

Standing-Room-Only Crowd Packs MDT Open House in Townsend

Carol Hatfield

A full, standing-room-only crowd filled the Flynn Building on Thursday, August 20, 2026, as the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) hosted a public open house detailing three major improvement projects planned along the US 12/US 287 corridor. Residents from Townsend, Winston, the Silos area, and surrounding area turned out in force, eager to learn more about the construction timelines, safety upgrades, and long-term transportation impacts.

Four information stations were set up throughout the room, each staffed by MDT representatives who fielded questions, explained design details, and gathered public feedback. Attendees moved between stations, studying displays, asking about traffic flow, and discussing how the projects will affect safety and daily travel. Many brought forward specific concerns and recommendations related to safety, speed limits, turn lane needs, improvements to the multi-use trail, and the potential incorporation of wildlife underpasses, overpasses, and fencing along the corridor.

Why These Projects Are Needed:

MDT explained that this section of US 12/US 287 has been struggling to support rapidly increasing daily traffic volumes. Originally constructed in 1930 and reconstructed in 1960, the corridor was designed as a two-lane highway appropriate for the travel demands of that era. Since then, traffic has increased dramatically, leading to significant congestion, safety challenges, and a higher frequency of crashes. According to MDT, widening the highway and adding additional lanes will help alleviate congestion and enhance safety features, ensuring the

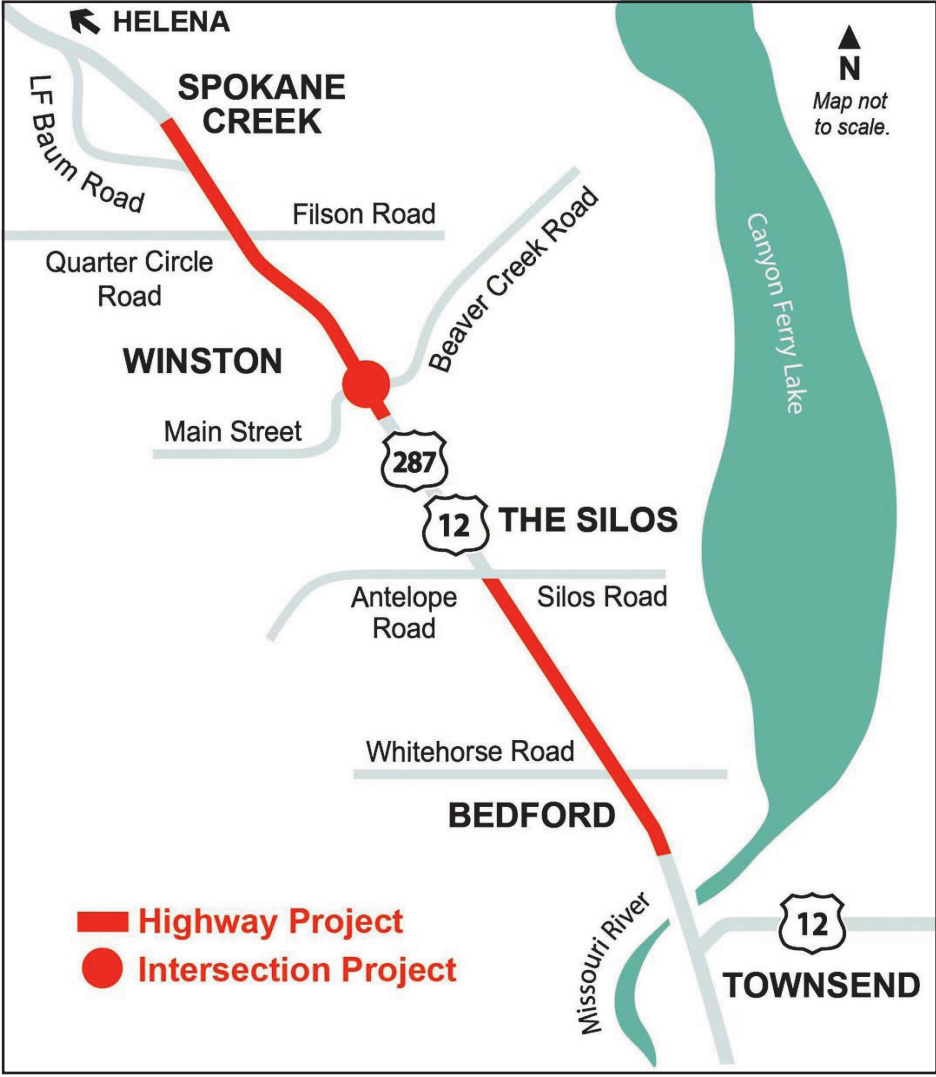
corridor can meet modern transportation needs.

Project Status and Construction Timeline:

MDT noted that all three projects are currently in the design phase, and construction will not begin until design work is finalized and the necessary right-of-way has been acquired. Depending on funding availability, construction could begin as soon as 2030 for the Beaver Creek Left Turn Lanes and Silos–South projects. The Winston–Northwest project is projected to begin in 2031 or later, also contingent on funding.

Winston–Northwest Project:

MDT staff shared updates on the widening of approximately five miles of US 12/US 287 between Spokane Creek and Winston. The project aims to improve safety and traffic capacity on a stretch that has seen steady growth in commuter and commercial travel. Community members asked about construction sequencing, anticipated delays, and how



Map of Proposed Projects
Image Provided

the wider roadway will improve passing opportunities.

Beaver Creek Road Left Turn Lanes:

MDT Open House, 8

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Coming to Townsend

Rachael Brug
Chamber of
Commerce

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSIP) is celebrating its 54th season with free, professional performances of Shakespeare’s "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Merchant of Venice" across the region.

The season opens in Bozeman with "Much Ado About Nothing", June 10–13, and "The Merchant of Venice", June 17–20, with performances held at 8 p.m. in the MSU Duck Pond Grove. Pre-show entertainment begins at 7 p.m., and audiences are encouraged to arrive early, bring a picnic, and enjoy an evening outdoors.

After the Bozeman run, MSIP’s company of 11 actors will head out on a 12-week tour, bringing theatre to 64 communities across five states—Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington—serving more than 20,000 audience members annually.

Townsend’s local MSIP performance of "The Merchant of Venice" is scheduled for Sunday, September 6, at 5 p.m. in Heritage Park. All ages are welcome, and the event is free and open to the public.

This year’s productions offer two very different



Shakespeare experiences. "Much Ado About Nothing" is a lively comedy that explores love, reputation, and how quickly misunderstandings can spread—while also showing how honesty and resilience can restore trust. Director Johamy Morales notes that the play “insists on laughter, music, and communal celebration,” ending “not in division, but in dance.”

"The Merchant of Venice" takes on deeper questions of justice, mercy, prejudice, and belonging. As romance and courtroom drama unfold, the story examines the cost of exclusion and the power of mercy. Director Kevin Asselin calls it “one of the most complete plays in Shakespeare’s canon,” highlighting both the young characters’ journeys and the human questions faced by Shylock, Antonio, and Portia.

Many MSIP stops also include pre-show performances by local artists through the organization’s Share Our Stage program. Please contact the Townsend Chamber if your organization would like to be a part of the pre-show! townsend43chamber@gmail.com

Community support helps bring MSIP to Townsend. If you would like to donate toward the cost of bringing the performance here, please mail a check made out to Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce to P.O. Box 947, Townsend, MT 59644, or drop off a check at Reading Leaves Bookstore.

For more information and the full tour schedule, visit ShakespeareInTheParks.org.

Samantha Blank - New Chiropractor in Town

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Samantha Blank, DC, CD, has joined the ranks of Townsend’s chiropractors. Her services come with a twist. She is also a certified birth doula.

A birth doula is a non-medical professional or birth companion who supports a pregnant person throughout her pregnancy, actual birth and beyond, according to Wikipedia.

Blank, who lives in Winston with her husband, who is also a chiropractor, chose her profession early on when she worked with a chiropractor during her high school years. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay, completing her Doctorate degree at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. She later worked with globally recognized industry leaders, including international lecturer Dan Lyons.

Samantha Blank, DC, CD, outside her office at 100 B Street in Townsend.
MT43 News Photographer

Blank specializes in the Blair Upper Cervical Technique, a gentle, precise methodology focused on the upper spine that is highly successful in treating headaches and migraines. Using a specialized treatment plan, Blair, she said, is gentle and requires the patient to lie on their side for treatment.

Inspired by her personal experience with childbirth, she researched the field of birth doula. She received her certificate 5 years ago. Her dual role as a chiropractor and certified birth doula uniquely equips her to support local mothers through prenatal and postpartum journeys. Blank practices out of her new office at Family Roots, 100 B Street in Townsend and in her home in Winston.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Family Roots at info@familyrootshelena.com or call (406) 437-1843.

4-H Fair Results 2026



From Left to Right: Grand Champion Poultry Pen.
Exhibitor: Cole Mikula. Buyer: Murdochs Belgrade
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office



Grand Champion Meat Rabbit Pen. Exhibitor:
Gage Douglas. Buyer: Murdochs Belgrade
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office



Grand Champion Market Steer. Exhibitor: Kortney
Merritt. Buyer: Cruz Energy Service
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office



Grand Champion Market Lamb. Exhibitor: Myla
Graveley. Buyer: Sheriff Mark Wood
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office



Grand Champion Meat Goat. Exhibitor: Grace Christensen.
Buyer: Darin and Kathy Cederberg/ Headwaters Livestock Auction
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office



Grand Champion Market Hog. Exhibitor: Spencer
Braaten. Buyer: Elkhorn Veterinary
Photo Provided by Broadwater County Extension Office

Kasen Gregg
Broadwater County 4-H Program Assistant

It was fair time a couple of weeks ago in Broadwater County, and this year was truly one for the books! Our 4-H and FFA youth members spent the entire year preparing for the fair, and their hard work certainly put itself on display. From raising and caring for their animals to spending countless hours sewing, baking, and crafting the final touches on their educational projects, each member arrived at the fair prepared to work hard, learn, and have fun.

The fair is always a special time to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth and the many hours they put into their projects throughout the year. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they showcased their skills and made memories along the way.

Here are a few highlights from this year's fair:

Animal Divisions:

The fair showcased the hard work and dedication across a wide range of animal projects. In the Beef Division, Kaitlyn Noyes earned Grand Champion in Senior Showmanship, with Cheyanne Douglas taking Reserve. In Junior Showmanship, Calvin McCauley received Grand Champion, and Hallee Harrigfeld was Reserve Champion. Kortney Merritt claimed Grand Champion in Market Beef, followed by Cheyanne Douglas as Reserve. Kortney Merritt also took top honors in Breeding Beef, claiming Grand Champion, followed by Cheyanne Douglas as Reserve Champion.

In the Cat Division, Magdalena Delgado was awarded Grand Champion in Showmanship, with Kaylee Flynn as Reserve.

In the Dog Division, Cheyanne Douglas was awarded Grand Champion in Senior Showmanship, and Sierra Sherrard took Reserve. In Junior Dog Showmanship, Kathryn Six took Grand Champion, and Parker Truesdell took Reserve. Sierra Sherrard was Agility Grand Champion, and Autumn Henke took Reserve. In Obedience, Sierra Sherrard again received Grand Champion, while Cheyanne Sherrard was Reserve Champion. In Pocket Pets, Gage Douglas earned Overall Grand Champion.

The Meat Goat Division was led by Cheyanne Douglas (Senior Showmanship) and Parker Merritt (Junior Showmanship), with Reserve titles going to Arabella McDaniel and Cole Shumway, respectively. Grace Christensen and Elston Flynn topped the Super Starter Showmanship class as Grand and Reserve, respectively. Grace Christensen earned Grand Champion in Market Goat, with Arabella McDaniel as Reserve. Autumn Henke took top honors overall in Meat Goat Breeding.

In the Dairy Goat Division, Cheyanne Douglas swept both Senior Showmanship and Overall Dairy Goat titles, with Autumn Henke as Reserve Senior Showman and Reserve Overall. Keira Christensen was Grand Champion for Junior Showmanship, and Madelyne Truesdell was Reserve.

The Horse Division featured Autumn Henke as Senior Showmanship Grand Champion, with Addy Mosher as Reserve Champion. Leading the Junior class as Grand and Reserve, respectively, were Tucker Volkman and Abygail Osborne.

In the Poultry Division, Senior Showmanship saw MaKenzie Truesdell as Grand Champion and Autumn Henke as Reserve, while Parker Truesdell and Dexter Pena led the Junior class as Grand and Reserve, respectively. In Super Starter Showmanship, Torren Dana was Grand Champion, and Ella Kosto was Reserve. Cole Mikula took Grand Champion in Market Poultry Pen, with MaKenzie Truesdell taking Reserve. Grace McLaughlin and MaKenzie Truesdell were named Overall Bird Grand and Reserve Champions.

In Rabbits, MaKenzie Truesdell led Senior Showmanship, taking Grand Champion, with Cheyanne Douglas taking Reserve. Quincy Santi topped the Junior class as the Grand Champion, with Parker Truesdell as Reserve. Gage Douglas earned top honors in Market Rabbit Pen, while Parker Truesdell swept Overall Rabbit as the Grand and Reserve Champion.

The Sheep Division featured Kaitlyn Noyes and Kortney Merritt in Senior Showmanship as the Grand and Reserve Showmen, with Myla Graveley and Ava Watne leading the Junior class. Ryal Lancello and Grace Christensen placed in Super Starter Showmanship as Grand and Reserve Champions. Myla Graveley swept both Grand and Reserve in Market Lamb. Rosyn Reynolds earned Grand Champion in Breeding

Lamb, and Keira Christensen took Reserve.

Finally, in the Swine Division, Spencer Braaten and Kaitlyn Noyes led Senior Showmanship, while Myla Graveley and Parker Merritt topped the Junior class. Ryal Lancello and Brooklyn Harrigfeld placed Grand and Reserve in Super Starter Showmanship. Braaten and Noyes also earned Grand and Reserve in Market Swine, with Braaten taking top honors in Breeding Swine as well.

On Saturday morning, top livestock showmen participated in the Round Robin Showmanship, where participants show every species to determine a top overall showman. The Senior Grand Champion Round Robin Showman was Kaitlyn Noyes, and Reserve Champion was Spencer Braaten. The Junior Grand Champion Round Robin Showman was Myla Graveley, and Reserve Champion was Everett Kirksey.

It was also a great year at the 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale, which was one for the books. The sale auction total was \$364,638.50, with 97 animals sold. A big THANK YOU goes to our community for supporting the sale and 4-H youth!

Indoor Divisions

The 4-H Indoor exhibits highlighted a wide range of skills and creativity from participants. In Animal Science, Kaitlyn Noyes earned top honors in the Senior division, while Gage Douglas led the Junior category. Representing Engineering & Technology, Andrew Beatty led the Senior division, while Kaylee Flynn took Junior. In Environmental & Natural Science, Andrew Beatty and Kaylee Flynn were recognized as Senior and Junior winners, respectively. Family & Consumer Science saw Karolyn Schmaus and Zola Six take top spots in the Senior and Junior divisions.

Mishayla Lambott and Andrew Beatty earned Senior honors in Plant Science. In Communication & Expressive Arts, Kaitlyn Noyes and Kaylee Flynn were awarded top placements. Autumn Henke excelled in Leadership & Personal Development, taking top honors alongside Junior winners Jayden Flynn and Kathryn Six. Finally, in Foods & Nutrition, Kaitlyn Noyes and Kathryn Six took top honors in their respective age divisions. The Overall 4-H Indoor Exhibitor Senior Grand Champion was Kaitlyn Noyes, and Reserve Champion was Autumn Henke. The Overall Junior Grand Champion Exhibitor was Zola Six, and Reserve was Kaylee Flynn.

Members participating with 4-H indoor exhibits also had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction with their 4-H handmade goods. There were 25 items sold in the silent auction, which raised \$1,287.

Congratulations to all participants on an outstanding Fair!

Ribbon Counts:

Hazelee Baldwin-1 red
Hudson Baldwin- 1 Blue
Andrew Beatty- 6 Purple 3 blue
Tyler Bird- 2 red 1 Blue
Spencer Braaten- 3 Purple
Kaylee Cederberg- 2 Purple 3 blue
Madison Cederberg- 1 purple 3 blue 1 red
Hannah Chavez- 3 blue 1 red
James Chavez- 1 blue
Grace Christensen – 2 purple 5 blue
Keira Christensen- 2 purple 4 blue 4 red
Kayley Connor 2 purple 3 blue 1 red
Caleb Crusch – 1 blue
Katey Crusch 4 blue 1 red
Kay Crusch- 8 blue 1 red
Anna Dabling- 3 purple 11 Blue 1 red
Levi Dabling- 7 blue 2 red
Zoe Dabling- 1 purple 7 blue 1 red
Taylyn Dana- 3 cloverbuds
Torren Dana- 2 purple 2 blue 1 red
Landen Davies- 2 blue
Lexie Davies- 1 purple 3 blue 3 red
Lucas Davies- 2 blue
Magdalena Delgado- 1 purple 4 blue
Oliver Delgado- 1 cloverbud
Rigoberto Delgado- 3 blue
Patrick Des Chene- 1 purple 5 blue 2 red
Cheyanne Douglas- 12 purple 16 blue 2 red
Gage Douglas- 1 purple 19 blue 4 red 1 white
Bryleigh Erickson- 6 blue
Nathan Ferguson- 1 blue 2 red
Roy Ferguson- 1 blue 2 red
Wyatt Ferguson-1 blue 2 red

Elston Flynn- 5 purple 2 blue
Jayden Flynn- 1 purple 5 blue 2 red
Kaylee Flynn- 10 purple 13 blue
Clyde Frazier- 1 cloverbud
Josie Frazier- 1 purple
Blair Graveley- 1 cloverbud
Myla Graveley- 6 purple
Brooklyn Harrigfeld- 4 purple 5 blue 1 red
Hallee Harrigfeld- 2 purple 3 blue
Sawyer Harrigfeld- 1 purple 1 blue 2 red
Autumn Henke 13 Purple 36 Blue 7 red
Bentley Hoppe- 2 purple
Greyson Hoppe- 2 purple
Bennett Kirksey- 2 blue
Everett Kirksey- 1 purple 2 blue 1 red
Titus Kirksey- 1 purple 4 blue
Wesley Kirksey- 1 blue
Aiden Kitto- 2 purple 1 blue
Kenzie Knaub- 2 purple 6 blue
Bridger Kool- 1 blue 2 reds
Colton Kool- 1 purple 2 reds
Ella Kosto- 10 blue 1 red
Mishayla Lambott- 2 purple 5 blue
Abigail Lancello- 4 cloverbud
Ryal Lancello- 7 purple 2 blue
Barrett MacDonald- 2 blue
Elaine MacDonald- 3 blue 1 red
Liv Mace – 1 purple 1 blue
Ryann Mace – 1 cloverbud
Abigail McCauley- 2 purple 5 blue
Calvin McCauley- 5 purple 1 blue 1 red
Evan McCauley- 1 purple 2 blue 1 red
Arabella McDaniel- 2 purple
Grace McLaughlin- 6 blue 2 red 1 white
Molly McLaughlin- 2 cloverbud
Kortney Merritt- 5 purple 4 blue 1 red
Parker Merritt-4 purple 2 blue
Ryker Merritt- 2 purple 2 blue 2 red
Cole Mikula- 3 blue
Evie Moos- 1 blue 1 red
Thea Moos- 1 purple 1 blue
Addy Mosher- 4 purple 5 blue 1 red
Kaitlyn Noyes- 41 Purple 13 blue
Abygail Osborne- 2 purple 3 blue 1 red
Daxter Pena- 2 blue
Aden Pepos- 1 purple 1 red
Owen Pepos- 2 blue
Cinch Reynolds- 1 purple 2 blues 1 red
Rosyn Reynolds- 4 purple 1 blue
Stetson Reynolds- 1 blue 1 red
Talon Romo- 1 cloverbud
Elliana Rose- 5 cloverbud
Jasen Rose- 1 purple 1 blue
Kensley Sangray- 2 blue 1 red
Quincy Santi- 3 blue 1 red
Tana Santi- 1 purple 2 blue 2 red
Karolyn Schmaus- 2 purple 12 blue 1 red
Karter Schamaus- 1 purple 4 blue 1 red
Cheyanne Sherrard- 1 purple
Sierra Sherrard- 2 purple 1 blue
Cole Shumway- 1 purple 1 blue 2 reds
Conner Shumway- 3 blues 1 red
Amelia Six- 3 cloverbuds
Kathryn Six- 7 purple 6 blue 1 red
Zola Six- 3 purple 15 blue
Caleb Swanson- 1 blue 2 red
Claire Swanson- 1 blue 2 red
Emily Taves- 7 blue
Nick Taylor- 1 blue 2 red
Madelyn Truesdell- 3 purple 8 blue 1 red
MaKenzie Truesdell- 3 purple 16 blue 2 red
Parker Truesdell- 2 purple 15 blue 2 red
Augustus Van Duin- 1 purple 1 blue
Lucy van Duin- 2 purple 1 red
Teigan Volkman- 2 purple 2 blue 1 red
Tucker Volkman- 2 purple 3 blue 2 red
Ava Watne- 2 purple 3 blue
Cecelia Watne- 2 blue 1 red
Scarlett Watne- 2 purple 1 red
Amos Weaver- 2 blue
Clara Weaver- 1 purple 1 blue
Lydia Weaver- 1 purple 1 blue
Mckenna Weaver- 2 blue

UPCOMING FREE LOCAL EVENTS - MORE ON PAGES 4 & 13



Historic Canton Church

August 28 at 5:00pm

Linda Huth, Curator of the Broadwater County Museum will be giving her talk about a few different topics including the history of the museum, a story about Robin C. Pennington who perished in an airplane crash during WWII and a few interesting Tid Bits from Broadwater County's history.

Canton Church Events are always Free
But donations are appreciated

Broadwater Community Theater's 3rd Annual

FREE STREET DANCE

Featuring **Cowboy Bob & Gypsy Dust**

September 11, 2026
6:00-9:00 pm
The Lodge- 131 S. Spruce, Townsend

Moment of Silence, Music, Dancing, Catered Food, Drinks



SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2026 // 7PM

TOWNSEND ROOTS

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR
BROADWATER COMMUNITY THEATER

**SCOUT LYNDE
CLAIRE AMUNDSON
QUEENAGER**
(SARAH FRAZIER)

AND GUESTS:
ELEANOR LENORE,
HANNAH FRAZIER,
& OUNO

\$10
SUGGESTED
DONATION
DRINKS & BITES

**THE
LODGE
131
S SPRUCE**

TRAILHEAD
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
20 TRAILHEAD VIEW DR
TOWNSEND, MT

REGISTER HERE!



STARTING SEPT 9!

Awana
Because Kids Matter to God

WEDNESDAYS
4:25PM-5:50PM

GRADES PREK-6TH





Billings Clinic
Broadwater

**COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE**

+ Tailgate BBQ

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
4TH**

OPEN HOUSE
HEALTH FAIR & RESOURCES
3:30-6:00 PM

- Meet local healthcare providers and vendors
- Explore our facility
- Learn about services available close to home

TAILGATE BBQ
5:00-6:00 PM

- Free community BBQ
- Visit with staff and neighbors

*Stop by before
cheering on the Bulldogs!*

Townsend School & Sports

AUGUST

Friday 28

•

NO SCHOOL

August 28

•

High School Volleyball at Shelby Tournament - Varsity

•

High School Cross Country at Billings

•

6:00 pm: High School Football vs Colstrip

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1

•

7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - BHS Lobby

Thursday 3

•

Middle School/High School Cross Country at Manhattan

•

4:00 pm: High School Volleyball vs Three Forks

•

7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club at the Library

Friday 4

•

NO SCHOOL

•

7:00 pm: High School Football vs Loyola

Saturday 5

•

12:00 pm: High School Volleyball vs Whitehall

East Helena Schools & Sports

AUGUST

Friday 28

•

Varsity Football vs Miles City

•

Varsity Volleyball @ Livingston

•

Soccer @ Frenchtown

Saturday 29

•

10:00 am: Freshmen Football vs Bozeman

•

Flag Football vs Hamilton and Jefferson

Monday 31

•

First Day for High School 227 Academy

•

Flag Football vs Belgrade

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1

•

East Helena High School Picture Day

•

East Valley Middle School Picture Day

•

Golf at Billings

•

6:00 pm - PTO Meeting - East Valley Middle School

Wednesday 2

•

Radley Picture Day

•

Golf at Dillon

Friday 4

•

Cross Country at Kalispell

•

Varsity Football at Dillon

•

Volleyball Tip-off at East Helena

•

Golf at Lewistown

•

Soccer vs Corvallis

Saturday 5

•

Volleyball Tip-off at East Helena

The Olde Place

AUGUST SALE!

Herbs, Spices, Teas,
& Vintage Collectibles

Celebrating 80th Birthday and
5 years at the Birds Nest/Berry
Patch **Booth B-11**, Townsend

Kathryn McBee & Family
406-570-0299

BROADWATER
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

Friday 28

•

12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

•

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

•

5:00 pm: Date Night at the Pottery Studio at Pottery Guild, 108 N. Spruce

•

5:00 pm: Historic Canton Church Presents Linda Huth at Canton Church **MORE ON PAGES 3 & 13**

•

5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Saturday 29

•

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

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1

•

The University of Montana will host the Montana AI Summit **READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 11**

•

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 2

•

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

Thursday 3

•

3:00 pm: Townsend Farmers Market at Wi-Fi Park

•

7:00 pm: BCT Fundraiser- Townsend Roots at The Lodge of Townsend **MORE INFO ON PAGES 3 & 13**

•

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

Friday 4

•

3:30 pm: Billings Clinic - Community Open House & BBQ at Billings Clinic Broadwater **SEE AD ON PAGE 3**

•

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

•

12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

•

5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Fri 4 - Sat 5

•

Townsend Hardware's Customer Appreciation Day Activities **SEE AD ON PAGE 14**

Saturday 5

•

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

Sunday 6

•

8:00 am: Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Coming to Townsend at Heritage Park **READ MORE ON PAGE 1**

Wednesday 9

•

4:25 pm: Awana at Trailhead Christian Fellowship **REGISTER WITH AD ON PAGE 3**

BROADWATER COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1

•

9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

September 2

•

10:00 am: Commissioners Meeting

•

4:00 pm: TEDD Advisory Committee

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 WINTER HOURS

Monday through Thursday 4pm to 7pm
Friday and Saturday 9am to 4pm
Due to staffing issues, the library will be closed on Sundays.

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

AUGUST

Friday 28

•

3:00 pm: East Helena Reading Circle Book Group

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 3

•

3:30 pm: East Helena Teen/Tween Switch Gaming

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)

September 5 & 19, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Donations of food items are accepted *Fridays September 4 and 18, from 9:00 to 11:00am*

This month donation suggestions: *Coffee, tea, Ramen noodles, crackers, cereal, canned or fresh fruit and 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. *September is Holy Cross Parish.*

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

PRECISION
BUSINESS RESOURCES

We're
BACK!

*Precision Business Resources
has reopened in Townsend!*

Monday - Friday | 8am to 6pm

ACCOUNTING

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

TAXES

302 Broadway St
Townsend, MT 59644

406-266-0062

https://precisionbusinessresources.com/

Broadwater County Open Board Positions

Broadwater County Commissioners

Broadwater County has several open board positions! The County needs and appreciates all our volunteer board members and encourages resident involvement.

The County is currently accepting letters of interest for positions on the following boards:

•

Board of Health (2 openings)

•

Museum Board (1 opening)

•

Tax Appeal (1 opening)

•

Townsend Mosquito Board (1 opening)

•

Three Forks Mosquito Board (2 openings)

Each board position is a 3-year term. Letters of interest can be addressed to the board and submitted to planning@broadwatercountymt.gov. Positions remain open until filled.

MDT Open House, 1

Jim Beck Waiting Outside the Flynn Building

Photo Credit: KRTV

Another station focused on the installation of dedicated left-turn lanes at Beaver Creek Road and US 12/US 287 in Winston. MDT officials emphasized that this intersection has long been a safety concern due to turning movements across fast-moving highway traffic. The new turn lanes are designed to reduce rear-end collisions and improve overall traffic flow.

Silos–South Project:

The third major project presented was the widening of approximately five miles of US 12/US 287 between Silos Road and Cottonwood Campground northwest of Townsend. Residents discussed how the improvements will support recreation access, agricultural transport, and regional connectivity between Broadwater and Lewis & Clark counties.

Corridor-Wide Safety Enhancements:

Across all three projects, MDT highlighted a suite of safety upgrades that will be incorporated throughout the corridor, including: new pavement markings, updated signage, rumble strips to reduce lane departure crashes, chip seal treatments to extend pavement life.

MDT representatives emphasized that these improvements are part of three separate projects designed to reconstruct specific sections of the highway to address traffic congestion and vehicle crashes in the area.

Strong Community Engagement:

The turnout demonstrated the community’s deep interest in transportation planning and its impact on safety, local and regional travel. Residents expressed appreciation for MDT’s willingness to host an in person open house and provide direct access to project engineers and planners. MDT officials said public input gathered at the event will help refine project details as design and construction phases move forward.

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 7 FOR LEGAL NOTICES AND JOB OPENING.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: September 16, 7:30PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov/community/rural_fire_board.php

Monthly Chamber Meeting

8:30 am Thurs, Sept 17

@ The Mint

All members of the community welcome!

TOWNSEND

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

8:30 am Thurs, Sept 17

@ The Mint

All members of the community welcome!

Support

LOCAL

Businesses

RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND

BROADWATER COUNTY

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

American Legion Hall 211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611 Dining Hours: Tuesday- Bingo/Bowl & a Roll 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

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diamonddlouc@gmail.com

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Bernadette Swenson, PLS
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406-266-4602. schaubersurvey@gmail.com

Townsend Shop

DD Custom Flatbeds Fabrication

Helena Shop

Hoses, Machining
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MADISON RIVER

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:00AM - 2:00PM
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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 L

UXHMIMNVWB CXBW OXIOBT UH
U KHUHV MQ MQ UQ MCCVLVUW
WVQB NBHJBBQ HJM LMXQHSV BK:
NMSTBS OBHSMW.

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KNIGHT MOVES

G	L	R
O		N
I	G	W

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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MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

“... and does Stanley's _____ affect your sleep, Mrs. Feeny? Mrs. Feeny...”

Bob Schuchman

SCRABLERS

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!

Speck
ARING

Dame
ROMANT

Taut
ENSET

First
DIEMAN

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

SHORT MONTHS

ACROSS
1 Gentle
5 Not active
9 Hockey great
13 Certain utility meter reader
19 "Pronto!"
20 Back end
21 Notion
22 Hun leader
23 "Klute" actress
25 Line of air fresheners requiring an outlet
27 Element #10
28 See 38-Down
29 Texting format, for short
30 Land in eau
32 Strong-arms
36 Lobbying org.
37 Singer Ross
39 "Let's Get It On" singer
41 Certain fruit stone
43 "— fair in love and war"
44 Stood to lose
46 Idyllic places
47 City official on "Family Guy"
50 Part of UCLA
52 Make tidy
56 Noted Deco master

57 Notion
60 Go in haste
61 Fogged up, as a sauna
65 School for associate's degrees
68 Caribbean resort
69 "Let it stand"
71 Goes after in court
72 Intended (to)
73 Bartending tool with holes
76 1841-45 first family
77 Primo pitcher
78 Cape Cod resort village
79 Dried up
81 Heptath-lete Jackie Joyner-
84 Railroad depot: Abbr.
85 Portend a good outcome
90 Dog's reward
93 Scored a major victory
95 Mine, in France
96 Brownish-toned picture
100 Stuff squirted by a cephalopod

103 Slow to react
104 NFL notable
105 Some private planes
106 "Is that so!"
107 Univ. senior's test
108 Weapons depot
110 Tiger's sound, to tots
112 Halifax native
115 Poolside seat
120 Large moon of Uranus
121 "I'm buying"
122 Region
123 Rebuke from Caesar
124 Lie comply close
125 Belgian river
126 Frat guys
127 Span represented by the first three letters of 12 answers in this puzzle

DOWN
1 — Mahal
2 "Hugo" title role player
3 Polite
4 Sword variety
5 Patch variety
6 Animal lair
7 Young fellow

8 Time of note
9 Old LP players
10 Polish river
11 Program running in a browser
12 Topic of an otologist's instructions
13 Intent stare
14 Munched on
15 Fuel additive brand
16 Country singer
17 School reunion-goers
18 Pestera
24 Central points
26 "Champion" of Spain
28 Overly docile
30 Muslim prayer leader
31 See 70-Down
33 Heron variety
34 Elevate
35 Sac in anatomy
37 "Finished!"
38 With 28-Across, church meeting cry
40 Abbr. on a brandy bottle
41 Dreamy guys

42 Italian for "hundred"
45 SpaceX head
48 Chart anew
49 Ironic, as wit
51 Rub to clean
53 Main topic
54 "The — Sanction" (1975 film)
55 Must have
57 Halve with an ax, say
58 Prior to, to a bard
59 Mac rivals
61 "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat
62 Halting of hostilities
63 Leonhard of pure mathematics
64 Prez Lincoln
65 Denim pants
66 Cake tier
67 "— Abner"
70 Hog's pen
71 With 31-Down, liting song syllables
74 Ovine animal
75 El — (ocean current)
76 —TV ("Tacoma FD" channel)

79 Armani offerings
80 Incite
82 Incite
83 Part of QED
85 Basic lessons
86 Once lived
87 Move to a new country
88 Individual
89 Similar to
91 "Billy, Don't Be —"
92 "Anna Karenina" novelist
94 Yule tune
96 Join the team
97 Get dressed
98 Irritates
99 Promotional connections
101 Ski jackets
102 Quadrennial games org.
105 Seat weaver
108 Clearasil target
109 Moniker
111 Curds and —
113 Craft
114 Pine-
115 Small dollop
116 Make a gaffe
117 Co. top dog
118 Give — shot
119 Classic Karel Capek play

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Commissioners Meeting		Broadwater Commissioners Agenda	
Rachael Brug Staff Reporter		Broadwater Commissioners	
8/19/2026		 515 Broadway, Townsend Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St. Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov. Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Written public comment must be received by 5pm the day before the meeting. This allows time for comments to be reviewed before the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded. OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.	
School Budget Approved; Water Law Changes Shape Subdivision Review Process. Commissioners OK Townsend K12 FY27 budget, interlocal detention agreement; Western Montana Estates subdivision approved amid ongoing water and public engagement discussions The Broadwater County Commission approved the Townsend K12 School District's fiscal year 2027 budget and a routine interlocal agreement for adult detention services during its August 19th meeting, while navigating continuing discussions about water rights, communication, and appropriate county oversight of development projects. Commission Chair Debi Randolph presided over the meeting, attended by Commissioners Jesse Swenson and Lindsey Richtmeyer. Highway 287 Safety Takes Center Stage in Public Comment Rob Eskridge opened the meeting by acknowledging the commissioners' work on safety issues while expressing frustration about the lack of visible progress on Highway 287 speed and safety concerns. Eskridge noted conversations with Montana Department of Transportation traffic engineers who are already pushing back on speed limit changes. Calling for a decision on whether the county should serve as the lead agency for addressing short-term safety issues, Eskridge recommended that commissioners establish a working session bringing together representatives from the governor's office, the state transportation commission, both law enforcement agencies, MDT traffic safety engineers, and community representatives. "There are 15 families that have lost somebody, our neighbors," Eskridge said, referencing deaths on the corridor. He emphasized that the upcoming MDT open house—scheduled for August 20th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.—is not sufficient, as the associated construction project remains in the design phase and lacks dedicated funding. MDT Response: Commission liaison staff clarified that the county has already undertaken to be the lead agency for a speed study, which requires a formal commission request. Staff noted that the BUILD grant for the Winston-Northwest project was denied, but other projects in the corridor have nothing to do with that federal grant. An MDT staff debrief on the grant process is scheduled for the coming weeks. Staff also corrected the death count, noting that MDT will provide accurate statistics at tomorrow's open house, and emphasized that while the process is long, the commission will work to initiate the speed study as soon as public feedback and MDT information are received following the open house. US Antimony Mill Tour Provides Public Information: Commissioners reported on a private tour of the US Antimony processing facility at Radersburg following the previous week's presentation by Aaron Tenesch, Vice President of the Antimony Division. The three commissioners, County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki, and legal counsel toured the mill to gather information for constituent inquiries. The facility currently operates one full-time shift with mostly local employees and processes ore from Thompson Falls. The commissioners noted that antimony is used in fire retardant compounds for plastics, as a clarifying agent in glass, as an alloying agent in batteries and solder, and in solar panels and textiles. The facility's taxable value won't be determined until next year's property assessments. Public comment from Tim Ravendall thanked commissioners for providing context on the mill's role in the county. He noted that the facility—present since the early 1980s—has been retooled, with discussions underway about potential expansion on different property. Commission Chair Randolph emphasized that the county's outreach was driven by an obligation to be informed about potential business developments affecting the county, even when commissioners aren't water or mining experts. Townsend School District Budget Approved Superintendent Brad Racht presented the Townsend K12 Schools FY27 budget, requesting commission approval as part of the statutory process. The general fund totals \$6,655,399, funded through state appropriations, local property taxes, and federal grants. The district's overall budget for FY27 is \$9.124 million. Key points from Racht's presentation included: Revenue Sources: Approximately 26% of the general fund comes from local property taxes, 59% from state funding, and the remainder from federal sources. The district did not pursue a mill levy increase, choosing instead to manage within existing revenue formulas. Enrollment Trends: Townsend elementary enrollment is growing, reflecting young families moving to Broadwater County. High school enrollment had declined over recent decades but is now showing recovery. Racht noted that open enrollment laws and geographic location—with county growth concentrated at the north and south ends—create challenges as families closer to other districts opt to send students elsewhere. Budget Challenges: The district faces pressure from deferred maintenance, weather-related damage, and declining Title I federal funding. Racht emphasized that schools must balance educational quality with taxpayer sensitivity. He also noted that having more diverse taxpayers and businesses in the county would help school funding, as Broadwater County relies heavily on residential property tax revenue. Staffing Cuts: The district made difficult staffing reductions while maintaining educational quality. Racht highlighted the importance of understanding restrictive state funding formulas that earmark money for specific purposes, such as bus purchases—funds that cannot be redirected to other pressing needs. Commission discussion touched on the importance of enrollment in school funding, with A and B funding formulas providing approximately \$6,600 per K-6 student and \$8,567 per high school student on a sliding scale. The commission unanimously approved the budget. Detention Services Agreement Approved: Sheriff Mark Wood presented a short interlocal agreement with Lewis and Clark County for housing inmates. The arrangement has been in place for years but lacked formal documentation; this agreement formalizes the existing practice. Wood noted that Broadwater County currently houses one Lewis and Clark County inmate, while the arrangement allows the counties to house each other's inmates as needed during staffing or capacity issues. The agreement was unanimously approved. Special Prosecutor Resolution Adopted:		Treasurer Advances Alternative Payment Program: County Treasurer Melissa Franks presented the monthly financial report and introduced a new alternative tax payment plan for primary residences. The program allows eligible property owners to make seven equal payments from November through May, with no penalty or interest assessed on missed intermediate payments if the final May payment is made on time. Eligibility Requirements: Primary residence; owner-occupied; owner present seven months of year; not delinquent when signing up; real property only (manufactured homes on foundations qualify). Purpose: The program helps taxpayers with fixed incomes budget property taxes monthly rather than facing a large lump-sum payment. It also reduces delinquent tax collection issues for the county. Franks noted that any taxpayer with questions can call her office or email. Commission Chair Randolph suggested copies be placed at the treasurer's window to increase public awareness. The application deadline is September 30th. County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki added important context: the state legislature addresses property tax issues every two years, and counties should track usage statistics and taxpayer satisfaction with such programs to provide data for legislative improvements. Clarification on Fund Balance Reconciliation: Following social media discussion regarding the county's fund balance reconciliation, Jarocki provided a clear explanation of the issue that arose during the previous audit. Auditors found that the treasurer's records showed more money than the bank's records did—not because money was missing, but because accounting errors had accumulated over time, making it appear the county had more available funds than actually existed. After extensive work with local government services and county staff, errors were corrected and the fund balance adjusted accordingly. "No money was missing. In fact, the problem was the opposite," Jarocki said, noting that the county now submits monthly reconciliation reports to local government services and the monthly reports will continue to be posted online. Western Montana Estates Subdivision Approved The commission approved preliminary plat approval for the Western Montana Estates minor subdivision, a five-lot residential development off Highway 287. Community Development and Planning Director Nichole Brown presented the application, which cleared planning board review and incorporated all commission-requested conditions. Key conditions include: a preliminary engineering report for Buffalo Jump Trail, the existing subdivision road serving the property; the developer's responsibility for their proportionate share of road improvements under county subdivision standards; and compliance with new state requirements for notice of intent to appropriate water from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Brown noted that this was Broadwater County's first subdivision to complete the NOI process since new state law took effect January 1, 2026. Developer Jane Cazier, who owns the property, expressed appreciation for the approval while noting the cost (\$400 per lot) and restrictive water-use limits (10 acre feet for five residential units) will limit future development on the property. Cazier explained she retained road access rights when she previously sold the property to Park Trail Ranch Estates, anticipating future development to sell her residence. Water Law Context: The NOI requirement came from the 2025 legislative session following a landmark judicial ruling (McMahon decision in the Horse Hills Hills case). The change shifts responsibility for water analysis away from county commissioners—who lack water expertise—to DNRC, a state water expert agency. Subdivision Exemption Application Approved: The commission approved a revised subdivision exemption application form after months of development incorporating legal, staff, and public feedback. Community Development Director Nichole Brown had color-coded commissioners' requested edits for transparency. Key discussion points included moving references to minor grantees from the family transfer section to general acknowledgements, and considering whether birth, adoption, and marriage documentation should be required to verify family relationships claimed on exemption applications. Public commenter Chuck Hahn argued that documentation of relationships should be required, noting that other counties have done so without issues. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher explained the liability concerns: if the county required and stored vital records like birth certificates, adoption papers, or marriage certificates, the county would incur ongoing confidentiality and security obligations. Bratcher noted that applicants sign the exemption affidavit under penalty of perjury, which provides legal recourse if information is falsified. County Clerk and Recorder Angie Bratcher, represented by Bratcher at the meeting, expressed concerns about the county's liability in storing sensitive vital records, particularly given variable requirements across different document types (some marked confidential, some not). After discussion, commissioners indicated they were comfortable with the affidavit process without requiring additional documentation. Public Engagement and Communication Concerns: Additional public comment from Chuck Hahn and Tim Ravendall raised ongoing concerns about public awareness of and participation in planning processes. Ravendall noted that growth-related water concerns require better notification to neighbors and the public about subdivision applications before decisions are made. He also questioned how planning board agendas are communicated and highlighted difficulty finding subdivision information online. Commissioners acknowledged challenges with public communication and noted several initiatives under consideration, including a potential county app (in discussion phase) similar to school apps, which would allow residents to access information and forms more easily. Commissioners acknowledged staff limitations, noting that social media monitoring and posting require significant time and that a dedicated communications or grant-writing position doesn't currently exist in the budget. The commission will not hold a meeting the following week due to Chair Randolph's attendance at a Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority conference in Helena.	
Monday, August 31, 2026		12:00 PM Interview at the Flynn Building for the Administrative Assistant position with the Commissioners and interview panel members	
Tuesday, September 1, 2026		9:00 AM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines	
Wednesday, September 2, 2026		10:00 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over	
		10:05 AM Public Hearing, Debbie Kelley, Finance Officer/ Payroll Manager, Resolution to adopt Broadwater County's FY 2026/2027 Annual Budget	
		10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Debbie Kelley, Finance Officer/ Payroll Manager, Resolution to adopt Broadwater County's FY 2026/2027 Annual Budget	
		10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Ed Shindoll, 5-year Tower Space Lease Agreement between Broadwater County and Northwestern Energy for the installation and maintenance of up to two (2) fire detection cameras.	
		10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, County Attorney Kevin Bratcher, Resolution for the appointment of Special Deputy County Attorneys to assist with Prosecution of certain criminal cases	
		10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Letter appointing Meagan Poe as the County Representative to Many Rivers Board	
		10:30 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, G&J Estates Minor Subdivision request preliminary plat approval	
		10:40 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, changes to the Subdivision Exemption Application	
		10:45 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over	
		The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions	
		Items for Discussion / Decision / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda	
		- Certificate of Survey review - Management – on-going advisory board appointments / Board bylaws - Claims/Payroll/minutes - County Audit / Budget - Ongoing and renewing contracts - Ongoing grants, grant applications - Correspondence – support letters - Task Orders - Mail	
		Debi Randolph, Chair (406) 266-9270 or (406) 451-6035 drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov	
		Lindsey Richtmyer (406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834 lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov	
		Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair (406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213 jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov	
		E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway) Please note: These meeting times/dates may change; please check the county website	
		- TEDD Committee Meeting, on September 2nd at 4:00 PM - Trust Board Meeting on September 8th at 11:30 AM - Planning Board Meeting on September 8th at 1:00 PM - Fair Board Meeting on September 10th at 5:15 PM - Noxious Weed Board Meeting on September 15th at 7:00 PM - Airport Board Meeting on September 16th at 6:00 PM - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting on September 17th at 1:00 PM - Board of Health Meeting on September 21st at 3:30 PM - County Parks and Recreation Meeting on September 21st at 6:00 PM	
		The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)	

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

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KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

G	L	R
8	5	2
O		N
3		7
I	G	W
6	1	4

GROWLING

CryptoQuip

answer

Automobile fuel pumped at a station on an official line between two countries: border petrol.

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Grain; 2. Matron
3. Tense; 4. Maiden

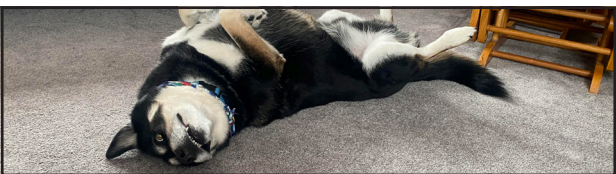
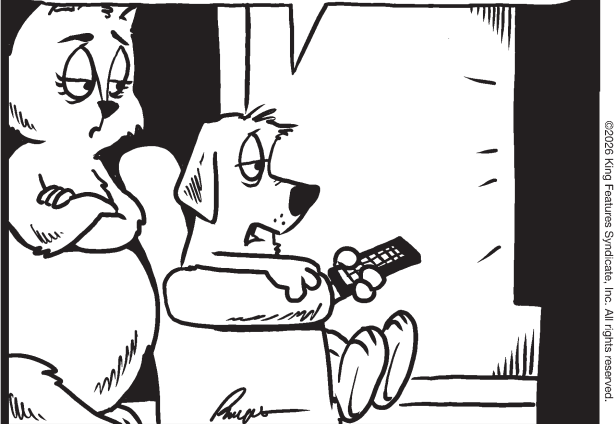
Today's Word

SNORING

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, DON'T JUDGE. I'M ONLY WATCHING THIS BECAUSE THE BATTERIES IN THE REMOTE DIED ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.



GRIN and BEAR IT

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"Didn't I warn you not to scrimmage the cheerleaders?"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Glass is larger. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Bow tie is missing. 4. Mug is reversed. 5. Arm is longer. 6. Labeled is missing.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Out on a Limb

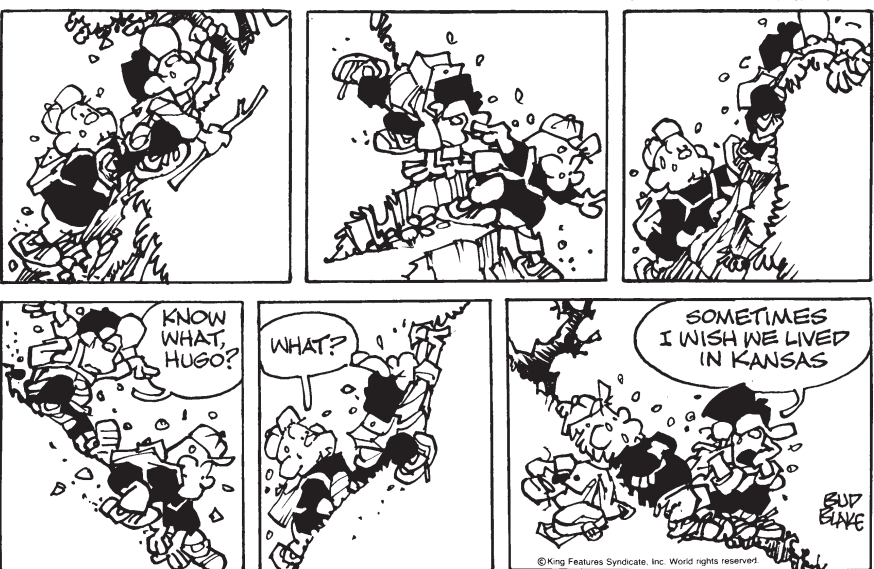
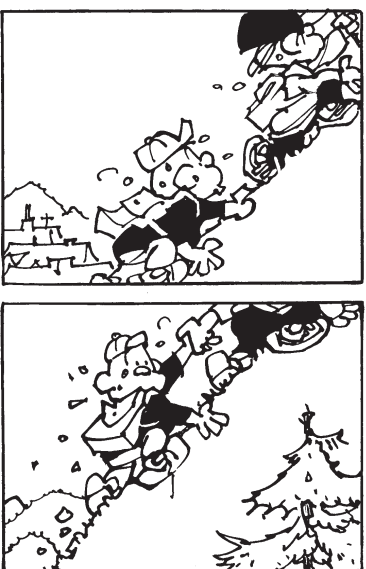
by Gary Kopervas



A GUY GETS A DULL PAIN IN HIS HEAD FROM SNIFFING A SHARPIE

TIGER

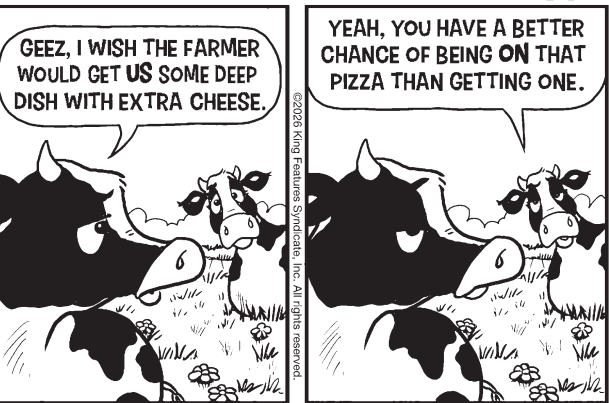
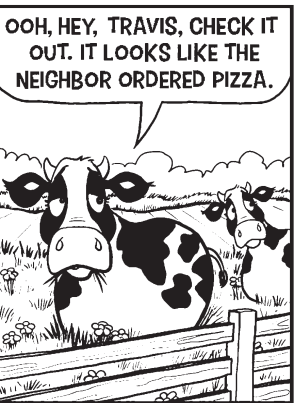
by BUD BLAKE



SOMETIMES I WISH WE LIVED IN KANSAS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



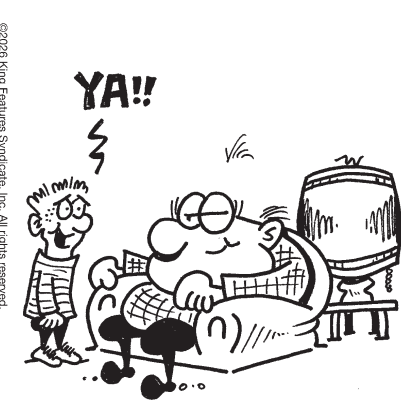
Super Crossword

Answers

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

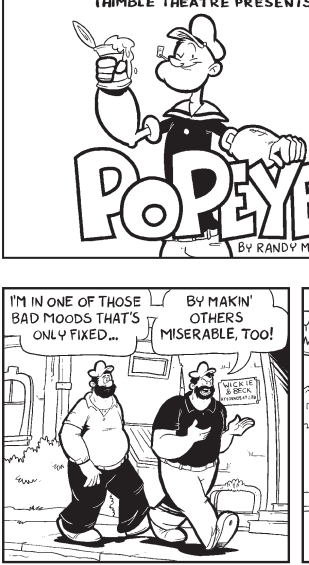
by Jeff Pickering



THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



JUST A WARNIN', BRUTUS. I WOKE UP IN A BAD MOOD. HOW'S THAT DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER MORNING?

GET A JOB AND STOP MOOCHIN' OFF YOUR FOLKS!

NOTHIN' LIKE A FOOT BATH ON A HOT DAY!

WERE YOU DRINKIN' THIS?

OKAY, BRUTUS. LET'S GO FILL IN ALL THE HOLES AT THE GOLF COURSE. BUT FIRST, A SNACK!

TWO DOGS WITH EVERYTHING, PLEASE!

AND A LIL EXTRA FOR THE TIP JAR! THANK YOU!

I DON'T GET IT, BLUTO. YOU'VE BEEN ROTTEN TO EVERYONE ELSE.

WHY BE NICE TO THE HOTDOG GUY?

MY SWEET, NAIVE BROTHER. HERE'S AN IMPORTANT LESSON.

YOU CAN BE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TANGLE WITH MOST PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD.

BUT YOU AIN'T NEVER TOUGH ENOUGH TO MESS WITH THE PERSON PREPARIN' YOUR FOOD.

MT 43 News, Inc.

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Common Sense

BY BILL GARWOOD

There is Something in the Air, and it’s Not Smoke!

As some of our days turn cooler, I notice people walking around town more. Couples who have been together for a long time and have grown together as friends, partners, and spouses. There is something special that is showing in their gazes, and even the way they walk. What is this fantastic sparkling thing? Why, it’s Love!

My wife Linda and I are part of this; we love to walk around Townsend holding hands. It feels like being 16 again. (Quiet, all you young people!) I don’t think we inspired other folks; however, I have noticed many couples lately walking hand in hand too. This is a beautiful thing; it means two people share a closeness and caring that makes us feel happy and loved. With all the negativity in this world, this is incredibly special. No matter your age, seek this out. Find that special someone who makes your heart skip a beat when they just walk into a room.

There doesn’t need to be a special season or organized event. If you have shared several weeks, months, or years with someone, embrace the caring. And truly enjoy each other’s company; these moments are fleeting anymore. Too many times, we let moments pass us by, without even noticing they are gone. A few years ago, there was a commercial on TV - it showed 2 different scenarios. The first was two people, man and woman, walking toward each other, both on their cell phones. The first scene showed them bump into each other, then move around each other and go on their way. Nothing happened. BORING!

The 2nd scene showed them bump into one another; they stopped, and the lady asked where a certain location was. The guy says, “Oh, it’s right down the block; c’mon, I’ll show you.” The scene continues where they share a coffee stop, talking and laughing. It then shows how they really connect, date, and get married. I know, silly - but is it? They connected because they actually looked up from their stupid phones and found the person right in front of them. They became life partners, and they walk around now at an older age, holding hands!

Life is to be lived and loved. I see people, maybe on the Gates of the Mountain cruise, with their phones filming the trip. STOP IT! Look at the beautiful scenery. See it firsthand, not through a camera/phone lens. Look at and talk with folks around you; maybe you might find a kindred spirit.

Live, Laugh, Love. BE! Don’t just exist; be IN your lives. You might just find you are HAPPY; remember that word? Watch as the leaves start to turn, and love every minute of the changing season.

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AI Conference at University of Montana September 1st

Dave Kuntz
University of Montana Marketing and Communication

UM to Host First-of-its-Kind Montana AI Summit – The University of Montana will host the Montana AI Summit, a first-of-its-kind statewide conference on artificial intelligence and its future in Montana, from Tuesday through Wednesday, Sept. 1-2, in the University Center Ballroom. There will also be an optional workshop on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The Montana AI Summit is a free event bringing together University leaders, government officials, technology innovators and other individuals interested in how artificial intelligence is shaping Montana. Attendees can register for the conference online at <https://mtsummit.ai/#schedule>.

Designed for the AI-curious and the skeptical alike, the summit will gather workers, business owners, educators, and community members from across Montana to ask the questions that matter most: What is AI actually doing to jobs, industries, and communities, and what should be done about it?

Day one of the conference, kicking off at 8:30 a.m., will focus on AI’s impact on Montana communities and businesses, including data centers, AI fluency, and workforce impacts.

The second day will start at 9 a.m. and more broadly explore perspectives on AI in government and education, including a student panel on AI’s impact on learning and the future of work and a discussion of AI in K–12 education presented by Montana Digital Academy. Other topics will include data sovereignty, responsible AI, and institutional AI readiness.

The optional third day will allow attendees to go deeper with hands-on workshops. Laptops are available for those who need one. This segment will take place starting at 9:15 a.m. in UM’s James E. Todd Building.

A full conference schedule is available on the **Montana AI Summit website**.

“Montana’s industries are already being shaped by AI, and the people who understand Montana's economy best are Montanans,” said Zach Rossmiller, chief information officer and associate vice president for Information Technology at UM. “Whether you’re a farmer in eastern Montana wondering what this means for your operation, a small business owner in Billings who’s already using these tools and wants to go further, or a skeptic who isn’t convinced any of this applies to you yet, this summit is where that conversation happens.”

The summit will focus on the practical workforce and economic questions that matter to Montana industries. The event is designed for Montana’s workforce at every stage of their relationship with AI, from businesses just beginning to explore these tools to those already using them and looking to go deeper. No prior technical experience is required to attend.

The summit’s organizing team and partner organizations are rooted in Montana business, technology, and education communities, and the programming will reflect the industries, challenges, and opportunities specific to this state. The Montana High Tech Business Alliance, one of the summit’s founding partners, has been a driving force in that effort.

The Montana AI Summit is developed in partnership with Montana High Tech Business Alliance, Craton Consulting, AccelerateMT, Blackfoot Communications, CubCloudAI, and AIFluency.ai. UM Information Technology is the organizing institution.

Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM vice president of marketing and communications, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.

Americanisms



“I let my feet spend as little time on the ground as possible.”
— Jesse Owens

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-Maya Angelou



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AUGUST 11 – SEPTEMBER 30

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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



SR. CENTER MEALS:
AUG 31 - SEPT 4

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

Monday, August 31
Carol’s Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
with Gravy
California Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Plump Peaches

Tuesday, September 1
BBQ Chicken Breast
Wid Rice
Green Beans
Dinner Salad
Blushing Pears

Wednesday, September 2
Beef Tacos
Cheese and Sour Cream
Lettuce and Tomato
Mexican Corn and Beans
Zesty Pineapple

Thursday, September 3
Pork Chops
Steamed Potatoes
Green Peas
Whole Grain Roll
Baked Apples

Friday, September 4
Deli Sandwich
Potato Salad
Pickled Beets
Fruit Cocktail

Weather Forecast
courtesy of open-meteo.com
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER



Friday 28
High Temp: 92
Low Temp: 60
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 29
High Temp: 85
Low Temp: 61
Wind: 20
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 30
High Temp: 85
Low Temp: 52
Wind: 15
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 31
High Temp: 88
Low Temp: 55
Wind: 32
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 1
High Temp: 87
Low Temp: 56
Wind: 18
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 2
High Temp: 85
Low Temp: 55
Wind: 21
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 3
High Temp: 80
Low Temp: 52
Wind: 21
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

OBITUARY

Virginia (Ginger) Ragland Carver

Family of Virginia (Ginger) Ragland Carver

Virginia Ragland Ulrich Carver, affectionately known as "Ginger," went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, surrounded by her loving family. She was 87 years old.

Ginger was born on March 12, 1939, in Fort Benton, Montana, to Sam Benton Ragland and Madeline Fultz Ragland. She attended Fort Benton schools, where she played clarinet in the school band, served as senior editor of the yearbook, and graduated from Fort Benton High School in 1957.

One of her proudest accomplishments was serving as Grand Worthy Advisor for the Montana Rainbow Girls in 1958–1959. She later attended the University of Montana, where she earned a bachelor's degree in History in 1961 and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Following graduation, Ginger married her college classmate, Paul G. Ulrich, and the couple moved to California while Paul attended Stanford Law School. Ginger began her professional career as Assistant Librarian in the Government Documents Division of Stanford University Libraries and later worked as Head Sales Clerk for the Night Department at Macy's. Their daughter, Kathleen, was born in 1963.

In 1965, the family relocated to Phoenix, Arizona, where Paul joined a prominent law firm. Ginger became Head Circulation Librarian for the Extension Division of the Arizona State Department of Library and Archives. Their daughter, Marilee, was born in 1967, followed by their son, Michael, in 1970.

From 1967 to 1980, Ginger devoted herself to raising her family. She was actively involved in her children's activities, her church, and numerous charitable organizations. Following her divorce in 1982, she embraced new opportunities with determination and grace.

In 1980, Ginger and several friends founded Phoenix's first balloon delivery service, Balloons Unlimited. She later held financial positions with New York Life and several banking and brokerage firms.

In 1989, Ginger joined Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, where she built an outstanding career. She retired in 2005 as Assistant Vice President of Investments, Retirement Planning Specialist, and Branch Insurance Coordinator. During her tenure, her office achieved the distinction of ranking No. 1 in the nation for the firm. In 1999, she recruited and mentored her son, Michael, as a financial advisor, and together they established The Ulrich Group at Morgan Stanley, which continues serving clients today. Ginger found great fulfillment in helping clients achieve their financial goals and educating them about investing.

Community service was one of Ginger's greatest passions. She generously shared her time and leadership with organizations that strengthened the community, serving in leadership roles with the Phoenix Women's Club, March of Dimes, WESTMARC, the Salvation Army Advisory Board for the Sun Cities/Northwest Valley,



Virginia (Ginger) Ragland Carver

Photo Provided by Family

and the Kiwanis Club of Sun City West Foundation.

In 2001, Ginger married her high school classmate, Charles K. "Chuck" Carver. Together they enjoyed a wonderful retirement, spending summers in Townsend, Montana, where Ginger loved attending church, participating in women's Bible studies, meeting friends for coffee and tending to their garden.

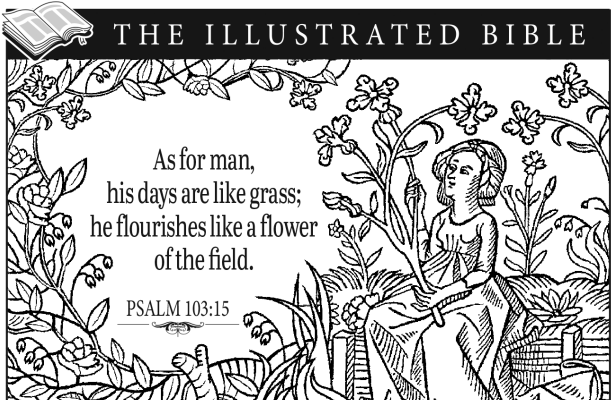
Ginger also enjoyed water aerobics, reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She often joked about "cursing her computer," bringing laughter to those around her. Above all, Ginger cherished her faith and her family. She frequently said that the two most important things in life were faith and family, and she lived by those words every day. She was especially proud of her grandchildren and treasured every opportunity to spend time with them.

Ginger is survived by her devoted husband, Charles K. "Chuck" Carver; her children, Kathleen (Darrell) Pennington of Houston, Texas; Marilee Timbrooks of Surprise, Arizona; and Michael (Carolyn) Ulrich of Phoenix, Arizona; her stepchildren, Lyn Carver of Oxnard, California, and Quinn Carver of Libby, Montana; her grandchildren, Madison and Kendall Pennington, Dylan and Gibson Ulrich, and Calvin Timbrooks; and her step-grandchildren, Tanner and Casey Carver, Cassidy, Thaddeus, and Garrison Timbrooks, and Carl and Casandra Gasperi.

She was preceded in death by her parents, S. Benton and Madeline Ragland, and her brother, Sam B. Ragland Jr.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army Sun Cities/Northwest Corps, the University of Montana Foundation, or a charity of the donor's choice.

In accordance with Ginger's wishes, a graveside memorial service will be held at the Ragland family plot at Riverview Cemetery in Fort Benton, Montana, on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. A reception will immediately follow at noon at Fort Benton First Christian Church, 1201 Main Street, Fort Benton, MT 59442. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

As for man,
his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower
of the field.

PSALM 103:15

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2026 Townsend Rodeo Parade Results

Carla Ahern

Townsend Rodeo Parade Director

Organizer Carla Ahern announced the Townsend Rodeo parade entry results in a release last week. In the horse division, Bozeman Saddle-ites won first place, Paton Kelly won second, and Casadi Morgan won third.

Individual entry winners were Grand Marshall Kathy Toombs and Family. Second was the Cliff Cox entry. Jim Beck won the antiques division. Commercial float winners were Rauser Durocs, first; D-Waters, second; and Lane Construction, third.

Best political organization was Leona for Treasurer entry with Billings Clinic, Broadwater and Townsend Wrestlers second, and the third. The Drill Team Honey Hive Academy was acknowledged as best in that division.

Ahern would like to thank all who participated and who enjoyed watching the parade.



Honey Hive Drill Team performs at Townsend Rodeo Parade August 9. MT43 News Photo



Bozeman Saddle-ites horse drill group. MT43 News Photo



Rauser Durocs float won first place in the commercial division of parade entries. MT43 News Photo

Rifle Season Hunting Camp Extension Applications Available for Little Belt Mountains

Chiara Cipriano

USFS



The Belt Creek–White Sulphur Springs Ranger District of the Helena–Lewis and Clark National Forest will accept applications for 13 extended hunting camp permits this fall. Permits are available for five camps in Nugget Creek, five in Geis Creek, and three in Deadman.

These extended-stay permits allow hunters to stay beyond the standard 16-day occupancy limit. Permits apply only during the general rifle season, which runs from Oct. 24 through Nov. 29, 2026.

Applications will be authorized on a first-come, first-served basis until all 13 permits have been issued. The Belt Creek–White Sulphur Springs Ranger District will accept applications from Sept. 1 through Sept. 15, 2026. To be considered, applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Application packets and further information can be obtained by contacting Kim Stucker at 406-236-5111. Interested individuals should complete an application form and mail or deliver it to:

Belt Creek Ranger District, 4234 US Highway 89, Neihart, MT 59465

Historic Canton Church Presents Linda Huth, Broadwater County Museum Curator

Victor Sample



Canton Church Photo Credits: Canton Church

The final 2026 Canton Church

Summer Event will be August 28, 2026. The Historic Church will host Linda Huth, Broadwater County Museum Curator.

Linda is a lifelong Broadwater County resident; born and raised here in Broadwater County has made Linda an excellent Museum Curator and an excellent source for Broadwater County History.

Linda Huth will be giving a talk about a few different topics, including the history of the museum, a story about Robin C. Pennington, who perished in an airplane crash during WWII, and a few interesting tidbits from Broadwater County's history.

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



Linda Huth at the Broadwater County Museum Photo Provided by Linda Huth

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.

Townsend Roots Musical Artists to Perform Sept. 3

Townsend Roots

Three local artists will perform Thursday, Sept. 3, at The Lodge, 131 So. Spruce, at 7:00 p.m. The Townsend Roots event will feature Scout Lynde, Claire Amundson and Sarah Frazier. All are from the Townsend area. The event is co-hosted with Broadwater Community Theater.

Scout Lynde believes music is for everyone; it requires nothing from an audience to be enjoyed. As a singer/songwriter, Scout enjoys telling stories about the human experience through her art. She writes and composes music using guitar and ukulele to create songs with an alternative folk sound. The content of Scout’s lyrics highlights the strange and beautiful experience of “being human”, and largely focuses on connection, resilience, and the relationships she treasures.

Claire Amundson grew up playing music with her friends and family. She is so excited to be playing in her hometown after recent time spent internationally. Claire began playing guitar at 14 and has been writing music ever since. Her music has notable folk, indie, punk, and alternative influences.

Nate H. Wolf of Modest Music Festival in Moscow, Idaho, explains Sarah Frazier’s music this way: “Sarah Frazier’s unique brand of electronic music is composed of ethereal and melodic vocals, layers of looped instruments, and undeniable pop sensibilities. Her music feels like a journey with songs that swell only to fall away



again. Her performance was absolutely breathtaking to watch.”

Sarah performs under the name ‘Queenager’. She is an established performer in Bozeman and Missoula regions.

Other artists who will perform are Laura Frazier, Hannah Frazier, and Mike Sander.

Light finger food and beverages will be available. For more information, please check bctmt.org.

“Last Call Band” Fills the Canton Church



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

Victor Sample
Canton Church

On August 21, 2026, the Last Call Band performed to a full house at the Canton Church. Over 60 people attended the event!

The “Last Call Band” may not sound familiar to everyone, but the faces in the band are familiar in the community and to many in attendance. Joan and Tom Eliel were joined by Joan’s brothers John and Jim Anderson and a long-time friend, Darryl Naugle, who travelled from Boise to perform.

Tom Eliel, John Anderson, Jim Anderson and Darryl Naugle met while in college and formed a band named the “Badland Boothill Band”. The band played all over southwest Montana during the 1970s and 1980s.

Later, Jim and John joined with Steve Wilcox to form “The Ruby Valley Boys”. When violinist Barb Peason joined the band, they changed the name to “The Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire”.

Joan and Tom Eliel and family have been great friends of the Canton Church. They have performed at the Canton Church many times over the years. One year, John Anderson joined the Eliel Family band at the Canton Church. On learning that John was a member of the Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire, the Canton Church (mostly Pam Sample) set out to get them to play at the Canton Church and pestered John until he finally agreed. The band filled the Canton Church – everyone loved the band – and band became familiar performers at the Canton Church.

After the loss of band member Steve Wilcox, the band broke up. However, this year the old Badland Boothill Band reformed with the addition of Joan Eliel and called themselves the “Last Call Band”.

The band performed classic country music combined with songs written by Darryl Naugle and a song written by Jim Anderson. The performance concluded with “God Bless America” and a standing ovation.

The Canton Church looks forward to many more performances by the “Last Call Band”.

August 27

1903

Local News

Fick McCormick’s prayer, when he prayed for cooler weather, was answered.

J.G. Blessing and wife, accompanied by Phil Gehrett returned from the Springs Tuesday. Messrs. Blessing and Gehrett started hauling rock for the foundation of the new Star building Wednesday.

Thos. Cotter, the Canton farmer, was in town Tuesday.

Tim Leary and family who have been huckleberrying in the mountains north of Deep Creek, returned this week.

Guy Dean and family returned from the old Dead-mond sawmill Tuesday where they had been berrying.

Lan Allen started to drive the well on the premises of the new Star building Wednesday afternoon. The only reason it was not finished then and there was that too much power on the hammer split the pipe.

The social dance given by the young men of Townsend last Friday night was an enjoyable affair in every particular.

1925

Entertain at Ranch Home

Mrs. J.D. Doggett entertained on Sunday at a sumptuous dinner at the Doggett home ranch, when all the good things relative to a garden and fat young poultry were brought into evidence on the table, prepared “fit for a King”. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ward, Miss Ruth Davidson, Miss Mildred Hale, James Kearns, Roger Flemming,

a college friend of Howard Doggett’s and Howard Doggett were the lucky guests.

Ragen ’String Taken to Helena to Enter Big Race Meet at State Fair

The Ragen Brothers’ string of famous racehorses were shipped to Helena on Tuesday evening, where they will be entered in the races during State Fair week. Ed Ragen accompanied the horses, Blazer and Bachelor Maid and Boob, now owned by Mrs. Olcott; she is going with the string also.

This year’s races promise to be interesting as Par Mutuals will be sold on the races and the best in the land will contest. Ragens have some fine horses and when the gong sounds, either Blazer or Bachelor Maid or Boob will no doubt be neck and neck as winners.

Hurrah for “Fair Like We Used to Have”.

1953

Local News

Airman third class Gerald L. Holling, stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, graduated the 19th of August at Parks Air Force Base, California, according to a message to friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. Scotchy Graham and children of Billings visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Welch and family last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Simons and Fred Fletcher returned the end of the week from a visit in Bismark and other points in North Dakota.

Gene, Helen, and Mary Connors spent the weekend in West Yellowstone meeting some friends from Utah for the stay there.

Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Reiber and daughters are here

visiting in the home of Mrs. Reiber’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holloway and her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Huth. Enroute here from their home in Westminster, Colorado, they stopped in Powderville for a visit with Mrs. Reiber’s sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson.

Mrs. Anna Moudree and granddaughter, Lind Moudree, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Moudree, are visiting for a few weeks in Alameda and Glendale, Calif., with Mr. and Mrs. C. Greaves and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Hawn. Mrs. Greaves and Mrs. Hawn are daughters of Mrs. Moudree.

1970

Radersburg News

Miss Karen Wambolt of east of Townsend spent several days last week with Miss Barbara Harris.

Mrs. Tim Hysell and children spent the weekend in Sheridan with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wright and family.

Mrs. George Harris and Barbara and Miss Karen Wambolt visited in White Hall with Mr. and Mrs. James Allen.

Helena callers this week included Mr. and Mrs. Art Sitton, Mrs. Dove Broderick, and Mrs. and Mrs. Ronald White, Mrs. A.D. Grandchamp, Mrs. Mary Grandchamp and Jane Williams and daughter, Dawn.

Bozeman business callers this week included Mrs. W.D. Williams, Mrs. Dan Williams and Kathy, Mrs. Rudy Puttin and Mrs. Martha Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ralls returned Saturday from a weeks visit in Petersham, Mass., with Mrs. Ralls’ mother, Mrs. Ewing and other relatives.



The reason I go is simple...

MORE POWER!

SEPTEMBER 4-5

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY SALE!



Historic Townsend Hardware
204 BROADWAY • PROUDLY SERVING TOWNSEND SINCE 1953

Noxious Weed of the Month: *Hoary Alyssum*

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Often confused with pen-nycress or falseflax, Hoary Alyssum has been increasing in Broadwater County in recent years.



Hoary Alyssum
Photo Credit: Matt Lavin

Description & Habitat:

Hoary Alyssum is believed to have come to North America in contaminated clover and alfalfa seed. It was first documented in Montana in 1905 in Gallatin County and can now be found throughout most of the state. Hoary Alyssum prefers sandy soil and thrives in dry and disturbed ground. It can be found along roadsides, gravelly streams, in lawns, and vacant lots. It can also be found in pastures and hayfields. Once established, light is more important for growth and reproduction than water which gives it a competitive advantage over other plants.

As a member of the mustard family, Hoary Alyssum has a deep taproot. Leaves are lance shaped. Stems are erect to semi-erect, growing 7 to 30 inches tall and are

usually branched at the top. The plant produces small white flowers that can bloom from early spring to late fall. It has a distinct translucent seedpod that contains 4 to 12 small seeds. Hoary Alyssum normally reproduces as an annual, but if it establishes late in the summer, it can reproduce as a winter annual or biennial. It only reproduces by seed.

Hoary Alyssum can decrease forage quality for livestock and wildlife. However, more importantly, it is toxic to horses in green forage and hay. In hay fields, contamination of 30% or more results in forage or hay that is toxic to horses. It can remain toxic in hay for up to nine months.

Management

Human activity is the primary spreader of seeds. Do not drive or walk in areas that are heavily infested if possible. Research has shown that seeds can travel over 160 miles on a vehicle in dry conditions. Wash vehicles, ATVs and any equipment before going home.

For this plant, reducing or stopping seed production will slow the population and spread. Hand pulling can be effective, but unless you get the root crown it will regrow, so pulling may need to be repeated. Mowing alone will not control hoary alyssum as it can regrow. However, repeated mowing can reduce seed production. There are currently no biological control options available.

There are only a few herbicides labeled for hoary alyssum. Commonly used chemicals include 2,4-D, Chaparral, Escort, Telar, and Opensight. Spring applications are most effective, but research has shown that any application prior to seed set will reduce seed production. Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicides. Common chemical names are used for clarity but does not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

For assistance on weed identification and control, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or the Broadwater County Weed District at 406-266-9243. The Weed District has a cost-share program to help control noxious weeds on private property.

Chamber Receives Update from Broadwater Trails Committee

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Carol Hatfield, member of the Parks & Recreation Board and Broadwater Trails Committee, spoke August 20 at Chamber members’ morning meeting at Memorial Park.

Hatfield explained the long- term plan for the 2 parcels of land near Connor’s Field that the county granted to the Parks and Recreation Board. Committee members led a May cleanup with volunteers and now have some ground renovation to do near the former original site of the county retirement home on Centerville Lane. She elaborated that the group plans to sign an MOU with Townsend Rotary to pursue grant money from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to build parks in the Canton Lane and Centerville Lane parcels. In a separate endeavor, the committee is working with Broadwater Community Development Corporation (BCDC) members to apply for a Montana Dept. of Transportation MDOT transportation (CETP) grant to build a trail from the Fairgrounds to town.

In other business, the Chamber finalized Shakespeare in the Parks event Sept. 6 at Heritage Park. Several nonprofits and individuals have donated to cover the \$1,800 cost of hosting the group in Townsend. The event, beginning at 5:00 p.m., is free to the public.

Beginning next year, Broadwater Community Theater will be hosting Shakespeare in the Parks. Chamber board members agreed to transfer the event to BCT.

A membership drive for the Chamber starts this month. Members will be around encouraging local businesses to join the organization.

All businesses are encouraged to attend Chamber meetings. The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 15 at 8:30 a.m. at the Mint.

