MT 43 News
Broadwater County
Local People. Local Stories.
Volume 5, Issue No. 15 October 16, 2026 $2.00

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MSU Extension's Memory Cafe Manager Presents Tips on Fighting Dementia

MT43 News Staff Reporter

MSU Extension's Mobile Memory Café Manager Lisa Brachwitz was in Townsend last week to engage community residents about brain health. She set up at Townsend Senior Center with one-on-one discussions with folks who were interested in dementia awareness and for caregivers who are faced with taking care of those who suffer from conditions such as Alzheimer's.

In an interview, Brachwitz pointed out that dementia, the general term for failing brain function, is not a normal part of aging. It is a condition caused by diseases or brain damage. She suggested people who are concerned ask for help from a doctor to do cognitive testing. "It could be a reaction to your medications, lack of sleep, stress or even dehydration that is causing memory lapses," she said.

Her presentation to groups includes several resource guides for finding help if a loved one is diagnosed with dementia. The resource guides include financial workbooks for family caregivers and learning how to communicate with loved ones who have dementia. She suggested those facing the disease can help face the situation by staying active, watching their sleep habits, and eating healthy, but most of all challenging their minds by reading, playing games, and learning something new to keep the brain sharp.

Brachwitz hopes to reach all 56 counties in Montana through a grant funded by several entities, including AARP and state agencies. She has visited around 2,000 residents in 53 counties since she began the program a year ago.

For those interested in more information, Brachwitz left several packets at the Senior Center. She can be reached by visiting lisa.brachwitz@montana.edu or calling (406) 994-3904.



MSU Extension's Memory Cafe was open for business at Townsend Senior Center last week. Manager Lisa Brachwitz shows some of the many brochures and information sheets on practical ways to manage dementia disease. MT43 News Photo

Fall Fest by the Numbers
October Event was Largest Ever Held

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Townsend's annual Fall Fest was definitely a blockbuster. Undoubtedly the largest ever, according to Co-Chair Diane Brown. Her co-chair, Jeff Langlinais, agreed.

Langlinais's statistics showed 88 volunteers put their shoulders to the wheel to make the event happen: that included 33 Townsend Rotarians, 5 Helena and Bozeman Rotarians and 53 non-Rotarians. "I always worry about those empty spaces on the sign-up sheet, but somehow, people step up to fill the slots when the time comes," he said.

The Rotary Club receives an annual report from Lee Enterprises (newspaper chain), who use Placer AI, a firm that tallies Fall Fest annually via cellphones and drones. The firm approximated that last year 7,900 visitors made 9,500 visits. Langlinais estimated this year's total was much higher. This year's total was not available at press time.

Actual numbers of food sales, vendor sales and vendor comments backed up his estimates. Mary Heinemann, grill manager, explained they sold 3,300 brats, 1,200 hamburgers and 500 hot dogs. They were out of buns and hamburgers by 10:00 a.m. Sunday, even at Bob's, so they were forced to run to Helena to buy more.

Langlinais had numbers for tokens sold: "We counted the cash from token sales on Monday and realized we had sold about 33 percent more tokens than last year and about 14 percent more than our best prior year (2024)."

Sponsorship Chair and Parking Czar Pat Plantenberg backed up Langlinais's estimate. He pointed out cars were parked from Top Gun Auto near the Missouri River Bridge to the Townsend Post Office on Highway 287 and Sunday from the blinking light to the tennis courts on Harrison. But everyone he talked to was in great spirits, even though it was tough to find parking spots and especially for those handicapped visitors. He made every effort to help those folks. Lack of parking has been a thorn in Rotary's side since the event has grown. Both Plantenberg and Langlinais pointed out parking is what makes the event "self-limiting." Many have suggested they move the event out of town. Plantenberg pointed out: "We intended for Fall Fest to be our only fundraiser that also contributes to Townsend's businesses. If we move it out of town, the businesses lose out."

He queried several uptown businesses. Rachael at the Fish Tale Tavern indicated they quadrupled their business over the 3-day period. The Mint served over 1,500 meals and C Hangin' C Mercantile had a record day on Saturday. The Distillery doubled their gross and the American Legion ran out of liquor, he said.

Vendor James Thayer of Townsend said it best: "It was crazy. I sold $5,400 worth of licorice in two days. That's up 25 percent since 2025 when we had a booth. Helena resident Mary Suptic and her husband run a cottage business, Strangely Bazaar. They sell 3D-printed toys, games, art and laser-printed mugs. Of the five years they have attended Fall Fest, she said, they sold 25 percent more this year. "The event was frigging awesome," she exclaimed. "We had so much fun meeting people, meeting the volunteers and kids and their parents. The weather was perfect and the people were so enthusiastic. In any event, what makes the difference is the people running it." She concluded.



A record high of 430 vehicles were entered into this year's Fall Fest Car Show! Dragsters pictured here. Photo Credit: Sarah Tallwhiteman



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Townsend Flooring Welcomes New Owners

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Townsend Flooring, 400 Front Street, became Townsend Interiors as of October 1, according to Aaron Christensen. He and Kellen Hildreth and their wives, Emily and Michelle, have purchased the thriving home products store from Dennis Schenk. Schenk opened the outlet in 2006.

Christensen, who owns Christensen Homes at 314 Front Street, has done business with Townsend Flooring from the start of his construction business 14 years ago. "We had done a ton of business with Dennis, buying all kinds of finishing products throughout the years. When Dennis approached us saying he was about to retire, we jumped at the chance to buy the business. It was a perfect fit for us," he explained.

Christensen will be partnering with Hildreth, who refers to himself as "an entrepreneur at heart" and also owns Deep Creek Pizza on Broadway. The couples have hired Hildreth's cousin Conrad Hildreth as Townsend Interior's new general manager. "Our plan is to grow the business community in Broadwater County. We want people to be able to shop locally but still have value in the products we sell," Hildreth said.

The one-stop-shop sells not only many flooring products, both high-end and medium- priced, but also cabinets, countertops, and blinds. They continue to have an in-store designer. Both men emphasized they do hire Townsend residents as employees.

Christensen, who was raised here and graduated from Broadwater High School, attended college and worked as a house framer with Larry Richtmyer. After traveling all over the Northwest, in 2008, he and Emily decided it was time to come home. "We soon learned there was a need for housing here. We would like to keep up that momentum," he said.

Former owner Schenk said he and his wife Carol thanked their loyal customers for their support over the years. "We're happy with our decision. Townsend is lucky to have these young people to invest in the community," he concluded.



Townsend Flooring is under new ownership as Townsend Interiors. From left: former owner Dennis Schenk; general manager Conrad Hildreth; Kellen Kildreth and his wife Michelle; Aaron Christensen and his wife Emily. MT43 News Photo

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

Volleyball to Host Annual Pink Night Fundraiser



Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter

Every volleyball season, the Broadwater Bulldogs volleyball team hosts a Pink Night to raise funds for a local community member battling cancer. This year, the proceeds will go toward supporting a valued community member, Judy Gillespie. Mrs. Gillespie was a substitute teacher at Townsend schools for years, worked at the courthouse, and currently serves on the school board, so the team and BHS students are looking forward to showing their support.

Pink Night is more than just a fundraiser. It is raising awareness for breast cancer plus supporting those battling the disease. This is not just something unique to Townsend, it is a national movement known as Dig Pink. Created by the Side-Out Foundation in 2005, the nonprofit organization channels funds from volleyball directly to medicine and clinical trials for breast cancer. From high school to the highest levels, Dig Pink is an important night to raise support against breast cancer.

If you've never been to a volleyball game, this is the one to see. Not only will there be a match, but there is also a bake sale and a raffle for donated items. There will be a variety of baked goods available, all donated by community and team members. The baskets are all donated as well, and a great opportunity for supporters to win something nice. Pink Night is also senior night this year, so there will be a ceremony to celebrate volleyball and team members who are seniors.

Pink Night begins at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 24, at the high school gym. Activities will start at 4:00 p.m. It is a great opportunity to come and give back to a member of the community.

Bulldog Volleyball Team Travel to Boulder and Three Forks



Tevyn Newman with a nice bump set during last Thursday night's match against the Jefferson High Panthers
Kelly Morris Photography



Gracelyn Ragen gets low to dig up a serve
Kelly Morris Photography

Bryleigh Erickson
BHS Sports Reporter

On Thursday, October 8th, the Jefferson Panthers travelled to Townsend to play in a conference matchup. The previous time they played, the varsity team lost the match in three sets. The junior varsity and C squad teams also fell short. Jefferson's varsity team is undefeated in conference play so far, while the Bulldogs went into the game with 6 wins and 2 losses.

The C squad match was a dominant display by the Panthers. They took the first set 25-13, and then 25-21 and 15-6 following that. Josie Begger tallied 8 assists, 2 digs, and 1 kill for the Bulldogs. Tana Williams contributed 4 digs, 1 kill and one ace. Zandria Bancroft had 3 digs, 4 kills and 2 aces. Brycynn Harvey led the Bulldogs with 8 digs and 3 aces, with 2 kills.

The junior varsity team also lost in 3 sets. They scored 19 to Jefferson's 25 in the first set, then 23-35 and 11-15. Grace Ragen had 5 assists and 16 digs. Kymber McCartney led the team with 21 digs and 3 aces. Claire Swanson contributed 12 digs, 3 kills, and one ace.

The Varsity Bulldogs came out strong to win the first set 25-21. After that, they lost the lead and ended up losing the next three sets 25-18, 25-12, and 25-21. Tevyn Newman tallied 21 assists, 19 digs, and 8 kills. Savannah Paulsen had 15 digs and 5 kills. Jazel Ragen had 25 digs and 7 kills. Kinsley Heggen held down the back row with 19 digs. Bryleigh Erickson had 15 assists, 2 blocks, 19 digs, and 16 kills. Louie Parr had 3 blocks, 10 digs, and 4 kills.

On Saturday, October 10, the Bulldogs travelled to Three Forks to take on the Wolves. The Bulldogs overcame the Wolves in three sets the last time the two teams met. The Bulldogs were hoping to regain confidence after their loss to Jefferson a few days before. The C squad team lost their match in three sets. The



Savannah Paulsen goes up for a spike
Kelly Morris Photography

Junior Varsity game was a thriller, and the Bulldogs came out on top in 5 sets.

The varsity match was a dominant display for the Bulldogs. They won the first set 25-20, then 25-22, and finally 25-19 in the third set. Tevyn Newman had 20 assists, 13 digs, 5 kills, and 1 ace. Jazel Ragen had 2 blocks, 13 digs, 7 kills, and 1 ace. Bryleigh Erickson had 17 assists, 12 digs, and 19 kills. Sophia Lamb tallied 4 digs, and 7 kills with no hitting errors.

Next week, the Bulldogs will travel to Joliet to play on Friday, October 16th. They will stay the night in Red Lodge, then play the Rams the next day. The girls are really excited to stay overnight and spend a lot of valuable time bonding as a team.





Cheer- Autumn Henke
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Let's Go Bulldogs!



Football- Jones Tuffelmire
Townsend Booster Club Photo



Volleyball- Savannah Paulsen
Townsend Booster Club Photo



XC- Lydia Brakefield
Townsend Booster Club Photo



XC- Rylan Hoveland
Townsend Booster Club Photo

Capital City 7 of 7 Invitational Cross-Country Meet

MT43 News Sports Reporter

Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena was the site of last Thursday's Capital City 7 of 7 Invitational Cross-Country Meet. Fifty-seven schools from all classes brought more than 1100 runners for the nine distinct races. The hours-long event starts with the Junior Varsity women's and men's races much like a traditional meet.

Representing the JV Women in the first race of the day were Lydia Brakefield (25:32) in 109th, Sarah Morgan (26:38) in 136th and Shalyn Sentinella (28:06) in 173rd. The JV Men's squad scored 669 points to place 22nd with the following finishes: 180th Mason Johnson (21:11), 289th Everett Kirksey (23:06), 340th Cooper Nichter (24:33PB), 350th Declan Toney (25:18), 373rd Isaiah Sparks-Lowery (26:46) and 391st Jayden Flynn (29:34).

The men's and women's Varsity teams are then separated into seven separate races #1-#7. As determined by their coaches, the seven Varsity runners are each placed in one of the races, with the #1 competitor as the team's fastest runner. This format allows for seven individual girl's winners and seven individual boy's winners. The afternoon was sunny and delightful for spectators, but a tad warm for the competitors, as they took on a challenging course over rolling hills.



Senior Rylan Hoveland clocked his season's best time in his second race back from a mid-season injury
MT43 News Photo



Sophomore Kay Crusch is a solid member of the ladies' varsity team in her first season
MT43 News Photo

Senior Luke Tullos (21:32) was the lone Bulldog in the No. 7 race, finishing 31st. Fellow senior Rylan Hoveland (20:12SB) ran his season's best time in the No. 6 race, ending in 25th, while freshman Kensley Sangray (24:48) finished 29th. Juniors Kay Crusch (23:46) and Urijah Deude (21:20) were 24th and 37th in the No. 5 race and Gavin Johnson (20:19) and Addy Mosher (24:14) placed 33rd and 30th in the No. 4 contest.

Isaiah Lapsley (19:56)

Cross **Country**, 4

CLASS OF 2027
SENIOR STEAK FRY
& SILENT AUCTION
OCTOBER 23RD 5-7 PM
TOWNSEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
$35 PER TICKET
How to Purchase
Any BHS Senior
or the following businesses:
Opportunity Bank
Townsend Drug
Rocky Mountain Supply
Precision Business Resources
Or Online:

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS AND INFORMATION







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.

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.





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.***

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

This is your opportunity to meet with 2026 Candidates!

VOTE RIGHT VOTE WISE

Tuesday, October 20th 5:00-6:30pm
at The Mint (back room)

Debi Randolph Candidate for Broadwater County Commissioner
Sam Deans Candidate for County Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools

Next week's Meet & Greet is October 29 with Debi Randolph and Sheila Stenzel

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

Classifieds

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES

FREE

6 upholstered chairs on wheels
in decent condition.
You haul.
Call 406-980-0152

MEETINGS

Monthly Chamber Meeting

TOWNSEND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

5:30pm Thurs, Nov 19
Potluck @ The Legion
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*

Townsend School & Sports

OCTOBER

Friday 16
- **NO SCHOOL -** Teacher PIR-MEA
- 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

Monday 19
- 4:30 pm: Middle School/JV Football at Whitehall
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball

Wednesday 21
- FCCLA District Meeting at Belgrade
- 8:30 am: National Guard Mission Day
- 6:00 pm: Elkhorn Basketball
- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy Open Gyms - Pickleball, Basketball, Laps

Thursday 22
- **Picture Retake Day**
- 1st day of Middle School Boys Basketball Practice
- 4:00 pm: High School Volleyball at Big Sky

Friday 23
- **NO SCHOOL**
- 5:00 pm: Senior Steak Fry - Elementary Commons and Kitchen
- 7:00 pm: High School Football vs Columbus (Senior Night/Pink Night)

Saturday 24
- State Cross Country at Billings
- High School Speech and Drama at Manhattan
- 1:00 pm: High School Volleyball vs Ennis - Cheer Senior Night/Pink Night ***READ MORE ON PAGE 2***

Broadwater County Government Calendar

OCTOBER

Monday 19
- 6:00 pm: Parks and Recreation

Tuesday 20
- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting
- 7:00 pm: Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Wednesday 21
- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting
- 6:00 pm: Airport Board

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

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).

Community Calendar

OCTOBER

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

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
- 2:00 pm: Meet & Greet at Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic ***SEE AD ON PAGE 3***
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Monday 19
- 7:00 pm: Headwaters Amateur Radio Club of Montana Meeting at Belgrade's Chamber of Commerce Building

Tuesday 20
- 5:00 pm: Meet & Greet with Candidates at the Mint ***SEE AD ON PAGE 3***
- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
- 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Wednesday 21
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 7:30 pm: Broadwater Rural Fire Department Meeting at 130 S Cedar ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***

Thursday 22
- 5:00 pm: **FREE** Homemade Dinner Served at American Legion, 211 Broadway, Townsend ***SEE AD ON THIS PAGE***
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 23
- 5:00 pm: 2026 Senior Steak Fry at Townsend Elementary School ***SEE AD ON PAGE 2***
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes

Saturday 24
- 5:00 pm: STOKE: Fall Pottery Date Night at Pottery Guild, 108 N. Spruce ***SEE AD ON PAGE 3***
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Wednesday 28
- Trick or Treat for Others to Eat ***SEE AD ON PAGE 3***

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

Looking for firestarter, or extra paper for a special craft project?
Stop into our office at 408 Broadway in Townsend between 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday, and talk with us about our old papers!
MT 43 News
Local People. Local Stories.

Cross Country, *2*



Bulldog runner Elaine MacDonald competing
Kelly Morris Photography



Bulldog runner Dallas Fligge competing
Kelly Morris Photography



Bulldog runner Clayton Rice competing in the Capital City 7 of 7 X-Country meet in Helena last Thursday
Kelly Morris Photography

was alone on the course during the No. 3 race, placing 33rd. Junior Elaine MacDonald (22:06) was 25th in the No. 2 race, along with Clayton Rice (19:08) in 27th. The last contest of the day saw seniors Dallas Fligge (17:51) place and Kyla Meissner (19:49) place 21st and 16th.

Our Bulldogs next compete at what is considered their home meet by taking on the area schools at the Capital City Area Classic in Helena on Wednesday, October 14th, pending weather. If you can't make the race, come out this Friday evening to celebrate our graduating seniors for a halftime ceremony during the football game and wish them luck before heading to state.

The MHSA All-Class Cross-Country Championships will be held Saturday, October 24th in Billings at Amend Park. Many of these Bulldogs have the potential to do well against Class B competitors only, so make the trip to Billings to cheer them on. The ladies will take off at 1:30, while the men go at 2:30. Go Bulldogs!

The 2026 Fall Fest Car Show

Matt Nelson



The Townsend Rotary Club sponsors the Car show as part of the annual Fall Fest. This year it was held on Sunday, October 4th. There were 430 cars and trucks entered, including many classic vehicles. This is the highest number ever entered here in Townsend. Broadway was closed from the stoplight at the corner of Broadway and Front Street to Harrison Street, which is unusual in itself.

Trophies were given out to the winners of several different categories by Rotary member Steve Roy. He commented, "Contestants needed to be present to win; we announced 2 different entrants for each of these classes, and no one showed. We had no shows for the Best Overall Judges Pick and People's Choice." Steve also provided this list of winners who showed up:

- Ron Griffith from Townsend won the Best of 20's and 30's with his 1932 Window Coupe
- Mike Zeigler from East Helena won Most Original with his 1972 GMC Sprint.
- Buzz and Eileen Rose from Helena won Best Import with their 1971 Detomaso Pantera.
- Dave Soberanis from Belgrade won Best Muscle Car with his 1968 Dodge Charger.
- Richard Breach from Bozeman won Best of 1970 and later with his MCI MC-8.
- Tom and Joan Sleeth from Billings won Best Post 1960 Truck with their 1964 Ford F-150.
- Nathan Tubbs from East Helena won Best Street Rod Modified with his 1948 Ford Anglia.
- Neal Johnson from Three Forks won Best Pre-1960 Truck with his best 1935 International ½ Ton.
- Jack and Michele Kara won Best 1960s with their 1964 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray.

Unfortunately, due to a mix-up, none of these winners were photographed, and neither were most of their beautiful cars and trucks.

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:
Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM
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:
Mon - Thu 7:30AM - 8:00PM
Menu:
Changes Weekly
Breakfast, Soup, Sandwiches to go

Vaquero's Mexican Restaurant

219 Broadway St, Townsend
(406)266-1860
Dining Hours:
Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM
Closed Mondays
Menu & Specials:
Facebook
Call Ahead or Order Inside

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ALLIED MACHINE
Quality & Service Since 1988
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• Pump Repair • Machine Work
• Aluminum Welding
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511 N. Front St., Townsend, MT

B's STORAGE
SEVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS
BOATS, RV's & TRAILER STORAGE
IN TOWNSEND, MT
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BSE EXCAVATING
7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT
BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
P – (406)266-3772
C – (406)980-1100

100 B Street
Townsend, MT
Office Hours
Tuesday 9am-4pm
Friday 9am-2pm
406-437-1843
info@familyrootshelena.com
FamilyRootsHelena.com
FAMILY ROOTS

KOLAR TIRE
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Bernadette Swenson, PLS
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Danny Kurk- Owner
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(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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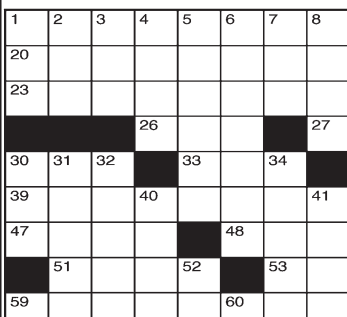

"For gosh sakes, don't forget to bring back some _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _!"

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.

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 FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BROADWATER COUNTY

In the matter of the Name Change of William George Walbourne:
William George Walbourne, Petitioner
Case No.: DV-2026-67

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from (your name now) William George Walbourne
To (name you want) William George Whalborne
The hearing will be on (date) 11/20/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM
The hearing will be at the Courthouse in (county) Broadwater County.
Filed Date 10/07/26
Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court
By Beth Campbell, Deputy Clerk of Court
Published October 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2026
MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BROADWATER COUNTY

In the matter of the Name Change of Anne Salazar Hall:
Anne Salazar Hall, Petitioner
Case No.: DV-2026-66

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from (your name now) Anne Salazar Hall
To (name you want) Anne Salazar Whalborne
The hearing will be on (date) 11/20/2026 at (time) 10:30 AM
The hearing will be at the Courthouse in (county) Broadwater County.
Filed Date 10/07/26
Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court
By Beth Campbell, Deputy Clerk of Court
Published October 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2026
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Justice of the Peace Report

Samuel Anagnostou
Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

Celene Luquin – Helena – Seatbelt Violation – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

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

Cameron Merritt – Santa Monica, CA – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

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

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

Susan Evans – Great Falls – Traveling wrong direction – one way street or highway – paid fines - $85 fines & fees

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

Emory Barkhouse – Snohomish, WA – Speeding on non-interstate - exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - $20 fines & fees

Carol Ackerman – Alexandria, VA – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – pleaded guilty - $70 fines & fees

Anna Beatty – Townsend – Careless Driving – pleaded guilty - $85 fines & fees

Tyler Raugh – Dallas, TX – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – pleaded guilty - $20 fines & fees

Chantee Lee – Belgrade – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – pleaded guilty - $70 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for three (3) months with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of traffic school.

Kyle Cupic – Mercer Island, WA – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – pleaded guilty - $120 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for three (3) months with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of Alive @ 25 course.

Eric Hanson – Lake Oswego, OR – Fail to give notice of accident by quickest means / apparent damage over $1,000, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $335 fines & fees. $1,187.80 restitution to the State of Montana, Department of Transportation.

Tasha Flechas – Manhattan – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – pleaded guilty - $20 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for one (1) month with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of traffic school.

Andrea Rice – Townsend – Reckless Endangerment of emergency personnel, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $135 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for three (3) months with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of traffic school.

Amanda Hamilton – Townsend – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08 BAC or greater, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $685 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all but seven (7) days house arrest suspended for six (6) months with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of ACT class as well as thirty (30) days of 24/7 Program with no positive or missed tests.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Richard Wagner – Helena – Failure to obtain landowner permission for hunting, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $285 fines & fees

- Drive off established road without landowners' permission – pleaded guilty - $275 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County jail with the execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior, and payment of fine.

Harrison Mitchell – Rigby, ID – Unlawful procurement of license while privileges forfeited or suspended – pleaded guilty - $1,035 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for six (6) months with good behavior, and payment of fine.

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

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

Tristan Riggle – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - $120 fines & fees

Danielle Pecoraro – Clancy – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - $70 fines & fees

Jason Davis – Bozeman – Speeding – exceed restricted / special zone speed limit established by department – paid fines - $55 fines & fees

Theresa Bering – Billings – Owner Permitting operation of vehicle without liability insurance, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $285 fines & fees

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

- Driving without a valid drivers license – pleaded guilty - $75 fines & fees

Justice Barry – Clancy – Speeding on non- interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – pleaded guilty - $120 fines & fees

- Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $285 fines & fees

Nicole Norris – Helena – Operating without liability insurance in effect, 2nd offense – pleaded guilty - $385 fines & fees. License plates on vehicle at time of citation suspended for ninety (90) days.

Stephen Cantwell – Butte – Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $535 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior and payment of fine.

- Fail to have vehicle equipped with white license plate lamp legible for 50 feet – pleaded guilty - $75 fines & fees

Armando Lopez – Townsend – Stalking, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $885 fines & fees. Sentenced to one (1) year in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all jail suspended for one year with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of twenty (20) hour Anger Management Course

Darren Schlepp – Simms – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of 08% BAC or greater, 1st offense – pleaded guilty - $685 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with the execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior, payment of fine, completion of ACT program.

Michael Laird – Helena – Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs, 2nd offense – pleaded guilty - $1,285 fines & fees. Sentenced to one (1) year in Broadwater County jail with the execution of all but seven (7) days suspended for one (1) year with good behavior, payment of fine, completion of ACT program, and completion of commitment order. Restrictive probationary license issued after forty-five (45) day hard suspension. Vehicle to have functioning interlock device.

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

Cody Reck – Helena – Defendant was given a courtesy appearance in Justice Court to have the charges against them explained. No Plea taken. The Defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The Defendant is charged with Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, 2nd offense as well as Criminal Child Endangerment. $5,000 bond with conditions for release. Defendant given District Court hearing date.

Scott Glew – Three Forks – Defendant was given a courtesy appearance in Justice Court to have the charges against them explained. No Plea taken. The Defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The Defendant is charged with Partner/ Family Member Assault, Causing Reasonable Apprehension of Bodily Injury in partner/family member, 1st offense as well as assault with a weapon. $50,000 bond with conditions for release. Defendant given District Court hearing date.

Sunshyn Mondragon – Townsend - Defendant was given a courtesy appearance in Justice Court to have the charges against them explained. No Plea taken. The Defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The Defendant is charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, 1st offense, unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle on highway, fail to have two (2) headlamps properly operating on motor vehicle, driving without a valid drivers license, careless driving, criminal possession of drug paraphernalia, and criminal possession of dangerous drugs – not otherwise provided for in subsection 45-9-102(1) or (2). $5,000 bond with conditions for release. Defendant given District Court hearing date.

INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION

Michael Dye – Helena – Defendant was arrested on Warrant issued by Lewis and Clark County Justice Court to answer the Complaint filed against them. Defendant committed to Broadwater County Detention Center until post bond or transport. $10,000 bond with conditions. If defendant posts bond, to appear in Lewis & Clark County Justice Court the first Monday following release at 8:30am

Mark Biegler – Helena – Defendant was arrested on Warrant issued by Ravalli County Justice Court for failing to appear or pay. Defendant committed to Broadwater County Detention Center until post bond or transport. $1,000 bond with conditions. If defendant posts bond, to appear in Ravalli County Justice Court within ten (10) days.

Broadwater County Commissioners Meeting

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



10/7/2026

Broadwater County Commission Approves Parking Lot Paving, Sheriff's App, Fire Cameras and Boundary Change.

Commissioners also heard praise for Fall Fest and a new budget page on the county website.

Broadwater County Commission Chair Debi Randolph presided over the Wednesday, October 7, 2026, meeting at the Flynn Building, 416 Broadway. Commissioners approved four agenda items, approved claims, and signed off on minutes from four September meetings before adjourning at 10:53 a.m.

Public Health Parking Lot to Be Paved:
Building Maintenance Supervisor Bill Malone asked commissioners to approve a bid for paving the public health parking lot, which he said is currently dirt that turns to mud and offers no way to clear snow. Three bids came in at $16,800, $20,000 and $37,200. Commissioners approved the low bid from CAP Paving for $16,800. Malone said the work will come from the building maintenance budget and is part of a five-year facilities plan.

Sheriff's Office Gets New App and Website:
Jail Commander Johnie Spurlock presented three proposals for a Sheriff's Office app and website. He recommended the OVC bid, which includes a setup fee of $9,387.75 and would build the new website. The app would let the office push alerts to the app, website and Facebook at once, accept crime reports and statements, and provide detention center information. Officials said the setup could take about three months because of Apple device registration. Funding will come from savings on a 911 system component, split equally between the 911 fund and the inmate fund. The commission approved the bid unanimously.

Fire Detection Cameras Approved for Limestone Hills Tower:
Ed Shindoll, presenting for the county, described a five-year tower space lease with NorthWestern Energy for up to two fire detection cameras on the Limestone Hills repeater tower. The Bureau of Land Management has waived rental fees. Shindoll said the cameras are not the Flock cameras that have drawn public concern, and that any visible homes would be screened out. He said questions should go to NorthWestern Energy, which installs and maintains the cameras. The lease passed unanimously.

Vandenacre Boundary Relocation Approved:
Community Development and Planning Director Nichole Brown presented a boundary relocation exemption for land in Sections 10 and 11, Township 7 North, Range 1 East, west of the Grand View Manor subdivision north of Townsend. The parcel would grow from 5 acres to 40.01 acres, with access unchanged. One commissioner disclosed that the survey firm is owned by his parents and that neither he nor they benefit financially from the decision. Janine Stone questioned whether the change creates a new parcel. Brown explained that boundary relocations keep the number of lots the same, so the parcel is amended rather than created. Commissioners cannot consider access under state law. The motion carried.

Public Comment and Other Business:
Shindoll also praised this year's Fall Fest, which drew more than 400 cars and set records for attendance, food and beverage sales, and thanked the Rotary Club for organizing it. Commissioner Lindsey Richtmyer was named second vice president of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO), and Commissioner Jesse Swenson reminded residents that the courthouse is closed Monday for the holiday. Residents can find department budgets under Citizen Resources on the county website.

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.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

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

10:00 AM Monthly report MCA 7-6-612 from Broadwater County Treasurer, Melissa Franks

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Diane Thorne, Public Health Dpt. Office Manager, Homemaker, Respite, and Skilled Nursing Grant Contract # 2027-004-007, between Rocky Mountain Development Council and Broadwater County for $34,333

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, FAA Grant Amendment Request, A.I.P. 3-30-0078-017-2024

10:15 AM Discussion/Decision, Interim Sheriff Mark Wood, 2026-2027 Correctional Risk Services Contract Renewal for inmate excess medical insurance and/or claims administration management

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

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

Letter to the Editor



Editors
I am writing in support of Debi Randolph for County Commissioner. I have known Commissioner Randolph for many years. I first met the Commissioner at community events that we were both participating in.

I supported her when she ran for Commissioner in 2020 and have never regretted that support. Commissioner Randolph is usually at work by 7:00 am and works through the entire day. She will always make time to meet with the people of Broadwater County to discuss their issues.

I serve on a number of boards; some county boards and some on private non-profit boards. Commissioner Randolph is the Commission liaison to the Museum Board and also represents Broadwater County on the RMDC Board (Rocky Mountain Development Corp.) that funds our Head Start program, the meals at the Sr. Center, Meals on Wheels, and some of the public health department programs. She has been a great asset to both Boards and works hard for both Boards.

In addition to her official duties as Commissioner, Debi Randolph has stayed involved in the community. She is very active with the Broadwater Rod and Gun Club and participates in many of the community events. I endorse Commissioner Randolph and urge you to reelect her to a second term as County Commissioner.

Vic Sample
Townsend

Dear Editor
Mr. Howick's recent Guest Editorial contains some statements requiring a response.

Unlike humans, corporations are artificial entities used by individuals or groups to organize under the laws of their state of incorporation. They have only the powers granted by the state. Each state can empower and define corporations doing business in that state in any way it chooses. In Citizens United v FEC, the U.S. Supreme Court said that states could not regulate a corporation's right to spend independently in elections. But states have a virtually unlimited authority to define the powers it grants to corporations. I-194 would exclude political spending from the powers granted corporations by the state of Montana.

It is not sophistry or simply a clever lawyer's way to take away corporate rights. Rather, it simply defines a corporation in a way that it was never granted the right to make political expenditures in the first place.

His argument that entities like the Stock Growers, Farm Bureau or Farmer's Union would be silenced or required to create a political action committee is a colored fish. In fact, each of the entities he references, or a parent or affiliate, already has a political action committee. And the Farmer's Union actually supports I-194.

As for his concern that his business might get shut down if he puts up a political poster, there is a simple answer. Unless the business paid for the poster, it has not made a political expenditure for which it might be sanctioned. Of course, any business owner would continue to have the individual right to make personal contributions to any candidate or cause he chooses to support.

We can all agree that the amount of money spent on political campaigns has gone from sublime to ridiculous. I-194 would make it a little less so. I support I-194, the Montana Plan.

Thomas Budewitz
Attorney at Law Townsend

Where Good Enough Just Isn't Good Enough!

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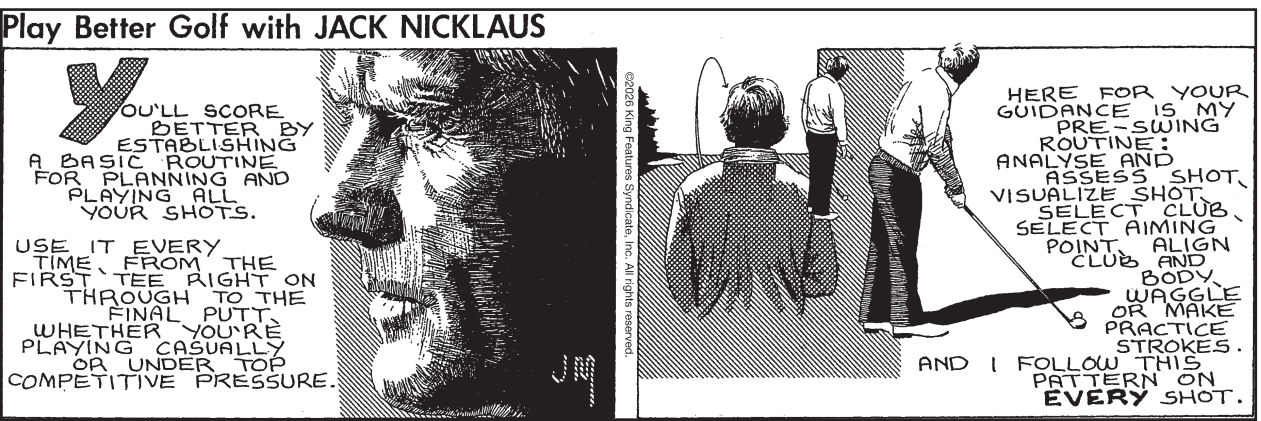

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KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

L 8	S 3	R 6
O 5		P 1
A 2	A 7	T 4

PASTORAL

CryptoQuip

answer

Climbing structure with rungs that receives fabulous reviews: a ladder of recommendation.

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

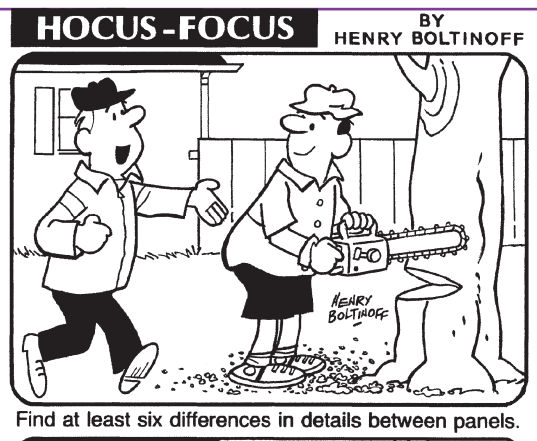
1. Camber; 2. Offset
3. Carpet; 4. Tide

Today's Word

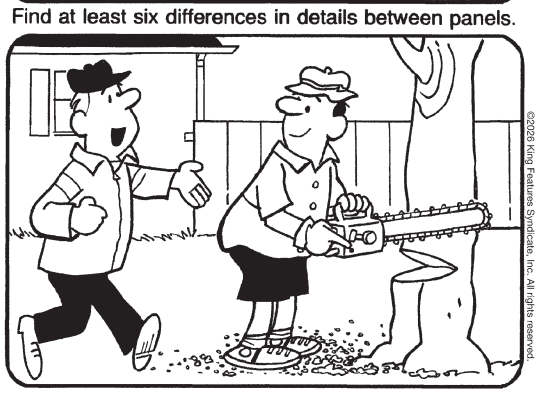
DEBRIEF

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is shorter. 2. Saw blade is longer. 3. Hat is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Tree is thinner.

HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR: SANDY JANES

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

MT 43 News, Inc.

Published & edited by the Board of Directors

Editors in Chief:
Victor Sample and Nancy Marks

408 Broadway Street Suite A
Townsend MT 59644-2323
(406) 266-0086

MT43News@MT43News.com

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

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

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ISSN 2833-2571
USPS Bulk Mailing Permit #43
First Publication Date:
July 15, 2022

MT 43 News is published Thursday of each week in Townsend, MT. Its service area is Broadwater County, MT.

Affiliation

Letters to the editor, guest columns, Op-Ed, editorials and advertising do not necessarily reflect the opinion of MT 43 News, Inc. or any of its executives, employees, or advertisers.

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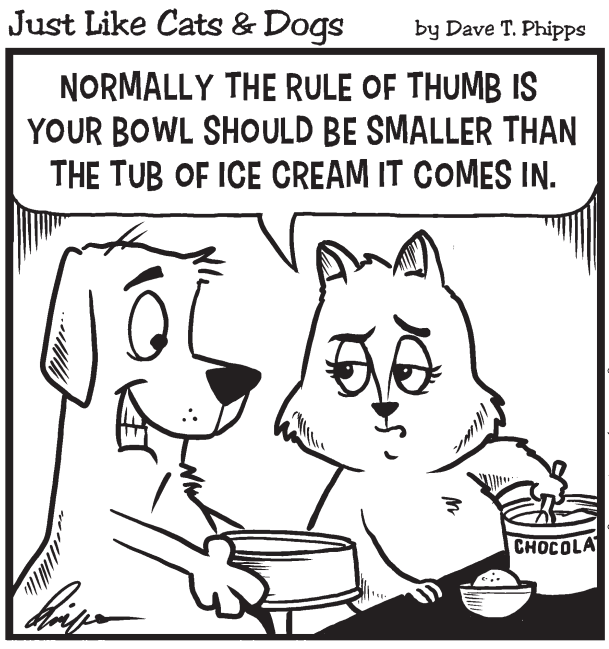
Just Like Cats & Dogs

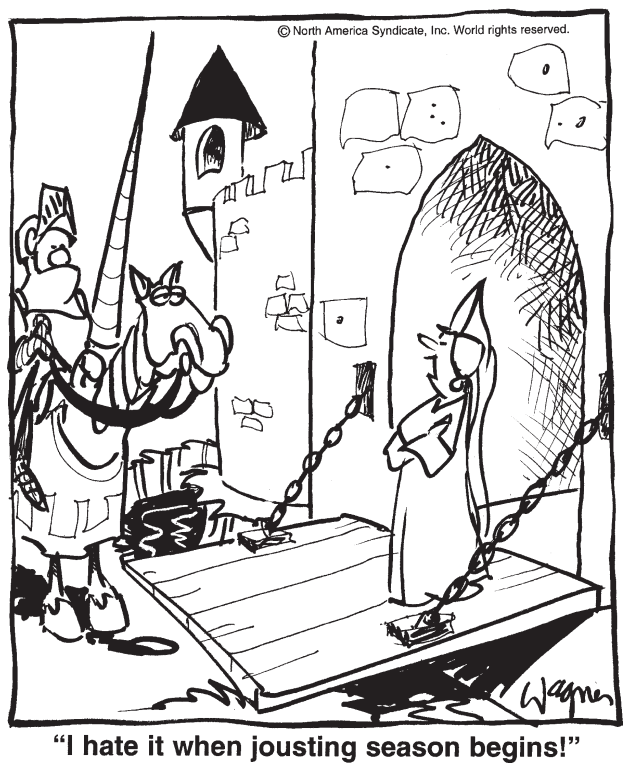
by Dave T. Phipps





GRIN and BEAR IT

by Wagner



"I hate it when jousting season begins!"

Out on a Limb

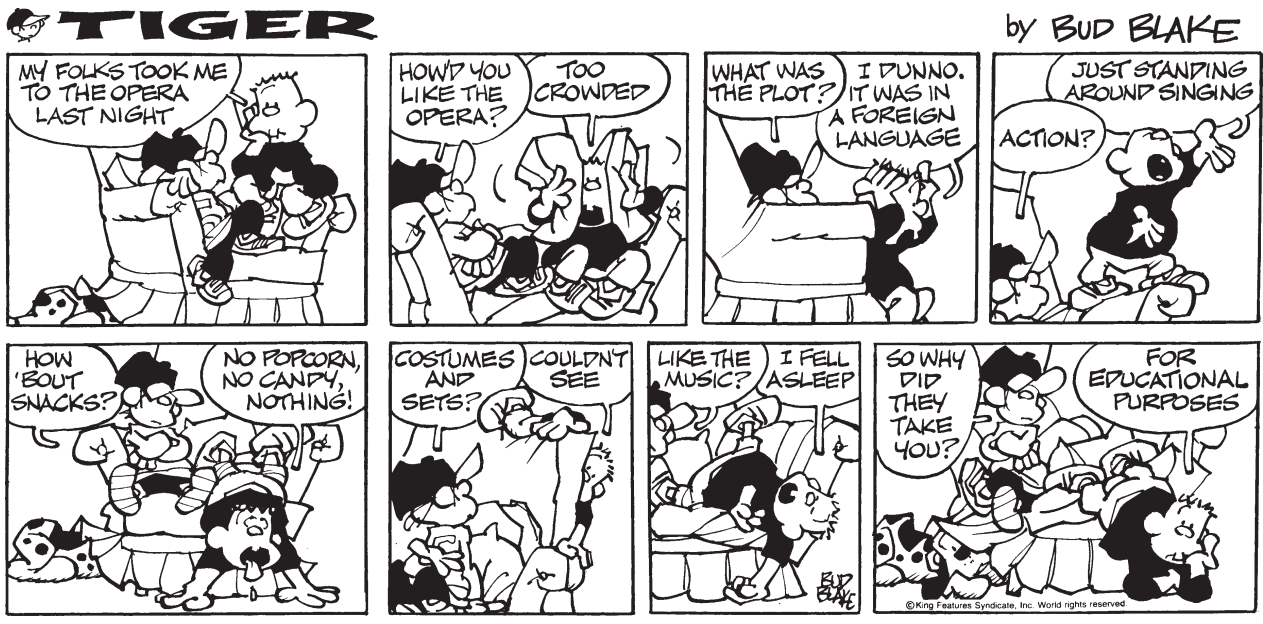
by Gary Kopervas





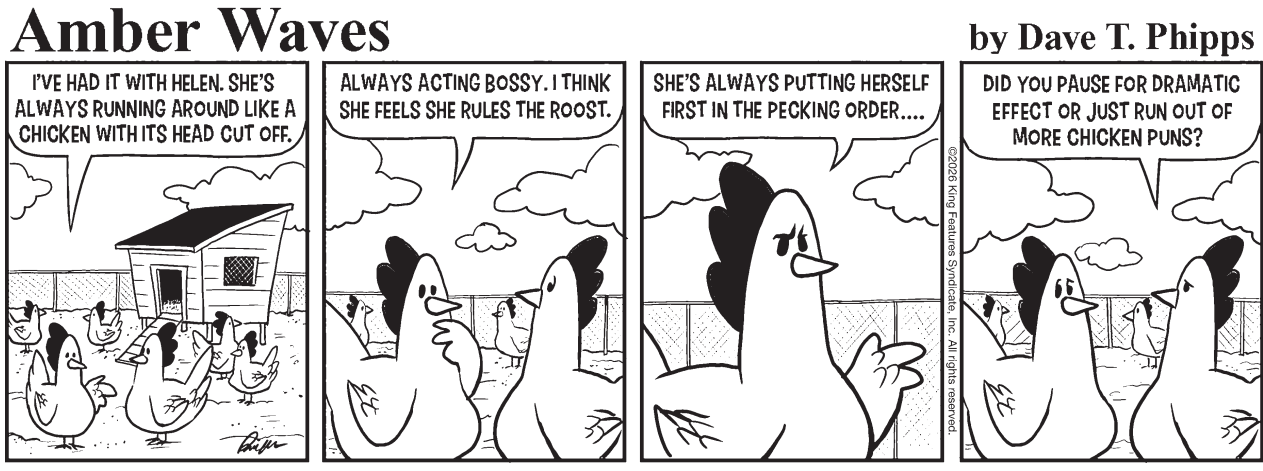
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



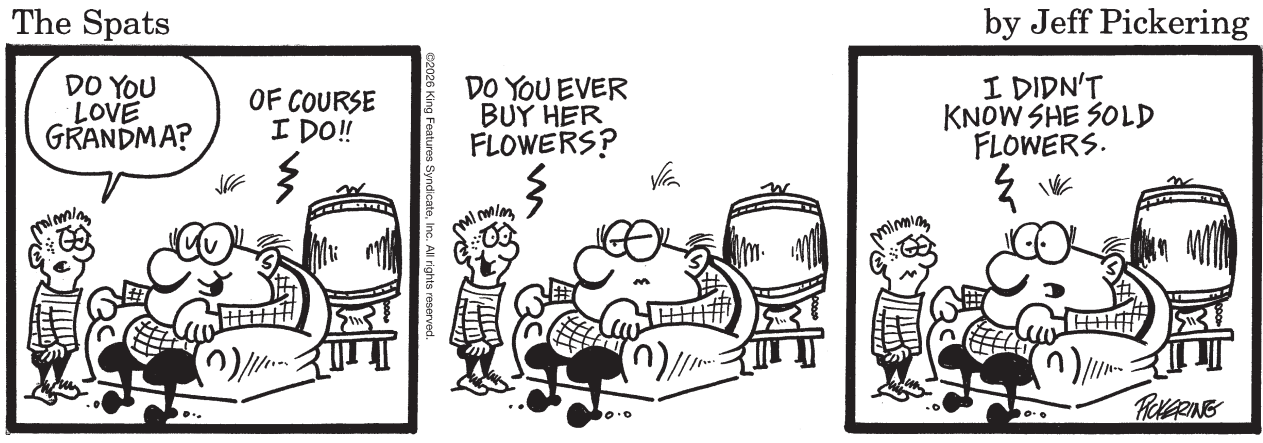
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I THINK I WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD.
AS IN REPRODUCE, RIGHT? NOT FOR DINNER.
EH. I'LL SEE WHICH WAY THE WHIM TAKES ME.
BLAST IT ALL!
WHAT'S WRONG, SEA HAG?!
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY I MADE THIS... THING.
YOU MADE A HALLOWEEN SATYR?
EEEEEE...
I MADE SOMETHING THE OTHER DAY, BUT WHAT, I DON'T KNOW!
popeye.com
IT'S NOT SMART, SO I DIDN'T MAKE IT FOR A HELPER. IT'S WEAK, SO I DIDN'T MAKE IT FOR PROTECTION.
HONESTLY, ALL IT DOES IS MAKE THAT SOUND.
...EEEEEEEEEE...
SO WHY WOULD I CONJURE IT INTO EXISTENCE?!
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THIS THING'S REALLY ANNOYING ME.
OH, YEAH! THAT'S WHY.
EEEEEEEEE



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

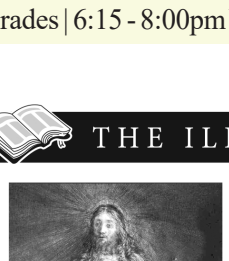
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod
301 N Cherry St. Townsend
Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911
Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon
Council President Rick Arnold (406) 633-2677
Sunday: 9:30am Services
Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the ELCA meet.
Bible Studies 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



"Christ Preaching" by Rembrandt (1652)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 JOHN 2:1-2

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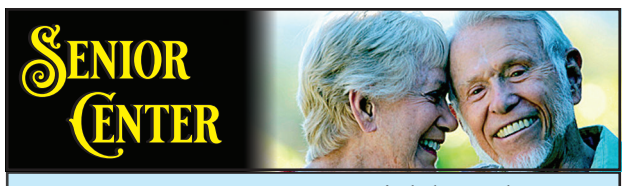


Sr. Center Meals: October 19 - 23

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

Monday, October 19
Swedish Meatballs
Steamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Apricot Halves

Tuesday, October 20
Birthday Dinner
Baked Chicken
Rice Pilaf
California Vegetables
Diced Beets
Blushing Pears
Birthday Cake

Wednesday, October 21
Beef and Veggie Stew
Fresh Baked Biscuit
Tossed Salad with Garbanzo Beans
Plump Peaches

Thursday, October 22
Roast Pork
Mashed Potatoes
Key Largo Vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Zesty Pineapple

Friday, October 23
Tilapia
Macaroni and Cheese
Carrot Coins
Green Peas
Baked Apples

Weather Forecast

courtesy of open-meteo.com

OCTOBER



Friday 16
High Temp: 69
Low Temp: 41
Wind: 13
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 15

Saturday 17
High Temp: 71
Low Temp: 44
Wind: 15
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Sunday 18
High Temp: 62
Low Temp: 43
Wind: 12
Rain: 0.0
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Monday 19
High Temp: 68
Low Temp: 47
Wind: 12
Rain: 0.008
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Tuesday 20
High Temp: 53
Low Temp: 44
Wind: 11
Rain: 0.052
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Wednesday 22
High Temp: 45
Low Temp: 39
Wind: 14
Rain: 0.024
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100

Thursday 15
High Temp: 51
Low Temp: 34
Wind: 9
Rain: 0.088
Snow: 0.0
Cloud Cover: 100





Common Sense

BY BILL GARWOOD

A new week…and SNOW!

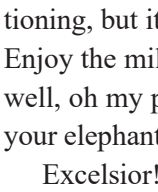
Yes, I know not everyone is a fan of snow and cold weather. However, there are a few of us who love it, and I'm not even talking about the "lazy" hunters that need tracks so they can walk right up to the deer, elk, etc. Where's the fun in that? You need to track the animals; work at it! I shot a turkey once - the people in the frozen food section got very irate!

Never mind the folks out killing dinner; there is something clean and bright in walking around town with snow covering everything. Many years ago, when I was stationed in Germany (I know I tend to tell these stories repeatedly), I, along with some others, would go out into the cold snowy weather and pull "motor stables" on our 3 vehicles: 2 jeeps and a 2 ½ ton truck. After I got all 3 running, I sat back on a Jeep hood to let them warm up a bit. Now, that motor pool had a chain-link fence with cement fence posts. It was a dirty place, but that morning, covered with snow and big flakes coming down, it was beautiful! You know that silence that comes with snowfall? Yeah, just like that, strangely enough, that task gave me a great feeling to start the day. Find your happy place every day, even at work.

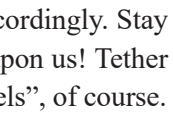
Now, being from Townsend, I know that in a few days it will all be melting and the roads get a bit messy. That's ok. What's that magic word around here? MOISTURE. Yes, the hills have just barely lost their green tint, so the summer wasn't bad. A few wildfires, not like past fire seasons. And now a good start on our moisture-gathering season. Hopefully this means a white Christmas! Plus, it's easier to work on putting up decorations when you can slide the sleigh through the snow.

Yes, I know: first Halloween, then Thanksgiving, then Christmas. Watching TV, you would swear (be nice) that it's already full-on Christmas season! Hallmark movies are going full-on holiday mode. This little snowfall will give us all the hint: Prepare for the colder weather. Remember: drain your hoses and your lawn mower's fuel. I still have to close down my air conditioning, but it IS going to get into the 80s next week. Enjoy the mild snowfall; just dress accordingly. Stay well, oh my people; the holidays are upon us! Tether your elephants, and "Feed your Squirrels", of course.

Excelsior!

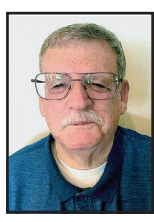


"The squirrel hoards nuts and the bee gathers honey, without knowing what they do, and they are thus provided for without selfishness or disgrace"
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



An Unusual Scam

Vic Sample





Recently I received a call from the president of a local non-profit organization asking if I had ever heard of what was happening. The organization has a website and, like many non-profits, has a DONATE button.

The person that setup the website had set it up with the money going to a PayPal account rather than the organization bank account. The organization was notified of a contested charge to one of the donations and several emails asking why there was a charge on their credit card to that organization. On checking into it, they were surprised to see that there was over $5000.00 in the PayPal account; there were donations made from all over the country.

Something was clearly wrong with all of that credit card activity from all over the country; but what kind of scam would involve donating money to a small Townsend based non-profit? Neither of us had ever heard of scammers doing that.

I said I would do some research and was surprised at what I found. Apparently, it is a very common cybercrime. Scammers buy lists of stolen credit card numbers, but they don't know which ones are still active. They have web-bots that find small organizations with easy credit card charges and do "donations" in small amounts to determine if the credit card number is still active. If it is active, they use it to make large charges at other sites.

The scammers like to find and use small organizations because they can do a lot of credit card activity quickly without drawing attention to what they are doing. Larger companies and organizations have software to screen out web-bots (we have all seen the messages that a website is determining if we are humans or web-bots). In addition, they have software that would alert them to suspicious activity.

Smaller organizations like our local non-profit generally do not implement the software to screen out web-bots, nor do they try to detect suspicious activity. The small non-profit organizations are perfect for this type of cybercrime.

All of our local non-profit organizations that have the ability to collect donations or fees with an online process should ensure that their websites do have the software to screen out web bots and should make a deliberate effort to try to detect suspicious activity right away.

Our local non-profit now has to go through the process of determining if a charge was a valid donation or not and refund the money they received from fraudulent charges. If not, they could be found complicit in the cybercrime.

Make sure your non-profit does not fall victim to this kind of scam!

University of Montana Presents Free Citizens' Law School

University of Montana Information Center

Montanans curious about the laws behind the headlines can learn directly from judges, attorneys, and University of Montana law professors during the State Bar of Montana's free 2026 Citizens' Law School. The program is free and open to the public.

The eight-session series begins Wednesday, Oct. 7, and runs through Dec. 2. Classes are held online from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., allowing participants from across Montana to attend. Registration provides access to all eight sessions, and participants may attend as many as they choose.

This year's topics include Montana's judicial system, democracy and the courts, tribal law, artificial intelligence, veterans law, employment law, wills and estates, and family law.

Four professors from UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law are among this year's presenters: Constance Van Kley, Cody James, Hillary Wandler, and Forrest Graves.

Citizens' Law School is presented by the State Bar of Montana's Law-Related Education Committee. The program is designed to give members of the public practical information about the law and a better understanding of Montana's legal system.

The first session, "Montana's Judicial System," features Chief Judge Brian Morris of the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana and Montana Supreme Court Chief Justice Cory Swanson. An in-person option will also be available at Carroll College in Helena.

Visit https://www.montanabar.org/For-the-Public/Citizens-Law-School to register for this free series.

Contact: Phil Stempin, director of events, marketing and communications, Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-6509, phil.stempin@umontana.edu.



Beware of Nitrate Toxicity in Hay and Forages

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

No one has ever said ranching is an easy business. There are few other businesses that are impacted as often by Mother Nature and the ever-fluctuating markets. One of the many issues that livestock producers should watch for includes nitrate toxicity. Nitrate issues can sometimes elevate during warm falls with fluctuating precipitation, especially with a flush of green growth.

Nitrates are naturally occurring in plants. They take up nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrate. During the day, nitrate is converted to protein during photosynthesis. At night, when photosynthesis is inactive, nitrates accumulate in the plant. There are times when nitrate accumulation exceeds the conversion rate, such as during periods of stress (reduced photosynthesis) or when nitrogen levels in the soil are high. Mineral deficiencies can also cause excessive nitrate accumulation. Levels vary among plant species, maturity, and even different parts of the plant.

Nitrate itself is not toxic to animals, but at increased levels over a period of time, it can cause a disease called nitrate poisoning. Livestock grazing in fields or eating hay or silage with high nitrates will begin to accumulate it in their system. In the rumen, nitrate is converted to nitrite, which interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Nitrate toxicity can lead to overall poor health and appearance, reduced milk production and abortion. Worst case scenario is eventual death. Nearly every year, there are documented cases of nitrate poisoning in the county leading to loss of cattle, early abortion, stillborn calves or weak calves.

Nitrate poisoning was first documented in 1895. However, the exact cause was still unknown, and it was often caused "oat hay poisoning." The number of livestock deaths increased in the 1930s when there was a large number of oat acres harvested for forage during the drought. Research since that time has confirmed that oats tend to accumulate more nitrates than most other cereal forages. However, it is possible for high nitrates to accumulate in almost any type of plant, including all cereal grains (oats, rye, wheat, barley, triticale, etc.), grasses and alfalfa. Several weeds, including kochia, lambsquarter and pigweed, are also known for high nitrate levels.

After a flush of fall moisture, many wheat and barley stubble fields will have a flush of seeds germinate and grow. Under the right circumstances, this makes excellent fall or winter feed for livestock. However, it's important to always test for nitrates. When the flush of growth is followed by drier weather (increased stress) and shorter growing days, plants will accumulate nitrates at a higher rate than normal and not able to release them as quickly because of decreased time available for photosynthesis.

The Extension Office offers an in-office nitrate test that can determine what the level of nitrates is. If they are high, then further laboratory testing may be recommended. If the nitrates are high, then you have a few different options. Most of the time, especially with hay, it can be blended with hay that does not have high nitrates. Sometimes the nitrates are high enough that it should not be fed at all and then options are limited. If a field such as fall regrowth is high in nitrates, then it is recommended to wait until after a killing frost to graze it. A killing frost will cause the plant to die and the nitrates to dissipate.

The best management strategy is to reduce nitrates in the field. Do not over fertilize with nitrogen, especially in forage cereal crops. Use a soil test to determine how much you need. Control weeds. It's not always possible to reduce plant stress but minimize where you have this control such as control pests, provide adequate irrigation (where feasible), watch for nutrient deficiencies and so on. Harvest later in the day to allow nitrates plenty of time to dissipate. Cut immediately after a high stress event such as hail or wait at least a week to allow time for nitrates to stabilize. If you suspect you have a nitrate issue, raise up the header or mower as nitrates are higher in the lower third of the plant. Ensiling forage can also lower nitrates by as much as 60 percent. Waiting until the plant is more mature can also reduce nitrates but will also lower quality.

Ask (or insist on) a laboratory nitrate test prior to purchasing any hay. Contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County for assistance with nitrate testing or for more information. Contact the office at 406-266-9242, allison.kosto@montana.edu or visit us at 416 Broadway in Townsend.

We specialize in evaluating and buying jewelry collections!
Call or Text:
(406) 502-1029
RC Jewelry MT
Estate Jewelry • Gold • Sterling
Native American Jewelry • Vintage Watches
Sterling Flatware & Serviceware and more!
Downtown Helena
357 Last Chance Gulch
(2nd floor of Barnes Jewelry)
Tuesday - Friday • 10AM - 5:30PM
Saturday • 10AM - 2PM
Best to make an appointment!

Keep your Home in the Comfort Zone!
Is your furnace ready for the season?
Call us for a preseason clean & tune to make sure it doesn't fumble at game time!
We do HVAC... BETTER.
Hollowtop Heating and Cooling
406-200-8092
RUUDY

Billings Clinic Broadwater
MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK Member
Welcome to Townsend
Meagan Watne, NP
Family Medicine
"I'm excited to be joining Billings Clinic Broadwater as a Nurse Practitioner and, even more so, to be caring for the community where I grew up. I started my nursing career after graduating from Helena College and worked at St. Peter's Health in Helena while earning my Nurse Practitioner degree through Walden University. I've spent the past several years working in primary care with the last year being in Townsend at the SPH outreach clinic and have truly enjoyed getting to know my patients and their families and building relationships that go beyond just a visit in the clinic.
Outside of work, my favorite place to be is with my family. We spend a lot of time helping on the family ranch, whether we're working, chasing cows, or just enjoying the Montana way of life. I also love watching my kids play sports and getting outside whenever we can—camping, hiking, fishing, and making the most of our beautiful Montana home.
I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to care for the people in the community that means so much to me, and I look forward to continuing to care for and getting to know my patients and their families."
~ Meagan
For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (406) 266-3186.
110 North Oak Street, Townsend, MT 59644
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8 am to 5 pm

Montana State University Enrolls Record 17,477 Students

Michael Becker
Vice President of MSU Communications

Delayne Lindeen, a junior studying business finance, transferred to Montana State University this past spring. Lindeen, who'd been attending college in Billings, said she wanted the experience of living a little farther from her hometown of Huntley.

Coming from a graduating class of 50, she said it was a bit intimidating to enter a larger university, but she said that MSU has so many different programs to make campus feel like home that she felt supported the whole way. Plus, she'd done her research on MSU's business college and "felt confident knowing that coming to MSU and being a business student that I would be successful."

Lindeen is one of a record 17,477 students enrolled in classes at MSU this fall. That headcount is 1.8% higher than last fall, and it includes the largest incoming first-year class in MSU history — 3,970 students, which surpasses the prior record incoming class from 2021. In all, MSU enrolled 15,431 undergraduate students, another record, and 2,046 graduate students.

MSU continues to enroll more Montana residents than any other college or university in the state. Montana resident students total 8,735, which is an increase of 216 over last fall. Of those Montana students, 1,592 are attending college for the first time.

One demonstrated avenue toward student success has been MSU's longtime promotion of its Freshman 15 initiative. Undergraduate students do not pay additional tuition for credits beyond their first 12 per semester, so 15 or 18 credits cost the same as 12.

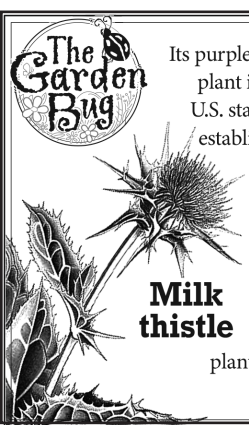
This fall, 87% of incoming freshmen – or 3,288 students – and 70% of all undergraduate students are taking part in the Freshman 15, both record highs.

MSU's student retention rate this fall remained strong at 80.2%. The figure measures the number of students who return for their second fall at MSU and is considered highly predictive of student success and eventual graduation.

As the largest university in Montana, MSU continues to play a vital role in meeting the state's workforce needs. Accordingly, MSU saw strong enrollment in Gallatin College MSU, the university's two-year programs that prepare students for immediate employment in in-demand fields, with an enrollment of 1,126 students, an increase of 4.5% over last year.

Other facts about MSU's fall enrollment:

- In addition to record headcount, MSU set a record in full-time equivalent, or FTE, enrollment at 16,145. FTE is a figure commonly used in higher education. It is calculated by dividing the total credits taken by all MSU students by a "full-time" number of credits — 15 for undergraduates or 12 for graduate students. A high FTE enrollment is a sign that students are taking more courses per semester.
- MSU welcomed 851 American Indian/Alaska Native students this fall, which is an increase compared to last fall. Other measured demographics included 1,096 students who are Hispanic, 771 Asian students, 340 African American students, and 141 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students.
- The university enrolled 152 new, incoming students who received the Montana University System Honor Scholarship, accounting for 62% of all the award's recipients in the state.
- MSU welcomed 489 dual-enrollment students, an increase from last fall's 421. Dual-enrollment allows Montana high school students to earn college credit and get a jump start on their degrees. Dual-enrollment credits at MSU are housed in Gallatin College MSU.
- MSU's largest college is Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering with 3,389 students, followed by Letters and Science with 3,258; the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship with 2,628; Agriculture with 2,047; Education, Health and Human Development with 1,792.



Its purple flowers may seem pretty, but this spiny plant is classified as a noxious weed in several U.S. states, and has the potential to overwhelm established ecosystems and agricultural areas. Though it can be very difficult, it is possible to remove these deep-rooted weeds by wearing very thick gloves and pulling or digging them out before they are well-established. They can also be killed with vinegar or boiling water. Just be careful not to splash any nearby plants that you want to keep. – *Brenda Weaver*

Source: homesandgardens.com

Obituaries

Harold Charles Firl

Family of Harold Charles Firl



Harold Charles Firl
Photo Provided

Harold Charles Firl, age 89, passed away peacefully on September 24, 2026, in Helena, Montana, at the Mt. Ascension Transitional Care after a severe stroke in February.

Harold was born December 30, 1936, in Brooklyn, NY, to the late Walter Firl and Alice Mathilde Wilhelmine Firl (née Kolass). He carried with him a rich family legacy of hard work, a love of nature, and most of all, a deep-seated faith in our Lord Jesus.

His father and mother originally departed Bremen, Germany, and arrived in the United States aboard the Sierra Ventana on April 28, 1926. Walter and Alice were later married in New York on April 17, 1930. After Harold was born, the family returned to the Kolass family home in Friedrichsdorf, Germany, where they stayed for the next 20 years, through WWII.

On June 1, 1957, Harold arrived back in New York as a U.S. citizen aboard the MS Stockholm from Bremerhaven, and established his home address in Castro Valley, California. It was there, at the local Methodist Church, that Harold met the love of his life, Sandra Kaye Mobley. The two were married on February 28, 1960, beginning a beautiful partnership that spanned over 66 years. In 1970, Harold and Sandra relocated their growing family from Castro Valley to Newark, California. They spent the next three decades raising their children side by side.

In 2000, they both retired and moved to the peaceful surroundings of Townsend, Montana, to enjoy their well earned retirement years together.

A tool and die maker by trade, Harold completed his professional apprenticeship in Germany, developing a high level of precision and craftsmanship that defined his career.

A lifelong faithful churchgoer, his spiritual journey spanned continents and eras—from completing his Methodist confirmation in Friedrichsdorf, Germany, to serving as an elder at Mountain Valley Church in Townsend, Montana. He lived his life with a servant's heart, always standing as a steadfast defender of the weak. He held a deep love and respect for his German ancestry, a heritage of strength that he proudly carried with him every day. He leaves a lasting legacy of love for God and nature that continues on through his grandchildren, and his family will forever cherish the memories of early morning walks at Coyote Hills and camping trips to Yosemite Valley, Death Valley, and French Meadows.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra; his six children, Kenneth (Ewa) Firl, Walter Firl, Leslie (Bridgetta) Firl, Michael (Julie) Firl, Ethan Firl, and Charmian (Alex) Debernard. His 11 grandchildren are Rachel, Samuel, Lucas, Jared, Gideon (Colleen), Sabrina, Elijah, Ashley, Nathan (Britten), Olivia, and Constance and his 3 great grandchildren are Emmett, Josephina, and Spencer. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Firl; his mother, Alice Middleton, and her husband, Dudley Middleton; and his older brother, Gerhard Firl.

A memorial service for family and friends is being arranged for Spring of 2027.

Debbie Jo Schmaus

Family of Debbie Jo Schmaus



Debbie Jo Schmaus
Photo Provided

Debbie Jo Schmaus, 71, passed away unexpectedly on October 6, 2026. Born and raised in the Helena Valley, Debbie spent her life filling the world around her with color, laughter, music, and love.

Debbie raised her three daughters before meeting the love of her life, Vince. In 1990, the two moved to Townsend, where they made their home in the only bright yellow house on the block—a home that reflected Debbie's colorful personality and vibrant spirit.

Raising her girls was never a quiet affair. Debbie made sure they were up bright and early, sometimes with the sound of her tambourine. Her home was filled with loud music, dancing, and singing, with whatever kitchen utensil happened to be within reach serving as a microphone. She had a way of turning ordinary moments into memories that would last a lifetime.

Debbie was an artist at heart, always finding ways to bring color and creativity into her surroundings. From painting murals on her closet doors to brightening her home one colorful wall at a time, she expressed herself in everything she touched. She loved poems, paintings, collecting knickknacks, and finding countless ways to share her love with those around her.

Her love for animals, especially dogs, was immeasurable. Her animals were her entire world, and over the years, many four-legged companions were lucky enough to be part of her life. And, of course, no memory of Debbie would be complete without mentioning her cooking. Her meals had a way of bringing everyone back for thirds, leaving full bellies and happy hearts around her table.

Debbie lived life in her own colorful way. She loved loudly, created freely, and made an impression that will live on in the memories of everyone fortunate enough to know her. Whether through music, art, animals, a home-cooked meal, or one of her many expressions of love, Debbie had a way of making life a little brighter.

Debbie was preceded in death by her parents, Mickey Lenahan and Samuel Akins; her siblings, Steven Akins, Sam (Jay) Akins, Donna Reed, and Ronnie Akins; and the many beloved dogs who shared her life.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband, Vince Schmaus; her beloved dogs, Hector and Sparky; and her siblings, Bonnie Hurlburt, Terry (Allen) Hibs, Toni (Kevin) Akins, Candie Partridge, and Cathy Anderson. She also leaves behind her three daughters, Steph (Tim) Hensley-Parrotte, Billie Parrotte, and Holly Parrotte; her grandchildren, Cede Meier, Kayla Lessley, Jordan Hoff, Lexi Lessley, Taeler (Colton) Dorrington, Ethan (Katana) Hoff, Olivia Hensley, and Cannon Hensley; and seven great-grandchildren. Along with many extended family and friends.

Debbie's love, laughter, creativity, and colorful spirit will live on through the family she loved so dearly and the countless memories she leaves behind. To know Deb Jo is to know endless love.

Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, October 24th, 2026, at 1pm at the Watsons Gym- 4; Litening Barn Rd, Townsend, MT 59644. We are doing a potluck style for lunch, please bring your favorite dish to share and bring your own drinks.



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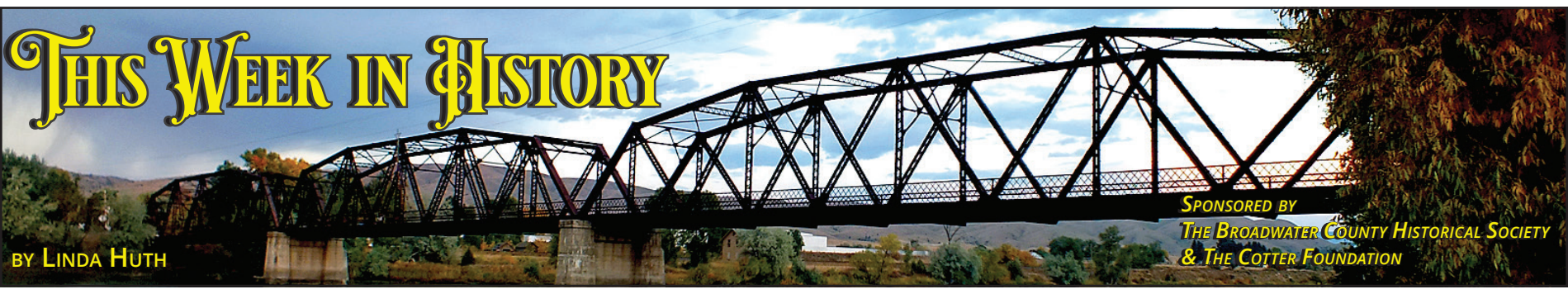

October 15

1903

Local News

Ben Townsley and family are now located in Townsend, residing in one of the Kivlahan houses on Spruce Street. His girls are attending school in Townsend. Mr. Townsley seems to be elated over the change of residence, as he can now take an occasional day's rest, which was hard to do on the ranch.

Joe Parker is engaged in putting on the roof at the new Star office.

The iron work for the front of the Star Office arrived the fore part of this week and the way it was placed in position to receive the brick and plate glass was not slow. In fact, the brickwork on the new Star Office is complete at the present time.

Broadwater County has the distinction of having among her citizens one of the finest Bronco riders in the State of Montana. In fact, there was no one at the State Fair who doubted the ability of Jake Ross of Toston to hold the championship of this state as chief among bronco busters.

1925

Local News

Another prize band of lambs have been reported. Emil Kieckbusch's band of spring lambs averaged 88 ¾ lbs. Any more that beats that? Let's hear from you.

Mrs. F. McCormick accompanied her daughter, May, to Helena Saturday.

Mrs. Ray Ward motored to Helena Saturday and was accompanied home by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ward, who are spending a few days in Townsend with their son, Ray, and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Fairchild motored to the capital city on Saturday. They were accompanied by Mrs. W.C. Whaley.

Don't forget the big dance at Canton, October 24th. Given by the Woman's Club.

Harry Ragen spent the weekend in Townsend with home folk.

All the latest dance hits played by the Merry Makers at the Halloween dance in Canton, October 24th.

1970

Charlene Haines Receives Honor

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams have received word that their oldest daughter, Mrs. Charles (Charleen) Haines, has been selected to appear in the 1970 edition of Outstanding Young Women of America.

Mrs. Haines has been chosen for the awards publication on the basis of her community and civic achievements and she is now in competition for Oregon's Outstanding Young Woman of the Year award. Mrs. Haines is third grade teacher in the Enterprise, Ore., school system. She is presently secretary of the Wallowa County Young Women's Club, a branch of the Oregon Federated Women's Club and is a church school teacher in the Enterprise Community Congregational Church. The past three years, she has been city co-chairman of the annual Cancer Crusade drive.

Guidelines for selections as an Outstanding Young Woman include unselfish service to others, charitable activities, community and civic and professional recognition.

Radersburg News

Terry Harris is the proud owner of a 14' trailer camper. Sam Harris and Terry plan on using it for hunting this fall.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beyers were visiting in Three Forks Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bruce of Whitehall visited Mrs. Bud Harris and family Sunday.

Rudy Puttin is back working in Yellowstone Park. He spent the weekend at his home here.

Miss Connie Roberts was a Sunday guest of Miss Byrl Beyers in Toston. That evening the girls attended the show in Townsend.



Whispers of the Past

Shelley Douthett





In our final sojourn into the lives and deaths of the Willcox and Raymond families within the family plot, there are several generations to write about, mostly relating to Frances Gates Willcox Raymond. Ready? Try not to cross your eyes like I did.

Elizabeth Cass Gates was born in 1820 in Hawkbury, Ontario. She married James Ogden Gates in 1841 and went on to have a family. When James died at the age of 63, she moved to St. Joseph, Michigan to live with one of her daughters. She later moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, to live with another daughter. After a visit to Montana to visit yet another daughter, Frances, she decided to live with Henry and Frances Raymond. She was a devout Methodist and lived out her life in Bedford with family. She was 84.

Next, we have Grandma Austin. That's what it says on her headstone. Matilda Parsons George married Lewis Bledsoe Austin on September 9, 1856, in Grayson, Virginia. Bledsoe had 9 children from a previous marriage. He and Matilda had four children together, one of which was Larrissa, who married Michael McMahon. I covered them in a previous story.

Anyway, the family owned a plantation but lost everything after the Civil War. Guess we know what side they were on. Actually, we do, as they lost two sons in 1861 to battles in the Civil War. Both were Confederate soldiers. They moved from Virginia to Radersburg in 1872, traveling to Corrine, Utah and on to Radersburg in a covered wagon. Her husband, known as Bledsoe Austin, owned a hotel and ranched in the Radersburg Crow Creek area. They later owned a hotel in Jefferson City, where Lewis is buried.

In her later years, Matilda lived with her daughter, Lucy Victoria Austin Willcox in Centerville. She died 15 Jan 1894 at the age of 70 and was buried there and known simply as Grandma Austin. The mystery now is why she was living with her daughter and not her husband. Bledsoe died the same year she did and is buried in Jefferson City.

Take a breath, we're almost done.

Leslie Gates Willcox is the son of Daniel and Frances. He decided not to join his stepfather, Henry Raymond, in the ranching world and became a chef. He cooked at Pipestone and Butte and was known to be a very good chef. He married Lucy Victoria Austin in 1884 and had three children. Lucy passed away in 1895. He then married Lena McFadden for a while. I don't know what happened there, but he married for the third time to Mary Jane Patten in Salt Lake City. He died at the age of 84 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and is buried with Lucy in Centerville.

And that covers it but also leaves more questions. Who built the family plot and when? As far as I can tell, there is no family living in or near our area, which makes me sad. Why was Leslie in Pennsylvania? I could go on, but I already know I won't find the answers. Time to move on.

My research sheet is full of arrows and scribbles. Another pioneer family who landed in our area a long time ago that, once again, left me with wonder and admiration for their determination to leave home and find a new home, totally different from anything they'd known.

Now that we've gotten some nice wet snow, I plan on spreading some wildflower seeds on the graves of those I've gotten cleaned up. Hoping to make it a wee bit prettier out there next spring. Still chopping out prickly pear cactus, the never-ending job. Until next time!



Grandma Austen Headstone
Photo Credits: Shelley Douthett



Lucy Victoria Austin Willcox Headstone
Photo Credits: Shelley Douthett



Elizabeth Cass Gates Headstone
Photo Credits: Shelley Douthett