MT 43 News
Broadwater County and East Helena
Local People. Local Stories.

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Volume 5, Issue No. 12 September 25, 2026 $2.00

Candidates for Office Well Received by Voters at Forum



Candidates received their questions in advance to allow them to prepare their answers. From left: Symantha Deans, Jane Gillette, Sheila Stenzel and Debi Randolph. Joy Novota Photo



Candidates quietly rehearsing their answers. From left: Angie Paulsen, Leona Nelson, Kevin Bratcher, Jamie Buck for Sheriff Mark Wood, Tim Ravndal, Luis Espinoza and Moderator Mark Irvin. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



Ten of the 11 candidates for Broadwater County offices and Legislative District # 77 had a chance to introduce themselves and answer prepared questions for about 65 voters Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Community Room.

Moderator Mark Irvin questioned each set of candidates for Commissioner, Sheriff-Coroner, and Treasurer-Superintendent of Schools. Candidate Mark Wood for Sheriff was out of town, so Undersheriff Jamie Buck did an admirable job representing Wood.

Some of the questions included how Commissioner candidates Debi Randolph and Tim Ravndal would balance the needs of agriculture with the need for continued residential growth and how would the candidate, if elected, reduce solid waste costs and increase service. When questioned about more public safety coverage in South Broadwater, Buck, on Sheriff Wood's behalf, introduced the new South Broadwater County Deputy, Nate Oswell, who was hired in June of this year and lives in the area. Candidate Luis Espinoza emphasized the need for increased patrol in South Broadwater and the need for balancing the department's budget.



Voters listened intently as moderator Mark Irvin asked questions of the candidates running for county offices and District # 77 legislator Jane Gillette. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Candidates for Treasurer-Superintendent of Schools Symantha Deans, Sheila Stenzel, and Leona Nelson explained their version of how the office will improve its accounting and accuracy. All three candidates expressed their desire to have the office open during noon hours for customers' convenience.

Four of the 11 candidates were incumbents who were running unopposed for their offices: County Attorney Kevin Bratcher, Clerk and Recorder-Elections Administrator-Surveyor Angie Paulsen, and Legislative District #77 legislator Jane Gillette. They each, in turn, answered questions about high quality of legal representation in the county, free and fair elections, and how to motivate election workers. Gillette was tasked with answering questions about lowering property taxes and increasing available housing. Justice of the Peace Kirk Flynn was not present.

Broadwater County Democratic Central Committee and Tri-County Republican Women's Club sponsored the forum. Janet Wagner was the timekeeper.

Broadwater County Search and Rescue

Matt Nelson





Broadwater County Search and Rescue members display the Found in Montana Bandana. L-R Brett Poe, Jessica Crusch, Eric Crusch, Megan Poe, Steve Wyatt Cassie Cooper, and Mike Speedy. Matt Nelson Photo

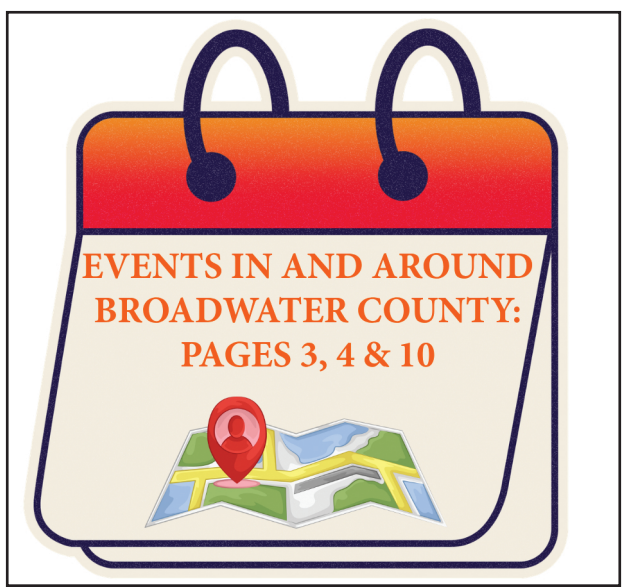
Broadwater County Search and Rescue (BCSAR) team has developed a "Found in Montana Bandana" that is also called a Survival Hanky. It provides information for people enjoying the great outdoors! The bandana is for hunters, hikers, boaters, campers, fishermen, etc. It was developed by BCSAR members, and the layout was done by Jessica Crusch. The C Hangin' C Mercantile printed them.

Some of the information on this Survival Hanky includes items such as Before You Leave, Signaling for Help, Basic Consideration for Shelter, What To Do If Lost in the Woods, Deadly Spider Identification, Boating Considerations, Lightning Safety Protection Rules, Fire Construction Safety Tips, Signaling for Help, Basic Survival Bag Contents, Signs of Heat Exhaustion/ Heat Stroke, Snake Bite Treatment, Snowmobiling and Backcountry Skiing Avalanche Awareness, What to do if your Partner is Caught in an Avalanche, Dehydration Considerations, Horsemanship Considerations, Dressing for the Back County, Water Purification Methods, Signs of Hypothermia, General Ice Thickness Considerations, and more.

Members of the team have a wide background of abilities and talents. The main purpose is to help other people in traumatic situations. The team's motto is "So others may live."

A general meeting for the BCSAR team is held on the last Monday of each month, and training in such items as first aid, water rescue, and search techniques is given on the first Thursday of each month. Both meetings start at 6:30 PM. The BCSAR building is located at the corner of Pine Street and 6th Street.

If you have any questions about the Broadwater County Search and Rescue or would like to volunteer, please call the sheriff's office at 406 266-3441.



Fall Fest Brings Our Community Together

Connie Myles
Townsend Rotary Club

Fall Fest October 2-4, 2026 – at Heritage Park, along S. Pine Street.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Townsend Rotary's Fall Fest is upon us!!

You are invited to join us at Heritage Park October 2-4 for an amazing weekend! We're really excited to see you; to celebrate together as summer is easing away and the smell of fall leaves is in the air. Now that you've worked hard all summer, take a moment to enjoy time with your friends and community. Peruse vendors along S. Pine Street and stop by for that famous Townsend Rotary brat. Enjoy a fun-filled weekend of friendship, community, and enjoying Fall. You can get some early shopping done for the holidays, listen to some amazing music, and hang out with friends. Don't forget to stroll down Broadway on Sunday for the Car Show.

There are over 120 vendors this year, including favorite vendors returning and some new ones who will have a variety of hand-crafted items. These vendors are a mix of creative locals and vendors from all over Montana and even surrounding states. Because of your support, many vendors return each year and enjoy Fall Fest as much as our community does.

Fall Fest vendors support the local economy as well as pay to display and sell their work. This allows us to give multiple student scholarships, send students to leadership camps, and support many other community projects. Some of the things to watch for this year are:

- Artwork and Photographs
- Yard art
- Vintage clothing, knit hats, Alpaca socks, and blankets
- Purses and handbags
- Jewelry
- Candles, tumblers, lotions, puzzles, hair accessories
- Children's clothing, books, and games
- Jams, candies, teas
- Face painting, as well as a variety of kids' activities – for all ages.

To keep you energized so you can enjoy all of the shopping, dancing to amazing live bands, and socializing, not only do we have Rotary's world-famous brats, but we also have food vendors offering Acai bowls, Chinese and international foods, pizza, wings, hot dogs, BBQ, crepes, corn-on-the-cob, soft-serve ice cream, cotton candy, and so much more!

Hope to see you there . . .

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





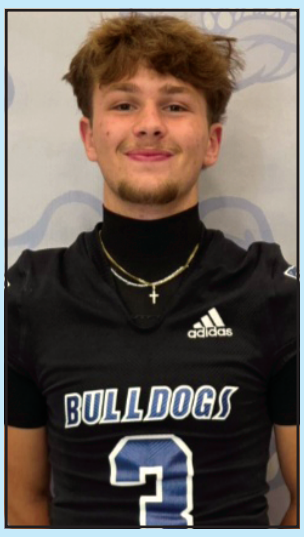
Cross Country- Gavin Johnson
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Cross Country- Kay Crusch
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Cheer- Ana Reinke
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Football- Tavyn Anderson
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Volleyball- Louie Parr
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Let's Go Bulldogs!

Bulldog Volleyball Teams Play During a Busy Week



Varsity Volleyball team at Huntley Project. From left top row: Coach Aliece Estrada, Megan Bleile, Tana Williams, Hailey Hildreth, Sophia Lamb, Bryleigh Erickson, Tevyn Newman, Savannah Paulsen, Louie Parr, Kymber McCartney. Bottom Row: Kinsley Heggen, Claire Swanson, Jazel Ragen, Coach Cayla Rueb. Photo Provided

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter



Bulldog Volleyball Sweeps Lone Peak

On Tuesday, September 15th, the Lone Peak Bighorns traveled to Townsend to play the Lady Bulldogs Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. Lone Peak had just come from a conference loss, while the Bulldogs were 2-1 with wins against Three Forks and Ennis and a loss against Jefferson.

The Bulldogs won the Junior Varsity match 25-7, 25-2, and 15-8. Josie Begger tallied 2 assists, 3 kills, and 4 aces to help the win. Kymber McCartney led the team in assists, with 6, and had 5 aces. Tana Williams led the team with 7 aces and had 2 kills.

The Varsity team won their match 25-13, 25-12, and 25-7. Tevyn Newman had 17 assists and 11 digs. Sophia Lamb had 2 blocks and 9 kills. Louie Parr served 4 aces and had 5 kills. Savannah Paulsen had 11 digs and 8 aces. Jazel Ragen had 1 block and 5 kills. Bryleigh Erickson had 9 kills and 8 assists.



Brycynn Harvey serves an ace in the Junior Varsity win against Manhattan. Bryleigh Erickson, BHS Sports Photographer

Bulldog Volleyball Travels to Manhattan

The Bulldogs Volleyball teams traveled to Manhattan Thursday, September 17th. The Bulldogs were coming off a conference win against Lone Peak and were hoping to continue the trend.

The Bulldogs lost their C squad matchup in three sets. The first set was 14-25, then 15-25, and 4-15 in the third set. Tana Williams led the Bulldogs in digs, tallying 6. Josie Begger had 4 assists, 3 digs, and 1 kill. Brycynn Harvey and Jackie Marcille each had 2 kills.

The Junior Varsity team won their game in four sets. They won the first set 27-25 and the second 25-13. They lost the third set 14-16 and won the last set 15-12. Josie Begger added 11 assists, 8 digs, and one block. Tana Williams contributed 18 digs and 3 aces. Kymber McCartney had 6 assists, 9 digs, and 2 aces. Ava Tiffany had 5 kills and 4 digs. Claire Swanson tallied 6 digs, 6 kills, and one ace.

The Varsity game was a tight match, but the Bulldogs fell in four sets to the Tigers. They lost the first set 23-25 and the second set 23-25. Then, they won the third set 25-22 and lost the fourth 17-25. Tevyn Newman had 19 assists, 16 digs, 4 kills, and 2 aces. Jazel Ragen led the team in digs with 18 and had 4 aces. Bryleigh Erickson had 9 digs and 20 Travel to Huntley Tournament kills. Louie Parr contributed 16 digs and 3 aces.

Bulldogs Varsity Volleyball Plays in Huntley Project

On Saturday, September 19th, the Bulldogs Varsity volleyball team traveled to Huntley Project to play in a tournament. Fourteen teams participated. The Bulldogs finished the day winning the Silver Bracket.

The day started with pool play to determine which bracket the team would be placed. The Bulldogs won their first game against Lame Deer. They lost their next game against Custer, 16-20 and 14-20. They played Columbus and won both sets 20-17 and 20-18. They split with Baker, winning the first set 20-18 and falling short the next, 10-20.

The Bulldogs ended in the Silver Bracket, where they first played Joliet. They ended up beating Joliet 25-12, 21-25, and 15-10 in the third set. Following that match, the Bulldogs played the Three Forks Wolves in the championship match. They ended up winning over the Wolves, 25-20 and 25-16.

The Bulldogs will play the Manhattan Tigers at home on September 24th for their Homecoming game.

Cross Country:
Mountain West Classic

MT43 News Sports Reporter

The Mountain West Classic held on the University of Montana Golf Course is one of the premier cross-country races in the Northwest United States. Saturday, September 19th, was a beautiful day for running as over 2500 runners from across Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington, representing more than 100 schools, lined up for their races. This course is moderate in difficulty with gradual inclines and declines and one giant hill that challenges every runner's grit.

The Junior Varsity race for the ladies was up first with 366 runners toeing the line together. Four of our Lady Bulldogs logged their personal best times and another their season's best. Freshman Kathryn Six finished 33rd in 23:10PB, and sophomore Kay Crusch was 63rd in 23:57PB. The rest of the team finished as follows: 130 Alexis Fryer (25:28), 142 Kensley Sangray (25:46), 148 Addy Mosher (25:53), 179 Lydia Brakefield (26:31PB), 185 Sarah Morgan (26:36PB), and 247 Shalyn Sentinella (28:10SB). The ladies were 12th out of the 27 teams with enough runners to score collectively.

The largest race of the day, totaling 589 harriers in the men's JV, saw our Bulldogs taking 33rd place with 913 points. Junior Gavin Johnson led the way, placing 204th in 20:59, with junior Urijah Duede in 276th with 21:40SB. Rounding out the team were: 284 Isaiah Lapsley (21:45), 326 Luke Tullos (22:15), 329 Mason Johnson (22:19), 389 Everett Kirksey (23:00), 483 Trey Coker (25:13SB), 505 Cooper Nichter (25:37PB), 513 Declan Toney (25:50PB), and 534 Isaiah Sparks-Lowry (26:54PB).

The Bulldogs did not have enough runners in either Varsity race to score as a team, but our top runners were certainly competitive individually. Senior Dallas Fligge crossed the line in 90th place out of 461 Varsity Men in his new personal best time of 17:38PB. Sophomore Clayton Rice cut more than a minute off his time from last year's meet to finish 259th in 19:18. Senior Kyla Meissner, in her return from an injury, placed 33rd in 19:50, while junior Elaine MacDonald was 177th place out of 421 Varsity Ladies with a time of 22:34.

The Bulldogs will run their homecoming race on Thursday afternoon, September 24th, at the Butte High Invitational located at the Highland View Golf Course. They follow that with what is usually their fastest course of the season on Friday, October 2nd, at Headwaters Public Golf Course in Three Forks. Hope to see you there on Friday morning: the JV race is at 10:00, the Varsity race is at 10:45, and the junior high race is at 11:30.



Freshman Kathryn Six logs her personal best time on a difficult course in Missoula. MT43 News Photo



Junior Urijah Duede erased 1:30 from his time last season at the Mountain West Classic MT43 News Photo



Middle School (littles) join their High School (bigs) for the second time this season, running a shorter version of the same course MT43 News Photo

TOWNSEND WELCOMES ALL VISITORS TO FALL FEST!

BROADWATER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL

PANCAKE Breakfast



Join us for all you can eat pancakes, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and juice.

Sat. October 3 & Sun. October 4
7 am - 11 am

at the Townsend Firehall, 130 S Cedar

Fall Fest Volunteers Needed

Rotary Club of Townsend is hosting Fall Fest on October 2-4. **Volunteers are needed to help make this event successful.** If you are interested in helping, scan the Volunteer SignUp QR Code below and register through our SignUp Genius account. Or you can contact Jeff Langlinais (406) 530-5251 or Diane Brown (browndlz@gmail.com) for assistance. Just a few hours can make a difference.

The Rotary Club of Townsend has one fundraiser a year, which helps us support local organizations and activities throughout the year.

Volunteer SignUp

Fall Fest Schedule

Stop by the Broadwater Food Pantry Booth at Fall Fest.



Please bring non-perishable food items to fill our donation bin.
Cash donation will be matched by Town Pump.
Raffle: for a chance to win one of two $50 Gas cards

ROTARY FOOD & BEER

4:00 – 9:00	Friday
10:00 – 9:00	Saturday
10:00 – 5:00	Sunday

FALL FEST VENDORS

10:00 – 6:00	Saturday
10:00 – 5:00	Sunday

TOWNSEND ROTARY FALL FEST 2026 SCHEDULE

at Heritage Park

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

5:00 – 7:00	♫ Am I Ok? ♫
7:30 – 10:00	♫ Scotty Mac & the Nugs ♫

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00 – 11:00	Fireman's Breakfast – Townsend Fire Station
10:00 – 11:30	♫ Tyler Potter & The Last Minute Surprise ♫
12:00 – 2:00	♫ Chris Bohenek ♫
2:00 – 2:30	Stein Hoisting Contest
2:30 – 4:30	♫ Insufficient Funds ♫
4:30 – 5:00	Keg Tapping
5:00 – 7:00	♫ The Longhorn Band ♫
7:30 – 10:00	♫ The Max ♫

No Pets Allowed

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:00 – 11:00	Car Show Registration – On Broadway St
7:00 – 11:00	Fireman's Breakfast – Townsend Fire Station
9:00 – 10:00	Worship
9:30 – 4:00	Car Show DJ – On Broadway St
10:00 – 4:00	"Classic Revival" Car Show
10:30 – 12:00	♫ John Dendy & The Delta T ♫
12:30 – 2:30	♫ Justin Case Band ♫
3:00 – 3:30	Chicken Poo Bingo (at Broadway & S. Pine)
3:00 – 5:30	♫ Copper Mountain Band ♫
4:00 – 4:30	Awards for Car Show – On Broadway Street

The Rotary Club of Townsend thanks our many generous sponsors, the City of Townsend, City Council, City Office and the City Crew. Without your cooperation and support, this event would not be possible.

www.TownsendRotary.org — Rotary Club of Townsend, MT — www.TownsendFallFest.com

Billings Clinic
Broadwater

Come visit us at Fall Fest



billingsclinic.com/broadwater

PRECISION BUSINESS RESOURCES
ACCOUNTING | BUSINESS MANAGEMENT | TAXES

Local People Real Support

GRAND Reopening

4 YEARS IN OUR TOWNSEND OFFICE
and Newly Remodeled!

JOIN US
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
FROM 11 - 4 PM

See the Precision Business Resources Team and check out the newly remodeled office while celebrating 4 years serving the Townsend community!

MEET OUR TEAM | TOUR THE NEW OFFICE | REFRESHMENTS | CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Same Trusted Team. A Fresh New Look. Still Here for You.

TOWNSEND, MONTANA

MUSTANG MOTEL + LASSO LATTE
412 N. FRONT STREET • TOWNSEND, MT





Mustang Motel

STAY AWHILE • SIP AWHILE

LASSO LATTE Est 2026

Keep your Home in the Comfort Zone!

Is your furnace ready for the season?
Call us for a preseason clean & tune to make sure it doesn't fumble at game time!

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Email-ONLY (PDF):	$50

Subscriptions good for 1 year

27th Annual Last Chance Community Pow Wow — "Honor the Children"
September 25–27, 2026

Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds — Helena

Admission: ***FREE*** *and open to the public*
Grand Entries:
Friday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — Noon & 6:00 PM
Sunday — Noon
Host Drum: DB Express
Dance Competitions: Youth and adult categories, plus Tiny Tots specials
Princess Contests: Lil Miss (6 & under), Jr. Miss (7–12), Miss (13–17)
Vendors: Arts, crafts, and food available all weekend
Environment: Alcohol and drug-free, family-oriented

Townsend School & Sports

SEPTEMBER

Friday 25
- **SCHOOL IN SESSION**
- 7:00 pm: High School Football vs. Three Forks (Homecoming)

Sat 26 - Mon 28
- FCCLA Leadership Rally @ Billings

Monday 28
- College/Career Fair (BHS Juniors)
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Football at Three Forks
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Volleyball at Ennis
- 6:00 pm: JV Football at Three Forks

Tuesday 29
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Volleyball vs Belgrade

Wednesday 30
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Basketball, Pickleball, Laps

OCTOBER

Thursday 1
- 1st Day of High School Speech and Drama Practice
- 4:30 pm: High School Volleyball at Whitehall
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Library Book Club

Friday 2
- **NO SCHOOL**
- Middle School/High School Cross Country at Three Forks
- 5:00 pm: Townsend Rotary Fall Fest
- 7:00 pm: High School Football at Boulder

Saturday 3
- High School Volleyball at Jefferson Tournament

East Helena Schools & Sports

SEPTEMBER

Friday 25
- Football at Park
- Golf Divisionals at Fox Ridge

Saturday 26
- Cross Country at Dillon
- Volleyball vs Billings
- Soccer at Billings

Monday 28
- **EARLY RELEASE: 12:30 pm**
- EVMS Volleyball vs Dillon

Tuesday 29
- EVMS Volleyball vs Butte
- Soccer at Lone Peak
- Flag Football at Hamilton

OCTOBER

Thursday 1
- EVMS Volleyball at Boulder
- Golf at State
- Volleyball vs Laurel

Friday 2
- Soccer at Park
- Varsity Football vs Laurel
- Frosh vs Laurel

Saturday 3
- Volleyball vs Havre
- EHHS Showcase of Bands at MSU

Broadwater County Government Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 29
- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 30
- 10:00 am: Commissioners Meeting

East Helena Library Hours

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager



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

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

SEPTEMBER
No September Storytimes
- SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 29
- 2:00 pm: DPHHS staff presents information on maintaining cyber security

Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Now - Nov 30
- Town Pump Donation Match for Food Pantry ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***

Friday 25
- 11:30 am: Red Cross Blood Drive at American Legion Club
- 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 25 - Sun 27
- Last Chance Community Pow Wow at Helena Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***

Sunday 27
- 3:00 pm: Celebration of Life for Dustin Larson at American Legion ***SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 11***

Saturday 26
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Tuesday 29
- 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 30
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: Canton Church Restoration Meeting at The Bridge ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***

OCTOBER

Thursday 1
- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 2
- 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: 2026 Townsend Fall Fest at Heritage Park ***SEE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 3***
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Saturday 3
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Sat 3 & Sun 4
- 10:00 am: 2026 Townsend Fall Fest at Heritage Park ***SEE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 3***

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)
October 3, 17 & 31, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Donations of food items are accepted *Fridays October 2, 16 & 30, from 9:00 to 11:00am*

This month donation suggestions: *Coffee, tea, Hamburger Helper, cereal, canned or fresh fruit and vegetables.*

Monetary donation can be mailed to PO Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644.

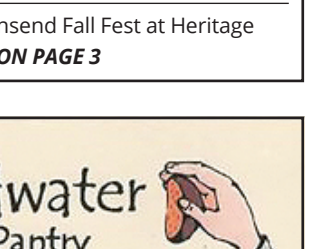
Donation boxes are available at Bob's Market at check stands.

Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from local churches. *October is Faith Baptist Church..*

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

Library Hours

Broadwater School & Community Library



201 N Spruce St, Townsend Photo Provided

Curbside available.
Please call: (406)441-3461
Hours changed as of Mon. Aug. 24, for the school year.

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.

Story Hour

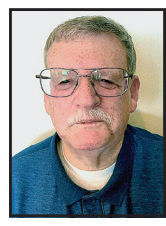
Broadwater School and Community Library
201 N. Spruce, Townsend, Mt
(406) 441-3461
Wednesdays from 10-11 am
Starting September 16th, 2026 - May 12th, 2027
No Story Hour Nov. 25th, Dec. 23rd & 30th
Please join us for fun activities and stories for you and your children .

Classifieds

TURN TO PAGE FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Canton Church Announces Annual Meeting

Vic Sample,
Canton Church Restoration



The Canton Church Restoration Annual Meeting will be held on September 30, 2026, at the Bridge at 5:00 pm.

The meeting is open to the public.

FREE THURSDAY DINNERS!

Join us for a FREE, hot, delicious meal!

HOMEMADE & ALWAYS YUMMY!

Every Thursday, 5:00 - 6:30PM
American Legion Post 42,
211 Broadway, Townsend.
DONATIONS WELCOME & APPRECIATED
to help us support our community.
STOP BY OR CALL 406-266-3611
Hosted by Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: October 21, 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*

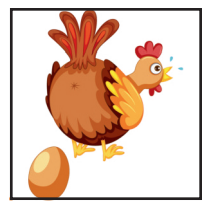
Monthly Chamber Meeting

TOWNSEND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

8:30am Thurs, Oct 22
@ The Mint
All members of the community welcome!

SALES & DONATIONS

YOUNG LAYING HENS FOR SALE



Toston Area
Assorted Varieties $15 Each
406-980-0650 Leave Message

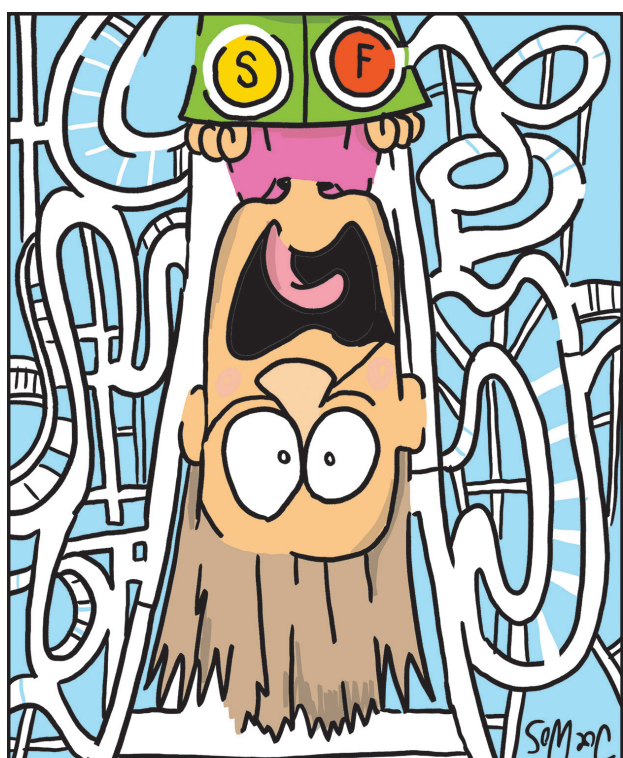
DONATION PRICE MATCH

September 1 - November 30, Town Pump will match any donations to our Broadwater Food Pantry dollar for dollar!

HOW CAN YOU DONATE?

- Drop off at the Food Pantry on Broadway first or third Fridays 9:30- 11:00am or Saturday 9:00- 10:45am.
- Donation boxes at Bob's Supermarket
- Mail in to P.O. Box 1164, Towsend, MT 59644
- Come to our booth at Fall Fest, October 2nd - 4th.





RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

Support LOCAL Businesses

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 10:00AM - 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

Good Ol' Boys Cafe

316 N Front St, Townsend,
(406) 266-0040
Dining Hours:
All Week 6:00AM - 8:00PM

Silos/Canyon Ferry Lake KOA

81 Silos Road
406-266-3100
Dining Hours:
Mon - Thu 7:30AM - 8:00PM
Menu:
Changes Weekly
Breakfast, Soup, Sandwiches to go

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
P – (406)266-3772
C – (406)980-1100

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Townsend, Three Forks and Helena
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lastbestheatingandair.com

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LEYLANDMT.COM

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A THOMPSONGAS COMPANY
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Townsend, MT
406-266-4278
Metered Propane
Budget Billing
Lease Tanks
Service Department

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

MODERN CARPENTRY
Louis Centa
P. O. Box 1347
Townsend, MT 59644
406-570-2228
diamondlouc@gmail.com

MONTANA HYDRAULICS LLC
Fabrication & Machining
406-449-3464
Townsend Shop
DD Custom Flatbeds
Fabrication
Helena Shop
Hoses, Machining
Texcel Distributer

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

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

Hollowtop Heating and Cooling
Office: 406-200-8092
213 1st Ave W, Three Forks
Logan Brandt- Service Manager
logan@hollowtopheatingandcooling.com

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: **E** equals **W**

EFSM V EVGG WGVDRSQ

USGZNSQX NVM DWZGGD V

GJVU UYQZMB QYDF FJYQ, UJ

XJY BSR DRYIIJ ZM RQVTTZI?

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KNIGHT MOVES

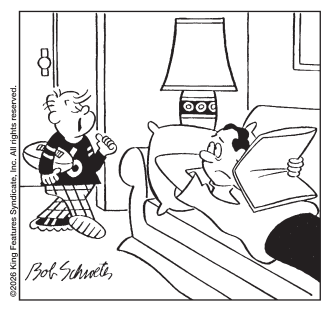
S	B	S
S		E
M	E	O

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

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SCRAMBLERS

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



"The nerve of that guy next door claiming a _ _ _ _ _ _ is worth $200."

Write CRAWLS
Gift WORDE
Idiom LOGIN
Thing TIME

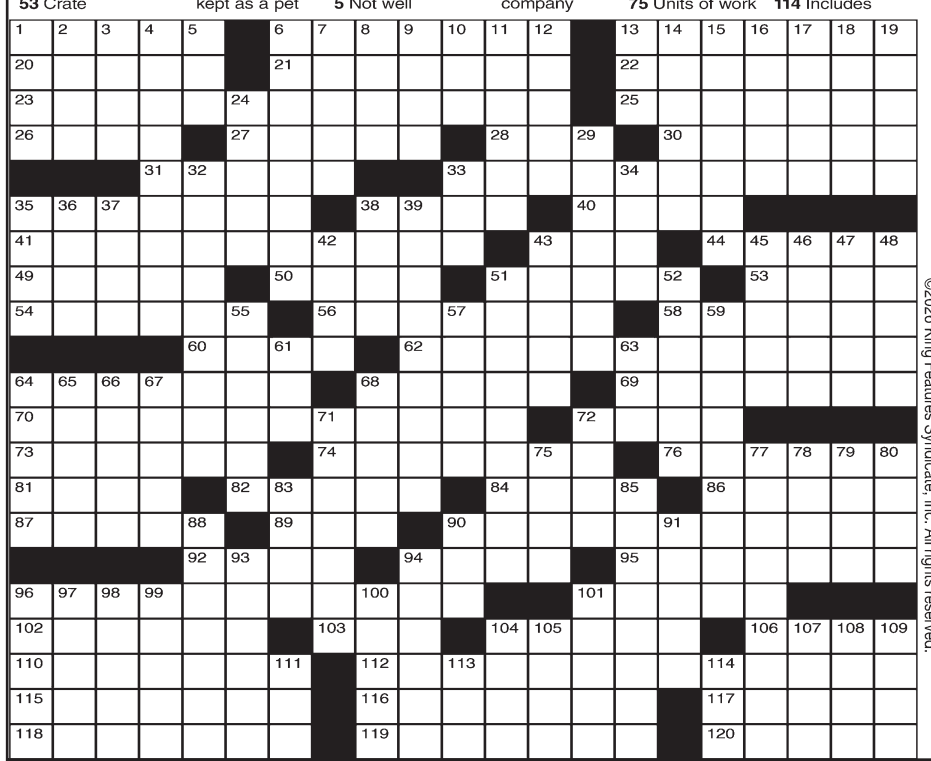
TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

I BELIEVE I CAN FLY

ACROSS
1 Italian resort isle
6 Infantry weapons
13 Villainous sorts
20 Disney's "Little Mermaid"
21 Shoulder ornament
22 Not in favor of
23 Parasitic loafer
25 Examine by touch, as for a physical
26 Former Swedish car
27 Gluten source
28 Genetic ID
30 Man's wig
31 Build
33 Alternative to a blender
35 Gold-medal alpine skier Shiffrin
38 Lowly laborer
40 Ghost sound
41 Supposed realm of existence in the celestial spheres
43 Top of a cup
44 Big rigs
49 Requires
50 Throne, e.g.
51 Pulsate
53 Crate
54 Country singer Willie
56 African nation since 1993
58 Geologic time units
60 Little cut
62 Test run of a new policy
64 Stars and Stripes' home
68 Coin tosses, e.g.
69 Damaged by erosion
70 Pompous reactionary, in Britspeak
72 Giant-screen film format
73 Family on "Dallas"
74 Flax plant grown for its oil
76 Striped jungle cats, in French
81 Pilot
82 Entity
84 Scott in an 1857 court decision
86 Handsome, in Spanish
87 Fiery felony
89 Approx. amount
90 Small possum sometimes kept as a pet
92 Fruity drinks
94 Knock noises
95 Kazakhstan border lake
96 Stream resulting from a high-energy collision of protons
101 Make warped
102 Colorful ring of anatomy
103 Some lawn moisture
104 Transports in a big rig
106 Apple tablet
110 Translates
112 Starts traveling like seven key words in this puzzle
115 Brightest star in Scorpius
116 Knickknack
117 Digression
118 Occupies, as a hotel
119 Gathers
120 Sipping aid

DOWN
1 Zooming requirements, for short
2 Song from 108-Down, e.g.
3 — colada
4 Growths on gingers' chins
5 Not well
6 Breathable, visored headwear items
7 Disturb
8 "Family" actress Thompson
9 Actor Russell
10 "Do Ya" rock gp.
11 Muscle-bone connector
12 Courtroom typist
13 Brief slumber
14 Christie of mystery
15 Western bars
16 Tilt skyward
17 Like extras purchased via the program
18 Lauder of cosmetics
19 Pilot
24 "The Seven Year Itch" actor Tom
29 Navy bigwig
32 Thinking logically
33 Rival
34 Singer Perry
35 "Voices Carry" singer Aimee
36 "Oh, gotcha"
37 "Hooked on ..." record company
38 Jack of old talk TV
39 Authorizing
42 Onion relative
43 Emu relatives
45 GI tract bacterium
46 Central Georgia city
47 "— the Sheriff"
48 Frank formerly of CNN
51 Caught in a lie, e.g.
52 Pound on, as a door
55 Least vicious
57 Pares down
59 Big name in acrylic plastic sheets
61 Ore. neighbor
63 "Kapow!"
64 Fast Amtrak train
65 Grass-cutting machine
66 "The Baker" actor Koteas
67 Sonata section
68 Lighter igniter
71 Became ecstatic, with "out"
72 Notion
75 Units of work
77 Most culpable
78 X-ray units
79 Sword variety
80 Marsh-dwelling rail
83 Foot back
85 Choose by picking slips of paper, say
88 Hammer users, often
90 Fri. follower
91 Mill fodder
93 Vicinity of the U.S. Capitol
94 Apply more heat to
96 Law firm aides, briefly
97 "— we all?"
98 Designer Oscar de la —
99 In current times
100 Volkswagen compact
101 Private pupil
104 Egg sources
105 Queries
107 Twosome
108 Verdi opera
109 Actress Barrymore
111 Old JFK flier
113 Rio carmaker
114 Includes



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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.

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR ANGIE PAULSEN

TO: THE PUBLIC

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to § 13-2-301, MCA, that regular voter registration for the 2026 State and Federal General Election, to be held on November 3, 2026, will close at 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2026.

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

From October 6 through November 3, 2026, late registration will be available. Individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration during this period must submit a completed voter registration form **in person** at their county election office.

Because this is a federal election, late registration will be available at the Broadwater County Elections Office, located at 515 Broadway, Townsend, Montana, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on regular business days; until noon on Monday, November 2, 2026; and on Election Day, November 3, 2026, for individuals who are in line by 8:00 p.m.

For questions, contact the Broadwater County Elections Office at 406-266-3405 or elections@broadwatercountymt.gov.

Dated this 7th day of September 2026.

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

Published September 11, 18 and 25, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
DENNIS JEROME WATSON, Deceased.
Probate No. DP 4-2026-0000026-II

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tawny M. Morse Has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this Notice or their claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Tawny M. Morse, 14 Henwood Drive, Townsend, MT 59644 or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

Published September 18, 25 and October 2, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: WILLIAM RHEA ALLEY, Deceased.
Probate No. DP-4-2026-028

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Evelyn B Alley has been appointed as the Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. Claims must be either mailed to Evelyn Alley, Personal Representative, return receipt requested, in care of Karen M. Alley, Attorney at Law, PO Box 5411, Helena, MT 59604, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. Dated this 15th day of September 2026.

Published September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

MNAXLP

It's your future. Let's protect it.®



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fbfs.com/find-an-agent/dustingillaspiemt

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Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Features 1970's Video of Townsend

MT43 News Staff Reporter

If you remember Green's Market, Ward Garage, and the Rex Theater, you would have enjoyed Broadwater County Farm Bureau's showing of a black and white video titled "Dun Movin'" made by Frederick VanVoast of his parents, Shirley and Zeal VanVoast, longtime residents of Townsend. The video was unique in that Frederick did an oral history, then arranged it to videos of downtown Townsend, the VanVoast Homestead on Cottonwood Road, mixed with very old-time still shots of Townsend and Broadwater County. Among those stills were photos of Shirley and Zeal's wedding in St. John's Episcopal church on North Cedar Street. It also included photos of the Townsend Train Depot on Front Street, an open lot now a spot where semis park across from Good Ol' Boys Cafe.

President Chuck Plymale opened the formal meeting by introducing the keynote speaker, Karli Johnson of the Montana State Farm Bureau representative for Government Affairs. She focused her discussion on the status of exempt wells as they effect farmers and ranchers.

The meeting included a potluck meal, open to the public, and concluded with reelection of officers: President Chuck Plymale, Vice President Virgil Henke, Secretary-Treasurer Carole Plymale, and Women's Leadership Missy Cox. New member elected to the board is Shirley Wilson.

TOP TEN MOVIES

King Features

1. Practical Magic 2 (PG-13) Sandra Bullock, Dianne Wiest
2. Spider-Man: Brand New Day (PG-13) Tom Holland, Zendaya
3. The Odyssey (R) Matt Damon, Tom Holland
4. Runner (PG-13) Alan Ritchson, Owen Wilson
5. Coyote vs. Acme (PG) Will Forte, Lana Condor
6. Buddy (R) Cristin Milioti, Delaney Quinn
7. Insidious: Out of the Further (PG-13) Amelia Eve, Island Austin
8. The Uprising (R) Andrew Garfield, Jamie Bell
9. Hope (R) Hwang Jung-min, Zo In-sung
10. By Any Means (R) Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Mark Wahlberg



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Judge Kathy Seeley presided over the following cases. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher brought the charges. The defense attorney Qasim Abdul-Baki, appointed from the Office of Public Defenders, acted as the defense attorney in several cases.

Viola Ann Little Elk- appeared with Attorney Alyssa Akelstad for Bail Modification Hearing. The Court reduced the bond to $7500 with all previous conditions.

Dwight Robert Murdough- appeared for his Bail Modification Hearing. The Court reduced his bond to $35,000 with all previous conditions.

Ballenger-Brooks, Christopher Todd- a Change of Plea Hearing – The defendant plead Guilty to Count 1- Assault on a Peace Officer. With the assistance of his attorney the defendant stated what he had done. The Court ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and set Sentencing for November 20, 2026. Counts 2 and 3 were dismissed.

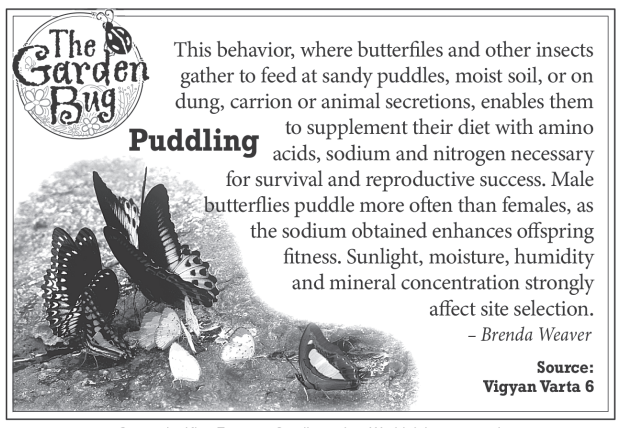
Ryan Scott Johnson- appeared for a Change of Plea Hearing- With the assistance of his Attorney the defendant plead Guilty to Count 1- Criminal child endangerment and in his own words stated what he had done. The Court ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and set Sentencing for November 20, 2026. Counts 2 and 3 were dismissed.

Jeneth Tyler Roberts- appeared for Sentencing along with his Attorney Benjamin Darrow. The Court went along with the Plea Agreement and Sentenced Mr. Roberts to 6 years deferred, restitution in the amount of $22,176 that must be paid back within the first 3 years. The defendant must pay all surcharges and fees, must not leave the State of Montana and must get approval from the Probation and Parole to travel around Montana. Defendant received 1 day credit for time served and must follow all conditions in place.

Cadet Lacunza- appeared for a hearing on the Initial on Petition to revoke. The defendant entered denials and an Evidentiary Hearing is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

Joshua Ross- failed to appear. The Court ordered a Warrant with the Bond set at $25,000.

Ryan Michelle Hughes- failed to appear. The Court ordered a Warrant with a Bond set at $15,000.



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Guest Editorials

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

The Montana Legislature Should Affirm Corner-Crossing on Public Lands

Bob Carter
State Representative Missoula

It's archery season here in Montana, and access to our public lands should be easy. When we hunt, hike, or otherwise recreate in a responsible way, we shouldn't have to navigate a maze of legal uncertainty when we step from one public parcel to the next where they meet at the corners.

Corner-crossing is the act of moving from the corner of one public parcel to the adjacent corner of another parcel by stepping across the point where they connect. It should not involve touching someone else's private property. Using a chess analogy, it is when you are the bishop and you only move on the diagonal. With respect to our criminal trespass law, if we momentarily pass over private property without touching, entering, or remaining on the surface, we are not trespassing.

This issue has become a flashpoint across the West. In Wyoming, the 10th Circuit Court has recently concluded that corner-crossing is legal, and the Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal. While this ruling does not automatically apply nationwide, it provides a compelling argument for the Montana legislature to adopt a clear, well-crafted policy that recognizes public access while protecting private property rights. The absence of a nationwide Supreme Court ruling means states will continue with challenges in how they treat corner-crossing.

If people in Wyoming can legally cross at a corner to access adjacent public lands, Montanans deserve the same clarity to pursue our outdoor heritage of hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, plant identification, and any other wildland recreation. We should not have to worry about running afoul of a patchwork of uncertain trespass claims. The logic is simple: if your feet remain on public lands, you shouldn't be treated like a trespasser merely for crossing a hint of undefined airspace at the corners on your way to the next public parcel. This is a fair, reasonable extension of the public-land trust in Montana.

A responsible approach in Montana should balance the public's interest without stepping on the rights of private landowners. Critics are concerned about trespass and property rights. A well-constructed Montana policy should address these concerns by:

- Passing targeted legislation that explicitly allows corner crossing at legally recognized public land corners, with clear prohibitions against touching private land and against crossing other private property boundaries.
- Requiring public notice and clearly marked corner points where crossings are permitted or prohibited,

Corner **Crossing**, 7

Broadwater County Commission Meeting

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



09/16/2026

Broadwater County Commissioners Approve Treasurer Training Contract, Advance Passenger Rail Planning

Meeting addresses cash reconciliation transition and regional transportation initiatives.

The Broadwater County Commission, led by Chair Debi Randolph, met September 16 to approve a consulting contract for treasurer training and hear updates on passenger rail development and subdivision regulations.

Training Contract to Support Treasurer Transition:

The Commission approved a six-month contract with Scribner Consulting for $1,500 monthly, beginning October 26 through March 2027. The training focuses on cash reconciliation and accounting procedures for the county treasurer's office during the transition between outgoing Treasurer Melissa Franks and her successor, taking office January 1, 2027.

County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki endorsed the contract, emphasizing the complexity of county government accounting. "The county has a lot at stake," Jarocki said. "We need to be realistic and not just plain hopeful that the situation's going to go well."

The Scribner Consulting representative, a former county clerk, treasurer, and grant writer with 20 years of county government experience, will work with both Franks and the incoming treasurer. The contract includes a flat rate for cash reconciliation training and $150 hourly rates for additional services such as tax bill and mill levy reviews.

Treasurer Reports on Reconciliation Progress:

Treasurer Melissa Franks reported that delinquent tax collection letters sent August 28 have brought in $109,951.86 to date, effectively reducing delinquent property taxes. Franks also addressed social media misinformation regarding missing county funds, clarifying that a prior cash reconciliation issue—not theft—had been resolved with help from state officials and MACO (Montana Association of Counties).

Passenger Rail Planning Moves Forward:

JB Howick, Broadwater County's representative to the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority board, presented the organization's annual report. The effort to restore passenger rail service along the southern route through Broadwater and Madison counties continues, with the Big Sky North Coast Corridor Line projected to serve approximately 360,000 annual passengers.

Howick recommended the county consider forming an urban transportation district to coordinate bus service and other transit needs in conjunction with a future train station. "If you thought you started early enough, you didn't," Howick quoted an industry panelist, urging long-term planning for the rail system's arrival, expected in the mid-2030s.

Subdivision Regulations Updated:

Community Development Director Nichole Brown presented final amendments to the county's subdivision regulations, focusing on environmental assessment requirements, water rights documentation, and noxious weed management plans. The amendments clarify state and local requirements for subdivision applicants and align supplementary documents with county regulations.

The Commission also approved an agricultural exemption for property on Delger Road and approved a preliminary plat for G&J Estates, a four-lot subdivision in southern Broadwater County.

Townsend City Council Meeting

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter

09/15/2026

Townsend City Council advances telecommunications ordinance, discusses Verizon Site Options

Meeting addresses infrastructure needs and passenger rail planning:

The Townsend City Council, led by Mayor Vickie Rauser, advanced a telecommunications franchise ordinance on first reading and heard updates on cellular infrastructure and regional rail development at its September 15 meeting.

Telecommunications Ordinance Moves Forward

Council passed Ordinance 2026-02 on first reading, establishing procedures and requirements for telecommunications networks in city rights of way. The 11-page ordinance drew questions from Visionary Communications, represented by Director of Regulatory Affairs Kyle Farley.

Farley raised concerns about Section 4, noting the ordinance lacks specific permitting timelines, fee schedules, and approval procedures while other telecommunications providers currently operate in the city. "We're not opposed to it," Farley said, emphasizing that Visionary would comply once the ordinance passes. He sought clarification on whether Visionary could proceed with permitting under existing procedures while the city develops the required regulatory framework.

Farley also questioned Section 18, which addresses additional conduit and facility placement requirements beyond standard construction and installation standards. He expressed concern that selective placement demands could create discriminatory costs for specific providers and noted that similar language in other communities is typically governed by separate agreements rather than franchise ordinances.

City staff indicated the city attorney will address both concerns before second reading. The ordinance will return for final approval at a future meeting.

Verizon Proposes Cell Site Lease Options:

Verizon Wireless presented two options for retaining its macro cell site on the city's water tower at 500 Broadway Street. The company currently pays $1,292 monthly but is consolidating macro sites to reduce costs as 5G technology enables smaller micro cell coverage.

The "Stability" option would reduce monthly rent to $715 through 2055, securing the macro site long-term. The "Control" option offers a one-time lump sum payment of $162,000 in exchange for a 99-year easement, giving Verizon complete site management authority.

Council members noted that at the reduced monthly rate, the lump sum would equal approximately 18 years of payments, making the monthly option financially preferable if the city wants to retain income flexibility.

Verizon's representative acknowledged the company maintains termination rights in any lease and stressed that the proposals aim to balance Verizon's cost-effectiveness with the city's revenue expectations. Questions about easement language, technology upgrades, and how the options affect other telecom providers on the tower will be addressed by Verizon's transaction specialist.

City Attorney Ed Guza will review the proposal, with further discussion scheduled for the October 6 council meeting.

Passenger Rail Planning Advances:

Councilman JB Howick reported on the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority's recent annual meeting. The Big Sky North Coast Corridor Line is projected to serve approximately 360,000 passengers annually with $43 million in projected revenue, compared to $5 million for the existing Empire Builder line.

The Federal Rail Administration has temporarily halted projects for policy review, but Senator Tim Sheehy is assisting efforts to move the process forward. Howick recommended the city join Broadwater and Madison counties in exploring an urban transportation district to coordinate bus service supporting a future train station.

"If you thought you started early enough, you didn't," Howick quoted an industry panelist, emphasizing the need for long-term planning ahead of the rail system's arrival in the mid-2030s.

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners

515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.

Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov.

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting.

Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Written public comment must be received by 5pm the day before the meeting. This allows time for comments to be reviewed before the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

No Commission Meeting ~ Commissioners at MACo Annual Conference

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

- Fair Board Meeting on October 8th at 5:15 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on October 13th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on October 13th at 1:00 PM
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting on October 15th at 1:00 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on October 19th at 3:30 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on October 19th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on October 20th at 7:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on October 21st at 6:00 PM

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

Corner Crossing, *6*

to reduce confusion and enforcement disputes.

- Providing guidance for law enforcement and land managers on distinguishing lawful crossings from trespassing, and for handling violations in a consistent manner.
- Including a public-education component so public land users understand our rights and responsibilities before crossing.

The Montana legislature should pass legislation to address corner-crossing that would align with a broader Western perspective on public land access and provide a model for neighboring states that may be grappling with similar questions. Outdoor recreation is a vital part of our economy and culture, and we can lead the way in crafting policy that respects private property while preserving reasonable access to public lands.

To be clear, this is not about eroding private property rights. This is about creating a fair balance between responsible public access and private ownership. The precedent set in Wyoming illustrates a path forward is possible. Montana should take this opportunity to clarify our laws, reduce ambiguity, and reaffirm public lands as a shared inheritance that should be accessible to all Montanans for future generations.

Bob Carter - 788-0089 State Representative - Missoula PO Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

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

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KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

S 8	B 3	S 6
S 5		E 1
M 2	E 7	O 4

EMBOSSES

CryptoQuip

answer

When a wall plaster delivery van spills a load during rush hour, do you get stucco in traffic?

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

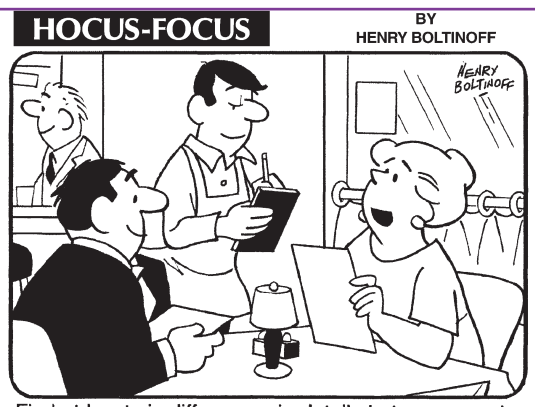
1. Scrawl; 2. Dower
3. Lingo; 4. Item

Today's Word

WINDOW

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Menu is shorter. 2. Pad is longer. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Curtain is not as wide. 5. Apron strap is moved. 6. Tie is missing.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Editors in Chief:
Victor Sample and
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408 Broadway Street Suite A
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MT43News@MT43News.com

DEADLINES

Stories, News & Letters to the Editor: ***Tue 12 p.m.***
Advertising:
Pre-Designed: *Tue 11 a.m.*
MT43 Designed & Ads Needing Proof: *Mon 10 a.m.*

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

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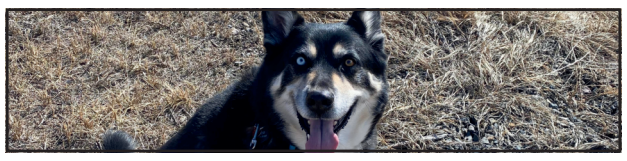
https://mt43news-business-services.com/node/124

Just Like Cats & Dogs

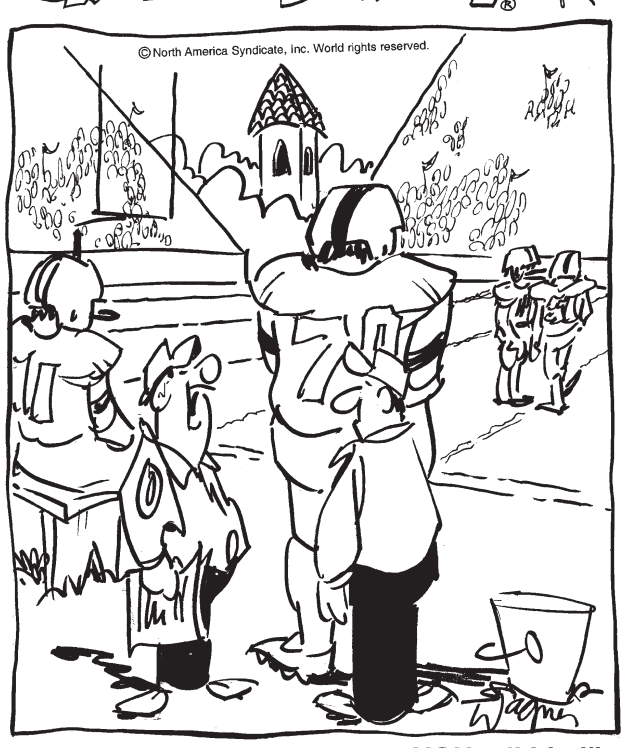
by Dave T. Phipps



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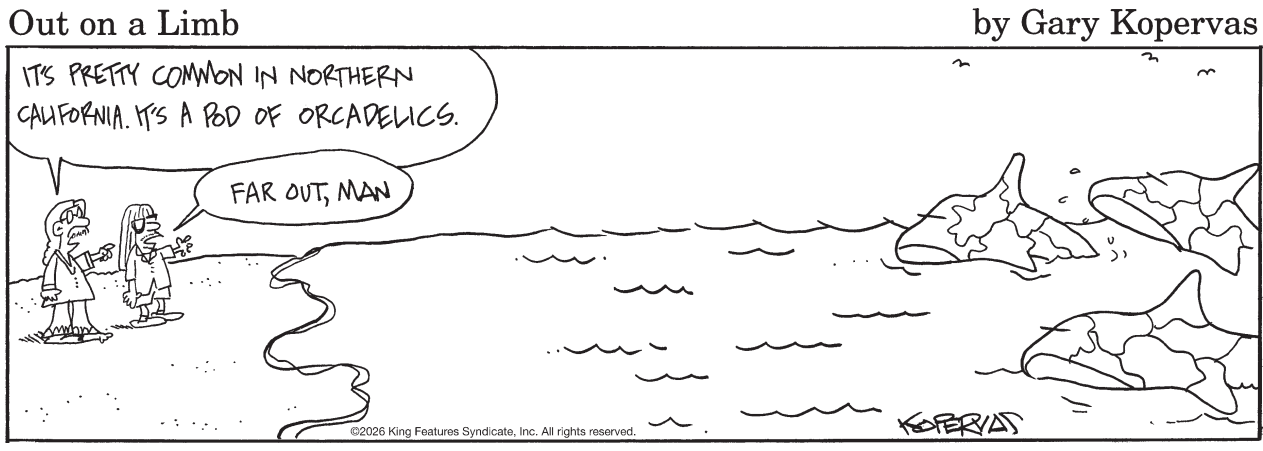
GRIN and BEAR IT



"I'M not telling him to move. YOU tell him!"

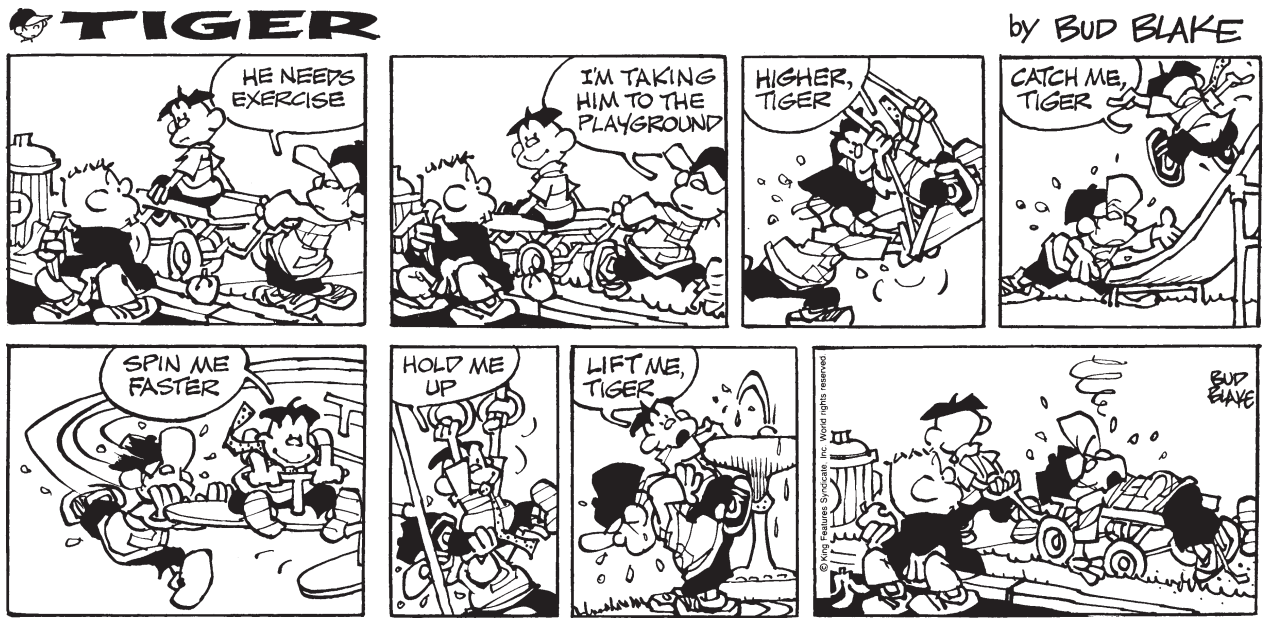
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



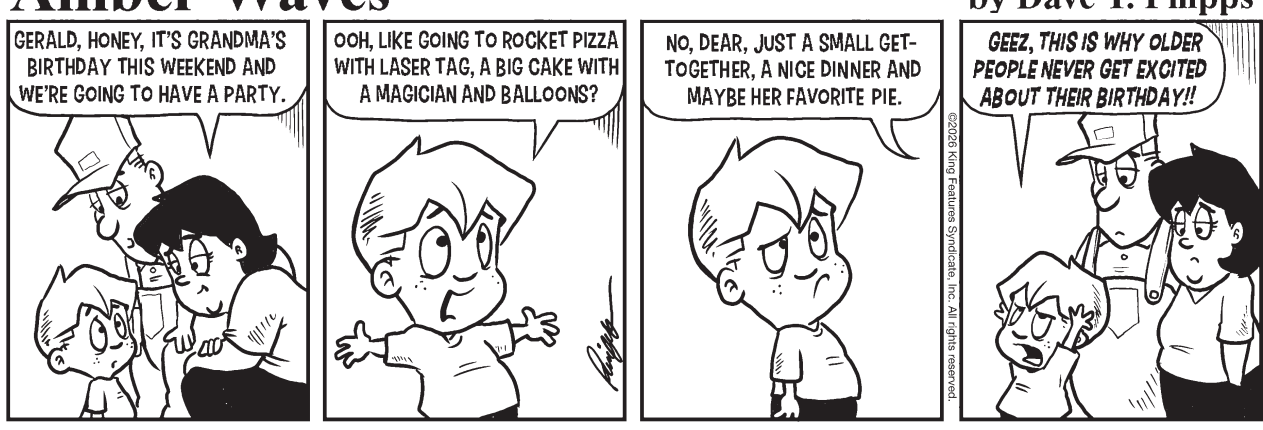
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



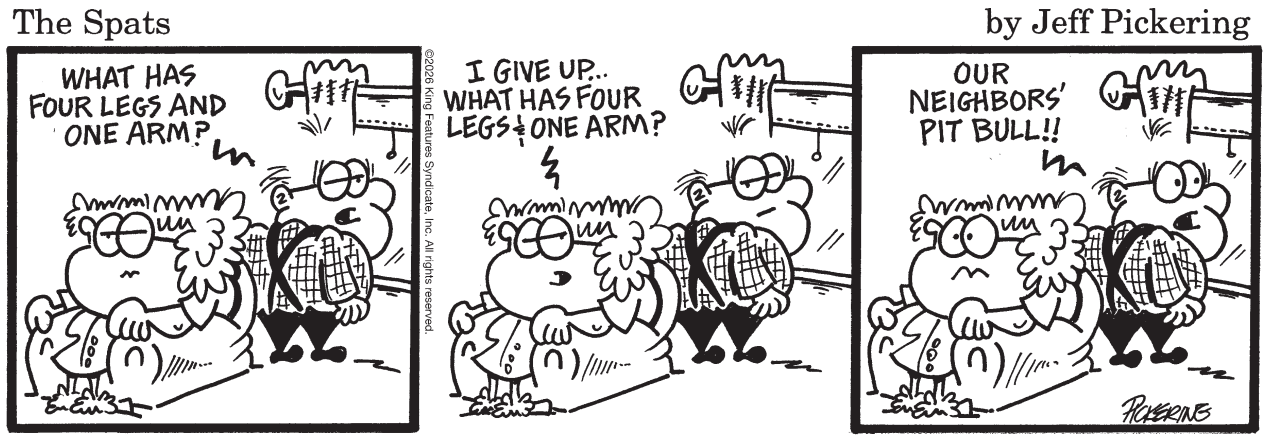
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



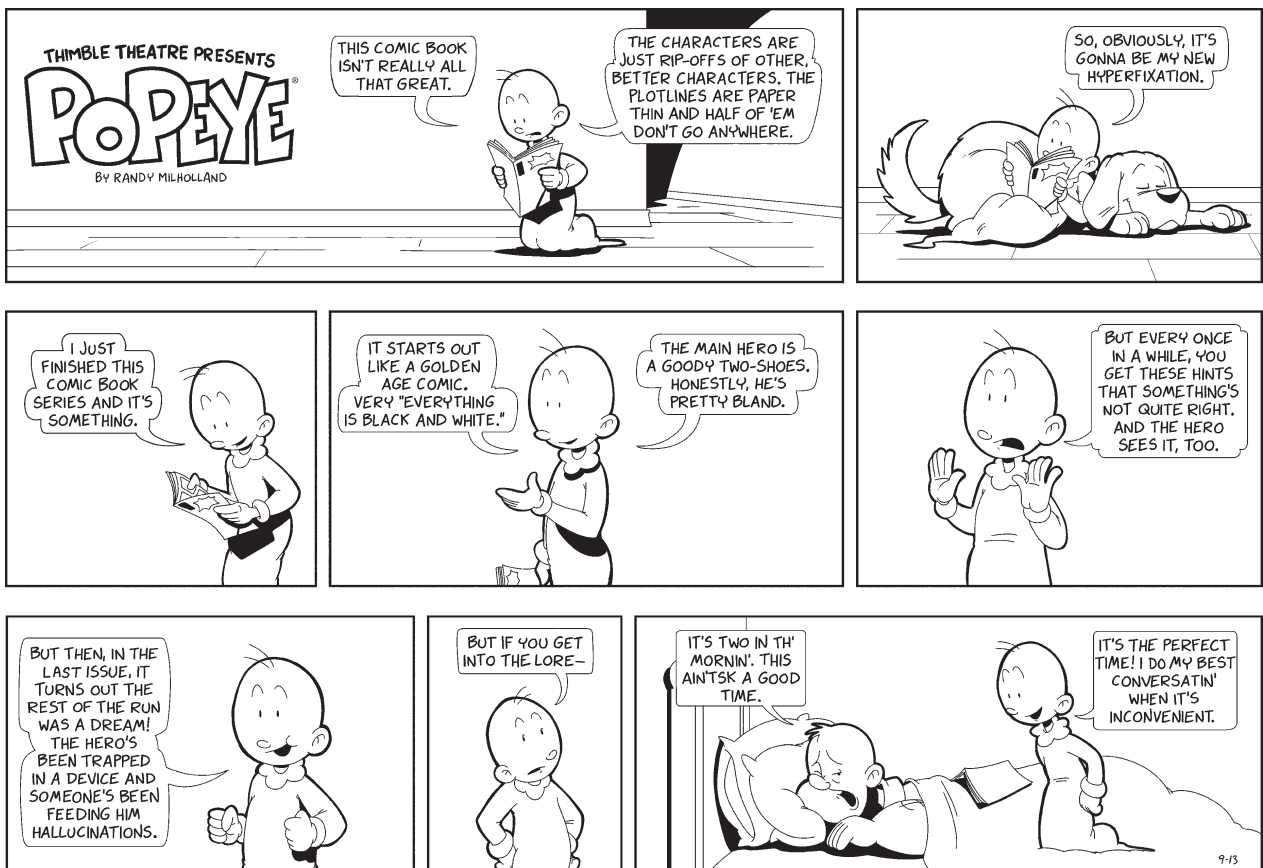
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



Election Spotlight

Serving Broadwater County with Experience, Transparency and Open Communication

Leona Nelson
Candidate for Treasurer-Superintendent of Schools



My name is Leona Nelson, and I am running for Broadwater County Treasurer and County Superintendent of Schools. I am running because I believe public service is about more than holding an elected position—it is about being present, listening to the people, and working every day to serve our community.

My experience in the Broadwater County Treasurer's Office has given me firsthand knowledge of the responsibilities that come with serving our taxpayers. I have worked with motor vehicle services, tax payments, daily balancing, banking, fleet processing, homeschool paperwork, and other responsibilities within the office. This experience has taught me the importance of accuracy, accountability, organization, and treating every person who walks through the door with respect.

If elected, I want taxpayers to know that I will be accessible and available. There will be no closing the office from 12:00 to 1:00. That hour is important to people who work, run businesses, have children, or simply cannot make it to the courthouse during traditional hours. I want residents to be able to come in during that time to take care of motor vehicle business, tax payments, paperwork, and other needs. I believe serving the public means making the office work for the people—not making people work around the office.

As County Superintendent of Schools, I will strive to support education through communication, cooperation, and teamwork. Our schools, educators, families, county officials, and community members all have an important role to play. I believe strong communication throughout the courthouse and with our schools can create better understanding and stronger working relationships. I will listen, ask questions, continue learning, and work with others to find practical solutions.

Transparency and accountability will be at the heart of how I serve. County taxpayers deserve to know that their elected officials are accessible, responsible, and willing to communicate. I will make it a priority to listen to taxpayers, answer questions, explain what I can, and keep the lines of communication open.

I am not running simply to have a title. I am running because I care about Broadwater County and want to continue serving the people who call it home. My experience in the Treasurer's Office, my dedication to public service, and my commitment to teamwork, transparency, accountability, and communication are what I will bring to these positions.

I am Leona Nelson, and I am asking for your vote and your trust. I will work hard to earn both—not just during the election, but every day I have the opportunity to serve Broadwater County.

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www.shieldsriverfarm.com

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406-442-3000

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Guest Editorials

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

Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt

JB Howick
Townsend City Council, Ward 1



During this election season, I felt it would be valuable to explain a term I learned as a marketer: FUD. It means "Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt." During my career as an electrical engineer, I spent some time working as a technical marketing consultant. My teams and I worked with marketing and advertising professionals to create the messaging used to sell electronic design software. Part of the problem marketers and advertisers were (and still are) trying to solve is how to convince people just like you to buy a product. That product may solve a problem or meet a need. Or not. It might be the best solution to the problem. Or not. You might actually have a problem or a need. Or not. The goal of marketing is to convince you to buy the product and nothing more.

Does that sound familiar? It should, because elections are far too often just the same. The person up for election may or may not be the best person to solve a problem — assuming there really is a problem. They may or may not be interested in solving the problem — or even understanding the problem — but they do want your vote!

Here's where FUD comes into it. "Casting FUD" was the term my marketing mentors used to explain the most efficient way to convince people (marketers try not to say "manipulate people") that they need the product they're selling. Identify the damage they may experience to make them afraid, then explain how your product protects them. Identify the trouble they'll experience, then explain how your product will help them avoid it. Identify the weaknesses found in other products and then explain how your product can overcome them. FUD. Fear, uncertainty and doubt. Trigger any one or more of these emotions and people will often pay any price to no longer feel them.

What overcomes FUD? Knowledge. How does one obtain knowledge? By asking questions — preferably before forming an opinion. Government always requires wise compromise because there will never be enough money or time to solve all the problems. Good government requires people of good character because the solutions to problems won't always be popular. And above all, we need good communication, because how a decision was made is as important as the policy or action that came of the decision.

During this election season, I invite you to ask questions. If you read, see, or hear something that leads you to fear, to become uncertain, or to doubt, ask questions. Casting FUD is a time-tested method of manipulating you. Sometimes the issues and actions it's built upon are completely factual. Or not. If the answers to your questions increase your fear, uncertainty or doubt, ask for specific details, or ask someone else. The right people are those who can explain how to overcome the FUD cast by everyone else.



Dear Editor,

Before he became known as one of our greatest patriots and our second president, John Adams was a renowned Boston lawyer who defended British soldiers in a trial arising from the Boston Massacre. During that trial he said: "Facts are stubborn things, and whatever our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

In responding to my last letter Mr. Garwood defended his earlier statement of facts saying: "It just depends on where people GET their "facts" as to what they are." NO, Mr. Garwood, the term "facts" does not belong in quotation marks. Facts are the truth. They are indelible. They do not depend on their source for their accuracy. There are no "alternative facts" as one of Trump's acolytes once claimed. Something is either true or it is not and whether you heard it on FOX or CNN or Newsmax or NBC doesn't change its character as true or false.

Readers can decide for themselves what they choose to believe and distinguish between fact and fiction. I only hope that in doing so they will consider that the source they are relying upon may not be telling the truth.

Thomas A. Budewitz
Townsend

A More Constructive Conversation About Local Levies and I-194, The Montana Plan

As a native Montanan, I'm proud of our long tradition of supporting local levies that fund the services communities depend on—public schools, public safety, parks and recreation, and infrastructure, among others. That civic commitment will remain under I-194, The Montana Plan. Communities will continue to ask residents, local leaders, small businesses, and civic organizations to help make the case for investments that matter.

What will change is the way corporations, not individuals, may participate once a specific local levy has been formally placed before voters.

Under I-194, corporations would no longer be able to use money from their general treasuries to support or oppose a ballot issue. The measure would require spending related to a specific levy campaign to come from individuals rather than corporate treasury funds. That is the central change.

Some opponents have falsely claimed that I-194 creates a new restriction by including "anything of value" in its campaign-finance rules. The truth is that is already current law. Montana and federal campaign-finance law have long recognized that political support can take forms other than a direct cash contribution. Montana law defines "anything of value" as:

"Any goods that have a certain utility to the recipient that is real and that is ordinarily not given away free but is purchased."

In practical terms, a business generally may not provide goods or services that it ordinarily sells—such as advertising, printing, consulting, equipment, venue space, or other paid services—free of charge to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure.

The same principle would apply to local levy campaigns under I-194. Once voters are considering a specific school, city, town, or county levy, spending to advocate for or against that measure would need to come from individuals.

That does not mean businesses, chambers of commerce, trade associations, or other local organizations would be prevented from supporting their communities. Far from it.

Businesses and civic organizations could still devote resources, throughout the year if they so choose, to educate the public about issues that affect local quality of life and economic vitality, including:

- The importance of strong public schools and the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified educators.
- Public-safety needs, including staffing, facilities, equipment, and jail capacity.
- Parks, recreation programs, playgrounds, and community infrastructure.
- Economic development, workforce needs, job creation, and the local conditions that help businesses succeed.

They can engage in that educational work every day of the year. They can partner with local governments, bring community members together, explain the needs facing a community, and encourage residents to stay informed and involved. Imagine that!

The distinction is straightforward: organizations may educate the public about public issues and community needs, but they may not use corporate treasury funds to tell voters how to vote on a particular ballot measure.

If I-194 passes, Montana communities have an opportunity to strengthen—not weaken— their year-round public dialogue. As opposed to persuading Montanans how to vote at the last minute, chambers of commerce, local business & associations, civic groups, and public institutions should consider building sustained education programs focused on the issues that shape community life.

Finally, the fiscal and policy decisions made in Helena affect cities, counties, towns, and school districts. Your elected officials have been making decisions for years, many of which benefited from the same dark money we're attempting to stop. They cast votes that pass the burden off to local governments and your community. The same corporations and associations that support communities at the local level during elections can certainly lobby your elected officials to fully fund local governments' efforts that they advocate for locally.

A well-informed community is better prepared to make decisions at the ballot box. I-194 preserves the ability of businesses and community organizations to educate, organize, and contribute to the public conversation while ensuring that direct advocacy for or against a specific levy is funded by individuals—not corporate treasuries.

Jeff Mangan
Former Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Founder, The Transparent Election Initiative and I-194, The Montana Plan



East Helena United Methodist Church
50 Prickly Pear Ave, East Helena
Pastor Mele Moa Phone (406) 227-5346
Sunday: **11 AM**
Website: EastHelenaUMC.org

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: 8:00-8:45am (or by appt.) Reconciliation
9:00am Mass
Wednesday: 12:00pm Mass, 12:45-1:45pm Adoration & Reconciliation
Thursday: 12:00 pm Mass

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)
110 E Street Townsend
Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 594-7609
MountainValleyChurch.org
Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and Youth Ministry
Wednesdays: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry 6 - 12 Grades; Men's and Women's Bible Study
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

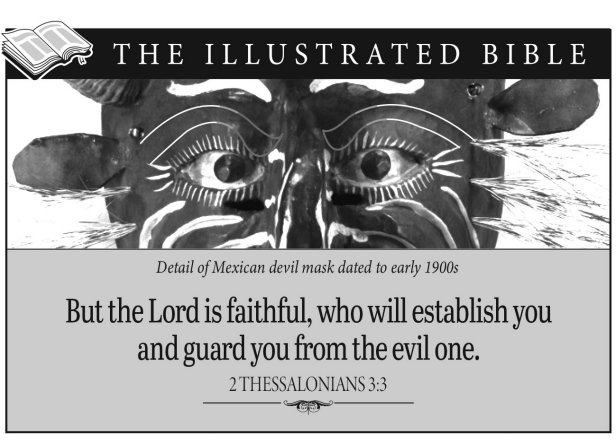
Seventh Day Adventist Church
200 N Cedar St. Townsend
(406) 241-0042
Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Sabbath School
Tuesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

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
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



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Sr. Center Meals: Sept 28 - Oct 2

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

Monday, September 28
Beef Stroganoff
Egg Noodles
German Vegetables
Golden Corn
Fruit Cocktail

Tuesday, September 29
Roasted Turkey
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Applesauce

Wednesday, September 30
Chef Salad
Carrot and Celery Sticks
Whole Grain Bread
Pineapple

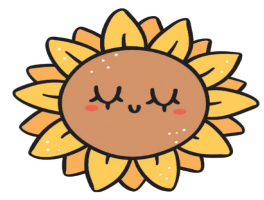
Thursday, October 1
Tuna Noodle Casserole
Carrot Coins
Green Peas
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Pears

Friday, October 2
Baked Ham
Scalloped Potatoes
Sliced Beets
Whole Grain Bread
Apricots

Weather Forecast

courtesy of open-meteo.com

SEPTEMBER & October



Friday 25
High Temp: 84
Low Temp: 57
Wind: 21
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 26
High Temp: 65
Low Temp: 48
Wind: 8
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 27
High Temp: 72
Low Temp: 49
Wind: 14
Rain: 0.1169
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 28
High Temp: 60
Low Temp: 46
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 29
High Temp: 66
Low Temp: 41
Wind: 7
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 30
High Temp: 73
Low Temp: 47
Wind: 14
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 1
High Temp: 70
Low Temp: 52
Wind: 14
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Free Brain Health and Dementia Education Drop-in Event Coming to Townsend

Lisa Brachwitz
MSU Extension's Mobile Memory Café

MSU Extension's Mobile Memory Café, led by Program Manager Lisa Brachwitz, will host a free Brain Health and Dementia Education Drop-In Event at the Townsend Senior Citizens Dinner Club. The event is designed to help community members learn practical strategies for maintaining brain health at any age, gain a clearer understanding of dementia, and explore caregiving resources available to support individuals and families.

The program offers clear, practical information on topics including:

- What Dementia Is and How it Affects Individuals
- Early Warning Signs of Memory Loss
- How Dementia is Detected and Diagnosed
- What to Expect After a Diagnosis
- Brain Health and Strategies for Living Well with Dementia
- Effective Communication with People Experiencing Memory Loss

"Dementia impacts many families, yet people often feel unprepared," said Dr. Daniel Koltz, Gerontology Specialist and Founder/Director of the MSU Extension Mobile Memory Café. "This event provides supportive, easy-to-understand information to help families navigate memory loss."

The drop-in event is open to all community members, caregivers, and professionals.

Event Details:
Title: Mobile Memory Café Drop-In Event
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Location: Townsend Senior Citizens Dinner Club
516 2nd St, Townsend, MT 59644
Cost: Free

For more information, contact: Lisa Brachwitz at 406-994-3904, or at lisa.brachwitz@montana.edu.

Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Local Nonprofits



Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce members present checks for proceeds from the annual ATV Poker Run to Broadwater Rural Fire Department and First Responders. From left: TAAC Treasurer Jenny Clowes Spatzierath, Search and Rescue member Eric Crusch, Townsend Ambulance Cyrus Brandt, County Rural Fire Department Chief Ed Shindoll, TAAC Board member Doug Sitton, Vice President Doug Breker and President Anna Glueckert. Photo Provided

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce Chairperson Anna Glueckert announced the names of Broadwater Search and Rescue, Ambulance, and Fire Department as recipients of the proceeds from the Chamber's annual All- Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Poker Run, held the first weekend in June annually. Glueckert pointed out the $2,000 checks each organization received will go toward their specific needs that are not covered by their regular budgets. She commended each organization's members for their service and indicated how important those services are to Broadwater County residents.

Montana State's Steer-A-Year Seeks Donations for This Year's Program

Montana State University News Service

The Steer-A-Year program in Montana State University's College of Agriculture will return for the 2026-27 academic year and is seeking donations of young cattle and feed.

Housed in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences, Steer-A-Year teaches students about the many aspects of raising cattle through a hands-on academic approach, while supplying locally raised beef to campus dining halls.

Students spend the year taking care of the calves, including feeding, performing health checks, and managing steers, along with collecting data on feed efficiency and weight gain while studying livestock marketing. "For students, getting hands-on learning opportunities is huge," said program adviser Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels.

Steer-A-Year accepts financial support or donations of steers, feed, and other supplies. Donated steers are housed at the Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm, and at the end of the academic year, the cattle are sold to MSU Culinary Services. The meat is served in both of MSU's award-winning dining halls, Miller and Rendezvous, helping fulfill the university's commitment to using as many local ingredients as possible. Last year, Culinary Services purchased all 29 steers raised by Steer-A-Year students.

Proceeds from sales go directly toward student activities, such as support of travel and other costs for student teams and clubs in the College of Agriculture. Steer-A-Year students also meet with commodity groups and industry professionals, allowing for additional networking and learning opportunities.

Annual awards are presented to the producer who donated the best initial feeder steer, as judged by the MSU livestock judging team: the steer with the top rate of gain, the steer with the best feed efficiency, and the steer that produces the best carcass.

The benefits of the program are multi-faceted, supporting not only students, but the producers and community as well, said Delcurto-Wyffels. Cattle are fed using MSU's Vytelle GrowSafe system, which provides producers with information about individual feed intake.

Contact: Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels, Steer-A-Year program adviser: hannah.delcurto@montana.edu or 406-994-3752

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Dustin Larson

Family of Dustin F. Larson

April 13, 1984 – September 17, 2026

Dustin Larson passed away from natural causes on September 17, 2026, at the age of 42.

He was a goofy guy with a big personality who had a way of making people laugh. He loved music and playing guitar, enjoyed shooting, and lived life on his own terms. His journey was not always an easy one. He faced struggles that affected many parts of his life. Still, he was loved and will be remembered for the good moments, the laughter, and the memories he shared with those around him.

Dustin is survived by his mother, Ellen Larson; brother Randy (Rebekah) Larson; his niece Calysta and nephew Alex.

He will be missed and remembered in his own unique way.

A celebration of Dustin's life was held on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at the American Legion Post 42, 211 Broadway St., Townsend, MT 59644. Condolences can be shared to www.stevensonwilkefuneralhome.com in memory of Dustin.



Dustin F. Larson
Photo Provided



Celebration of life

for Dustin Larson

Sunday September 27th
3:00-5:00pm
at the American Legion #42 in Townsend, MT.

Join us for a Potluck to remember Dustin.

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

~Classic Irish Catholic Blessing

We love you infinity, Sweet Grammy 'Nita.
~Tia, Kianna & Sarah



Margaret "Juanita" Bray

Family of Margaret "Juanita" Bray

Margaret Juanita Bray passed away peacefully from cancer at Billings Clinic in Townsend on September 18th, 2026. Juanita was 89 years old.

Juanita was born in Boise, Idaho, in 1937. She was the only child of Donald Thompson and May Thompson and was born at St. Luke's Hospital. Juanita grew up at her home in Boise with her mother, who worked at the Boise Military Induction Center and her father, who worked as the chief clerk to the agent for the Union Pacific Railroad. Juanita wrote of her life as a child growing up during World War II, of being an only child in postwar Boise and of her coming to the Catholic faith as a teenager. Juanita attended Boise College, where she studied Biology & Zoology and met John Larsen, who was studying Business. They met, fell in love and married in 1956. Their first daughter, Mary, was born the following year, when they graduated.

Juanita had three more children with John: Laura, Don and Kay. She was a full-time mother who always made her house a home. She continued her interests in science and history by teaching her children about gardening, animals and the history of Idaho. Juanita also taught Anatomy and Physiology at the Catholic school in Boise for 4 years when her children got older; however, she remained a teacher for the rest of her life - inside or outside the classroom. Juanita's love of birding led to her involvement with the Audubon Society, and she passed along her passion for birding to her children & grandchildren.

When Juanita married Richard Piersky in 1972, she moved to Helena, Montana, where she eventually worked as the manager of the National Guard Credit Union for many years. She continued to take her children into the mountains to gather things like huckleberries, pussy-willows and firewood. On these adventures, she would take scientific books to teach them the history, geography and plants of each place. In addition, Juanita continued to teach her children about Jesus as the family attended Calvary Baptist Church for many years. Juanita taught Sunday School, attended many Bible studies, and supported the ministry as much as she could while working full time. Juanita also became involved with the Daughters of the American Revolution. After Dick passed away, Juanita married Donald Scott in 1992 and lived at Canyon Ferry Lake for several years. Unfortunately, Don passed away from cancer after only a few years of marriage.

Juanita rejoined the Catholic Church when she married Paul Bray in 1997. She and Paul were active with St. Cyril and Methodius Parish in East Helena and at Holy Cross in Townsend, Montana. Juanita participated in many of the activities of Holy Cross, including Vacation Bible School, Legion of Mary, Sunday School, Eucharistic Ministry, her beloved prayer group, as well as working as one of the financial officers of the church. One of the recent ministries she had was sending cards to those who were unable to attend church - a ministry she began because of the COVID crisis. She loved Adoration very much - sitting in the Presence of Jesus in His Church. Juanita loved living in Townsend, Montana and being part of its community.

Juanita was a quiet person and also full of surprises. She played piano, and her children have memories of running from everywhere in the house to dance when she played the song 'Spinning Wheel'. She also accompanied many holiday sing-alongs, and once in a while, she played when requested. She was also a proficient painter in tole and oils, drew in pencil, painted wonderful, fun ornaments for family members & worked in embroidery and cross-stitch. She had a good sense of humor and could be very witty, had a wealth of knowledge in many subjects, and was always up for a good chat or a great debate. She loved family history and had researched the ancestry of both sides of her family back several generations. Anyone who knew her would say Juanita was quiet but solid - a woman who never forgot a birthday or holiday - never forgot her children & stepchildren, grandchildren or (20+) great-grandchildren. She demonstrated her love and care by her constant presence.

Juanita was preceded in death by her parents, Donald & May Thompson, Richard Piersky, Donald Scott, Paul Bray, her step-sons Rick Piersky and Jeff Bray.

Juanita is survived by her first husband, John Larsen, and her four children: Mary Palmonari (husband - Joe), Laura Stevenson (husband - Mike), Donald Larsen (wife - Sally) and Kathrine Cook (husband - Will). She also survived by her Stepchildren: Bertie Piersky, Kimberly Harlington (husband - Eric), Michael Bray (wife - Ruth), and Kevin Bray (wife - Robin).

Juanita is also survived by many grandchildren and step-grandchildren: Keylee Marineau (partner - Frank), Joshua Marineau (wife - Kim), Josiah Marineau (wife - Niki), Sarah Tallwhiteman, Rebekah Dickerson (husband - Montez), Abigail Pitts (husband - Joe), David Larsen (wife - Bianca), William Cook (wife - Katie) and Lizzy Sholey (husband - Tanner). Step-grandchildren include Danica & Ian Lamphere, Vincent Bray (wife Rachelle), Rochelle Bray, Anthony Bray (wife - Amanda), Sophia Bray, Sean Harlington (wife - Candy), Bridger Harlington (wife - Rachel), Rachel Bowles and Lindsey Bowles.

Juanita is also survived by her beloved dogs Jerry and Jordan.



Margaret "Juanita" Bray
Photo Provided

While Juanita Margaret Bray may never have any accolades in the world's ideas of success, Juanita's life reflects the eternal values that mark an enduring legacy. Her love of Christ, His Church, family, learning, creativity and endurance are reflected again and again through the lives of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - not to mention all the friends she made along the way. Juanita was one of life's deep constants - a person who made others' lives better. Her community will greatly miss her.

The family invites you to pray the Rosary at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Townsend. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. at the church; burial will follow the Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery in Townsend. A reception will then be held in the social center of the church following the burial.

Memorials in Juanita's name may be made to-

- Holy Cross Church: https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/1393-Holy_Cross_Parish
- St. Jude's: https://www.stjude.org/
- In honor of her great-granddaughters: Last Chance Pow Wow: https://lastchancepowwow.com/donate/.

Please visit www.stevensonwilke.com to offer condolences to the family or to share a memory of Juanita.

We specialize in evaluating and buying jewelry collections!

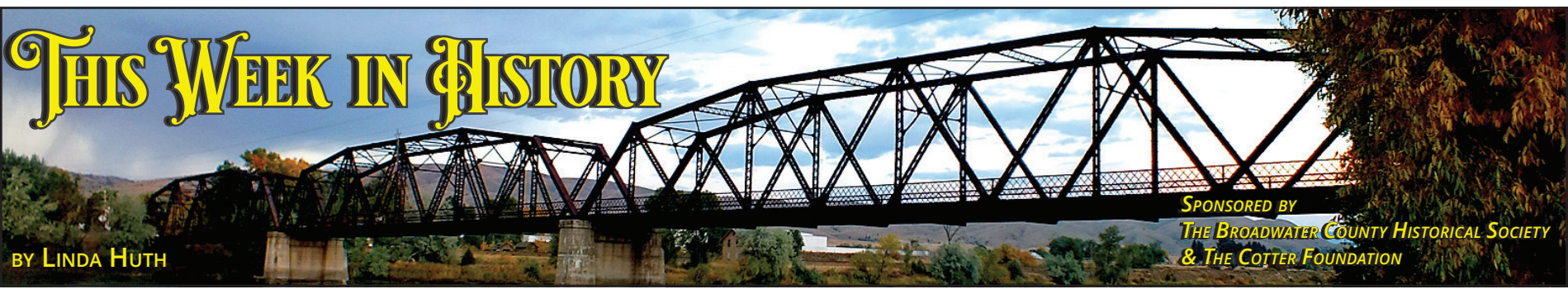
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Downtown Helena
357 Last Chance Gulch
(2nd floor of Barnes Jewelry)

Tuesday - Friday • 10AM - 5:30PM
Saturday • 10AM - 2PM
Best to make an appointment!



September 26

1903

Winston Notes

Frank Reynolds has been engaged hauling machinery to the Stray Horse Mine.

Matt Small and his team caused considerable excitement in town the other day. His team, for some unknown reason, took a journey across several streets, including Main Street. They did not stop until they ran into and demolished Jim McDonald's fence and frightened the occupants at the house so that they immediately telephoned for the police and State Militia.

Local News

Geo. Faltermeyer has been erecting a small kitchen at the rear of his place of business, preparatory to a removal of his family there for the winter.

Tony Semmenac, the hide buyer, was transacting business in town this week.

Mrs. J.P. Marks returned from a visit of a week at Helena with her parents on Wednesday.

W.N. Williams of Crow Creek was in town Thursday. He came over to attend the pioneers' meeting.

Quite a wreck occurred at the siding at Vose on Wednesday morning. A freight train pulled out on the sidetrack to permit the "Stub" to pass, and as they were pulling out on the main line, five freight cars left the track. On investigation it was found that the probable cause of the wreck was a broken rail. No one was injured and the wreck was cleared by noon.

Night operator Struckmeyer was at the scene of the wreck at Vose Wednesday morning and, by attaching an instrument, kept the officials of the road posted as to matters connected with the movement of traffic.

1925

Radersburg

W.E. Spangler paid Townsend a business call today (Thursday).

Mr. and Mrs. Floran Bottler are preparing to sell their farm machinery and stock and will move to Townsend for the winter. The property will be disposed of at public auction sometime the fore part of October.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Warad and Miss Mildred Hale visited at the Kimpton home in the valley on Sunday.

The snowstorm of Friday night delayed harvesting for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren K. Parker were county seat visitors on Saturday.

Warren Doughty is busy these days assisting the Montana Power Company's force in stubbing poles on the Boulder-Townsend line.

The Ohio-Keating Mine is again operating. A new mill has been installed by C.H. Hewitt some time ago, and electrical power connected up to the mine about the 8th of the month, since which time mining operations have been going on in full swing.

1953

News Briefs

Charles Davis of Lewistown spent the fore part of the week here visiting his brothers, Bill and Logan.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weiferich spent several days over the weekend at Victor with their daughter and husband Mr. and Mrs. Bob Allen. Mr. Weiferich is getting ready for his Production Sale of Herefords on October 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Geisser came over from Great Falls to attend the Legion convention Sunday and to visit Mrs. Geisser's sister, Mrs. Jean Schalbrack.

Mrs. Fred Kapinos returned Friday from Seattle, where she visited her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. George Kapinos and family.

1970

Bear Kills Calf on Huth Ranch

Jack Huth, who ranches on Gurnett Creek northeast of Townsend, reported earlier this week that a bear had killed one of his calves. Last year his son, Tommy, killed a 341 lb. black bear that had been bothering their livestock, but he hasn't been able to locate this killer bear.

Jack said that he intended to employ the services of the government trapper to remove the animal.

Local News

Scott Scoffield was honored at a surprise dinner party Friday evening at his home, given by his mother, Mrs. Dennis Scoffield. Invited guests were Brian Ragen, Jeff Poole, Mark Rains, Steave Kaul, Eddy Ulmer and Jeff Ragen.

Mr. and Mrs. John McGaw of Grand Junction, Colo., were guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McGaw last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Olsen and children returned to Dillon Monday morning after having spent the weekend here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Olsen.

Radersburg News

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ralls spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ralls.

Tom Williams of the U.S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, arrived Wednesday from San Diego for a two weeks leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harris and son, Sammy, Jr., of Helena visited Mrs. Bud Harris and family over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ragen arrived Thursday from Regina, Canada. They were overnight guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and Tom. Patti Ragen of Townsend was also a Friday night guest of her grandparents. Mr. Ragen will join Ed Ragen and his horses in Spokane.

Miss Cinda Roberts was a weekend guest of Miss Laurie Urich in Townsend.

Miss Connie Roberts was a weekend guest of Miss Byrl Beyers in Toston.



Invasive of the Month: *Eastern Heath Snail*

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

You might have noticed a slight change to my usual monthly title. Instead of a weed this month, I'm sharing information on a different type of invasive species, the Eastern Heath Snail. Weeds often get the limelight when it comes to invasive species. However, there are many other invasives that we need to watch for, including the bullfrog, emerald ash borer, feral swine, zebra mussels, and Japanese beetle.



Eastern Heath Snails
Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Description & Habitat:

Native to central Europe and the Mediterranean, the Eastern Health Snail has only been found in three areas of North America. This includes Detroit, Michigan, south Ontario, and central Montana. It is not known how the snail arrived in Montana. They are genetically different than the snails in Michigan and Ontario, which means they were not from those sources. One theory is that they may have arrived in the early 1900s on mining equipment, as they were first discovered in Belt. They were formally identified as an invasive species in Montana in 2012. They have since spread to Cascade, Chouteau, Judith Basin, and Fergus Counties. They were recently discovered in Gallatin County, which makes them one step closer to Broadwater.

The Eastern Heath Snail. Health Snail is a little smaller than a dime in diameter. It is white, often with spiral brown bands. There are native snails that look similar. However, one of the distinguishing features is the behavior of the Eastern Heath Snail. They are known for climbing objects such as vegetation, fence posts, and other high objects during hot temperatures. The snails prefer dry, open, grassy areas including roadsides, rangeland, and crops. Habitat suitability modeling done by the Montana Natural Heritage Program found areas within Broadwater County that have low but viable potential habitat for the snails. The snails are self-fertile, which means a single snail can populate an entire area.

The snails are detrimental for a few reasons. They feed on plants. They are particularly fond of peas, lentils, and chickpeas, which are important crops in areas of Montana. In addition to crop damage, the snail bodies contaminate the crop and are costly to clean. Crushed snails also gum up harvest equipment and swathers. When the snail body's dry, it's hard and difficult to clean. The Eastern Heath Snail is also a vector to several diseases, including sheep lungworms. A study done by the Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research determined the potential impact of the Eastern Heath Snail to Montana agriculture at $1.4 million per year for mitigation and post-harvest processing costs.

Management:

Early detection is key to keeping the Eastern Heath Snail from spreading further. Because the snail does not move quickly, humans are the primary vector of translocating the pest to other locations. If you live or work in a county where the snail is found, carefully check materials or equipment before moving. If you find any, they should be removed and crushed. Never move soil or gravel from infested areas because it can harbor snails or eggs.

If you have the snail, there aren't a lot of options other than making the environment less hospitable to reduce the number of pests. Remove trash, litter and plant material that can provide hiding places. Mowing vegetation helps reduce options for snails to climb and congregate. Modifying sites by raking, harrowing, grading, rolling or resurfacing helps ensure shells are crushed and also reduces habitat. Burning is also an effective method of control where practical.

Snail bait or molluscicides are available but are typically not practical at the large scale. They can be useful around homes or gardens to exclude snails. Always read and follow the entire label when applying pesticides.

Snails are easily overlooked. If you see any suspicious snails, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 for verification.