

ATV POKER RUN 2024

A Day Of Adventure And Community

Rachael Elliott-Brug

On June 8th, a stunning day unfolded in the Big Belt Mountains as 288 off-road enthusiasts gathered for the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce's annual ATV Poker Run. Excitement buzzed through the air at the Fairgrounds, where eager participants reunited and prepared for a summer adventure. With two-thirds of the riders registered online, the check-in process was swift, allowing everyone to dive into the festivities.

As the clock struck 9 AM, the riders embarked on an 84-mile journey through scenic landscapes. The route led them down Cemetery Road, along Flynn Lane, and up Dry Creek. Five checkpoints, manned by local Broadwater volunteers, businesses, and civic groups, were strategically placed along the path. Riders traversed Dry Creek, ascended Grassy Mountain, and navigated Ridge Road to Ross Gulch. Crossing Highway 12, they ventured up North Fork and down Cottonwood before returning to the Fairgrounds. Each checkpoint offered a card stamp, essential for participating in the poker hands at the ride's conclusion.

By 11:30 AM, the first riders began trickling back, covered in dust yet exhilarated by the adventure. Comments on the breathtaking trail and perfect weather were abundant.

The climax of the event saw participants cashing in their stamped cards for poker hands. The air was filled with groans of defeat and cheers of victory. Sunni Hitchcock of Townsend claimed the \$1000 grand prize with a Full House, while other cash prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200, along with gifts from local businesses, rewarded players with lesser hands. In a heartwarming gesture, Patti Hanson, the 50/50 pot winner, donated \$300 back to the first responders. While the total contribution to our first responders is yet to be determined, early signs suggest a record-breaking year.

The event, organized by the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce, with Bob Saxby taking the lead,



Lined up and ready to roll!
Photo Credits: Jenni Fellenz



Bob Saxby founder of the Townsend ATV Poker Run
Photo Credits: Jenni Fellenz



Doug Sitton, Rachael Elliot-Brug and Keith Hartmann taking a well earned break and enjoying some pizza.
Photo Credits: Jenni Fellenz

received tremendous support from local and regional sponsors, including First Responder groups, Rotary, Lion's Club, MVM, Townsend Marine, Bob's Supermarket, Fish Tale Bar, Commercial Bar, Goose Bay Glass, Townsend Hardware, The Mint, Townsend Drug, Rocky Mountain Supply, Helena Cycle Center, and Mount Helena Motorsports. Their donations and

volunteer efforts were crucial to the event's success. Participants and organizers alike agreed that the ATV Poker Run was an unforgettable experience. If you missed out this year, mark your calendars for next year's run on Saturday, June 7th, as the adventure continues through the Elkhorn Mountains. See you there!

Food Pantry Reopens!

Broadwater Food Pantry

P.O. Box 1164 • Townsend, MT 59644

The Food Pantry will reopen at normal times this weekend (Saturday, June 15) at the temporary location.

We are temporarily two doors down, where the J Rock Jewelry shop was located, at 321 Broadway St Suite B.

The Broadwater Food Pantry's regular hours are 9:00am to 10:30am on the 1st and 3rd (and 5th, if applicable) Saturdays of the month.

Karoline Nelson, Operations Manager

Townsend Riders Qualify to Attend Junior High National Finals

Ridge Cameron, age 12, heads out of the chute during team roping at the Dillon Junior Rodeo.
Photo Provided by Author

Fourteen-year-old Townsend rider Gavin Begger takes a break with his horses and prizes.
Photo Provided by Author

MT 43 News Staff Reporter

Local athletes have been competing at Montana High School and Junior High Rodeos for the 23-24 year in the fall and spring trying to get as many points as they could in their events to be higher in the standings when going into state, which took place in Dillon for junior high riders May 31-June 2.

Cydnee Harrell (barrels and poles), Gavin Begger (boys' breakaway, boys' goat tying, and team roping), Ridge Cameron (boys' breakaway, boys goat tying, and team roping), and Josie Begger (girls' goat tying) from Townsend went to give it their all for a shot at the Nationals Junior High Finals.

After the 2 long go's, Ridge and Gavin both made it back to the short go. Gavin and Ridge rode in the breakaway and paired in team roping . Both riders competed in goat tying. Cydnee and Josie made some great runs but with tough competition, were just out of the short go.

As the dust settled on Sunday afternoon, our local cowboys came out with the wins. Ridge Cameron won the Boys' Breakaway State title with a total of 14.82 on 3 head. That qualified him for the top spot to Nationals.

Gavin made a fast run in goat tying and was a 33.77 on 3 runs which ended up 2nd in the state for the year end and qualified him for Nationals also.

Ridge and Gavin made a great run in the team roping and ended the year in 6th place. The two will be traveling to the National Junior High Finals Rodeo in Des Moines, Iowa June 23-29 to compete against the best in the nation.

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

LOCAL RODEO SIGNUPS

Monday, June 24 5pm to 8 pm



Yellow ticket office at the
Broadwater County Fairgrounds
189 US Highway 12 East, Townsend

For questions: Tanya (406) 670-9235

VISIT HISTORIC CANTON CHURCH

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH
2024 SUMMER SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

DATE	VISITING HOURS	GROUP/SPEAKER	EVENT TIME
JUNE 14	3-6 PM	Mary Bradford <i>See Calamity Jane through the eyes of Dora Dufran</i>	5 PM
JUNE 28	3-6 PM	Duane and Lauren Simonich <i>A Townsend Husband and Wife Acoustic Duo</i>	5 PM
JULY 12	3-6 PM	Duane Simonich and Kyle Altman <i>Acoustic Worship, Country, Rock,Folk, Alt Rock</i>	5 PM
JULY 26	3-6 PM	The Moonshiner Band <i>Bluegrass, Gospel, Country, Folk</i>	5 PM
AUGUST 9	3-6 PM	The Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire <i>A Canton Church Favorite playing country and folk music</i>	5 PM
AUGUST 23	3-6 PM	Linda Huth <i>Broadwater County Women's Groups through history</i>	5 PM

Broadwater County Fair: *Cowboy Boots and Country Roots*

Jessica Erickson
Fair Manager

We are so excited to be celebrating our ‘Cowboy Boots and Country Roots’ with the 2024 Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo, July 31-August 4th! Now is the time to start thinking about and working on your Open Class entries for this year.

Have a hobby that you love doing and are super great at? We would love for you to enter that item into the open class at the Broadwater County Fair! From growing those beautiful flowers and veggies to crafting with your Cricut to capturing those breathtaking sunset photos with your phone, all of which you can enter and have a chance to win bragging rights and a few bucks to spend on sweet treats. Have any questions about how to enter or how to begin, please feel free to call Tayla Snapp, the Open Class Supervisor at 406-366-3923.

Calling all artists to saddle up for the Broadwater County Fair. Round up your creations in art mediums including fine arts and home crafts. Have you made a painting, jewelry, or ceramic piece in a local class?

We have a special class for these items made during local classes! If you are a Quilter, you can enter many different types of Quilting. Whether it be quilting by hand or machine, table runners, blankets or lap blankets and it can be by theme or by original design. The list goes on! You can also enter Crocheting, Embroidery, Pillows, Sewing Projects,

Rugs, Hand Knitting, as well as Dolls and Toys.

The Open Class Departments are: Home Arts, Photography & Literature, Fine Arts Painting & Artwork, Home Crafts, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Agronomy and Livestock. And each of these departments has many different classes to enter your projects! The opportunities are endless! Fair entry deadline is July 9th, so don’t wait!

Copies of the Fair Book can be found at www.townsendfairgrounds.com under the ‘Fair Info’ tab. Check out the Fair Week schedule in the fair book for some super exciting entertainment news! We are gearing up for a great event and hope to see you all there.

For questions or concerns please contact Jessica Erickson, Fair Manager at 406.266.9242 or email fair@co.broadwater.mt.us.

Boot Decorating Contest

Tayla Snapp
Broadwater County Fair Open Class Superintendent

Do you have the best-looking boots in town? Here is your opportunity to participate in the Broadwater County Fair’s Boot Decorating Contest.



Take one boot and decorate it to your and/or your business’s liking, and bring it to the Broadwater County Fair 4-H building the morning of Wednesday, July 31st.

The boots will be used as indoor exhibit decorations during the week of the fair to go along with our theme of Cowboy Boots and Country Roots. The boots will be judged and there will be prizes!

We would love to get as many community members and businesses involved as we can so please feel free to partake in this free event and come check out the boots during the week of the fair!

Dinner with Chef Heather Hatwan at the Lodge of Townsend

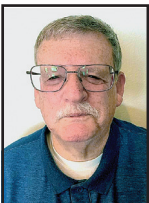


Left to Right: Janine Stone, Dan and Jeanie Mainwaring, Tina Homman, Dan Tuxbury, Teri Blahnik.
Photo Credits: Pam Sample



Jen Dalrymple, Linda Cousineau, Karen Susag and Jane Slyker
Photo Credits: Pam Sample

Victor Sample



From Chef Heather Hatwan:
“Big Sky Culinary Classes & The Lodge of Townsend are pairing up once again, to initiate an elevated, fine dining experience IN Townsend!
We all know there is a need and desire for a different fare, a high-quality food establishment that we can enjoy without having to drive to another town, here in Townsend.

Together we are collaborating to create a restaurant-type environment that feels, looks, tastes and exemplifies the styles we drive miles to experience.

Heather Hatwan & Tina Homann believe bringing to Townsend what we (and your expressed interest) ourselves would like to enjoy & would benefit the community immensely. Our idea is to have 3-course dinners, 4 times a year with a full kitchen staff and wait staff. This concept would be a “Reservation Only” dinner to help us prepare efficiently to provide you with the service and meal you deserve. The menus will be carefully curated using the freshest of local ingredients including vegetables, grains and meats.”

On Saturday, June 8, Chef Heather and Tina Homann hosted the first of the Big Sky Culinary Classes dinners at the Lodge of Townsend. The menu was a dinner salad, beef filet steak with risotto and a chocolate mousse



Filet with Risotto and Asparagus
Photo Credits: Pam Sample

dessert. We were seated with friends of ours and had a wonderful meal and enjoyed some great conversation.

The salad featured very fresh greens and spinach along with feta cheese and strawberries with a vinaigrette dressing. Chef Hatwan cooked the steaks medium unless requested otherwise. The filets were prepared perfectly! The entrée came with risotto and asparagus. Risotto is notoriously hard to prepare well – and Chef Hatwan did it really well. The chocolate mousse - provided by Hailey Curtis - was served with a raspberry and whipped cream and was really, really good.

Our servers were Chrissy Rouse and Sara Murgel. They seated us and served our meal. They were delightful and made us feel welcome and well-cared for.

The Lodge of Townsend does not have a wine/beer



Sara Murgel preparing to serve the salads
Photo Credits: Pam Sample

license; so attendees were advised to bring their own wine or beer. Due to the Montana “Bottle Club” law, the servers at the dinner were not allowed to uncork or serve any wine. They were able to provide wine glasses. The couples at our table all brought bottles of wine which we shared.

It was an excellent meal with excellent company – and a chance to chat with many friends at the dinner!

Correction: Canton Church Event

We apologize for the error in the June 7 issue regarding the Canton Church Presenting Mary Jane Bradford. We inadvertently said she would be at the Canton Church on July 14. Mary Jane Bradford will be presenting the life of Calamity Jane as told through the voice of Dora DuFran on June 14, 2024, NOT on July 14.

Townsend School Calendar


JUNE

Mon 17 - Thu 20

63 Gym Lights (being replaced)

Fri 21 - Fri, JULY 5

Gym Floors



NorthWestern Energy

Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page

Three Forks School Calendar

JUNE

Tue 18

HS FCCLA Meeting During Lunch


6:30PM Board Meeting Large Conference Room

Wed 19

MS FCCLA Meeting at Lunch break

Thu 20

MS Book Club at Lunch



THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

Friday 14

11:00AM Three Forks Public Library - LEGGO Club

Saturday 15

Three Forks Public Library CLOSED

11:30AM RESERVED Stevenson Park Gazebo (Morey's b-day party) at City Hall

4:00PM- 8:00PM Three Forks Ambulance Fundraiser at Sawdust and Steel Brewery **MORE ON PAGE 8, AD ON THIS PAGE**

Sunday 16

4:00PM Kansas Street Closed - High Winds Youth Rodeo at City Hall

Tuesday 18

1:00PM Three Forks Public Library - Mah Jongg

4:00PM Three Forks Public Library - Middle School Book Club

Wednesday 20

10:00AM Three Forks Public Library - Storytime

2:00PM Farmer's Market (RESERVED) at John Q. Adams Milwaukee Railroad Park

Thursday 21

1:00PM Three Forks Public Library - Summer Reading Program Nature Explorer

Friday 22

6:00PM Brews and Beats: A Benefit Concert for KGLT at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Three Forks Public Library CLOSED

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

JUNE

Monday 17

10:00am Commission Meeting

2:00pm Commission Working Meeting

6:00pm Parks and Recreation


Tuesday 18

3:00pm Commission Working Meeting (in the Commissioner's Office)

7:00pm Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Wednesday 19

6:00pm Airport Board



LIBRARY HOURS

Three Forks Community Library

SUMMER HOURS (JUNE- AUGUST):

Monday, Wednesday through Friday - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Tuesdays - 10:00am - 7:00pm

1st Saturday of the Month: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Contact the library for details on clubs and events for a variety of ages at (406) 285-3747, or visit the website: three-forkslibrary.weebly.com

Broadwater School and Community Library

SUMMER HOURS:

Monday through Friday 1:00- 7:00PM

Saturday 9:00AM- 4:00PM

Summer Reading Program Starts Monday, June 3rd

Curbside available. Please call (406)441-3461

Rotary Circus Tickets on Sale!

Rotary tickets for the June 26th circus at the Fairgrounds are on sale at Reading Leaves Bookstore, The Bird's Nest, and The Broadwater County Extension Office. Kids under 12 and seniors over 65 are \$8 each. Adult tickets are \$12. Tickets are more expensive at the gate so buy them early.

Rotary had the school pass out 342 free circus tickets to every child under 12 on the last day of school, May 31st. Thanks to everyone that helped Rotary meet the free ticket challenge for Broadwater County youth.

If Rotary receives any more donations, they will give free tickets to nursing home and assisted living residents. Checks can be mailed to the Rotary Club of Townsend at P. O. Box 1192, Townsend, MT 59644.

Any questions, please call Patrick Plantenberg at 406-431-4615.

JOIN US AT



SAWDUST+STEEL

BREWERY

TO SUPPORT

THREE FORKS AMBULANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH 4-8PM

FUNDRAISER, RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION



2024 BROADWATER ROD AND GUN CLUB WALLEYE DERBY

DERBY IS HELD ON JULY 20TH AT THE SILOS

THE ENTRY FORM CAN BE FOUND AT BROADWATERRODANDGUN.COM

JOIN THIS FAMILY FUN DAY FISHING AT CANYON FERRY

ENTRIES AND PAYMENTS POSTMARKED BY JULY 1ST WILL GET \$50 OFF THE ENTRY FEE!

QUESTIONS?

CALL DOUG BREKER 949-0070 OR EMAIL DEBI.RANDOLPH@GMAIL.COM



TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

Friday 14

10:00am Free Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library

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

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

5:00pm Historic Canton Church Presents: Mary Bradford at Canton Church **AD ON PAGE 2**

Saturday 15

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

6:30pm Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

Monday 17

6:00pm Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805

6:30pm Doug Sitton and Jodi Toney Host Wine Tasting at the Betsy

Tuesday 18

5:00pm American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club

5:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Wednesday 19

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

7:00PM Rural Fire Board Meeting **AD ON THIS PAGE**

Thursday 20

Townsend Crimson Red Hat Ladies Lunch the 3rd Thursday: Contact Sandy for information 406-949-0081

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

Friday 21

10:00am Free Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library

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

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

Saturday 22

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

6:30pm Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

Monday 24

5:00- 8:00PM Rodeo Signups **SEE AD ON PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS**

LOCAL JOB LISTINGS

HELP WANTED:

Broadwater County Solid Waste PT Site Attendant

Broadwater County is soliciting qualified applicants to fill the position of a PT Site Attendant. The wage is \$13-\$15/hr, DOE. Applicants must have a valid Montana Driver's License and be able to pass a background check. Applications and a copy of the job description can be obtained on the county's website at www.broadwatercountymt.com under Job Openings at the bottom of the page.

Resumes and complete applications can be mailed to Misty Masolo at 515 Broadway; Townsend, MT 59644 or emailed to mmasolo@co.broadwater.mt.us. Please contact Misty Masolo at 406-266-9212 if you have any questions.

Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

Employment Opportunity Clerk and Recorder's Elections Office

Broadwater County is currently seeking a highly motivated individual for a Full-Time Elections Assistant.

The successful candidate must be able to manage and maintain the voter registration system in Broadwater County; assist Election Administrator in organizing and conducting elections in the County to comply with State election laws and statutes; assist in preparing and conducting training for seasonal staff and election judges; assist in setting up for all elections; conduct related work as required; work under the Election Administrator. Attention to detail, ability to work on deadline, proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, discretion, and customer service skills are essential. Occasional evening hours may be required. Understanding of local government entities and experience in elections is preferred.

The wage is \$17.50-19.50/hr., DOE, with an excellent health benefits package. A copy of the full job description may be obtained at the Clerk and Recorder Office at the Broadwater County Courthouse; 515 Broadway; Townsend, MT 59644, or by emailing apaulsen@co.broadwater.mt.us. Resumes may be sent to the same email. Position is open until filled.

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Treasurer Assistant Job Vacancy

Broadwater County Treasurer's Office is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time position of Treasurer Assistant.

Duties and responsibilities include answering phones, processing mail, taxes, motor vehicles, cash receipting, and driver's license receipts on the computer system and with customers. 2 years experience in an office setting and computer skills required. Good customer service, attention to detail, and accounting/bookkeeping experience preferred. Valid driver's license is required. Applicant must pass a background check. Some overtime may be required during tax season. Starting pay \$18.00 - \$19.00/hr., DOE.

A complete job description can be obtained by sending a request to mfranks@co.broadwater.mt.us. Resumes, coversheets, references, and other application materials can be sent to the same email. Position is open until filled.

Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

The 8th Annual Broadwater County- Wide Yard Sale

will be held on July 20, 2024.

If you are planning to hold a yard/garage sale this year, consider joining the County-Wide Yard Sale. We will do all the advertising across our region including Helena, Butte and Bozeman - You keep all the profits! Three Forks area residents welcome! Call Pam at (406) 422-7028 for more information or to be included in our yard sale map.

Annual Meeting

Broadwater Community Health Foundation

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Billings Clinic-Broadwater, Meeting Room

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: June 19th, 2024 7:00 PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

What to Do if Your Trees and Shrubs Aren't Leafing Out

Abi Saeed

MSU Extension Horticulture Specialist

Dear MT 43 News:

The Tree Board has been getting lots of calls about why so many trees and shrubs are dead or dying in Townsend. We are not the only area in Montana affected. Please run the attached article sent out by MSU Extension explaining why trees and shrubs are having so much trouble. Any questions please call Patrick Plantenberg or Allison Kosto.

Thanks, Patrick

(Article published in Urban Alerts, June 6th, 2024.

Shared by MSU Extention and the Tree Board)

We have had another tough winter for our trees and shrubs in Montana, followed by a tough spring. The fact that we had warm temperatures well into October, followed by a sudden cold snap and snow, leading to a very dry winter with limited precipitation, and a very cold January with temperatures reaching -35 to -40 F (without wind chill) caused significant stress to trees and shrubs. Our spring temperatures were also mild, followed by a cold snap in May, which could further stress out trees and shrubs that have already experienced a lot of challenges.

All of these conditions are consistent with slow growth, delayed leafing out, lack of blooms, dieback in branches and sometimes even death of trees and shrubs. Younger and newly transplanted trees (< 5 years) as well as marginally hardy species (including many fruit trees) can be especially susceptible to these issues.

If you have trees that haven’t leafed out yet, or if they are leafing out unevenly with sections of bare branches: give them some time. Stressed trees can take a while to bounce back, and since it is still early June, it is possible that these trees and shrubs may still produce new growth this summer. We like to advise that you wait a full growing season before you make a decision regarding the removal of trees and shrubs.

- If you are unsure whether your trees/shrubs are alive, you can check bare branches to see if there is living tissue beneath the bark.
- How to tell if your trees and shrubs are still alive:*
- 1) Gently bend young branches to feel if they are still pliable. Pliable branches may still be alive, as opposed to stiff and brittle branches (which could indicate dead tissue).
 - 2) Scrape a small section of bark to see the cambium (living tissue) just below the bark (you can use a pocket knife or even a fingernail for thin-barked trees/shrubs). Living tissue is often green, white, or pink and moisture should be evident. If it looks completely dry and is tan/brown in color, the branch may be dead.



Scrape test of the bark showing living tissue and dead tissue. Photo Credits: MSU Extension

If you have determined that the branches and/or trees and shrubs are dead, you can remove them. If you are unsure, there is no harm in waiting a few months to see if there is any new growth (trees that pose a hazard to people, pets, and property should be evaluated by an ISA-certified arborist as soon as possible). If there is still living tissue, be patient and continue taking care of the tree to encourage growth. If they don’t produce any growth by the fall, they are unlikely to produce new growth in the following year and can be removed from the landscape.

- How to care for stressed trees that have not leafed out yet:*
- Provide plenty of water! Make sure you continue to water trees and shrubs with signs of life. Water along the drip line and beyond (not just at the base). Water slowly, and deeply (so that moisture

- reaches the root zone, a majority of which is 12 to 24 inches below the soil surface). A rule of thumb for watering trees: 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter per week.
- Do not fertilize! Fertilizers encourage new growth, which can further stress out already stressed trees and shrubs.
 - Reduce competition! If trees have been planted within turf, or if there is a lot of weedy vegetation around the base of the trees (above the root system), these can compete with trees and shrubs for water and nutrients.
 - Apply mulch! Create a ring of mulch (such as wood chips) in a 3–4 inch layer around the base of the trees, ideally up to the drip line and beyond. Do not pile the mulch up to the trunk of the trees. Organic mulches (such as arborist wood chips) can help conserve moisture, insulate roots, and reduce competition from weeds. Rock, gravel, and stone mulches can reflect heat and further stress out trees and shrubs and are not recommended around sensitive plants.

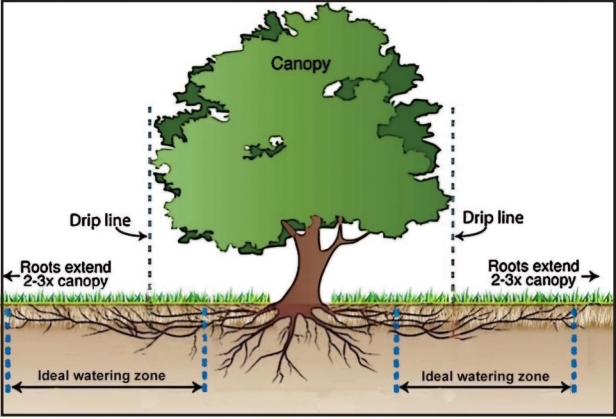


Illustration of the ideal watering zone from Trees for Missoula. (https://www.treesformissoula.org/watering-trees) Photo Credits: MSU Extension

If you have any questions about the health and care of your trees and shrubs, reach out to your local Extension offices for more information.

Allison Kosto, Extension Agent/Associate Professor: allison.kosto@montana.edu

Patrick Plantenburg, Tree Board Chairman: m2andp2@mt.net

Water Smart Landscaping: Turfgrass Considerations

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent

Something about a lush green lawn is as American as apple pie. It’s a tradition that built a whole industry dedicated to green spaces. In some neighborhoods, it’s seen as a status symbol where neighbors are counting the dandelions while peeking through the curtains. However, did you know that the average home landscape uses as much as 50 percent of the water in the household?! In the last couple of years, I have had an increased number of inquiries from people who are interested in Water Smart Landscaping and who are trying to move away from the stereotypical lush green yard. There are many advantages to doing this.

What is Water Smart Landscaping? This is a technique that utilizes techniques for smart water use in the landscape to reduce the amount of water needed. Xeriscape is another term that is often used interchangeably with Water Smart Landscaping. However, the primary difference is that Xeriscaping refers to a specific landscape technique that requires zero supplemental watering. On the other hand, Water Smart strategically uses water to make the system more efficient and effective and reduce the overall water used. Over the course of the next few weeks, we’ll look at different techniques that contribute to a water-smart design starting with turfgrass.

Lawn irrigation is the primary user of outdoor water. Cutting the amount of turfgrass can drastically reduce the amount of water needed. To decide how big your lawn needs to be consider your primary uses. Do you have kids who play in it? Pets who run around? Do you just look at it? Are there areas of your lawn that you mow but never use?

If you decide you want to maintain a large space for a lawn, changing species of turfgrass can also make a difference. The most common turfgrass in Montana is Kentucky bluegrass which needs at least 2 inches of water a week. Sheep fescue is a drought-tolerant species that can also be used in lawns. It requires half as much water as Kentucky bluegrass, only needing about 1 inch per week. Keep in mind though that by switching to a different grass, your lawn may lose its manicured sod-like look. However, you can still have a wonderful lawn that kids and pets can play on, and for you to enjoy.

Another trend in lawns is alternatives to turfgrass

such as microclover or creeping thyme. Microclover is a type of white clover that has smaller leaves and a lower-growth habitat. It is best mixed with lawn grass because alone it tends to be clumpy. The top growth also dies back over the winter which can create bare spots in the yard which are subject to erosion. Mixing it with lawn grass helps provide continued ground cover. In Montana, it still needs to be watered regularly, about 1 inch a week, so if you pair it with a low-maintenance turfgrass like sheep fescue, it could make a good combination. Other downsides of microclover are that it is not drought tolerant, doesn’t do well in shade or high traffic areas, and the seed is more expensive.

Creeping thyme is another option but is best used in smaller areas. It is a woody plant that does not die back each winter, so the stems remain on the ground, and it does not have the soft texture of traditional lawns. It sometimes does not survive our winters if there is not enough snow cover. Creeping thyme also needs water and should even be watered at least once a month during the winter. However, it uses less water than a high-maintenance lawn, has a lovely purple flower that makes a nice ground cover, and attracts pollinators.

Another important consideration of Water Smart Lawns is how and when you water. It’s best to water deep and less frequently. Established lawns need 1 to 2 inches of water every 3 to 5 days. If you have a lower maintenance grass, then it can be even less frequent. This technique teaches the roots to go deeper into the soil profile and better able to withstand drought. The best time to water is early in the morning because it reduces moisture loss from evaporation and allows leaf blades to dry quickly, reducing fungal infections.

It’s also okay to let your lawn go dormant during the summer to conserve water. Montana’s lawn grasses are cool-season plants which means they grow more rapidly during the spring and fall when temperatures are cool. They are naturally designed to go dormant when stressed and then typically bounce back to life when the temperatures drop in the fall and the moisture returns. We see the exact same thing with native plants. Letting your lawn go dormant is often less stressful than intermittent watering.

Stay tuned next week for more Water Smart design tips!

Contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu with any questions.

The Garden Bug

Toads

The American toad can eat up to 100 insects in one night, reducing insect damage to your plants. To attract toads to your garden, provide water in which to breed (like a small pond or a ditch), plus a moist, dark place where they can wedge their body, and soil in which to burrow that is free of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. If they find a home they like, they might stay for years; observe their unique spot patterns on their back to identify them. When threatened, they can secrete a toxin from lumpy glands behind their eyes, so keep children and pets away and wash your hands after any contact.

– Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.washingtonpost.com, wikipedia

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GRATITUDE

Townsend Schools & the AG Day Committee would like to extend a HUGE “THANK YOU” to all of the caring and **generous donors, presenters and those who gave of their time** to make our celebration a success!! You all have helped make the 29th Annual AG Day a tremendous achievement!!! It is with your help that we are able to share good, accurate information about agriculture and some of the necessary products we use regularly.

Townsend School Board & Administration	Chuck & Lisa Larson
Graymont Western US Inc.	Broadwater Farm Bureau
Ehike Herefords	Flynn Hay & Grain
Leonard Lambott	Opportunity Bank
Wheat Montana	Rocky Mountain Supply
Bruce Seed Farm	Bob’s Supermarket
Addie Held	John & Missy Rauser
Broadwater Cattlewomen	Jemma Loughrey
Broadwater FFA Students	Bob’s Thirftway
Bovine Express-Bob & Elaine Graveley	Watson Irrigation
Thousand Hills Angus, LLC	Bulldog Bus Lines
Montana Farmers Union	Jackie Smith
Kim Watne	Karen Noyes
Diann Ferrat	Vigilante Electric
Todd Kitto	Debbie Clark
Tyler Noyes	Allison Kosto
Lynn Reynolds	Three Forks FFA Students
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Townsend Rodeo Board	Amy Winters
MT Farmers Union	Larry Woodring
Makenzie Kimpton	Jeremy Rice
Stacy Sommer	

Americanisms

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”

— Ronald Reagan

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Broadwater Commissioners Agenda

Daylene Hansen
Administrative Assistant

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.com>.

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. 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 in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.com, in the window of the Flynn Building at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, and in the local MT43 Newspaper.

Monday, June 17, 2024

8:00 AM Vote Canvass, Flynn Building

2:00 PM Working Meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, regarding projects and deadlines. This will be in the Commission Office

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

3:00 PM Working Meeting with Kay Minor, Deputy County Attorney, regarding projects and deadlines. This will be in the Commission Office

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

NO COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioners at MACO District Meeting

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 / Action / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review Management – on-going advisory board appointments
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail – ongoing grants
- Correspondence – support letters

Debi Randolph, Vice Chairman
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

Darrel Folkvord, Chairman
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

Lindsey Richtmyer
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

E-mail: commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us

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

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

- County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting on June 17th at 6:00 PM
- Broadwater County Three Forks & Townsend Mosquito Board Meeting on June 18th at 3:30 PM
- Broadwater County Noxious Weed Board Meeting on June 18th at 7:00 PM
- Broadwater County Airport Board Meeting on June 19th at 6:00 PM
- Public Hearing, Proposed Solid Waste Budget on June 24th at 6:00 PM
- Broadwater County Planning Board Meeting on June 25th at 2:00 PM
- Public Hearing on County Budget for FY 25 on June 26th at 10:00 AM
- LAC Board Meeting on June 26th at 2:00 PM

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



Three Forks Deli Hours
7 am to 5 pm daily

Proposed Solid Waste Budget Retains Assessment Model, Includes Recovery of Unpaid Previous Year Assessments

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter

Broadwater County property owners will likely see a 30 percent increase per solid waste assessment on their tax bills in the coming fiscal year, along with additional measures to recover unbilled assessments from previous tax years, County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki to the county commission June 5.

What they won't see – at least not in the fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 – is a pay-as-you-throw solid waste service or the closure of any of the county's five current collection sites.

Jarocki told the commission that the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) received information in early May from the Department of Revenue that the county could increase its assessments prior to county tax bills being generated in the fall. The budget proposal includes an increase in assessment value from approximately \$185 to \$241.72.

In general, each residential property owner pays one assessment on their annual county tax bill. Businesses and other entities with larger likely waste outputs are

billed for multiple assessments.

The solid waste enterprise fund, which operates independently of the larger county budget, saw deficits for fiscal years 2023 and 2022, and likely will have a significant deficit for the current fiscal year due to an error which caused some county solid waste users to be underbilled for their solid waste assessment.

The proposed FY 2025 budget estimates just over \$250,000 in recovered revenue that went unbilled in previous tax years.

While those two efforts will help close the solid waste budget gap for the upcoming fiscal year. Jarocki indicated that recovery efforts would likely only be in place for one year. He said the SWAB will continue investigating alternatives to the existing system that will both repay previous years' deficits and continue to support the solid waste fund's operating in the black moving forward.

The \$1.089 million preliminary budget, which represents nearly a tenth of the county's total budget for FY2025, had a public hearing June 11 and will be finalized and presented to the commission June 26 for adoption following a public hearing on the county's budget as a whole.

City, County Agree to Trade Water for Grading Services

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter

The City of Townsend and Broadwater County agreed to a resolution trading metered city water for grading at least twice during the calendar year on approximately one mile of Railroad and Harrison avenues. The one-time agreement, approved by the City Council on June 4 and County Commission on June 10, expires Dec. 31, 2024.

Prior to 2022, county water trucks and other non-county entities were able to access city water for their needs. The access was curtailed in 2022 due to water shortages that left paying Townsend customers on water

use restrictions.

County Public Works Director TJ Graveley told the commission that his estimate of the amount of water the county would use for works around Townsend was likely low. Metering will provide the city and county with data that can be used to determine the value of the water used, compared to the cost of grading and gravel needed for the two streets. He, Commissioner Debi Randolph, and Commission Chair Darrel Folkvord noted that upcoming changes in city water rates would also influence whether a similar agreement could be put in place in the future.

Both the city council and county commission approved the agreement unanimously.

Need advice?

Our Two Cents


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St. Peter's Health Announces Purchase of Iconic Armory Building

Jacquelyn Tescher
Saint Peter's Health Supervisor of Public Relations

 **St. Peter's Health** Helena, Mont., June 6, 2024 - St. Peter's Health announced today its purchase of the iconic Montana State Arsenal, Armory, and Drill Hall building, commonly known as the Armory Building, from D&M Development. The Armory Building will house a variety of healthcare services, creating an additional and more convenient access point for patients living and working on Helena's West Side. Tentative plans call for construction and remodeling to begin in January 2025.

"We are always evaluating how we can expand access for our patients and community members, and finding the physical space to house services and providers can be challenging," said St. Peter's Health Chief Executive Officer Wade Johnson, FACHE. "When we developed our strategic plan several years ago, the west side of Helena was an area of focus for expansion. The Armory is an ideal location due to its proximity to downtown businesses, schools, and nearby neighborhoods."

years," said Johnson. "As our community's health system, we are responsible for meeting this need and we look forward to engaging with local businesses, schools, and people in the area to understand what they would like to have available in the Armory."

Funded in part by generous donors, St. Peter's officials say they are still determining which services will be housed in the clinic. At this time, they anticipate expanding primary care, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, pharmacy, wellness, mental health, rehabilitation and therapy services.

According to Johnson, the new location and services will also help grow their workforce, giving valuable on-the-job training for future caregivers. "We look forward to the opportunities we have in this space to expand internships, apprenticeships and volunteer engagements for students at Carroll College, Helena College and other education institutions including area high schools," said Johnson.

St. Peter's purchased the Armory Building for \$8 million but is planning for up to a \$27 million total investment with renovations. The organization is in conversation with current tenants to help facilitate a smooth transition over the next six months.

About St. Peter's Health

St. Peter's Health is a system of health care services including a 99-bed acute care hospital, physician clinics, cancer treatment center, behavioral health unit, urgent care clinics, home health and hospice care, dialysis center and ambulance services. St. Peter's Health serves the Helena region and southwest Montana counties of Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson, Meagher and Powell, with a combined population of approximately 97,000 residents. The mission of St. Peter's Health is to improve the health, wellness and quality of life of the people and communities we serve. For more information, visit sphealth.org.

St. Peter's currently operates three outpatient clinics including its North Clinic, which recently expanded to include pharmacy services. Available space for additional expansion in these facilities is slim, yet a third-party evaluation conducted in 2022 suggests that Helena will need 30 additional providers over the next three years to meet community needs. Almost half of this need is for primary care or family medicine services.

"Helena is growing and we're committed to growing with it, just as we have for the past one hundred

SUPPORT LOCAL

BUSINESS

DINE LOCAL BROADWATER

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 5:00PM Special Event with Food: N/A Bar hours may vary	The Betsy Sports Zone 217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Wed - Sat 3:00PM - 12:00AM Closed Sun, Mon & Tues Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com	Commercial Bar 101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available onFacebook	Deep Creek Pizza 415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Menu: www.deepcreekpizzaco.com, Facebook and Instagram Closed Sunday	Full Belli Deli 209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: 7:30AM - 8:00PM Every Day Menu: fullbellidelimt.com	TB's Diner 316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM Mn, Fri & Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Tue - Thu 11:00AM - 8:00PM Specials: Facebook
Bread and Butter Cafe 205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: 7:00AM- 2:00PM Menu available on Facebook Closed Sunday and Monday	Bunkhouse Bar & Grill 8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 Dining Hours: 10:00AM – Close Grill off at 10:00PM	Copy Cup 303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400 Please call on business hours Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday	Fishtale Tavern 209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 11:00PM Daily Specials: Facebook Bar hours may vary	Mint Cafe 305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Tue & Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Mon & Thur 8:00AM - 8:00PM Fri 8:00AM - 9:00PM Sat 7:00AM - 9:00PM Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM Menu: themintbarandgrill.com/menu	Broadwater Area Restaurants Contact MT 43 News, Monday- Friday 10AM - 2PM, if you would like to talk about how to add your dining location and open hours to our paper! 406.266.0086

"What I don't understand is why I keep looking forward to _____."

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!

Glance
KEEP

Amble
WARDEN

Sheild
FENDED

Count
CORES

TODAY'S WORD

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: H equals L

JGOE LGO XHOQ RQUBOL
CXXOUOW XUOO HCJ-ZTQHSLI
QZTQUSTRK, Q GTDO KSDE
KQSW "LQEBK XCU ECLGSED!"

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KNIGHT MOVES

U	N	I
E		J
E	L	N

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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Weather Info Contributed by Jeff Ross

Fri 6/14 Thunderstorms 80° 55° ● 24% ⇒ 5 23 mph	Sat 6/15 Thunderstorms 67° 43° ● 29% ⇒ 6 37 mph	Sun 6/16 Very Light Rain Showers 63° 45° ● 11% ⇒ 10 25 mph	Mon 6/17 Thunderstorms 60° 46° ● 58% ⇒ 10 23 mph	Tue 6/18 Thunderstorms 60° 43° ● 52% ⇒ 8 18 mph
--	--	--	---	--

Precipitation:

January: 0.047"	February: 0.292"
March: 0.409"	April: 1.189"
May: 2.721"	June: 0.303
2023: 13.669"	2024: 4.914"

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Saudi, say

5 Raptors' gp.

8 In a stupor

13 GMC cross-over SUV model

19 Reduces the worth of

21 Lead-in to a bit of bad news

22 What ("I" and "I") are, for short

23 Capital of South Australia

24 Actress Dennis leaps?

26 Boxer Marciano begins?

28 — Canals

29 Thurman of film

30 Saloon

31 "I could — horse!"

33 Newspaper based in McLean, Va.

37 Racing driver Wallace does some hammering?

42 Singer Benatar replies?

44 This, in Lima

45 Dancer Charisse

46 Waterproof canvas cover

48 — out an existence

49 Founder of Taoism

51 Hair removal brand

53 Gmail competitor

56 Teensy names

59 Yosemite peak, in brief

60 "... — my brother"

61 Quarterback Bradshaw dries himself off?

66 Reindeer kin

67 Jurists' org.

69 Emmy winner Baldwin

71 Like whiteboards

72 Actor Slater goes on vacation?

76 Most thickest

78 Huge hero

79 Sink down

80 Free TV spot, for short

83 Comedian Buttons gains a lot of weight?

85 "True —!" ("Yep!")

87 Heroic tales

89 Ending for duct or infant

90 Lead-in to glottis or Pen

91 Stadium level

93 Employed for the purpose of

94 "Help us!"

97 Light in signs

99 "Son of," in 1-Across

101 Russo of "Big Trouble"

102 Architect Gehry speaks?

107 Singer Aiken woos someone?

110 Helicopter or glider

111 Whittle down

113 Lovey

114 Tatty cloth

115 "-ology" kin

117 Dancer Rogers loses control?

123 Singer Gayle plays tenpins?

128 Niagara River source

129 Oration of adulation

130 10th-century German king

131 Ester in plastics

132 Money in the form of coins

133 Reveals

134 JFK guess

135 Agenda unit

DOWN

1 Jewish month

2 Totally fix up

3 With, in Paris

4 Pitcher's goof

5 Pain in the neck

6 Accessory for a meal fit for a queen?

7 Far offshore

8 Mild aversion

9 Make — buck

10 Buddhist branch

11 Actor George of "CSI"

12 Dehydrate

13 iPhone extra

14 Freeway sight

15 Actress Meyers

16 Make bare

17 Filmmaker Bergman

18 Analyzes

20 Put away for the future

25 Slugger Sammy

27 Islam, e.g.: Abbr.

32 Fourth mo.

34 Meth- ending

35 "Bad boy!"

36 Have debts

37 Gen. at Gettysburg

81 Deficient

82 Donkeys

84 Sow's sound

86 Opera song

88 Lima's land

92 Very troubled

93 Opened, as a wine bottle

94 — coo

95 Approved

96 Sow's home

98 Psychic skill

100 From memory

102 Outrageous comedies

103 Rise on the hind legs

104 Sock pattern

105 Indigo dye

106 Sappho's Greek island

108 Writer Deighton

109 Opening

112 Shining

116 Closet pest

118 Pasty stuff

119 Classic soda brand

120 "I smell —!"

121 Fir relative

122 Appear

124 Part of SSN: Abbr.

125 — Fridays

126 Vote in favor

127 Global commerce gp.

Kids' Maze

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Charlotte “Sharley” Lou Ragen

Sharley Ragen Family

July 21, 1932 - June 7, 2024

Charlotte “Sharley” Lou Ragen was born July 21, 1932, to John Williams and Loretta Murray Williams. She joined brother Bill in Radersburg Montana and on her 14th birthday, brother Tom completed the family.

Sharley attended the Radersburg School and graduated from Broadwater County High School in Townsend Montana.

On December 27, 1952, Sharley married John Ragen. Patti was born in November 1953 and Dan in October 1954. The family of four began their life by spending seven months a year on their ranch on Ray Creek in the log home John built. The other five months were spent, joined by Uncle Eddy Ragen, at thoroughbred racetracks in Spokane, Winnipeg, Calgary, Saskatoon and Regina. After John became racing secretary in Saskatchewan, Sharley became his secretary. She also worked at several businesses in Townsend.

Sharley was a board member and eventually board president at the Broadwater County Historical Museum from 1993-2011. With all those Williams and Ragen family roots, Broadwater County history is deep in our hearts. Sharley was a member of the Legion Auxiliary, the Broadwater Cattlewomen and loved her time with her church ladies. She and John were also involved in the restoration of the Canton Church, a church that John’s great-grandparents helped build in 1876. Sharley will be laid to rest at the Canton Cemetery beside John.

Sharley was preceded in death by her parents, John and Loretta Williams, husband John Ragen, brother Bill Williams as well as many dear family members and friends.

She is survived by daughter Patti Schwisow (Paul) of Missoula, son Dan Ragen (Marleena) of Townsend, brother Tom Williams (Judy) of Toston, grandchildren Erin Thorsen (Pat) of Havre, Tyler Ragen (Devon) of Bozeman, Mike Schwisow (Mackenzie) of Missoula, and Travis Ragen (Kayli) of Townsend. Sharley was dearly loved by her great-grandchildren Luke and Sam Thorsen and Gracie, Jace and Jack Ragen. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins and great-friends.

Donations in Sharley’s name can be made to the Broadwater County Historical Society, PO Box 614, Townsend MT 59644 or Radersburg Historic Preservation, PO Box 96, Toston MT 59643.

A celebration of Sharley’s life will be held at The Radersburg School on July 23, 2024, from 3:00-7:00.

Patti has long believed that heaven is a lot like the old River Inn. They are all up there having a good time and we know Sharley is on that dance floor.



Sharley Ragen
Photo Provided by Family
of Sharley Ragen

ROAD TRIP AROUND MONTANA

Whitefish, MT



Amtrak Depot & Museum in Whitefish MT
Photo Credits: Brenda Phillips

Brenda Phillips



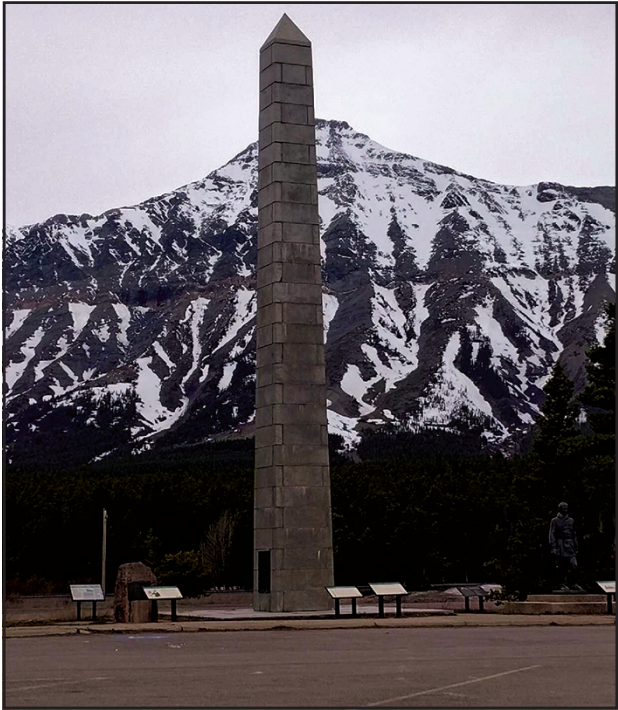
Spring was here and it was time to get back to exploring Montana. We made a road trip to Whitefish, MT. We took the long way to Whitefish because we took our dog Maggie to Great Falls, where the family could dog sit for us. We drove from Great Falls to Lincoln then on to Clearwater Jct. where we found the Big Cow. Only in Montana do we use a Big Cow as a landmark. On the drive through the Seeley Swan Valley this spring we encountered every weather condition, from sun, rain, snow, sleet, fog, and wind. The valley from Big Fork to Whitefish is so green – no wonder everyone is moving there. The entire weekend reminded me of Seattle weather, some sun but mostly overcast and misty rain.

We went to the Train Museum at the Amtrak depot. It isn’t a large museum but they have a lot of fun history of the Whitefish area and antiques that tell stories of days gone by. I found an interesting fact about one of my favorite movies.

Dorothy M. Johnson (1905-1984) was an author from Whitefish who wrote dozens of highly acclaimed Western stories and books in her long career. While she went to High School in Whitefish she started writing as a stringer for The Daily Inter Lake in Kalispell. Out of all the books she wrote, her stories were ranked as four of the top five stories of the 20th century by the Western Writers of America, with my favorite "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" as number one. That story plus "A Man Called Horse" and "The Hanging Tree" became major Hollywood films. Dorothy’s story gives me hope, that maybe someday I’ll grow up to be a famous writer!

We took a ride up to the Big Mountain ski hill. Again, there was a lot of nice scenery and lots of new, big expensive homes to see. We decided we prefer our simple home in Townsend and it is way easier to clean than those larger fancy places.

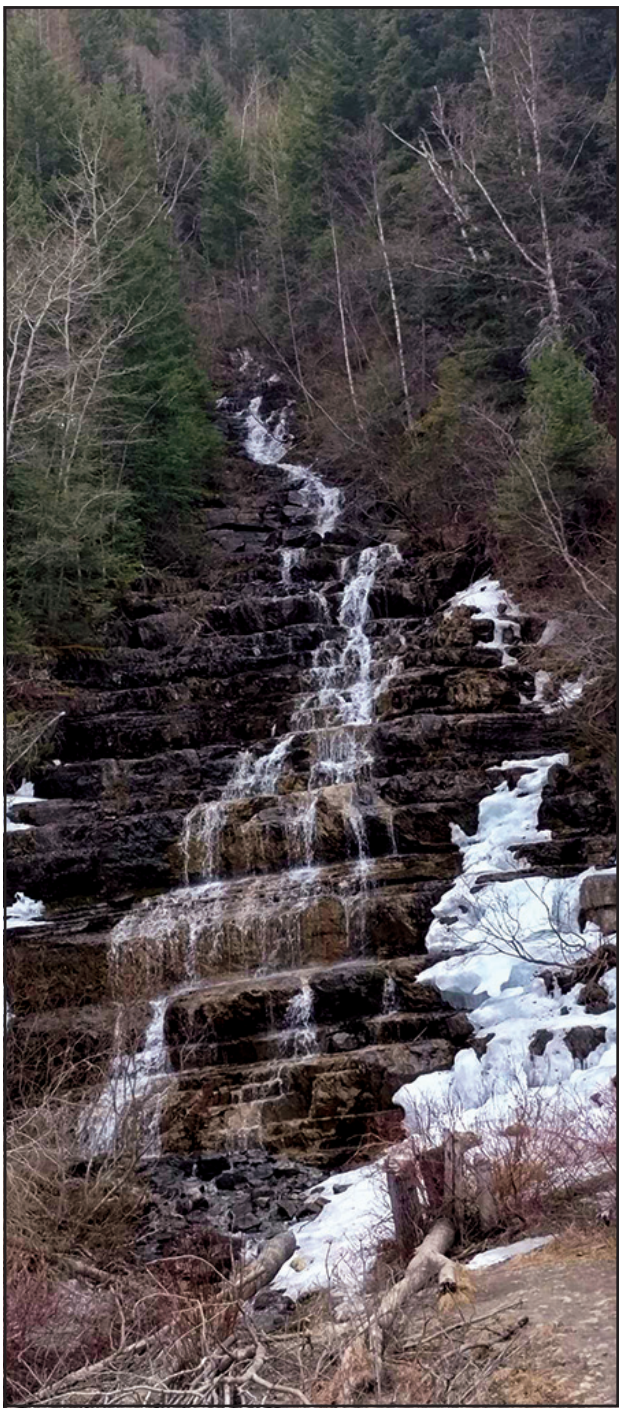
Our trip home took us from Whitefish to Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse. We visited the Nite Owl restaurant in Hungry Horse for huge cinnamon rolls for Breakfast. Last year we made the trip up to the Hungry Horse Dam for the first time. It was an impressive site that we didn’t have time to see again this year. Our next stop was the Roosevelt Memorial Obelisk at Marias Pass. It’s a tall, slender stone structure that was built in 1931 to commemorate the completion of the Great Northern Railway's transcontinental line. The obelisk is 60 feet high and extends 19 feet into the ground. It has a tapering cement core covered on all sides with 7-inch slabs of Montana granite quarried near Helena. It is the lowest pass that crosses the continental divide at 5280 ft. I remember, as a child, the monument stood in the middle of Highway 2 and traffic zoomed around it and the tourists that were taking pictures. The highway was moved a bit to the north of the monument, for safety. Along the highway in that area, we found a waterfall. There was no sign but I was told it is called Stairway Falls. Looking forward to new adventures this summer - stay tuned. Brenda and Kurt Phillips are from Townsend and enjoy visiting Montana's scenic and historic sites.



Roosevelt Memorial Obelisk at Marias Pass
on Highway 2 near Glacier Park
Photo Credits: Brenda Phillips



View from scenic overlook on Big Mountain at Whitefish MT
Photo Credits: Brenda Phillips



Stairway waterfall on Highway 2 near Glacier Park
Photo Credits: Brenda Phillips

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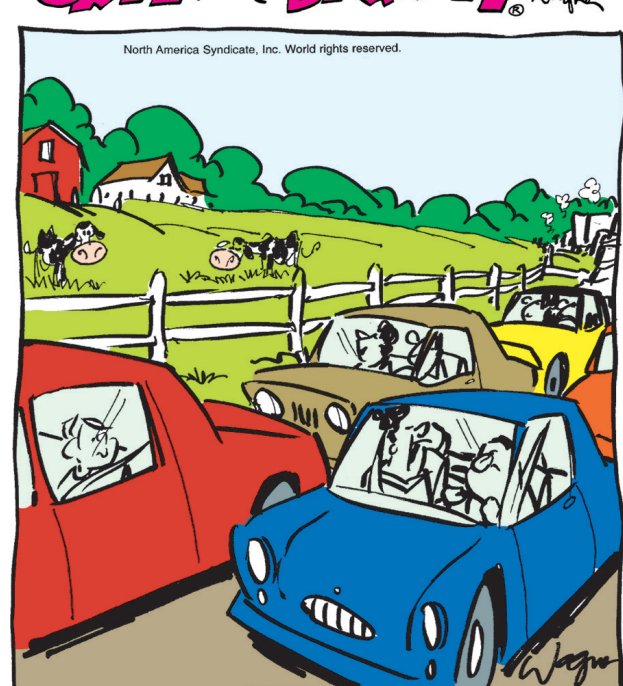
by Dave T. Phipps

DEAR, I KNOW YOU LOVE YOUR NEW TOY, BUT I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU. NOT EVEN BRAD PITT LOOKS COOL RIDING A MOWER.



GRIN and BEAR IT

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“For the scenic drive, you have to be in the right lane.”

MISSOURI VALLEY MARKETING

County Wide Yard Sale!

Saturday July 20th

Save the date for the 8th Annual County-wide Yard Sale!

Contact Pam @ (406)422-7028 for more details!

Participation is free, but donations to help with printing and advertising costs are appreciated.

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CryptoQuip

answer

When the flea market offered free low-quality aquariums, a huge sign said “Thanks for nothing!”

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



— KNIGHT MOVES —

Answer

U N I

E J

E L N

JULIENNE

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Peek; 2. Wander; 3. Defend; 4. Score

Today's Word

WEEKENDS

Danny Stubbendick

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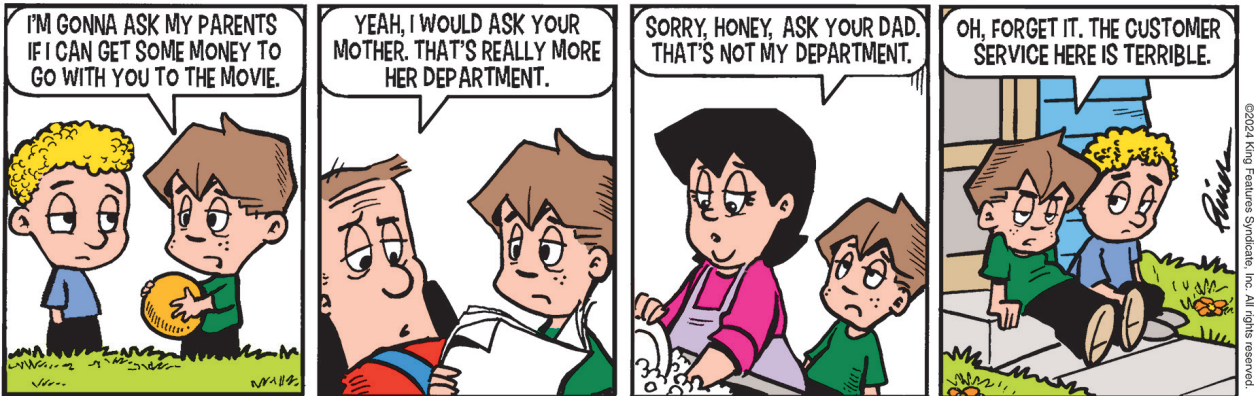
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Tri County Disposal

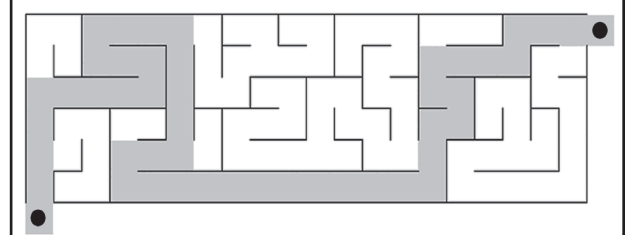
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by Dave T. Phipps

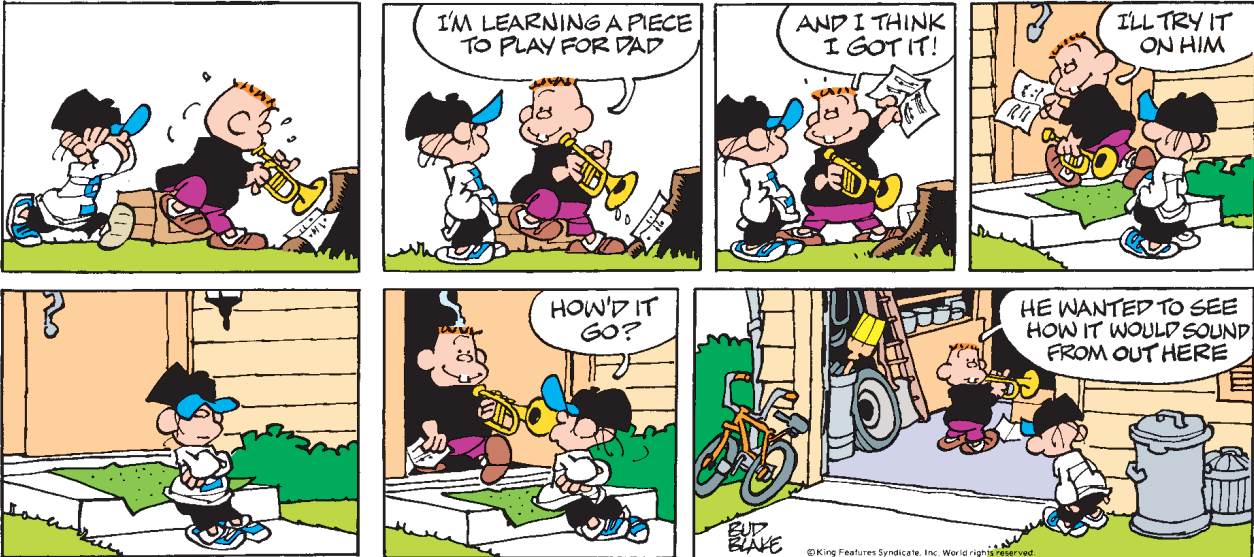


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3	4	1	9	2	5	6	7	8
6	9	7	3	4	8	1	5	2
5	6	3	1	9	4	2	8	7
7	2	4	8	6	3	9	1	5
8	1	9	2	5	7	4	3	6
4	5	8	6	3	9	7	2	1
9	7	2	4	8	1	5	6	3
1	3	6	5	7	2	8	9	4

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

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STUDENTS

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Nancy Marks



At the beginning of March, I had my landline disconnected. Sounds easy enough. Just call Centurylink and the deed is completed. The number was 266-3710, just lately (406) 266-3710.

I and that number have a 60-year history. I live in rural Central Montana where phones came in about the time the REA brought in electricity, shortly after “The War.” Each ranch’s phone was one of several numbers on a party line. Everyone could hear your phone number ring, and you could hear theirs.

My grandparents had a phone before my folks did. All calls were placed from a central office in town where several people, ladies mostly, took your request and plugged the call into the party you were trying to reach. My grandad knew all the operators by their voices. The call went something like this:

“Helen (Karhoff), give me John at Husky’s. We need fuel at the ranch. We’re about out.”

“You bet, Mr. Marks. Just a moment.” Click. Ring.

“Hello, this is John Schreiner, Husky Station.”

“John this is JP. How soon can you be out here with a load of fuel? We are out.”

And so on.

Problems with the new phone service in rural areas were common. The night I was born the nurses knew my birth was imminent. They began calling my dad from the hospital. This began at midnight. No answer. They rang about every hour until dawn. The baby was born at 4:25 a.m. At daylight, my uncle, whose phone was on the same party line, banged on my dad’s door. “Harold, why didn’t you answer your phone? I’ve been listening to it ring all night! And by the way, you are the father of a baby girl.” The phone was out.

My Family's Landline Retires

When the neighbor lady had nothing else to do, she would pick up the phone to listen to anyone making a call. Just in case she needed to keep the gossip line going. Nobody much minded unless it was personal. Otherwise, my Dad would say, ”Mabel you can hang up the phone. I’m just ordering parts from Neifert and White!” Click. Mabel would avoid my mother for several days following the call.

Time passed, but the party line stayed on. Grandad JP landed in the hospital in Missoula. At noon May 13, 1961, a call came in for my dad. Grandad had passed away. A sorrowful moment for my family. The families on the party line soon began showing up to express their condolences, and to bring food.

My grandma Hattie Hargrove and her son Walfred, lived in Toston by the river bridge. They were both elderly. My mother constantly worried about their well-being, so she asked if she could have a phone put in, to be able to check on them.

No was the answer. Grandma Hargrove, direct from the old country, had raised six kids through the depression. She could take care of herself and besides it would cost way too much money. Mom agreed to float the cost: \$6.00 per month. The phone was installed. It stayed on the wall. As far as I remember neither Grandma nor Walfred ever made a call themselves.

Mountain Bell really came into the real world in the mid-'60s when they changed our party lines to a seven-digit phone number. And the user had to buy a rotary phone for the “upgrade”. And you had to dial the number. You could no longer call Helen to ask her to connect you.

By the '70s I was a newlywed living in Butte. Calls out of your own prefix, were still considered “long distance.” My new husband worked nights so I talked to my family almost every night. Since we could not afford long-distance charges, I would call the ranch, let it ring once, and then hang up. I would then call again, let it ring once, and hang up. My mother knew I was trying to call. So she would call me

back to put the charges on her phone bill. Pretty slick, huh?

As cell phones began to be popular in big cities, MaBell, now Qwest, began to let up on long-distance charges for phone calls. Phone calls were no longer just for ordering parts and getting bad news. A call came to the 266-3710 number about 7:45 p.m. October 14, 1983: “Eleanor, you are a new grandma of a baby boy!”

By the nineties, my folks’ health was beginning to fail. I went home to care for them while running a business and talking to friends on the 266-3710. But not on weekends. So many times the phone service was out.

We then moved into a new era of two phone numbers in the same home. The business had its own number: 266-3174. By the 2000’s there were teenagers in the house. The Directory showed 266-3174 as “teenagers.” The business could not operate with the lines tied up while teenagers talked day and night.

Time passed. The teenagers left home. The business closed. It was time for me to leave the ranch. On October 12, 2017, I sold the ranch and moved to town. My new partner was shocked when I said I was putting in a landline. He even gave me a Crankshaft comic strip from the funny page.

It showed a TV reporter outside a residential house. She says, “We’re outside the house of the Crankshaft family where rumor has it, in this house resides the last landline in the United States.”


By the time I left the ranch, I had used a cell phone for a couple of years. The first one I lost was in the canal working on the pump to the pivot. The second one kept falling out of my pocket ending up on the tractor.

That’s the thing about a landline phone: you always know where it is. It’s right there on the counter with the phone directory beside it, with a pen and paper and a comfortable chair. You NEVER have to look for it! Like I do now – is it in my purse, in the car, under the chair? Would someone call me so I can locate my phone?

Biden EV Mandates Not Practical for Montana

Alan Olson

Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association



Life in Montana takes energy. Companies and individuals across the state have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure Montanans have the power to go about their lives in the way they want. It is part of what makes Montana the Last Best Place.

However, the Biden-Harris administration’s new EPA mandate threatens that freedom. Under the EPA’s final rule, two-thirds of vehicles sold by U.S. automakers need to be battery-powered or plug-in hybrid by 2032. Fundamentally – Montanans, and the rest of the United States, will eventually be forced to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) for their family car – no matter how expensive it is.

If Montana is to preserve a huge part of its residents’ way of life and prevent the stretching of some communities’ shallow pockets, we need all our policymakers

in DC to step up to the plate and oppose this electric vehicle mandate.

As Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association, I have seen firsthand how hard our member companies work to provide reliable energy sources to the people of Montana. If the EPA’s mandate takes root, our member companies’ workers will suffer, as oil and gas jobs become fewer and further between.

It will also drastically increase consumer costs as a result of the mandated shifts to expensive and inefficient EVs, which at this point simply do not support the hauling and long-distance needs of members of the oil and gas industry, or everyday Montana consumers.

Our member companies are actively addressing sustainability and climate issues, recognizing the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and operating with the aim of providing Montanans with critical resources while respecting the importance of our environment—but the bottom line is that Montanans—and Americans—still rely heavily on gas- and diesel-powered vehicles, and shouldn’t be expected to scrimp in other essential areas, like groceries, just to eventually be able to afford an EV.

Kelley Blue Book reports that according to data from Cox Automotive, “the average transaction price for

electric cars was \$53,469 in July 2023, vs. gas-powered vehicles at \$48,334.” The exponentially higher cost of an EV in addition to Montana’s rising cost of living is not insignificant. Car insurance for EVs is also costlier than gas-powered vehicles, “on average, insurance for an electric car is \$44 per month more expensive.” How can the government implement policies that impact Americans’ job availability and then double down by providing essentially one, expensive option for a cornerstone of their daily lives?

In addition to the financial strain this forced electric transition will have on consumers, it also heightens serious, existing concerns for Montana’s electric grid. Electrification of Montana vehicles will cause an inevitable increase in demand on our state’s limited grid capacity.

I commend Senator Steve Daines’ and Attorney General Knudsen’s efforts to oppose this mandate, but unfortunately, it may not be enough. We need Senator Tester and all of our officeholders to stand against this mandate from Washington, D.C. because failing to do so puts Montana consumers, and our energy security, in jeopardy.

Alan Olson is the Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association

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