

Broadwater Fair and Rodeo Celebrate Nation's 250th Birthday



Kids' art in the Commercial Building.
MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Broadwater Trails committee member Lee Weldon visits with folks about her group's plans for a Townsend to the Fairgrounds trail.
MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Some things at the fair and rodeo are new, but meeting friends and celebrating our community as well as our nation's birthday remains the same.

Cowboys and cowgirls, and those who love them, are a very patriotic bunch. At the rodeo Friday night, they quickly stood as the flag entered the arena. The announcer, Josh Linebaugh, acknowledged their patriotism, but asked the crowd to sit while he honored veterans, EMTs, and rural responders. And once again, the crowd stood, hats in hand, while Lexi Davies sang the Star-Spangled Banner.

The Fair organizers choose a theme each year to honor our county and country. Of course, they picked USA 250th Celebration as their theme. The exhibit building was decked out in red, white, and blue. A special contest exhibit for the 250th showed quilts, wall hangings, flower arrangements, a fancy hat, and a wreath - handmade to honor our country.

The first-place winner was a framed puzzle, entered by Creative Closet owner Shirley Wilson. She pointed out that she has always loved puzzles. She also loves the flag colors. She picked up this puzzle about a year ago. It features all things patriotic. The shop owner grew up on the hi-line in Galata, Montana, and graduated

from Cut Bank High School. Her grandmother, who homesteaded at Galata, Montana, insisted Shirley enter her artwork in the fair. She began entering at age 9 and has entered her creative arts ever since. "People should enter the fair to showcase their handicrafts. Besides, it's a fun time to get out and meet your neighbors," she said.

In the Best of Show junior division category, Talia Garrard, age 10, won a purple ribbon for her flower arrangement, which included snapdragons, daisies, baby's breath, and the herbs: cilantro, echinacea, and yarrow, which she picked from her grandmother Kelly Garrard's garden. Not to be outdone, Gabriel Sanford, Broadwater Fair and Rodeo, 2

MORE FAIR, RODEO AND PARADE PHOTOS INSIDE!

Bulldog Fall Sports Kick Off Their Seasons

Byrleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



Summer is coming to an end, and soon school will start up again. As the start of school approaches, so do the Fall Sports seasons. The Volleyball, Football, and Cross-Country athletes will begin practicing on Friday, August 14th. Just a week later, on August 21st, the teams will display what they've been practicing in the Blue/White scrimmages. The scrimmages start with Volleyball at 5 pm in the gym. Then, at 5:30 pm, the Cross-Country athletes will do a run starting at the school. After that, the Football team will scrimmage at 6 pm at the football field.

These scrimmages are a great opportunity for the community to come see the Fall Sports teams and get a look into what the season might bring. The student athletes with start school the following Monday, the 24th, but will continue practicing and preparing for their seasons. Next week, expect to see the September schedules for all 3 Fall Sports in the paper.

County 4-H Club Members Enter Their Best Friends In Dog Show

MT43 News Staff Reporter

There were no two dogs alike at the 4-H Dog Show Tuesday night at the Fairgrounds. Black Labs, Golden Retrievers, Australian Shepards, Blue Tick Heelers, but wait – exotic breeds too, such as Havanaese, a breed originally from Cuba, and a Cesky Fousek, a Czechoslovakian breed.

Then there are the accessories: water bowl, water jug, collar, leash, brush, favorite toy, blanket, and one more essential item: the treat purse. That accessory is magic for each dog. He or she receives an award for each completed instruction.

4-H club members who have worked all year long in the Dog Project, led by Georgia Wilde, ran through their paces in the Showmanship, Obedience, and Agility contests. Darian Fields, who works for Elk Horn Veterinary Clinic, pinch-hit for the regular dog show judge who came late from Silver Star.

Each dog handler must know the parts of the dog and show how he or she and the dog relate to each other in showmanship. How well the dog listens and follows instructions tells the story in the obedience section. Agility is an art for dog and handler: the dog must jump over barriers, run through tunnels, and balance on a teeter-totter. As always, when the dog does well, he gets treats, pets, and loving attention from these young handlers.

Kaylee Cederberg, 11, showed her terrier-looking dog with a curly tail and long hair. She explained the Havanaese breed hails from Cuba. "My grandpa went to Colorado to get him for my 3rd birthday. My dog Rusty loves to show off when we go to practice," she laughed.

Tuesday opened the Broadwater County Fair with 119 4-H members entered in various contests and exhibits, according to Assistant MSU Extension Agent Kasea Gregg. Gregg has recently joined the Extension Office and Agent Allison Kosto because the organization has grown so much in the last few years.



Stand-in judge Darian Fields, an Elk Horn Veterinary clinic employee, puts the contestants through their paces for Showmanship.
MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



"Are we ever going to get this show on the road?" Gus the Golden Retriever wonders while he sits patiently with his mistress, Cheyanne Douglas and Blue, the blue heeler.
MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks

Dog Show,

Broadwater Fair and Rodeo, 1

age 8, won a purple ribbon for his LEGO lion, for which he made up his own design. “It has moving parts,” he pointed out.

The Fine Arts Division includes photography, paintings, and creative handiwork. Bryleigh Erickson submitted an unusual piece called diamond art. The high school senior said the work came in a kit kind of like “paint-by-numbers.” The work took about ten hours to complete by placing each individual piece, which is pencil- lead size, separately, in small sections. “I bought one because I thought it just looked fun. Now it’s a hobby of mine. I’ve made a cow, a zebra and a jellyfish,” she explained.

Kids’ entertainment was everywhere on the grounds: a mechanical bull ride spun most boys around until they fell off. Girls tried their luck too. Groups played music at the Entertainment tent, and the stick horse races were worth your entrance ticket. A little quiet time saw the kids making drawings and paintings in the Commercial building.

The Commercial Building slots were at capacity this year with small businesses and nonprofits trying to touch base with the public. One candidate for County Commissioner also had a booth. Tim Ravndahl was reaching out to people to visit and to pass out his campaign material. Broadwater County Trails Committee representatives explained their Fairgrounds to Townsend Multi-use trail plan. Several other nonprofits were staged along the thoroughfare.

The 4-H Livestock sale culminates a long week for each animal project member. The week begins on Thursday when the 4-H and FFA animals arrive and weigh in. Then there are the shows and the judging, leading up to the grand finale- the sale. Corporations, businesses, and individuals vie for steers, pigs, goats, and sheep which brought in \$364,638 this year, for members to put toward their college funds. Almost 100 animals sold, including 13 lambs,14 steers, 49 hogs, and 10 goats. Championship geese and chickens and a rabbit were up for auction as well. Some poultry pens sold for as high as \$600.

The livestock bidder’s dinner was provided by Cooks by Rausers. Dean Folkvord was the auctioneer, as he has been for many years.

During those 4 days, including Sunday, the 4-Hers and FFA members must keep the animals fed and watered and try to keep them cool in the stock barn in this 90- degree weather.

Overall, the fair went pretty well, according to Fair Manager Jessica Erickson: “There were more activities for people. The most used was the mechanical bull. The kids loved it. I don’t think the heat kept people away.”



Spotters for the Livestock Sale shout out bidders' numbers to auctioneer Dean Folkvord. Spotters were Robert Michael, Jason Moyes and Todd Kitto. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Cece Watne with her black and white pig. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Business owner Judy Williams adds rhinestone decorations to shirts in her Montana FunShine collection. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Lexi Davies and her red Angus steer. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Zoe Dablin with her \$600 chickens. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



The hams and pork shoulders-to-be look amazing on this Berkshire pig, raised and shown by Everett Kirksey. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks

Contact us Mon - Fri
10am - 2pm!



**4-H “Thank You for Purchasing” Ads
for August 21st Edition:**

-4H Ads we create and/or require a proof and approval before print: 3pm Friday 8/14/26.
-All other ads are on the regular schedule

Example ad:

**Thank you BUYER
for purchasing my
2026 4-H
LIVESTOCK.**



-SELLER

Dog Show, 1



Kaylee Cederberg, 11, and her Havanese dog her grandpa gave her when she was 3 years old. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Parker Truesdel, age 11, and his year-old border collie go through their paces in the Obedience section of the dog show. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Her alert Australian Shepherd listens intently as Sierra Sherrard puts him through his paces for Obedience section of the show. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



It's all about practice. Kayley Conner practices with her one-year-old Chesky Fousek bird dog. MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks



Good boy!
MT43 News Photographer, Nancy Marks

2026 RODEO PHOTOS



Taylor Cartwright with our American flag
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Team Roping & Mike Cartwright, Townsend
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Team Roping, Shawn Cartwright, Townsend
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Team Roping, Chad and Kane Cartwright, Townsend
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Ladies Breakaway.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Bull Rider Tanner Theriault, Townsend.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Junior Breakaway
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Barrel Racing
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Barrel Racing
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Barrel Racing
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson

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www.shieldsriverfarm.com

Townsend School & Sports

AUGUST

Friday 14

- 1st Day of High School Fall Sports Practice

Monday 17

- 6:00 pm: Sub Training Meeting

Tuesday 18

- Teacher Summer Tech Day 2

Thursday 20

- 4:30 pm: K-2 Ice Cream Social
- 5:00 pm: 3-5 Ice Cream Social
- 6:00 pm: 6th Grade/Freshmen - New Student Orientation

Thu 20 - Fri 21

- Teacher PIR

Friday 21

- 5:00 pm: Fall Blue & White Scrimmages - Volleyball
- 5:30 pm: Fall Blue & White Scrimmages - Cross Country
- 6:00 pm: Fall Blue & White Scrimmages - Football

Monday 24

- First Day of Middle School Fall Sports Practice
- First Day of School 1st-12th Grades

Tuesday 25

- First Day of School Pre-K & K



East Helena Schools & Sports

AUGUST

Monday 17

- 6:30 pm: Booster Club Meeting - East Helena High School

Tuesday 18

- 8:00 am: East Helena High School Schedule Pickup (**Seniors**)
- 12:00 pm: East Helena High School Schedule Pickup (**Juniors**)

Wednesday 19

- 8:00 am: East Helena High School Schedule Pickup (**Sophomores**)
- 12:00 pm: East Helena High School Schedule Pickup (**Freshmen**)

Monday 24

- 4:00 pm: East Valley Middle School Open House
- 4:30 pm: Open House for: Little Lante's, PPE, and Radley

Tuesday 25

- 6:00 pm: 9th Grade and New Student Orientation - Open House and BBQ

Wednesday 26

- 8:00 am: **Welcome Back to School**

Thursday 27

- 8:00 am: **Kindergarten 1st Day!**

Broadwater County Government Calendar

AUGUST

Monday 17

- 3:30 pm: Board of Health
- 6:00 pm: Parks and Recreation

Tuesday 18

- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- 3:30 pm: Three Forks Mosquito Board Meeting
- 4:00 pm: Townsend Mosquito Board Meeting
- 7:00 pm: Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Wednesday 19

- 10:00 am: Commissioners Meeting
- 6:00 pm: Airport Board Meeting

Thursday 20

- 1:00 pm: LEPC Meeting



Broadwater Community Calendar

AUGUST

Friday 14

- 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 and Lattes

Saturday 15

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

Sunday 16

- 11:00 am: Estate Auction at 1021 US Hwy 112E, Townsend **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 7:30 pm: **FREE** Music (Elvis Impersonator- Jerry Willet) at Canyon Ferry KOA, Bring a lawn chair

Monday 17

- 7:00 pm: Headwaters Amateur Radio Club of Montana Meeting at Belgrade's Chamber of Commerce Building

Tuesday 18

- 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 19

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 7:30 pm: Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting at the Townsend Fire Station, 130 So Cedar St **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**

Thursday 20

- 8:30 am: Monthly Chamber Meeting @ Heritage Park **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**
- 12:00 pm: Red Cross Blood Drive at Mountain Valley Church
- 3:00 pm: Townsend Farmers Market at Wi-Fi Park
- 4:30 pm: Open House to Learn about US 12/US 287 Improvements, at the Flynn Building
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- Townsend Crimson Red Hat Ladies Lunch the 3rd Thursday at Contact Sandy for information 406-949-0081

Friday 21

- 5:00 pm: **FREE EVENT** Canton Church Presents The Last Call Band at Canton Church **READ ARTICLE AND SEE AD ON PAGE 11**
- 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 and Lattes

Saturday 22

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

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

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)
August 1, 15 & 29- 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Donations of food items are accepted *Fridays July 31, August 14 & 28: 9:00 to 11:00am*

This month donation suggestions: *Hamburger Helper meals, Ramen noodles, tuna, cereal, 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. *August is Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.*

For questions, donations appointments and emergency food supplies **call (406) 916-0034.**

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

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

SALES

ESTATE AUCTION

1021 US HWY 12E, TOWNSEND, MT 11AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

'69 Ford Mustang, '73 VW Beetle, '71 Ford Mustang (project), Vintage Ford/Chevy/VW Parts, 2021 Aspen Trail Travel Trailer,

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LOCAL MEETINGS

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.

Next meeting: August 19, 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



Thursday, August 20 8:30am @ Heritage Park

All members of the community welcome!

2026 Local Adult Rodeo Results

Tanya Dundas

Tie Down Roping:

1st - Roddy Cameron

2nd - Clint Begger

Pole bending:

1st - Lauren Reiser

2nd - McKenzie Cartwright

3rd - Ella Begger

Old Timer's Team Roping

1st - Tess Counts and Vice Thompson

2nd - Ella Begger and Clint Begger

3rd - Austin Rath and Shawn Lewis

Goat Tying

1st - Lauren Reiser

2nd - Coree Cartwright

3rd - Ella Begger

Ribbon Race:

1st - Roddy Cameron and Jamee Cameron

2nd - Clint Begger and Ella Begger

3rd - Austin Rath and Lauren Reiser

Barrels:

1st - Taylor Cartwright

2nd - Lauren Reiser

3rd - McKenzie Cartwright

4th - Amelia Gonazles

Breakaway:

1st - Ella Begger

2nd - Taylor Cartwright

3rd - Coree Cartwright

Open Roping:

1st - Coree Cartwright and Chad Hunter

2nd - Ella Begger and Roddy Cameron

3rd - Ella Begger and Clint Begger

4th - Holden Sampson and Ridger Jones

5th - Jada Begger and Jared Graveley

6th - Tom O'Donnell and Holden Sampson

Cowhide Race:

1st - Jacob Pesicka and Amanda Pesicka

2nd - Nicol Smith and Rebecca Connor

Women's All-Around: Ella Begger

Women's Reserve All-Around: Lauren Reiser

Men's All-Around: Clint Begger

Men's Reserve All-Around: Roddy Cameron

LITTLE STINKERS



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2026 Youth Rodeo Results



Tillman Gobbs Sheep Riding (1st Place)
Photo Provided

Tanya Dundas

Sheep Riding:

- 1st - Tillman Gobbs
- 2nd - Ember Nelson
- 3rd - Talon Romo

Pole bending (8-12):

- 1st - Lilian Hitchcock
- 2nd - Mya Cartwright
- 3rd - Bridger Kool

Pole bending (13 - 17):

- 1st - Josie Begger
- 2nd - Tana Santi

Goat Undressing (2-7):

- 1st - Macy Michael
- 2nd - Tillman Gobbs

Goat Tying (8-12):

- 1st - Rayna Cameron
- 2nd - Lilian Hitchcock
- 3rd - Bob Michael

Goat Tying (13 - 17):

- 1st - Gavin Begger
- 2nd - Ridge Cameron

Dummy Roping (6-7):

- 1st - Levi Cazier

Breakaway:

- 1st - Ridge Cameron
- 2nd - Riggin Jones

Parent/Child Team Roping:

- 1st - Rayna Cameron and Roddy Cameron
- 2nd - Ridge Cameron and Roddy Cameron

Barrels (2 - 7):

- 1st - Tillman Gobbs

Barrels (8-12):

- 1st - Lilian Hitchcock
- 2nd - Rayna Cameron
- 3rd - Quincy Santi
- 4th - Rhylee Hitchcock

Barrels (13-17):

- 1st - Cydnee Harrell
- 2nd - Laenie Hitchcock
- 3rd - Josie Begger

Girls All-Around:

- Lilian Hitchcock and Rayna Cameron

Girls Reserve All-Around:

- Josie Begger and Cydnee Harrell

Boys All-Around:

- Ridge Cameron

Boys Reserve All-Around:

- Tillman Gobbs



Tillman Gobbs receives his first-place award from Tom Reiser, who carved the wooden belt buckle.
Photo Provided



Mutton Bustin'
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Mutton Bustin' - almost asleep on the job
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Myes Smucker rounds barrel number 2 on the home stretch at the stick horse competition.
Photo Provided



Leightyn Lawson grimaces as she holds on to the mechanical bull.
Photo Credit: Jamie Lawson



Townsend Baseball Coach Bleile supervises the dunk booth while Wesley Oiestad throws the ball to dunk Lucas Bleile. Anders Bakken looks on.
Photo Credit: Nancy Marks

Fairgoers Support the Fairgrounds Trail

Al Christophersen
Broadwater County Trails

The Broadwater County Trails (BCT) team members set up an informational booth in the Commercial Building at this year’s Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo to provide visitors with in-depth information on what has and is going on with the implementation of the Trails Vision Plan, to gather comments and register support for pursuing grants for the Fairgrounds Trail.

The Fairgrounds Trail is identified as a multi-use trail on the north side of Highway 12 from its junction with N. Harrison Street to the fairgrounds main entrance. This trail was one of the recommendations from the 2020 Fairgrounds Master Plan. In the Trails Vision Plan, it is incorporated as one of the priority trails to be pursued for development. This trail is proposed as a hard surface 8-10-foot-wide path with a gravel shoulder allowing for pedestrian/equestrian use. It would provide a safe, non-motorized off-the-highway travel route from Townsend and surrounding community to the fairgrounds, eventually a part of a larger loop trail system.

Visitors to the booth at the Fair shared their experiences and excitement to see this particular trail developed. They provided their signatures to a “petition of support” that BCT will be submitting with grant applications for funding work on this trail. The BCT will be hosting open house community gatherings and meeting with community organizations to continue discussing and compiling support for this trail and the Trail Vision Plan.

Gratitude and excitement were also expressed that the asphalt trail from the city limits north along Highway 12/287 to the Indian Road Campground was being resurfaced. This project involves the removal of asphalt that is damaged by ingrowing vegetation and replacing it with new asphalt, repair of minor cracks and soft edges, and the entire trail length resealed. Work is anticipated to be accomplished this fall.



Booth at the 2026 Broadwater County Fair
Photo Credit: Al Christopherson

Booth visitors expressed enthusiasm to see forward movement implementing elements of the trail plan, frustration that no alternative pedestrian safe travel route exists over the Missouri River near Townsend, concerns over the highway expansions north of Townsend without inclusion of roadside trails and underpasses, and ideas of other trail needs across Broadwater County.

Because of the discussions and concerns expressed to the trail team members, the BCT encourages people to attend the MDT open house meeting on August 20th at the Flynn Building. People need to express their thoughts not only about the highway construction but about trail needs along these highways, pedestrian safety concerns, wildlife/pedestrian underpasses and speed limits.

BCT would like to thank those sponsors who supported our efforts during the Fair weekend with raffle donations: Town and Ranch Ace Hardware, Bulldog Builders/goats floats, Well-Done Jewelry, Townsend Mercantile and the Wight Family. Congratulations to our raffle winners and Thank You to all who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets.

The BCT will be meeting at the Lodge, August 13, 6 pm for their monthly meeting. Come join the team and get involved in making Townsend and Broadwater County a safer, healthier and more connected community.

PARADE PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE!



Algerian Shriner Tiny Car.
Photo Credit: Lauren Stone

BROADWATER COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO PARADE



Grand Marshall Kathy Toombs.
Photo Credit: Nancy Marks



USA and Montana flags
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Townsend Drug and Spirits
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Algeria Shriners from Helena
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Montana POW-MIA Ride to Remember
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Honey Hive Academy
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Lane Construction
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Townsend Wrestling
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Chuck Carver
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson



Smokey the Bear caught a ride on the U.S. Forest Service truck
Photo Credits: Matt Nelson

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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 Coffee Shop 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- 1:00PM 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	Reading Leaves and Lattes (406) 475-0672 Text Only 401 Broadway, Townsend Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM
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	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
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	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
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	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

LOCAL BUSINESS

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

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: W equals P

RXSO B WBIYDHFABI

HMODZSIMFQ YISS ZSAY B

ZISBNV WIDHNAV QSOQBYDMO,

YXBY RBQ WDOS-YDOCADOC.

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KNIGHT MOVES

H	T	G
N		I
R	S	I

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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"I'll have the chef's special and no need to hurry — unless you want a _____!"

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!

Student
RENTIN

Rural
SIRCUT

Slime
GLUDES

Anarchy
HAMMEY

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

"OH, GO ON!"

ACROSS
1 Classic candy with a white, gooey center
9 "Don't — step further!"
12 Subj. for U.S. citizens-to-be
15 What food is in a food fight
19 First-aid plant
20 Cyber-address
21 More lethal
23 Musical ensemble that likes taunting its audiences?
25 Brainstorming question
26 IRS form info
27 War horses
28 Identify the star of "The Godfather"?
30 Taint
31 Peripheral
33 Pistol, in slang
34 Speed of corporate employees?
39 Alexis I, e.g.
41 Move a little
45 Think ahead
46 Whale locale
47 Two-ply cotton twill fabric?
50 Outfielder
52 French for "weapon"
55 — -la-la
56 Sacred vows
57 Horse with color patches on one-fourth of its body?
60 Great delight
63 German conjunction
64 — polloi
65 Ike's initials.
66 Yasser of Palestine
67 Popular crafts website
69 Publicity video made by 12th graders?
72 "Chiquitita" pop group
76 Pupils' places
78 Galloped
79 Daiquiri liquor
81 Lil Durk or Lil Jon's music
82 Brief, tight shorts
85 Marx brother with extreme views?
88 Mammal with striped legs
89 — Paulo
91 Apple core bit
92 Olympic prize
93 Beatles drummer participating in a bout?
97 Tell tall tales
99 Big shopping center
100 "— From Muskogee"
101 "Puffball" director
102 Stringed instrument played by people in jail?
106 Water, in Vichy
107 — salts (bath supply)
109 Pewter metal
110 Moola earned by singer
111 Jones?
115 Adds to a film, as music
118 Response to "Are you?"
121 Boa of South America
122 Small dance club?
125 Some chewy candies
126 RV hookup org.
127 Countertenor
128 Linear, briefly
129 Colorant
130 Many an heir
131 Most strict
140 Fast-food pizza chain
41 California mountain
42 A Jackson 5 brother
43 With a sharp image, briefly
44 Pinkish-red
48 Prefix with laryngology
49 Club in a Barry Manilow hit, for short
51 — degree
53 Longish skirts
54 Prefix with skeleton or spine
58 Lab slide dye
59 On — firma
61 Hobby with call letters
62 Into a state of conflict
66 Golfer Palmer, informally
68 Rebel like Abbie Hoffman or Jerry Rubin
70 Moniker of a loch monster
71 Paw parts
73 Of a wedding woman
74 Lauren of "The Fan"
75 Delphi deity
77 Parade ruiner
80 Roman 1,900
82 Drifting sort
83 "Enough, I get it!"
84 Cabbie's car
85 Hitler Maris, for short
86 Toon pics
87 Macho sorts
90 Make furious
94 Fine— wood
95 In the form of a circle
96 Photo —
98 Authorize
103 Dennis of hoops fame
104 "It's my tum"
105 Remnant of a burned coal
106 Kingdom given to Esau
108 Some skin scars
110 Mexican treat
111 — even keel
112 Filly's mother
113 Jack fish
114 Simplify
116 Comic thuds
117 "Shool"
118 Oahu, e.g.
119 Deeds
120 Irrelevant
123 Tic-tac-toe victory
124 Swimmer Thorpe

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	
82			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				127					
128							129					130				131					

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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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.



Broadwater Conservation District

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING, PLANNING
The Broadwater Conservation District is soliciting Qualifications for engineering and planning services. The Broadwater Conservation District may utilize the selected firm for all engineering and/or planning requested by the Broadwater Conservation District. The agreement and payment terms will be negotiated with the selected offeror.

The services to be provided may include, but are not limited to:

- Preliminary Engineering Reports;
- Technical Narrative
- Streambank Restoration
- Surveying;
- Mapping;
- Geospatial services
- Planning services;
- Construction administration; and
- any other services the Broadwater Conservation District deems necessary for the project.

There is no guarantee that Broadwater Conservation District will require any number of the above services, and the agreement with the selected offeror will allow for termination of any or all the services at any time during the contract period.

Responses should include:

1. The firm’s legal name, address and telephone number;
2. The experience and qualifications of the staff to be assigned to the described activities;
3. A description of the firm’s prior experience. Include the name of a local official knowledgeable regarding the firm’s performance and include only projects that the identified key staff had major roles;
4. A description of the firm’s current work activities and anticipated availability;
5. Capability to meet time and budget requirements;
6. Location; and
7. Recent and Current Work with Broadwater County Conservation District or with irrigation districts in Broadwater County.
8. Recent and Current Work with Stream Restoration Projects in Broadwater County.

Respondents will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the Personnel to be assigned to the Project (25%);
2. Related Experience on Similar Projects (25%);
3. Present and Projected Workload (10%);
4. Capability to Meet Time and Budget Requirements (15%);
5. Location (5%); and
6. Recent and Current Work for the Broadwater Conservation District or similar districts (20%).

The selection of the consultant may be based only on the evaluation of the written Statement of Qualifications. The selection will be made to the most qualified firm whose Statement of Qualifications is deemed most advantageous to BCD -all factors considered. Unsuccessful offerors will be notified as soon as possible.

Questions and responses should be directed to Broadwater Conservation District at (406) 521-3014. All responses to the RFQ must be mailed, or delivered to the Broadwater Conservation District, 415 S Front St, Townsend, MT 59644, or emailed to: broadwatercd@macdnet.org and received no later than August 20, 2026. The written qualifications shall be limited to 30 pages excluding a cover letter, SOQ cover, table of contents, resumes and references.

This solicitation is being offered in accordance with state statutes governing procurement of professional services. Accordingly, Broadwater Conservation District reserves the right to reject any and all responses deemed unqualified, unsatisfactory or inappropriate.

Published August 7 and 14, 2026

MNAXLP

Public Hearing Notice

The Broadwater Conservation District is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7 pm. The purpose of the hearing will be to take public comment about the draft rules for implantation of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975. Due to changes made in the last legislative session, it was required for the district to make adjustments to their rules.

A copy of the BCD 2026 Draft Model Rules can be found on our website at www.broadwatercd.org. This hearing will be held in person at the USDA Service Center Conference Room located at 415 S Front St. Enter through the NRCS door located on the E St side of the building. A virtual option of attending is also available by TEAMS:
Meeting ID:271 090 393 348 1
Passcode: iM35PG9S

For more information, or to get details on calling into the hearing or connecting via video conferencing, contact District Administrator Denise Donnelly at 406-521-3014, email broadwatercd@gmail.com, or write BCD, 415 S Front ST, Townsend, MT 59644. Written comments may be sent to the above mailing or email address.

Published July 31 and August 14, 2026

MNAXLP



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Judge Mike Menahan presided over the following cases. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher brought the charges. The defense attorney and appointed Public Defender, Qasim Abdul-Baki, acted as attorney for the cases.
Samuel Nathaniel Cooper- Evidentiary Hearing was scheduled to be held today on the Petition to Revoke. Mr. Cooper is detained at the Lewis and Clark Detention Facility on other charges, and the Evidentiary Hearing has been rescheduled for October 2, 2026.

Harley Wildman- Initial Appearance on a Petition to Revoke was held on July 16th, 2026, on the violation/charges of Count 1- PFMA, Count 2, Drinking Alcohol, Count 3, Using Meth, and Count 4, Change of Residence without Permission. The Defendant entered Denials and the Evidentiary Hearing is scheduled for October 16, 2026. The Bond hearing is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2026.

Jacob Houtari- Admit/Deny Hearing on Petition to Revoke on the violations of 1- Failure to report, 2 – Failure to remain employed, 3- Probation and Parole went to registered residence and discovered that defendant no longer lived there. Defendant admitted to all allegations. Defendant was sentenced to 5 years Department of Corrections, all suspended with credit for street time and time served. Defendant must follow all conditions previously in place and pay remaining restitution in the amount of \$16,695.99.

Douglas James Knight- Evidentiary Hearing was scheduled to be held, but the defendant failed to show for hearing or contact his Attorney. The Court ordered an Arrest Warrant issued with a \$25,000 Bond.

Richard Dee Anderson- Status Hearing was scheduled, and the Defendant failed to show for hearing. The Court ordered an Arrest Warrant issued with a \$25,000 Bond.

Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Ivorey Clark – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Mustansir Caderbhoy – Winnetka, CA – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Brian Cabello – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

- Unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle on highway – paid fines - \$75 fine

Logan Windield – Conrad – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Kiera Wheeler – Townsend – Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Tyler Guyon – Toston – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fee

Yurii Dudka – Cupertino, CA – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Christina Carmona – Bozeman – speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Caden Cardoza – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Cloe Blain – Joliet – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Bridger Ackerman – Three Forks – Fail to carry proof or exhibit/insurance in vehicle – owner or operator, 1st offense – paid fines - \$285 fine

- Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Terry Barnes – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

COUNTY CRIMINAL

Ashlyn Dundas – Toston – Contempt of Court – Defendant admitted to being in contempt of court. Sentenced to one (1) day in Broadwater County Jail with credit for actual time served and is ordered to get back on track with making payments on fines & fees as well as enrollment in Batterer’s Education by September 1st, 2026.

GUEST EDITORIALS

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

I-194 is Bad for Montana

Paul Liner
Plant Manager Graymont

I read the article in the July 31 issue of MT43, “Montana Farmers Union Endorses I-194, the Montana plan”

The article is written by Michelle Hutcherson, who is the communications director of the Montana Plan initiative.

This article and I-194 are designed to make people think it is good while I-194 is bad for all Montanans.

Here are a few facts everyone should know:
Initiative 194, also called “The Montana Plan,” is controversial because it would silence Montana’s small businesses and nonprofits while allowing wealthy out-of-state individuals to dominate political influence.

1. It would ban Montana entities from political speech.

Under I-194, any limited-liability entity — including family-owned farms, ranches, restaurants, retail stores, and nonprofits — would be prohibited from spending money or providing anything of value to influence ballot measures or political races (Montana Chamber of Commerce). This means a Main Street restaurant could not support a local levy, or a small business coalition could not respond to claims threatening their livelihoods (Montana Chamber of Commerce).

2. It does not stop big money from influencing politics.

Opponents note that I-194 would not remove out-of-state billionaires from influencing Montana politics. In fact, a single well-funded outsider could still bankroll campaigns targeting Montana industries like agriculture, logging, or ranching, while the affected Montana businesses would be legally barred from speaking out (Montana Chamber of Commerce).

3. It undermines Montana’s self-government

Supporters of I-194 claim it targets corruption and outside influence, but critics say it’s a “one-sided disarmament” of Montana’s own voices. They compare it to historical efforts like the Corrupt Practices Act of 1912, which fought covert corporate control but did not ban public advocacy by legitimate business groups (Montana Chamber of Commerce).

4. It could harm Montana’s economy and competitiveness.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce and allied business groups warn that silencing local business voices could hurt Montana’s economic competitiveness, as small and family-owned enterprises are central to the state’s economy (Montana Chamber of Commerce). They also raise constitutional and legal questions about whether the initiative’s scope is valid (Montana Chamber of Commerce).

5. It has drawn legal and political opposition

The Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Chamber of Commerce, and other industry groups have petitioned the Montana Supreme Court to block I-194, arguing it is unconstitutional and would infringe on First Amendment rights (Montana Hunting and Fishing Information). The Montana GOP has also formally opposed it, calling it a threat to Montanans’ ability to influence their own government (Montana Republican Party).

In short: I-194 is seen as bad for Montana because it would legally prevent Montana’s own businesses and nonprofits from participating in the political process, while leaving wealthy outsiders free to influence policy — opponents argue this undermines democracy, free speech, and the state’s economic vitality (Montana Chamber of Commerce).

Editor's Note: MT43News published a Guest Editorial written by the Montana Chamber of Commerce ("Montana Plan Hurts Montana Business") in the June 12, 2026, issue of MT43News.

Americanisms



“People who love to eat are always the best people.”
— Julia Child

Barnes

Jewelry

357 N Last Chance Gulch,

Helena MT

406-442-3000

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

H	T	G
2	5	8
N		I
7		3
R	S	I
4	1	6

SHIRTING

CryptoQuip

answer

When a particular coniferous tree felt a freaky prickly sensation, that was pine-tingling.

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Intern; 2. Rustic
3. Sludge; 4. Mayhem

Today's Word

GRATUITY

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WELL ... I SUPPOSE AT THIS POINT THERE'S NO DEBATING IF WE LIKE IT OR MAYBE HAGGLING OVER PRICE?

GRIN and BEAR IT

Wagner

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“Checkers? No, this is my grandson’s Xbox.”

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

ISN'T IT IRONIC, DON'T YOU THINK?

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

YOU WERE OUT, HUGO

I WAS SAFE

HE WAS OUT!

HE WAS SAFE!

FOOTBALL? IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER?

IT'S BASEBALL

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, CLASS, NEXT WEEK WE ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOR FUN.

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO INVITE ONE OF YOUR PARENTS TO CLASS.

I WANT YOU TO INTRODUCE THEM AND TELL US ALL WHAT EXCITING JOB THEY HAVE.

GOOD NEWS, DAD. I GUESS YOU'RE STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO JOIN THE NASA PROGRAM!

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HAPPINESS IS MADE?

NO... WHERE?

AT THE SATISFACTORY.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW! I'M GONNA HANG OUT WITH MY COUSIN OLIVE! THANKS FOR JOINING ME!

WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO, SUTRA?

MY FOLLOWERS. I WAS LIVESTREAMING.

SOUNDS LIKE YOUNG PEOPLE NONSENSE.

A LOTTA PEOPLE IN OUR FAMILY ARE DOING IT.

CYLINDA HAS A FASHION VLOG. COUSIN SWEET STREAMS GAMING.

... WHICH ACTUALLY ISN'T THAT GREAT. NOW THAT I SAY IT OUT LOUD.

BUT IT'S A FUN HOBBY, AND YOU COULD USE A HOBBY.

I DUNNO. I'M NOT REALLY ALL THAT INTERESTING.

Y'KNOW, BESIDES YELLING AT PEOPLE.

NONSENSE, OLIVE! YOU'RE SUPER-INTERESTING! YOU GO ON ADVENTURES, FIGHTING MONSTERS AND A SEA HAG!

A LOTTA PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

THANK YOU, SUTRA. THAT'S REALLY KIND.

THE HUMAN TRAIN WRECK GENRE IS SUPER-POPULAR RIGHT NOW. YOU COULD OWN IT!

SO IS TRUE CRIME. I CAN MAKE US BOTH STARS.

Historic Canton Church Presents: *The Last Call Band*

Victor Sample

Canton Church





Canton Church

Photo Credits: Canton Church

The 2026 Canton Church Summer Events will continue on August 21, 2026. The Historic Church will host The Last Call Band.

If you’re longing to revisit the nostalgia of some of your favorite classic country songs, join Tom and Joan Eliel of Townsend, along with fellow bandmates John and Jim Anderson of the Ruby Valley and Darryl Naugle of Boise, Idaho, as they reunite as the Last Call Band. Blending decades of friendship, shared memories, and a love of classic country music, you are invited to join them for another segment of the Canton Church Summer Series.

What began in their college days at MSU as a country western band — Darryl Naugle, Tom Eliel, and brothers Jim and John Anderson — became a familiar sound across Southwest Montana during the 1970s and ’80s, when they played countless dances, gatherings,



The Last Call Band: (left to right) John Anderson, Joan Eliel, Tom Eliel, Jim Anderson, Darryl Naugle
Photo Provided

and local venues as the Badland Boothill Band.

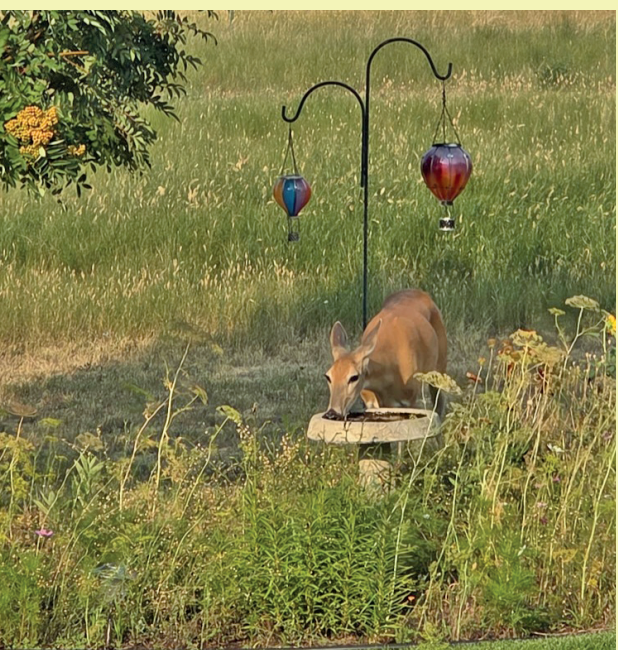
Now, after all these years, the band has reunited to dust off the old set list and bring those songs back to life. Along with a few original and new tunes, and the addition of upright bass player Joan Eliel, they’re ready once again to share the music, memories, and good times with old and new friends — and hopefully make a few new memories along the way. It’s Last Call. Hope to see you there.

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.



A doe enjoying the water in our birdbath. It has been a hot, dry, smokey couple of weeks!

Photo Credit: Pam Sample



Historic Canton Church

August 21 at 5:00pm

If you’re longing to revisit the nostalgia of some of your favorite classic country songs, join Tom and Joan Eliel of Townsend, along with fellow bandmates John and Jim Anderson of the Ruby Valley and Darryl Naugle of Boise, Idaho, as they reunite as the Last Call Band.

Canton Church Events are always Free
But donations are appreciated

Virginia City Players Are Alive And Well

Nancy Marks

MT43 News reporter



The illustrious Virginia City Players, who perform in the Opera House at Virginia City, Montana, is the oldest continually running summer stock theater company in the Northwest, according to its 2026 program.

The ten actors, directors, set designers, Cremona player, and costume creators all double in playing parts as well as selling concessions during intermission and cleaning the place when the show ends.

The two- hour show is full of fun, silliness, great voices and superb acting. These actors are professionals who have performed all over the United States for many years. Despite their accolades, they give up their summers for small wages to pull together these wonderful shows: “The Bat! A Murder Mystery Melodrama”; "Vaudeville’s Greatest Hits"; and "Xantippe! A Western Melodrama."

According to Adryan Miller-Gorder, the group had 3 weeks to pull together a full set of summer shows after the state of Montana’s Montana Heritage Commission offered them a contract in April. Miller-Gorder is an assistant professor and technical director of University of Montana Western’s Performing Arts Series in Dillon. She commended her partner actors and the success of the season but lamented seeing less tourism in Virginia City. “We need more people to attend our performances so we can convince the state to give us another contract for next year’s season,” she explained.

Well known in our area, when Townsend Rotary used to sponsor group trips to the historic Old West Town of Virginia City, people thought nothing of making the two- hour trip through the Jefferson River valley to buy



Actors gathered after the show last Saturday for a photo. UM Western Assistant Professor Adryan Miller-Gorder, kneeling in front, put together a three- show program in three weeks after winning a contract from the state of Montana to perform at the Opera House this season.

Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

candy at the famous Cousins Candy Store or enjoy a cone at the ice cream shop, before enjoying the two-hour melodrama of singing, dancing, and storytelling.

The theater company has a long history. Formed in the 1800’s, it had a small, tight-knit group who called themselves the Amateur Dramatic Association. In 1948, two brothers, Jack and Larry Barsness, along with Larry’s wife Dori, happened to meet with the owner of the old brewery, Charles Bovey, who was restoring Virginia City. Together they created a theater in the Bale of Hay Saloon to produce a show which became

the Virginia City Players.

Townsend has connections to those innovators: Townsend resident John Barness is the son of Jack; and longtime co-artistic director of the players, Errol Koch, is the grandson of resident Sharmon Corner. Koch was integral to forming both Broadwater Community Theater and MT43News in Townsend.

If you are interested in live theater, please consider a trip to Virginia City to enjoy the sights and the players. Reservations can be made at umwestern.edu/virginia-city-players, or by calling 1-800-829-2969.



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Does Your Dog Make You Safer in Bear Country?



In bear country, common wisdom holds that dogs serve as early bear alarms, or even deterrents. That belief, however, has long rested mostly on anecdote.
Photo Credit: Julia Cook

Nick Mott
Mountain Journal

Think your dog makes you safer in bear country? The data says otherwise. New analysis of more than 300 bear encounters suggests our canine companions often increase odds of conflict and rarely serve as the early warning systems many recreationists assume.

This article was originally published in the Montana Free Press and the Mountain Journal. It is published here courtesy of the Montana Free Press and the Mountain Journal.

Earlier this summer, I was jogging on a local trail with my 7-year-old black lab mutt, Camas, when she suddenly froze. The fur along her spine bristled. Then she let out a single, sharp bark — a timbre I’d never before heard.

I caught the unmistakable musk of an animal and my hand shot to the bear spray on my chest. Halfway up a tree less than 20 yards away, a beautiful, small cinnamon black bear stared back at us.

The bear scampered off as Camas growled, standing her ground in front of me on the trail. “Good girl,” I told her, my heart rate slowing to a normal pace. My dog, I assumed, warned me early of a potential threat. I was proud.

In bear country, common wisdom holds that dogs serve as early bear alarms, or even deterrents. That belief, however, has long rested mostly on anecdote. Until recently, almost no one had tested whether it was actually true.

A new study in the Journal of Wildlife Management analyzed bear-dog conflicts involving black, polar, and brown bears from Alaska to Florida. The results challenge the idea that dogs make people safer in bear country, and they have me rethinking my relationship with Camas in the woods.

“If you think a house pet is likely going to be your bear, not only detector but deterrent, you might want to think twice about that,” lead author of the paper Tom Smith told me over Zoom, one of his dogs begging for attention in the background while mine snoozed next to me.

Smith, a research wildlife biologist at Brigham Young University in Utah, analyzed 326 bear-dog encounters spanning more than a century, drawing from newspaper articles, federal and state government reports, books, records compiled by other bear specialists, and internet searches.

Smith began working with bears more than 30 years ago in Alaska’s Katmai National Park. He’s published influential research on bear spray and guns as bear deterrents, and has become one of the world’s leading experts on human-bear interaction. “As soon as you become the bear guy, then everybody comes running to you for advice on how to be safe,” he said. “So I thought, ‘I’m going to have to get to the heart of this.’”

Smith has long been interested in the way dogs impact humans’ odds of an encounter in bear country. But the issue became urgent and tangible to him following a 2023 attack that left two people and their dog dead in a tent in Canada’s Banff National Park. The issue hasn’t gone away. This summer alone, a jogger and his dog were mauled near Island Park, Idaho, while recordings of separate encounters involving dogs in Banff and

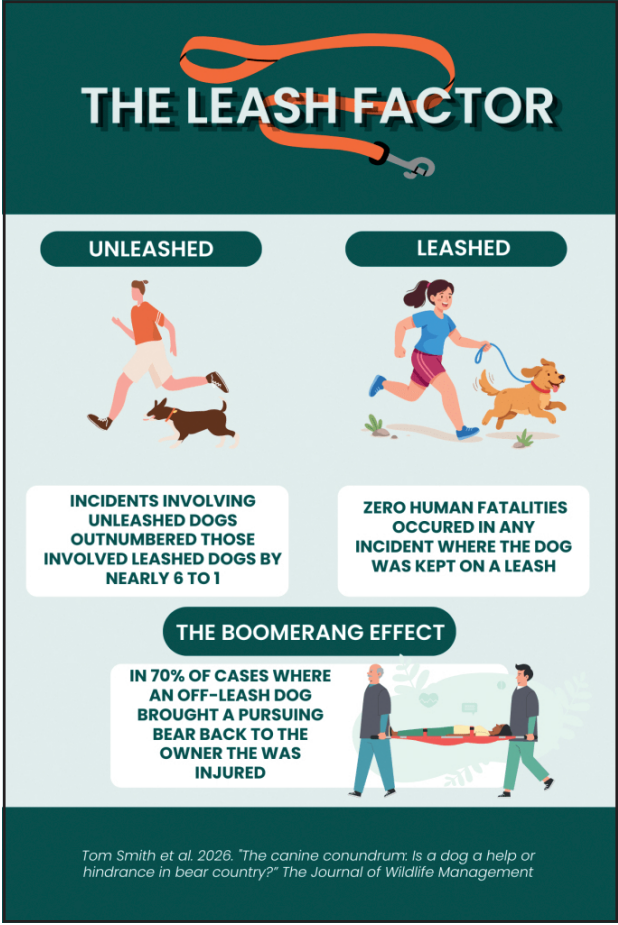


Photo illustration: Stephanie Farmer/ MTFP

Alberta went viral online.

The findings:

The data show people are largely unprepared for bear encounters and naive to their possible consequences. Dogs ran away, fought with bears, provoked confrontations, drew owners in to fight off bears barehanded, and even boomeranged bears back to people.

The first surprise in the data was how few people carried any deterrent at all. That might be because people thought, erroneously, Smith says, that dogs would be sufficient to keep bears away. Recreationists wielded bear spray in only about a tenth of cases and a firearm in roughly a third. All told, five people and 56 dogs died in the encounters Smith analyzed.

Contrary to some common wisdom, dogs also weren’t effective warning systems for bears. In fact, they alerted their owners early of a bear in only 1 in 11 of the encounters the study analyzed. Dogs provoked the bear, instigating the encounter, in more than half the cases. After the bear conflict began, things didn’t look much better: Dogs tangled with bears about 40 percent of the time, ran away in 20 percent of encounters, and didn’t engage at all in about 17 percent of cases. So much for dogs being excellent protectors.

Other findings were less surprising. Leashes were a major decider in the severity of the interaction. Unleashed dogs were involved in six times as many incidents as leashed pets. Smith said dogs without a leash can dart ahead of owners or crash through brush and spook a bear. Canines can also act as bear boomerangs. In 27 of the encounters, dogs brought a bear back to their owners. In 70 percent of these instances, the dog owner was injured. Worse yet, many owners in the data came to rescue their pet when it got in a scuffle with a bear, often with no deterrent. The result: 85 percent of the time, those owners were injured.

Additionally, the data reinforced something bear experts have known for years: the larger the group of people, the less likely the encounter. However, the presence of a dog dramatically shifts that risk. Dogs roughly doubled the odds of a conflict compared to the same-sized groups with no canine companions.

Taken as a whole, the data paint a portrait in which bears and domestic dogs don’t get along. Smith suspects it’s part of the long evolutionary relationship between bears and wolves. For thousands of years, wolves competed with bears for food, killed cubs, and even kicked bruins off carcasses. Some of this behavior is on public display in places like Yellowstone National Park, where populations of both species flourish. Modern dogs may still trigger those ancient instincts.

Smith recognizes limitations and nuance in his data, too. For one, it’s important to note that the dogs in the analysis were domestic companions, not highly-trained guardian dogs meant to fend off predators — which data show can reduce bear presence at ranches and farms. Also, data on human-bear conflict inherently

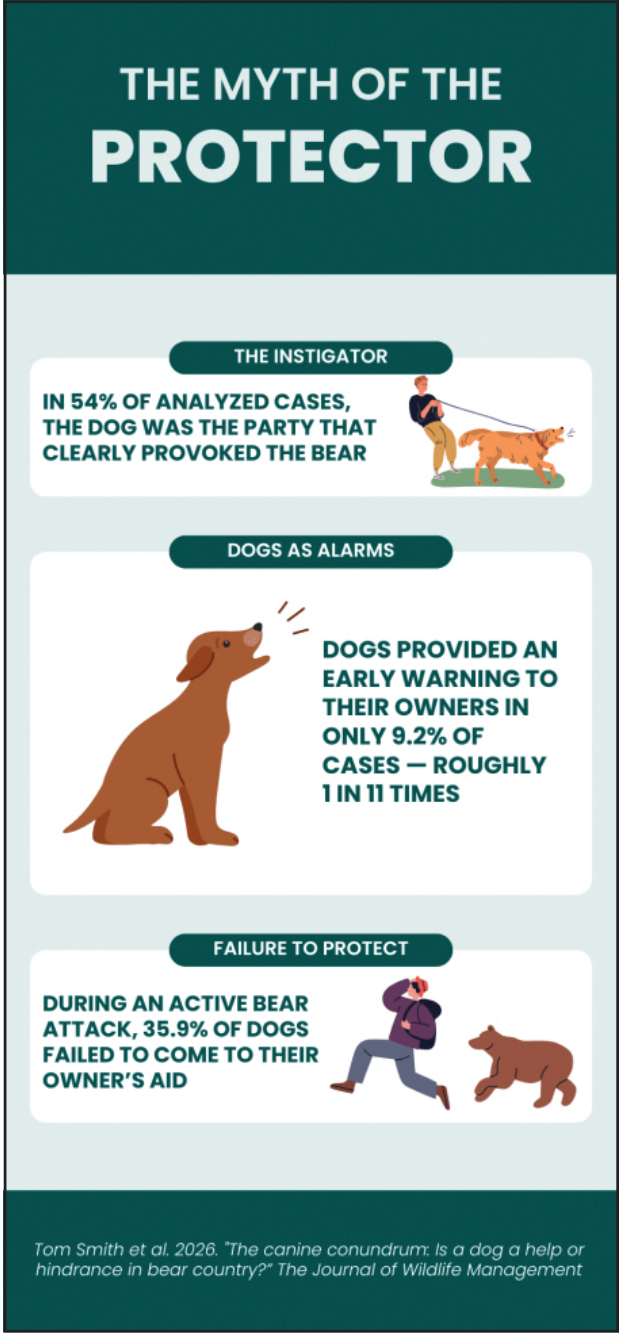


Photo illustration: Stephanie Farmer/ MTFP

shows a bias, depicting only the encounters that went majorly wrong rather than the majority of experiences when people venture into the places bruins live and the species coexist without incident. “For the most part, people and their dogs pass through bear country without incident,” Smith wrote in the paper.

Should your pup join the hike?

“The takeaway isn’t to keep dogs out of bear country,” Smith said. “The takeaway is there are things you can do that greatly improve your odds.”

Best practices, backed by Smith’s data, say to travel in groups, eliminate smells if you’re camping, and make noise. Bear bells, he says, don’t work. Above almost all else? “You have no business being in bear country without a deterrent,” Smith said.

Dogs just don’t cut it on that front. According to Smith, bear spray has the highest likelihood of fending off an aggressive bear for the vast majority of recreationists in bear country. But firearms can work too for experienced users. Carry your spray (or gun) where you can reach it in a split second. No matter what deterrent you choose, practice with it. Bear encounters can happen in seconds.

If you do take your dog, consider a leash. “It’s not just dogs and bears,” Smith said. “It’s also dogs and everything else.” Smith’s own dog had been sprayed by a skunk twice in the last month. Mine finds few greater joys in life than chasing ground squirrels, marmots and grouse. So, we’re both faced with navigating how to behave in wild places with these family members that, if they see a deer or elk or bear, may not be able to hold themselves back.

Since talking with Smith, I’ve thought about the role Camas plays in bear country in a more nuanced way. She’s warned me about bears — even since that encounter on my jog. But she’s also ignored bears less than 30 yards away, chased wildlife she shouldn’t and, even in her younger days, treed a black bear.

The lesson isn’t that dogs don’t belong in bear country writ large. It’s that they’re dogs. If recreating in bear country is an odds game, they’re not doing you any favors. As much as we love and trust them, they’re unpredictable. And they can make things worse as often as they make things better.

“It’s a personal thing, it really is,” Smith said. “We work in statistics with a pool of instances. But you are not a pool of instances. You’re you.”

Berry Crops are Struggling, Bear Conflicts are on the Rise

Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Securing attractants around the home can prevent problems.

As the dog days of summer wear on across Montana, another reality is becoming clear – the berry crop bears depend on for food in the late summer and fall isn’t what it should be.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks specialists around the state are seeing similar behavior – bears that should be foraging for berries in the mountains are getting into trouble around homes and communities looking for something to eat.

Jamie Jonkel is FWP’s long-time bear conflict specialist in the Missoula area. He’s experienced this cycle of behavior time and again when natural food sources aren’t available.

“This year is panning out to be one of the worst natural food failure years on record,” said Jonkel. “Our regional bear team is working around the clock, and we are asking the public to be patient and to please be diligent with containing all attractants.”

The way to avoid bear conflicts around your home is relatively simple – keep all bear attractants secured and out of the reach of bears.

Hungry bears – both black bears and grizzlies – can

be attracted to a variety of things around homes. Garbage cans can be an easy target. Accessible cans are easily tipped over and rifled through. Bears can get a quick meal and move on down the alley. Other easy meals are bird feeders or pet food left outside.

Other trickier items to secure are things like chicken coops, which are growing in popularity for people around the state. FWP has an abundance of information on how to secure attractants online – even chicken coops, which can readily be protected by electric fencing.

“Uncontained garbage is by far our biggest issue, but over the last 20 years we have also seen a huge increase in chicken and small livestock related conflicts,” Jonkel

Beary Crops, 1

Beary Crops, 12

said. “If you have backyard livestock like chickens or goats, it is critical that you have them secured with hot-ground/multi-wire electric fence and FWP can help if you have questions.”

FWP wildlife staff in the area where Jonkel works have responded to more than 250 black bear-related incidents in the last two months, many of those related bears getting into chicken coops near homes.

“We really need your help this year,” said FWP Region 1 bear and lion conflict specialist Justine Valieres. “We live in an area with a high density of both black and grizzly bears, and when natural food sources are low, we all play a role in keeping our communities and wildlife safe. Being proactive about securing attractants can make a big difference, because even if you haven’t had a bear visit before, there’s always a chance one could pass through.”

The reality is that securing attractants is both a personal responsibility and a neighborhood and community obligation. If only one person in a neighborhood ignores unsecured attractants, that can lead to problems for everyone.

If anyone is experiencing a bear-related concern, they should contact FWP as soon as possible. Responding to conflicts or issues as soon as possible allows specialists

to stop bigger issues from occurring. Bear conflict staff can help secure attractants, assess your property or neighborhood to identify potential issues and, if necessary, remove bears that have become habituated.

Follow these tips to reduce bear conflicts around home:

- Store garbage and recycling in a bear-resistant container and indoors until collection day.
- Put pet and livestock food indoors and take down bird feeders.
- Clean barbeque grills after use.
- Pick backyard fruit immediately when ripe and consider electric fencing around fruit trees, gardens and compost piles.
- Secure vulnerable backyard livestock (chickens, goats, sheep) with an electric fence. Download this electric fence guide (PDF) at: <https://mt43news.com/mt43newsRouter/ElectricFenceGuide>

To find the contact information for the bear conflict specialist in your area, please call your local FWP office or visit this webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management/bear/contact>

To find all of FWP’s online resource for living and recreating in bear country, visit our website at: <https://fwp.mt.gov/bear-aware>

1.5 Million Acres Conserved by the Montana Land Reliance

Lucinda Morris
Montana Land Reliance

With a new conservation easement protecting an 835-acre historic ranch in Jefferson County, The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) marks its 1.5 millionth acre conserved, continuing its longstanding record as the nation’s leading state-based agricultural land trust. Since 1978, MLR has partnered with landowners to conserve over 1,050 ranches, farms, and tracts of open space across Montana.

Over the past 48 years, MLR’s work has protected some of Montana’s most important agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open spaces. The 1.5 million acres conserved represents thousands of decisions made by Montana families to protect the places they love and ensure that these iconic landscapes persist for generations to come. It also represents a commitment to the future of Montana’s working lands and the benefits they provide to the public—from local food production to wildlife habitat, healthy waterways, and the expansive views that define the state.

“Protecting production agriculture, protecting the open space that ranchers need,” said Andy Dana, land conservation attorney and former counsel for MLR. “That is a complement to Montana’s heritage and legacy. Wildlife habitat, waterways, marvelous views of the green fields, the open space, the mountains. Montana can still provide that thanks to The Montana Land Reliance’s focus to preserve a way of life in Montana.”

In 2026 to date, MLR has helped conserve over 37,000 acres of open space across the state. From an 18,000-acre working ranch along the Powder River in eastern Montana to a 132-acre biodiversity hotspot in the northwestern corner of the state, these protected



An image from the documentary “The Women of White Sulphur Springs” by director and producer Paige Williams.

lands reflect the diversity of Montana’s landscapes and conservation priorities of landowners. They also include 4,000 acres of core sage grouse habitat in Golden Valley County, 3,600 acres of productive farmland in Broadwater County, 6,900 acres of native rangeland in the Shields Valley, and many other projects made possible by the foresight and commitment of Montana’s landowners.

“The families who partnered with MLR to conserve their land this year made a choice that will benefit places they love and places that sustain them,” said Shane Colton, MLR Board President. “In protecting their properties, they join many other families across the state in ensuring that the Montana we all love will continue to be available for future generations to enjoy. We are honored to help them achieve their conservation goals, and we are grateful to everyone who has made it possible for MLR to reach this milestone.”

About The Montana Land Reliance

Founded in Montana in 1978, The Montana Land Reliance has grown to be one of the largest land trusts in the country. MLR has partnered with more than 1,000 families to protect over 1.5 million acres of private lands that form the fabric of Montana’s local communities. To learn more, visit www.mtlandreliance.org or call 406-443-7027.

USDA Invests up to \$310 Million in Partnership Projects

Tasha Gibby
USDA State Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is putting Farmers First by investing up to \$310 million to expand producer conservation activities across the nation through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting RCPP project proposals now through August 24, 2026, to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners boost their operations and conserve natural resources.

“This significant investment through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program will further enable us to leverage our partnerships as force multipliers in supporting America’s farmers,” said NRCS Chief Colton L. Buckley. “We’re looking forward to seeing the results on the ground while we also work to keep working lands in working hands.”

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act is delivering the largest long-term investment in NRCS conservation programs in decades, including support for RCPP. It will deliver \$425 million in fiscal year 2026 and an increase to \$450 million from fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.

RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

In the past year, NRCS has improved RCPP through streamlining partnership agreement processes and

increasing flexibilities to ensure the program works more effectively for conservation partners and America’s farmers and ranchers. Now, 75% of the funding goes directly to the American farmer or is used to cover the cost of conservation practice implementation.

About the Program:

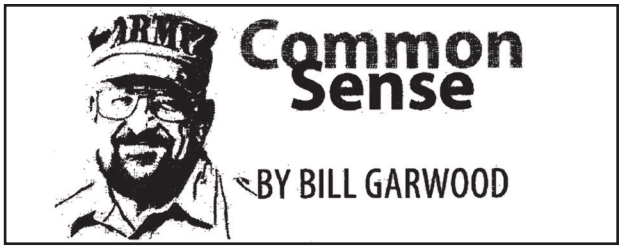
There are two separate funding opportunities:

- RCPP Classic: Projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities in collaboration with project partners.
- RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA): The lead partner works directly with agricultural producers to support the development of innovative conservation approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic.

NRCS ranks proposals based on how they address the following priorities:

- Addressing soil health, water quality, or wildlife habitat with an aim to improve land health, enhance resource management, and promote sustainable agriculture and long-term protection of agricultural, grassland, and forestland viability.
- Soil health projects using practices that focus on minimizing soil disturbance, maximizing soil cover,

USDA Invests, 15



Summer is for Chores

I love a good green lawn but keeping it green and NOT full of dry areas gets interesting! Never mind the doggy doodoo or occasional Deer “foraging”; there is always something else to interfere. Like maybe a city water pressure valve added to existing water lines, city-wide. (I watched my beautiful lawn be dug up.)

Now, there are bare spots and dirt all around the front yard. Luckily, they didn’t disturb the Squirrels! Finding my water shut-off valve 9 feet down got... interesting. Nature will heal all bad spots, but now I have to mow around the dirt areas! Grrr.

One great thing about THIS summer has been that we have had quite a bit of rain. Unfortunately, we now have Montana “smog” otherwise known as smoke from wildfires. I hope you are all breathing decently. I have found over the years that breathing is important.

The city folks have been doing a great job chip sealing our streets and filling in most potholes. Good job, folks!

I can’t say anyone’s name any longer, but I will say thank you to Mr. P. and family for trimming all our trees. (Don’t you ever rest?).

Townsend’s Public Works people are second to none. They help keep our community running well. Even when the state busybodies come around and are measuring the space between our curbs and street signs, or businesses. Don’t you folks have anything better to do?

It seems all of our local businesses are being really well maintained; we have even added a new Restaurant on Front Street. Welcome folks. Good food.

Based on all the people out and around Saturday night, it looks like the street dance went well. There were a lot of folks out to do some dancing - good for you. I hope everybody enjoyed the Rodeo.

I love that sometimes when the firefighters block off the street, they put out a sign on the barricades. Saying: "Caution Townsend, Partying". Nice. Small towns need to have local celebrations, like our “Upcoming” Fests and strolls; they bring people together. We get to see old friends we haven’t seen all summer. Many have been out ranching / Farming and such. Our local parades have been special this year; the Independence Day parade had the largest turnout that I ever remember. Such great events!

I would still like to see a winter carnival - in say, February. We need to celebrate our cold months. I mean, Montana is a cold state, mostly.

Back to yard/chores, etc. We grow our lawns, then cut them down. Then water them so they grow...then cut them down. I think there was an old Mark Twain story about the devil sending letters to God, laughing about the same thing. We human types do often make strange decisions and have odd ideas. I think that’s what makes us jump ahead, over cold logic, to abstract ideas. This is called Creativity! (Don’t be frightened.) Nowadays they call it “thinking outside the box.” I never remember building a box. But it’s easy to think outside it.

Enjoy our warm summer; TRY to breathe. Enjoy, prepare for fall. My favorite season, mostly!

Planting in early fall

When the earth is still warm but the air is getting cooler, leafy greens (such as spinach, kale, lettuce and arugula) and root vegetables (like carrots, radishes and beets) thrive. Later on, when the temperatures drop below freezing, the greens will have a noticeably sweeter taste, and the root crops will improve in flavor and tenderness. Early-fall planting of trees, shrubs and other perennials helps their roots anchor firmly, access nutrients, and prepare for winter dormancy. – Brenda Weaver
Source: www.epicgardening.com

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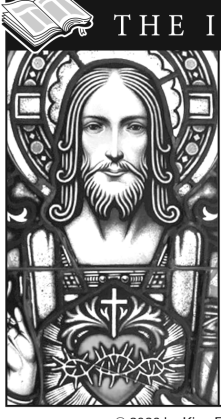
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Elkhorn Community Fellowship
126 N Cedar St. Townsend
Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183
Sunday: 11:00am- Services
Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades
| 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades
*
Faith Baptist Church
5 Jack Farm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



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

 Acts 17:30-31 



SR. CENTER MEALS:
AUGUST 17 - 21

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

Monday, August 17
Montana Pasties
Broccoli and Cauliflower
Tossed Salad with Beans
Apricots

Tuesday, August 18
BIRTHDAY DINNER
BBQ Pork Ribs
Macaroni Salad
Sweet Corn
Pickled Beets

Baked Apples
Birthday Cake

Wednesday, August 19
Hamburger on a Bun
Carrot Coins
Pea Salad
Applesauce

Thursday, August 20
Chicken ALA Queen
Steamed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Golden Pears

Friday, August 21
Chicken Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Peaches



Teri Lee Reymann

Family of Teri Lee Reymann

Teri Lee Reymann, age 76, passed away Friday, July 3, 2026, at her home in East Helena.

A memorial in celebration of her life is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Anderson Stevenson Wilke and Retz Funeral Home at 3750 N. Montana Avenue Helena, Montana. Interment will follow at Forestvale Cemetery.



Rita Kay Wagenaar

Family of Rita Kay Wagenaar

Rita Kay Wagenaar was blessed with angel wings July 25th, 2026.



Rita Kay Wagenaar
Photo Provided by Family

Rita was born June 10th, 1959, to Forest and Berylene Taylor.

She is survived by the love of her life, husband Paul Wagenaar; daughters Maggie, KC (husband) Kai (grandson) Geisler. Imagene, Ed (husband) Burcham, Virginia; Jason(husband), Ardian (grandson) Arbagast. Shayla (granddaughter), Cameron (husband), Jackie (great-granddaughter), Paul. Beryl “Sonny” (uncle), Janie (wife) Wagner. Along with many cousins, adopted daughters/sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by her parents, Special Auntie Donna Coppenhaver and Pat McHale.

Growing up, one of Rita's favorite things to do was spend time with her Daddy out in the garage where he taught her everything she needed to know about the mechanics of a vehicle. She loved roller skating and riding her bike too.

After graduating from Flathead High School in 1977, Rita's adventurous spirit took wings and started working at the Snow Slip Inn, where she met her 1st husband, Steve. From there years of traveling with a seismic road construction company. In 1980, Rita's sweet little love bundle Maggie was born.

Years later, Rita and Maggie settled in Townsend, MT, where in 1993 Rita met and married the love of her life, Paul, moved to Hardin, MT where their combo family grew to 5.

A busy household with 3 girls, sheep, cows, horses, lots of dogs, a lot of craziness and love blended in it all. She had lots of love to give, which spread to many friends that became part of her large family.

Early 2000's, empty nesters Rita and Paul moved into town, where Paul manages the fairgrounds.

Rita gave her heart and soul to the Lord; she loved making & baking everything from scratch, canning, sewing, gardening, and most of all, she loved her family and friends deeply with her heart and soul.



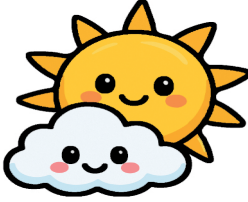
Weather Forecast
courtesy of open-meteo.com
AUGUST

Friday 14
High Temp: 79
Low Temp: 58
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.449
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 15
High Temp: 78
Low Temp: 60
Wind: 6
Rain: 0.174
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 16
High Temp: 86
Low Temp: 61
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.920
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 17
High Temp: 87
Low Temp: 62
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100



Tuesday 18
High Temp: 90
Low Temp: 63
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 19
High Temp: 90
Low Temp: 67
Wind: 22
Rain: 0.008
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 20
High Temp: 85
Low Temp: 63
Wind: 23
Rain: 0.016
Cloud Cover: 100

UM Study, 9

investigator on the study. “It emerged from decades of investment in people, education, relationships and a supportive community culture that encourages individuals to build, contribute and stay.”

The REAL Co-Lab study surveyed 56 business owners and 10 business support organizations and conducted more than 30 interviews with local entrepreneurs and community leaders. Researchers sought to answer a simple question: Why is entrepreneurship thriving in a place that defies nearly every demographic and geographic advantage typically associated with business growth?

Among the study’s most significant findings is the role of education. Seventy-seven percent of surveyed business owners reported some form of post-secondary education, while 57% hold a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Researchers identified a local scholarship for college-bound students as a potentially transformative force behind this trend. Since 1976, the Charles M. Bair Memorial Trust Scholarship program has invested more than \$15 million in higher education for students from Meagher County and neighboring Wheatland County, helping create a generation of educated professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders.

“The education story in Meagher County is not simply about sending students away to college,” the report notes. “It is about creating pathways for people to return, invest and lead.”

The study also found that entrepreneurship in Meagher County is powered by an unusually strong culture of community involvement. Ninety-eight percent of surveyed business owners reported volunteering in their community. Researchers found that trust, neighboring and civic participation function as economic assets, helping entrepreneurs access referrals, mentorship, customers and support networks.

The authors noted Meagher County community members give time out of necessity due to being a minimum of 90-minutes away from a larger city, but also due to the community fabric. A business owner described the history and culture of branding days in ranching and the requirement of community members coming together to work hard at no gain of their own – other than knowing that when it was their turn the community would show up for them.

That culture of quiet contribution continues today and is demonstrated through multiple businesses, especially women-owned businesses. The entrepreneurs work to solve community problems and volunteer outside their business by serving on boards or even being the town volleyball coach.

Women are a major driving force behind the county’s economic momentum, making up 77% of survey respondents. Researchers found a strong pattern of women mentoring one another, supporting new ventures and creating businesses that are deeply connected to community needs.

The report highlights several additional factors contributing to the county’s success, including strong ties to local financial institutions, a collaborative business culture, and strategic use of natural assets such as a nearby hot springs, Showdown Montana Ski Area, the Smith River and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Additionally, the annual Red Ants Pants Music Festival – which brings an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 visitors to Meagher County and White Sulphur Springs each year –was frequently cited by participants as an important catalyst for business growth and community confidence.

While challenges remain –including housing shortages, workforce recruitment, childcare availability and access to capital – the report concludes that Meagher County offers important lessons for rural communities nationwide.

The new study is online at: <https://bit.ly/UMruralThriving>

Why Some Montana Ranchers Still Want Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labels



Photo Credit: Lauren Miller, Montana Free Press, CatchLight Local/Report for America

Zeke Loyd
Montana Free Press

Jeanie Alderson, who ranches in the southeastern Montana town of Birney, can tell you exactly how much she sold her cattle for in the fall of 2015. And she knows how much the going price dropped the next year, too, when revenue at her family operation dipped by about \$120,000.

“A lot of money for a little ranch like ours,” Alderson said.

In December 2015, after Alderson sent that year’s cattle to market, Congress repealed mandatory country-of-origin labeling for fresh beef and pork, allowing voluntary labeling to take the policy’s place. The federal law had required that retail products carry a label indicating where the meat had lived and been slaughtered.

Alderson blames the end of mandatory country-of-origin labeling for the decreased revenue. She says a return to mandatory labeling would boost the bottom line for domestic ranchers like her. Grocery shoppers, she says, will pay a premium for American beef if it shares a shelf with packaged meat that’s labeled as originating from other countries.

Alderson, who previously served on the board of the Montana-based pro-farmer and pro-rancher non-profit Northern Plains Resource Council, is working alongside NPRC and a coalition of regional agricultural associations to bring back mandatory country-of-origin labeling, known as mCOOL. The coalition wants to see Congress make it law once again.

“Consumers deserve to know where their beef comes from, and producers deserve a fair, transparent, honest and competitive market,” Alderson said.

But critics of the policy say the country’s earlier attempt at mandatory country-of labeling was a failed experiment. Darrell Peel, an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University, argued that the policy didn’t benefit either consumers or ranchers. And trying it again, he said, is likely to hurt the pocketbooks of both.

During the roughly seven-year window when the policy was in place, Peel said, American consumers didn’t appear to care enough about the source of their beef and pork to pay more.

And the tracking, segregating, and labeling of those products necessitated by mandatory labeling translated into billions of dollars in additional cost for the beef

and pork industries, according to a study commissioned by the USDA in the 2010s.

That’s because turning cattle and pork into meat is not a straightforward process. When meatpacking facilities process cattle into ground beef, for instance, animal inputs are often unceremoniously mixed together. So mandatory country-of-origin labeling requires processing facilities to track which parts of which cattle end up in which packages.

“You bring in a banana. You can follow a banana. It stays a banana,” Peel said. “You bring in cattle and you’re going to take them apart into thousands and thousands of different products.”

According to the USDA-commissioned report, country-of-origin labeling didn’t entice consumers to pay more. It only added to the cost of producing beef and pork.

Peel said a return to mandatory country-of-origin labeling would recreate that same dynamic.

“It’ll mean higher prices for consumers and reduced cattle prices for producers,” Peel said.

Peel, who grew up south of Flathead Lake and attended Montana State University, said current mCOOL advocates are “a small, vocal minority” within the industry, and concentrated in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. “It’s a cultural thing,” Peel said.

“Most of their arguments are either wrong or have no basis in evidence,” Peel said.

Canada and Mexico made a similar argument against mCOOL in 2008, when they challenged the U.S. policy via the World Trade Organization. The countries claimed that mandatory country-of-origin labeling unfairly discriminated against their cattle. That argument prevailed, and Congress repealed the law for beef and pork in 2015. Other foods, including poultry, fish, and fruits, still require country-of-origin labeling. Not much changed after that until January, when the USDA required that animals be born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States to receive a “Product of the U.S.A.” label.

If the U.S. were to reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling to beef and pork today, it might have more success weathering challenges from the United States’ neighbors, according to some trade experts.

Brigitta Miranda-Freer, executive director of the Montana World Trade Center at the University of



Jeanie Alderson's son, Carson Punt, left, and husband, Terry Punt, herd cattle at their family ranch near Birney in June, 2025. Photo Courtesy: Jeanie Alderson

Montana, said the international trade environment has shifted since the country’s last implementation of mCOOL.

“The [World Trade Organization] is less politically influential than it was a decade ago,” Miranda-Freer wrote in an email to MTFP last week. “The United States has become more willing to take trade actions that stretch or even conflict with WTO rulings, particularly under the Trump Administration.”

Peel disagrees, saying the WTO would strike down mandatory labeling yet again.

“Nothing’s changed. I don’t see why it wouldn’t,” Peel said.

Despite the policy’s economic and international obstacles, Peel acknowledged that its advocates have pushed hard over the last several decades to keep the conversation alive.

“We’ve been messing with COOL now for over 20 years,” Peel said. “I’m going to finish my life and die with it still being an issue.”

That appears true for former Montana U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, too. Tester pushed for mCOOL during his tenure in the Montana Legislature in the early 2000s, and did the same in Congress until Montanans voted him out in 2024. Even as a layman, he continues to advocate for it.

Two current members of Montana’s federal delegation — U.S. Sen. Tim Sheehy and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke — told MTFP last week they endorse the policy as well. Zinke co-sponsored legislation to reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling in 2025, but the policy stalled in the legislative process. U.S. Rep. Troy Downing did not respond to questions emailed by MTFP, and a spokesperson for U.S. Sen. Steve Daines did not directly address inquiries about his position.

But Alderson hasn’t given up. The new USDA restrictions around voluntary country-of-origin labeling aren’t generating the results she wants: foreign beef distinguished from American-made products via label, and marked at a higher price. Instead, a lot of retail beef in American grocery stores continues to contain a mix of foreign and domestic cattle, and much of it carries no country-of-origin labeling at all.

“It felt great, but not enough,” Alderson said of the new USDA restrictions. “And it also felt like we lost some momentum because a lot of people thought, ‘okay, we’re done with that project.’”

USDA Invests, 13

- increasing natural vitality, and maintaining living roots throughout the year.
- Leveraging precision agriculture technologies to target conservation efforts based on specific field conditions, potentially reducing costs and improving resource efficiency.
 - Focusing on Farmers First projects, especially those that provide technical and financial assistance via contributions for planning and practice designs to support producer contracts.

Supporting projects led by Indian Tribes.

More Information:

The \$310 million is available for both RCPP Classic and AFA projects, including a \$30 million set aside for projects with Indian Tribes.

Details about RCPP Classic and RCPP AFAs are available on Grants.gov. Project proposals for RCPP are being accepted through August 24, 2026, on the RCPP portal. For more information about RCPP, visit the RCPP website.

This investment builds on other recent NRCS investments to engage partners to extend the reach of conservation. In late May, NRCS announced its plans to invest \$65 million through Conservation Innovation

Grants.

For more than 90 years, NRCS has helped farmers, ranchers and forestland owners make investments in their operations and local communities to improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. NRCS uses the latest science and technology to help keep working lands working, boost agricultural economies, and increase the competitiveness of American agriculture. NRCS provides one-on-one, personalized advice and financial assistance and works with producers to help them reach their goals through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs. For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov.

Our Local Townsend Team.

Teena Larson
Retail Branch Manager





Tony Woodward
Commercial & Ag Loan Officer
NMLS# 1799851

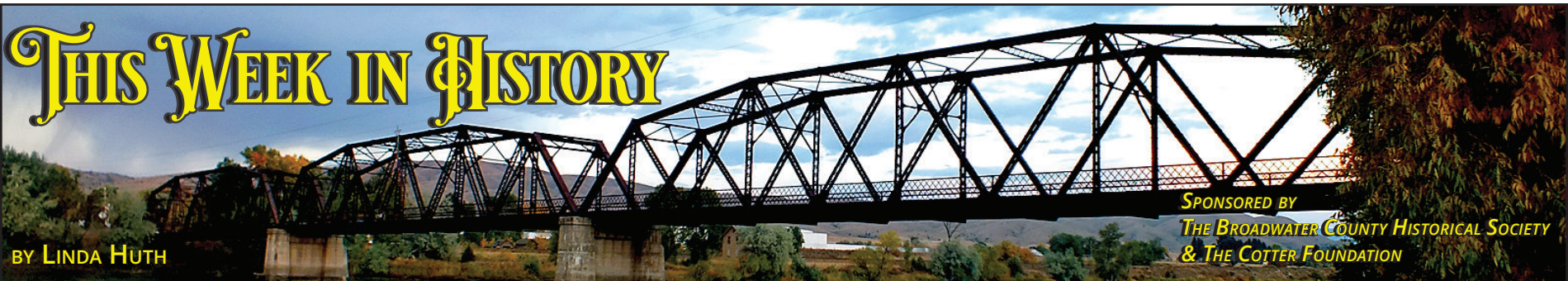


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August 13

1903

Local News

Miss Maggie Swift has been assisting Berg Bros. Co. this week in place of Dora Maxwell, who has been out in the mountains rusticating.

G.G. Watt and Ed Sloan tried their luck at angling on Deep Creek Sunday with good success.

Attorney Geo. Cowan of Boulder arrived in town on Sunday evening and spent several days during the week looking after legal business for his clients.

Fairfax McCarthy, who has been visiting a few weeks with his aunt, Mrs. Dolenty of Livingston, returned home on Monday evening.

Last Saturday the legal fraternity of our town was much exercised over the case of Joe Woods vs. W.J. Merritt et al. It seems that when Mr. Merritt leased the mining property of Mr. Woods there was no house on the property suitable for a family to reside in. Mr. Merritt built such a house, paying for the same, with the intention of removing or otherwise disposing of it at will. On Friday, Mr. Merritt, in company with other workmen from Hassel, went to the house with the intention of pulling it down and hauling it away. Mr. Woods interfered but was cast aside by Mr. Meffitt, who finished pulling down the building. Mr. Wood, however, had Mr. Merritt and all others who assisted in any way in pulling down the building arrested and brought to trial on Saturday as above mentioned. Judge Abbott fined Mr. Merritt \$20 and costs of the case.

1925

Sad Death of Townsend's Flour Miller

Townsend people generally were deeply grieved when the sad news reached here last Thursday that Mr. A.I. Thurston, Townsend's miller, had passed to his reward

at St. Ignatius, a little town in northern Montana, where he had been taken when he became prostrate after inhaling poisonous gas fumes while en route in his car from Townsend to Polson. Mr. Thurston, in company with his wife and granddaughter, Miss Winona, left their home in Townsend on July 28th for an auto trip to Polson to visit Mr. Thurston's brother, H.O. Thurston and family. They reached Missoula and spent the night with friends, continuing their trip the following day and had been about one hour out of Missoula when they experienced trouble in the gas line of the car. An attempt was made to syphon gasoline from the tank in order to fill the vacuum. Both Mrs. Thurston and Winona had tried, but failed, so Mr. Thurston took the tube and, in bringing the gas into the tube, inhaled enough of the poisonous fumes and gas to strangle. He fell back unconscious and never regained consciousness again, only at two fleeting moments until he passed away on Thursday, August 6th. After the accident, a traveler stopped and hurried the injured man to the nearest post for medical assistance, which took them to the mission and hospital at St. Ignatius, where Mr. Thurston received the best of care, but no hope was anticipated from the beginning as his condition was too serious.

1953

Reaches 11th Anniversary

Miss Adalee Olsen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Olsen, celebrated her 11th birthday anniversary Monday evening, August 10th, and had the following friends in for a 6:30 dinner with games following: Mardee McElwee, Gay Ann Sullivan, Marcia Nield, Judy Olsen, Beth Thompson, Helen Damuth, Binkie Wallace, Judy Collins, Judy Snell, Joanne Jeffries, Karen Olsen.

Prizes were won by Mardee McElwee, Gay Ann Sullivan and Judy Snell.

Gay at 70 Years

Chas. Shaw was given a birthday anniversary picnic dinner by Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Holland last Thursday

evening at Rillway camp on Deep Creek. The main menu being broiled elk steak. Those invited to give Charley a send-off on his 70th milestone were Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Alice Broderick, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hollaway and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ward.

1970

Jack McCoy is New Undersheriff

Sheriff Malcolm Henry reports the appointment of Jack McCoy as Undersheriff of Broadwater County. This action followed the resignation of Fritz Barthule, who had been serving in the capacity for over a year. McCoy began his new duties Friday, Aug. 8.

McCoy has been living in Broadwater County for the past two years, coming here from Butte, where he had been employed with the Stauffer Chemical Company for 14 years. He had served as foreman much of that time. Mrs. McCoy is the former Doris Moody and was born and raised in Broadwater County. They have five children, a son serving in Vietnam, two boys 15 and 10 years old, and two girls, 9 and 7 years, all at home. They reside at 314 Walnut.

Local News

J.D. Baker, Air Force friend of Gary Cruson, recently of Anchorage Alaska, Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Cruson of Cheney, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. Duane Lavender and Shelly of Harlem, Nick O'Dell, former Townsend resident, now of Livingston, Jex Hunsaker of Toston and William Wall of Clancy, all visited the Wesley Horne residence Saturday or Sunday, Gary and wife will move to Nampa, Idaho, this month where he will teach in the Nampa school system.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCoy received a call from Sydney, Australia, from their son, Jack Stewart, a few days ago. Jack was on his R&R from Vietnam. He had visited his cousin, Greg Toney, shortly before, and on his return to Vietnam, got a chance to talk to Dave Cameron for a few minutes at An Khe.



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SEPTEMBER 4-5



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Large Video Screen Installed at the Townsend Rodeo

Matt Nelson



This year, there was a new feature for the rodeo crowds – a large video screen called the Jumbotron was installed at the South end of the rodeo grounds. Marty Lyon owns this Jumbotron as part of his equipment of Lyon Productions based in Helena. It has 45 identical panels, each being a 2-foot by 2-foot square. There are 5 rows, and each row has 9 panels in it, making the total size of the screen 18 feet wide and 10 feet high. Each panel has 80 Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Each of these panels has a power input and output connector, as well as a video input feed and output video feed connector and are serially

connected to each other. Besides myself, Robert Siler, Keern Haslem, and Jason Handley, all employed by Lyon Productions, set this screen up. It took 4 hours to do it. It was held up by the yellow machinery called the Tella Handle.

Keern said, “Lyon Productions went full throttle into the screen business over the past few years. First, they acquired two screens and now have four. Although putting four screens out in a single weekend can be a challenge, the people we serve make it all worthwhile. This year, we had the absolute pleasure of adding the Townsend Rodeo to our docket, during the County Fair. Our help setting up the screen included newcomer Jason Hanley, old-timer myself, and long-standing Lyon Productions engineer and all-around good guy Robert Siler. Townsend local and friend to Lyon Productions, Matt Nelson, also handled cables and kept us steering straight. The Rodeo Committee did an incredible

job gathering together a brand-new telehandler and Vince and another member even pitched in to help us unload the truck. All in all, we consider our show at the Townsend Rodeo and opportunity to provide the LED screen—Jumbotron—an absolute success. One we cannot wait to repeat.” Keern Haslem.

Marty located his van with the name Lyon painted on its side near the announcer's booth on the East side of the rodeo grounds. The output signals of 3 video cameras were routed into this van and then transmitted from the van to the video screen. Marty directed the 3 camera operators where to point the cameras during the entire rodeo, beginning with the Mutton Busting, followed by the presentation of the colors, and then each event, which are Ladies Breakaway, Junior Breakaway, Bareback, Rookie Saddle Bronc, Steer Wrestling, Tie Down Ropers, Saddle Bronc, Ladies Barrels, Junior Barrels, Team Roping, and Bull Riding.

During the rodeo, Jake Green operated a drone, and the video from the drone's camera was often put on the Jumbotron.



The Jumbotron video screen, a special
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Bull Rider Tanner Theriault
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson