

Canton Church Gets a New Sign



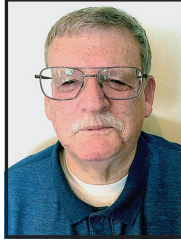
The New Canton Church Sign
 Victor Sample Photo



Left to right: Tucker Love, Tim Love, Steve Love, Bonnie Olsen (holding the painting that inspired the sign) and Terry Love
 Victor Sample Photo

Victor Sample

Canton Church Restoration



The Canton Church is now 150 years old! After being moved from the town of Canton in 1952, the church has sat at its current location for the last 73 years.

By the 1990s, the historic church was abandoned and became quite an eyesore. Fred and Joy Meyer set out to restore the church and the community rallied

behind them.

After the Canton Church was restored, a wooden sign was created and erected in front of the church. However, over the years, the sign itself was in need of restoration.

The Terry Love family, who have deep ties to the area and to the church, decided to donate the time and materials to create a new metal sign.

Tim Love, a shop teacher, created the sign based on a painting done by local artist Bonnie Olsen. The Love family bought the materials, and Tim had his shop class build the sign.

On April 21, 2025, Tim, Steve, and Tucker Love brought the sign to the Canton Church and installed it. The new sign is colorful, durable and captures the spirit of the historic Church!

Keith Kirscher, Canton Church Restoration President, took down the old sign before the Love family brought the new sign. The old Canton Church sign will be restored and will be put up in addition to the new sign.

Canton Church Restoration is very grateful to Terry, Tim, Steve, and Tucker for donating time and materials for the new Canton Church sign.

District Music Festival

MT43 News Reporter



Creighton Wright, Wyatt Simpson, Hailey Hildreth, Wyatt Coker, Angel Sentinella, Hailey Reinke, Shalyn Sentinella, Kyla Meissner, Maya Montoya, Tia Tallwhiteman, Kylie Briceno
 MT43 News Photo

You may have noticed during the high school volleyball or basketball games that the BHS pep band is small but mighty. In addition to their pep band duties, they practice the rest of the year as a concert band to perform at the winter and spring high school concerts, as well as, the annual district music festival. The two-day event showcases their talents as a group and as individual performers.

Music Festival, 3

Broadwater County Sheriff's Office Faces Rising Demands as Community Grows

Nick Rauser

Broadwater County Sheriff



The Broadwater County Sheriff's Office is busier than ever, responding to a rising number of calls and covering a growing list of responsibilities across the county's rural expanse.

Sheriff's deputies are consistently handling everything from traffic stops to serious criminal investigations, often covering long distances in a county that spans more than 1,200 square miles. According to recent department figures, call volumes have increased steadily over the past two years, putting added pressure on a small team already working around the clock.

In 2024 alone, the Sheriff's Office responded to over

Sherriff's Office, 6

Townsend Elementary School Holds Kindergarten Roundup

Bob Brastrup

Townsend Lions Club

The Townsend Elementary School recently held its' annual Kindergarten Roundup for children in the pre to kindergarten age group who will be entering school this fall. During the event the youngsters demonstrated various skills by using building blocks, selecting items of various colors, counting the number of items on the table, and many other activities. School staff could then determine how ready for school the kids were.

Some of the youngsters are eager to start school this fall while others are not so sure. One memorable incident was when a youngster showed us the dinosaur she had colored. The toenails were quite small, colored pink, and extreme care had been taken not to color outside the lines.

If the vision and/or hearing screening indicated a potential problem, it was suggested the child see a medical doctor for further evaluation.

The children were amused when White Sulphur Springs Lion Club member Gerald Zarr showed them the "picture" of their eyes during the vision screening.

Fifty youths were screened during the event and Elementary Principal Steven Cook is very appreciative of the many volunteers and school personnel who worked to make the event successful.



Lion Gerald Zarr shows a future Bulldog a "picture" of his eyes during the vision screening at the Kindergarten Roundup while Lion Sheri Brastrup records the results. Lions Lucy Zarr and Bob Brastrup also assisted with the screening.
 Bob Brastrup Photo

Bulldogs Beyond Group Stages Donkey Basketball

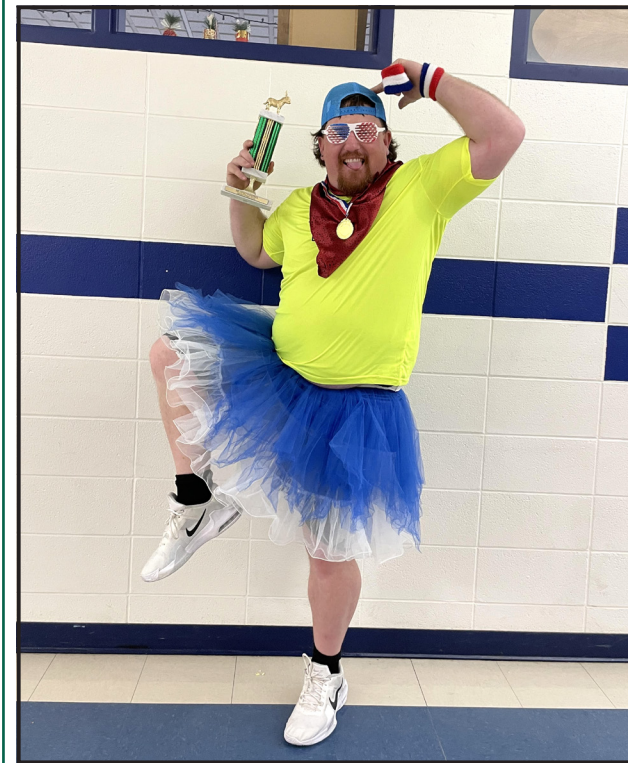
Karsyn Sangray

Broadwater High School Student Intern



The annual Donkey Basketball is a fundraiser put on by the school's Bulldogs Beyond club. This club gives students the opportunity to travel with their class and see the world. They travel every other year to different places. Last summer, a group of 20 visited Greece and Italy. In the summer of 2026, a group of 33 will go to Germany, France, and Switzerland.

On Friday, the 18th, the gym was packed. As the



"The Good, the Bad, the Donkey" team member Brett Poe celebrates after his team won first place in Donkey Basketball trials.
 Karsyn Sangray Photo

Donkey Basketball, 4

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager



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

HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday:
10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday:
10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sundays: Closed

APRIL

Friday 25
3:00 pm: Reading Circle Book Discussion

April 30
10:30 am: Story Time

East Helena Schools' Calendar

APRIL

Monday 28
12:30 pm: **Early Release**

MAY

Thursday 1
8:00 am: Loyalty Day

Fri 2 - Sat 3
8:00 am: State Music Festival

THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Friday 25
11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO Club
5:30 pm: Sip & Paint in Three Forks at Bridger Brewing

Tuesday 29
1:00 pm: Three Forks Community Library - Mah Jongg

Wednesday 30
10:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - Three Forks Ambulance: Free Vitals
5:30 pm: Bozeman Music Night with Walcrik at Bridger Brewing, Three Forks

MAY

Thursday 1
10:30 am: Three Forks Community Library - Storytime
7:00 pm: Three Forks Music Night with Jakob Alexander at Bridger Brewing

Friday 2
11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO CLUB

Saturday 3
11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library Open

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

APRIL

Wednesday 30
10:00 am: County Commissioners Meeting
6:00 pm: Parks and Recreation



TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Fri 25 - Sun 27
Moving Sale **SEE CLASSIFIED AD FOR DETAILS**

Friday 25
10:00 am: **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
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Senior Center, 516 2nd St

Saturday 26
10:00 am: Independent Bookstore Day Celebration at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway
4:00 pm: 2025 Holy Cross Spring Bazaar **SEE AD ON PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS**
5:00 pm: Big Sky Culinary Classes and Catering Host a Gourmet Dinner at The Lodge of Townsend
6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Sunday 27
4:00 pm: Benefit Dinner for Kammy Law

Monday 28
6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805
6:00 pm: Easter Party at Holy Cross Parish **SEE AD ON PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

Tuesday 29
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 30
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Senior Center, 516 2nd St

MAY

Thursday 1
7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 2
10:00 am: **Free** Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library
12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Senior Center, 516 2nd St
5:30 pm: 2025 Queen City Spring Swing Dance at The Lodge of Townsend

Saturday 3
5:00 pm: 2025 Annual Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner at Watson's Event Center **SEE AD ON PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS**
6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
6:30 pm: Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: May 21st, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ROXIE ANDERSON

Will be held on May 18th from 1:00 - 5:00 at the Radersburg Schoolhouse.



Celebration of Life for Lois Kimpton

KIMPTON, Lois J., age 94 of Toston, passed away on February 27, 2025.

A celebration of her life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on May 3rd at The Lodge of Townsend, 131 S. Spruce Street in Townsend.

Please visit www.stevensonwilke.com to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Lois.

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 5 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!



Last Winter Farmers Market

April 19th from 11:00 - 3:00 pm at Cedar & Broadway

Looking for Vendors for Spring and Summer Farmers Market: *Every Thursday from 3:00- 6:00 pm and Every 1st & 3rd Saturday each month.*

If interested, call Sheree at 406-465-4977

EGG SALE!!

FRESH CHICKEN EGGS IN TOSTON AREA
\$4.00 A DOZEN

CALL SUSAN 406-980-0605, LEAVE MESSAGE

WANTED

I want to buy a Home, Lot, Parcel or Acreage in the vicinity of Highway 284 East of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Could buy outright, trade for what I have or will consider other options.

Call Dick at 406-581-5635. Please leave message if no answer.

YARD SALE

2025 COUNTY-WIDE YARD SALE!

Are you thinking about having a yard/garage sale or a rummage sale fundraiser this year?

Consider joining the County Wide Yard Sale on July 19, 2025.

You hold the sale and keep all the profits - we will do the advertising.

NO FEE to join the County Wide Yard Sale.

Contact Vic at 406-422-9425 to be put on the map or for more information.

GET YOUR REAL ID NOW!!

After MAY 7th, you will need a REAL ID or Passport to board Domestic Flights or enter Federal Buildings such as Social Security or IRS Offices.

REAL ID has a Star.



TO OBTAIN MONTANA REAL ID, CONTACT:
mtmvd.gov or (406) 444-3933

LIBRARY HOURS

Three Forks Community Library

FALL HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday through Friday - 10:00am to 5:00pm
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: threeforkslibrary.weebly.com

Broadwater School and Community Library

FALL HOURS:

Monday-Thursday -- 4:00 - 7:00pm
Friday-Saturday -- 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday -- 12:00 - 5:00pm
Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

Townsend School Calendar

APRIL

Friday 25
SCHOOL IN SESSION
High School Tennis @ Billings Invitational
12:00 pm: High School Track at Butte
3:00 pm: High School Baseball at Dillon



Saturday 26
2:00 pm: High School Tennis @ Billings Invitational

Sunday 27
2:00 pm: Kammy Law **Fundraiser** - Elem. Commons/Kitchen

Mon 28 - Tue 29
6:45 pm: BHS Theater Presents Annie Jr. **SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

Monday 28
12:00 pm: Middle School Golf @ Three Forks
6:00 pm: Old Baldy Welding and Woodshop - Shop Classroom
7:00 pm: High School Spring Play - Stage Gym

Tuesday 29
High School Track Top 8 @ Anaconda
Middle School Track @ Big Sky
Old Baldy Artisan Bread and Sausage - Home Ec Room
Varsity Golf @ Three Forks
8:55am: Pre-K PE
3:00 pm: High School Baseball @ Belgrade
6:00 pm: STOKE Pickleball
7:00 pm: High School Spring Play - Stage Gym

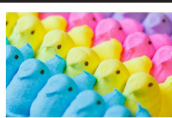
Wednesday 30
Student Council Blood Drive - Community Room
8:55 am: Pre-K PE - 63 Gym
7:00 pm: Old Baldy - Pickleball - stage gym
7:30 pm: Open Gym - Old Baldy - 63 Gym

MAY

Thursday 1
Q4 Midterm
Junior Varsity Golf @ Deer Lodge
Middle School Track @ Deer Lodge
Varsity Golf @ Anaconda
1:00 pm: Junior Varsity Tennis @ Manhattan

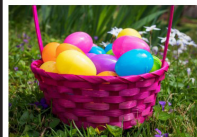
Friday 2
NO SCHOOL - Teacher PLC Day
High School Tennis Tournament @ Helena

Saturday 3
High School Tennis Dawg Bite/Senior Day @ Home
High School Baseball @ East Helena
10:00 am: High School Track @ Missoula



Monday, April 28th
6-7:30 pm

Festive Food, Easter themed games, trivia... Fun for the whole family! 101 S. Walnut St. Come celebrate Easter with us!



Get Tickets for BHS's Annie, Jr. Musical

Tia Tallwhiteman
BHS Musical Theater Student



This year, Broadwater High School (BHS) is presenting Annie Jr!

In case you didn't see the article last week, Annie is an orphan girl who goes on a journey through NYC to find her parents and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

Tickets can purchased in advance from anyone who is in the play for \$8. Tickets will also be sold for \$10 at the High School Doors. For reserved front row seats, they are \$12. There are only 24 front row seat tickets being sold! So, hurry to get your tickets! For more information or any questions, please contact the Musical Theatre teacher at dbakkum@townsend.k12.mt.us. The doors will open at 6:45 pm on Monday, April 28, and Tuesday, April 29. The show will start at 7:00. We hope that you can come! See you then!

Music Festival, 1

The full concert band has eleven members this spring under the direction of Denise Bakkum, with many of them playing multiple instruments. They traveled to Helena High School on Friday, April 11th, to perform two prepared pieces for the adjudicators. Additionally, they are required to perform a sight-reading test, where they play a musical selection they have never seen with only a quick perusal of the material. The Bulldog Band performed well and received an Excellent rating.

Saturday, April 12th, was set aside for solos or ensembles. In many cases, these musicians have practiced their pieces all school year and are anxious to showcase their skills for the judges. BHS has many talented musicians, and their ratings were as follows:

Superior Ratings: Jazlyn Martin - tenor saxophone solo, Kyla Meissner - piano solo and trumpet solo, and Simon Sanchez - piano solo. Excellent Ratings: Hailey Reinke, Angel & Shalyn Sentinella - woodwind trio, Hailey Hildreth - piano solo, Hailey Hildreth & Tia Tallwhiteman - flute duo, Tia Tallwhiteman - piano solo, Wyatt Simpson - trumpet solo, and Simon Sanchez - trumpet solo.

Students should approach festivals with a focus on improvement of musical skills, not ratings, with the adjudicators often turning their judging into a master class from an accomplished musician. That said, only those soloists and ensembles that have received Superior ratings in their District Festival may take part in the solo and ensemble events at the State Festival.

Good luck to Jazlyn, Simon and Kyla as they travel to Great Falls in May!



GO BULLDOGS!!



Baseball: Dallas Fligge, a standout contributor to the Bulldogs baseball team who continues to impress with his consistency at the plate and versatility in the field. Over the course of three games this past week, Fligge posted a solid offensive performance, going 3-for-7 with 4 stolen bases and crossing home plate twice to help lead the Bulldogs in key matchups. His timely hits and heads-up baserunning made a clear impact in each game. But Fligge's value extends well beyond the batter's box. A true utility player, Dallas has stepped up across the diamond—showcasing his athleticism and game knowledge by playing catcher, shortstop, and centerfield. Whether he's calling pitches behind the plate, locking down the middle infield, or tracking fly balls in the outfield, Fligge brings a steady presence and competitive edge to the Bulldogs' defense. Townsend Booster Club Photo



Golf: Jace Mainwaring. Shot his personal best 94 at the Cottonwood invitational. He played a great round of golf and was confident with his game. Townsend Booster Club Photo



Golf: Back to back weeks for Jaz Ragen. She shot her personal best 85 at the Cottonwood invitational and won the tournament by 3 shots! She played an awesome round of golf. Townsend Booster Club Photo



Tennis: Wolfgram Harper has put in extra hours in the off-season. She has become a great number one singles player for the Bulldogs and is always a team player. Townsend Booster Club Photo



Track: Nolan Flynn. Nolan ran very well on Saturday earning a personal record (PR) in the 3200m (2 mile) with a time of 10:29.03 and earning a first place finish. He also ran the 1600m (1 mile) in a time of 4:55.20 placing third and running a leg of the 4x4 relay with a team time of 3:53.37. Townsend Booster Club Photo



Track: Sophia Lamb. Sophia's hard work paid off, earning her personal records (PR) in all of her events this last weekend. She threw the javelin a distance of 71'4"; shot put a distance of 24'2" and disc a distance of 63'1". Townsend Booster Club Photo

Manhattan Christian Invitational Track Meet

MT43 News Sports Reporter

The Manhattan Christian Invitational track meet in Belgrade sure started with a bang on Saturday, April 19th, as the Bulldogs won the first four races of the day, sweeping the boys and girls 3200-meter runs and the 110- and 100-meter hurdles.

The ladies' team went on to place 2nd overall with 134.83 points to Manhattan's 136, while the gentlemen placed fourth with 81 points.

Standout performances on the ladies' side were given by a couple of experienced upperclassmen. Senior Jazlyn Martin threw her season's bests in all three disciplines, finishing 3rd, 4th and 8th in the discus, shot put, and javelin, respectively. Junior Aspen Slyker threw to a 5th place finish in the javelin, while also showcasing her speed in the 200-meter dash and 110-meter hurdles; additionally, her leg of the 4x100-meter dash was lightning fast, helping her team win.

Sophomore Jim Tew looked impressive, winning the 110-meter hurdles, finishing 2nd in the long jump, and helping the short relay finish 2nd. The mid-distance runners had a strong showing with almost universal PRs at the 200-, 400-, and 800-meter distances, as did all the horizontal jumpers.

Senior Nolan Flynn ran his best two-mile ever to win, followed by a 3rd in the mile, before highlighting his speed with a fast split on the long relay.

Girls' Varsity: 100-meter dash: 2 Kaitlyn Noyes 13.23, 12 Logan Barkhurst 14.90, 21 Sarah Morgan 15.74, 27 Cheyanne Douglas 17.56. 200-meter dash: 4 Aspen Slyker 28.53, 13 Kinsley Heggen 30.46, 14 Logan Barkhurst 30.71, 24 Sarah Morgan 34.15. 400-meter dash: 4 Memphis Meier 1:08.8, 6 Logan Barkhurst 1:11.3, 11 Sarah Morgan 1:20.2. 800-meter run: 1 Kyla Meissner 2:34.9, 3 Memphis Meier 2:42, 9 Abby Wickens 2:52.9. 1600-meter run: 3 Kaelyn Sangray 5:57.5, 4 Elaine MacDonald 6:04.1, 19 Shalyn Sentinella 7:15.1. 3200-meter run: 1 Kyla Meissner 11:27.4, 4 Kaelyn Sangray 12:38.8, 8 Abby Wickens

13:38.7, 15 Shalyn Sentinella 15:45.6.

110-meter hurdles: 1 Holly Newman 17.3, 7 Aspen Slyker 18.72. 4x100-meter relay: 3 H. Newman, A. Slyker, K. Noyes, K. Heggen 52.31. 4x400-meter relay: 6 M. Meier, A. Wickens, K. Sangray, K. Meissner 4:47.8.

Shot Put: 4 Jazlyn Martin 25'11", 9 Teyvn Newman 24'5.5", 10 Sophia Lamb 24'2", 12 Kinsley Heggen 23". Discus: 3 Jazlyn Martin 91'9", 8 Kinsley Heggen 73'7", 9 Teyvn Newman 73'5, 11 Sophia Lamb 63'1". Javelin: 5 Aspen Slyker 84'3", 8 Jazlyn Martin 81'11", 12 Kinsley Heggen 75'10", 15 Sophia Lamb 71'4". High Jump: 1 Kaitlyn Noyes 5', 2 Holly Newman 5'. Long Jump: 1 Kaitlyn Noyes 16'10", 5 Holly Newman 15'2.5". Triple Jump: 1 Kaitlyn Noyes 34'4.75".

Boy's Varsity: 100-meter dash: 5 Colt Barnard 11.93, 10 Cael Sell 12.23, 12 Bryce Lessley 12.46, 19 Logan Johnson 12.78, 24 Simon Bain 13.11. 200-meter dash: 6 Colt Barnard 24.13, 8 Cael Sell 25.22, 9 Bryce Lessley 25.38, 13 Logan Johnson 25.77, 25 Gavin Johnson 29.93. 400-meter dash: 7 Marek Easter 56.67, 14 Samuel Flesch 1:02.5, 15 Keaton Cavasos 1:03.2, 20 Gavin Johnson 1:08.8, 21 Wyatt Coker 1:13.3. 800-meter run: 7 Keaton Cavasos 2:29.5, 8 Samuel Flesch 2:29.8, 9 Cole Thompson 2:35.2, Wyatt Coker 3:05.22. 1600-meter run: 3 Nolan Flynn 4:55.2. 3200-meter run: 1 Nolan Flynn 10:29.

110-meter hurdles: 1 Jim Tew 17.25, 4 Tavyn Anderson 19.05. 300-meter hurdles: 3 Tavyn Anderson 46.02. 4x100-meter relay: 2 B. Lessley, J. Tew, C. Barnard, C. Sell 46.56. 4x400-meter relay: 3 M. Easter, L. Johnson, N. Flynn, C. Sell 3:53.4.

Shot Put: 2 Gavin Schmele 39, 10", 10 Tanner Bird 33'3", 14 Pat Gossard 32'4", 33 Creighton Wright 25'3". Discus: 5 Gavin Schmele 112'6", 20 Tanner Bird 82'6", 29 Creighton Wright 61'7", 33 Braylon Rice 58'7". Javelin: 4 Marek Easter 123'6", 7 Pat Gossard 117'11". Long Jump: 2 Jim Tew 19'3", 7 Logan Johnson 18'5", 9 Tavyn Anderson 18'4", 13 Bryce Lessley 17'3.5", 24 Max Wickens 14'4". Triple Jump: 3 Tavyn Anderson 39'3", 6 Cael Sell 37'5.5", 7 Bryce Lessley 36'2.75", 12 Max Wickens 30'4".



Senior Memphis Meier runs the 1st leg of the long relay after finishing 3rd and 4th in the 800- and 400-meter runs. MT43 News Sports Reporter Photo



Freshman Bryce Lessley digs it out for a PR in the 200-meter dash. MT43 News Sports Reporter Photo

NorthWestern Energy
Delivering a Bright Future
Sponsor of Townsend School Page

Highway 12 Market Place
Handmade & Collectables
Monday- Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
200 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
(406) 465-3588
Come in and Shop with our Local vendors!
Big Sky Angels- Laura Stevenson
Montana Crafted: Crochet Items- sensory toys, animals, bags, decor and more, Handpainted-Ornaments and Re-purposed Art
Touch of Twyla's Greeting Cards
Handcrafted Cards, Incense and Incense Burners, Beanies and Diamond Painting Kits.
MENTION THIS AD AT HIGHWAY 12, GET 10% OFF!!

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(406)266-1335
Unique Gifts, Antiques & Treasures
Connecting Local People to Locally Sourced and Produced Goods from Day 1!
125 S Pine St, Townsend MT

Donkey Basketball, 3

last seats filled up the teams were announced and the first game between 'How to Train Your Donkey' and 'Outlaw Donkey' took place. The rules are simple. Four members of the team must mount the donkeys and must have contact with their donkeys at all times. The fifth member of the team is in the middle and is there for the jump ball. After the jump ball, this teammate is responsible for getting the ball after the other team has scored. They can also steal the ball, if the other team gets close enough. They must stay in the center circle, and really provide as the number one fan when they aren't close to the ball. The hardest part of this game wasn't necessarily the basketball portion, but actually riding the donkeys. As riders tried to mount, the donkeys kept walking away.

At halftime, the five members on the court were replaced by other teammates and the game continued. In this first match, 'How to Train Your Donkey' won and both teams returned to the sidelines to watch the next game. 'The Good, the Bad, and the Donkey' and 'Donkey Desperados' took the court next, and it was eventful to say the least. Scarlett McDaniel didn't let anything stop her from getting the ball. She was often jumping on and off of her donkey and sometimes ended up sprawled on the ground, scrambling for the ball. 'The Good, the Bad, and the Donkey' won the round.

During this break, friends and family from the stands took their children to the donkeys. The kids had their pictures taken with the donkeys and ran back to the stands when their turn was up. The third and fourth place game took place after this break. 'Outlaw Donkey' and 'Donkey Desperados' battled it out with 'Outlaw Donkey' coming up victorious. The final game was one of the liveliest games. The fans were both laughing and clapping to cheer for those on the court.

'The Good, the Bad, and the Donkey' took on the 'How to Train Your Donkey' in the last game of the night. The gym was electric and the crowd's anticipation was high. 'The Good, the Bad, and the Donkey' won. Then the trophies were presented. The top three teams received their medals and individual trophies. Teacher Levi VanZee received the Fearless Leader award as he was always pumping up his team before each game. Brett Poe was given the 'Most Entertaining' award. Brett was the goofiest on the court, wearing a fabulous tutu and sunglasses. Scarlett McDaniel got the 'Floor Sweeper' award for how hard she fought for the ball on the court, often falling from her donkey. Other awards were given to Cory Sievers (MVP Scorer), Beijin Smith (MVP Assists), and Tanner Therriault (Bronc Buster).

This was a fun night for everybody involved. There were lots of laughs and stories that will be told over the next family dinners. Bulldogs Beyond is appreciative of how much the community supports them and looks forward to the next fundraising event.

The Broadwater Lions Club Sponsors the Annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt begins - photo was taken about 1 minute after the fire truck's siren rang. Matt Nelson Photo

Matt Nelson



On Saturday, April 19th, the Broadwater County Lions Club hosted the annual Easter Egg hunt at Heritage Park. It started promptly at 10 A.M. The kids were divided up into four age groups: 0- to 3-year-olds; 4- to 6-year-olds; 7- to 9-year-olds; and 10- to 12-year-olds. Each of the two lower age groups had 500 eggs to find, and each of the upper two age groups had 200 eggs to find. On the front page of last week's MT43 paper, there was a photo of two older kids dressed up as an Easter Bunny and the Easter Lion taken during the 2024 Easter Egg hunt. Once again, the Bunny and Lion were present this year. All of the eggs are made of plastic, and each has chocolate inside it.

Prior to 10 A.M., the kids all lined up waiting for the city fire trucks driven by members of the Townsend City Fire Department. Townsend Chief Shawn Simon was there to sound the siren. As soon as the kids heard the siren, they just made a mad dash to find the eggs. It only takes about 10 minutes for the kids to gather up all the eggs.

Dela Chatriand is one of the five Lions Club members on the Easter Egg Hunt Committee. The committee members

are Teena Larson, LeAnn Coffman, Sandi Booher, and Patti Hanson. It is a team effort.

According to Dela, "Lions sponsor the Easter Egg hunt, as a fun community event. Lots of you participate in the Easter Egg hunt. We started setting up the park at 8:30 A.M. Other members of the club volunteer their time. After the kids finish the hunt, prizes are given out. Some of the eggs have special tags on them identifying the age group, so that the kids who find these eggs are given a prize. Even if the kids find two or more eggs with these tags, they are only given one prize. The prize winners of the younger two groups get a stuffed animal, and five chocolate bunnies about one foot high are presented to the winners in the two older age groups. All participants are also given a bracelet. By 10:30 A.M., the prizes have been distributed, and the park has been cleaned up.

After this is over, we go to the hospital and the assisted living centers at Silver Springs and Serenity Point. The Easter Bunny and Easter Lion give each of the residents a stuffed animal."

And, I got lucky! I fall into the 7-9 age group. I am 79! As I was leaving, Dela gave me one of those extra foot-high chocolate bunnies. Many thanks, it was delicious.



L-R Waylon and Trapper Boster, the sons of Baylee and Devon Boster Matt Nelson Photo



L-R Rielely Flynn, Brooklyn Wyatt, Bridgeer Wyatt, Collins Cartwright, Canton Cartwright, Finley Flynn, and Taeley Flynn. Matt Nelson Photo

Property Tax Reform Headed to Governor's Desk

Kyle Schmauch

Chief of Staff & Communications Director

HELENA, Mont.—Long-term property tax reform that will reduce future tax increases is headed to Governor Greg Gianforte's desk after Senate Bill 117 cleared its final vote in the legislature yesterday.

Sponsored by Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, R-Billings, SB 117 ensures that property taxes collected on new development are used to offset taxes paid by existing homeowners and businesses.

"Montana is growing, especially in our larger cities where property taxes are the highest, and those new developments bring in a lot of new property tax revenue," Zolnikov said. "SB 117 addresses runaway property tax increases by making sure money from all that new development is used to reduce property taxes for existing homeowners."

SB 117 passed both chambers of the legislature with overwhelming Republican support. It was based on Zolnikov's SB 511 that narrowly failed in the 2023 legislative session.

"We've got plenty more work to do on property taxes before we wrap up the session, but SB 117 is an important structural reform that will help contain property tax increases heading into the future and we got it across the finish line," Zolnikov said. "This is a long-term solution to a long-term problem of endless government growth."

Smokin' Hot Nutella Chili

Eileen Clarke Rifles and Recipes



Never Enough Chili Recipes!

Let's talk about the last ingredient first: Nutella@. If you prefer a sweeter, richer chili, this is it. Nutella adds a chocolatey (mole) flavor in an instant, and a dose of sweetness. Two 'do's' for your cooking? Do use fresh cayenne, cumin and smoked paprika, and do use level measurements. Fill your measuring spoon, then skim whatever is above the top of the metal rim with a flat knife. This is hot enough already. Using 'rounded' measurements may just make it too hot to handle. Then again, spices, especially peppers like cayenne and smoked paprika, that have sat around for months or been exposed to heat and/or sunlight, lose some of their kick. When it comes to cooking, unpredictability is not a good thing. But too many chilies? Never!

Smokin' Hot Nutella Chili

4-6 servings

Ingredients

- 2 28-ounce cans diced tomatoes
4 teaspoons chili powder
4 teaspoons ground cumin
2 teaspoons smoked paprika
2 cups cold water*
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 pounds diced red meat
4-6 tablespoons oil, in all

- 2 yellow onions, diced
2 seeded and diced jalapeño peppers
4 teaspoons minced garlic
2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons Nutella@

Cooking

1. In a large soup pot, over high heat, combine the diced tomatoes with the chili powder, cumin, smoked paprika, water, salt and cayenne pepper. When it comes to a boil, turn it down to a low simmer.

2. In a large skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil over medium to medium-high heat. Brown the meat in batches, using more oil as necessary. Transfer the meat to the soup pot as you brown it.

3. Add the onion, jalapeño pepper and garlic to the skillet, and sauté until lightly browned. Add the garlic/onion mixture to the soup pot and give it all a good stir. Bring the chili up to a simmer and cover. Simmer for at least 30 minutes, until the meat is tender. Stir the Nutella into the pot just before serving.

4. Three options to serve: Chop up a tablespoon or two of Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese and put it in each bowl before serving up the chili. Grate the cheese over the top, or add a dollop of sour cream on top.

*If you cook the chili in a slow cooker, reduce the water by 1/2 cup. On the stove that extra water lets the meat cook long enough to get tender without evaporating so much that the chili sticks to the pot, or burns.

Eileen's wild game cookbook, The Wild Bowl, has 100 recipes for soups, stews and chilies for all the game meat in your freezer—over 25 of which are chilies, America's favorite Mental Health food. Available at www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273. Eileen lives in Townsend, so fellow residents save \$6 when she doesn't have to ship the book.

Weather Info Contributed by Jeff Ross

Table with 5 columns showing weather forecasts for Fri 4/25, Sat 4/26, Sun 4/27, Mon 4/28, and Tue 4/29. Includes icons for rain, temperature ranges, and precipitation percentages.

Precipitation:

Table showing precipitation data for November, December, January, February, March, April, 2024, and 2025.



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.



NOTICE OF VOTING SYSTEM EXHIBITION AND BALLOT LAYOUT

Please note that the county's voting systems are on public exhibition at THE BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE at 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT, from April 22, 2025 through May 5, 2025. Please see diagrams of the voting system(s), ballot arrangement and instructions on voting below.

DS200 Precinct Scanner & Tabulator

Touch - Screen Display
Provides voters with instructions and immediate feedback.

Ballot/Card Slot
Voters cast both ballots and vote summary cards here.



The DS200 is a precinct level tabulator that will be available to tabulate your ballots at your polling location. The DS200 will notify you if you have overvoted or undervoted on any races on the ballot.

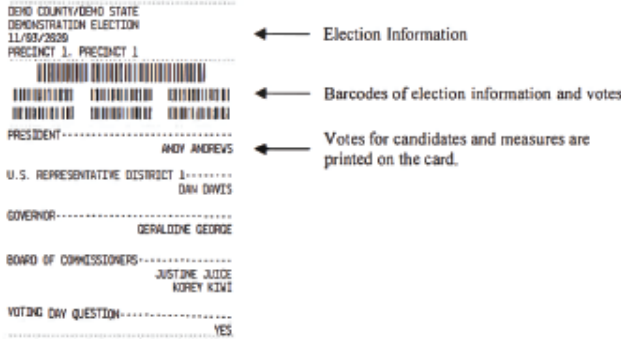
- To vote, fill in the oval completely.
- Vote both sides and all sheets.
- Use only black or blue ink to mark your ballot. An optical or digital tabulator will count your ballot. If you use any other type of marking instrument, it may not be detected by the tabulator.
- When marking your ballot you should NOT make an X or a check mark. You should NOT cross out, erase, or use correction fluid on the ballot and if you make an error, you should request a new ballot.
- READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY! If you mark more candidates than you are allowed to mark for that position, it is considered an overvote. You may request a new ballot if you overvote in any race. If you do not correct your ballot, that race will not count because of the overvote; however, the remainder of your ballot will be counted.
- After you mark the ballot, you will be directed to insert the ballot in the DS-200 precinct tabulator, which will alert you to overvotes or undervote, if any, and after you verify your selections, the DS-200 will tabulate your choices and deposit the ballot in the ballot box.

HOW TO VOTE ON AN EXPRESSVOTE VOTING SYSTEM



The ExpressVote is a ballot-marking system that is available for anyone to use during the upcoming election. Its main purpose is to allow voters with disabilities and other special needs to mark a ballot privately and independently.

- Inform the election official that you wish to vote using ExpressVote.
 - You will be issued a ballot card.
 - Insert the ballot card into the ballot feed tray on the front of the machine.
 - The screen will display instructions and the ballot choices.
 - The following helpful options are available:
 - Change contrast and font size for readability
 - Audio headphones
 - Braille keypad
 - Connection for Sip-n-Puff personal device
 - Make your selections by using the touch-screen capability, or by using the keypad.
 - After you have completed your selections, the ExpressVote will confirm your selections on the screen, and by audio if you select the audio option.
 - After verifying your selections, the ExpressVote will mark and print out your ballot card.
9. Confirm your choices on the printed and marked ballot card.
10. Return the marked ballot card to the election official.
11. You can request help anytime during the process.



SAMPLE BALLOT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 AND COUNTY SHERIFF MILL LEVY ELECTION: May 6, 2025

OFFICIAL SCHOOL ELECTION & SHERIFF PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY BALLOT
BROADWATER COUNTY, MONTANA - MAY 06, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN (●) THE OVAL USING A BLUE OR BLACK PEN.
- To write in a name, completely fill in the oval to the left of the line provided, and on the line provided print the name of the write-in candidate for whom you wish to vote.
- DO NOT MAKE AN IDENTIFYING MARK, CROSS OUT, ERASE, OR USE CORRECTION FLUID. If you make a mistake or change your mind, retrace your ballot for a new one.

SCHOOL

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
3 YEAR TERM
(VOTE FOR ONE)

ADAM BRAKEFIELD
 KRISTI SANGRAY

BALLOT ISSUED

PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY

SHALL THE BOARD OF BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE UP TO THIRTY-NINE AND NINETY-THREE HUNDREDTHS (39.93) MILLS, APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$1,104,583), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, DETENTION CENTER, AND DISPATCH SERVICES? THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED LEVY WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL \$53.91 TAX ON A HOME VALUED AT \$100,000, AN ADDITIONAL \$161.72 TAX ON A HOME VALUED AT \$300,000, AND AN ADDITIONAL \$323.43 TAX ON A HOME VALUED AT \$600,000. AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES MAY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN RENTAL COSTS. THE PROPOSED MILL LEVY WILL BE PERMANENT.

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY
 AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY

END OF BALLOT

TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Published April 25, 2025

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF MAY 6, 2025, ELECTION TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD TRUSTEE AND SHERIFF PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY



ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR
ANGIE PAULSEN

Broadwater County Courthouse • 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644
broadwatercountymt.com • 406.266.3405

NOTICE is hereby given that ballots will be mailed to the voters on April 17, 2025, for the election of one (1) Townsend School District No. 1 Board Trustee for a three-year term. The candidates who have filed for office are Kristi Sangray and Adam Brakefield.

In addition, the following issue will be placed on the May 6, 2025, ballot:

“Shall the Board of Broadwater County Commissioners be authorized to raise up to thirty-nine and ninety-three hundredths (39.93) mills, approximately one million, one hundred and four thousand, five hundred eighty-three dollars (\$1,104,583), for the purpose of providing additional funding for the continued operation of county public safety, law enforcement, detention center, and dispatch services? The impact of the proposed levy will be an additional \$53.91 tax on a home valued at \$100,000, an additional \$161.72 tax on a home valued at \$300,000, and an additional \$323.43 tax on a home valued at \$600,000. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs. The proposed mill levy will be permanent.

- For, Public Safety Mill Levy
- Against, Public Safety Mill Levy”

This election will be conducted by MAIL BALLOT ONLY. The regular polling places will not be open.

The place of deposit and the days and times when ballots may be returned to the place of deposit before election day and on election day are:

BROADWATER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER OFFICE
515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644
Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday
Election Day, May 6, 2025, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

In order to be counted, ballots must be received at the election office by 8:00 PM on Election Day, May 6, 2025.

If you have questions about your ballot please call 406-266-3405. If you believe you should receive a ballot and did not, ballot(s) may be obtained at the Clerk and Recorder's office.

DATED this 7th day of April, 2024.
/s/ ANGIE PAULSEN
BROADWATER COUNTY Clerk and Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor
Published April 11, 18 and 25, 2025

MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE GRAVEL MINE SITE

Capital Concrete, Inc., PO Box 1156, East Helena MT 59635, 406-227-9683, applied to the DEQ Opencut Mining Section for a 103.5-acre gravel mine permit for the Winston Site in Section 17, T8N, R1E, Broadwater County. Access is from Hwy 287 2.1 mi SSE of Winston. The application, including maps, may be seen at <https://deq.mt.gov/mining/Programs/opencut> (click Search Opencut Permits). Operator will strip up to 153,000 cy of soil material for reclamation use; excavate, process, and haul up to 3.8M cy of gravel from the permit area (a substantial amount has been removed under previous permit); and reclaim disturbed area to rangeland. Processing equipment may include a screen, crushing equipment, conveyors, wash plant, and concrete plant. The site will be fully reclaimed and ready for permit release no later than 12/2045. For more information, see link above, contact Capital Concrete, or contact MGC Consultants Ltd at 406-794-2037.

Published April 18 and 25, 2025

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN RE THE ESTATE OF LAVAY JOHNSON, Deceased.
CAUSE NO. ADP-4-2025-0000009-IT

Honorable Michael Menahan
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Co-Personal

Representatives of the Will and Estate of LaVay Johnson, deceased.

All persons having claims against deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed return receipt requested to: Jeff Bomar

- 45 L F Baum Road, East Helena, MT 59635, Paul Johnson
- 35 Jimmy Green Road, East Helena, MT 59635, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2025.
Published April 25, May 2 and 9, 2025

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY RAY DARLING, Deceased.

Probate No. BDP-25-07
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

April R. Brewster 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 April 18, 2025.
/s/ Peter T. Simon
GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC
Attorney for Personal Representative
Printed April 18, 25 and May 2, 2025

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARION S. KITTO, Deceased

PROBATE NO. DP-25-8
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to Rodney E. Kitto, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested at c/o Braaksma & Miller, PLLC, 1227 North 14th Avenue, Suite 3, Bozeman, Montana 59715, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

DATED this 14th day of April, 2025.
/s/ Rodney E. Kitto
Personal Representative
Published April 18, 25 and May 2, 2025

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Townsend Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2025, at City Hall, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a request for variances from the Townsend Municipal Code to allow encroachment of garage and a shed into the required front yard setback on a single-family residential lot within the Medium Density Residential District.

Michael Millay, 210 4th Street, Townsend, MT 59644, pursuant to Section 12 “Board of Adjustment” of the Townsend Zoning Ordinance have requested the following variances:

Section 13.12.020.C.2.a (Front Yard Setback) – The Ordinance requires a minimum front yard setback of 20-ft from all street frontages. For corner lots exceeding 50-ft in width there are two 20-ft front yard setback from each street frontage. The existing lot abuts North Spruce Street on the east and 4th Street on the south. A 20-ft setback is required from the property line on the east side as well as the south side. The applicant is proposing to construct a new garage on the west side of the existing single-family home and move an existing shed to the east side of the existing single-family home. The applicant is requesting a setback of 6-ft from the south lot line to the front of new garage. The requested variance would allow for a reduction of 14-ft on front yard setback for the new garage. The applicant is requesting a setback of approximately 3-ft from the east lot line to the side of the shed. The requested variance would allow for a reduction of 17-ft of the front yard setback for the shed.

The property is located at 210 4th Street within the Medium Density Residential District. The property is legally described as Townsend Original Townsite, Block 40, Lot 16.

Maps and related data regarding this application may be reviewed by contacting Jeremy Fadness, WWC Engineering, 1275 Maple Street, Suite F, Helena, MT 59601, 406-443-3962. Written comments may be directed to the Deputy City Clerk, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana 59644. Written comments must be received by May 8, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. Interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and make known their views and concerns on the proposed Variance application.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, THE CITY OF TOWNSEND WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE PERSONS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK.
Published April 25 and May 2, 2025

MNAXLP

Americanisms



“You know, doing what is right is easy. The problem is knowing what is right.”

— Lyndon B. Johnson

GUEST EDITORIALS

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

Opposition to SB358 Water Rights Bill

It would be an understatement to say our family was concerned when we received news of a major subdivision proposal on the eastern shore of Canyon Ferry. Horse Creek Hills, the name of the new trophy subdivision and commercial lots, would become our new neighbor, yet no information was provided on how its use of multiple exempt wells and septic systems would affect our family's ranch or the water we depend upon.

As generational ranches with water rights dating back to the 1960's, we found it extremely troubling that our local government and state agencies would rubber-stamp water use for a new subdivision without considering impacts on our adjacent water uses, private property rights and agricultural operations. But, alas, they did, leaving us with no choice but to challenge our government's failures in the courts. If we did not personally speak up to protect our way of life, our family's livelihoods and the water resources we've relied upon for generations, apparently no one would.

It's now been a year since Judge McCahon of the First Judicial District issued a landmark victory for senior water rights, property rights, agriculture and the water resources vital to our outdoor heritage. In his ruling, Judge McMahan made clear that the government must be accountable and use science to measure the impacts that new development could create for water resources and property rights.

The burden falls on new water users and our government to identify potential harm to senior water rights and neighbors before decision-making and to deny projects that simply don't fit.

We agree. The burden should be on new development to show why it should be allowed and how it will affect its neighbors and the surrounding environment, not to presume it must be allowed, no matter the cost.

Despite our lawsuit's effect of protecting our and our neighbors' rights to informed, science-based decision-making in defending our water resources, our Montana agencies and legislators are missing the forest for the trees and failing to address the core issue that exempt wells for sprawl development are not an acceptable way to do business or be a good neighbor.

A bill draft coming out of the Comprehensive Water Review Stakeholder Group is being touted as a compromise for all, when in practice, the proposed legislation acts as a handout to developers by expanding the exempt well loophole-by more than double in most areas of the state.

While some high-growth areas are proposed as off-limits for more exempt wells, the devil is in the details, and new loopholes could again swallow the rule of first in time, first in right. Our family is shocked and dismayed at the idea that our Legislature would accept a "compromise" that puts water supplies for more subdivisions above our property rights, agricultural legacy and outdoor heritage.

Rather than taking the Horse Creek Hills ruling as a warning that the government needs to do better and protect its citizens' interests, the Legislature appears to be actively working to undermine our victory, all for the benefit of developers over most Montanans. Once again, ranching, agriculture and water resources lose while deep-pocketed developers write their own ticket with no public recourse.

Judge McMahan stated it best. "The economic impetus to develop land is overwhelming and relentless. If there is going to be any check on uncontrolled development of Montana's limited water resources it will have to come from DNRC which is statutorily charge with fulfilling Montanans' constitutional right to control and regulation of water rights, ... a duty DNRC has manifestly avoided or undermined for over a decade to the detriment of our waters, environment and senior water rights holders whose protection is the 'core purpose' of the Water Rights Act. "DNRC has "allowed the (ongoing) appropriation of millions if not billions of gallons of water that under our laws should have been left in aquifers for the benefit of senior water rights holders."

We need common sense land use rules that stand up for the Montana way of life and our property rights, not new shortcuts that prioritize exemptions and loopholes. Exempt wells are a raw deal for Montana's water, wildlife and our agricultural communities and we urge our legislators to stop expanding their use.

Charles and Carole Plymale are generational ranchers who live on the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake and are long-standing senior water rights holders. They were plaintiffs in Supper Missouri Waterkeeper et al. v. Broadwater County and DNRC.

Charles and Carole Plymale
Townsend

Sherriff's Office, 1

17,000 calls for service and opened 613 criminal cases, a number that reflects both the growing population and the increasing demands on local law enforcement. So far in 2025, the department is on track to match or outpace those numbers, continuing a trend that shows no sign of slowing down.

"We're definitely seeing an uptick in activity," said Sheriff Nick Rauser. "We've got a dedicated crew, but we're stretched thin. It's not uncommon for one deputy to cover the entire county during a shift."

The reasons for the surge in workload are complex. Broadwater County, like much of Montana, has experienced large population growth, especially from people moving in from out of state. With that growth has come more DUIs, thefts, domestic violence calls, coroner calls — and just more of everything.

But it's not just more people that's keeping the department busy. Sheriff's Office employees provide backup for neighboring counties, assist in wildland fire evacuations, and are often the first on scene in medical emergencies in remote areas. On top of that, they manage the county jail, serve civil papers, transport inmates, handle dispatch duties, and coordinate search and rescue operations.

"Our employees are passionate about serving this community," Sheriff Nick Rauser said. "They live here. They are raising their families here. They care deeply about keeping Broadwater County safe."

The Sheriff's Office is urging residents to consider supporting a continuation of the public safety mill levy that will be on the ballot May 6th. Ballots have been mailed out and should be in your possession. If approved, the levy would provide essential funding to continue providing the services that have steadily built up over the last five years — from increased patrol coverage to improved emergency response. Until then, the Sheriff's Office will continue to operate at full speed.

Measles Cases Crop Up in Montana

Nancy Marks
MT43 News Reporter



Broadwater County Health Director Ruby Taylor suggests resident vigilance in watching for signs of measles in themselves or their small children. Her response is to the measles cases that have been confirmed in Gallatin County.

The update of five confirmed cases was announced by the Department of Public Health and Human Services and Gallatin County Health Department in an April 17 release. These are the first cases of measles in Montana since 1980.

Taylor pointed out that the cases in Gallatin County were isolated in one area after the group had traveled and people who might have been exposed were being contacted. She pointed out her department is prepared, should there be a case in the county: "We have no reported cases in Broadwater County. And we do keep the vaccine in stock. The most important thing for residents to do is remain aware of the symptoms. Measles is an airborne virus. My biggest concern is for small children or immunocompromised folks who have not been vaccinated."

According to the DPHHS release, if you are unsure of your vaccination status you can check with your school, doctor's office or your local health department here you grew up for vaccination records. You may be listed on your home state immunization registries.

Taylor pointed out that anyone born before 1957 are not considered at risk, or if you have had measles as a child. "If you are concerned, your provider can do a "titer" blood test to confirm whether you have immunity," she said.

The test is not mandated or even recommended but is available. If residents request the vaccine, no provider's referral is needed. For more information, please call the department at (406) 266-5209.

Surrounding Community Newspapers

MT43 News Staff

We have copies of newspapers from around our area at our office that you can stop by and read.

- The Monitor (from Boulder)
- The Cascade Courier
- Choteau Acantha
- Three Forks Voice
- The Meagher County News
- Whitehall Ledger

Regular business hours are 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Broadwater County Commissioner's Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



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. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

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

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

No Commission Meeting

1:00 PM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

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, by-laws approval
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail – ongoing grants
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050 drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

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

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

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

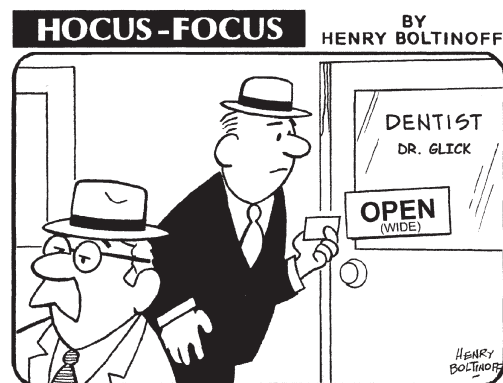
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

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

- County Parks & Recreation Meeting on April 30th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on May 8th at 5:30 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on May 13th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on May 13th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on May 13th at 6:00 PM

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

Sign up to receive county text message notifications! Text BCNOTIFY to 91896 or visit broadwatercountymt.gov and click on the TextMyGov icon on the home page.



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Eyes are different. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is different. 4. Door is not as wide. 5. Name on door is lower. 6. The is thinner.

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Contact MT43 News to list your business NOW!
 Mon - Fri 10am- 2pm
 408 Broadway | 406.266.0086

A+ STORAGE

SEVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS
 BOATS, RV's & TRAILER STORAGE
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 WE ARE AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED US!
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7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT
 BRANDON BAKKEN
 SHANE TEW
 P - (406)266-3772
 C - (406)980-1100

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 Helena 406-443-8084
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 Exterior (406) 223-3074



• DD Custom Flatbed Dealer
 • Laser Cut Parts Fabrication
 • Machining Hydraulics
 406-449-3464 | Townsend - Helena

Schauber Surveying, Inc. Land Surveyors

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

YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE


YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE

LOCAL EATS 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 5:00PM SPECIAL Event with Food: 3/22: 5PM Chili Cook-off!! Bar hours may vary	Bunkhouse Bar & Grill 8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 SPECIAL: N/A Dining Hours: 10:00AM - Close Grill off at 10:00PM	Commercial Bar 101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook	Fishtale Tavern 209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 11:00PM Daily Specials: Facebook Bar hours may vary	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: Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM Menu: Google
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	Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom 300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687 Hours: Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close	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	Kick Start Nutrition 500 N Front St, Townsend (406) 266-0033 Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 9:00AM - 3:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Daily Specials: Facebook & Instagram	The Nook Coffeehouse 401 Broadway, Townsend (406) 490-8238 Dining Hours: Mon 7:00AM - 5:00PM Tue - Thu 8:00AM - 5:00PM Fri - Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM Menu: FB @thenookcoffeehouse & readingleaves.net/ thenookcoffeehouse	Rocky Mountain Supply Deli 7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend (406) 266-3456 Hot & Cold To-Go Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00AM - 6:00PM Menu: Board Inside Store for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza Call Ahead or Order Inside
Bread and Butter Cafe 205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday & Monday Menu available on Facebook	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 8:00AM - 5:00PM Menu: Facebook changinmerc.square.site	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	Mint Cafe 305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM SPECIAL: N/A		TB's Diner 316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Mon- Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM Specials: Facebook



"I owe it all to Elsa, my wife and partner."

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!

Task: JETCROP
 Guady: RIGSHA
 Profit: INKTEA
 Chair: HORNET

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: B equals W

WOF WBM BPFHDDXTF IPIIPDH
 PQF XLHFNPQPJDF. X WOXL T
 WOFE'QF NQMJPJDE XL P
 HPJDF QFDPWXMLHOXN.

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KNIGHT MOVES

E	A	A
C		H
C	B	K

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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Super Crossword

RE-SOUNDING DUOS

ACROSS

1 Gourd-shaped rattle
 7 Cognizant
 12 — -mo replay
 15 Alaskan island
 19 Greeting in Apple ads
 20 Gourmet mushroom
 21 Paddle-propelled surfboards
 23 BOX + BISCUITS
 25 Family of writer
 26 Main character on "Saved by the Bell"
 27 MARRY + WIDER
 29 Yearned (for)
 32 — Jima
 34 Basil-based sauces
 35 SHANTY + OWNERS
 40 Suds maker
 44 Golf bag peg
 45 That, in Peru
 46 Grain staple
 47 Winnie-the-Pooh creator
 50 Fix the spine of, as a book
 53 CLONK + BUNGLER

57 "Rashomon" director
 58 Rate — (be judged as perfect)
 59 Vamooses
 60 Annoy
 61 CLEANSER + SCOW
 64 Norway's biggest city
 65 Positive votes
 66 Je ne sais —
 67 Finish
 69 Prime draft status
 71 Prefix with sphere
 74 Radiance
 77 PIGGY + CONCH
 83 Siouan tribe
 84 Successor of mono
 86 — Reader (magazine)
 87 Fool in the opera
 88 SWAT + SCOURGE
 91 Gives a lift to
 92 Ancestry
 93 Punk/folk singer
 94 Hamm of soccer
 96 Bar "rocks"
 97 Flimflam

98 OFFICIATED + IGNITE
 103 Hammy actor
 107 Turn — dime
 108 Prenatal test, informally
 109 BARBARIAN + FARM
 115 Poetic foot
 117 Fire-resistant material
 118 ANISTON + J.M.
 123 Repelled by
 124 Animator Tex
 125 Boston hockey team
 126 Nimble
 127 Survey info
 128 "Let's wager on that"
 129 Game venues

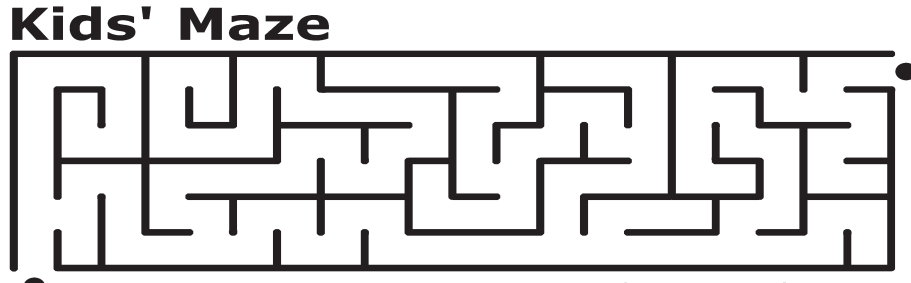
11 Snow queen in "Frozen"
 12 Stockholm citizens
 13 Ovine babies
 14 Plain to see
 15 Booth or Oswald, notably
 16 Defeated by decision in boxing, for short
 17 Fork point
 18 World power until '91
 22 Slangy ending for switch
 24 Slips on sleet, say
 28 "Weekend Edition" aier
 29 Of the stars
 30 Insolently bold
 31 — jeebies
 33 "— Man" (1994 hit for Salt-N-Pepa with En Vogue)
 36 Flanders on "The Simpsons"
 37 Recline lazily
 38 Pops
 39 LAX guesses
 41 Song from the '50s, e.g.

42 "It's the end of —"
 43 Big wheel's benefits
 47 Rock-clinging mollusk
 48 Praline nut
 49 Followers of lambdas
 51 Baghdad citizen
 52 Half of Mork's "Bye!"
 54 That woman
 55 Sgt., e.g.
 56 "ER" figures
 58 Texas or Kansas city
 62 Pooch's ID
 63 Suffix with depend
 65 "Yippeef"
 68 Hip-hop dance of the 2010s
 70 This, in Peru
 71 Copies
 72 Moral tenet
 73 2016 Disney film
 75 No. like "first" or "third"
 76 Spider snare
 78 Suffix of 75-Down numbers
 79 2015 Marvel film
 80 Naval officer
 81 Chinese nut

82 Be beaten by pop music
 84 Jamaican
 85 Snowman in "Frozen"
 89 Gravesite site
 90 Having one flat, musically
 91 Nasty
 95 Grant — (financial subsidy)
 98 "Yankees" rival
 99 Fumble
 100 Cause injury
 101 Actress Hedy
 102 Stain or soak
 104 Jumble
 105 Writer Joyce Carol —
 106 Govt. bond
 109 Sheep cries
 110 Abbr. on an invitation
 111 Rival of Lyft
 112 Take — at (criticize sarcastically)
 113 Actress Campbell
 114 News site for techies
 116 "Dancing Queen" group
 119 "Science Guy" Bill
 120 — Tin Tin
 121 Stuck — rut
 122 Suffix with lion

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Kids' Maze



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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SR. CENTER MEALS:	Dessert
APRIL 28 - MAY 2	<i>Wednesday, April 30</i>
<i>516 2nd Street, Townsend, MT 406-266-3995</i>	Beef Tacos
	Cheese and Sour Cream
<i>Monday, April 28</i>	Lettuce and Tomato
Carol's Meat Loaf	Mexican Corn and Beans
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy	Zesty Pineapple
California Vegetables	<i>Thursday, May 1</i>
Whole Grain Bread	Pork Chops
Plump Peaches	Steamed Potatoes
	Green Peas
<i>Tuesday, April 29</i>	Whole Grain Bread
Baked Chicken	Baked Apples
Rice Pilaf	
Steamed Carrots	<i>Friday, May 2</i>
Dinner Salad	Deli Sandwich
Whole Grain Bread	Potato Salad
Blushing Pears	Pickled Beets
	Fruit Cocktail



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 Mike Wenzel (406) 266-4219
Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning Service | 6:00pm Evening Service
Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer

Holy Cross Catholic Church
101 S Walnut St. Townsend
Parish Contact (406) 266-4811
email: office@holycrossmt.org
Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation | 4:30pm- Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades
Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org
Monday: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration
Tuesday: 9:00am Mass

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)
110 E Street Townsend
Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 465-5895
MountainValleyChurch.org
Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and Youth Ministry
Last Thursday of the month: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry: K-3rd Grades and 4th-Senior High | Parent Bible Study
Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406
Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.

Radersburg Baptist Church
7 Main St. Radersburg
Special Service Pastors
Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship

Set Free Christian Fellowship
318 Broadway St. 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
Pastor Ney Khut (269)-362-5768
Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am 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: 8:30am Choir Practice | 9:30am Sacrament Meeting | 10:40am Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open
For Family History Center appointment call Director, Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270
Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities

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

Trailhead Christian Fellowship
20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)
Pastor Clay Muinzer (406) 266-4406
Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education | 10:00am Services
Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K- 6th Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th-12th Grades

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Service Available

At MT43 News Office
408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT
Mon - Fri 10:00 - 2:00pm

Or by Appointment
Contact: Brenda Phillips
406-231-9752

Common Sense
BY BILL GARWOOD

Why Don't the Creators Create Something Original?

I'm talking about movies, not US. We are all original & unique, each of us is our own person. (I'm not going to get all "why are we here" crazy.) At least not today. How many times must an original film be remade? I have seen all the Ape movies I care to, thank you.

They are even making movies out of old video games now! Has all the original thought run dry? It's like Western books, or worse, ALL romance stories. Several years ago, a friend of mine figured out that with all romance stories there are about 7 plots. That's it, all the rest are rehashes. Change a character's job, or reverse their order in the book/movie; poof, all new plot.

Some I can see are "sequels" to the original films, ok, but after a few years, there is a NEW, improved film. YEAH RIGHT! Ever see the movie "Overboard?" Nice fun film Goldie Haun, Kirk Russel. Lady- rich, guy- poor carpenter. But now there is a new one: man- rich, lady-poor. Gee what originality, NOT!

With the superhero flicks, at least they have decades of plots from which to choose. There are so many stories in human life to choose from, why are they making movies about "Super Mario" go-kart people? As if history was not full of great stories, these "Hollywood Types" have no imagination anymore.

Remember "Harvey" an average guy walks around and is friendly with everyone, he just happens to see a 6-foot white rabbit. He's harmless but everyone thinks he's nuts. (Been there, done that.) but that was a great film, all imagination! Other than animated cartoons today, you just don't see much of these kinds of films anymore.

Yes, I'm talking as "old grouchy guy", ("GET OFF MY LAWN") but you can see that our imaginations are not being used today. Everything has to be visual, no thinking involved. It's sad, but anytime you are downtown, look around, look at how many folks are on their phones! Even in restaurants and bars. Couples sitting there ignoring each other, and their children, most times, if the kid is old enough, they have their own phone. Other than the ordering of food, they do not talk. And people wonder why their kids are anti-social, OH they're social enough just with strangers 1,000 miles away.

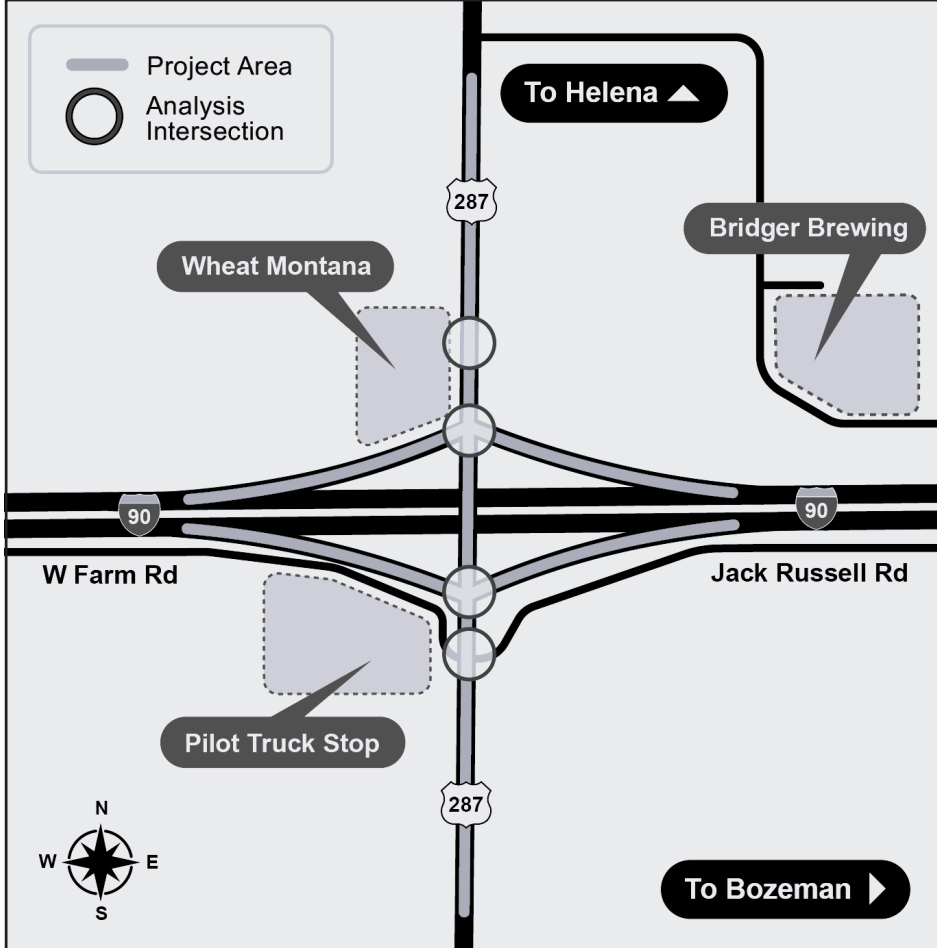
Remember the "Unabomber?" He said that machines were taking over the world. Unfortunately, he decided the way to get people's attention was to blow them up. The sad thing is...he was right! Recently, I had my phone die, as I use it mostly like a watch, it was just an inconvenience. I can look around for a clock.

Every day, STOP, look around you. Think, and do something original, uh... within the law, of course! Be the unique person you were meant to be. In the words of some old dead Roman guy, "Seize the day!"

Improvements Planned for Three Forks Interchange

Cathlyn Hammond
Communications Coordinator

THREE FORKS, Mont: The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) plans to improve traffic operations at the West Three Forks Interchange, the Interstate 90 (I-90) with US Highway 287 (US 287) junction west of Three Forks near Wheat Montana. Proposed improvements for the West Three Forks Interchange Improvements project include redesigning the interchange and ramp modifications to address current and future operational needs.



West Three Forks Project Area
DOWL Engineering Graphic

"This project will help to reduce congestion on I-90 ramps," said MDT Consultant Design Engineer Roy Peterson. "Many of us have firsthand experience with traffic congestion at the US 287 and I-90 Interchange because of growing development in the area. This project is a step toward improving traffic flow and enhancing roadway safety facilities as the Gallatin Valley continues to expand."

The project team is currently evaluating alternative configurations for the West Three Forks Interchange. Once an alternative is identified, this project will move into the design phase.

MDT is leading this project in partnership with DOWL, the engineering consultant.

To stay informed as the project progresses and learn about opportunities to provide comments on this project, members of the public can email West3Forks@dowl.com to subscribe for updates or visit the project website at <https://mdt.mt.gov/>

pubinvolve/3forksinterchange/. Comments, questions, or concerns can also be shared by calling 406-869-6377.

MDT is a workforce of over 2,000 people across Montana determined to do all we can so that you arrive at your destination safely. Our mission is to build, operate, and maintain a safe and resilient transportation system. For more information, visit mdt.mt.gov.

National Work Zone Awareness Week
April 21-25, 2025 | nwzaw.org
Respect the zone, so we all get home.

In 2023, 282 work zone crashes occurred in Montana. This construction season, MDT urges Montana drivers and visitors to use extra caution while traveling through work zones by paying attention and following posted signage.

Where can you find the latest edition of MT43 News?
Subscribe, come to our office in Townsend or visit our suppliers!

East Helena: Heritage Foods, The Man Store & Town Pump
Townsend: Bob's Supermarket, C Hangin C Mercantile, The Mint Cafe, Reading Leaves Bookstore, Rocky Mountain Supply, Town Pump & Townsend Drug

AREA DEATHS

Roland Heaton

Friends of Roland

Roland Heaton, 78, passed away at the VA, Fort Harrison, on April 21, 2025.

Memorial Service will be 11 a.m., May 17, 2025, at Mountain Valley Church, 110 E Street, Townsend.

A luncheon will follow at the American Legion to honor him.



Roland Heaton
Photo Provided

Judy A. Sharp

Family of Judy A. Sharp

Judy A. Sharp, age 77, of Townsend
February 6, 1948 – April 12, 2025



Judy A. Sharp
Photo Provided by Family of Judy A. Sharp

Judy Angela Hunsaker Sharp, left this earthly life April 12, 2025, at the Billings Clinic Broadwater Nursing Home.

Judy was born on February 6, 1948, in Rupert, Idaho, to Elzarus Levon Hunsaker and Kathern Wheatley Hunsaker. She joined her two older brothers, Allen Kent and Cecil W., and three older sisters, Lavon, Diana and Karen, and was later joined by sister, JoAnn and brother, Elzarus LeGrande. Judy's family moved to the Crow Creek Valley, Toston, Montana in 1949. She went to the Crow Creek School, grades one through eight, and continued her high school education at Broadwater County High School in Townsend, Montana. After graduation, Judy attended Kinman Business College in Spokane, Washington. While in Washington, she met and married Russell Sharp. They were blessed with two sons, Lanny Sharp and Jamie Sharp. Judy and Russell later divorced. She loved the warmer climate of Arizona and that is where she lived until October 2019, when she came to live with her sister and brother-in-law because of poor health and loss of sight. Since May of 2022, Judy has been lovingly cared for at the Billings Clinic Broadwater Nursing Home.

Judy has a gift for music, she could play the piano like JoAnn Castle from the Lawrence Welk Show. She made the piano "Rock". She loved her sons and grandchildren with all her heart.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Kathern and Elzarus Levon Hunsaker, brothers, Allen Kent and Cecil W. Hunsaker, brother-in-law John Gardiner, sisters, Lavon Hunsaker Gardiner and Karen Hunsaker Berg.

She is survived by sons, Lanny Sharp (Barbara) of Phoenix, AZ and Jamie Sharp (Keri) of Spokane, WA; grandchildren, James W. Sharp (Rosie), Kayli Contreras and Gracie Sharp; great grandchild, Lexi Sharp; brothers, Elzarus LeGrande Hunsaker (Martha), brother-in-law, Roy Berg (Peggy), sisters, Diana Bruce (Andy) and JoAnn Price (Rick) and many wonderful cousins, nephews and nieces.

A Family gathering will be at the Deep Creek Cemetery.

Service Schedule:

Thursday, April 17, 2025
Private Interment 2:00 p.m.
Deep Creek Cemetery, Townsend, Montana

OBITUARY

Donald Bergman

Family of Donald Bergman

Donald Gene Bergman, 84, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2025, at his home in Townsend, Montana, with his wife, Trina Bergman, by his side.



Donald Bergman
Photo Provided by Family of Donald Bergman

Don was born on January 2, 1941, in Cass County, North Dakota, to Kenneth and Shirley Bergman. Don grew up with a deep appreciation for the outdoors and a strong sense of family. After moving from Denver, Colorado, he spent much of his life in Washington State and worked as an engineer for Weyerhaeuser Co. and Fibre Wood Mill.

Don was an adventurous spirit who loved nothing more than being outside. Whether he was hunting, fishing along the river, riding four-wheelers and motorcycles with his kids, or hiking and rock climbing in the mountains near Mt. Rainier, he found peace and happiness in nature.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Janice Bergman. Don leaves behind a large and loving family, including his seven children: Karen Bell (Wayne), Dan Bergman (Brenda), Jeff Bergman (Debbie), Kathy Orsborn (Bill), Rebecca McKibbon (John), Jill Sanders (Daryl), and Jody Luft (Spencer). He was a proud grandfather to fourteen grandchildren and a great-grandfather to ten. Don is also survived by his sister, Carolyn Diane Clark, and three nieces.

A celebration of Don's life will be held on May 2, 2025, at 1 pm at the Castle Rock Nazarene Church located at 456 Pioneer Ave NE Castle Rock, WA 98611.

Sheriff's Mill Levy

It's that time of year again! No, not spring cleaning... Time to shake that money tree, You-me-Us The Taxpayer.

This time it's for our "safety". You may recall the one-time stop-gap \$500k Public Safety mill levy that was foisted upon us a few years ago. As is typically the case, the levy passed, and the money went into the general budget, which now has expanded to rely upon those extra funds, much like a goldfish will expand to fit new real estate when given a bigger tank.

The problem then being, said goldfish cannot return to the previous tank lest it perish in the confines of its former abode. Fortunately, our sheriff's department is not a goldfish... However, our dear sheriff has been on the stump all spring touting the increased benefits provided by his department, and floating out the soft scare tactics of hypothetical scenarios that may occur if we refuse to approve his proposed "decrease in funding".

Quite the marketing ploy, as the levy is in fact a tax increase. The pitch presented to us plebes is that the proposed renewal rate of 31.95 mills is less than the original ONE TIME LEVY, therefore, the new 5-year (translation perpetual) levy is now a decrease? Nice work, Nick. I suppose those 33rd Degree officer training courses at the academy taught you how to rationalize that pretzel logic into a net benefit to the taxpayers?

Anyhow, long story short. I'm tapped out. Property taxes have gone through the roof. I'd rather not pay another nickel toward wage increases, asset upgrades or fuel bills for our County's storm troopers to LARP around the countryside on my dime.

This old cliché proves out at every test:

"When seconds count, the police are minutes away."

No amount of funding will prevent every crime, nor will that funding guarantee your safety.

Make do with what we gave you Nick. Your deputies are collecting handsome wages, Gold-level benefits packages and hot-rodding brand-new service vehicles. Meanwhile, our VOLUNTEERS on Rural Fire, EMS and Search & Rescue face the same increased costs yet make do with aging equipment and stagnant budgets.

Maybe the sheriff's department could raise funds by hosting a steak fry on our next Holiday weekend rather than muscling in for a plate while charging us 2.5x premium OT for their service?

Remember, ballots are due May 6th. Our County officials took extra care to limit this election to "by mail only" (for our own good, of course), so be sure to request a ballot and submit it on time. If you don't vote, you can't complain.

Cheerfully optimistic,

Jeff Schritz

Broadwater County Resident

Stevenson Wilke

Funeral Home & Crematory

Family Owned and Operated
Honorably Serving Montana Families for Three Generations
www.stevensonwilke.com (406) 266-4213

Weed of the Month: Rubber Rabbitbrush

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



A common sight on Montana rangeland, rubber rabbitbrush is often associated with sagebrush plant communities. It is a native species but can sometimes be unwanted due to its ability to increase under poor rangeland conditions.



Rubber Rabbitbrush
Photo Credit: Matt Lavin, Bozeman MT

Description & Habitat

Native to the western half of the United States and Canada, rubber rabbitbrush is found in dry, open areas such as plains, valley bottoms, foothills and mountains. It is an important plant species for wildlife that use it as browse during the winter, groundcover for small mammals and birds, and pollinator habitat for the late summer and early fall. Additionally, American Indians used it to make chewing gum, as a tea, yellow dye, cough syrup and to treat chest pains.

Rubber rabbitbrush is a warm-season shrub that can grow 1 to 8 feet tall. Several stems originate from a crown base. They are flexible, giving it its rubber name. The stems are gray-brown with cracks. The bark is fibrous and somewhat shreddy. Leaves are linear shaped and covered in a felt-like layer that insulates and reduces evapotranspiration. It has yellow-green

flowers that appear in late summer. They are arranged in an umbrella-shaped head.

Although not considered an invasive plant, it can expand rapidly following disturbance such as abandoned crop fields, overgrazed areas or replanted rangeland. It can also be an indication of poor range management. It's not extremely competitive so once other species establish it tends to slow down its expansion. However, since livestock do not graze the plant, there are times when control measures may be warranted to reduce rubber rabbitbrush and allow space for more desirable species.

Management

Avoiding disturbance or overgrazing and maintaining a healthy population of native or desired species is often effective to keep rubber rabbitbrush at a manageable level. Oftentimes, it is not necessary to remove an entire stand of rabbitbrush. Simply thinning or reducing is often sufficient.

Physical control methods such as burning, cutting or mowing are often not effective. Instead, they tend to stimulate growth and lead to further expansion of rabbitbrush density. Manually removing the plants by digging can be successful on young plants as long as a majority of the root system is removed. However, on older shrubs, it is extremely difficult and is generally not practical to dig. There are two biological control insects that are in the research phase but have not been released.

Herbicides are also an option. However, the plant's health should be taken into consideration. Plants that are under drought or stress will not absorb herbicides. Because of its extensive root system, more than one application may be necessary. Common chemicals include 2,4-D LV Ester, Curtail, Grazon (restricted use), Milestone and Tordon (restricted use). Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicides. Common chemical names are used for clarity but does not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

For assistance on weed identification and management, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu

POPEYE

"THE ONLY COLOR THAT EXISTED AT THAT TIME IN THE PRINT INDUSTRY- THE MOVIES WERE IN BLACK AND WHITE, THE WORLD WAS IN BLACK AND WHITE, BUT COMICS WERE BLASTING IN COLOR. AND SUNDAY MORNINGS, I WAS ALIVE..."

- HY EISMAN IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER'S WEXLER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, 2022

IN MEMORY OF
HY EISMAN
MARCH 27, 1927-
MARCH 27, 2025

TODAY, WE'RE DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT. WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMEONE SPECIAL... HY EISMAN.

HY DREW THE "POPEYE" COMIC FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS. SADLY, HE DIED RECENTLY.

HY WAS THE SON OF POLISH JEWISH IMMIGRANTS. HE FELL IN LOVE WITH COMICS AT AN EARLY AGE, KNOWING HE WANTED TO DRAW COMICS, TOO.

HY WOULD CREATE A COMIC STRIP NAMED "PARADE REST" FOR "THE CAMP PICKET NEWS" WHILE IN THE ARMY. BACK IN CIVILIAN LIFE, HE JOINED THE COMICS INDUSTRY...

...GHOST-DRAWING STRIPS SUCH AS "SMOKEY STOVER," "KERRY DRAKE" -

- AND "BRINGING UP FATHER!"

OVER THE YEARS, HY WORKED ON COMIC STRIPS AND BOOKS FOR "BLONDIE," "LITTLE IODINE," "NANCY," "LITTLE LULU," "MUTT AND JEFF," "KATZENJAMMER KIDS"...

AND "POPEYE!"

AND THAT'S NOT EVEN TOUCHING ON HIS DECADES OF TEACHING COMICS AT THE KUBERT SCHOOL. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TRULY TALK ABOUT HIM IN ONE STRIP.

BUT COMICS, ESPECIALLY THIS ONE, ARE BETTER FOR HAVING HAD HIM HERE.

THANK YOU, HY, FOR EVERYTHING YOU GAVE US.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING.

TOPGUN Autobody

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BREAKING NEWS

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE ALWAYS TELLS ME I NEED TO ENCOURAGE HER MORE. IT WAS GOING GREAT, UNTIL SHE NOTICED I WAS JUST READING ALL HER INSPIRATIONAL PLAQUES IN THE KITCHEN.

GRIN and BEAR IT

by Wagner

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FIGBY'S HARDWARE

LAWN MOWERS

"Would you like to take it for a test mow?"

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

A FIELD GUIDE TO BULL BEHAVIOR

BULL IN A CHINA SHOP: HEY, PUT DOWN THAT CRYSTAL!

BULL IN A TOBACCO SHOP: HEY, PUT DOWN THAT VARE PEN!

BULL IN A SUN SHOP: HEY, PUT DOWN THAT UZI!

BULL IN A GIFT SHOP: HEY, PUT DOWN THOSE FRIDGE MAGNETS!

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, HONEY, GO WASH YOUR HANDS. IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.

I MADE MY SPECIAL BLACK BEAN AND CORN CASSEROLE.

OH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK. JUST REMEMBER, "WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER."

YEAH, BUT IT'S AMAZING WHAT ONE CAN LIVE THROUGH.

CryptoQuip

answer

The two weasellike mammals are inseparable. I think they're probably in a sable relationship.

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Project 2. Garish; 3. Intake; 4. Throne

Today's Word
SPARRING

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

E	A	A
C		H
C	B	K

BACKACHE

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

OUR MARRIAGE IS A WINDSHIELD...

...AND I'M A BUG!!

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

HEY, HUGO...

HOW'D YOU KEEP THE GIRLS FROM COMING ON OUR HIKE?

I TOLD 'EM WE MIGHT RUN INTO SNAKES...

AND SKUNKS...

AND QUICKSAND...

AND POISON IVY

Former Townsend Resident Finds Success Playing in Red Dirt Country Scene

MT43 News Reporter

From Montana's big skies to Southern honky tonks, Nick Hamburg is making a name for himself in the Red Dirt country music scene. The Townsend native and 2013 Broadwater High School graduate is now touring with one of the genre's most respected bands, turning his lifelong love of music into a career.

Nick picked up his first guitar at seven, and the connection was immediate. He began lessons with the late Hal Amundsen, a well-known local musician and mentor. "Hal taught me more than just chords," Nick said. "He showed me how to feel the music and play with heart."

He credits his parents, Jay and Jen Lane, for their support and for teaching him the work ethic he developed while working construction with his family throughout high school and into his twenties. "Long days, tough jobs, and no shortcuts—that mindset stuck with me when I decided to pursue music full time."

In high school, Nick started playing in local bands in Townsend and Missoula. Wanting more than just to play guitar, he decided to teach himself the pedal steel—a complex, expressive country music instrument known for its haunting, melodic sound. "It's like singing through strings," Nick said.

In 2023, Nick moved to Austin, Texas, a city rich with musical talent. Within weeks, he joined the Bart Crow Band, quickly earning a place with his signature pedal steel sound. Just six months later, he was invited to join Jason Boland and the Stragglers, one of Red Dirt's most iconic bands.



Nick Hamburg plays pedal steel along with Jason Boland at the Boys from Oklahoma Concert in Stillwater, Oklahoma recently. Photo Provided

Nick plays pedal steel and electric guitar with the Stragglers, whose roots run deep in the Red Dirt genre—a blend of country, folk, and Southern rock that values storytelling and authenticity over polish. His debut performance with the band took place at the Professional Bull Riders event in Big Sky, Montana—a poetic homecoming. "After working construction in Big Sky for years, stepping on that stage felt surreal," he said.

The Stragglers have long been a pillar of the Red Dirt movement, with acclaimed albums and devoted fans. Nick's biggest moment so far came last weekend when he performed with them at the sold-out Boys of Oklahoma concert in Stillwater. The four-night event featured Red Dirt legends like Turnpike Troubadours and Cross Canadian Ragweed and drew over 180,000 fans. "It felt like standing inside a living piece of history," Nick said.



Jason Boland and the Stragglers at the Stillwater, Oklahoma concert. From left: Nick Gedra, Grant Tracy, Jason Boland, Chris Compton and Nick Hamburg. Photo Provided

Despite his rising success, Nick remains humble and rooted in the values he learned growing up in Townsend. "Townsend raised me," he said. "Those local gigs, Hal's lessons, and working alongside my dad, grandpa, and brothers—they all played a part in getting me here."

When not touring with the Stragglers, Nick also performs with emerging Austin musicians like Coleman Jennings and Paige Plaisance. "Collaborating with them keeps me sharp and helps me grow as an artist," he said.

From small-town stages to the heart of Red Dirt country, Nick Hamburg's journey is a testament to talent, grit, and staying true to your roots.

Saturday, April 26th
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Spring BAZAAR

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Broadwater County Republicans

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6:00 PM Dinner (Tri-Tip)
Cost = \$35.00

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Kendal Cotton, CEO Frontier Institute
Recap of 69th Legislative Session with emphasis on Property Taxes, Property Rights and Judicial Reform

Invited Speakers
Republican Federal, State and Local Office Holders
Paid for by Broadwater County Republican Central Committee

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

April 24

1941

Canton Valley News

Luck seems to be with some people. One fine afternoon last summer, Miss Mary Agnes Ragen, who was visiting at the Dan Sullivan home, happened to be walking along the banks of the Irish ditch and accidentally dropped a dollar she was carrying. All summer long the ditch users watched for that shiny piece of silver, but to no avail. Wednesday of this week Dan Sullivan was cleaning the ditch preparatory to irrigation and what to his amazement did he see in the sand, but that long lost dollar. Back to its owner it went.

1958

Work Progressing on Legion Bldg. Bowling Alleys

Work on the addition to the American Legion building is well along and should be completed in a short time. Frank Blaisdell, local contractor, has charge of the work, with most of the labor being donated by Legion members.

Since the initial announcement that the Legion was going to install a four lane bowling alley, the Legion officials located and secured two additional lanes, so there will be six lanes installed.

Sunday, quite a crew of workmen showed up to help haul the equipment out from Helena – five truckloads in all – and as soon as the floors are finished installation can begin.

Legion officials again call attention to the fact that anyone interested in this project can give it a boost if they will buy bonds in the Legion Club.

Friendly Society Junior Girls

On Friday, April 15, we ate our own dinner prepared by Marcia Lots and Sharon Rains. We all brought food. Susan Aldworth, Cynda Holland and Lynn Meyer were

in charge of the food table. Nancy Odham, Susan Rains, Lois Campbell and Sharon Adams were in charge of the eating table. We ate, then played a game called “Pack My Bag”. Then we had our meeting. -Susan Aldworth, reporter

1975

Townsend News

Peggy Ryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan, is a freshman majoring in Elementary Education at Carroll College has been elected one of 21 girls who will serve as Spurs at Carroll College during the 1975-76 academic year. Spurs is a Woman’s Service organization.

Among 120 scholars who achieved distinction by being names on the Honor Roll at Western Montana College, Dillon, were two Townsend residents. They are Bryan and Kelly Flynn, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Flynn.

Ethel Alley has recently sold her house and moved to Darby, Montana to make her home with her daughter, Edith Mac Gruder. Mrs. Alley had lived in Townsend for close to 50 years

and celebrated her 90th birthday last summer. We all wish her a happy and long life in Darby.

Steve Kaul has been visiting with his parents for a few days earlier this week. Big Sky is closed for the month of April, so Steve was able to take time off. He is a part owner of the corporation which handles one of the Big Sky concessions.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Southhall and daughter, Linda, of Miles City spent the weekend at the home of Mrs. Southhall’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blaisdell.

1997

Star Celebrates 100th

Today, April 24, 1997, marks the 100th anniversary of “The Townsend Star”, a publication that appeared just three months after Broadwater was made a county. The 5,209th consecutive issue of “The Star” has been printed and delivered.

One hundred years ago today, two men – Morton W. Hatch of Big Timber and H.R. Campbell – founded “The Townsend Star”. Though they lasted just over a year, Hatch and Campbell launched what would become the community’s longest continuously operating business.

Truman Nathaniel Averill, a carpenter who came here from Michigan, took full ownership of “The Star” in January of 1898, and for the next quarter century, withstood string of challenges from upstart competitors.

“The Star” remained in Averill family hands for 60 years, through T.N. Averill’s 1921 death, Prohibition, the Great Depression, World War II, the Works Progress Administration, and the filling of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. For more than 35 years after T.N. Averill’s death, the local newspaper was the domain of his charismatic widow and two daughters.

They produced thought provoking, powerful newspapers, and Nellie Lois Averill became renowned statewide as “The Queen of Montana Newspaper Women”. During WWII, she personally wrapped and mailed 300 free copies of the newspaper to local soldiers fighting overseas. At the age of 87, just two years before her death, Mrs. Averill retired from active operation of “The Star”. Daughters, Grace Hollaway and Rosemary Ward, continued publishing it for nine more years.

George and Florence Brammer and family members ran it from 1957 to 1973. Then came Verle and Patricia Rademacher; in 1973 Riley and Roberta Johnson bought it until 1976 when Stan and Esther Tichenor had it for 16 years. Tichenors sold it to Tom Murphy in 1992. Mr. Murphy died in 1994 and his wife, Kate Murphy and Jeff Stoffer took it over and still operate it as of this date.

Members of the staff of “The Townsend Star” at the time of this publication were: Linda Kent, associate editor, Bunny Jewell, sales representative, Jeff Stoffer, publisher; Kate Murphy, general manager, Joni Shearer, composition; Mary Pat Martin, sales and reporting; Judy Alm, darkroom technician; Staci Regan, labeler; Morgan Michalski, labeler; and Michelle McNulty, circulation and photographer.

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Even Those Tough Ranchers Cherish Camaraderie, Ya Reckon?

Denise Thompson
MT43 News AG
Correspondent



Due to the sheer magnitude of the demands of ranch life, there is little time for other things, unless, of course, you are intentional about those other “things.” Faith. Family. Friendship. Fitness. Fun.

Those other things bring a balance, a sense of purpose, and viability to the long hours, and the physical and emotional demands of this lifestyle. Yes, even those tough ranchers yearn for and cherish camaraderie, ya reckon?!

Fellowship. Brotherhood. Camaraderie (or comradery) is a feeling of trust and friendship among a group of people who have usually known each other for a long time or gone through some kind of experience together. “Esprit de corps” refers to the feelings, such as pride and loyalty, shared by members of a group of people.

The beauty of this lifestyle is the quintessential nature to which camaraderie is fostered and protected. Certainly, it is a bonus to share hobbies with our fellow ranchers: hunting and fishing trips, travel, roping, picnics and dinner dates, sports, etc.. But the depths of these relationships are truly formed through working together at brandings, moving cattle across the range, shipping calves to market,

going to bull sales, preg. checking the cows, shootin’ the breeze....and facing the innate joys and hardships of ranch life, together.

The winters are long in rural Montana. With spring comes renewed hope in the warm sun, extended daylight, green grass, newborn calves, turning of soil, and satisfying rains. Just as quenching as spring, is the comfort of endearing friendships. Those fellow ranchers, neighbors, confidantes, and wholesome humans who sincerely make life grand!

For us, there are few who fit all attributes of a comrade more than Mr. Greg Field. We fondly refer to him as “Fielding” and we think the world of him. He has shared



Vince Thompson and Greg Field, shootin' the breeze on Shipping Day, 2022
Denise Thompson Photo



Greg Field and Jyler Thompson counting calves before loading them on the truck. Shipping Day, 2022
Denise Thompson Photo

some of our most heartfelt, joyous moments, and some of our most difficult challenges of a lifetime. He has hung in the trenches and cheered in the triumphs. More than anything, he has prayed. He has not only been a worker bee but also an advisor and our comic relief extraordinaire. There are few men who have been more influential in the lives of both Vince and Jyler. He is an incredible husband and father, super witty, honest as the day is long, so fun, hardworking, bright, and truly a stand-up guy!! To make this union...this friendship even sweeter, is the fact that we can acknowledge all the same in regards to Greg’s wife, Dawn. Double the blessing.

For the Love of Ag, From the Heart of a Western Woman,

Denise Thompson