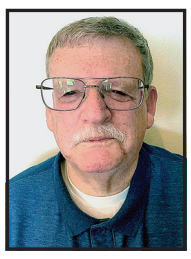
MT 43 News
Broadwater County and East Helena
Local People. Local Stories.

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Volume 5, Issue No. 14 October 9, 2026 $2.00

Canton Church Hosts 9th Annual 7th Grade Fieldtrip

Victor Sample
Canton Church



On September 30, 2026, the Canton Church hosted the Townsend Schools 7th grade class field trip, accompanied by David Lawson and Maura McDonald.

The 7th grade class is the class that studies Montana history. The students visited the Historic Canton Church for a presentation on the history of the 7th church built in Montana and for a presentation of the history of Broadwater County.

This year the students came prepared to ask many great questions about the Canton Church, the town of Canton, and the creation of Canyon Ferry Lake - although the smell of burgers cooking on the grill did steal their attention somewhat!

After the presentations, the students were served a lunch of burgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water. They were able to burn off some energy in the Canton Church park before going to visit St. Joseph's Cemetery just east of the church.

This is the 9th annual field trip (excluding the Covid year of 2020) that the Canton Church has hosted the history field trip. The Canton Church Restoration Board feels strongly that the students learn some of the rich history of Broadwater County, and we are honored that the Townsend School has continued to partner with us on this annual event.



The Townsend Schools 7th grade class visits the Historic Canton Church.
Photo Credit: Maura McDonald

Changing of the Guard Part of Fall Fest Evolution

MT43 News Reporter

Connie Myles had her hands full Friday, shepherding Fall Fest vendors. They wanted to know where to set up, how long before brats would be ready, and why they were not in the same spot this year as last? She said it was stressful at first, but things started to fall into place.



Co-Coordinator for Vendors Connie Myles answers questions at Fall Fest information center Saturday.
Photo Credit: MT43 News



Townsend native Shelby Collins, from Sun River, Montana, serves food with other volunteers who pitch in at Fall Fest.
Photo Credit: MT43 News

Winston native Myles offered, on a whim, to volunteer to help Vendor Coordinator Laura Obert do the months-long job of choosing and communicating with over 120 vendors for this year's Fall Fest, held Oct. 2 -4. Myles began the job in 2023, manning the table, while Obert fielded the problems of setting up.

Myles is part of the many changes that make Fall Fest an event in progress. Arts and crafts shop owner Ernie Forrey organized the first Fall Fest in 2002, according to Linda Huth, his wife. He set up on the railroad right-of-way across from his shop on Highway 287. One of the vendors was Dick Black and his wife of Helena. There were displays and booths in the train depot (which was removed). A military parade with helicopters and armored cars took place. The weather was "very cold," she said.



Three-year-old Ayla Wagner, dressed in her princess dress, enjoys ice cream while grandma looks on.
Photo Credit: MT43 News

Changing **of the Guard**, 3



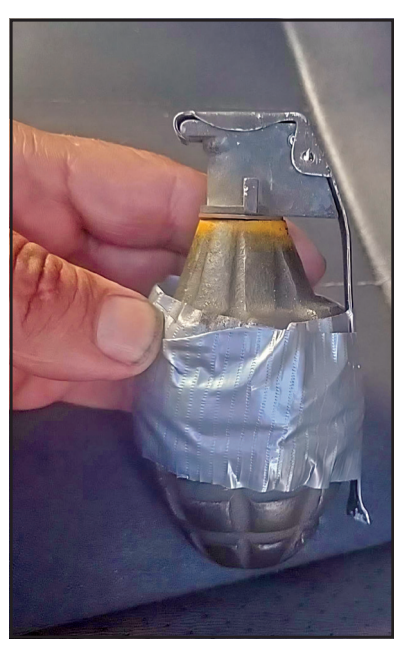
World War II Grenade Found in Storage Unit

MT43 News Reporter

Jeremy and Gina Berry of The Bird's Nest and Berry Patch deal in new and used goods at their store on Pine Street. They buy storage unit contents when the units come up for sale. Saturday, September 26, they received a call from Brandi Reichman at 4G Storage Units on Cemetery Lane that she had a unit full of WWII memorabilia – would they like to take a look?

As they began to search the unit, they opened a box with aviator goggles, a helmet, and a grenade. Jeremy told the story: "That's as far as I got. Did I think it (the grenade) was dangerous? No. Did I think it was live? – Yep!"

The grenade had a toothpick where the pin should be. Not a good sign. Jeremy wrapped the handle and called the sheriff's office. He met three deputies, Richard McBride, Bryson Row and Justin Bergstad, in the Court House back parking lot. As he lifted out the grenade, he said in a calm, quiet voice, "I have some excitement for you."



Berry duct-taped the grenade so it could not be detonated.
Photo Provided

They took one look, then called Sheriff Mark Wood. He cordoned off the parking lot, called Lewis and Clark ordinance unit, who called Maelstrom Air Force base bomb squad. Wood commented: "I was not on site, so I thought, oh, this is probably fake. It was not. Of all the guns and explosives I've been involved with, this is the first grenade I've come across."

With six officers and Sheriff Wood involved with solving the grenade problem, the next question was where to detonate it. Wood called Public Works Director TJ Graveley – "Could they please detonate the grenade at the transfer station up Indian Creek Road?' When Graveley gave the okay to set it off at the transfer station, the bomb squad set off the grenade in a specialized explosives container. The deed was done. Excitement over.

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

Cross Country: *Headwater XC Invitational*



Cross Country Group Photo
MT43 News Photo

MT43News Sports Reporter

It was certainly a good day to have a good day! Last Friday, October 2nd, was the Headwater XC Invitational hosted by the Three Forks Wolves. A beautiful flat course on a gorgeous, crisp morning always makes for lightning-fast times by your Broadwater Bulldogs, with 18 runners clocking their personal best times (PR) and five more with season best times (SR)!

The Junior Varsity men and women took to the course together, where junior Alexis Fryer (24:24PB) placed 3rd for the ladies, with seniors Sarah Morgan (25:08PB) and Shalyn Sentinella (27:42SB) behind her in 5th and 13th, respectively. The men scored 76 points for fourth overall, with Mason Johnson (21:10PB) leading the team in 14th. The rest of the team finished: Everett Kirksey (22:27PB) in 21st, Declan Toney (24:20PB) in 32nd, Jayden Flynn (25:11PB) in 35th, and Cooper Nichter (27:00) in 44th.

Kyla Meissner won her first race of the season and her fifth career win at the Headwaters Invitational, going back to junior high. Kyla clocked her third best time of 18:36; she currently holds the top three times in school history at 5K. Elaine MacDonald (21:20SB) looked strong, finishing 14th, and Kathryn Six (22:13PB), who seems to get faster each week, was 22nd. The ladies' team placed second with 71 points; rounding out the team were Kay Crusch (23:47) in 40th, Addy Mosher (24:10SB) in 44th, Kensley Sangray (24:15PB) in 46th, and Lydia Brakefield (25:15PB) in 56th.

The Varsity Men's team took eighth place collectively with senior Dallas Fligge (17:06PB), who clocked his new personal best each of the last three meets, lead the way in 8th place. Clayton Rice (18:38PB) was in 33rd, while Isaiah Lapsley (19:06PB) was next in 43rd. The Bulldogs were coming in one after the other with Gavin Johnson (19:38PB) in 50th, Luke Tullos (20:10SB) in 61st, and Rylan Hoveland (20:35SB) in 66th.

By the time you read this, the Bulldogs will have competed on Thursday, October 8th at the Capital City 7 of 7 Meet, a day-long event with a unique format where there are nine separate races; more details in next week's roundup. Mark your calendars for 1) the last regular season meet, the Capital City Area Classic, formerly Helena's Crosstown Meet, at Bill Roberts Golf Course on October 14th and 2) XC Senior Night during halftime of the home October 16th football game.



Kyla Meissner took 1st place for the Bulldogs at the Headwaters Invitational. She remains undefeated in high school at the Headwaters Invitational, going four for four, plus a win in eighth grade, for a total of five straight. Kelly Morris Photography



Dallas Fligge at the Headwaters Invitational X-Country meet in Three Forks last Friday Kelly Morris Photography



Junior Alexis Fryer cut an entire minute off her personal best time to finish third in the JV race. MT43 News Photo

Players of the Week



Cheer: Angel Sentinella
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Let's Go Bulldogs!



Cross Country: Kensley Sangray
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Cross Country: Isaiah Lapsley
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Football: Tavyn Anderson
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Volleyball: Kinsley Heggen
Townsend Booster Club Photo

GO BULLDOGS!!

Senior Steak Fry & Silent Auction – *A Broadwater High School Tradition*

Jessica Erickson

Each fall, the Broadwater County community begins to see advertisements for a long-standing Broadwater High School tradition—the annual Senior Steak Fry and Silent Auction. This year's event will be held Friday, October 23rd, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Townsend Elementary School cafeteria, prior to the senior night football game.

Community members are invited to enjoy a delicious New York steak dinner, complete with a roll, salad, baked potato, ice cream, and a drink. Dine in or take your meal to go!

The Senior Steak Fry and Silent Auction has been a cherished tradition for many years. The event is organized and operated by the senior class and their parents as a fundraiser to help cover the many expenses associated with senior year and graduation. Proceeds help fund the senior banquet held in May, senior banners displayed on the light posts along Main Street, decorations and supplies for the graduation ceremony, and the seniors' all-night graduation celebration.

Funds are raised through dinner ticket sales as well as donations of goods and services for the Silent Auction. The generosity of local businesses, organizations, families, and community members plays an important role in making these activities possible for the graduating class.

A Safe and Memorable Graduation Celebration

The all-night graduation celebration is one of the most anticipated traditions of senior year. The event provides graduates with a safe and memorable opportunity to spend one final evening together before beginning the next chapter of their lives.

The tradition began as a way to give graduating seniors a fun and safe alternative for celebrating graduation night. The event is organized by senior class parents, with input from the students about activities they would enjoy.

Following graduation, the seniors typically return to the school in the evening before boarding a bus for an evening adventure. Past itineraries have included dinner out, a movie, bowling, and trips to the hot springs. After their evening outing, the group returns to the school, where they remain together for the rest of the night.

There is no shortage of activities to keep the graduates entertained. Inflatables are set up in the gym, along with active games such as pickleball and cornhole. In past years, the students have even enjoyed a laser tag course. For those looking for something a little more relaxed, there are board games, card games, and movies. And, of course, students are welcome to bring a sleeping bag if they decide they need to catch a few hours of sleep!

Plenty of snacks and drinks are available throughout the night, along with games, drawings, and prizes. The activities and prize opportunities vary from year to year, but the prizes are generally geared toward helping students as they begin this next stage of their lives. Past prizes have included gift cards, gas cards, and fast-food cards, as well as larger items such as mini refrigerators, tool kits, and televisions.

The celebration continues into the early morning hours, ending with parents signing their students out and safely driving them home.

Come Support the BHS Class of 2027!

The BHS Senior Class of 2027 invites the community to come out and support the Senior Steak Fry and Silent Auction on Friday, October 23rd, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Townsend Elementary School cafeteria.

The Silent Auction will feature a variety of donated items, with bidding remaining open until the end of halftime of the football game that evening.

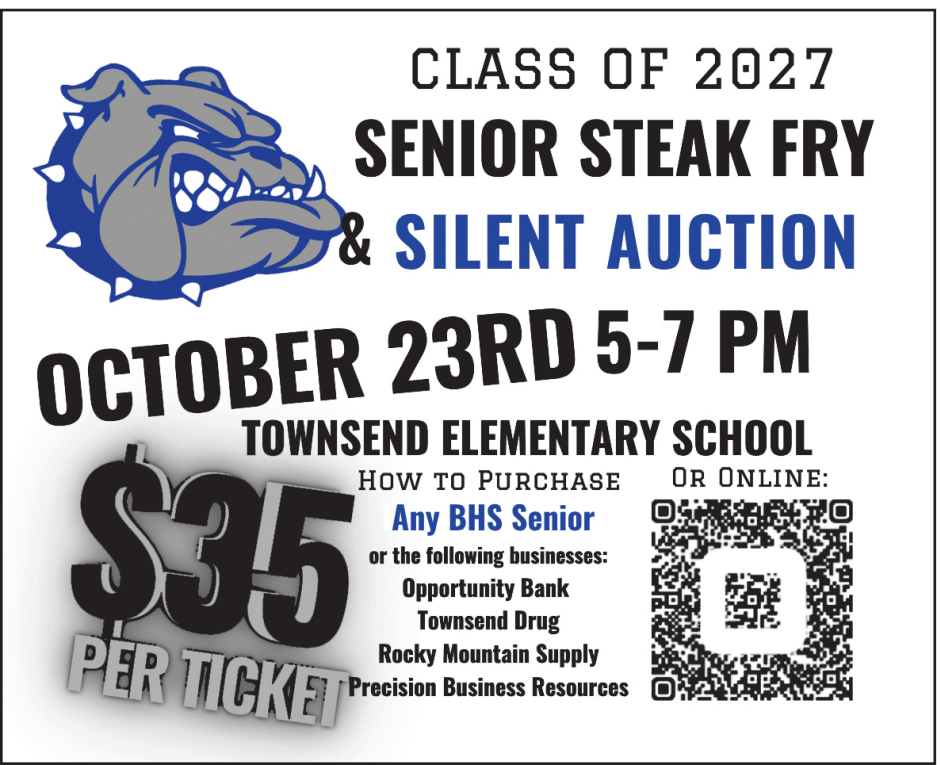
Tickets can be purchased from any BHS senior or at Opportunity Bank, Rocky Mountain Supply, Townsend Drug, and Precision Business Resources. Tickets are also available online at: https://square.link/u/59lkCvyS

Unable to purchase a ticket in advance? No problem—walk-ins are welcome!

The BHS senior classes, both past and present, would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Broadwater County community for supporting this tradition year after year. Whether you donate money, food, supplies, or Silent Auction items, purchase a dinner ticket, or participate in the auction, your support makes a difference.

Most importantly, your generosity helps provide Broadwater High School graduates with a safe, fun, and memorable way to celebrate their accomplishments and enjoy one final night together before embarking on their next adventure.

Thank you for helping make this long-standing Broadwater High School tradition possible!



Changing of the Guard, *1*

Forrey apparently felt the idea of a festival was a good one. He approached Townsend Area Chamber members to take over, but they declined. Townsend Rotary jumped at the chance to sponsor the event in about 2003 or 2004, Huth said. It was then that Rotary member Obert became involved. She and her husband Brian had set up a feather and silk art booth. She worked closely with Forrey, and by 2008 the event had really started to grow, according to Brian. She gave up the booth to become the point person for the vendors. By then, the event had been moved to Heritage Park with the vendors in the park and musicians under the Pavilion. For two years, he said, the beer and brats were in a 20ft by 40ft tent. They moved it back to the Pavilion when Rotarian organizers could see the possibility of a larger crowd. "When we finally put in a stage for name bands like Rob Quist, we could see the event was going to take off," he said.

But the event, with its many working parts, didn't happen without growing pains. "There definitely was infighting about whether to keep the military parade or the car show. Changing from established older musicians to rising new bands from all over the Northwest was another bone of contention. Rotary members discussed moving the event to Broadwater County Fairgrounds 2 miles from town. It took a while to figure out what worked and what didn't," he concluded.

This arts and crafts show is one of the few in the nation to use this model, according to Brian. "We charge no entrance fee. We include quality arts and crafts and food vendors in the show, and we are exclusive vendors for the beer and brats. That way we have more control over alcohol use. People have fun because there is a little something for everyone and for every age."

He pointed out an arts and crafts show using that model is the Candy Dance Festival in Reno, Nevada, which draws 30,000 people annually. Because Townsend's Fall Fest is located on Pine Street close to Broadway, the show, even with its drawbacks, is good for uptown businesses, which is one of the principal reasons for having the festival.

The money Rotarians raise from the event funds scholarships and grants to nonprofits for worthwhile projects throughout the year.



Sunset behind the stage and jumbotron.
Photo Credit: Brenda Phillips



"John Dendy & The Delta T" band plays smooth music for Sunday's festival participants.
Photo Credit: MT43 News



Dancing to the "Long Horn" band from Helena.
Photo Credit: MT43 News



Cutting up the rug(grass) to great jitterbug music.
Photo Credit: MT43 News

Rural Fire Department Fundraiser Jump Starts Fall Fest Weekend

MT43 News Reporter

Sayler Clark (age 4) and DeClan Rouse (also age 4) had finished their pancakes and sausage only to venture into the Fire Department's inner hallway to find two firemen's helmets. Nothing would do but that they prance out to show their parents what they had found. While they brought smiles all round, this would begin the journey of maybe becoming firemen and women when they are grown.



DeClan Rouse and Sayler Clark of Bozeman try out the fireman's hats at the annual fundraiser.
MT43 News Photo

According to Broadwater County Rural Fire Chief Ed Shindoll, the annual event served 477 breakfasts Saturday and 565 Sunday. "That's a record for us- the largest amount of people we have ever served,' Shindoll commented, 'the funds will be used to purchase turnout gear like the monkey suits we wear. They run about $3,500 each."

Although the rural fire departments have a county budget, the department depends very much on donations for upkeep of their building and equipment maintenance. Shindoll said currently there are 44 volunteers who work in the Winston, Toston, Duck Creek, and Townsend Fire district. Each section practices weekly on fire drills. Not only do the department volunteers react quickly to fires, but they are also on call with other emergency responders for vehicle accidents and medical emergencies. The number of calls through August this year stand at 70 for the district, which does not count calls in the city of Townsend, Shindoll noted.



Sayler Clark sits in a volunteer fireman's truck with Andrew Herrick instructing.
MT43 News Photo



Fireman's Breakfast attendees heap on the butter and syrup.
MT43 News Photo

2026 Fall Fest Business Decorating Contest Winners



Patrick Plantenberg
Rotarian

The Rotary Club of Townsend is proud to announce the winners of the 2026 Fall Fest business decorating contest.

There were 8 businesses that decorated.

- First prize and $100 go to Broadwater Family Chiropractic
- Second prize and $50 go to Precision Business Resources
- Third prize and $25 go to Century 21 Realty.

Rotary would like to thank all the businesses that decorated. The decorations made the community look good for the many visitors enjoying Fall Fest and the car show.



Broadwater Family Chiropractic Business Decorating
Photo Credit: Patrick Plantenberg

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

Townsend School & Sports

OCTOBER

Friday 9
- **NO SCHOOL**
- 7:00 pm: High School Football at Manhattan

Saturday 10
- 10:30 am: Middle School Cross Country at Bozeman
- 1:00 pm: High School Volleyball at Three Forks

Sun 11 - Mon 12
- FFA Nile

Monday 12
- 4:00 pm: Middle School and JV Football vs Manhattan
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball

Tuesday 13
- FFA Nile
- 4:00 pm: Middle School Volleyball vs East Valley
- 6:00 pm: School Board Meeting - Community Room
- 6:00 pm: Townsend Youth Basketball - Elementary Gym

Wednesday 14
- High School Cross Country at Helena
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 15
- 6:00 pm: Townsend Youth Basketball - Elementary Gym

Thu 15 & Fri 16
- **NO SCHOOL** - Teacher PIR-MEA

Friday16
- 4:00 pm: High School Volleyball at Joliet
- 7:00 pm: High School Football vs Whitehall (XC Senior Night)

Saturday 17
- 1:00 pm: High School Volleyball at Red Lodge

East Helena Schools & Sports

OCTOBER

Friday 9
- Volleyball at Butte
- Football at Browning
- Soccer vs Lockwood

Saturday 10
- Soccer Vs Laurel

Monday 12
- 5:30 pm - School Board Meeting at East Valley Middle School
- JV Football vs Browning

Tuesday 13
- East Valley Middle School Volleyball at Townsend
- 7:00 pm - East Helena High School Choir Concert

Wednesday 14
- East Valley Middle School Volleyball vs Boulder
- High School Cross Country at Helena

Thursday 15
- East Valley Middle School Volleyball vs Butte
- High School Volleyball at Lockwood

Thu 15 & Fri 16
- **NO SCHOOL**: State MEA Convention

Friday 16
- High School Football vs Havre (Senior Night)

Saturday 17
- High School Volleyball vs Hardin

Broadwater County Government Calendar

OCTOBER

Tuesday 13
- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- 6:00 pm: Trust Board

October 14
- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting

October 15
- 1:00 pm: LEPC 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

OCTOBER

Monday 12
- **CLOSED** for Indigenous People's Day

Wednesday 14
- 8:30 am: Walk & Talk Book Club
- 10:30 am: Preschool Storytime and Activities

Thursday 15
- 3:30 pm: Teen/Tween Manga and Anime Trivia

Broadwater County Open Board Positions

Broadwater County Commissioners

- 1 Airport Board Position
- 2 Trust Board Positions
- 2 Compensation Board Positions
- 1 Fair Board Position
- 3 Museum Board Positions
- 2 Planning Board Positions
- 1 Noxious Weed Board Position
- 1 Parks and Rec Board Position
- 2 Solid Waste Board Positions
- 1 Board of Health Position
- 2 TEDD Committee Positions

Community Calendar

OCTOBER

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

Friday 9
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Saturday 10
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Monday 12
- 6:00 pm: Community Roundtable: I-194 The Montana Plan at Townsend Schools Community Room ***READ MORE ON PAGE 10***

Tuesday 13
- 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 14
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 1:00 pm: Assistance in applying for and receiving Military Benefits at American Legion Post 42

Thursday 15
- 8:30 am: Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting at the Mint ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***
- 12:00 am: Red Cross Blood Drive at Mountain Valley Church
- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***
- 5:00 pm: Pizzas, Pints and Politics at Canyon Ferry Brewing ***SEE AD ON PAGE 10***
- 7:00 pm: United States Air Force Band on Tour in Montana
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 16
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Saturday 17
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

It's your future. Let's protect it.®



Dustin Gillaspie
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT
406.442.0456
fbfs.com/find-an-agent/dustingillaspiemt

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Laramie, WY. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-SM-B (10-21)

Library Hours

Broadwater School & Community Library

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



201 N Spruce St, Townsend Photo Provided

PUBLIC WINTER HOURS

Monday through Thursday 4pm to 7pm
Friday and Saturday 9am to 4pm
Due to staffing issues, the library will be closed on Sundays.
Wednesdays from 10-11 am
Starting September 16th, 2026 - May 12th, 2027
No Story Hour Nov. 25th, Dec. 23rd & 30th

Classifieds

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Broadwater Food Pantry

Gas Card Raffle Results

Winners are: Carol Anderson and Mary Renta!

Thanks to Rocky Mountain Supply for the Gas Cards.

Thanks to Townsend and all who attended Fall Fest and stopped by our booth to say hi and donate. The raffle and donation resulted in $2100 that will be matched by Town Pump.

We appreciate our community!

DONATIONS & SALES

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.



ITEMS FOR SALE

At 405 S. Pine
Commercial Electric Meat Saw, Grinder, Meat Slicer and Antique Forge.

MEETINGS

Monthly Chamber Meeting

8:30am Thurs, Oct 15
@ The Mint
All members of the community welcome!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

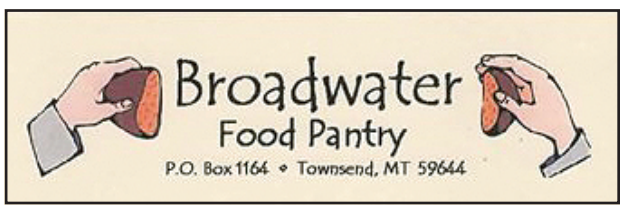
3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: October 21, 7:30PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: *https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov/community/rural_fire_board.php*

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 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: *Thanksgiving Meal Items, including Whole Turkey, Turkey Breast & Ham.*

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.***

Support LOCAL Businesses

RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

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

American Legion Hall

211 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-3611
Dining Hours:
Tuesday- Bingo/Bowl & a Roll starts at 5:00PM
Bar hours may vary

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

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

Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom

300 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 694-5687
Hours:
Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close
Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

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

Commercial Bar

101 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-9956
Dining Hours:
10:00AM - 2:00AM
Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Menu available on Facebook

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

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

Fishtale Tavern

209 Broadway St, Townsend
(406) 266-5582
Tavern Hours:
Monday 3:00PM - 10:00PM
Tuesday 10:00AM - 11:00PM
Wed - Sun 10:00 AM - Close
Daily Specials:
Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM
Late Night Menu

Full Belli Deli

209 S Front St, Townsend
(406) 266-5459
Dining Hours:
Mon - Sun 10:00AM - 7:00PM

Good Ol' Boys Cafe

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

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

Mountie Moose Bakery

109 Broadway, Townsend
(406) 266-5800
Dining Hours:
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Closed Sunday & Monday
Online Ordering:
Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site

Peking China

10 N Main St, Three Forks
(406) 285-3225
Dining Hours:
Tue - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM
Closed Monday
Menu:
Google

Reading Leaves and Lattes

(406) 475-0672 Text Only
401 Broadway, Townsend
Dining Hours:
Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM

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

Silos/Canyon Ferry Lake KOA

81 Silos Road
406-266-3100
Dining Hours:
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Menu:
Changes Weekly
Breakfast, Soup, Sandwiches to go

Vaquero's Mexican Restaurant

219 Broadway St, Townsend
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Bernadette Swenson, PLS
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406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

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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: **T** equals **M**

VYEJ TZSYJ OQA EUUATG ZU JYG REXQKZJG NYQNQBEJG NEICO QR NEXG-CVGBBZIS CVEKRU? JQQJUZG JKQBBU.

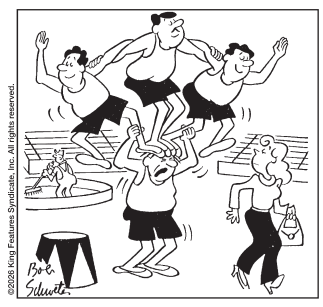
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KNIGHT MOVES

A	V	I
T		V
I	C	Y

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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"For gosh sakes, don't forget to bring back some _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _!"

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!

Mull ENDROP
Shine SHIPLO
Bore CREEPI
Deli MAILAS

TODAY'S WORD

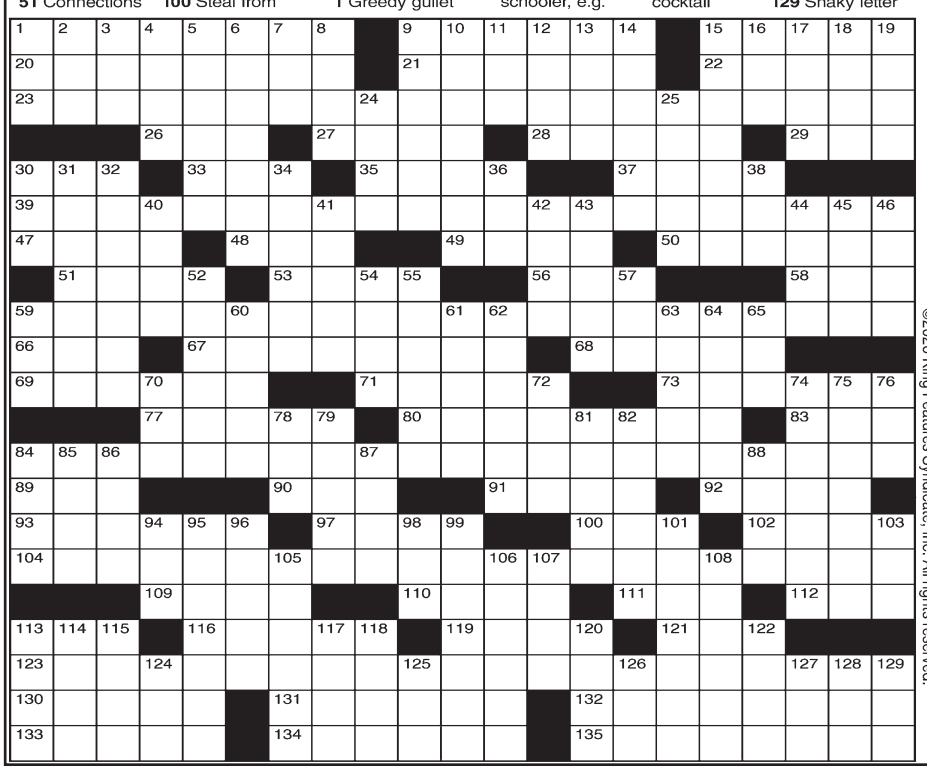
Super Crossword — JOURNALISTIC SET

ACROSS

1 Principal part of a ship's rigging
9 Glucose and dextrose
15 Want greatly
20 Phrase before a memoir co-author
21 Result of iron deficiency
22 Opponent
23 Question to someone barking orders
26 Wriggly fish
27 Extinct bird
28 Swerving billiards shot
29 Teeny
30 Suspenseful NFL periods
33 CIA worker
35 PC fixer, e.g.
37 "Hey, amigo"
39 Highest price customers are amenable to paying
47 "Less filling" Miller beer
48 Prefix similar to "equi-"
49 Vaccination fluids
50 Neighbor of Monterey Park, Calif.
51 Connections
53 Maximum
56 Rustic hotel
58 Lean- — (simple huts)
59 Time to steel oneself and power through
66 Congregated
67 Goes past the time limit
68 Cold shoulder preventer?
69 A humidifier moistens it
71 Suddenly blazing stars
73 Pungent salad veggie
77 Lhasa — (small dogs)
80 Official assisting a referee
83 "Rapa- —" (1994 Esai Morales film)
84 Classic Maurice Sendak book
89 Cabinet dept. focused on homes
90 "— culpa"
91 Wedge for filling a gap
92 Show fatigue reflexively
93 Mother on "Bewitched"
97 Aruba, e.g.
100 Steal from
102 Medicine bottle
104 Jesus' words after "My God, my God," in Matthew
109 "You bet!," in Baja
110 Favorite cereal of a "silly rabbit"
111 "I'm — loss for words"
112 Pub barrel
113 "La-la" lead-in
116 "Jay — Garage"
119 Best draft status
121 Business mag
123 Response upon hearing about an astonishing feat
130 "Aida," e.g.
131 Dogs from Japan
132 They often get mashed
133 Stopwatch button
134 Despotic ruler
135 They begin this puzzle's long answers

DOWN

1 Greedy gullet
2 Fire residue
3 Figure skater Midori
4 Central point
5 Superlatively sneaky
6 University on Long Island
7 "— be an honor"
8 Put freight in
9 Less happy
10 Opens with a key
11 "Well, I'll be!"
12 Radio toggle letters
13 Actress Hayworth
14 Gives a quick greeting
15 Disney villainess De Vil
16 Chest bone
17 State boldly
18 Rose holder
19 Otherwise
24 — bene
25 "— Mio"
30 Hooting bird
31 Toward there
32 Feeling of fullness
34 Sycophantic guys
36 Bray syllable
38 Crunches tone them
40 High schooler, e.g.
41 Some rock band synthesizers
42 Calc prereq
43 Subsides
44 Caesar's final reproach
45 Bump on —
46 Unduly quick
52 Zebra feature
54 Shortly
55 Resort town near Rome
57 High degree
59 H-bomb, e.g.
60 "Lummox" author Fannie
61 "A Town Like Alice" author Shute
62 Large pianos
63 Clingy wrap
64 Like a banjo's sound
65 On in years
70 Bern's river
72 Comic Rogen
74 Very shortly
75 "Smith" is the commonest one in the United States
76 Hasten
78 Resistance unit
79 Understand the point
81 Bake, as an egg
82 Brunch cocktail
84 "Close call!"
85 "Come again?"
86 Water swirl
87 Do laundry
88 Goalie's goal
94 Elle King's "Ex's & —"
95 Lambastes
96 Valuable trait
98 Auction unit
99 Former Volkswagen seven-seater
101 "Freedom" singer Jon
103 Shin's place
105 Soldier's steel helmet
106 Best in quality
107 Yaks, e.g.
108 Wichita site
113 Thunder god
114 Lasso, e.g.
115 Stupefies
117 Tasting of wood, as wine
118 Move a bit
120 Session with a dr., e.g.
122 — Field (Mrs. Met's home)
124 Deep anger
125 Greek vowel
126 "La-la" lead-in
127 Fight like Ali
128 Actor Ayres
129 Snaky letter



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MT43 News Statement of Ownership

Statement of ownership, management and circulation.
Publication Title: MT43 News.
Publication number: 2833-2571.
Issue Frequency: Weekly.
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Mailing address: 408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644.
Contact Person: Nancy Marks, 406-266-0086.
Headquarters mailing address: 408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644.
Publisher: Nancy Marks, Townsend, MT 59644
Layout Editor: Sarah Tallwhiteman, Townsend, MT 59644.
Managing Editor: Nancy Marks, Townsend, MT 59644.
Owners: MT43 News Inc.
Treasurer /Technical Director: Victor Sample, Townsend, MT 59644.
President: Jeff Langlinais, Townsend, MT 59644.
Secretary/Managing Editor/ Publisher: Nancy Marks, Townsend, MT 59644.
Vice President/Editor: Rachael Elliot Brug, Winston, MT 59647.
Director: E. Keith Howick, Townsend, MT 59644.
Known Bond holders - None
Tax Status: The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: Has not changed during the preceding 12 months.
Issue Date of circulation: Sept. 11, 2026

AVERAGE NUMBER COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS

Total number of copies (Net press run): 973.
Mailed outside-county paid subscription: 73.
Mailed in-county paid subscription: 337.
Paid distribution outside the mail includes dealer, carriers, vendors and counter sales, and other: 274.
Paid distribution by other class of mail: 0.
Total Paid Distribution: 684.
Free or Nominal rate outside-county distribution by mail: 10.
Free or Nominal rate in-county distribution by mail: 10.
Free or Nominal rate copies mailed at other class: 0.
Free or Nominal rate Distribution Outside the mail: 7.
Total Free or Nominal rate Distribution: 27.
Total Distribution: 711.
Copies not distributed: 363.
Percentage paid: 96.2%.
Paid Electronic copies: 74.
Total Paid Printed copies and Paid Electronic Copies: 758.
Total Print distribution and Print Electronic Distribution: 785.
Percentage paid: 96.56%

NUMBER COPIES OF SINGLES ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST FILING DATE

Total number of copies (Net press run): 1025.
Mailed outside-county paid subscription: 72.
Mailed in-county paid subscription: 351.
Paid distribution outside the mail includes dealer, carriers, vendors and counter sales and other: 176.
Paid distribution by other class of mail: 0.
Total Paid Distribution: 599.
Free or Nominal rate outside-county distribution by mail: 10.
Free or Nominal rate in-county distribution by mail: 10.
Free or Nominal rate copies mailed at other class: 0.
Free or Nominal rate Distribution Outside the mail: 10.
Total Free or Nominal rate Distribution: 30.
Total Distribution: 629.
Copies not distributed: 600.
Percentage paid: 99.83%.
Paid Electronic copies: 68.
Total Paid Printed copies and Paid Electronic Copies: 667.
Total Print distribution and Print Electronic Distribution: 697.
Percentage paid: 95.70 %
Submitted By Nancy Marks, Secretary/Publisher.

Published October 9, 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

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DARREN LEE BUFFINGTON, Deceased.
Probate No. ADP-26-27

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Anissa M. Buffington has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Claims against the decedent must be presented within four months after the first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to the Personal Representative via her Attorney, Peter T. Simon (303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644), return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.
Dated October 2, 2026.
/s/ Peter T. Simon
GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC
Attorney for Personal Representative

Published October 2, 9 and 16, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

ESTRAY NOTICE OF SALE

On the 28th day of September 2026, the Montana Department of Livestock took possession of the estrayed animal described as follows:

- One (1) Highland Cross Steer – No Brand, No ear tag(s), Black-Reddish in color.

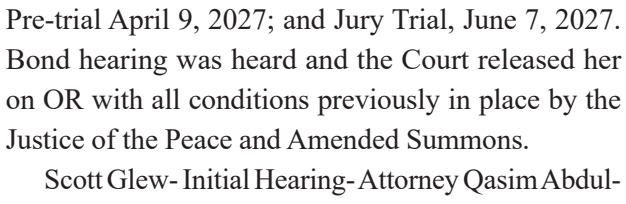
The animal came off the BLM High Ore lease near Boulder, Jefferson County, MT.

The animal will sell at Montana Livestock Auction, Ramsey, MT., on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

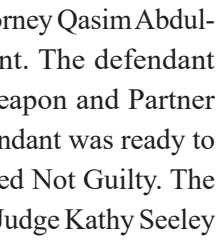
Contact: Ty Hultman, (406) 439-2890
Estray Reference Number: 2026-09-28_525
For additional information and photos:
liv.mt.gov/Brands-Enforcement/Livestock-Found-Lists

Published October 9, 2026

MNAXLP



Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



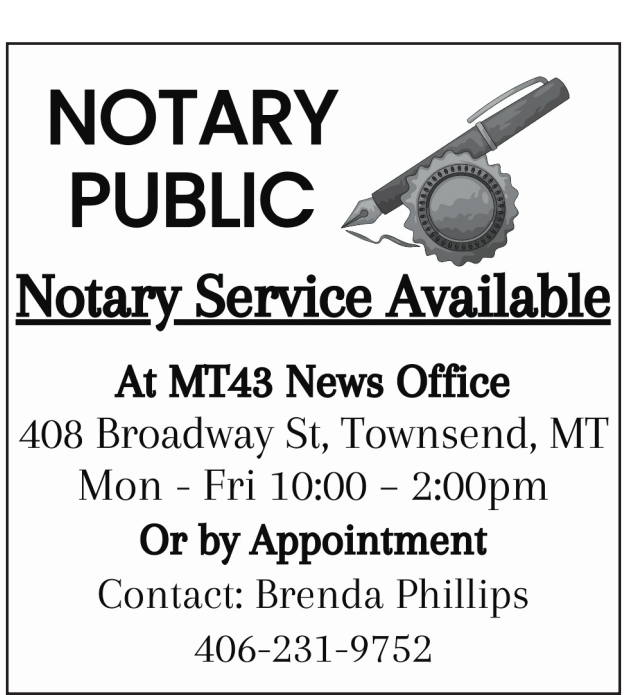
Judge Mike Menahan presided over the following cases. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher brought the charges. The defense attorney, Qasim Abdul-Baki, appointed from the Office of Public Defenders, acted as the defense attorney in two cases.

Cody Brial Reck- Appearing for his Initial Hearing along with his attorney, Megan Moore. The defendant is charged with 2 counts, 1- Criminal Child Endangerment, 2- Driving under the influence, 2nd. The Arraignment was held and the defendant pleaded Not Guilty. The following trial schedule was set: Omnibus memorandum filed by December 4, 2026; Pre-trial, April 2, 2027; and Jury trial, May 3, 2027.

Sunshine Mondragon- Initial Hearing- appeared with her attorney, Qasim Abdul-Baki. The defendant is charged with 1- Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, 2-Criminal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 3-Driving Under the Influence, and 4-Equipment Violation (example: no taillight or headlight). The defendant was ready to proceed to the Arraignment and pleaded Not Guilty. The Court set the following trial schedule: Judge Mike McMahon will preside; Omnibus Memorandum filed by December 11, 2026; Pre-trial April 9, 2027; and Jury Trial, June 7, 2027. Bond hearing was heard and the Court released her on OR with all conditions previously in place by the Justice of the Peace and Amended Summons.

Scott Glew- Initial Hearing- Attorney Qasim Abdul-Baki appeared with the Defendant. The defendant is charged with Assault with a weapon and Partner Family Member Assault. The defendant was ready to proceed to Arraignment and pleaded Not Guilty. The following trial schedule was set for Judge Kathy Seeley or her replacement after the election is held. Omnibus memorandum filed by November 20, 2026; Pre-trial, February 19, 2027; and Jury Trial, March 15, 2027. A Bond hearing was held, and the defendant was released on his OR with all conditions previously in place.





Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

Tatum Crain – Townsend – Seatbelt Violation – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Sara Adlington – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Justin Alexander – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Andrei Banu – Calgary, AB – speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Brandon Bloom – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $120 fines & fees

Alex Botina-Roehm – Bozeman – Fail to carry proof or exhibit / insurance in vehicle – owner or operator, 1st offense – paid fines - $285 fines

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

- Seatbelt violation – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Jami Bonnell – Elliston – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Christina Caucutt – Belgrade – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Michael Corcoran – Chicago, IL – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Connie Griffith – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Matthew Gorski – Bozeman – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Rosemary Howell – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Anne Johnson – Townsend – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Jaymes Reddell – Independence, MO – Unlawful possession of marijuana, products, or paraphernalia in motor vehicle on highway – paid fines - $75 fines & fees

- Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Gabriel Mcauliffe – Belgrade – No Motorcycle endorsement – paid fines - $85 fines & fees

Christopher Nice – Highlands Ranch, CO – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $120 fines & fees

Sarah Rollins – Helena – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Rachel Sandlin – Townsend – operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - $85 fines & fees

Jesus Pufleau – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $120 fines & fees

Erick Garcia – Greenough – Speeding on interstate – exceed night limit of 80mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Caleb Wohletz – Bossier City, LA – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

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

Abdalla Elhaj – Seattle, WA – Speeding on interstate – exceed day limit of 80mph – paid fines - $40 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Sergio Villalobos Velasquez – Belgrade – Driving without a valid drivers license – paid fines - $235 fines & fees

Bryton Simmons – Billings – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - $285 fines & fees

Andrew Quintana – Billings – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Oliva Lowe – Salida, CO – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Brayden Konkol – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - $120 fines & fees

Lindy Kamerman – Three Forks – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - $285 fines & fees

Briana Henderson – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Rainna Floyd – Livingston – Speeding on non-interstate - exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Carver Smith – Townsend – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – paid fines - $285 fines & fees

Yorlin Salguero Brito – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - $200 fines & fees

Three November Ballot Initiatives Explained

Seaborn Larson
Montana State News Bureau

Published earlier in the Helena Independent Record.

Three of the 10 citizen-proposed ballot measures have been finalized for Montana's general election in November.

Two of them, if passed, would install new provisions in the Montana Constitution; one deals with judicial elections and the other is an attempt to fortify the ballot initiative process itself. A third proposal seeks to take on corporate spending in Montana's elections through changes to state law. A majority of general election voters must approve of a measure for it to pass.

None of the ideas materialized in isolation. Rather, the two constitutional initiatives are in direct response to efforts by Republicans, the state's dominant political party, at the state Legislature. The statutory amendment known as "The Montana Plan" looks to grapple with the mountains of out-of-state money dumped into state elections to influence voters.

Montana's general election is on Nov. 3.

Nonpartisan courts

One of the constitutional initiatives would preserve the nonpartisan status of Montana's judicial elections. The proposal identified as CI-132 follows the Montana Republican Party's efforts at the state Legislature to tilt judicial campaigns into partisan affairs.

The state GOP has declared its opposition to CI-132, while former members of the Supreme Court bench, such as retired Chief Justice Mike McGrath and former Associate Justice Patricia Cotter, have spoken out in support. "You don't need to be a lawyer to understand that politics doesn't belong in our courts and that we need to make sure judges are accountable to the law and the Constitution, not political parties and their money," said retired Dawson County Sheriff Craig Anderson in a press release issued this week by Montanans for Nonpartisan Courts, the campaign group behind the initiative.

Montanans for Nonpartisan Courts has raised considerable sums this year for its efforts. By the time it turned in over 100,000 signatures for the proposal in June, the campaign had raised over $2.7 million; more than many of this year's congressional candidates.

Ballot measure access

The other constitutional initiative is, in essence, a ballot initiative to preserve the ballot initiative process. Albeit a bit wonkier than the other proposals, the campaign running the initiative still piled up over 100,000 signatures in support of the CI-133.

This, too, came on the heels of several Republican efforts to restrict what measures citizens can try to pass through a statewide ballot initiative. CI-133 would require "impartial, predictable, open, and timely processes for ballot issues," in part by requiring state officials to provide ample time to gather signatures and blocking them from disqualifying petitions because of technical issues.

Examples of recent voter-approved ballot measures include the legalization of recreational marijuana in 2020 and adding abortion protections to the state constitution in 2024.

Former Secretaries of State Bob Brown, a Republican, and Mike Cooney, a Democrat, both offered their support in a press release issued this week by Montanans Decide, the organization driving the campaign.

"We have overseen dozens of elections and the people's voice should be honored in Montana," Brown said in the press release. "Ballot measures are what hold government accountable to Montanans."

'The Montana Plan'

One of the highest-profile campaigns in Montana this year is I-194, a proposed change in state law to curb corporate spending in Montana's elections. Some candidates have used it as a rallying cry in campaign speeches. Pete Buttigieg, a former Biden administration official who is seen as a likely Democratic presidential candidate, traveled to Montana specifically to promote the effort.

The proposal takes a novel approach to addressing the U.S. Supreme Court-sized elephant in the room, a 2010 decision known as Citizens United. That decision took the cap off corporate spending in elections, leading to record-setting cash figures flowing in each cycle. I-194 would get underneath this hurdle by addressing what corporations are in state law, and removing their ability to spend money in elections.

The state GOP formalized its opposition to the proposal in July.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce and other industry groups already tried once this year to head the initiative off in court. The Montana Supreme Court shut down that litigation in a 7-0 decision that determined the legal challenge came too early in the process. The Montana Mining Association was among the plaintiffs in that case and vowed to continue fighting the proposal in defense of free speech.

Hawaii's governor signed a similar measure into law earlier this year. It doesn't go into effect until July 2027, but its passage immediately drew a legal challenge from a nonprofit corporation called Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, represented by the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Free Speech. A hearing is set for October for the plaintiff to argue why the new law's implementation should be stalled while the case plays out.

Secretary Christi Jacobsen unveils 2026 Voter Information Pamphlet

Christi Jacobsen
Montana Secretary of State



Montana Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen announced the release of the 2026 Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP), providing Montanans with information about the statewide ballot issues appearing on the November 3 General Election ballot.

This year's VIP continues the celebration of #America250, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. The pamphlet's patriotic cover features stars and stripes, fireworks, and America's signature red, white, and blue imagery.

"Montana's 2026 Voter Information Pamphlet recognizes the historic moment for our country as we continue celebrating 250 years of freedom," said Secretary Jacobsen. "Montanans have an important civic duty to participate in our electoral process and I encourage every eligible Montanan to review the pamphlet and be prepared to make their voice heard this General Election."

Secretary Jacobsen published the 2026 VIP this week to serve as a resource for Montana voters ahead of Election Day. County election offices will mail one physical copy of the VIP to each household with an active, registered voter. Alternative formats will also be available.

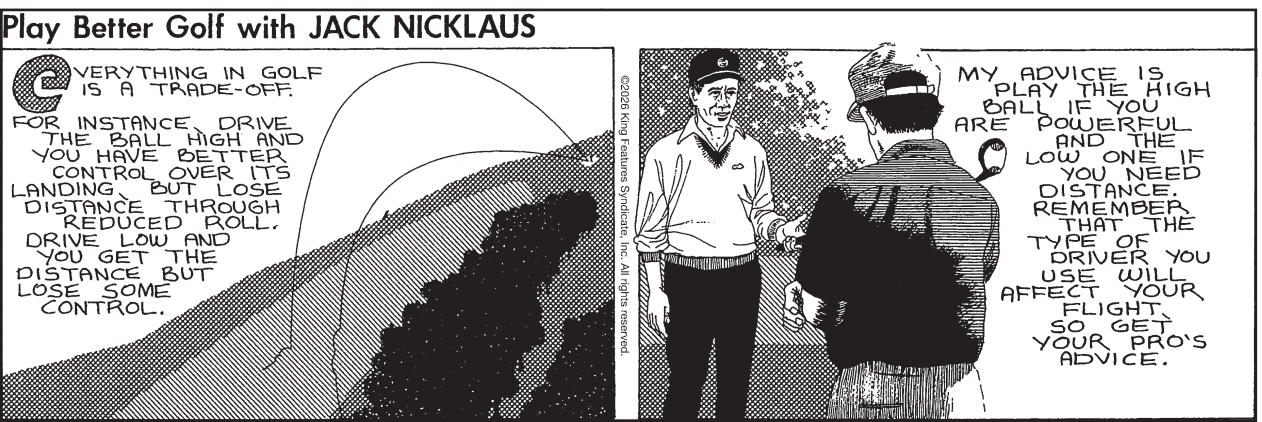
The pamphlet contains the three qualified, statewide ballot issues, their proposed changes to the Montana Constitution and state law, and arguments for and against each ballot issue. It also contains important voter information and resources.

"As Montanans prepare to head to the polls in November, the Voter Information Pamphlet is an important resource for the statewide ballot issues, helping voters understand each measure, what it does, and how it would change our Constitution and laws," said Secretary Jacobsen.

Montanans can access the online version of the VIP by visiting: https://sosmt.gov/elections/vip/

Voters can also visit the Secretary of State's https://VoteMT.gov website to check their registration, view their sample ballot, and find additional election resources.

The 2026 General Election is already underway for Montana military and overseas voters. County election officials will mail absentee ballots to registered absentee voters by October 9. Polling places will be open statewide on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3.



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.

REVISED

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

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

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Bill Malone, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Consider bids for paving the Public Health Parking Lot

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Mark Wood, Bids for Sheriff's Office App and Website

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Ed Shindoll, 5-year Tower Space Lease Agreement between Broadwater County and Northwestern Energy for the installation and maintenance of up to two (2) fire detection cameras

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Development and Planning Director, Vandenacre Boundary Relocation Exemption Request, Section 10 & 11, Township 7 North, Range 1 East

10:20 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

Items for Discussion / Decision / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments / Board bylaws
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Ongoing and renewing contracts
- Ongoing grants, grant applications
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders
- Mail

Debi Randolph, Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 451-6035
drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Lindsey Richtmyer
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834
lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213
jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change; please check the county website

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

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

Townsend Library Book Club Update

Darlene Beck
Townsend Library Book Club

The Townsend Library Book Club recently hosted a special guest at its latest gathering, welcoming talented local author Katie Powner. Powner, who resides in nearby Manhattan, Montana, spent time visiting with local readers and sharing the inspiration behind her popular stories.



Katie is pictured with her mascot Mooline in red tennis shoes. Katie's beginnings were at a dairy farm in Washington as a young girl. The red shoes, which show up in each of her books, are a tribute to her grandmother
Photo Credit: Darlene Beck

As the author of seven published novels, Powner brought wonderful depth to the book club's discussions. She answered questions and shared insights on several of her most recent books, including When the Road Comes Around, Birds on a Wire, and The Second Chance Trailer Park. A generous group of local book lovers thoroughly enjoyed hearing how Powner's everyday life experiences make their way onto the pages of her heartwarming novels.

For community members looking to join the conversation, the Townsend Library Book Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Broadwater School and Community Library. The club warmly welcomes anyone interested in discovering new books, sharing reading recommendations, and enjoying community fellowship.

The club has already selected its next reading adventure: The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by award-winning author Alan Bradley. This award-winning mystery features an amateur 11-year-old sleuth trying to clear her father's name in the English countryside. Copies can be checked out at READING LEAVES or sourced on Kindle at the library. All interested readers are encouraged to grab a copy and join the discussion November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Canyon Ferry Management Area too Dry for Waterfowl Hunters

Thom Bridge
Deputy Editor and Photographer, Independent Record

Article first published in the Helena Independent Record.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is warning waterfowl hunters planning to hit the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area October 3 that boats will be unable to launch on the ponds due to low water levels.

The department made the announcement Wednesday in a Facebook post: "Waterfowl hunters wanting to hunt on Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area this year should be aware that pond levels are again lower than desired this fall due to the lack of adequate Missouri River flows for most of the summer."

The Missouri River supplies water to the two canals that then send water to three of the four waterfowl ponds on Canyon Ferry WMA.

According to FWP, because of low Missouri River water flows in the Townsend area again most of this summer, water levels in the canals were less than desired, resulting in decreased flows into the WMA's waterfowl ponds.

"All the pond boat ramps are high and dry, so hunters shouldn't expect to be able to get a boat into the ponds for at least the early part of the season," the announcement said.

Missouri River flows are expected to increase later in October as irrigation canals in the Upper Missouri River watershed are shut down for the year, which will then increase water flows into the WMA's canals.

Montana's waterfowl season opens Oct. 3 and runs through mid-January. For specifics regarding hunting migratory birds in Montana, visit FWP's website.

Thom Bridge is the Deputy Editor of the Helena Independent Record. Before that, he was a photojournalist with the IR and Montana State News Bureau.

That Time of Year Again! Get your Flu Shots!

Jenna Reynolds
Broadwater County Public Health Department

Broadwater County Public Health is offering annual flu shots at two clinics in October at Townsend Drug and Spirits.

Most insurance is accepted, however, cash price for regular flu shot is $40 and high dose (65+) flu shot is $75.

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 10am-2pm
Saturday, October 24, 2026, 10am-2pm

Neither of these dates work? Call us at 406-266-5209 to get in at the office!

Influenza or Flu is a contagious disease that can cause complications for anybody, but especially in infants, pregnant women, immunocompromised, and the elderly populations. Some complications can even result in death. Flu shots can help avoid detrimental complications by preventing the disease or lessening the side effects. Flu can cause fever, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, headache, and in some cases vomiting and diarrhea. Complications include pneumonia, bronchitis, and ear infections for example. Each year a new flu vaccine is developed to protect against viruses in the upcoming flu season. It takes about two weeks for immunity to build in the body after the injection. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older be vaccinated for influenza.

Speaking of BCPHD….did you know we have all different kinds of vaccines? We have adult vaccines including Shingles, Pneumonia and RSV. We have children's vaccines for school like TDAP, MMR, Meningococcal and infant vaccines to keep the whole family healthy. We also offer a variety of community services such as toenail care, blood pressure checks, and weight checks. Through grants, we have programs to help at home, including our Homemaker, Respite, and Skilled Nursing services. We also have a satellite office for WIC and a mental health program with Many Rivers.

We are here to help you at Broadwater County Public Health! Please give us a call to get scheduled for vaccines, any questions or comments, at 406-266-5209. We are open Monday through Friday 8am-5pm at 124 N. Cedar St., Townsend. Facebook: Bcph Townsend-for updates and upcoming events!

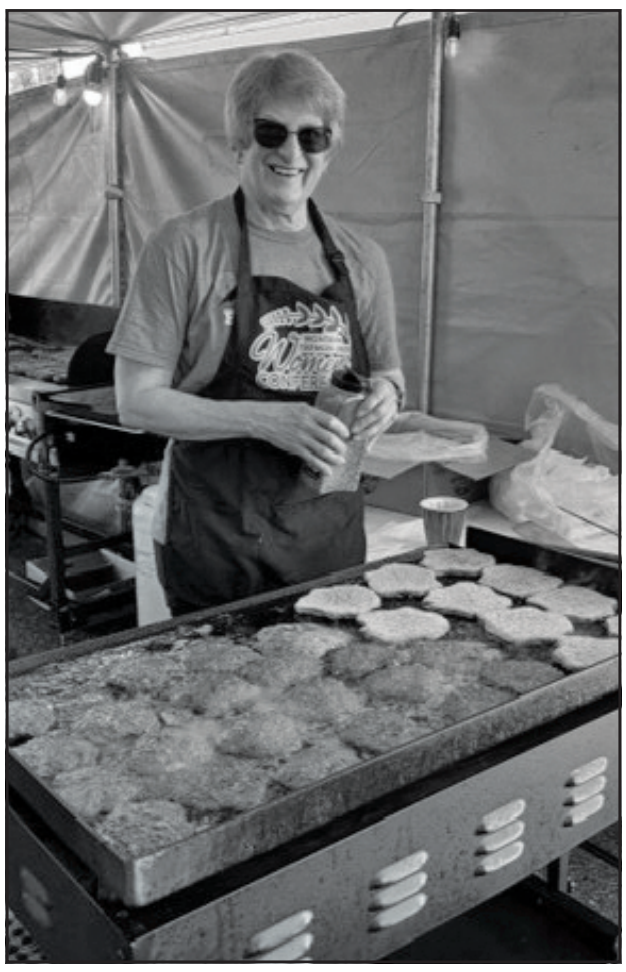
MORE FALL FEST PHOTOS!



Friday night lights at Fall Fest with "Scotty Mac & the Nugs" band.
Photo Credit: Brenda Phillips

Behind the Grill at Fall Fest

It truely takes a full team of Rotarians and volunteers to feed the masses!



Denise Donnelly sets burgers sizzling for Fall Fest participants.
Photo Credit: MT43 News



Veteran brat griller John Rains chases the sumptuous wieners around the grill.
Photo Credit: MT43 News



Rotarians and community volunteers serve brats and burgers at the Pavilion.
Photo Credit: MT43 News

Fun Fact

Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission distributed the first U.S. license plates in 1900, in the form of leather tags.

In the last few years, specialty license plate design options number in the thousands, reflecting all kinds of interests.

Source: history.com

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

TOPGUN Autobody Townsend, MT

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

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

A 4	V 1	I 6
T 7		V 3
I 2	C 5	Y 8

VIVACITY

CryptoQuip

answer

What might you assume is the favorite chocolate candy of cave-dwelling dwarfs? Tootsie Trolls.

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Ponder; 2. Polish
3. Pierce; 4. Salami

Today's Word

ASPIRINS

Just Like Cats & Dogs

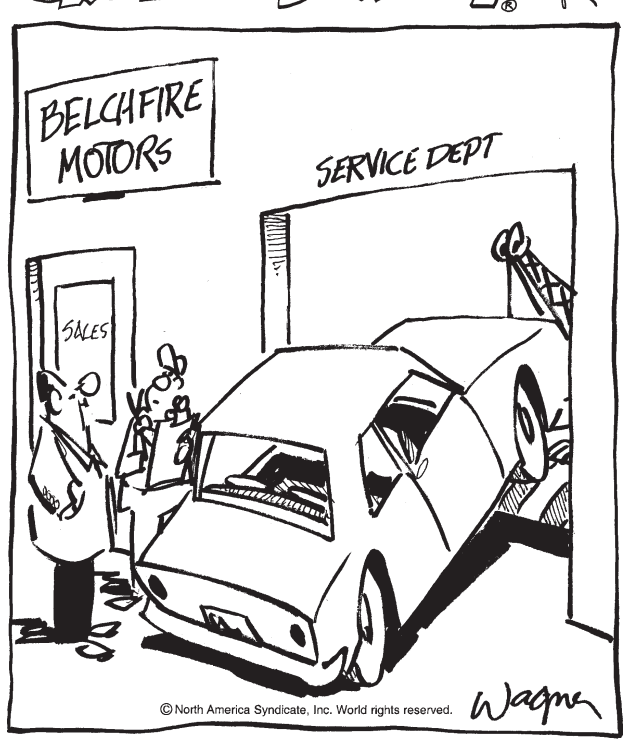
by Dave T. Phipps



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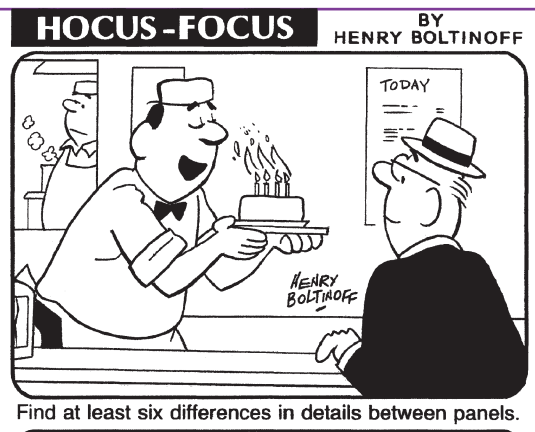
GRIN and BEAR IT®



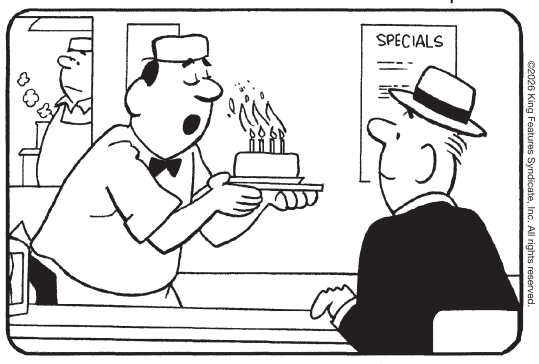
"It drives great! How does it tow?"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Word is different. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Sleeve is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Back of stool is added. 6. Mouth is different.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

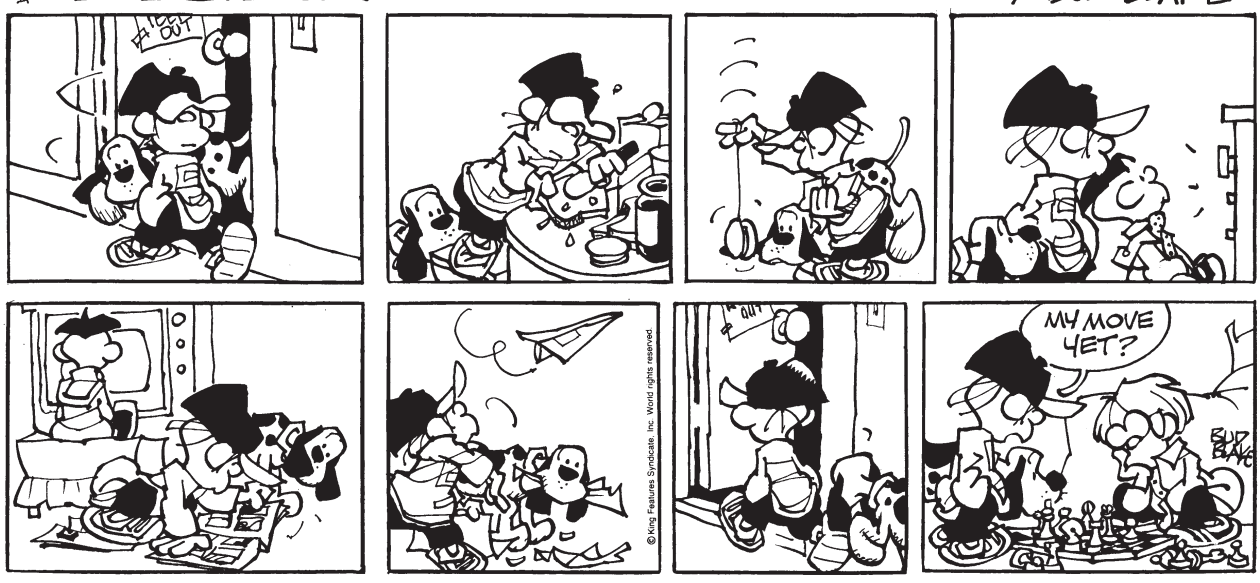
BIG MIKE THE MOB GUY TAKES HIS CAR IN FOR REPAIRS



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TIGER

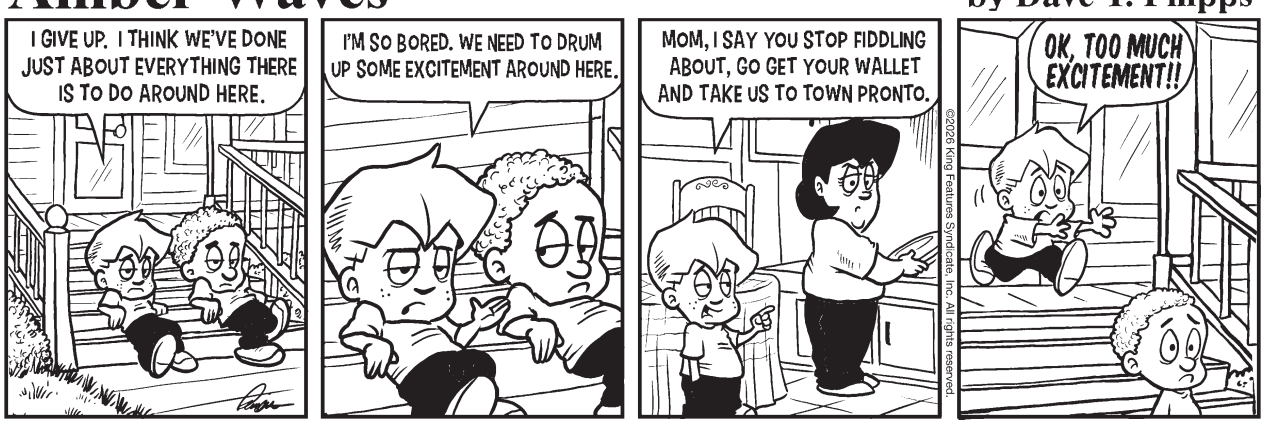
by BUD BLAKE



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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

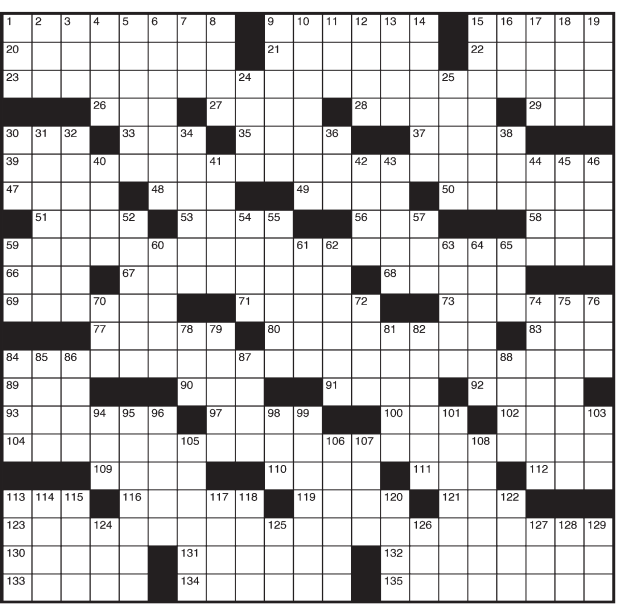


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Weekly SUDOKU

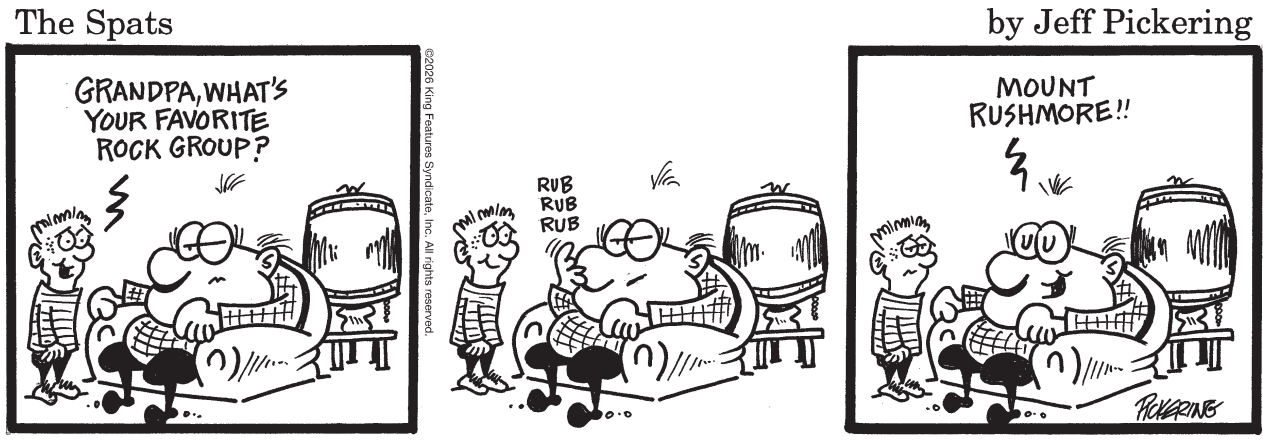
Answer

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

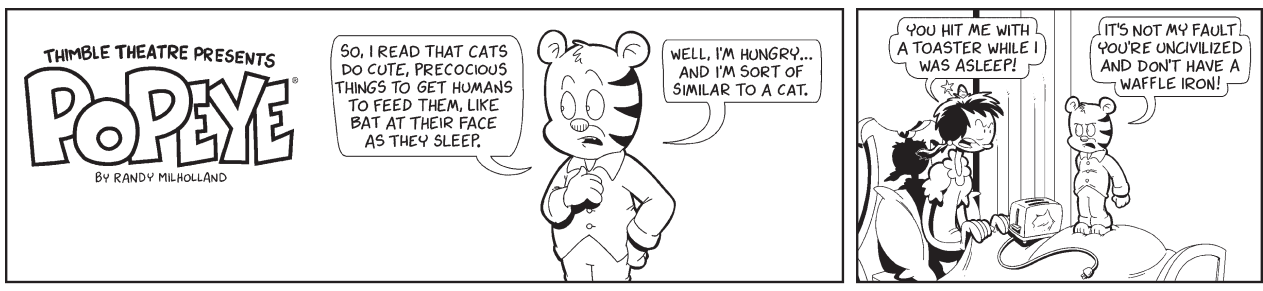


The Spats

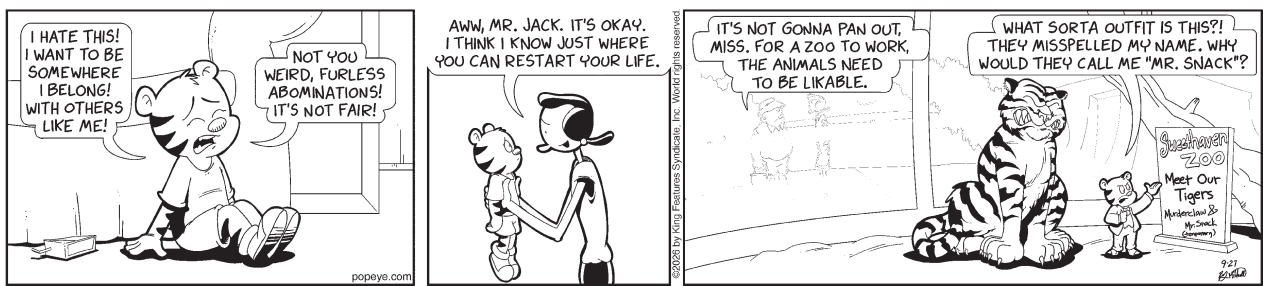
by Jeff Pickering



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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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Forms and Policies

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

Broadwater Country Trails Active at Fall Fest

Al Christophersen
Broadwater County Trails

The Broadwater Trails Team presented their trail efforts and visions to an amazing visiting audience enjoying Fall Fest. The beautiful weather brought out a huge crowd from all around the state and beyond that provided us with some interesting insights and discussions.



Visitor at the Broadwater Trail Committee Fall Fest Booth
Broadwater Trail Committee Photo

Our attending members interacted with visitors asking questions about what we have done, what we are currently doing and what we see for the future. Enthusiasm for the trails program was apparent as we visited with people and their enthusiasm to sign our support petition for the Fairgrounds Trail effort. We continue to collect signatures in support of our efforts to build the multi-use trail from N. Harrison Street to the county Fairgrounds. We will continue to collect supporting signatures until we submit the grant application this winter.

There is also support for pursuing the pedestrian bridge over the Missouri River at the bridge north of Townsend. Discussions of emergency evacuation routes for non-drivers, safety for pedestrian users on close-in rural roads, and access to city and county parks was also a strong discussion item.

There continues to be people who are just learning of our trail efforts and are wanting us to keep providing update information out to the public and continue to look at more and innovative ways to communicate our efforts and involve more people. Good ideas were shared with our members that we hope to use to build a better program communication effort.

We continue to seek and welcome new team members who have a wide variety of skills and knowledge about developing a robust trail program, representing the widest array of users and ideas. We welcome anyone wishing to help design, build and work in all kinds of aspects of building and maintaining trails, fundraising efforts, social media and web page ideas.

THANK YOU to all the Fall Fest attendees who stopped and visited with us about their trail program ideas and shared enthusiasm. We find them to be inspiring to all of us. You help us to continue to strive harder to make the Townsend community and Broadwater County a better connected, safer, healthier county.

Stay tuned with us on Facebook at BCDC Trails as we share upcoming trails involvement opportunities and information on our grants and project work. If you have questions or want more information, please contact and share your thoughts and ideas with us. Contact one of these contacts: John Hahn, 406-202-1050; Carol Hatfield, 406-431-9656; AL Christophersen, 406-439-0197.

Our next full meeting is October 8, 6 pm at the Lodge in Townsend. We meet the second Thursday of each month.

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

The Montana Plan to Host Community Roundtable on I-194 in Townsend

Michelle Hutcherson
Communications Director: The Montana Plan PAC

The Montana Plan will host a community roundtable on I-194 on Monday, October 12, at the Broadwater School and Community Library in Townsend, giving people across the area a chance to learn about the initiative, ask questions, and hear how it would work.

I-194, The Montana Plan, is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led ballot initiative to end dark money and corporate spending in Montana elections. WHAT: A free community roundtable on I-194, The Montana Plan, facilitated by Montana Plan Executive Director Russell Cleveland. The evening will begin with a brief overview of the initiative, followed by an open discussion where attendees can ask questions and talk through how political spending affects their community. Everyone is welcome, whether they already support I-194 or still have questions. No RSVP required.

WHEN: Monday, October 12, 2026, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Broadwater School and Community Library, 201 North Spruce Street, Townsend, Montana

WHO: Russell Cleveland, Executive Director of The Montana Plan, will facilitate the roundtable. Cleveland is a Navy veteran, small-business owner, and rancher. The event is open to everyone, and local business owners are especially encouraged to attend.

WHY: The Townsend roundtable is part of a series of conversations The Montana Plan is holding in communities across the state. The Montana Plan would end political spending by corporations, LLCs, unions, nonprofits, and other artificial persons using treasury funds to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures. Political spending would instead have to come from real people, subject to Montana's campaign-finance disclosure laws.

Root Beer Floats and Ideas Created – Circle 100 Annual Meeting 2026

Sharon Rains Potenza
Circle 100 Club

The annual meeting of Circle 100 was held Thursday, September 24, in the dining room of the Billings Clinic Broadwater Health Center. There was a very nice showing of congenial members, residents, and staff.

Root beer floats were assembled and served by Sherry Scoffield, Sharon Ragen, Sharon Potenza, and administrator Justin Tiffany. Helen Turcotte was on hand to make sure we kept the facts straight. Even though not present, Judy Gillespie's vision for our work was very much with us.

Since its inception in 2012, over $100,000 has been donated by members of our community. In addition to serving floats, Justin thanked the generous contributors for their excellent support over the years. Cindy Kirksey shared the history of her lifelong relationship with the hospital. Her father was the administrator for years and she spent much of her life in the offices and as activities coordinator. She likes it so much; she is now a happy resident!

The creation of Circle 100 was discussed, and we enjoyed remembering how our Broadwater community came together to save our hospital from closing. Current needs suggested by the staff include the purchase of a new shower chair and a new Med Cart.

To brighten up the rooms of the residents, we are creating framed colorful pieces of quilt fabric, which were generously donated by Shirley Wilson, owner of the Creative Closet. Lori Rains shared her expertise on how to cut and back the pieces for the 24"x24" frames. There will be two in each room. We hope they bring a smile to residents, visitors, and staff.

Another cheerful action Circle 100 will take in 2027 is to provide a birthday cake to every resident on their Being-Born Day.

Circle 100 annual contributions are arriving daily. The Club wishes to thank all who support needed items for the long-term care residents. It is never too late to enter this "Circle of Care" by sending a tax-free donation to The Circle 100 Club, Box 1215, Townsend, MT 59644. Your money will be put to very good use!

Thanksgiving Meal Sign-Ups

Brenda Phillips
Food Pantry Rep

Thanksgiving meal assistance sign-up will be available Saturday, October 17th and October 30th from 9:00 - 11:00 AM at 315 Broadway, Townsend.

Thanksgiving meal Distribution Day will be Saturday, November 21st, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

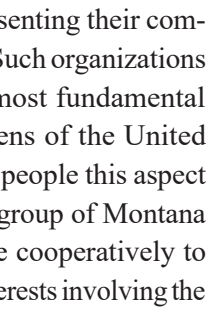
Broadwater Food Pantry operates to help anyone who needs food. Hours of Operation are 9:00 -11:00 AM on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (If applicable) Saturday of each month.

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

Guest Editorials

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

I Cannot Support I-194



I have a basic rule when it comes to movie advertising: if it's over-advertised, it's probably a dud. I-194 is one of the most over-advertised initiatives I've ever seen, but it would be unfair to judge it only by its advertising. So I took the time to read the full proposed initiative.

It is my opinion that I-194, while well-intentioned, will have consequences I believe will be detrimental to a Constitutional political process. In an effort to stem the tide of dark money entering the state's political arena, the initiative will stifle the voice of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, the Montana Farmers Union, the Montana Cattlemen's Association, and the approximately 116 chambers of commerce, tourism districts, visitor bureaus, and trade boards — and every co-op, trust, and every other non-governmental organization. As written, I could have my business shut down for affixing a political sign to the wall of Townsend Hardware. But what concerns me more is that all of the other organizations are specifically organized at the local level to represent the common interests of real people. It's not always perfect. And yet, under I-194, no such organization throughout Montana would have the authority to represent the common interest of their members through direct political financial contribution.

That is a serious weakness in I-194 — known as The Montana Plan — and it's unconstitutional. Courts throughout the United States have interpreted the combined First Amendment rights of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances as the right to organize themselves for the purpose of representing their common interests in the political arena. Such organizations are the formal expression of our most fundamental rights of self-government as citizens of the United States. I-194 seeks to take from the people this aspect of those rights. No longer would a group of Montana citizens have the power to organize cooperatively to financially represent their political interests involving the environment, business, social platforms, development, and many other issues. Will the organizations cease to exist? No. But without a voice in Helena, their value is severely curtailed. Instead they must act through limited political committees such as Political Action Committees (PACs), which are statutorily protected despite being part of the problem.

The purported goal I-194 is to disenfranchise out-of-state political funding and to ensure transparency in all political funding. I'm all for that. But in doing this I-194 also disenfranchises good and necessary organizations within Montana. Organizations Montana citizens have depended on to advocate for business, agriculture, and workers for over a century. The initiative is using what I consider to be a legal gimmick to circumvent inconvenient laws that allow dark money to flourish --- but the price is far too high.

All things weighed together, I cannot support I-194.

JB Howick
Townsend Hardware

Meet & Greet with Candidate for County Commissioner Reelect, Debi Randolph

This is your opportunity to meet with 2026 Candidates!

VOTE RIGHT VOTE WISE

PIZZA, PINTS, AND POLITICS
at **CANYON FERRY BREWING CO and TAPROOM**
Thursday, October 15th 5:00- 6:30pm
We will provide the pizza. You get your own pints.
Debi Randolph – Candidate for Broadwater County Commission
Leona Nelson - Candidate for County Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools

Next week's Meet & Greet is Tuesday Oct 20 at The Mint 5:00-6:30pm with Debi Randolph and Sam Deans

Paid for my Debi Randolph for Broadwater County Commissioner 409 S Spruce St, Townsend, MT 59644

From Projects to Leadership:
Broadwater County 4-H is Beyond Ready



Broadwater County 4-H members at the 2026 Multi-County 4-H Camp near Monarch. Photo Credit: Allison Kosto

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Each October, communities across the country join together to celebrate National 4-H Week. This is a time to recognize the young people who are learning, leading and serving to make their communities stronger. This year's theme, "Beyond Ready," captures what 4-H has always done best: prepare youth not just for the next project or the next fair season, but for life, leadership and the future they're building.

In Broadwater County, that readiness shows up in countless ways. Over the past year, local 4-H members have stepped into new projects, taken on leadership roles, and strengthened the community through hands on service. From early morning livestock care to late night book work, from mentoring younger members to representing 4-H at county events, our youth continue to demonstrate responsibility, resilience, and a willingness to grow.

This past year, 137 Broadwater County youth participated in organized clubs. This steady enrollment reflects strong community support and continued interest in hands on learning. Our program continues to expand. Last fall, we welcomed the Canyon Ferry Coyotes, our eighth 4-H club in the county, giving even more youth a place to belong and build skills.

We also celebrated the return of the County 4-H Ambassador program after a 20 year hiatus. Ambassadors, Kaitlyn Noyes and MaKenzie Truesdell, were selected through an application and interview process and served as official envoys of the Montana 4 H Program, wrapping up a yearlong term. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and service embody what it means to be "Beyond Ready" by stepping forward to represent 4-H and inspire others.

Broadwater County also hosted a statewide 4-H/FFA Meat Science Education Day in April, offering youth the chance to explore the journey of meat from farm to fork. Events like this help young people become informed consumers, thoughtful livestock producers, and perhaps even future food industry professionals. These experiences build readiness not only for careers, but for confident decision making in everyday life.

While animal projects remain a beloved part of 4-H, they are only one piece of a larger picture. Only 37 percent of Broadwater County 4-H members live on farms or ranches, and this year we saw a 14.3 percent increase in 4-H indoor exhibits at the Broadwater County Fair. This is a testament to the diverse opportunities available in 4-H. From woodworking and photography to robotics, cooking, and creative arts, youth discover new interests and build practical skills that prepare them for whatever comes next.

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opened on October 1, and we are excited to continue expanding opportunities for youth to learn and grow. Supporting this effort is Kasen Gregg, our newly hired 4-H Assistant. Kasen is a Sweet Grass County 4-H alum whose equine background and professional experience as a case manager bring valuable perspective to our program. This new county funded position with MSU Extension in Broadwater County strengthens our ability to provide both administrative support and educational outreach for 4-H and youth development programs.

Support for 4-H, locally and statewide, is essential. Montana 4-H continues to be one of the state's largest youth development programs, reaching thousands of young people each year through clubs, camps, school enrichment and afterschool programs. National research shows that 4-H members are more likely to contribute to their communities, pursue STEM careers, and develop strong communication and decision making skills. Those outcomes are exactly what "Beyond Ready" is all about.

As we celebrate National 4-H Week, we honor the youth who show up, try new things, work hard, and support one another. We also recognize the volunteers, families, and community partners who make this program possible. Broadwater County is supported by 59 certified adult volunteers who lead clubs, organize project work, assist with events, and so much more. Together, we are helping Broadwater County youth become "Beyond Ready." They are ready to lead, ready to serve, and ready to shape the future of our community.

If you'd like to learn more about joining 4-H, volunteering, or supporting local programs, please contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or 4hassistant@broadwatercountymt.gov

or stop by the Flynn Building at 416 Broadway in Townsend. 4-H is the youth development program of Montana State University Extension.

Disabled Veteran Helps Others Toward Living Well

MT43 News Reporter

It was a long road home for disabled veteran Charles Alvarez, who served in the Marines seven years during the wars in Afghanistan and Fallujah, Iraq. The 47-year-old tall, dark-eyed representative at Ability Montana's Fall Fest booth talked about his time in the service, coming home with injuries no one could solve for him.

Alvarez, who now leads peers in the Living Well with Disabilities program, had struggled with what he called alternative medicine, isolating and full of anger, and living on the streets in Phoenix. When he came to Montana, he was approached by another veteran to join Ability Montana's peer group. The counselors there changed his attitude: "My mindset went from I can't to I can – that theory is what changes life for people with disabilities," he said.

The non-profit Ability Montana works in communities to help individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to living their lives comfortably and focusing on teaching self-advocacy. Alvarez emphasized these services are not only for veterans, but for the elderly and for students with disabilities. He now teaches a course in empowerment at jails and at the Friendship Center in Helena. "The course has a ripple effect – disabled individuals learn how to take care of themselves. Then they pass it on to others in their same situation," he said.

The organization serves as a connection to adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs, sit-ski bikes, and ice skating equipment. Even more importantly, Ability Montana connects those in need to philanthropists who step up to underwrite the costs of specialized equipment. Alvarez's Action Trackchair was customized for his needs with a rifle mount, LED headlights, snowplow, and long lasting batteries. It is on wide tracks so the chair can travel anywhere. Now he can hunt, fish, and take care of his property.

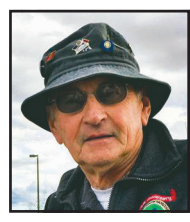


Disabled Veteran Charles Alvarez demonstrates his Action Trackchair. MT43 News Photo



Rotary Thanks Community

Patrick Plantenberg
Rotarian



The Rotary Club of Townsend would like to thank the community for its tremendous support of this year's Fall Fest. Rotary cannot pull off this event without our generous sponsors and volunteers. And thanks to the neighbors who must put up with the noise and traffic from the event. Rotary appreciates your patience and understanding.

After a great Friday night and Saturday, Sunday was record-setting! Over 400 cars registered for the car show, which stretched this year all the way down Broadway to Harrison Street. Most vendors were happy with their sales and many of the local bars and restaurants had record days as well. Most of the cleanup is finished thanks to the many volunteers who helped take down the lights, etc. in Heritage Park in record time this year.

Fall Fest is Rotary's one fundraiser for the year. Final bills are not in yet, but it looks like Rotary will have a great budget again next year for community projects. If you have any projects needing support for the coming year, please contact Rotary as the Board of Directors approves the budget by January 1, 2027, for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028).

If you didn't sponsor Fall Fest this year, please contact Rotary, as we are already talking to our sponsors about next year. If you didn't volunteer to help with set up, cooking, and serving food and beverages, or take down, please contact Rotary –we will need your help next year!

And if you want to join Rotary, please talk to any Rotarian. Any questions, please call Patrick Plantenberg @ 406-431-4615.



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

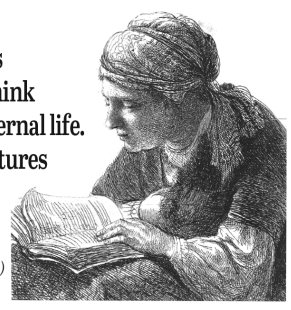
Townsend United Methodist Church
200 N Cedar St. Townsend
Pastor Mele Moa (406) 266-3390
Sunday: 9:00am Services

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

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me...

JOHN 5:39



"Woman Reading" by Rembrandt (1634)

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Sr. Center Meals: October 12 - 16

Senior Center: 516 2nd Street, Townsend, MT 406-266-3995

Monday, October 12
Closed for Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 13
Hamburger on a Bun
Potato Triangles
Carrot Coins
Juicy Pears

Wednesday, October 14
Chicken ALA King
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli Spears
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Peaches

Thursday, October 15
Ham and Beans
Corn Bread
Italian Vegetables
Sweet Corn
Apricots

Friday, October 16
Tater Tot Casserole
Garden Peas
Carrot Raisin Salad
Whole Grain Bread
Spiced Apples

Weather Forecast

courtesy of open-meteo.com

OCTOBER



Friday 9
High Temp: 82
Low Temp: 54
Wind: 21
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Saturday 10
High Temp: 57
Low Temp: 35
Wind: 20
Rain: 0.02
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 11
High Temp: 39
Low Temp: 31
Wind: 15
Rain: 0.0360
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 12
High Temp: 43
Low Temp: 32
Wind: 7
Rain: 0.0360
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 13
High Temp: 55
Low Temp: 34
Wind: 6
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 14
High Temp: 60
Low Temp: 44
Wind: 16
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 15
High Temp: 52
Low Temp: 36
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100



Common Sense

BY BILL GARWOOD

Last Week it Was Pain; This Week it's Pleasure

Relax, censors; I know it's a family newspaper. I'm talking to the guys here, although I think most female-type people would agree with this article. I'm speaking about the type of simple but meaningful pleasure of "coupling". Being with someone who gives you the feeling of "wow, I really like being with this person" - wives, lovers, partners.

When you finally feel like you found "the one", without realizing it, you may get the sensation of just wanting to be close to them, to just touch tthem, and hold their hand. In the last several months, I have made mention of this strange & interesting phenomenon, as I have come under its spell, and like McDonald's (Yuck), I'm loving it! I have remarked here about seeing, and being one of, the couples walking around town holding hands.

This feeling is not strange to me, however, lately the emotions have intensified. I find I am genuinely in love with my wife! Wow, reality, what a concept!

I, your intrepid observer of human life, have experienced seeing couples around our area actually looking like they really are enjoying the company they are keeping. This is a great thing; hopefully they aren't just holding the other person's hand to keep them from smacking them. But real affection, you know, that thing that all the goofy "Hallmark" movies tell you we should all feel. Shut up, I like watching them too.

I think one of the best things is seeing the wonderful, if not confused, look on the other people's faces. Relax, gals, enjoy the feeling it gives you. How long has it been? Maybe it's always been there. Life just gets so busy and complicated that we tend to overlook some of life's simple pleasures. Never be so involved with something that you take for granted the folks you are closest with! Notice them again; it's a fantastic feeling to look next to yourself and realize, "Hey, who is this wonderful person next to me"? I really love being with them. Hello, they have been there all along. You have just been occupied with things that don't mean as much as the relationship you have right beside you! (It IS Football season after all…but that's no excuse, honest.)

So be aware of those beautiful, softer people beside you. There is great caring there. Besides, you might want a sandwich, and they know how to make the best one. (Only kidding, ladies.) Never dismiss or take for granted the folks who hold a piece of your heart. This is rare in today's world. Remember, the All Father placed them in our path for a reason. Is that a radio playing "Love is all around?"; must be, or I'm hearing voices again. No, it's NOT the Squirrels; they never sing.

Fall Fest was one of the best ever! Thanks to all the good people who helped put it on; now is the time to prepare for what's coming! Our town is still beautifully green for a while longer, but the colors are changing into the wonderful autumn shades. Get the flannel shirts ready, stay well and healthy, folks.



When We Stop Listening

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



What happens when we stop trying to understand one another and instead focus on proving what we think the other person meant?

Division can begin quietly, not with an argument, but with a comment that's misread, a motive we assume, a misunderstanding, or words taken out of context.

A recent experience reminded me how easily division can enter our neighborhoods, workplaces, communities, churches, friendships, and families. It may not begin with bad intentions; sometimes it grows when we stop listening, make assumptions, or prioritize being right over understanding one another.

Division doesn't always begin with disagreement. Sometimes, it starts with a misunderstanding.

So instead of asking, "Who or what is causing the division?" perhaps we can gently turn the question inward: "Am I contributing to it without realizing it?"

We each interpret others through our own experiences, expectations, fears, and assumptions. Sometimes, we respond to what we think they mean rather than to what they actually said, and a simple difference of opinion can grow into something much bigger.

We can become so certain about someone's meaning that we forget to ask: "What did you mean by that?" "Help me understand." "Did I hear you correctly?" A few open, curious questions can help guide the conversation in a more understanding direction.

James 1:19 reminds us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." That can be challenging at times, but it's a helpful reminder for us all.

Active listening means pausing, setting aside prepared responses, and letting others finish without planning a defense.

We need humility to consider we may have misunderstood. Not every division is intentional; we can fuel it by repeating assumptions, assigning motives, interpreting words differently than they were intended, or focusing on delivery over meaning. Once we decide what someone "must have meant," we stop listening.

People become defensive, protecting their positions instead of talking. Trust erodes, people fall silent, and others take sides. Eventually, those who once shared life can begin seeing each other as opponents rather than people with differing views.

How sad is that?

Coaching clients have taught me to pause, stay curious, and ask questions instead of assuming. What if we gave others the benefit of the doubt?

What if we remembered the person behind each screen? We can listen respectfully without agreeing or embracing every idea. Being heard doesn't mean an idea will be chosen, but everyone deserves that dignity.

Honestly, I've sometimes listened while preparing my response, focused on being understood rather than understanding. Perhaps you have too. Healthy communication starts with self-reflection.

Before asking, "Why did they say that?" I should ask, "What did I hear?"

Before assuming motives or reacting in frustration, clarify, breathe, and remember you may not know the whole story.

We can't control how others communicate, misunderstand, or agree with us. We can choose to listen, show grace, ask instead of assume, address issues without attacking, and disagree without making enemies.

Silence can be wise when arguing won't bring understanding.

God calls us beyond proving we're right: to love one another, be slow to anger, speak truth in love, pursue peace, and examine our role in conflict.

Every interaction either builds or weakens trust, making others feel valued or dismissed. Our words can invite conversation or push people away. Even if we don't see the impact, we can choose to listen, speak, and respond intentionally.

It may not be perfect.

Just intentional.

Because relationships matter. Community matters. And people matter.

When someone's words frustrate you, pause and ask:

Am I reacting to what they said or what I think they meant?

Did I clarify or assume?

Am I listening to understand or just to be understood?

Those questions may not solve every disagreement.

But they might change the way we walk through one.

Division doesn't always begin with disagreement.

Sometimes it begins when we stop listening.

And perhaps unity begins when we decide to listen again.

May we all be quick to listen, slow to speak, generous in how we interpret one another, and courageous enough to ask questions.

May we stay humble enough to remember that we may not have the whole story. We may disagree on many things, but we can still make room for one another along the way.

Even when our opinions are completely different, we can remain neighbors, friends, coworkers, family members, and valued members of the same community.

"Division can grow in the space between what was said and what we assumed was meant."

Connect with Ellie FB/IG coachelliewest

Area Death

Harold Firl

Family of Harold Firl

Long time Townsend resident Harold Firl, 89, passed away in Helena, Montana, on September 24, 2026.



East Helena Obituaries

Donna R. Curey

Family of Donna R. Curey

Donna R. Stafford Curey passed away on September 25, 2026. She was born on August 28, 1946, at St. John's Hospital in Helena, Montana, to Raymond Stafford and Betty Jean Baker Stafford. Donna's early years were filled with camping, fishing, and treasured time with her mother, sister, Nana, and Papa. Her Nana and Papa, Christine and Harry "Jack" Baker, were especially important in her life and provided her with a loving home. On July 29, 1963, Donna married Terrance "Terry" Curey, and together they began a life full of adventure. They welcomed their first child, Jeff, on March 9, 1964. Their daughter Jackie joined the family soon after, followed nine years later by their daughter Jenn.

Donna and Terry's life together was never dull. Like everyone, they faced struggles and had their own unique ways, but they also built a life filled with unforgettable memories. Their days were not always predictable, but they were always memorable.

Donna spent many years enjoying York, Montana, where she also bartended when her uncle owned the York Bar. She loved card games, gardening, cooking, crafts, and time spent with her friends. Her greatest joy was her four grandchildren, and she bragged about them often. At Donna's house, you always knew what time of year it was because every corner was beautifully decorated with holiday trinkets and candy. She proudly worked in the seasonal department at Shopko, and even after she retired, customers still recognized and remembered her.

Donna enjoyed bringing people together. She loved hosting parties and was active in women's organizations, including the non-collegiate women's sorority Beta Sigma Phi in Billings and, later in life, the Red Hat Society. She also cherished her circle of friends and often enjoyed coffee around the table and lunches with the ladies. She had a special place in her heart for animals, rescuing and enthusiastically caring for several family cats and dogs later in her life.

Donna has completed her journey, finding eternal peace as she returns home.

Donna was preceded in death by her Nana and Papa, Christine and Harry "Jack" Baker; her mother, Betty Jean Baker; her sister, Sandra Willing; her husband, Terrance "Terry" Curey; her son-in-law, James Dunbar; and her sister-in-law, Debbie Curey.

Donna is survived by her children, Jeff Curey, Jackie Dunbar, and Jenn (Chris) Wihlborg; her grandchildren, Tanner, Colter, Katelynde Curey, and Emily (Ty) Lewis; her sister-in-law, Penne Curey; her brother-in-law, Dennis Curey; and her nieces and nephew.



Donna R. Curey
Photo Provided

Our family would like to thank Renaissance Senior Care and the St. Peter's Palliative and Hospice teams for the loving care they gave our mother and grandmother.

A private family memorial will be scheduled later. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Humane Society.

Dale John Stark

Family of Dale John Stark

Dale John Stark went to his eternal reward after a short battle with cancer, Friday, September 25, 2026, supported by his wife, children and other family members at home in East Helena.

Dale was born to Robert (Bob) and Diana (Diane) Stark in Dillon, MT, on August 21, 1968. Dale lived and worked on the family ranch in Twin Bridges until he graduated high school, at which time he went to Spokane to attend school. After graduating, he came home and worked for a short time on the ranch before starting school in Bozeman. While attending MSU, he married Marlys Allen and eagerly adopted her son Daniel.

The couple welcomed a second son, Morgan, while still attending MSU and after graduation made their home on the family ranch. Their third son, Devlin, was born while living and working in Twin Bridges.

The family moved to Helena in 2001. Dale started work for a sewer rehab company and remained employed there until 2014, when he started long haul trucking, at first with his dad and then later that year he bought his own truck. He drove his own truck until his diagnosis forced him to get off the road in December of 2025.

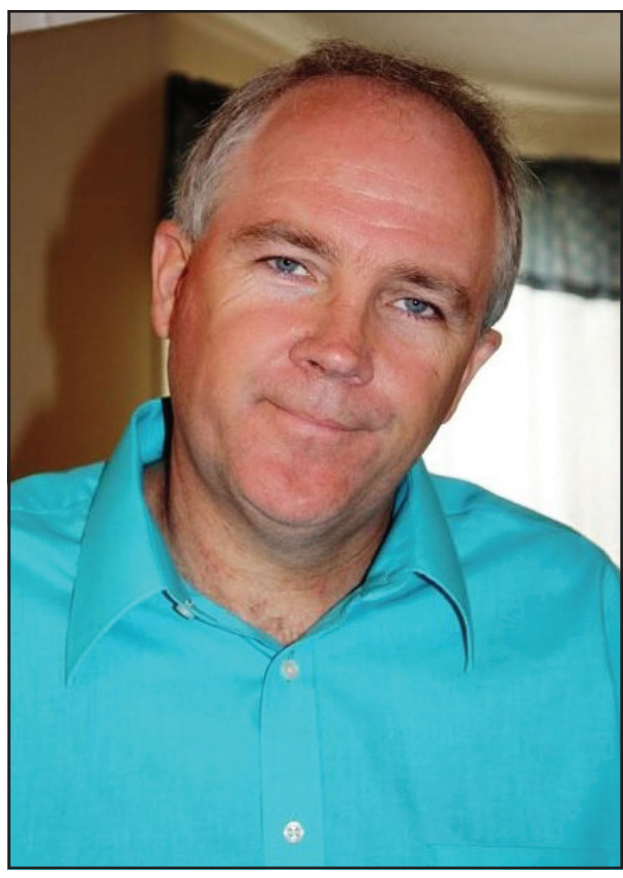
His faith was important to him but became even more so in the months he was fighting cancer.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents and youngest sister Connie, as well as a newborn daughter Kendra.

Dale is survived by his wife Marlys, sons Daniel, Morgan, and Devlin, grandsons Lucas Petersen-Stark, Damian Terrell, and Landon Stark, granddaughter Blakelee Stark, sisters Linda Stark and Tami Stark, many extended family members, and more good friends than can be named.

The family received friends during viewing hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, 2026, at Anderson Stevenson Wilke & Retz Funeral Home, 3750 North Montana Avenue in Helena. A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 2, 2026, at the funeral home. A graveside service followed at Forestvale Cemetery. A reception followed the burial in the social center of the funeral home.

Memorial in Dale's name are suggested to the Gift of Life Housing Program, C/O Benefis Foundation, P.O. Box 7008, Great Falls, Montana 59406.



Dale John Stark
Photo Provided

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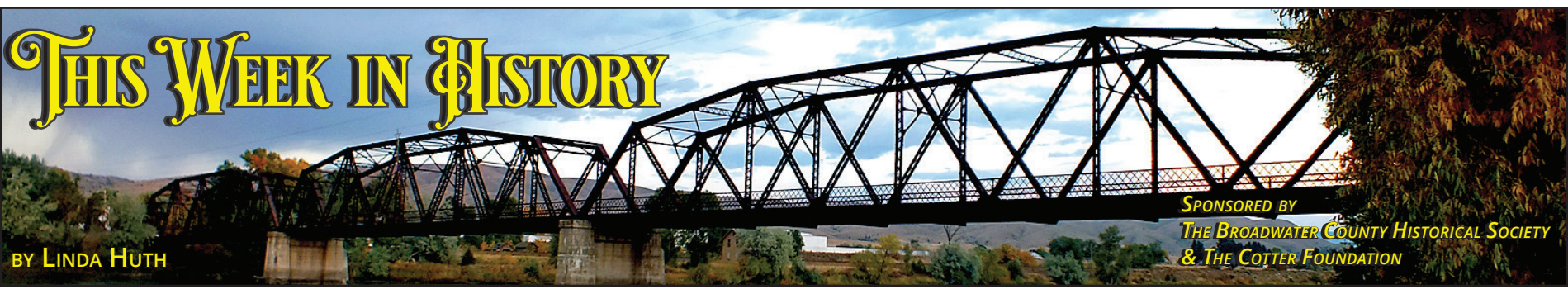
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October 8

1903

Local News

H. Sperling, our popular tonsorial artist, has been spending several days this week taking in the sights at the State Fair. Arthur McGugin has been looking after Mr. Sperling's business during his absence.

Mrs. Jennie McCarthy and little Adair departed for Helena Tuesday morning where they have been spending the entire week visiting friends as well as the State Fair.

Messrs. George Byrne, George Zimmerman and Leslie Thompson were among those who spent the fore part of the week viewing the sights at the State Fair.

The entire Star force took in sights at Helena Friday; consequently, our paper was a day later than usual.

M. Gurnett and family have moved into their town house for the winter.

Ed Sloan, wife and little Emerald, visited the State Fair on Tuesday.

1925

Local News

Miss Mary Connors has been engaged as stenographer for the receiver of the First National Bank.

Miss Irene Sullivan of Missoula is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sullivan. Miss Sullivan is superintendent of the Nurses and technician at the Thornton Hospital in Missoula.

Mrs. Laura Sidney returned from Helena on Wednesday after visiting friends and relatives for several days.

Walter Brisbin of East Helena and Roy Brisbin of Townsend departed for the Madison this Thursday morning where they will enjoy a few days fishing.

Howard Doggett and F. Van Elderstein of Lewistown left Friday morning for the Bitter Root Valley where they will attend to the loading of sheep and accompany same to Chicago.

1970

Barry White Takes Top Honors in the Dogging Event at Championship Rodeo

Barry White and his horse, "Sis", well known in this area for their fast times in bulldogging at rodeos this past season, really showed their stuff in the championship rodeo held in the fieldhouse at Bozeman last Friday and Saturday. Barry downed his steer in a quick 4.4 seconds to take top honors in that event, beating 25 of the state's top cowboys.

Second place time went to Joe Sedgwick of Two Dot, who wrestled his steer down in 4.6 seconds. Ed Kyler of Boulder led in bulldogging in the Montana Rodeo Association throughout the year, but didn't place at this championship meet; however, White did comment that Kyler drew a very uncooperative steer.

White does his bulldogging on a seven-year-old registered quarter horse mare. Her name on her papers is quite long, so she goes by the name of "Sis". White said that she is one of the very few professional rodeo horses that is gentle enough for children to ride. Bob Masolo of Winston was White's hazer at the event.

Celebrates Birthday

Tommy Shindoll was nine years old Oct. 2, and to help him celebrate his mother, Mrs. Al Shindoll, invited a few friends for dinner after school. Those attending were Gerry Olsen, Joe and Jeff Marks, Eric Swenson, Kent Hysell, Donny Clark, Scott Wozny, Joann and Ed Shindoll.



2026 Fall Fest Car Show Photos



1931 Ford Tudor Sedan owned by James and JoAnn Rogers
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Support Our Veterans section of the car show.
MT43 News Photos



1930 Tudor
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



1935 International 12 Ton Pickup owned by
Neal Johnson out of Three Forks.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



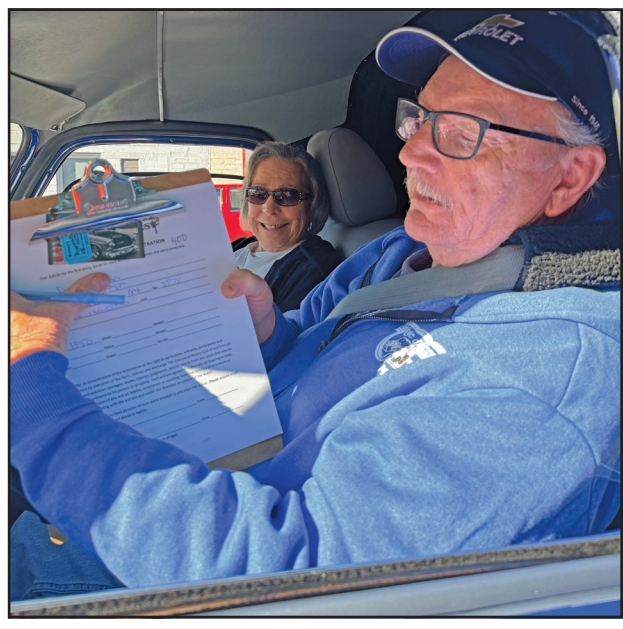
1933 Ford HiBoy owned by Dan Seed from Helena.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Discussions about past car romances.
MT43 News Photos



1939 Ford Deluxe Coupe owned by Larr Ross from Helena.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



400th car entry by an Anaconda couple
who wished not to be identified.
Photo Credit: Candice O'Hara