay Crush and Shannon Burne lost their match 1-6.

The last day for the Junior Varsity team will be on May 12th, in Belgrade. They will face the Three Forks and Belgrade Junior Varsity teams.

Girls' Tennis Team Has Successful Dawg Bite Tournament

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter

On the first day of the Dawg Bite tournament, May 8th, the Bulldogs duelled Baker at home. After that, they celebrated Senior Day and played games with the Fort Benton team.

The dual against Baker was very successful for the Bulldogs as they won 5 matches and lost 2. Harper Wolfgram played at singles 1 and lost a tough match 2-6 and 4-6. Bella McDaniel played at singles 2 and won her match 6-2 and 6-4. Jacey Brunette played at singles 3 and lost a close match 6-3, 5-7, and 8-10 in the tiebreaker. Hailey Hildreth won her match at 4 singles, 6-4 and 6-3. As for doubles, Chloe Flynn and Bryleigh Erickson won their match at doubles 1, 6-0 and 6-1. Addy White and Nayal Mendoza played at doubles 2 and won their match 6-3 and 6-3. After that, Kylee Warburton and Avery White won their doubles match 6-4 and 6-2.

The team took the time to recognize their only senior, Harper Wolfgram, for the time and commitment that she had given to the program. After that, the team ate lunch, then played games with the Fort Benton team.



Harper Wolfgram was honored at Senior Night by her teammates. Seen here with her family from left: Reese Wolfgram, Mom and Dad Charis and Seth, and friend Griffin Hunt. Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer

The next day, Saturday, May 9th, the Bulldogs travelled to Helena. First, they duelled Wolf Point, Chinook, and Granite. Harper Wolfgram played a tight match against a Granite opponent, and ended up pulling out the win 6-2, 7-6, and 7-2 in the tie breaker. Kylee Warburton played Granite and won her match 6-4 and 6-2. Avery White won her match 6-2 and 6-3. Bryleigh Erickson and Chloe Flynn played Chinook and won their match 6-3 and 6-2.

The Bulldogs played their second round against Red Lodge, Choteau, and Fairfield. Avery White won her match against Choteau 6-2 and 6-2. Bryleigh Erickson and Chloe Flynn played against Choteau and won their match 6-3 and 6-2. Addy White and Kylee Warburton won their match against Red Lodge 6-2 and 6-3. Then, Kay Crush and Avery White won their match in a tie breaker, 6-3, 3-6, and 10-6. Bryleigh Erickson and Chloe Flynn won a close match against Fairfield, 3-6, 6-4, and 10-2 in the tie breaker.

Overall, the Bulldogs had a very successful tournament. Next up, the Bulldogs will travel to Missoula to compete in the Best of the West tournament on May 15th and 16th. The Divisional tournament is slated to be held in Belgrade.

PLAYERS of the WEEK



Tennis- Avery White
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Baseball- Tyzer Raines
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Golf- Autumn Henke
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Golf- Brando Parr
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Track- Hannah Hildreth
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Track- Jim Tew
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Townsend School & Sports

MAY



- Friday 15**
 - NO SCHOOL
- Fri 15 - Sat 16**
 - 8:00 am: High School Tennis - Best of the West @ Missoula
- Friday 15**
 - 9:00 am: District Track @ Boulder
- Saturday 16**
 - 1:00 pm: High School Baseball (Senior Day) vs Columbus
- Sunday 17**
 - 2:00 pm: Old Baldy - Jam Sessions at Reading Leaves Bookstore
- Monday 18**
 - High School State Golf @ Billings
- Mon 18 - Thu 21**
 - 11:45am: 1st and 2nd Grade SEL - Library Classroom
- Tue 19 - Wed 20**
 - High School State Golf @ Billings
 - 9:00 am: High School Divisional Tennis @ Belgrade
- Thursday 21**
 - 9:30 am: Divisional Track @ Laurel
- Friday 22**
 - NO SCHOOL
- Sunday 24**
 - 8:00am: EMT Class - K8 Commons
 - 2:00 pm: Old Baldy - Jam Sessions @ Reading Leaves Bookstore

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

MAY



- Friday 15**
 - 1:00 pm: Closed-door Litigation Strategy Meeting
- Monday 18**
 - 3:00 pm: Board of Health
 - 6:00 pm: Parks and Recreation
- Tuesday 19**
 - 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
 - 3:30 pm: Three Forks Mosquito Board
 - 4:00 pm: Townsend Mosquito Board
 - 7:00 pm: Noxious Weed Board
 - 7:05 pm: Public Hearing Resolution Establishing Broadwater County Noxious Weed Board
- Wednesday 20**
 - 1:00 pm: Commission Meeting
 - 6:00 pm: Airport Board

PRECISION BUSINESS RESOURCES
ACCOUNTING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TAXES

Precision Business Resources - Townsend Office
We are Remodeling Starting April 27th until July 4th

Our Townsend office will be operating from our East Helena office during the remodel.
Please call or stop by and see us at: 101 S Lane Ave in East Helena - Office # 406-266-0062
We are excited for this new remodel and look forward to seeing all our Townsend clients in July!

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School & Community Library



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

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

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager



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

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

MAY

- Tuesday 15**
 - 8:30 am: Walk and Talk Book Club at Prickly Pear Park
- Wed 18 - Thu 19**
 - Craft Swap Drop Off
- Wednesday 20**
 - 8:30 am: Walk and Talk Book Club at Prickly Pear Park
 - 10:30 am: Storytime
- Wed 20 - Fri 22**
 - Craft Swap Pick Up/Crafters can pick up items for free
- Thursday 21**
 - 10:30 am: Storytime

East Helena Schools & Sports

MAY

- Fri 15 - Sat 16**
 - Varsity Softball @ Butte Laverne Tourney
- Saturday 16**
 - 9:00 am: Tennis vs Hardin and Havre
 - 10:00 am: Track @ Park
 - 12:00 pm: Baseball vs. Lockwood
- Monday 18**
 - 6:00 pm: 5th/6th Grade Band Concert
 - 6:30 pm: Booster Club Meeting EHHS
- Tuesday 19**
 - 4:00 pm: EHHS Choir Carnival
 - 7:00 pm: EHHS Choir Concert
- Wednesday 20**
 - 2:00 pm: Little Lante's Program
- Thursday 21**
 - Tennis @ Divisionals Butte
 - 7:00 pm: EHHS Band Concert
- Fri 22 - Sat 23**
 - Tennis @ Divisionals Butte

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

- Friday 15**
 - 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
 - 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee
 - 6:00 pm: FREE Montana Constitution Road Show at Bridger Brewing
- Saturday 16**
 - 8:00 am: Yard Sale at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church **SEE AD ON PAGE 11**
 - 1:00 pm: Celebration of Life- Steve Kimpton **SEE PAGE 13**
 - 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
- Sunday 17**
 - 2:00 pm: Broadwater County Museum's 50th Birthday Open House **SEE AD ON PAGE 11**
- Sat 16 - Sun 17**
 - 8:00 am: Estate Sale at 10 Sautter Lane **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- Tuesday 19**
 - 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
 - 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- Wednesday 20**
 - 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- Thursday 21**
 - 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**
 - 5:30 pm: Meet & Greet with Commissioner Debi Randolph **SEE AD ON PAGE 11**
 - 6:00 pm: Alani Bankhead, Candidate for US Senate, Visits Townsend at American Legion Club
 - 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- Friday 22**
 - 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 23**
 - 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

LETTERS to the EDITOR

A Montana Tradition Worth Strengthening

Montana has always valued independence, accountability, and fair play. Our elections should reflect that. But today, corporate money—often from outside Montana—plays a growing role in shaping campaigns and outcomes.

The Montana Plan (I-194) is a direct response. It would stop corporations from spending money in Montana elections by limiting the political powers granted to them by the state.

Simple idea: elections should be decided by people, not corporate entities.

This isn't about left or right. It's about trust. Montanans have taken on this challenge before—and won.

I'll be signing to put it on the ballot, and you should too. Learn more and find a place to sign at sign.mttei.org/events.

Jeri Bucy
East Helena, MT

EXTRAVAGANZA BINGO
AMERICAN LEGION POST 42
TOWNSEND MONTANA

TUESDAY, May 19th
FOOD SERVED AT 5:00 PM
Pulled Pork/BBQ, Buns, Cole Slaw, Brown Sugar Baked Beans & Extravaganza Dessert
GAMES START AT 6:00 PM
\$15 BUYS ALL 10 GAMES
INCREASED PAYOUTS

BINGO

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

Estate Sale!

May 16th and 17th from 8 am until 4 pm at 10 Sautter Lane.
We have furniture, tools, linens and kitchen items.

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: June 17, 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, June 18 @ TBA
All members of the community welcome!

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM
American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway, Townsend.
HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!

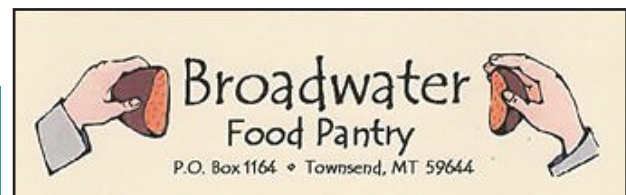
Join us for a hot, delicious meal - no cost to you.

QUESTIONS? MENU? VOLUNTEER?	STOP BY OR CALL AFTER 3PM (406) 266-3611
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DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED to help us continue supporting our community.

LET US FEED YOU - AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY

Hosted with care by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).



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

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)
May 2 & 16: 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted Friday May 1, 15 & 29: 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. May is Trailhead Fellowship Church.
For questions, donations appointments and emergency food supplies **call OUR NEW PHONE number (406) 916-0034.**

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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

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

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

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

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

LAST BEST
Heating & Air Conditioning
Jeb Pedrazzi (406) 459-4868
lastbestheatingandair.com

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
Metered Propane
Budget Billing
Lease Tanks
Service Department

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

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

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

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

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:
Tuesday, May 19 @ 5:00PM BINGO Extravaganza SEE PAGE 4
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

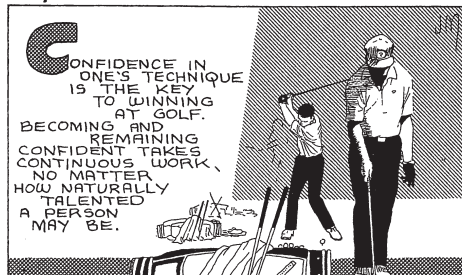
Rocky Mountain Supply Deli
7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend
(406) 266-3456
Hot & Cold To-Go Hours:
Mon-Fri 6:00AM - 6:00PM
Menu:
Board Inside Store for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza
Call Ahead or Order Inside

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

Broadwater Area Restaurants

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

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



PLAYING JUST FOR EXERCISE AND FRESH AIR IS FINE IF THAT'S WHAT SATISFIES YOU. TO BECOME AND REMAIN A WINNER, BE PREPARED TO PRACTICE AT LEAST AS MUCH AS YOU PLAY - REMEMBERING THAT THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SOME ELEMENT OF YOUR GAME.

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: C equals R
PT BI NCDFY CSAPKS P CSZMRS
FD MRS FYLF YSCN ZCDB L
JLMCSJ FCSS, ADTFCLCI FD
KDKMJLC NLI JSLZ.
©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

KNIGHT MOVES

T	E	M
A		A
R	E	C

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.
© 2026 King Features Syndicate

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Bourbon brand
8 Belly area
15 Girlfriend, in Genoa
20 Pertaining to the womb
21 Spiced Starbucks selection
22 Autos for test-driving
23 Food, clothes or money [actress]
25 Greek market of old
26 DC-10, e.g.
27 Lariat feature
28 Rushes about wildly
30 Marketed
31 Grain tower
32 Like a skimpy swimsuit [actor Perry]
35 Church area
37 Powders mixed into liquids, e.g.
38 Research ctr.
39 Shoes worn with tutus [designer McCartney]
44 Tenth mo.
46 Perjurer's confession
47 Fork prong
48 Pop singer Rita
49 Mai — (drink)
52 Young morays, say
54 Huge Asian mammal [justice Kagan]
60 Tijuana-to-Vegas dir. (extras)
61 Add — (military uniforms)
64 Small lakes
65 — Jima
67 Having supple arms and legs [jazzman Davis]
72 Nuptial vow
73 Moving spryly
75 Smoothly polite
76 Neighbor of TV's Homer area
78 Surg. sites
80 Roomy place to house vehicles [actress Jones]
85 Vacation spot
87 Swallowed [jazzman Davis]
88 Little fellow
89 Performs like Ice Cube
91 Initial venture
92 1040 info
93 Small, springy apparatus [director Scorsese]
98 Zenith
101 Almsgiving
103 Othello's false friend
104 Antipollution law [singer Grande]
106 — -Alt-Del
108 Major — (butler)
112 Gives one's approval
113 Persia, today
114 Showed anew
115 Ellipses
116 What the eight featured celebrities in this puzzle are doing?
121 Edit further, perhaps
122 State of joy
123 Bones near tibiae
124 Bottom-of-barrel residue
125 Frabry of Broadway
126 Greek Week guy
3 Lead or tin
4 "I'm Sorry" singer
5 The Emerald Isle
6 Singer DiFranco
7 Most soft, dry and crumbly
8 "Solid Gold" host Marilyn
9 Breakfast chain, for short
10 Flow barrier
11 Discharge from the military, informally
12 Skort
13 Minks' kin
14 Femme —
15 Modify
16 #1 song, say
17 "The Father" actress Foots
18 Tools for fruit preparation
19 How bedding is often packaged
24 IM chuckle
29 City near Bangalore
31 Booming jet of old, in brief
32 Jazz genre
33 Bitter brew
34 Karel Capek sci-fi play
36 Actor Pascal
37 Floored it
39 Good, in Nice
40 From dusk to dawn
41 Dynamo
42 52, to Flavius
43 Hotel cousin
45 Lil' Abner creator Al
48 Ashley or Mary-Kate
49 Cooked in a clay oven, as naan
50 Neighbor of a Spaniard
51 Part of TGIF show, in brief
53 Lazy sort
56 Meyers of "Kate & Allie" e.g.
57 "Rambo" site, for short
58 Decline
59 — polloi
62 "What a pity!"
66 Bullfight yell
68 Your and my
69 Droop down
70 Mendes of movies
71 Berlin article
73 — discount
74 Long, thin fish
77 Clear of mist
79 Eye sore
81 High-kicking French dance
82 Diletantish
83 Long, thin fish
84 Org. enforcing the 104-Across
86 First post-band album, perhaps
90 Vodka brand
92 Marine snail with no shell
93 Cooking wine
94 Lyricist Gerstwin
95 Actor Cage, to friends
96 "Addams Family" cousin
97 Compadre
98 Harmony
99 Shamrock, e.g.
100 Threat
102 Guys contracted by the Mafia
105 Bird hangouts
106 Wading bird
107 Tic — (mint)
109 Toothbrush brand
110 Region of China
111 In tune
113 "— Rhythm"
114 Country's McEntire
117 Mo. neighbor
118 Native suffix
119 Tiny objection
120 Space station until 2001

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22
23 24 25
26 27 28 29
30 31 32 33 34
35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45
46 47 48 49 50 51
52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59
60 61 62 63 64
65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72
73 74 75 76 77 78 79
80 81 82 83 84 85 86
87 88 89 90 91
92 93 94 95 96 97
98 99 100 101 102 103
104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111
112 113 114
115 116 117 118 119 120
121 122 123
124 125 126



"Guess who I'd REALLY like to send to _____ school!"

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!

Stoop

DINGE

Clang

ONESI

Deluge

RAREBAG

Social

CAROLID

TODAY'S WORD

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 TO BROADWATER COUNTY TAXPAYERS FOR MOBILE HOME PROPERTY TAXES

The 2026 MOBILE HOME PROPERTY 1st half taxes are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2026. After that date, the 1st half becomes delinquent with interest accruing at the rate of 5/6 of 1% per month and penalty of 2% of the tax.

* Please Include Tax ID or Payment Stub with your check
ALL PROPERTY TAXES MAY BE PAID ONLINE. SEE OUR WEBSITE broadwatercountymt.com FOR DETAILS.

Melissa Franks, Treasurer
Broadwater County

Published May 15 and 22, 2026

MNAXLP

NOTICE TO BROADWATER COUNTY TAXPAYERS FOR REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES

The 2025 REAL ESTATE PROPERTY 2nd half taxes are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2026. After that date, the 1st half becomes delinquent with interest accruing at the rate of 5/6 of 1% per month and penalty of 2% of the tax.

* Please Include Tax ID or Payment Stub with your check
ALL PROPERTY TAXES MAY BE PAID ONLINE. SEE OUR WEBSITE broadwatercountymt.com FOR DETAILS.

Melissa Franks, Treasurer
Broadwater County

Published May 15 and 22, 2026

MNAXLP

BROADWATER COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Broadwater County Noxious Weed Board will be taking comments regarding the Broadwater County Noxious Weed List Resolution. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:05 pm in the Flynn Building located at 416 Broadway Street, Townsend.

The proposed resolution is posted on the Broadwater County website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov.

Written comments are also being accepted at Broadwater County Noxious Weed District, 515 Broadway St., Townsend, MT 59644

Published May 8 and 15, 2026

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

NOTICE THAT A TAX DEED MAY BE ISSUED IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR PROPERTY. TO: Carmen L Brady aka Carmen L McFerrin 24 Rocking KM Rd. East Helena, MT 59635-3460, Robert Ronald Brady 3157 Paddock Ln. Helena, MT 59602, Broadwater County Treasurer 515 Broadway St. Townsend, MT 59644, Unknown occupants 6 Pine Sysken Ln. East Helena, MT 59635, Pursuant to Section 15-18-212, 15-18-215 Montana Code Annotated, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

1. As a result of a property tax delinquency, a property tax lien exists on the real property in which you may have an interest. The real property is described on the tax sale lien as: SPRUCE GROVE SUB, S16, T09 N, R01 W, Lot 23, ACRES 4.4, COS 1-704

2. The property taxes became delinquent on June 1, 2023.

3. The property tax lien was attached as the result of a tax lien sale held on August 1, 2023.

4. The property tax lien was purchased at a tax lien sale on August 1, 2023, by Broadwater County Treasurer, and subsequently assigned to Boon Capital Corp

5. As of the date of this notice, the amount due is:

TAX	\$ 9,163.46
PENALTY	\$ 183.38
INTEREST	\$ 639.51
COST	\$ 256.08
TOTAL	\$ 10,242.43

6. For the property tax lien to be redeemed the total amount listed in paragraph 5 plus all interest and costs that accrue from the date of this notice until the date of redemption which amount will be calculated by the County Treasurer upon request, must be paid on or before August 3, 2026, which is the date the redemption period expires.

7. If all taxes, penalties, interest, and costs are not paid to the County Treasurer on or prior to August 3, 2026, which is the date the redemption period expires, a tax deed may be issued to the assignee that is the possessor of the tax lien, on the day following the date on which the redemption period expires.

8. The business address and telephone number of the county treasurer who is responsible for issuing the tax deed is: Broadwater County Treasurer, 515 Broadway St. Townsend, Montana 59644; Telephone (406)266-9218

FURTHER NOTICE FOR THOSE PERSONS LISTED ABOVE WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN:

- The address of the interested party is unknown.
- The published notice meets the legal requirements for notice of a pending tax deed issuance.
- The interested party's rights in the property may be in jeopardy.

Dated at Taylorville, IL the 1st day of May, 2026

Boon Capital Corp

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR PROPERTY.

Published May 15 and 22, 2026

MNAXLP

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
ANGIE PAULSEN

NOTICE OF NOMINATION DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to § 13-14-118, MCA, that individuals may file declarations for nomination for the offices of County Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools from June 1-10, 2026, due to a candidate's withdrawal.

Declarations for nominations must be submitted to Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder, located at 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644. A filing fee of \$355.39 is required, payable by check or cash.

Dated and effective this 6th day of May 2026

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

Published May 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2026

MNAXLP

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

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE NEEDED

Disabled Vietnam veteran - looking for someone to do house cleaning.
Call Duane at 406-461-0073

BROADWATER COUNTY MT

Job Posting: Full-time Administrative Assistant

Department: Public Works
Position: Permanent, Full- Time Administrative Assistant (40hrs/week)
Compensation: \$23-27/hr
Application Deadline: May 22, 2026.

Broadwater County is seeking a highly motivated individual for a Full-Time Administrative Assistant. This position performs a variety of tasks and assignments in the Public Works Department including preparing, posting, verifying, and recording customer payments and transactions related to accounts receivable for Public Works.

Excellent customer service skills are required. Accounting skills and knowledge of Black Mountain software are required. Graduation from high school or equivalent is required; associate degree in accounting is preferred. A combination of relevant experience and education may be considered. Position is open until filled. Starting pay is \$23-27 per hour, based on experience. Excellent benefits and paid vacation.

Please review full job description at www.broadwatercountymt.gov and provide a letter of interest, resume and an application to Broadwater County Public Works in person or by email to tgraveley@broadwatercountymt.gov by May 22, 2026.

Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

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

Notice, 1

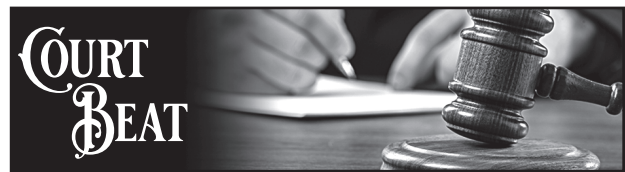
The rate adjustments proposed in this filing result in the following:

- An adjustment in propane supply costs to \$0.97934 per therm from June 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026, \$1.27689 per therm from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and \$1.08334 per therm from April 1, 2027, to May 31, 2027.
- The UPSCA balance, for the 12-month period ending May 31, 2026, was an under-collection of \$44,160. NorthWestern proposes to amortize this balance, after including it with the actual prior year UPSCA over-collected balance of (\$25,033), which is the balance that results from cessation of the amount approved for amortization in Docket No. 2025.05.032. Therefore, the resulting UPSCA Balance proposed for amortization in this filing is \$19,125. NorthWestern proposes to amortize and collect this under-collected balance from customers from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027, at a rate of \$0.03927 per therm based on a 12-month forecasted load. This results in a \$0.03653 per therm increase from the current rate of \$0.00274 per therm for the UPSCA.

The interim request and supporting documents can be examined at NorthWestern's General Office, 11 East Park Street, Butte, Montana; at the office of the Montana Consumer Counsel ("MCC"), 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, Helena, Montana; or at the office of the Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana. The MCC is available to assist in the representation of consumer interests in this matter, and its phone number is 406-444-2771.

Any response which any person wishes to make on this interim request should be delivered to the Commission at the above address as soon as possible or mailed to the Commission at P.O. Box 202601, Helena, MT 59620-2601.

Any portion of the interim adjustment approved by the Commission, pending hearing and final decision, would, pursuant to § 69-3-304, MCA, be subject to rebate or surcharge if the final decision in this docket is to approve a final revenue level which is different than the interim level.



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Judge Michael McMahon presided over the following cases on May 8, 2026. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher, representing the state, and Qasim Abdul-Baki, representing the defendants, were there for their clients.

Rachael Horne- The parties stated that they had come to an agreement and the pretrial hearing and jury trial were vacated. The parties will file a motion to dismiss in the case.

Brittney Betts- This was the time for the Admit/Deny hearing. Ms. Betts denied all violations and an Evidentiary hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2026.

Dennis Hinchey- A pre-trial hearing was scheduled to be held at this time. Mr. Hinchey failed to show for the hearing. The Jury trial was vacated with a \$20,000 warrant issued for failure to show.

Zane Wallace- The parties addressed the court stating that they had come to an agreement and a Plea Agreement had been filed. The pre-trial and Jury trial was vacated.

Lukeus Gallegos- Pleaded Guilty to Counts 1 and 5. Sentencing was held, Mr. Gallegos must attend a behavioral health Court, pay restitution in the amount of \$660, fees and surcharges. The defendant will receive credit for time served toward his fine.

For definitions of Legal Terms, visit the MT43News website at: <https://mt43news.com/LegalTerms>.

Weather Forecast

MAY

Friday 15
High Temp: 66
Low Temp: 42
Wind: 19
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100



Saturday 16
High Temp: 59
Low Temp: 43
Wind: 19
Rain: 0.004
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 19
High Temp: 55
Low Temp: 42
Wind: 23
Rain: 0.052
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 17
High Temp: 53
Low Temp: 40
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.004
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 20
High Temp: 61
Low Temp: 36
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 18
High Temp: 64
Low Temp: 35
Wind: 15
Rain: 0.008
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 21
High Temp: 59
Low Temp: 44
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.072
Cloud Cover: 100



Memorial Day Program Monday
11 am May 25, Memorial Park
 Hosted by
American Legion Post 42 Family



Please join us to commemorate our fallen comrades from all wars and conflicts.

The American Legion Post 42 Family will hold the annual Memorial Day Program at 11 am on Monday, May 25, 2026. Colonel Chase Ragen is our keynote speaker this year and special guests will place the wreaths at the Memorial.

Chairs are provided, but feel free to bring your own camp chairs. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held at the American Legion Post 42 at 211 Broadway. The Auxiliary will provide lunch to follow at the Post after the program.

LETTER to the EDITOR



Progressive Dark Money

Influencing Republican Politics

Montana's Republican primary election is being clouded by a sophisticated "dark money" shell game. At the center is Conservatives4MT, a PAC presenting itself as a Republican ally while operating on a massive \$700,000 infusion from liberal-backed sources. Conservatives4MT is supporting candidates running as Republicans who are NOT even true conservatives.

The record shows that George Soros and Hansjörg Wyss have donated millions to the Sixteen30 Fund, which funds the Western Futures Fund and the Way Back PAC, before landing in the coffers of Conservatives4MT.

Wyss, a Swiss billionaire, is the primary force behind the American Prairie Reserve, a project aimed at transforming nearly 600,000 acres of Montana land into a land reserve for the rich, hence untouchable to the public. This capital is now being used to influence the leaders who oversee our state's future.

When a "conservative" group is bankrolled by the same entities supporting Democrats, it isn't a coalition; it's a Trojan horse. The "Republicans" benefiting from these mailers and ads are curiously silent.

Montana voters deserve transparency, not a fake, progressively funded PAC that is meant to look Republican. These candidates are supported by the most liberal of out-of-state interests. It is time for candidates to denounce this dirty money. After all, would a preacher gladly accept tithes from a known member of the cartel? More info: www.facebook.com/danielzolnikov & MTGOP 'Honor Roll' Candidates. You are invited; MT GOP Grassroots Social May 14th, Billings, MT, WillowBrooke Barn 414 S 64th W 6:00-8:30 pm.

Please do your research,

Ron Tibbetts- Billings, MT
Phil Richert- Billings, MT

Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Accepts Complaint

MTGOP

Montana Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) Chris Gallus accepted a complaint filed by a Montana resident detailing election law violations by several left-wing dark money groups.

The complaint details how Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, Treasure State Stewards, and Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections improperly filed as incidental committees to avoid the full contributor disclosure required of independent committees.

The three entities, as well as Conservatives4MT, share identical financial officers, banking infrastructure, and mailing addresses. All of the groups' expenditures are for candidate-specific election communications or transfers to political committees; they all lack any identifiable non-electoral purpose.

The COPP accepted the complaint as filed and requested written replies from the respondents. The COPP will then determine whether a formal investigation is warranted.

"This is an organized scheme by Democrat dark money groups to interfere in Republican primary elections. They were caught red-handed, having intentionally formed sham entities to avoid disclosure of donor sources," Montana Republican Party (MTGOP) Chairman Art Wittich said. "It's brazen, it's wrong, and they need to face consequences."

The MTGOP's Executive Board previously passed resolutions condemning Republican primary candidates who worked with Fireweed Campaigns and other left-wing political benefactors – like the aforementioned committees – and calling on them to disavow the groups and return any money received from them.

Introducing Your Local Nonprofit Ambassador

Tylyn Newcombe
Montana Nonprofit Association

I am officially introducing Rachael Brug, who has been hired as an MNA (Montana Nonprofit Association) Rural Ambassador in Townsend this year! In this role, Rachael will be connecting with local nonprofit leaders and board members to learn about resource needs, opportunities, and training priorities for your community, as well as working to connect folks to existing resources and build and grow a local nonprofit network to promote collaboration and connection among community leaders. Please feel free to reach out to Rachael and connect with her about the work you're doing!

Rachael Brug is the owner of Reading Leaves Bookstore in Townsend, Montana—a community-rooted space built around connection, conversation, and lifelong learning. She is also the founder of The Montana Bookstore Trail and current President of Visit Southwest Montana Tourism. As Montana Nonprofit Association's Rural Ambassador for Broadwater County, she brings a boots-on-the-ground perspective from rural main street, helping strengthen local nonprofits through relationship-building, resource sharing, and practical support.

Rachael is passionate about literacy, inclusive community spaces, and the power of small towns to do big things when people feel welcomed and connected. When she's not behind the counter or planning the next book club, craft night, or community event, you'll find her collaborating with local partners to make Broadwater County a place where neighbors can gather, learn, and thrive.

As part of the ambassador program, MNA will offer a free nonprofit training in your community – we will work with Rachael to determine topic and schedule, so please keep your eyes peeled for that.

The ambassador program started in 2022 with two ambassadors in Eastern MT, and we are thrilled to be hosting 13 ambassadors across the state this year. You can read about our other ambassadors here - <https://mtnonprofit.org/mna-resources/2026-rural-ambassadors/>

Please let me know if you have any questions about the ambassador program. I am so happy to be working with Rachael. Her passion for supporting nonprofits and building community is truly wonderful, and I think will have a great impact on your community!

LETTER to the EDITOR



I have been appointed the Broadwater County Non-Profit Ambassador with the Montana Non-Profit Association.

I am reaching out to anyone who might be interested in doing a short interview with me about their nonprofits in Broadwater County. I will be compiling information on what kind of information, supports, and trainings nonprofits and their boards would find beneficial, and work on organizing some of these opportunities in our community. I will also be using information (with permission) from these interviews to spotlight the work and needs of these organizations in the local newspaper for a visibility boost.

Mostly, I would like to increase communication, resources, and possible collaboration in our local nonprofit community. I have created a Facebook page to share resources and information, as well as a place for organizations to communicate with other organizations and the public to ask or share questions, resources, ideas, and needs (volunteers, post shares, etc) Broadwater County Non-Profit Connections is the name, link is: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575461962157>

If you have ideas or requests for types of information that would be useful to your nonprofit and/or board, please let me know via email or by stopping in the bookstore to chat. I hope to organize a quarterly meet-up for nonprofit organizations of varying topics beginning in the near future.

Thank you all for doing what you do!

Rachael Brug
Broadwater County Non-Profit Ambassador, Townsend

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, May 19, 2026

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

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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

10:00 AM Monthly report MCA 7-6-612 from Broadwater County Treasurer, Melissa Franks

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Melissa Franks, Treasurer | County Superintendent of Schools, Resolution Canceling Outstanding Warrants for Claims Drawn on Opportunity Bank of Montana – Townsend With Dates of Issuance From July 1, 2003, to September 30, 2025

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Kevin Angland, Broadwater County Floodplain Administrator, Floodplain permit MDT Project: Bridge Removal West of Toston UPN 10557000 STPB 900 4(23)

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Steve McCullough, approval of Townsend Schools grant for an update to the 1963 gym's sound system in the amount of \$2030 from the Broadwater Trust Board.

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Jessica Bushnell, Noxious Weed Coordinator, Resolution Establishing the Broadwater County Noxious Weed List

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, TJ Graveley, Public Works Director, approval of up to \$65,000 for a Transfer Truck

10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, TJ Graveley, Public Works Director, purchase of 2 30-yard hook lift canisters, \$36,000

10:35 AM Discussion, speed limit in Winston on Main St (leading to Weasel Creek)

10:40 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

- Board of Health Meeting on May 18th at 3:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on May 18th at 6:00 PM
- Three Forks Mosquito Board Meeting on May 19th at 3:30 PM
- Townsend Mosquito Board Meeting on May 19th at 4:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on May 19th at 7:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on May 20th at 6:00 PM
- Planning Board Meeting on June 2nd at 1:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on June 9th at 11:30 AM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on June 9th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on June 11th

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

Bulldog Track: John Cheek Top 8 B/C



Elaine MacDonald and Aspen Slyker are all smiles, bringing home the hardware from the John Cheek Top 8 Meet. MT43 News Photo



Junior Jim Tew marks his new best distance at triple jump of 42'2", which automatically qualifies him for the state meet in Missoula. MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Sports Reporter

The Bulldog track and field team had another packed week as they wrapped up the regular season portion of their season. First up was the John Cheek Top 8 B/C in Anaconda on Tuesday, May 5th: this meet features class B and C athletes from Southwestern Montana with the best-established marks this season. The rest of the week included a freshman meet in Great Falls and separate meets for the varsity and JV teams on Saturday in Dillon and Missoula.

The men's varsity team won both the Top 8 and KLH meets with 100 and 92 points, respectively. Gavin Greene represented well for the distance squad with two wins and two runner-up finishes in six miles of racing in one week. Tannen Tuffelmire, Tavyn Anderson, and Jim Tew continue to impress in the sprints, hurdles, and field jumps, while Trace Giomi and Gavin Schmele keep outdoing themselves in the field throws. Jim added a state-qualifying mark in the triple jump with a huge mark of over 42 feet.

The lady's varsity team finished in a tie for fifth and a second-place finish at the two meets. Sophomore Elaine MacDonald scored a ton of points this week with new PBs; her 400-meter dash time at Top 8 is now the all-time meet record! Kaitlyn Noyes brought home her fourth consecutive "Outstanding Female Field Event Athlete" plaque from the KHL meet. Seniors Aspen Slyker, Emmalin Fischer, and Holly Newman are all looking strong in their individual events and in the relays. The marks that scored points at the two varsity meets are as follows:

Top Eight: 100-meter dash: 3 Tannen Tuffelmire 11.62PB, 200-meter dash: 3 Elaine MacDonald 27.83, 400-meter dash: 1 Elaine MacDonald 1:02.37PB, 1600-meter run: 2 Gavin Greene 4:47.73, 3200-meter run: 2 Gavin Greene 10:55.86, 6 Clayton Rice 11:31.75
110-meter hurdles: 2 Tannen Tuffelmire 16.48PB, 3 Aspen Slyker 17.20PB, 6 Holly Newman 17.61, 6 Tavyn Anderson 17.95, 7 Emmalin Fischer 18.03. 300-meter hurdles: 2 Tannen Tuffelmire 43.55, 3 Aspen Slyker 49.34SB, 6 Tavyn Anderson 46.14.

4x100-meter relay: 2 E. Fischer, E. MacDonald, A. Slyker, H. Newman 52.31, 3 H. Vandenacre, L. Johnson, B. Lessley, T. Tuffelmire 45.20. 4x400-meter relay: 1 H. Vandenacre, L. Johnson, R. Hoveland, B. Lessley 3:46.12, 1 E. Fischer, L. Barkhurst, A. Slyker, E. MacDonald 4:28.59.

Shot Put: 1 Gavin Schmele 46'5.5", 9 Pat Gossard 36'1.75". Discus: 3 Gavin Schmele 127'8" SB. Javelin: 5 Tavyn Anderson 136'1", 9 Pat Gossard 128'5", 10 Marek Easter 124'11".

High Jump: 4 Holly Newman 4'10". Long Jump: 2 Tavyn Anderson 19'2.5". Triple Jump: 2 Tavyn Anderson 39'8", 8 Heston Vandenacre 35'9".

KLH Memorial:
100-meter dash: 4 Elaine MacDonald 13.51PB, 5 Tannen Tuffelmire 11.65. 200-meter dash: 4 Elaine MacDonald 27.82, 5 Tannen Tuffelmire 23.48PB. 400-meter dash: 2 Elaine MacDonald 1:02.39. 1600-meter run: 1 Gavin Greene 4:40.03PB, 6 Isaiah Lapsley 5:08.06PB. 3200-meter run: 1 Gavin Greene 10:30.94PB, 5 Clayton Rice 11:27.85PB.

110-meter hurdles: 4 Aspen Slyker 17.31, 5 Jim Tew 17.13, 6 Holly Newman 17.46SB. 300-meter hurdles: 4 Tannen Tuffelmire 42.32, 4 Emmalin Fischer 52.99PB.

4x100-meter relay: 1 K. Heggen, E. MacDonald, A. Slyker, K. Noyes 51.47. 4x400-meter relay: 2 E. MacDonald, L. Barkhurst, A. Slyker, K. Noyes 4:22.98.

Shot Put: 1 Gavin Schmele 50'3.75" PB, 2 Trace Giomi 47'2". Discus: 1 Trace Giomi 148'0.5" PB. Javelin: 5 Tavyn Anderson 141'7".

High Jump: 2 Kaitlyn Noyes 5'2", 4 Holly Newman 4'10". Long Jump: 1 Kaitlyn Noyes 17'10.75" SB, 2 Jim Tew 19'11.75", 4 Holly Newman 15'6" SB, 6 Logan Johnson 18'9". Triple Jump: 1 Jim Tew 42'2" PB, 1 Kaitlyn Noyes 35'1" SB, 2 Tavyn Anderson 40'5", 5 Tannen Tuffelmire 38'11.25" PB.

Rural Community Builders Gather in White Sulphur Springs

Rachael Elliott-Brug



I recently drove to White Sulphur Springs to spend the day at Two Bassett Brewery for the Community Builder Summit, an annual gathering hosted by the Montana Nonprofit Association, the Montana Community Foundation, and MSU Extension Community Vitality. Now in its third year, the summit pulled together a roomful of people from rural towns across the state — board members, executive directors, business owners, foundation leaders, ranchers, and volunteers — for a day focused on the work of making small Montana towns thrive.

The morning opened with introductions, and the room reflected just how broad "community building" really is. Folks were there from community foundations, ski areas, libraries, schools, mental health agencies, hotels, restaurants, hardware stores, and chambers of commerce. Almost everyone shared the same reasons for coming: connection, networking, and the hope to leave with new ideas to take home.

One of the most striking sessions of the day came from MSU Extension, which laid out research showing that Montana ranks second in the nation for organizational leadership demand. According to the data, roughly one in thirteen Montana adults needs to hold some kind of volunteer leadership position to keep our towns running — and in our most sparsely populated counties, that ratio can be as steep as one in five. Volunteers don't just decorate Main Street and run the Fourth of July parade; in many of our towns they staff the EMS, the fire department, the food bank, the library board, and the school board.

That stretch is what attendees described as the "STP" problem — the "same ten people" who keep showing up. The presenters didn't pretend there was an easy fix, but they pointed to research showing a strong link between feeling connected to a place and being willing to step up in it. People who report a high sense of community cohesion are dramatically more likely to organize gatherings, host events, and take on leadership roles. The takeaway: the parades, the rodeos, the music nights, the art alleys — those aren't fluff. They're how rural towns build the trust and connection that fuel everything else.

A morning panel of community builders from across central and southwest Montana shared what that work has looked like in practice. One panelist described how her small downtown formed a six-person volunteer organization, hosted Reimagining Rural workshops with MSU Extension, completed two mural projects and a town cleanup, kicked off a historic district designation, and was eventually awarded a state Community Tourism Grant.

Another panelist, who runs a ski area and a historic hotel in central Montana, talked about how her business addresses staff mental health with daily morning huddles and end-of-shift dance parties, and how a memorial scholarship now puts a free season pass in the hands of every school-aged kid in town.

A third panelist, who runs a housing nonprofit near Yellowstone, walked through how her board pivoted from chasing million-dollar properties to placing modular homes on school district land — delivering three units for about \$565,000 to be used as teacher housing.

The threads running through every story were the same: pivot when you need to, ask everyone you can think of for help, and never underestimate how much your neighbors want to be invited in.

The afternoon turned to storytelling, with a session from the Montana Nonprofit Association's community programs team. The argument was simple and worth repeating: every other piece of the work — recruiting volunteers, asking for major gifts, getting the public to show up to your event — depends on telling the story of what you're doing well. The Montana Nonprofit Association, which serves as the statewide association for Montana's nonprofits, offers training, resources, and a rural ambassador program designed to put those tools within reach of small-town organizations that don't have the staff to chase them down on their own.

Earlier in the day, the Montana Community Foundation walked the room through the basics of cultivating major donors — a reminder that more than 90 percent of charitable giving in this country comes from individuals, not foundations or corporations, and that the wealth in our own counties is a great deal larger than most of us assume.

Lunch and the closing "tangible takeaway" table conversations gave everyone a chance to compare notes, swap contact information, and — for those of us who drove a couple of hours to get there — be reminded that we are not alone in this work. Across rural Montana, in towns most people pass right through, there is a quiet, persistent group of neighbors who keep showing up. The summit was a chance to recognize them, learn from them, and head home a little less tired and a little more sure of what comes next.

Golf Team Travels to Anaconda on May 7th



BHS Golf team in Anaconda, May 7. Daniel Hazlette, Golf Team Coach

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter

On Thursday, May 7th, the Bulldogs golf teams travelled to Anaconda to compete on the Old Works golf course. The boys team placed 5th and the girls team finished in 4th place overall.

A highlight of the whole tournament was when Caleb Swanson, a junior, scored a hole-in-one! This was on Hole 7, which is 185 yards and he scored it through a windy 185 yards. This was, "an incredible feat, and we are very proud of him," says head golf coach Dan Hazelette. Caleb finished the tournament tied for fourth place. Alex Weiss tied for 19th place, and Brando Parr shot his best score of the year and tied for 30th. Gunner Cox finished tied for 44th place. This was a great tournament for the boys.

For the girls, Jazel Ragen placed 8th overall. Louie Parr finished in a tie for 13th place, and Brynlee Brown



Caleb Swanson celebrates his "hole in one." Daniel Hazlette, Golf Team Coach

finished in 20th place. Claire Swanson placed 36th, and Autumn Henke finished 34th.

Next up, the Bulldogs will travel back to Anaconda for a practice round on Monday, May 11th, and the Divisional tournament on Tuesday, May 12th.

Mother's Day Breakfast Fundraiser Poorly Attended

MT43 News Reporter

“The scariest thing for me as a volunteer fireman is when I show up at a structure fire and I’m the only one there. I have to ask a bystander to turn on the water. We need volunteers!” This statement was from ten-year volunteer, Jordon Shearer, who is a member of Broadwater Rural Fire Department.

Shearer, 34, a lifelong resident of Townsend, farms and ranches in the county. Asked why he continues to serve, he said, “We need to support the community. Also, someday it might be me who needs the help.”

Volunteers of all shapes and stripes can sign up for short periods or for the long haul. He said the department can find jobs for both men and women, no matter their physical shape.

Over 20 volunteer firemen and their wives prepared breakfast Saturday morning at their annual Mother’s Day Breakfast to fix sausage, eggs, pancakes and all the fixings. According to 20-year volunteer and veteran, Larry Virnig, who volunteers with the Duck Creek Fire Department. “We served 65 people. Usually, we have a full house for this fundraiser.”

Monies from the fundraiser go to purchase supplies such as food and water or Gatorade for the volunteers working in fire situations or for equipment they need, according to Sheree Beauchamp. She and her husband volunteer at the Toston Fire Department.

GUEST EDITORIALS

Guest Editorials reflect the views of the author and not MT43 NEWS

The Montana Plan

Montana has a long memory. We know what happens when big money tries to run our politics. A century ago, we pushed back against the Copper Kings with the Corrupt Practices Act Initiative. Then Citizens United came along and opened the floodgates again. The Montana Plan is how we take back control—using Montana’s own authority.

Here is the idea in one sentence—Montana will no longer grant corporations the power to spend money in our politics. That’s it. Not new rights, no new agencies, not a maze of loopholes. We Montanans decide which powers the state gives to the entities our state creates.

Why can we do that? Because corporations and other artificial entities are creatures of state law. The state issues them special legal privileges so they can do business—limited liability, perpetual life, and the ability to hold property. But the Constitution does not force Montana to hand out every power under the sun. Campaign finance cases like Citizens United assume a fully empowered corporation. The Montana Plan changes the starting point. We shorten the list of powers we grant. Companies get the power necessary for lawful business. Political spending is not on that list.

What does this mean in practice? If a company—or any state-created entity—wants to be active in politics, there is a proper channel: form a real political committee powered by people and follow the rules the same as everyone else. No more dipping straight into corporate treasuries or dark-money piles and swamping our races and ballot measures. This is about politics broadly—not just candidate elections—because Montanans deserve to debate our laws without a corporate megaphone drowning us out.

Just as important is what the Montana Plan does not do. It does not restrict the speech of human beings. Your right to speak, to contribute, to knock on doors, to support a cause—untouched. This is about the powers we grant artificial persons, not the rights we all have as Montanans.

The initiative is carefully built. Political committees—whose whole purpose is to spend in politics—still can. The press can still do its job covering political issues. If a corporation ignores the law and spends in politics anyway, the state can enforce against that corporation using the same corporate-law remedies that have always applied. Shareholders can hold officers and directors personally responsible for the misdeeds, and the Montana Attorney General can shut the corporation down altogether if it gets bad enough. And it treats all state-created entities the same.

Why now? Because we all see what is happening. Outside money floods our mailboxes and screens. Local voices get pushed to the margins. The Montana Plan is a Montana-sized power move to restore self-government—designed here, for here, and built on long-settled state authority.

What do we need from you? Three things. First, add your name and get plugged in—sign the petition and volunteer to gather signatures to get the initiative on the November ballot. Second, spread the word: explain the simple core to five friends this week—Montana will no longer grant corporations the power to spend in our politics. Third, if you are able, chip in so we can print materials and answer every question with the facts.

Montana can lead the country again. Let us choose the powers we grant, protect our politics, and hand our kids a democracy that still belongs to neighbors, not to corporate checkbooks.

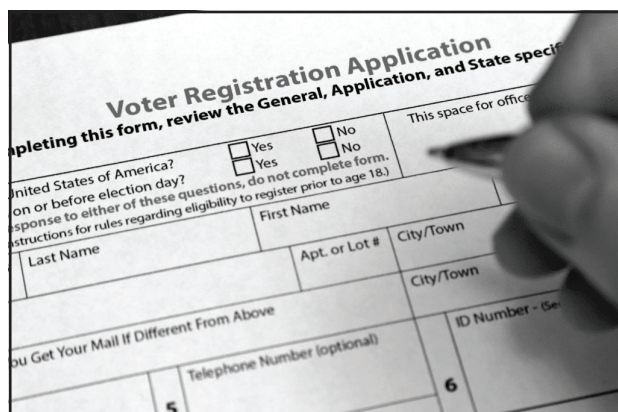
Thanks for standing up. Let’s get to work.

Shauna Thomas
Helena

New Voting Rules in Play as Primary Election Begins

Tom Lutey
Montana Free Press

New rules and requirements include registration deadlines, birth-year confirmation and photo ID.



As school election ballots started coming back to the Yellowstone County Elections Office on Tuesday, it was clear that voters are still getting the hang of Montana’s new voting laws — especially that mail voters must now write their birth year on their ballot’s return envelope.

Yellowstone County Elections Administrator Dayna Causby said her office sent more than 1,500 notifications to voters explaining that either their return envelopes were missing a signature or, more often, their birth year in the envelope’s four pre-printed orange squares below the signature line. The latter was first required of Montana voters in 2025 municipal elections, and next in 2026 school elections, which wrapped up Tuesday night.

Absentee ballots for the primary election are due to be mailed to electors on the absentee list Friday. Voters’ learning curve, judging by Causby’s observations, is still pretty steep.

“I have people who voted last fall who still forgot their birth year. I have an election worker in my office who didn’t include her birth year,” Causby said. Of her office’s 1,531 potentially rejected ballots, roughly 216 were resolved before her office started counting school election ballots late Tuesday. Voters had until 5 p.m. Wednesday to clear up any problems so their votes would count.

With the start of primary election voting this week, county election administrators told Montana Free Press, there are new requirements that voters will need to adjust to. People voting in person will need to provide an officially recognized form of ID — Montana driver’s license, Montana ID card, military ID, tribal ID, passport, concealed carry permit, or a student ID issued by a Montana University System school or a member school of the National Collegiate Athletic Association — to receive a ballot. A voter can also use a current utility bill, bank statement or government document showing a name and current address, combined with a photo ID that includes the voter’s name.

In prior elections, any photo ID was sufficient.

Ravalli County Elections Administrator Regina Plettenburg noted that the laws regarding voter registration in the final days of an election period have also changed, and primary voters needed to be prepared. No longer can Montanans register to vote the Monday before Election Day. Rather, county election offices will be open all day the Saturday before Election Day to register new voters or to make registration changes like new addresses. Registration to vote in state elections on Election Day will now stop at noon, Plettenburg said, after years in which new voters could register until the polls closed on Election Day. County elections officials asked for the change after multiple years of last-minute voter registrations. The old registration rules guaranteed that anyone in line to register to vote by 8 p.m. on Election Day would be able to register and vote after the official close of voting. In some instances, late-registration lines weren’t resolved until early on the day after Election Day.

Multiple voting rights groups have sued Montana’s secretary of state to overturn the new voter ID and registration laws, but the lawsuit is ongoing, meaning the new laws could be thrown out or blocked by court order any time during the 2026 election cycle.

The birth-year requirement was the first new law to roll out because municipal and school elections are conducted exclusively by mail, meaning no accommodation was necessary for late in-person registration.

Montana Rural Summit Set for June 10 in Townsend

Tara Mastel
MSU Extension Communications

All who have a stake in the success of rural Montana communities are invited to the Montana Rural Summit on June 10 in Townsend. The event will feature a “State of Rural” report for Montana, success stories from rural leaders and a discussion on how local leaders can contribute to community vitality. It is hosted by Montana State University Extension.

The event will celebrate rural communities and provide an opportunity to explore innovative and effective ways to support the future success of small towns, according to Tara Mastel, MSU Extension Community Vitality program leader. For example, it will include a “State of Rural” report presented by Julia Haggerty, head of the Department of Earth Sciences in the College of Letters and Science, and Kristen Smith from Headwaters Economics, an independent research group. In addition, rural legislators will speak on policy considerations for the future of rural areas during a lunchtime panel discussion, and Daniel Read from the LOR Foundation, a nonprofit supporting Western rural communities, will present recent research on rural leaders conducted by the LOR Foundation and Gallup polling.

“Attendees such as rural funders and policymakers who have a stake in the success of rural communities may appreciate the event’s interaction and feedback with community leaders, legislators and participants in Extension programs like Reimagining Rural,” said Mastel.

The summit will conclude with an optional “Taste of Townsend” tour that will spotlight unique projects, community-minded leaders and the creative energy shaping rural Montana. The tour will also include a culinary tasting.

Registration is \$50 and includes morning refreshments and lunch. For more information, or to register by June 3, visit www.montana.edu/extension/communitydevelopment/ruralsummit.html.

Downing Introduces the Accelerating Forest Management Act

Troy Downing



Congressman Troy Downing introduced the Accelerating Forest Management Act - legislation to codify the Bureau of Land Management’s proposed National Environmental Policy Act’s (NEPA) categorical exclusion for timber salvage projects in order to speed up active forest management, reduce wildfire risk, and support rural economies.

The legislation would permanently authorize streamlined environmental reviews for routine timber salvage projects up to 5,000 acres on BLM lands, helping federal land managers remove dead and dying timber before it fuels catastrophic wildfire.

“Montanans know firsthand the devastation catastrophic wildfires can bring to our communities, forests, and economy,” said Congressman Downing. “For too long, burdensome red tape and delayed environmental reviews have prevented timely forest management projects from moving forward. The Accelerating Forest Management Act restores commonsense tools to quickly remove dead and hazardous timber, reduce wildfire fuel loads, and support the rural communities, mills and jobs that rely on healthy forests.”

This legislation also includes a 7-year reauthorization of the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund, ensuring BLM has the resources needed to effectively respond to wildfires and support proactive forest health and risk reduction activities.

Background:

In 2024, the Biden administration removed longstanding timber harvest authorities from the Bureau of Land Management, limiting the agency’s ability to efficiently conduct salvage harvesting and thinning projects following severe wildfire seasons across the West.

The Bureau of Land Management recently proposed two new categorical exclusions under NEPA to restore and expand streamlined review authorities for routine timber salvage and thinning projects. The proposed exclusions would apply to projects up to 5,000 acres, replacing current limits of 250 acres for salvage projects and 70 acres for thinning projects.

Categorical exclusions apply to categories of actions determined not to have significant environmental impacts, eliminating the need for lengthy environmental reviews and helping projects move forward more efficiently.

Over the past three decades, forests across the western United States have experienced widespread die-offs caused by wildfire, insect infestations, drought and disease. Since 2000, wildfires have burned an average of 7.3 million acres annually nationwide, including more than 236,000 acres annually on BLM lands.

By streamlining routine forest management projects, the Accelerating Forest Management Act would help reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health, preserve timber value, sustain rural timber jobs and support local forest product industries across the West.

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Larry

General Property Maintenance & Handyman Services

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

CryptoQuip answer

In my broth recipe I refuse to use that herb from a laurel tree, contrary to popular bay leaf.

SCRAMBLERS solution

- 1. Deign; 2. Noise
- 3. Barrage; 4. Cordial

Today's Word

OBEDIENCE

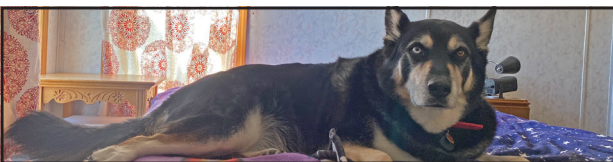
KNIGHT MOVES Answer

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MACERATE

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



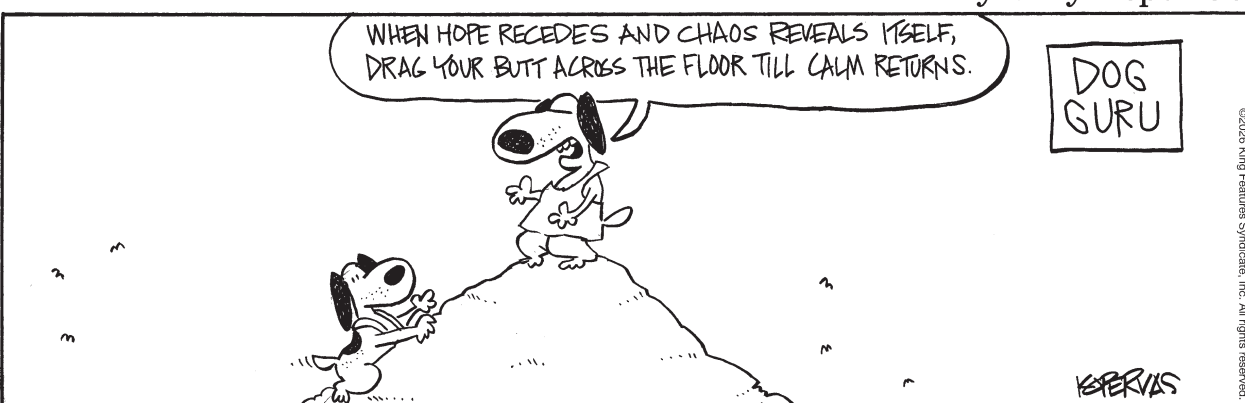
GRIN and BEAR IT

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



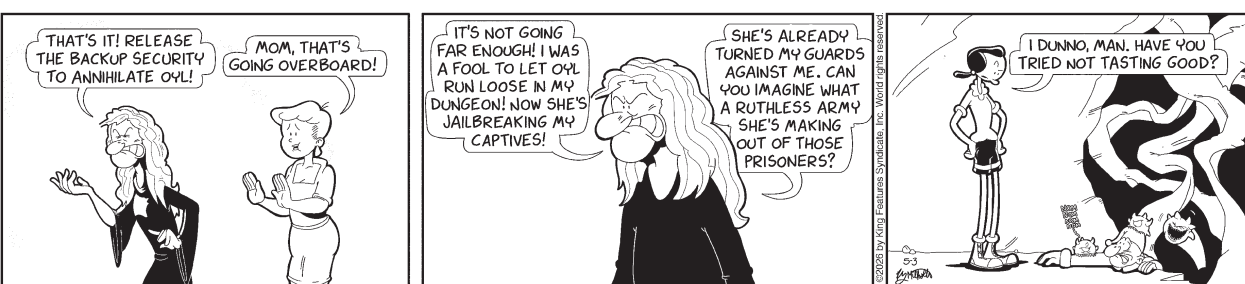
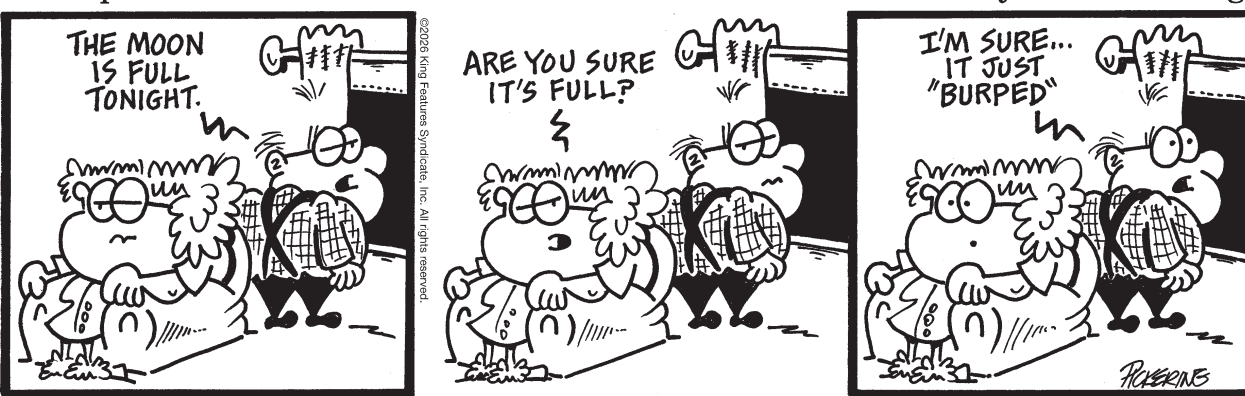
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	6	4	1	2	7	8	5	3
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Super Crossword

Answers

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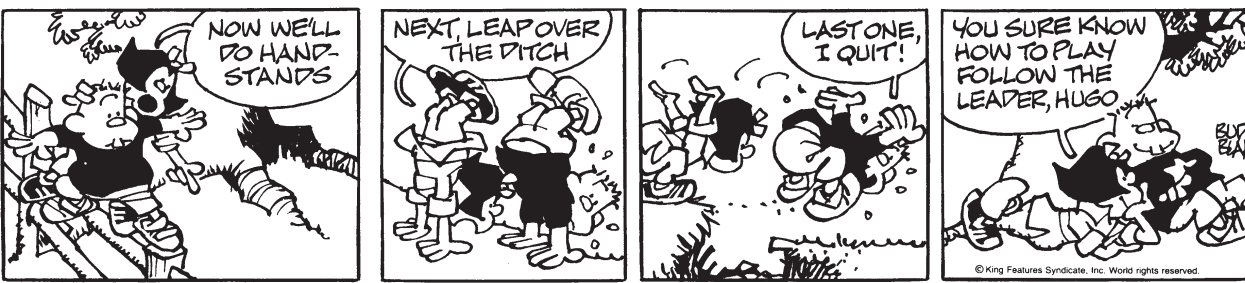
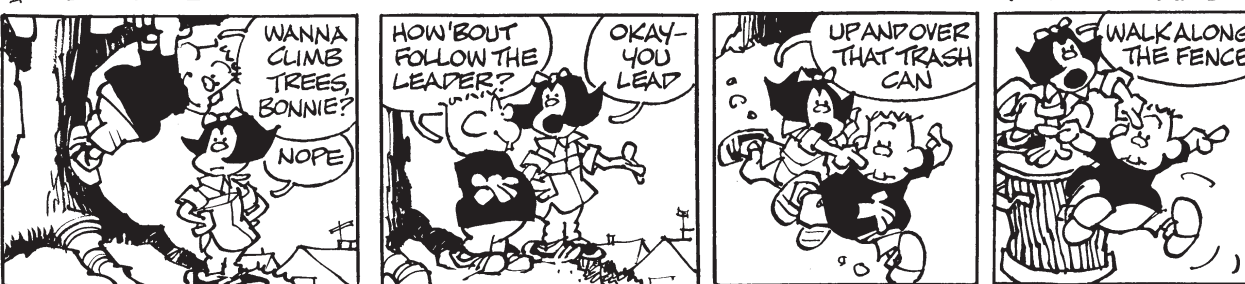
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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY

to the

Broadwater County Museum

You are invited to join us in a celebration at the Broadwater County Museum At 133 North Walnut Street Townsend, Montana At 2:00; Sunday, May 17 There will be an Open House Program with the History of the museum, a story about a WWII soldier, Robin C. Pennington and a few stories about Broadwater County Presented by Linda Huth, Curator of the Museum.



FREE MEET & GREET EVENT

Join us for an informal hour.

5:30 - 6:30pm May 21

@ Bridger Brewing, Three Forks

Bring your questions to

Debi Randolph,

Candidate for County Commissioner,

& **Mark Wood,**

Candidate for Sheriff and Coroner



Saturday May 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

301 North Cherry Street

MONTANANS MATTER TOWNSEND

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 6 - 7:30 pm American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway St



ALANI
BANKHEAD
U.S. SENATE

Candidate for U.S. Senate

**YOU DESERVE MORE
MORE HOPE. MORE OPPORTUNITY
LET'S BUILD IT TOGETHER**

With special guest
Police K9 (Ret) Lulu

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.

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



Dustin Gillaspie
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT
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Trees, Shrubs, Perennials
Veggies, Flowers and more!

Open Friday - Sunday 9-5

(see website for hours of operation or to schedule an apt)
www.shieldsriverfarm.com

Barnes Jewelry

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

WINSTON VINTAGE MERCANTILE

107 N Harris Avenue, Winston, MT | 406-671-2801
(Across from Big Bull. Past the Tracks on Right)

Buying, Selling, Trading



We buy:
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Check out our Google reviews!

Located:

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357 Last Chance Gulch
(2nd floor of Barnes Jewelry)

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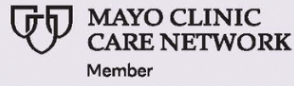
Best to make an appointment

406-502-1029

Weekend appointments available.



**Billings Clinic
Broadwater**



**June & July
Visiting Specialists**
From Billings Clinic Bozeman

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call
(406) 266-3186.

Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

110 North Oak Street, Townsend, MT

billingsclinic.com/broadwater

Pediatrics

Dr. Claire Kenamore will be providing Pediatric services for children of all ages.
June 4 & July 2



Claire Kenamore, MD

- Well-child visits for young children and adolescents
- Mental health
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten check-ups
- Sports physicals

Pediatrics Endocrinology

Dr. Margaret Siska will be providing Pediatric Endocrinology services for children of all ages.
June 4



Margaret Siska, MD

- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- Disorders of growth and puberty
- Adrenal, pituitary, and thyroid gland disorders
- General endocrinology

Urology

Physician Assistant, Daniel Mieler will be providing Urology services for adults.
June 5 & July 9



Daniel Mieler, PA

- Non-invasive treatment
- Minimally invasive surgery
- General urologic surgery

OB/GYN

Physician Assistant, Carley Hennessy will be providing OB/GYN services for adult women.
June 16 & July 28



Carley Hennessy, PA

- Contraception
- Menopause
- Family Planning
- STI testing

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OUR WALK IN FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CENTER

SR. CENTER MEALS: MAY 18 - MAY 22

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

Monday, May 18
 Carol's Meat Loaf
 Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
 California Vegetables
 Whole Grain Bread
 Plump Peaches

Tuesday, May 19
Birthday Dinner
 BBQ Chicken Breast
 Wild Rice
 Steamed Carrots
 Dinner Salad
 Blushing Pears

Wednesday, May 20
 Birthday Cake
 Beef Tacos
 Cheese and Sour Cream
 Lettuce and Tomato
 Mexican Corn and Beans
 Zesty Pineapple

Thursday, May 21
 Pork Chops
 Steamed Potatoes
 Green Peas
 Tossed Salad
 Whole Grain Bread
 Baked Apples

Friday, May 22
 Deli Sandwich
 Potato Salad
 Pickled Beets
 Fruit Cocktail

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

Bridger Brewery in Town for Beer Tasting Event

MT43 News Reporter

You've seen the sign "Free Beer - Tomorrow". That was not the case Friday night at the Betsy when Bridger Brewery of Three Forks area offered a beer tasting of their wide-ranging ales and IPA beers.

Matt Lacko, sales manager for Bridger Brewery, called it a Tap Takeover so customers could try their various beers. He, along with Betsy owner, Chase Ragen, gave out tickets to win music concert tickets for the musical groups Bridger Brewer will be hosting through the summer. Ticket winners were Jody Toney and Ray Russell, both of Townsend.

Lacko emphasized they were in town to heighten awareness of Bridger's restaurant, musical venue and excellent beers. "Our brewery is in Broadwater County. We want to be a part of this community. We want people to drive 30 miles for a dinner and evening out. Our concert series this summer will include Lone Star, a 90's country band, Gin Blossoms and the Spin Doctors."



Contestant puts for prizes at the Bridger Brewing Tap Takeover last week at The Betsy in Townsend. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Bridger Brewery will host its fourth annual Headwaters Lager Festival with sixteen breweries participating May 30 this year. Some of the Breweries who have signed up to participate are Black Foot Brewery, Lewis and Clark and Copper Furrow of Helena and Burnt Tree Brewery of Ennis. Participants will enjoy live music and the offerings from food trucks during the event.

Bridger collaborates with Southwest Montana Mountain Biking Association to highlight outdoor recreation opportunities in this area. A portion of the proceeds from the event go to maintain and expand trails. The event includes free camping sites and a shuttle bus from Bozeman. For more information, please visit Bridgerbrewing.com.

Whispers of the Past

Shelley Douthett



I'm going to start this article a bit differently this time. First off, my ospreys, Benny and Joon are back!! They arrived on May 1. Well, one of them did. I haven't seen both birds yet. I'm wishing them great success this year!

I did survive knee replacement surgery and took my brother down to the cemetery to show him what I've been up to. We were walking around, me talking his ear off, when we noticed a guy with a couple of big dogs walking down the road from the RY storage units. Didn't think much about it because usually people turn around at the gate when they see my dogs, Maizy and Tank, corgis, and me out there.

When I next noticed him, he and his two big dogs came into the cemetery. Maizy went to greet them, Tank followed and the next thing I know is there's a dog fight. The bigger dog picked Maizy up by the neck and took off with her, shaking her. My brother yelled at the guy to call off his dog, to which he said, "f-ing dog attacked mine".

Maizy is 22 pounds; his dog was over 100. My brother ran after his dog and Maizy, yelling at it to drop her. The guy started walking away towards the old RY office where his car was parked and his dogs followed. I've never seen him before and I hope I never do again.

In hindsight, I should have put my dogs in the car when I first noticed them. Nobody comes out there when I'm out working on headstones. In 3 years, I've seen 2 people. I will carry bear spray from now on and I will put my dogs in the car if anyone comes out there with dogs. I hate so many things about this encounter. Maizy is okay now, some bruising but no punctures. I don't blame the dog; I blame the adults, myself included. But now, my peaceful place feels tainted. It will take a while for me to feel safe out there again.

My brother told our mom and now they are both telling me not to go out there. I get it. But I took the dogs out there this week, and we were fine, but it felt different. I hope, in time, it will go back to how it felt before.

Now, back to our regularly scheduled history headstone of the week.

Walter Morgan's name showed up in the list of photo requests in my Find A Grave account. He wasn't on my previous list or any other list I've gotten when someone tried to figure out who was buried out there. This tells me, once again, I will never get a complete list or number of people buried at Centerville. I'm starting to accept I may not finish this little, simple project, which has become full of surprises.



Morgan Headstone Photo Credit: Shelley Douthett

Walter came from New York and served in the Civil War. Yes, another Civil War vet! Born in 1831, he signed up in the 62nd Illinois Volunteers in 1861 and served throughout the war. He was shot through both lungs and suffered with asthma, which later turned to consumption.

Okay, here is where I have to turn to Google to find out the definition of these old medical terms. Consumption is tuberculosis.

Anyway, he came out to Montana thinking it would help with breathing and settled for a couple years in Helena before moving to Townsend.

He married Mary Ellen Decamp in 1854 and went on to have five children, of which only two daughters, Fannie and Eldora, lived into adulthood. The family lived and farmed at Confederate Gulch, eventually ending up in Townsend.

Walter, Mary and son James are all in Centerville. James was only 25, but I couldn't find out how he died. Mary died at 63 years old and was followed by Walter at 65 two years later.

What I love about these people is how their obituaries speak of them as kind and good and had a lot of friends who would miss them. Now I miss them and I don't even know them.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
 He puts the deep into storehouses.

Psalm 33:7

Detail of "Ault-Ovital" by T. F. Simon (1903)

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OBITUARY

Scott Owen Simon

Family of Scott Owen Simon

March 1, 1956, to April 29, 2026

Scott Owen Simon was born on March 1, 1956, in Townsend, Montana, to Elmer G. Simon of Windsor, Colorado, and Shirley Jeanne (Tintinger) Simon of Cascade, Montana.

Scott will be remembered by his friends and family as a happy man who was always smiling. His smile was big and bright, and he loved with every fiber of his being. He found joy in music, friendship, family, and the memories he made throughout his life. In high school, Scott was known for driving his blue GTO, a car he often spoke of with love and longing. Scott was also known by many of his close friends as “Parnelli,” a nickname earned in his younger years that stayed with him throughout life. As his friends would say, if you know, you know.

Scott and his family lived in Townsend before moving to Kalispell. They later returned to Townsend when Scott’s mother fell ill. In 2019, Scott moved to Helena with his wife at the time, where he spent his final years.

Scott married Becky (Miller) Simon, and although they later divorced in 2020, they shared 31 years of marriage and had one son, Shawn Simon. Shawn was Scott’s pride and joy.

Scott dedicated much of his life to hard work, including his years at the mill, working as a laborer, and at one point owning and operating a movie store in Townsend, Montana, where many in the community came to know him and enjoy his friendly personality. He continued working until progressive multiple sclerosis changed the course of his life. Scott lived with MS for 35 years, and early in his diagnosis, he could no longer walk. Even though he spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair, he continued to make the best of every day.

In later years, Scott’s greatest joy came from his grandchildren: Ian Simon, Avery Simon, and Robert “Cooper” Simon. He was also blessed with two more grandchildren when Shawn married Nichole (Weston) Simon, and her children, Lane and Aspyn Bantz, joined the family. Scott also became Papa to many children who were not related by blood, including the grandchildren of his caregivers who spent time with him. His



Scott Owen Simon
Photo Provided by Family

caregivers became family to him in his final years, and their love and care meant so much.

Scott was preceded in death by his father, Elmer Simon; his mother, Shirley Simon; and many other family members and friends who welcomed him home.

He leaves behind his son, Shawn Simon; daughter in law, Nichole (Weston) Simon; grandchildren Ian, Avery, Robert “Cooper,” Lane, and Aspyn; his brother, Dave Simon; many nieces and nephews; many aunts and uncles; many friends; his former wife, Becky (Miller) Simon; his true companion, Gizmo; and the family he formed with his caretakers and their families.

Scott passed surrounded by love, with his son, Shawn Simon; grandson, Cooper; daughter in law, Nichole Simon; and his caretaker by his side.

Scott was loved by many and will be deeply missed. As he left this earth, the nursery alarm sounded in the hospital, announcing that a new baby had entered the world, a beautiful reminder that as one life ends, another begins.

A private memorial will be held by his son in the near future. If you would like more information, please reach out to Shawn Simon or Nichole (Weston) Simon for details.

Judy M. Slifka

Family of Judy M. Slifka

Judith “Judy” Slifka passed away peacefully on May 7th, 2026, at her home in Toston, MT.

Judy was born in Townsend, MT, to Harry Johnson and Gladys Connor Johnson on June 9th, 1944. Her siblings included her identical twin sister, Joyce, and her two older brothers, Harry and Kenneth “Kenny”.

She attended Toston Elementary and Broadwater County High School. She married Franklin Slifka on October 20th, 1962, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Toston, MT, and together they raised 4 children: Joanne, Doug, Mark, and Monti.

Judy had many talents and hobbies. She enjoyed fishing on the Missouri near her home as well as ice fishing and hunting with Franklin. She was an accomplished seamstress and for many years, she made all of Franklin’s customized shirts in addition to making elaborate formal dresses, parade costumes, and at least one wedding dress. She could mend, hem, or tailor almost any material that could fit in her sewing machine.

Judy was a feisty character and surprisingly strong – in her younger days, she was unbeatable at “Indian wrestling”, a game where she was able to throw grown men who were twice her size and seemed to break the laws of physics. She also loved to dance and could “jitterbug” with the best of them. She passed this on to her kids, as well as many of her grandkids, and great grandkids, who still love to dance and West Coast swing.

Judy was known as an amazing baker and candy maker with a reputation for the world’s best cinnamon rolls and apple pie. She and her sister, Joyce, were often asked to bake formal wedding cakes. They were quite a team with Judy baking many layers of cake to make sure that they had the perfect foundation, and Joyce was the expert decorator for the frosting and piping.

Judy was also known for her sourdough pancakes and the “boarding house reach,” wherein the fastest hands at the breakfast table were the first to grab a hotcake straight from the griddle. It was a game similar to “spoons,” and the children would giggle and Judy would have a sparkle in her eye (and a pancake or two in reserve for the slower hands) that made the weekend morning routine fun for everyone. She always used a



Judy Slifka
Photo Provided by Family

milk-fed sourdough start that she was given in 1969, and she kept this sourdough start alive and going for over 56 years, all while giving out new sourdough starts to friends and family for over half a century.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Gladys Johnson; brothers, Harry and Kenny Johnson; sister, Joyce Johnson Lane; and son, Douglas Arthur “Doug” Slifka. She is survived by her husband, Franklin Slifka; her children, Joanne (Jeff) Slifka Wass, Mark (Dawn) Slifka, and Monti (Alan) Slifka Menard; 8 grandchildren, Kyle (Heather) Motta, Kami (Daniel) Simmons, Brad Olsen, TJ (Emalee) Olsen, Ariel Slifka, Aspen (Kyle) Slifka Casperson, and Jacob Slifka; 6 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and Julie Delger, a great friend and confidante for many years.

The funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 23rd, 2026, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Townsend (Note: Viewing will be on Friday, May 22nd, 7:30-8:30 PM at the Stevenson-Wilke Funeral Home). Following services on Saturday, the reception will be at 12:30 at the Bunkhouse Bar in Toston. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Please visit www.stevensonwilke.com to offer a condolence to the family.

Celebration of Life

Honoring Steve Kimpton



**Saturday, May 16
2026, at 1:00 pm
at The Lodge
of Townsend**

**Located at 131 South Spruce Street in
Townsend, Montana.
Family and friends are warmly invited.**

AREA DEATHS

Tadd Richard Fuhrman

Family of Tadd Richard Fuhrman

July 26, 1980 — May 5, 2026



Tadd Fuhrman
Photo Provided by Family

Tadd Richard Fuhrman, 45, of Missoula, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Tadd was a co-owner of Canyon Ferry Brewing in Townsend.

Patricia Mary Montanye

Family of Patricia Mary Montanye

May 26, 1944 – May 11, 2026



Patricia Mary Montanye
Photo Provided by Family

Patricia Mary Montanye, age 81, of Townsend, passed away peacefully at her home in Townsend May 11, 2026.

Come join family and friends at a social gathering in celebration of her life. It will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the Fish Tale Tavern, 209 Broadway Street in Townsend.

Arnold Woodring

Family of Arnold Woodring

The Woodring Family is saddened to announce that Arnold Woodring, 91, passed away quietly at his home on May 11, 2026.

The viewing is at 5:00 p.m. Friday at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. The Rosary is at 6:00 p.m. Friday at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. The funeral services are Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Holy Cross Catholic Church, followed by the burial and then a reception.



Arnold Woodring
Photo Provided by Family

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

May 14

1903

Local News

The Berg Hardware Co. reports that business with them so far this spring has been exceptionally good. During the month of April just past, this firm's trade was \$4,000 in excess of April of last year.

John Hines and A.W. Tinsley took in Helena sights on Friday, the 1st.

Miss Clara Watson arrived in town Sunday evening and will remain for a few weeks with Mrs. M. Harrington.

Mrs. D.D McCarthy, who spent several days visiting friends and relatives in Butte, returned home Sunday evening.

All persons indebted to the firm of Byrne Bros. are requested to call and settle at once. Otherwise, accounts will be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection.

Han Richardson and wife of Confederate Creek were in town Tuesday.

W.S. Dodge of Winston transacted business in town Wednesday and Thursday.

1925

Class of Fifteen to Receive Diplomas Friday

Tomorrow evening, Broadwater County High School will graduate a class of fifteen students. The commencement Exercises will be held in the Townsend Auditorium so that all can be accommodated.

Those receiving diplomas are as follows: Frank

Barber, Bill Davidson, Ruth Burt, Anna McClure, Irwin Crane, Emma Neild, Phoebe Kearns, Mary Paul, Imogene Troutman, Mable Webb, Carl Wall, Glenn Thompson, George Rollings, Ann Whaley and Josephine Connors.

Local News

Judge Wm. L. Ford came over from the springs on Monday and spent the day at the Court House transacting business connected with his duties as Judge.

Miss Marie Bliler arrived from Missoula to spend the week visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bliler, in the valley.

Floyd Nelson of Forsyth spent two days the first of the week visiting Miss Lillian Crittenden, a former classmate of the Intermountain College.

1953

Townsend Lad Injured in Fall from Horse

Bradley White, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H.G. White, was injured late Friday afternoon when he was thrown from a runaway horse. He sustained a fractured wrist, collar bone, received head injuries and internal injuries. Dr. Frank P. Nash, the attending physician, reported his condition favorable at this writing.

The accident occurred about 6:00 o'clock near the McArthur Grocery on Highway 10. The horse had done some considerable fast traveling and jumping before he stumbled throwing the young rider.

Joint Birthday Party Held

Marie and Janelle Kirscher, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kirscher celebrated their birthday anniversaries at a joint party Tuesday afternoon. Marie was five years

old May 5, and Janelle was three years old April 27.

Guests were Mrs. Clayton Ogle and sons, Randy and Bobby; Mike Crawford; Mrs. Elwood Ragar and daughters, Jan and Judy; Mrs. Gene Lane and son, Bradley, and daughter, Shelley; Mary D'Arcy and grandsons, Mike and Tommy Finnegan; Mrs. Logan Davis and sons, Lance and Scott; Mrs. Robert Kieckbusch and son, Jim, and daughters, Christy and Barbara; Mrs. James Schneider and daughter, Teressa and son, Billy; Lee Ann Jeffries; Keith Kirscher; Mrs. Charles Nowlan and sons, Andy and Billy; Mrs. Glenn Kirscher and Mrs. Lee Beers.

1970

Toston Briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wogamon of Townsend were Mother's Day visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Wogamon and Tim.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Arden and family were Mother's Day guests of Mrs. Wayne Herrington in Winston.

Larry Johnson was a weekend guest of Tim Wogamon.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hardgrove visited at the Bill Hardgrove home Saturday afternoon and evening.

Scott and Jema Miller are home for the summer vacation from their studies at Ricks College.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bieber Jr. and family visited Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bieber Sr. and family.

Miss Jean Berberet left Tuesday for Yellowstone Park, where she has summer employment.

Calvin Whitney was a medical patient in Shodair Hospital last week.

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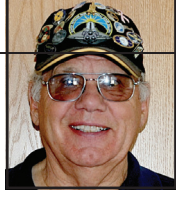
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Townsend Young Eagle Students in the STOKE Aviation Program had a Free Flight

Matt Nelson



Townsend Junior High and High School students who recently joined the newly formed STOKE (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, OUTDOORS, KNOWLEDGE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP) aviation group in Townsend were all given a ride in a Cessna 150 2-seat aircraft piloted by Brenna Youmans on Friday, May 8th. They flew out of Broadwater/Townsend Airport. Brenna is the Vice-President of the Helena Chapter 344 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and had flown down from Helena. The EAA sponsors free flights for registered students in their Young Eagle program.

The purpose of the Young Eagles Program is to introduce kids to aviation. Over the years, over 2 million participating kids around the country have been given free Young Eagles flights by volunteer EAA pilots. Often, these were the kids' first flights. Many have gone on to receive their private pilot's license. Some have even gone further to become commercial and/or military pilots.

The flights were over Canyon Ferry Lake, and each flight lasted about 15 minutes. With Brenna's expert guidance, some of the kids were briefly able to hold onto the control stick of the plane, and the older kids were able to operate the rudder pedals. Of course, Brenna was in full control of



Pilot Brenna Youmans from the Helena Chapter 344 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) flew Townsend STOKE Young Eagles in a 1967 Cessna 150H.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

the plane during the entirety of the flights.

After the flight, each student had the biggest grin upon exiting the aircraft, and each one said that he or she had a lot of fun and fully enjoyed the ride. One high school girl now wants to become a pilot.

Dwight Thompson, the airport manager, and

the STOKE Chaperone Jackie Chavez were both present during the flights. Thanks also go to other Townsend STOKE adults who coordinated the event. These are Candice O'Hara, who is the Townsend STOKE President, and Tina Homann, the Vice-President. John Hawn, Amanda and James Domino all contribute to the STOKE operations.