

Canton Church Opener Invites Crowd Participation

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Broadwater County’s 4th of July and 250th national celebration events opened at the Canton Church Friday with a rousing sing-along provided by the newly formed community choir.

The 150-year-old church has some of the finest acoustics of any building in the valley. Members of the community choir made use of those acoustics with a volley of patriotic songs. The crowd of 45 raised their voices in unison to sing "America the Beautiful", "Star Spangled Banner", "God Bless America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic", among others.

Earlier this year, Mary Duede contacted retired school music teacher Carla Amundson, suggesting they start a community choir for the celebration. After calls from interested volunteers, Carla and Mary recruited a group of folks who like to sing.



Ted and Patti Aston, volunteers who sing with the Community Choir, are new to the community, having lived here three years. Both enjoy music. Patti indicated she began playing violin when she was in 4th grade. Ted said he "just likes to sing."
MT43 News Photo



The newly formed Community Choir sang at the first of this summer's events at the Canton Church. Volunteers who enjoy singing are invited to join the group, the first to perform in many years, since the Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints community choir was active, led by Zelda Diehl.
MT43 News Photo

They included Mary, Mary Ann Salladay, Margy Urich, Chuck Smith, George Jenkins and two folks new to Townsend, Patti and Ted Aston. Others have joined the group but were not available.

Choir Director Amundson shared that several people from the audience became emotional during the performance: "They said they teared up with feelings of patriotism at hearing these familiar songs that reflected our nation’s history."

Mary Ann, Mary, and Chuck Smith presented a

commentary for many of the songs – their history, who wrote them and how they have evolved in our culture.

A military presentation of the American flag set the tone for what was a moving and emotional afternoon, singing this country’s beloved ballads. John Sommers and Aiden Mosher presented the flag. They are part of Scouting America East Helena Troop #212.

Friday’s performance was the choir’s initial performance. They will perform at Townsend’s 4th of July Celebration in Heritage Park at 1:00 p.m.

East Helena Man Sentenced for Poaching in Elkhorn Mountains

Mikayla Melo
Independent Record

An East Helena man will lose his hunting privileges and pay thousands of dollars in restitution as part of his sentence for poaching three six-point bull elk and three white-tailed bucks in 2023.

Tylor David Castona, 40, appeared for his sentencing hearing via Zoom from Montana State Prison on Thursday. He was sentenced by Lewis and Clark County District Judge Kathy Seeley to six months in jail, along with restitution totaling \$12,650. His hunting, fishing and trapping privileges were also revoked for 30 years.

Castona was charged in December 2024 with 16 misdemeanor poaching charges, including four counts of unlawful possession or transportation of a game animal, four counts of hunting over the limit and eight other counts related to licensure and equipment.

"He has flagrantly violated the law," Seeley said at the sentencing. "I do know hunters, I do participate in a hunting family. This is so wrong and it is very troubling to me."



Three elk skulls lean on a table in Lewis & Clark District Court on June 25 during Tylor Castona's sentence hearing.
Sonny Tapia, Independent Record Photographer

He was initially charged with one felony count of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and one felony count of tampering with a witness or informant, but prosecutors dropped both felonies as part of a plea agreement.

Castona was already incarcerated at Montana State Prison at the time he was charged with the poaching violations, serving time for sexual assault. Because of this, prosecutors agreed to allow his prison sentence to count as time served on the poaching charges, meaning he will serve no additional jail time.

Broadwater County prosecutors said the two defendants involved, Tylor Castona and Alisha Byrd, illegally harvested three six-point bull elk with rifles during the 2023 archery season in Hunting District 380, which covers the Elkhorn Mountains.

This district requires permits to harvest a bull elk that can only be obtained through a lottery process with extremely slim chances. Only 0.94% of hunters who applied for that tag drew it in the 2023 season.

According to court documents, they also poached three white-tailed bucks near Townsend in the following month. One of those deer was shot at night and left on the ground. The landowner discovered the deer when he turned his lights on to investigate the gunshots.

The landowner called Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, triggering a year-long investigation that uncovered the two-month poaching spree of deer, elk and a spike bull elk.

Documents state that Castona and Byrd hunted without valid licenses, used artificial light at night to shoot deer and illegally transferred hunting licenses between themselves. Byrd also allowed Castona to shoot an elk on her tag when she was the license holder.

"It's just a very flagrant poaching case that demonstrates they will use any means to take the most vulnerable animals and that they are targeting our largest trophies," said game warden Troy Hinck, who led the investigation. "If a person was to do this for a private outfitted hunt, each one of these would probably be about a \$10,000 opportunity."

Byrd pleaded guilty in April to one felony count of tampering with a witness or information and four misdemeanor counts of poaching-related charges. As part of a plea agreement, prosecutors dropped six other misdemeanor counts.

She was sentenced on June 13 by Lewis and Clark County District Judge Michael McMahon to six months in the Broadwater County jail with all but 30 days suspended for her involvement in the poaching spree. Byrd will have to pay a restitution of \$1,100 and a fine of \$50. Her hunting, fishing and trapping licenses were revoked for 10 years.

Castona’s nephew, Tracer Castona, also pleaded no contest in March 2025 to two misdemeanor charges in Broadwater County Justice Court for allegedly helping retrieve one of the bull elk.

The Broadwater County and Lewis and Clark County sheriff’s offices both assisted in the investigation.

"This was not ethical hunting in any way, shape or form. This was not fair," Seeley said.

Driver Hurt in Near Collision on Highway 287 - Turn to Page 9

Townsend is gearing up to celebrate 250 years of freedom with FREE community events!

LAND of the FREE
HOME of the BRAVE
est. 1776

Page 2: 4th of July
Schedule of events
Page 4: More local
community events



Our Community Receives a 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant

Carol Hatfield
Broadwater County Trails

Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC) and Broadwater County Trails (BCT) are proud to announce that our community has been selected to receive a 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant.

This year, only 750 projects were chosen from more than 5,100 applications across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With this quick-action grant, BCDC and BCT will conduct walk audits in the City of Townsend and key areas of Broadwater County. These audits will identify conditions that make walking less safe—such as uneven or missing sidewalks, unsafe crossings, poor lighting, traffic behavior, and other accessibility barriers along routes that connect residents to parks, services, and community destinations. These on-the-ground observations provide insights that formal planning documents often cannot capture, with a particular focus on how these barriers affect residents aged 50 and older.

The project supports and strengthens both the County-wide Trails Vision Plan and the County Recreation Plan. Findings will help local leaders prioritize safer, more connected walking routes, reduce fall risks, expand access to recreation and local businesses, and position the community for future grant opportunities.

"We are incredibly proud that AARP selected BCDC Trails for this investment," said Carol Hatfield, BCT member. "This project will support healthier aging, create safer walkable routes, increase recreation access, and help ensure that residents 50 and older can stay active, connected, and independent. AARP is a national leader in supporting livable communities, and we are honored that they recognize the value this project will bring to our area."

MT 43 NEWS, INC.
408 BROADWAY STREET STE A
TOWNSEND, MT 59644-2323

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY LOCALLY!
ENJOY A SAFE AND LIVELY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

250TH
YEAR
Celebration!

4TH OF JULY
PARADE

STARTING AT
12PM SHARP
ON BROADWAY
JULY 4TH

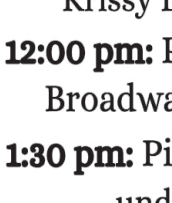
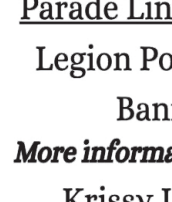
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from CREATIVE CLOSET

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TOWNSEND CELEBRATES

4th of July

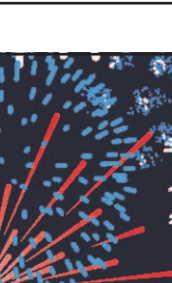
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 am: HERITAGE PARK – 200 S. Pine
Parade Lineup: Flag Group- American
Legion Post #42, Boats, Floats, Cars,
Banner Walkers, Horses.
More information:
Krissy Ludricks – (406) 266-1524

12:00 pm: Parade begins route down
Broadway and to Heritage Park

1:30 pm: Picnic and Celebration
under the Pavilion
Community Choir performs; Games for
kids; Music by Banshee Entertainment.
Free lunch includes ribs, pulled pork, hot
dogs and burgers.
Barbeque provided by Squatch Barbeque.
Bring side dishes for potluck.
More information:
Tom at (406) 439-8019

9:00 – 11:00 pm: Broadway Street to
Spruce Street will be closed for the
fireworks watchers.
Bring your lawn chair for the fireworks
extravaganza organized by the Sons of
the American Legion. Display will
happen at dark.



Happy
250th
Birthday,
America!



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INSIDE
INSPIRATION

Reflections on America's
250th Birthday

Ellie West
Certified NLP Coach/Practitioner
of Hypnosis and Timeline Therapy



As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday this Fourth of July, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary gift of liberty.

For 250 years, brave men and women have sacrificed, served, persevered, and believed in the promise of a free nation. Because of their courage, we are able to gather with family and friends, share our thoughts openly, pursue our dreams, worship according to our convictions, and build lives filled with purpose and possibility.

What an incredible blessing to be alive at this moment in history.

This Independence Day is especially significant. It reminds us that liberty is a gift to cherish, a responsibility to steward, and a legacy to pass on to future generations.

As flags wave, fireworks light the sky, and families

gather around tables filled with laughter and memories, may we pause to give thanks for the opportunities we have been given and the countless individuals whose sacrifices made them possible.

America's story is, in many ways, a collection of individual stories—stories of courage, perseverance, hope, and determination. Many of our ancestors came to this country seeking a better life. Though they encountered hardship and uncertainty, they remained steadfast in their pursuit of opportunity and freedom.

My own family story is one I cherish.

My grandfather arrived in America from Batroun, Lebanon, on November 6, 1899, after a 24-day ocean voyage. After spending a few days on Ellis Island, New York, he made his way to Butte, Montana, intrigued by the opportunities surrounding the famous mining camp.

Like many immigrants, he arrived with little more than hope, determination, and a dream. He built a covered wagon, purchased a horse, and traveled throughout Montana delivering goods to communities in Butte, Dillon, Missoula, and Madison County.

In 1909, my grandparents opened the first general store on Jefferson Island in Madison County and established the area's first post office. Later, my grandfather built the LaHood Park Hotel, café, and gas station. First opened in 1933, the hotel remained a beloved landmark until it was lost to fire in 2001. Yet his legacy continues.

His vision for Montana extended beyond business. In 1940, he wrote to Senator James Murray in support of

Reflections, 3

Billings Clinic
Broadwater

Celebrating
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250 YEARS
1776 ★ 2026

As our community celebrates 250 years of history and resilience this Independence Day, we wish everyone a safe, joyful, and healthy holiday. Good health is the foundation of our community's independence, and we are proud to be your partners in well-being for the last 121 of those years.

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Reflections, 2

what would become Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, offering land to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and helping preserve one of Montana's natural treasures for future generations.

His words reflected both gratitude and vision:
"I think that the State of Montana is entitled to have a state park and one that we will be proud of, for we all know that this is a good state."

My grandfather came to America with a dream and spent his life building a legacy. His story reminds me that the American dream is not simply about personal success; it is about contributing something meaningful that will benefit generations to come.

As I reflect on his journey, I am reminded that each of us carries a story. Our roots were planted by those who came before us, and their sacrifices helped shape the lives we enjoy today.

I am equally grateful for the legacy left by my father, a World War II prisoner of war. In a speech delivered at Fort Harrison, he shared these words:

"May the sun be warm and kind to you, the darkest night some star shine through, the dulllest morn a radiance brew, and when evening comes—God's hand to all of you."

As we celebrate this historic milestone, may we take time to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy, the people we love, and the countless blessings that surround us. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for those who came before us and hope for those who will follow.

May we never lose sight of the responsibility that comes with liberty, nor the gratitude that should accompany it.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, meaningful, and memorable Fourth of July.

Happy Independence Day!

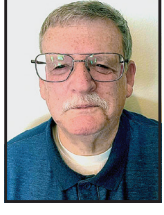
To connect with Ellie: FB/IG Coachelliewest

Canton Church Presents:
Scout Lynde and Laura Frazer
as "Eleanor Lenore"

Victor Sample
MT43News



Canton Church
Photo Credits: Canton Church



The 2026 Canton Church Summer Events will continue on July 10, 2026. The Historic Church will host Scout Lynde and Laura Frazer performing as "Eleanor Lenore".

Scout Lynde, an artist from Townsend, Montana, believes music is for everyone; it requires nothing from an audience to be enjoyed. As a singer/songwriter, Scout enjoys telling stories about the human experience through her art.



Scout Performing
Photo Provided by Scout Lynde

She writes and composes music using guitar and ukulele to create songs with an alternative folk sound. The content of Scout's lyrics highlights the strange and beautiful experience of "being human" and largely focuses on connection, resilience, and the relationships she treasures. She wants to speak the transcendent language of music for as long as she lives, and desires to inspire others to pursue their artistic passions.

The Canton Church events are always FREE, but donations are welcome!

The Historic Canton Church was built in 1875-1876 and is one of the few surviving buildings from the town of Canton, which was flooded during the creation of Canyon Ferry Lake. All of our events begin at 5:00 pm, but the Canton Church will be open to visitors from 3:00-5:00 pm before events.

Visit our website at <https://www.Canton-Church.org> for more information about our events, the Historic Canton Church, and the Town of Canton.

Rotary Awards Five Scholarships to Broadwater HS Seniors



L-R Harper Wolfgram, Kaitlyn Noyes, Spencer Braaten, Kenzie Knaub and Taylor Cartwright
Photo Credit: Townsend Rotary Club

Jennifer Dalrymple
Townsend Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Townsend awarded five scholarships worth a total of \$10,000 to some of our best community service-oriented students for successfully achieving academic excellence and exemplifying, by their conduct and service in the community, the highest ideals of Rotary.

The Frank Holloway Scholarship of \$2,500 went to Kaitlyn Noyes (shown with two certificates because she also won the specific Hugh van Swearingen Journalism Scholarship of \$2,000). The Holling-White Scholarship

of \$2,000 was awarded to Harper Wolfgram. The Chris Wright [Trade School] Scholarship of \$2,000 went to Spencer Braaten. The Bill Kearns Scholarship of \$2,000 went to Kenzie Knaub and the Mel Potruff Scholarship of \$1,500 to Taylor Cartwright. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you!

We want to thank all of the applicants for their time and effort in applying for these scholarships, as they are all outstanding students and have been involved in so many activities in their school and our community, that the selections for the winners were tough for the board. Congratulations and best wishes to our senior high school graduates as they pursue the next chapter of their lives!

Bulldogs and Beyond Tour Europe in Trip of a Lifetime



The group in front of the Lion Monument. Back row left: Gavin Greene, Keaton Cavasos, Tanner Bird, Barrett MacDonald, Patrick Gossard, Trace Giomi, Jazel Ragen, Jim Tew, chaperone Megan Bleile, Keaton Boylan, Hailey Hildreth, Logan Barkhurst, Kaitlyn Noyes, Bryleigh Erickson, Aspen Slyker, Harper Wolfgram, Chloe Flynn, Arabella McDaniel, Kyla Meissner, Mishayla Lambott, chaperone Jason Thomas, Caleb Swanson and Merik Easter. Middle Row from left: Chaperones Jill Flynn and Allie Lampman; Addy White, Ana Marie Reinke, Fiona Nelson, Ava Tiffany, Janet Garcia, Kenzie Knaub, Brynlee Brown and chaperone Sheri Heavrin. Front Row from left: Creighton Wright, chaperone Andrea Tullos, Emmalin Fischer, Shalyn Sentinella, Angel Sentinella, Haedyn Poe, Sarah Morgan, Luke Tullos and Elaine MacDonald.
Photo Provided

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS School Reporter

Editor's note: High School students and their chaperones with Bulldogs and Beyond Club explored Europe for several days in June. This is the second in a series of articles by BHS senior Bryleigh Erickson.



On the fifth day of the trip, we travelled by train to Zurich, Switzerland. We boarded the train from Paris early in the morning and arrived in Switzerland in the afternoon. Most of the group had never been on a passenger train before, and everyone was surprised by how comfortable and fast the trains were. Once the group made it to Zurich, they had the remainder of the day to explore the city. At 6 pm, the group gathered and we travelled to the hotel to eat dinner. The small hotel sat on the top of a mountain outside of the city. It was in a smaller neighborhood, and it was by far the group's favorite hotel.

The next day, we travelled to Lucerne to explore the city and get to experience Switzerland. The group visited the beautiful Lion Monument, and our guide Sandu explained the history and importance of the monument. The group had free time to roam the city before meeting for a boat cruise on Lake Lucerne. During the hour's ride the group saw the beautiful lake and surrounding mountains. The boat dropped us off at the base of Mt. Rigi, part of the Swiss Alps. We then took a train to the top of the mountain to a café, picture spot, and, of course, amazing view of Lake Lucerne and all of the surrounding cities. Everyone was in awe of the view from the top of the mountain, and all the beautiful mountains around. After exploring the top of the mountain, the group caught a train back down the mountain. Here, a bus took us back to the hotel for an early night. We ate dinner at the hotel again, and then had some free time. Some groups settled down in the hotel, but a few of us went to explore a nearby waterfall. It was quite a hike, but once we arrived the waterfall, it was so beautiful. By then, everyone was tired from a long day and ready to head to Germany the next day.



The Lion Monument was carved as a symbol and memorial of the Swiss soldiers who died during the French Revolution. Lukas Ahorn carved the 33-foot mourning lion in 1820.
Photo Credit: Bryleigh Erickson



A view of Lake Lucerne from the top of Mt. Rigi, one of the many mountains in the Swiss Alps.
Photo Credit: Bryleigh Erickson

If you were to ask most every student in the group which country was their favorite, they would say Switzerland. Every student loved the scenery of Switzerland with the mountains, lakes and hills that reminded them of home. It was also a nice change from the busy city of Paris, as Switzerland was calmer and less crowded. The group enjoyed having so much free time to explore the cities and experience the culture of the country first-hand.

Switzerland was an interesting country because it was a mix of a lot of other countries. There are three official languages in Switzerland: German, French and Italian. They also had rich culture dating back to trading. There were paintings on every square that showed what had been traded there, and some stores were the same even today.

Townsend School & Sports

JULY

Mon 6 - Wed 8

- Little Dog Volleyball Camp - Both High School Gyms

Tuesday 7

- 7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - BHS Lobby

Fri 10 - Sat 11

- eSports Nationals



Broadwater County Government Calendar

JULY

Tuesday 7

- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 8

- 10:00 am: Commissioners Meeting



Broadwater Community Calendar

JULY

Friday 3

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee

Saturday 4

- 4TH OF JULY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON PAGE 2
- 12:00 pm: Townsend 4th of July Parade on Broadway Street
- 12:30 pm: 4th of July Community Choir Sing Along at Heritage Park
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Monday 6

- 1:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Membership Meeting at American Legion Post 42 Club
- 10:00 am: Monthly WIC Clinic at Broadwater County Health, 124 Cedar

Tuesday 7

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

Wednesday 8

- 11:30 am: RMDC at the Townsend Sr. Center
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 1:00 pm: Assistance in applying for and receiving Military Benefits at American Legion Post 42

Thursday 9

- 3:00 pm: Townsend Farmers Market
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 10

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Mountain Grounds Coffee
- 5:00 pm: FREE EVENT- Historic Canton Church Presents Eleanor Lenore at Canton ChurchArticle on Page 3, AD ON PAGE 11
- 7:30 pm: FREE MUSIC (Jerry Willet- Contemporary) at Silos/Canyon Ferry Lake KOA

Saturday 11

- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Saturday 18

- County-Wide Yard SaleSEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR DETAILS

Mon 27 - Fri 31

- Vacation Bible School at Trailhead ChurchSEE AD ON THIS PAGE FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 & 7 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

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Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month. Next meeting: July 15, 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



8:30AM Thursday, July 16 @ Heritage Park All members of the community welcome!

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School & Community Library

The library reopens Friday, June 5th, at 9:00 am with summer hours! Curbside available. Please call: (406)441-3461



201 N Spruce St, Townsend Photo Provided

PUBLIC SUMMER HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 1:00 to 7:00 pm Friday - Saturday 9:00 to 4:00 PM Closed Sunday

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson Branch Manager

Hours:

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



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

JULY

Wednesday 8

- 10:30 am: Storytime

Thursday 9

- 1 pm - 2:30 pm: Crafternoon

Saturday 11

- 10:00 am -1:00 pm: Friends Group 10-cent Book Sale

BREAKFAST IS BACK! @ Full Belli Deli And Sausage Company



Join us daily from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM for all your Full Belli breakfast classics, plus NEW breakfast bagel sandwiches like the All American, Belli Burner, and Gravy Train.



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BROADWATER COUNTY-WIDE YARD SALE JULY 18

9:00 - 3:00 ACROSS THE COUNTY!

LEARN MORE

Contact Pam at 406-422-7028 or email pamrsample@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the yard sale maps.





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

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

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

July 4th and 18th: 9:00 am to 11:00 am Donations of food items are accepted Friday July 3rd and July 17th: 9:00 to 11:00am

This month donation suggestions: Canned pasta meals, crackers, tuna, fresh fruit & vegetables. 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. June is Holy Cross Catholic Church. For questions, donations appointments and emergency food supplies call OUR NEW PHONE number (406) 916-0034.



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Exploring the Nature of God

RAINFOREST FALLS



TRAILHEAD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Danny Kurk- Owner

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(406)922-1315

CONTACT MT43 NEWS TO LIST YOUR BUSINESS NOW!

MONDAY - FRIDAY

10:00AM - 2:00PM

408 BROADWAY, TOWNSEND

406.266.0086

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 starts at 5:00PM
Bar hours may vary

Copy Cup

303 N Front St, Townsend
(406) 980-8400

Please call in business hours.
Drinks and Pastry Hours:
Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM
Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM
Closed Sunday

Mountie Moose Bakery

109 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-5800

Dining Hours:
Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Online Ordering:
Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site

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

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

Peking China

10 N Main St, Three Forks
(406) 285-3225

Dining Hours:
Tue - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM
Closed Monday
Menu:
Google

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

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

Rocky Mountain Supply Deli

7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend
(406) 266-3456

Hot & Cold To-Go Hours:
Mon-Fri6:00AM - 6:00PM
Menu:
Board Inside Store for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza
Call Ahead or Order Inside

Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom

300 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 694-5687

Hours:
Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close
Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

Full Belli Deli

209 S Front St, Townsend
(406) 266-5459

Dining Hours:
Mon - Sun 7:00AM - 7:00PM

Silos/Canyon Ferry Lake KOA

81 Silos Road
406-266-3100

Dining Hours:
Mon - Thu 7:30AM - 8:00PM
Menu:
Changes Weekly
Breakfast, Soup, Sandwiches to go

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
changincmerc.square.site

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

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

Commercial Bar

101 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-9956

Dining Hours:
10:00AM - 2:00AM
Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Menu available on Facebook

Mint Cafe

305 Broadway St, Townsend
(406) 266-3867

Dining Hours:
Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM,
Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM
Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM
Closed Monday & Tuesday
SPECIAL:
N/A

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

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: U equals V

V I T J W W Q R K Q U V Q R U Q A V J X K
X M Q X Q Z Z J Q E W X D I D Y V R
M J Q U J R H D T E Y O J
H E Q W W V N V J Y Q W Q O V A Y
D N Z A Q K .

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KNIGHT MOVES

R	V	T
R		E
O	U	E

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

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Shield
MARRO

Laud
XELOT

Mug
NITES

Tower
PIERS

TODAY'S WORD



"Of course, all those prices are just _____."

Super Crossword RAISING A RACKET

ACROSS

1 Streisand of "Nuts"

7 President after Bush

12 Japanese soup

16 Beaker locale

19 Fanatic

20 Boo-boo

21 State of mind

23 "Can this be?!"

25 Color close to aqua

26 Leave shore

27 "I'm to blame for every-thing"

29 Mil. address

32 Nada

34 "— see!"

35 ("Evidently!")

35 Events that break ground

36 Like K-Cup coffee pods

42 Two-word conjunction

44 Sol's Greek counterpart

45 Bangor locale

47 Built

52 2011 Steve Carell film

56 Puppeteer Lewis

57 Opera song

58 Gallery work

59 Fox hangouts

61 Nest eggs for srs.

62 Flanders on "The Simpsons"

63 Quick, sharp punches

65 Cocktail of bourbon, lemon and mint

68 Purse

69 Ross who ran against Clinton

70 — in the bud

71 It might consist of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas

76 Pouches

78 Tic- — -toe

81 "You wish!"

82 They may get slammed

83 Dad on "Rugrats"

84 For takeout

85 Fail to remain calm

87 Annual mailing to the IRS

92 Baskers' goals, often

94 Birth-related

95 Home for French presidents

96 Lerner's musical collaborator

99 Kind of salute performed at military funerals

101 Cherubs, e.g.

105 Smartphone buy

107 Emulate

108 Picabo Street

108 Mag bigwigs

109 Heroic fighter pilot of the 1940s

114 Sinister

117 Studios with easels

118 Question you might feel like asking after seeing nine key words in this puzzle?

123 Yellow turnip

124 Roast beef fast-food chain

125 Big brand of cosmetics

126 Water quality org.

127 Pack neatly

128 L.A.'s region

129 Pitfalls

DOWN

1 German auto

2 Spa sigh

3 Material in viral genes

4 Tiny pieces

5 Pro — (in proportion)

6 Post-workout feeling

7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon

8 Matzo — (Passover breakfast option)

9 In — (stuck)

10 Soft shoes, for short

11 Locations

12 Actress Marlee

13 Agenda unit

14 Stick around to see

15 Rig accidents

16 Doozies

17 Fully grown

18 Borscht base

22 Kind of lift for downhillers

24 Yalies

28 Mauna —

29 Waste barrel

30 Capital of South Dakota

31 Mounted to a backing for decoration

33 Big-eyed primates

37 Egyptian city with pyramids

38 Myrna of old movies

39 Spellbound

40 Roman 7

41 Finale

43 Plow pioneer John

46 "Mama" Cass

48 Orang cousin

49 Figure skater

50 Epochs

51 Plate

53 Key near Q

54 Brewery kiln

55 Actor Sahay who played Lester Patel on "Chuck"

60 Lip- — (mouth the words)

63 Pantry container

64 Got older

65 Alternative to Mazola or Crisco

66 Charlemagne ruled it: Abbr.

67 Bro's sibling

68 Suit well

69 Orch. section with timpani, cymbals, etc.

71 Performs like Drake

72 Jacob's twin

73 Twain's Huck

74 Clamor

75 Hoodwink

76 Gets trite

77 "La Cage — Folles"

78 Muss, as hair

79 "I concur"

80 Chili dogs

83 Headliner

84 "Ciao 4 now"

86 Beat others in claiming something

88 Dojo surface

89 Old verb suffix

90 Remade musicals, e.g.

91 "Showdown" rock gp.

93 "Easy-peasy"

97 Polish capital

98 Start for Pen or dermis

100 Barely earns, with "out"

101 Informed (of)

102 Still in bed

103 Garbo of old movies

104 Singer Fitzgerald

106 Gyro wraps

110 Ship of myth

111 Sleek, in brief

112 "Fast Money" network

113 "Watermark" singer

115 A party to

116 Constellation next to Hercules

119 Oahu, e.g.: Abbr.

120 Atop, in odes

121 Scot's dissent

122 Raised trains

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																				120	121	122
123											124					125						
126					127						128					129						

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!



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

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

R	V	T
7	2	5
R		E
4		8
O	U	E
1	6	3

OVERTURE

CryptoQuip
answer

I guess any avian variety that appeals to God in heaven could be classified as a bird of pray.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Armor; 2. Extol
3. Stein; 4. Spire

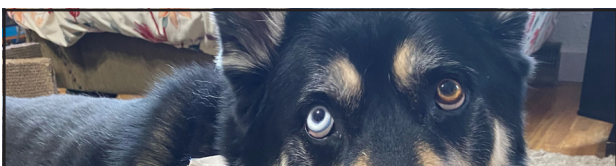
Today's Word

ESTIMATES

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THE PHONE. I THINK IT'S CALLED A "SMARTPHONE" BECAUSE IT REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL DUMB.



GRIN and BEAR IT

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"I object! Counsel is leading the witness!"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Store windows are moved. 2. License plate is missing. 3. Bow tie is added. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR:
SANDY JANES

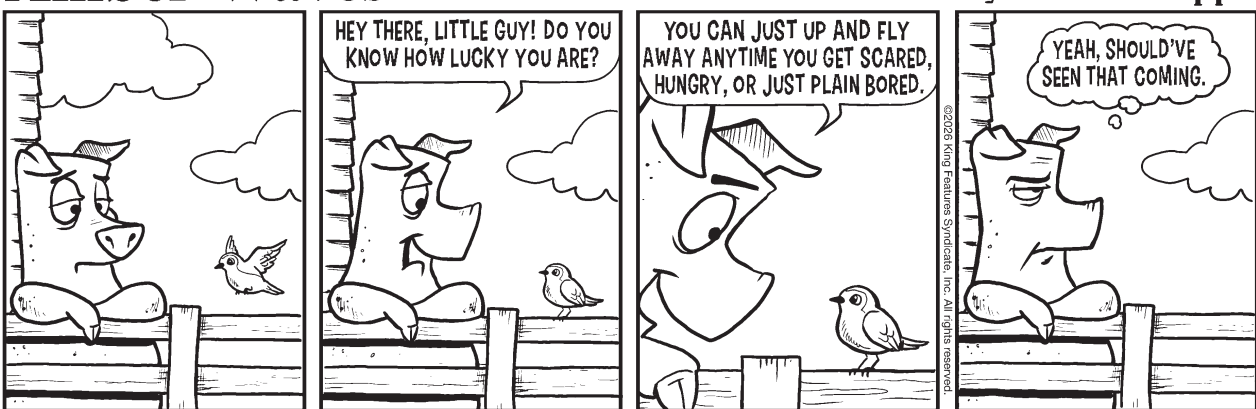
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Super Crossword

Answers

BARBRA	OBAMA	MISO	LAB
MANIAC	ERROR	ATTITUDE	
WHATTHE	DEUCE	TEALBLUE	
SAIL	ITSALL	MYFAULT	
APO	NIL	SOIFIRSTS	
SINGLES	ERVE	ANDOR	
HELLOS	MAINE	ERECTED	
CRAZY	STUPID	LOVESHARI	
ARIA	ART	LAIRSI	IRAS
NED	JABS	WHISKEYSMASH	
BAG	PEROT	NIP	
REFERENCES	SET	SACS	TAC
ASIF	DOORS	STU	TOGO
PANIC	INCOMETAX	RETURN	
SUNTANS	NATAL	ELYSEE	
LOEWE	THREEVOLLEY		
ANGELS	APP	SKI	EDS
WORLDWARI	ACE	EVIL	
ATELIERS	TENNIS	SANYONE	
RUTABAGA	ARBYS	LOREAL	
EPA	STOW	SOCAL	SNARES

MT 43 News, Inc.

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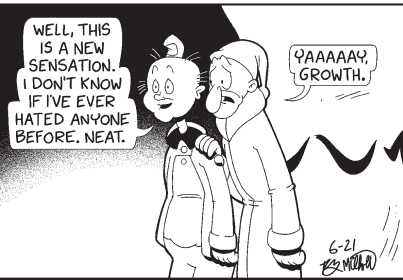
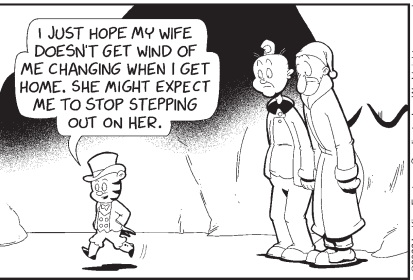
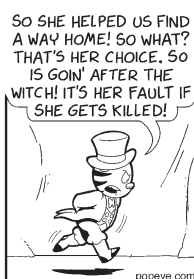
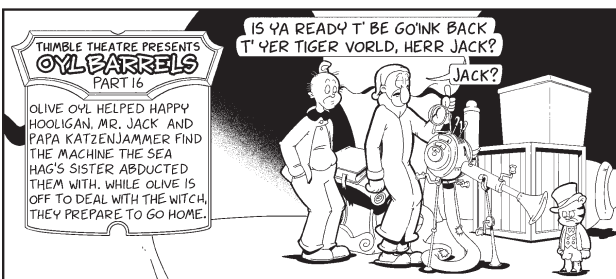
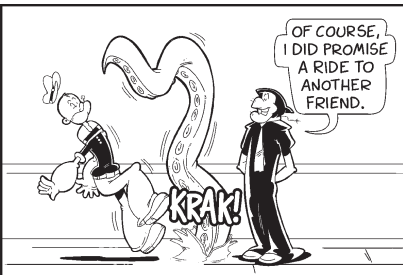
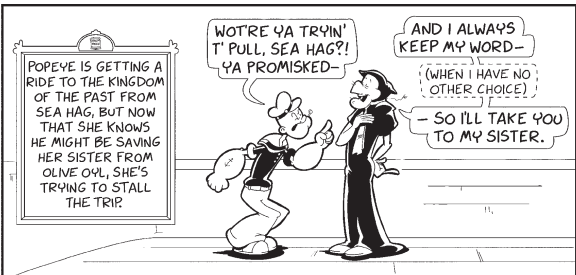
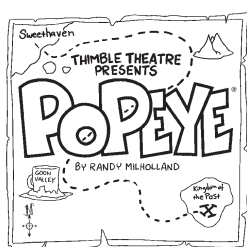
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CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS MUST be submitted as a text document, word doc, etc. Pictures of documents WILL NOT be accepted.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





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:
JULY 6 - JULY 10

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

Monday, July 6

Cabbage Rolls
Mashed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Fruit Cocktail

Tuesday, July 7

Roast Pork
Steamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Applesauce

Wednesday, July 8

BBQ Pork Ribs
Macaroni Salad
Sweet Corn
California Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Pineapple

Thursday, July 9

Baked Cod
Rice Pilaf
Carrot Coins
White Bean Salad
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Peaches

Friday, July 10

Swedish Meatballs
Mashed Potatoes
Carrot Raisin Salad
Whole Grain Bread
Apricot Halves

Weather Forecast

courtesy of open-meteo.com

JULY

Friday 3

High Temp: 82
Low Temp: 55
Wind: 21
Rain: 0.291
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 4

High Temp: 86
Low Temp: 55
Wind: 17
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 5

High Temp: 90
Low Temp: 57
Wind: 14
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 74

Monday 6

High Temp: 92
Low Temp: 59
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.028
Cloud Cover: 96

Tuesday 7

High Temp: 88
Low Temp: 59
Wind: 10
Rain: 0.008
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 8

High Temp: 93
Low Temp: 59
Wind: 6
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 97

Thursday 9

High Temp: 92
Low Temp: 64
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Driver Hurt in Near Collision on Highway 287

MT43 News Staff
Reporter

The driver of a red Chevrolet SUV was hurt in a single-car accident on Highway 297/12 near Lake View Manor Thursday, June 25. The Montana Highway Patrol filed this report:

“On June 25, just after 9:45 a.m., troopers responded to a call on US-12 near mile marker 72 between Townsend and Helena. Vehicle 1, a Chevrolet, was driving east on US-12 approaching the intersection with Manor Drive when a silver car turned onto US-12 from Manor Drive in front of the Chevrolet. The driver of the Chevrolet applied the brakes in an attempt to avoid a collision. The driver of the Chevrolet then swerved off the road to the right and re-entered the road, where it overturned on the roadway.

The driver of the Chevrolet was not wearing their

Emergency Service Responders prepare to remove wrecked vehicle from Highway 287 at mile marker 72 after a single car accident June 25. MT43 News Photo

seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. They were transported by EMS to the Broadwater County hospital and then flown by life flight to Billings for further treatment with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

The silver car was not on scene when troopers arrived. However, with the help of witnesses and the Broadwater County Sheriff’s Office, the vehicle and driver have been located. The investigation is ongoing.”

GUEST EDITORIALS

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

Stop the Data Center Invasion in Montana

When I first jumped in this race for Montana’s Second Congressional District, I had no strong ideas on data centers. But as I campaigned, I saw that so many voters were very, very concerned about them. After listening to the People and studying the problem myself, I realized why they were so worried, and now I completely share ALL of their concerns.

Today, there is a national revolt against data centers in America, and Montana is at the center of it. Thirty miles north of Billings, in the small town of Broadview, a Texas-based company called Quantica seeks to build one of the largest data centers on planet earth. It would be the size of 3,800 football fields. It would consume untold quantities of electricity and water. It would likely turn Broadview into a ghost town; and there is no telling what it would do the Madison Aquifer, a critical water source for the people of Central and Eastern Montana.

Powerful special interest groups are behind this dark project. Their methods are deceptive. Few politicians are opposing them. Many are compromised by their ties to the industry and the lure of quick money.

But, thankfully, the People are standing up. One such group is “Yellowstone County Voices,” a non-partisan group of regular folks who are spearheading a citizen-led initiative in Yellowstone County to place control over these data centers where it belongs—directly with the People. If you live in Yellowstone County, make sure to sign their petition and then get it on the ballot this November.

Brian J. Miller
Candidate for Montana's Second Congressional District

Rural Veterinary Crisis

Veterinarians. No one who owns animals can live without them.

They are an indispensable part of Montana’s rural fabric, a critical part of our livestock industry, and absolutely essential to agriculture, Montana’s most important industry.

According to the Montana Department of Agriculture, agriculture contributes approximately \$5.27 billion to Montana’s economy, with livestock and livestock sales serving as major contributors. As those of us who live and work in rural Montana know, the need for good veterinarians is not optional. It is critical.

As a fifth-generation rancher and cow calf producer, and as a full-time farrier and small business owner, we know firsthand just how important veterinarians are to rural Montana. Whether responding to a prolapsed uterus on a cow when temperatures plunge to 10 below zero, or treating a colicking rodeo horse at 3 a.m., these professionals are often the difference between a successful outcome and a devastating loss.

Tragically, rural large animal and mixed animal veterinary practices are becoming increasingly rare. In fact, the shortage has become so acute here at home that 17 counties across Montana have been designated as critically underserved for food animal veterinarians, according to the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

This should be cause for alarm.

Montana’s cattle population is estimated at roughly 2 to 2.5 million head scattered across the state. Yet this shortage is not confined to Montana. It is a nationwide crisis. In 2025, the USDA designated a record 243 veterinary shortage areas across 46 states, representing nearly 500 counties. Put another way, America has lost approximately 90 percent of its large animal veterinarians since the end of World War II. That is a deeply concerning trajectory.

So what is behind this trend, and is there anything that can be done to stop the bleeding?

The first issue is the mass retirement of rural veterinarians across Montana and the nation. Many of the veterinarians serving our communities began practicing in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. They kept their practices open through deep snow, high water, drought, calving season, and everything in between.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

JOHN 4:14

The Garden Bug

Indian shot is another name for canna indica, a wildflower of the Caribbean and tropical Americas.

Its spherical black seeds are hard and perfectly round, resembling oversized BBs or buckshot from a shotgun shell. They are also used as beads.

Sources: usf.edu, waynesword.palomar.edu

Rural Vet Crisis, 10

Guest Editorials Continued

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

Rural Vet Crisis, 9

The second part of the equation is that rural Montana, like much of rural America, is extremely difficult to staff. Long drives, extreme weather, and vast geographic distances create serious challenges. In one Montana shortage area identified by the USDA, there are only 2.5 people per square mile and an estimated livestock-to-human ratio of roughly 8 to 1. Those are overwhelming numbers.

But perhaps the biggest challenge facing aspiring large animal and mixed animal veterinarians is the student debt-to-income ratio. The average veterinary graduate leaves school with approximately \$200,000 in student debt, and in some cases nearly \$300,000. That is a crushing financial burden, especially when rural veterinarians often earn tens of thousands of dollars less than their counterparts in suburban small animal practices while working longer hours, covering larger territories, enduring more difficult conditions, and facing the isolation and extremes of Montana’s heat and cold.

That is precisely why we sponsored and carried House Bill 860, also known as the Rural Montana Veterinary Workforce Act. This legislation was designed to help sustain an adequate number of large animal and mixed animal veterinarians in Montana’s most rural and underserved communities.

The Rural Montana Veterinary Workforce Act was modeled after a nearly identical and proven program in Kansas that boasts an approximately 94 percent success rate. We were blessed to receive widespread support during the last legislative session from the Montana Veterinary Medical Association, as well as nearly every major agricultural and livestock organization in the state, including the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and Montana Farmers Union.

We also received support from colleagues on both sides of the aisle before ultimately coming up just short last summer.

Montana cannot afford the continued hollowing out of rural mixed and large animal veterinary care. These veterinarians are crucial to our most important industry, our rural communities, and our way of life.

Our promise to Montana, and to the hardworking farmers, ranchers, and producers who contribute so much to our state, is that we will continue fighting the good fight for Montana agriculture. The men and women of Montana agriculture not only feed our state and our nation, they help feed the world.

God bless Montana, and God bless America.

State Senator Wylie Galt

Former Speaker of the House, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Senate District 39

State Representative Randyn Gregg

Vice Chair, House Education Committee, House District 78

JB Howick's Thoughts on I-47 Proposal

Victor Sample

MT43News

Senate Bill 4484, introduced by Senators Cynthia Lummis(R-WY) and John Cornyn (R-TX), has been generating a lot of discussion - at least in Montana.

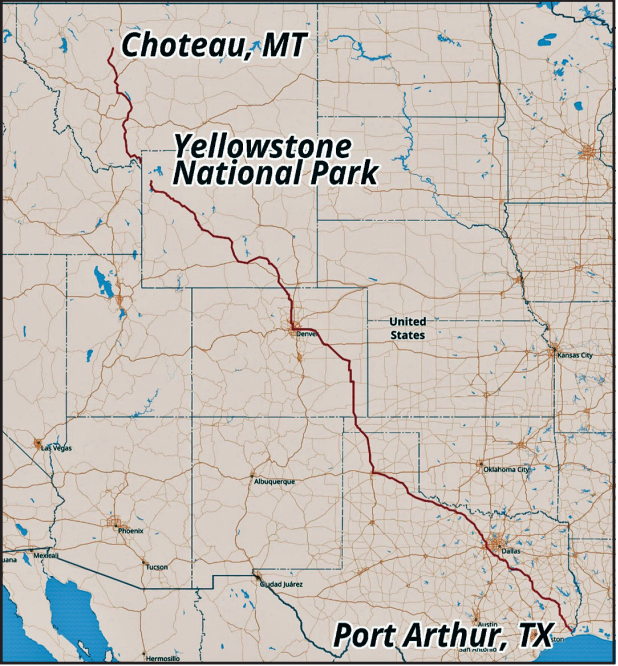
The bill proposes to convert State Highway 287 (yes, the one we call Front Street in Townsend) to Interstate Highway I-47.

Councilman JB Howick has written a very interesting article regarding his thoughts on how a major 4-lane Highway (interstate or other) might be built and the effects it would have on Townsend.

To read Councilman Howick's article, visit our website at <https://mt43news.com/mt43newsRouter/HowickI47Thoughts>

Note: At this time, the bill has not passed, there is no funding, and neither of the sponsors of the bill will be returning to Congress next year. Senator Cronyn was defeated in the Texas primary, and Senator Lummis has announced she is not running for reelection.

While the I47 proposal will probably never happen, the heavy traffic from the Three Forks exit from I90 to Helena on US Highway 287 may prompt action to create a 4-lane highway all the way, including through or around Townsend.



Proposed I47 Route
Courtesy of Wiki Commons

Stop Wasting Taxpayer Dollars on Legislative Fan Mail

Why do Montanans send legislators to Helena? It is to solve problems – it’s as simple as that.

It’s a simple concept that voters across the political spectrum likely agree on. We elect representatives to make state government work better for the people. We should not expect the Legislature to spend valuable time passing symbolic resolutions that accomplish absolutely nothing. Yet, every legislative session in Helena, we see taxpayer funds being spent on performative politics.

One cringe-worthy example from the 2025 legislative session is House Joint Resolution 7, a piece of legislation that perfectly illustrates the absurdity by some members of our legislature.

HJ7 is a house joint resolution congratulating Donald Trump on his inauguration as the 47th President of the United States. It expressed support from specific members of the legislature on his victory.

Whether you supported or opposed Donald Trump is irrelevant to the larger issue. Like it or not, he won the election. But should that warrant the time, energy, and financial resources of our entire state legislature to draft, debate, and pass a formal greeting card?

HJ7 did nothing to make life better for a single Montana family. It is, in every meaningful sense, a political statement masquerading as legislative business. Our constituents didn’t send us to Helena to write fan mail to the White House. They sent us to do the people’s business, and when legislators prioritize symbolic gestures over tangible results, we are failing our ethical and fiduciary duty to the people.

The true absurdity of HJ7 isn’t just that it was a colossal waste of time on the taxpayers’ dime – it gets better than that. The absurdity of HJ 7 was the bizarre, self-serving provision that was amended to the bill. The amendment specifically mandates that the official copy sent to the President, “must include a list of full first and last names and titles of all of the legislators who co-sponsored and voted yes on this resolution.”

Think about what this actually means. This isn’t about showing respect for another fair and free election. This was purely a vanity project. It was a mechanism designed to pat the participating lawmakers on their own backs, allowing them to claim they were part of the squad who broke out their pom-poms and officially cheered for the new administration in the hopes they would get a personally signed trading card in return.

When I asked the amendment sponsor if he sincerely thought the president was going to read this piece of fan mail, he told me that not only did he expect the president would read it, he expected that each person listed would get a personal reply.

We’ve all seen the frustration when politicians use their office to promote their own egos rather than serve the public. When members of the legislature use state resources to generate a roll call of political cheerleaders, it turns the serious business of governance into a reality show.

Every committee meeting, staff review, legal analysis, floor debate, printed document, recorded vote and court challenge uses taxpayer-funded resources. Citizens deserve to expect those resources will be devoted to solving problems and not generating self-serving political applause.

If legislators wish to congratulate a president, a sports team, hometown hero, or anyone else, they have every right to do so as private citizens or even as a member of their political party. They can issue press releases, post on social media, hold press conferences, or try this - send them a handwritten note.

Taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize political messaging disguised as governing.

This is also an opportunity to recognize the fiscally responsible legislators who voted against HJ7. Although this legislation was passed by a majority in the GOP party, seven republican lawmakers broke with their caucus and voted against it. Regardless of their reasons, I expect they recognized that the Legislature's limited time is better spent legislating than engaging in symbolic politics with no tangible outcome. They deserve credit for putting the institution ahead of partisan theater.

Our Legislature meets for only a limited time every two years. Every hour spent on symbolic, self-serving resolutions is an hour not spent addressing the many other challenges facing our state.

Montanans deserve legislators who measure success by results, not by offering a high five to the president with the hopes of getting a souvenir in return. Let your legislators know what you expect from their time and with your money. If a piece of legislation doesn’t do something to improve the lives of Montanans, then it probably doesn't belong on the legislative agenda.

Bob Carter

State Representative Missoula



County Services Schedule

This letter is in regard to the MT43 article published on June 12th.

In the summary of the June 8th meeting, the author cited a number of complaints voiced by County residents over solid waste and road maintenance. The County’s response was that their hands are tied because of limitations in manpower and the structure laid out in the CBA between the county and the union.

Although the CBA was only briefly referenced as one limitation, the significance of the union agreement should not be overlooked. Our county leadership must take note of this situation and exercise its authority to modify the CBA to ensure employee privileges are not placed ahead of the Taxpayers’ needs.

Reworking the agreement to incorporate an 8-on-6-off schedule would greatly increase the productivity of our solid waste and maintenance departments. The manpower would be divided into two rotations, each working a Thursday-to-Thursday schedule. This would allow our county managers to assign and schedule work continuously 7 days a week while still adhering to the 4-10 work week, which has been dictated by the CBA.

Changing the operating hours of our Courthouse (and those state/county departments operating within) to M-F 6 am to 6 pm, with one shift running from 6 am to 3 pm (1hr lunch 10-11 am) and the other from 9 am to 6 pm (1hr lunch 1-2 pm), would also eliminate the inconvenience of the county offices closing for one hour during lunch. They would early open, late close, and a full staff during the noon hour would provide an enormous benefit to those faced with the prospect of losing wages in order to meet the county on “their” schedule.

These small changes would be a great benefit to the County Residents. It is the county's obligation to its constituents to research and draft processes for implementing these changes, as well as rebalancing roles, tasks, and personnel to operate within the current budget.

City of Townsend, take notes...

Cheerfully optimistic,

Jeff Schritz

Townsend

Dear Editor,

No one likes to pay taxes, not even Democrats like me. But we understand that taxes are the cost of living in our great country. While we can debate the need or wisdom of some government programs and expenses, there are certain things we ought to agree are neither necessary nor wise. And they add up to a lot of money. Back when Republican presidents and lawmakers cared about taxpayer money, the late Senator Everett Dirksen (R-Illinois) once said: “A million here, a million there, pretty soon you have real money.”

Lets start with the ballroom. It was \$200M, then \$300M, all donated money. It is now \$600M and he wants us to pay half.

Then the reflecting pool. First, he knew a guy who could do it for “a couple million.” Its now \$14.7M on a no bid contract with a Trump donor because it was an “emergency”. And it turned green with algae, maybe in sympathy for our money.

And the triumphant arch. The estimated cost is over \$100M, mostly taxpayer money.

I saw this week that he is gilding four horse statues near the Lincoln Memorial in another no bid contract for \$5M.

Then we get to the big stuff. While he complains about the “pallets of cash” Iran received from its own frozen assets in the Obama agreement, his new “deal” with Iran will give them back more of their money, withdraw sanctions on their oil, and give them \$300B. And although one of his stated goals was to eliminate their missile capability, he says now it would be unfair to deprive them of their missiles since everyone else in the Middle East has them. Such a deal!

And I haven’t mentioned the cost of the war.

A million here, a million there...

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Budewitz

Townsend

I-194 is Important to All Montanans

Many thanks to our signature gatherers and Montanans statewide in our effort to collect signatures for I-194, the Montana ballot initiative to end corporate and dark money in Montana elections. We collected over 50,000 signatures that came from all of Montana’s 56 counties. This immense effort was powered by all volunteer signature gatherers, some 500 in total! To qualify I-194 for November’s ballot, we need 30,121 verified signatures state-wide out of our collected 50,000 and we need to meet Montana’s geographic distribution requirement by collecting signatures equal to at least 5% of the vote cast for governor in 34 state House districts. As of June 24, the Montana Secretary of State’s office verified 44,963 signatures, and our tally of house district numbers gives us confidence that we have also met the geographic district requirement.

I-194, 10

This is all very good news for Montanans who worked diligently on this grassroots initiative and for those Montanans who signed the I-194 petition, agreeing that there is too much undisclosed money coming into Montana elections. However - the Montana Chamber of Commerce has apparently decided that it's not in their best interest for this initiative to be on the November ballot. The Montana Chamber of Commerce, along with several other groups, already tried to stop this initiative last March after the Montana Attorney General ruled its ballot language was legally sufficient. The Montana Supreme Court quickly overruled this lawsuit, and we began to collect signatures. As we neared the end of signature collection, the Montana Chamber of Commerce tried to stop the initiative again. This time they sent out letters with prepaid return envelopes asking those who signed the petition to send the enclosed form to their county clerk and recorder's office, requesting that their signature be revoked.

We bring this to your attention because we think that this won't be the last time the Montana Chamber of Commerce tries to interfere with Montanans' right to vote on I-194. Because we anticipate more backlash to I-194 throughout the summer and fall, we would like voters to know that The Montana Plan doesn't silence a single Montanan. Every business owner, every employee, every rancher and every shopkeeper retain every right they have: to speak, to donate, to organize, to spend their own money on any race and issue they choose. What changes with I-194 is who's doing the talking: a person, on the record, instead of a company bank account. In the end, what we really want is to make our elections more transparent and accountable, and that is what we're all working for with I-194.

Deb Hanneman, Whitehall
Holly Harper, Whitehall
Shauna Thomas, Helena
Amy French, Whitehall

Dealing with Nuisance Birds

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



People sometimes ask me where I get ideas for articles. Many ideas come from people like you who suggest a topic or ask a question. However, some ideas come from my lived experiences and own necessity to do research to solve a problem. I feel others may experience similar problems and can learn from my experience and my mistakes. A recent problem I am dealing with is nuisance birds. I'm having increasing issues with them in my garden and more recently, swallows have decided my house would make an excellent nesting site (I disagree).

There are two primary types of swallows that nest on buildings: barn swallows and cliff swallows. I originally assumed it was the barn variety on my house, but learned cliff swallows were actually my uninvited guest. Cliff swallows live in big colonies (there were at least a dozen or more around my house) while barn swallows live in solitary pairs. Cliff swallows are a dark color with a pale collar and a buff patch on their rump. They make a gourd-shaped nest. Barn swallows are a solid dark blue and have an open cup-shaped nest.

In general, deterrence and removal for both species are similar. Cliff swallows can be more persistent and take more effort to remove because of their colony behavior. Before taking any action, it's important to recognize that swallows are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which means it is illegal to remove an active nest, one that has eggs or chicks. Any action must take place early in the season or late summer after the breeding season is over. Luckily, my birds were still in the initial stages of nest building.

Outside of the breeding season, you should remove the nests. Additionally, you will likely need some type of physical barrier along the eave to prevent them from returning. Examples include bird netting, metal or plastic sheathing, bird spikes or slanted boards where mud won't stick. Temporary deterrents such as mylar strips, reflective tape and pinwheels

can also be effective. Sound devices don't work because swallows have poor hearing.

Birds can also be an issue in the garden. Birds have given me headaches in the garden by stealing seeds after I plant them. Once they learned about the free buffet, they kept coming back each time I would replant. The only prevention strategy I found that worked was bird netting. It needs to be at least 6 inches off the ground. Otherwise, the birds will still get the seeds. Once the seed sprouted, I removed the netting and the birds left the plants alone.

Additionally, birds love berries and fruit. A few of their favorites include strawberries, cherries and honeyberries, and they can easily (and quickly) remove all the fruit from a tree or shrub. Creating a physical barrier with netting or wire cages is the best way to prevent birds from stealing your berries. Visual scares such as old CDS, strips of aluminum foil and reflective tape often work in the short term, but birds will get used to them and eventually not be bothered by them. Same goes for frightening devices that make sounds. If you change or rotate these devices, it will help maintain the scare value. Research also shows that ultrasonic high-frequency sounds do not work because birds, like humans, do not hear them.

There are a variety of taste deterrents, both commercial and homemade. These should be used cautiously because some research has shown that repeated indigestion of certain products can have a detrimental effect on bird health. Additionally, they must be reapplied frequently after each rain or irrigation.

One final strategy is to reduce attraction to one area and/or create areas of habitat that birds prefer. Other ways to reduce attraction are to spray the birds with water, remove mud sources, cover bird baths and remove nests (when legal).

As for me, I'm still battling the sparrows and am currently trying to make my house a less attractive place to live. This morning, I gave my daughter instructions to spray the birds and nesting sites with water (a choice I might regret) on a regular basis to deter them. The next step will be attaching a physical barrier or deterrent to the house. Feel free to call MSU Extension in Broadwater County for an update on the sparrows or with any other pest control questions at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.



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Every Contribution large or small brings us one step closer to our mission. Please consider making a fully tax deductible donation to Radersburg Historical Society. Donations can be sent to PO Box 96, Toston, MT 59643. We truly appreciate your support and commitment to the RHPI mission.



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