

The Madisonian.

THE LOCAL NEWS OF THE MADISON VALLEY, RUBY VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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TREASURES OF THE TREASURE STATE



Abigail Dennis/The Madisonian

During the summer, Virginia City and Nevada City are packed with tourists – Montanans and out of staters visit the towns.

Virginia City, Nevada City produce \$62.2 million for state

The towns are important pieces of Montana history, but also economic drivers

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The popular tourist destination of Virginia City and Nevada City benefit Montana's economy, and this year the 2015 legislature has a few bills that may impact the towns.

"(The towns) are by far the biggest historic attraction in Montana," said Rep. Jeff Welborn, R-Dillon. "More people stop there than at all other historic sites in the state combined. Those are dollars that get dropped off in Dillon, Sheridan, Ennis and all the way through that corridor

while people pass through on the way to Virginia City. The towns are a huge economic benefit to all of Southwest Montana and that resonates to the state as a whole."

Since Virginia City and Nevada City are state-owned attractions, they are managed by the Montana Heritage Commission, which is led by executive director Elijah Allen. Allen works with the heritage commission board, made up of 14 commissioners who represent various

interests across the state.

The towns are more than an important piece of Montana's history, however. In late 2014, the Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District completed an economic impact analysis about how the towns financially impact Madison County and the state as a whole.

The findings, which Allen says are "conservative," show the towns produce \$62.2 million statewide – \$37.7 mil-

Turn to VC/NC on pg. 2

A NEW HOME

Fifty-two bighorn sheep are relocated to the Wolf Creek drainage in the Madison Mountain Range

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The morning of Jan. 6, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks crews and multiple volunteers gathered near Reynold's Pass in the south Madison Valley to capture bighorn sheep from a herd that lives in the Quake Lake area and relocated them approximately 15 miles north to the Wolf Creek drainage.

"(The relocation) could not have been better," said volunteer Kathy Coontz.

"We had no issues and it went like it was scripted."

Coontz is a member of the Rising Sun Estates Homeowners Association, which is a group of approximately 50 landowners who live near the Wolf Creek drainage. The FWP relocated the sheep through the Rising Sun Estates.

According to a press release from the FWP, a large drop-net was used to confine the animals. Then, teams of two and three worked to capture and test individual bighorns before they were prepared for transport.

"Ten of the bighorns were fitted with radio collars to enable biologists to monitor herd movement," the release

stated. "A mix of rams, ewes and lambs were brought by a trailer ... to the Wolf Creek area, once a winter home to a native population of bighorns."

Wolf Creek was prioritized as a good spot for the relocation because it was historically bighorn sheep range, Julie Cunningham, FWP region three biologist, explained.

The reintroduction is multiple years in the making – last year, the FWP planned to capture sheep, but found evidence of pneumonia in the herd. Cunningham said bighorn sheep are very susceptible to illness, so the capture and relocation was postponed to give the herd time to recover, which it did.

"As homeowners and non-biologists, we couldn't have been more impressed," Coontz said. "We got to be really involved and it was very hands on."

When the sheep were released, they did exactly what Coontz said everyone hoped they would do.

"They started up the hill and stopped to munch," she said. "They were just browsing their way up the hill. They've gone exactly where we wanted them to go."

According to the FWP, Cunningham said, "future transplants may be necessary to augment the population."

Twin Bridges discusses school safety at special board meeting

Community members gather to talk about school safety with the board and administration

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The Twin Bridges school board and school superintendent Chad Johnson hosted a special school board meeting on Jan. 8 to discuss a school safety plan. The meeting was held at the request of parents and community members, who had

questions about school safety.

The questions stem from the fact that the former Harrison high school student who brought two guns to the Harrison School nearly two years ago on Jan. 25, 2013, and made more threats toward the school in a Facebook message thread between Jan. 5 and 14, 2014, now lives in Twin Bridges. The student is currently educated off-site, though

juvenile probation officer Sam Stockett said he may be attending regular classes at the start of next semester, which is Jan. 20

"Nothing is completely set in stone," Stockett said. "We foresee him attending regular classes starting next semester. He will be accompanied by an aid, he will have to leave his backpack and coat at the office and he will not be issued a locker."

The school's safety committee – made up of staff, office personnel, teachers and the administration – identified a few areas the school could improve

Turn to SAFETY on pg. 2



The Twin Bridges school board and administration host a special meeting with parents and community members to discuss school safety plans.

A farewell to Schenk and hello to Thompson



Dave Schenk



Roger Thompson

Long-time Madison County Sheriff Dave Schenk leaves the office and new Sheriff Roger Thompson takes the reins

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When former Madison County Sheriff Dave Schenk was elected to office in 2003, he had a long road ahead of him. A former highway patrolman for nearly 30 years, Schenk immediately had the task of bringing his staff together toward a common mission. "It took time to develop

respect in the community," Schenk said. "It took patience to unify the department."

The current department is staffed with excellent personnel and the community responds positively to county law enforcement, Schenk said.

Schenk made the decision not to run for re-election in 2014 – instead, Schenk's undersheriff, Roger Thompson, ran unopposed. Thompson took the role of sheriff on Jan. 1.

Schenk and Thompson worked together for approximately 10 years before Thompson was elected sheriff and took over the reins of the department.

"(Thompson's) familiarity with the department is great," Schenk said, explaining why he believes Thompson will take on the role of sheriff with ease. "He was part of all of this for the last 10 years and his

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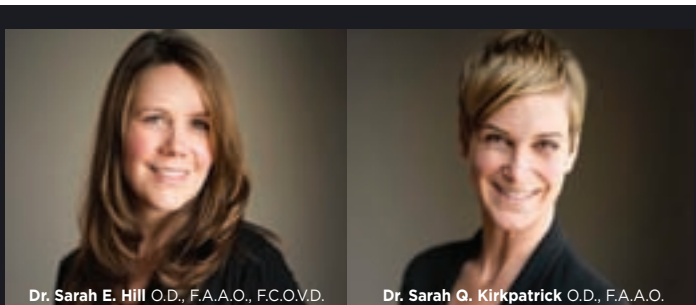
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lion of that goes to Madison County. For every dollar the state invested in the towns, they got a return of \$48, which is a 4,700 percent return on investment, according to Allen.

That \$48 is distributed statewide, Allen said, and includes what the hotel industry, restaurants, retail shops and more make from the visitors.

The state has owned the towns since 1997, when it purchased them from Charles and Sue Bovey, but saw a record number of visitors in 2014. According to the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, there were an estimated 463,704 visitors in 2014 alone – 66 percent of those visitors were from out of state.

Legislative impacts

The 2014 legislative session may impact the towns, which are a topic of discussion in Helena.

"For the past three years, the MHC ... has been under review from legislative subcommittees and has received positive

remarks resulting in proposed legislation that will help in the preservation and repairs of the historic sites it manages," said MHC commission chairperson Marilyn Ross. "This will transfer to preserving Montana's heritage and increase tourism visitations, which will benefit local Madison County businesses and create more jobs for Montanans."

For example, House Bill 5, also known as the Governor's bill, proposes \$4 million in infrastructure for the state – that transfers to \$400,000 to the heritage commission for historic preservation and maintenance costs.

Welborn is sponsoring the bill, which he says takes a look at all kinds of different projects across the state.

"I believe in infrastructure," Welborn said. "You have to do it so things don't fall into disrepair and get more expensive. Virginia City and Nevada City have gone on too many years without fixing the little things and those little things have turned into big things."

Welborn said Virginia City and Nevada City are "obvious fixes," because they are historic sites that also benefit Montana's economy.

"We need to protect them for future generations," Welborn said. "There's also a huge safety factor. Those buildings keep falling into disrepair and the state will have a huge liability situation. We're running the risk of costing the state big dollars in litigation, and we'd have to repair the buildings at the end of the day anyway."

The bill proposes funding projects with a blend of cash and bonding, which is one reason Republican Sen. Debby Barrett opposes the bill.

"It's not that I don't support the projects," Barrett explained. "I don't like how it's been put together with bonding – we will take on increased debt with bonding."

Barrett supports the state taking care of Virginia City and Nevada City, she said, but she does not believe HB5 is the right avenue to do it.

"I believe we need to fund the assets we have first and foremost before we buy more and acquire more," she said. "We need to take care of what we own with an honest funding plan every year and that's not what HB5 is. It is one-time funding with no guarantee it will be in the Governor's budget again."

Senate Bill 64 also focuses on the MHC. Since the commission was created 17 years ago when the state purchased the towns, Ross said it is time to "clean up" the statutory language that delineates how the commission operates.

"When the state bought those assets back in the 90s, it was the first time the state had owned things like that," Welborn said. "There's language that needs to be updated because times have changed a little bit."

Two other bills – LC1130 and LC0725 – are not fully drafted, but if formally proposed, would impact the MHC. LC1130 would revise statewide tourism laws, and LC0725 would mandate a special tax on RVs and ATVs.

Want to read the bills for yourself? Go to leg.mt.gov and search under 2015 laws for specific bills by name, topic or sponsoring legislator.

SAFETY from pg. 1

regarding safety. The first is a keyless entry system, which will be completely in place later this month, Johnson said.

"Access to the building will be limited to the front door," Johnson said. "All students, community members and parents must check in at the office."

With the new system, whoever is stationed at the office also has the ability to lock the front door with the click of a button, effectively sealing off the school.

The safety committee also discussed visibility concerns. There are certain areas of the school where classroom interiors are visible from the outside or hallways, Johnson said. He added that the blinds are purchased as soon as possible.

Johnson said the committee also brought up the possibility of a staff concealed weapons policy – implementing something like that would require policy work and board approval, however.

"A big deterrent to an active shooter in a school is knowing that the school has staff that can carry concealed weapons," he said. "Some other Montana schools have this, but it's something we'd really have

to look into more closely and the board would have to check out the policy. Local school district boards can decide if they will allow it or not. It does come with liability issues and training requirements."

Board members Allison Wentzel and Lori Harshbarger make up the school board policy committee – Wentzel and Harshbarger will look into the possibility of a concealed weapons policy and examine the pros and cons.

Holding drills

Johnson said the school held a lockdown drill in December. In the next few weeks, the school will practice a lockdown with a "school grounds evacuation," which means all the students and staff exit the building and meet at the football field. In February, the school will work with the county to practice a lockdown and full evacuation.

Johnson said he was pleased with the outcome of the first drill – students and staff responded well. After each drill, the administration will review what worked well and areas of improvement – for instance, it will be under review

if the football field is the best place to meet, Johnson said.

Community questions

One parent in attendance asked if teachers and substitute teachers would be trained in the safety manual and fully understand how to respond in an emergency, especially if the protocol changes in the next few months.

"If we make any changes, the teachers and subs will be trained," Johnson told the crowd.

Sheriff Roger Thompson was also at the meeting to respond to community and parent concerns. He informed those in attendance that there is a minimum of two sheriff's deputies on duty at any given time in the county.

"The worst case scenario is a 20 – 25 minute response time in an emergency," he said. "We're stationed out of Virginia City, that's where we would be coming from."

A few parents asked if students will be trained to be aware – essentially, will students learn what rumors, situations or circumstances they should report to adults?

"Identifying things before they happen is the most proac-

tive course," Thompson said. "I think that's a great idea."

Another parent asked why they were not given information when a student with a "criminal history" was admitted to the school.

Both Wentzel and Johnson pointed out that the school is bound by privacy rights and can only release general directory information about a student without parental consent – they can only confirm a student's enrollment.

Johnson attempted to ease some community concern by reminding parents that the staff, teachers and administration work closely with every student in the building, monitoring the students and mitigating any potential issues before they come to fruition.

School clerk JoyAnn Breakall said she grew up in Twin Bridges when the children's home turned into more of a home for delinquent youths.

"We were taught to be kind," she said. "Twin Bridges was a community that could rise above. It has always been a place to lend a hand – a place that helped those who had a tough go."

SHERIFF from pg. 1

leadership skills are there."

Schenk, who was born and raised near Willow Creek, spent two years in the military before he joined the Montana Highway Patrol in 1973. Thirty years later, Schenk was stationed out of Bozeman and decided to run for sheriff of Madison County.

"I've always been involved in public service," he said, explaining his interest in the sheriff position. "I was reaching the end of my career as a state trooper and really knew the importance of good law enforcement."

Thompson moved to Madison County in May 2004

from King County, Wash., where he was a member of the King County Sheriff's Office for more than 20 years.

"My wife and I had vacationed here just about every year since we met, which is more than 30 years ago," Thompson said about Madison County. "I applied to be a deputy here – at that time our family was young and we thought this would be a great place to raise a family."

Schenk approached Thompson about a year and a half after he joined the Madison County Sheriff's Office and asked if he would be interested in the position of undersheriff. Thompson accepted, and the

two began working closely together to run the department.

Future of the department

Thompson said he decided to run for sheriff when Schenk decided not to because of a sense of loyalty to the department and the community.

"We have a great department with a terrific group of people," he said. "(Schenk) worked hard to get the department to where it is and I wanted to do a good job for everyone."

The direction of the department will not change, Thompson said, because he and Schenk have worked together for years.

"I just want to build

on what we've done already," he explained.

Thompson does have a few areas he wants to focus on, however.

"I want to get in the schools more and increase exposure of the department," he said. "I'd like to look into self-defense classes and crime prevention classes for the community."

Schenk is pleased to see Thompson in the position of sheriff.

"There has been a lot of progress and that will continue," he said. "(Thompson) will not have a problem. I'm glad he's taking over."

How well do YOU know Madison County?

This week's contest photo is courtesy of Kayla Sandru, who lives outside of Twin Bridges (hint, hint!). Give us a call at 682-7755 to identify this beautiful stretch of river!



THIS WEEK'S CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY

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Congrats to Willie Blazer of Ennis who correctly identified last week's photo as the Madison River between Varney Bridge and the town of Ennis. Great job, Willie!

MORE NEWS

DISTRICT COURT ROUND UP

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Shrader case to go to trial
Spencer Joseph Shrader ap-

peared at the Madison County Courthouse before Judge Loren Tucker for a pre-trial conference on Jan. 12, 2015.

The state, represented by Justin Ekwall, deputy county

attorney, initially filed charges against Shrader with the court on June 2, according to a filed Information. The Information charges Shrader with two counts – count one of criminal

endangerment, a felony, and the second count is partner or family member assault, a misdemeanor.

The charges stem from an April 29, 2014, incident in Harrison where the defendant

allegedly “purposely or knowingly caused reasonable apprehension of bodily injury” to his ex-girlfriend, drawing a loaded revolver from his truck in the midst of a heated argument,

according to court documents.

Ekwall motioned to drop the charge of criminal endangerment and the court granted that motion. A trial date with a six-person jury is set for Feb. 2, 2015.

ROOSEVELT IN THE MADISON VALLEY

Why the 26th president of the United States visited Southwest Montana

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Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, camped and hunted in the Madison Valley in 1886. He was in the area with Charles Marble – Buckskin Charlie – who was a taxidermist, trapper and big game hunter based out of Bozeman at the time.

Buckskin Charlie was born near Chicago, Ill., in 1864 and traveled to the Montana Territory in 1881.

In his manuscript, “Fifty Years in and Around Yellowstone Park,” Buckskin Charlie details a specific 40-day hunting trip with Roosevelt.

“We got our supplies in Bozeman, left by pack train up the Gallatin River,” Buckskin Charlie wrote. “As I remember it he was about 30 years old and wore glasses.”

The manuscript details the hunt – the men traveled through Taylor’s Fork and into the Madison Valley. Roosevelt successfully shot his first bear – a big black bear – near Indian Creek and Shedhorn Mountain. The hunters moved southeast near Yellowstone Park, before turning back and heading north along the Madison River, first camping near Cliff Lake and then at the West

Fork before heading to Ennis.

“When we hit the old stage road at Ennis, 20 miles east of Virginia City, we took up Cedar Creek in the Madison Range, crossed the divide into Jack Creek Park and camped several days beside the Spanish Peaks,” Buckskin Charlie wrote. “While here (Roosevelt’s) horse slipped and fell. (Roosevelt) landed right side up but the horse rolled over several times and split his gun stock almost off. I cut a buckskin string off the tail of my buckskin shirt and wrapped it up. When we got to camp I was going to fix it better but he objected and said he would rather have it as it was to remember Buckskin Charlie.”

The importance of Roosevelt’s time passing through Ennis is not lost on Jon Fossel, a Madison Valley resident.

Roosevelt is Fossel’s idol, and Fossel stumbled on the manuscript after his ranch manager Ed Coyle mentioned Buckskin Charlie.

“They were right here on the same land we walk now,” Fossel said emphatically. “Isn’t that cool?”

Fossel admires Roosevelt for many reasons. Roosevelt was a New York state legislator from 1882 – 84. Before Fossel relocated to Montana, he was a New Yorker who was also a state legislator, just 100 years after Roosevelt, though the men served

neighboring upstate districts.

Roosevelt was eventually elected governor of New York, and in 1993, Fossel had the republican nomination for governor “all sewn up.”

“I asked myself if I really wanted it,” Fossel said. “And

then, my answer was ‘no’ and I headed to Montana.”

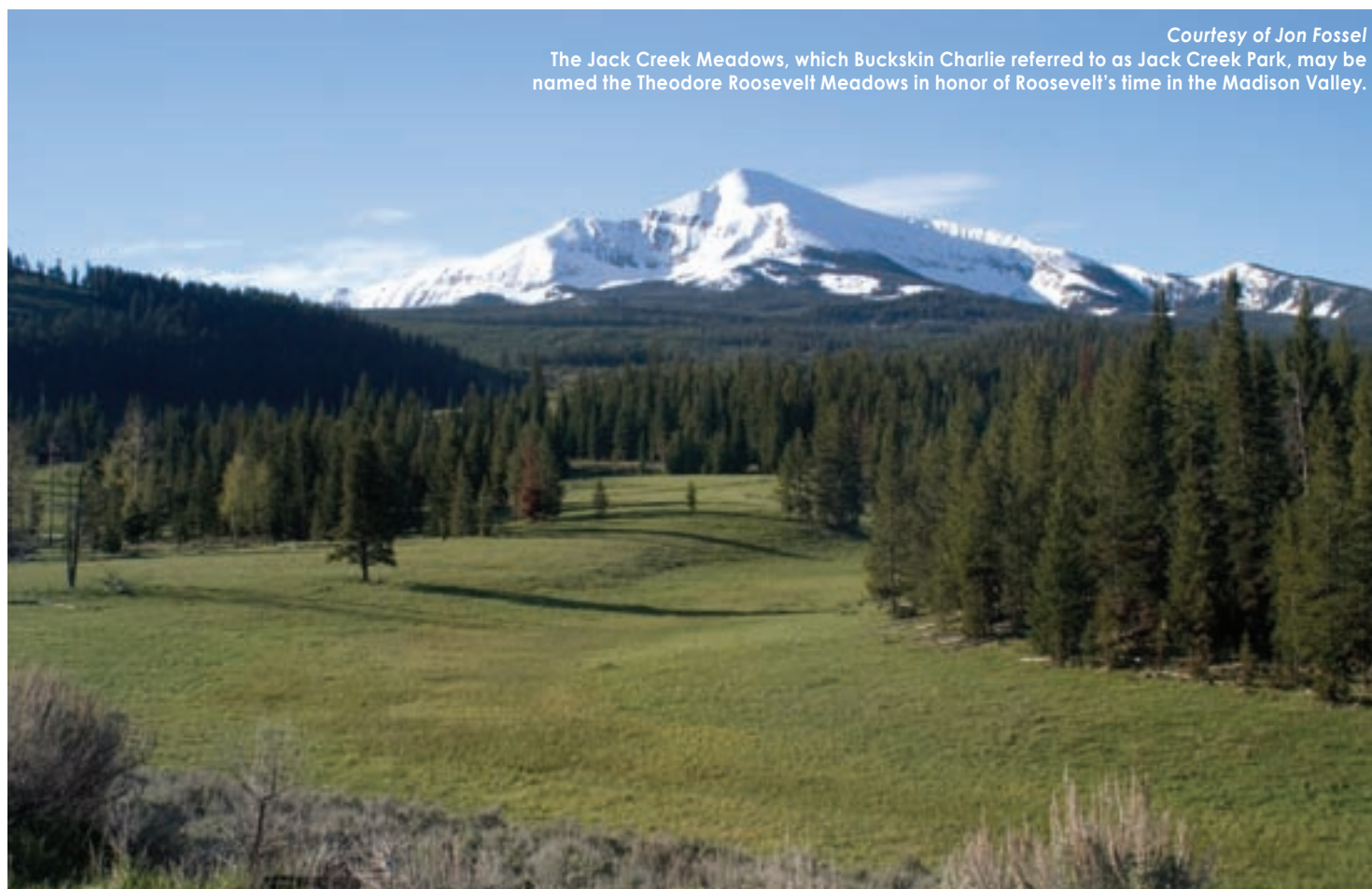
Aside from their similar political histories, Fossel and Roosevelt share related passions.

“He is a true example of a hunter conservationist,” Fossel said about Roosevelt.

In turn, Fossel co-founded the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation in the Madison Mountain Range, on the same land Roosevelt camped and hunted. The preserve emphasizes education and conservation... and Fossel is also a passionate bow

hunter and angler, like his idol.

Now, the preserve is considering naming the area Buckskin Charlie referred to as the “Jack Creek Park” the Theodore Roosevelt Meadows to acknowledge Roosevelt’s time in the Madison Valley.



Courtesy of Jon Fossel
The Jack Creek Meadows, which Buckskin Charlie referred to as Jack Creek Park, may be named the Theodore Roosevelt Meadows in honor of Roosevelt’s time in the Madison Valley.

Madison Conservation District changes complaint reporting policy

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At their December board meeting, the Madison Conservation District board voted unanimously to allow people to submit complaints anonymously. “If someone thinks someone else is doing work without a 310 permit, they used to have to fill out a complaint form, submit

pictures and sign it,” explained watershed coordinator Sunni Heikes-Knapton. “Now, they can submit that complaint to our office anonymously.”

The conservation district oversees all stream and river work in the Madison Valley, Heikes-Knapton explained. For example, if a landowner is replacing a culvert, doing stream restoration work, building a boat ramp or doing anything

that may impact a waterway, that landowner must apply for a 310 permit through the district before doing that work.

The permit is free, but a violation is a \$500 fine and the requirement the landowner fix the situation.

The board, made up of seven Madison Valley residents, decides whether or not to approve permits, based on guidelines from Montana

Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

“Once a permit comes into the office, a FWP biologist and our 310 specialist (Mel McKittrick) inspect the project and report back to the board,” explained board member Janet Endecott. “(The board) make the final decision.”

Endecott said some violations go unreported because people were “afraid” to put their names down.

“We really want the streams to be taken care of so if there is a problem we would like to know about it,” she said. “Conservation districts were started to get local people involved because local people know the area. That’s why someone from out of area doesn’t inspect projects, it’s a local person. I think that’s an important thing. We live here and we want it to be great.”

All the board members in

attendance at the December meeting – McKittrick, Endecott, Nick Dyk, Neil Kent and Kaye Suzuki – voted in favor of allowing the public to anonymously file complaints.

“This is all in hopes of encouraging more people to speak up,” Heikes-Knapton said. “A lot of people around here know a permit is needed, but maybe don’t want to turn their neighbors in.”

Need a 310 permit? Visit the Madison Conservation District online at madisoncd.net.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND UP

By Michael Wright
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

The 2015 Montana Legislature convened Jan. 5 and ceremonial and educational events welcomed the 150 lawmakers from all over the state to Helena.

During the swearing-in ceremonies, the leaders of each party said they hoped the parties would work together to better the state.

“I look around this room and see 50 individuals dedicated to making Montana a better place,” said new Senate President Debby Barrett, R-Dillon. Barrett is the first woman elected Senate president, and she spoke about increasing the power of the legislative branch.

“It is my goal to return the legislature to an equal footing with the other branches of government,” she said.

Senate Minority Leader Jon Sesso, D-Butte, said his party was looking forward to cooperating with folks from across the aisle.

“We intend to be a part of the majority of Senators working on the best ideas,” he said.

In the House, new Speaker Austin Knudsen, R-Culbertson, also talked about cooperation and noted that he didn’t seek to be the most powerful man in the room.

“The speaker’s role is not

to be a dictator,” he said.

House Minority Leader Chuck Hunter, D-Helena, was proud to point out that despite being overwhelmingly in the minority, there are two more Democrats than there were last session.

Republicans enjoyed a 61-39 majority in 2013. This session, it is a 59-41 majority.

Hunter called for investment in public schools and construction around the state.

Party priorities

The House and Senate Republicans sent out a press release on the first day that named their top priorities for the session, including “strengthening the economy, improving educational opportunities, safeguarding healthcare options and protecting individual rights.”

In the press release, Barrett called it the most coordinated plan she had ever seen from the two Republican caucuses.

Democrats from both chambers held a press conference on the first day to explain their priorities, which centered on investing in projects around the state.

Sesso said the party stands for families and communities, and said the state needs investment in a major way in communities through both bonding and using existing state funds.

The Democrats will be pushing Gov. Steve Bullock’s

version of Medicaid expansion, while the Republicans have been working on a solution of their own that does not include using new federal money.

Republicans will push for school choice, which is an effort to increase alternative options to public education.

New mural

The Montana Women’s Mural was unveiled in front of hundreds of spectators at the Capitol after a brief ceremony Wednesday.

The mural is the result of legislation passed in the 2011 session by then-Rep. Diane Sands and former Sen. Lynda Moss, who said women were not well represented in the other artwork in the Capitol.

Missoula artist Hadley Ferguson was chosen to paint the mural and at the ceremony she spoke to the crowd, which filled every inch of standing room around the mural, smart phones out snapping photos of the speakers and the new art.

“Hopefully any woman can look at these images and see a piece of themselves,” Ferguson said.

First Lady Lisa Bullock spoke at the ceremony, as did Barrett and Knudsen.

Rules

Rules dominated the news in the first week of the Mon-

tana Legislature. Democrats said some changes proposed by the GOP leadership were designed to give the party more power than they had before.

The fight centered on a rule that would have given Knudsen the power to effectively kill a bill by referring it to the House Appropriations committee when it came to the House floor for final debate. The change would have required 60 votes – commonly referred to as a super majority – to overturn his decision. The old rule required 51 votes, a simple majority.

That change was thrown out in the House Rules committee before the measure made it to the floor, but the Democrats did not rest there.

Hunter pushed for a simple majority on something called a “blast” motion, which would draw a dead bill out of committee and onto the floor. That amendment failed in committee.

However, Knudsen and Hunter did make a deal before Thursday’s floor session that would give each party six “silver bullets.” Silver bullets are requests for bills to be exceptions to the rule, requiring only a simple majority to be blasted out of committee.

Knudsen said they worked out a deal because there were amendments he and his party would not be able to

stop because of Republicans who were going to support Democrat amendments.

“The numbers are what they are,” Knudsen said.

Privacy, ag land valuation, sexual offender registry

The House Business and Labor committee heard a bill that would create some privacy guidelines for people with cars that have event data recorders. These devices record information about a driver’s habits while behind the wheel, for example whether they are too close to another vehicle or are speeding.

That data is helpful in accident investigations, but legislators and lobbyists had privacy concerns.

Proponents of the bill said that the data belongs to the drivers, and they worried that insurance companies might use it to charge people higher rates if the companies had unrestricted access to the data.

Representatives from insurance agencies like State Farm and Allstate said the bill would hurt innovation in the insurance business, adding that data is important to accurately evaluate risk.

The House Judiciary committee heard a bill on Friday that seeks to modernize the state’s sex offender registry. Rep. Sarah Laszloffy, R-

Billings, presented HB88, which would add e-mail addresses and social media information from sex offenders to the state sex offender registry.

Derek Van Luchene, speaking in support of the bill, told the story of his brother, Ryan, who was kidnapped and murdered by a sex offender in Libby in 1987. He said more protection was needed both in physical neighborhoods and “our digital neighborhoods.”

The bill also would increase the minimum time the offender is on the sex offender registry to 15 years instead of 10.

The Senate Taxation committee advanced a bill that would add legislators and give more power to the Agricultural Land Valuation Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Department of Revenue regarding land values.

If the bill becomes law, the Department of Revenue would only be able to change parts of how it decides land value – specifically the base water cost and capitalization rate of land – with recommendations from the committee. Four legislators in all would be added to the committee, two from the House and two from the Senate.

“I think that this puts the ag land valuation committee in the proper relationship,” said Sen. Dick Barrett, D-Missoula, who sponsored the bill.

OPINION

Majority rule vote should continue to work

Dear Editor,

It appears that the Tea Party has a solid foothold on the Republican majority in the 64th Legislature. Listening to the rhetoric of members Art Wittich, Austin Knudsen and Jeff Essman during the House rules committee confirms the extreme ideology of the right.

Amendments to remove rules requiring supermajority votes were voted down on straight party lines. The most onerous proposal to allow Knudsen's sole decision of whether or not to send bills to the appropriations committee was done away with, but other amendments which would give every Montana citizen's

representatives a chance to be heard on the House floor, or to be able to vote on a bill were overwhelmingly disapproved by the Republicans. Wittich stated that "at times majority should not rule and the supermajority should." The majority vote rule has worked for over 100 years in Montana. It is hoped that the moderates

of the Republican party will step up and actually act for all Montanans rather than be bullied by the extremists who are attempting, as happened in the House rules committee, to stifle the democratic process.

Pat Bradley
Twin Bridges

Ennis commission, mayor help community

Dear Editor,

In response to the recent letter in *The Madisonian* regarding our town commission and mayor: the writer may not reflect a full picture of the facts.

Those of us who have served with John Bancroft know he is not "a loose cannon." He is diligent in serving our community. He

has served on rural community and development, Ennis Planning Board and the Madison Valley Public Library, as well as the Ennis town commission. He has served as cancer support and driver and has done various things for many since 1992.

I for one, have never seen Bancroft "bullying" or verbally abusive at any time. He does work hard with us

and defends his own position. I have disagreed with him and never felt intimidated. There is no "anger management" issue with Bancroft.

Criticism and inappropriate action can and should be addressed in a civilized manner. Fear of reprisal is in the eye of the beholder. We moved to the town of Ennis in the mid-1970s and have not experienced nor heard from any oth-

er this self-inflicted emotion.

The full extend of, or lack of leadership accomplishments are best viewed – in my opinion – over the long term. Successes and failures of any position are always viewed differently be each of us and our interests.

Lyndall Morgan
Ennis

Ruby Valley Hospital benefits from CHC closure

Dear Editor,

In response to the article in last week's *The Madisonian* about the funding for a new hospital in Sheridan: They admitted that clos-

ing the Sheridan Community Health Center was to their benefit. Instead of 375 patients annually, they now have 600 patients annually. Also the clinic will be incorporated into the hospital.

Do you remember the meeting we all went to about the clinic closing and the firing of our wonderful doctor? Well now we know the hospital and the Butte CHC was behind it. This article is

based on my own opinion.

Susan Mullen
Alder

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ENNIS, MONTANA

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•Content must not be derogatory to competing companies or organizations.

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•There are no guarantees that press releases will be published.

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OBITUARIES

Ruth Dawn Theriault Davis March 3, 1937 - January 7, 2015



Ruth Dawn Theriault Davis was born on March 3, 1937, and passed away on Jan. 7, 2015, at home in Ennis leaving behind her husband of 57 years, seven children, 18 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and three siblings. Ruth had a contagious smile that warmed the hearts of everyone she met. Her caring heart touched the lives of many. She will

always be remembered for her dedication to her family. Ruth enjoyed camping, fishing, knitting, sewing and spending time with her family. She will be deeply missed by her family and anyone who knew her.

Survivors include her husband Ralph Davis; sons Keith (Carliisa) Davis, Guy Davis, Monte (April) Davis, Joel Davis; daughters Colette

Davis, Barbara (Kevin) Davis, Brenda (Cameron) Funke; sisters Veronica Connors, Carol (Erv) Kent; and brother Julian Theriault. She is preceded in death by her son Kenneth Davis; parents Milton and Minnie Theriault; sister Barbara Jensen; and brother Dennis Theriault. Services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday Jan. 17 at St. Patrick's Church in Ennis.

Lloyd E. Lyons March 27, 1924 - January 10, 2015

Lloyd E. Lyons, age 90, passed away January 10, 2015 at the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center in Sheridan.

Lloyd was born March 27, 1924, in Lamsburg, VA, to Charles and Julia (Jarrell) Lyons. He was raised and attended school in Lamsburg. He went to work for the CCC and at the age of 17 began his service with the Army Air Corps. While in the service

he was a top turret gunner on B17s completing numerous missions over Germany. After the service he worked for his father at his father's sawmill. During this time he began taking flying courses and in 1952 began his career as an airline pilot with Piedmont Airlines. He was their chief pilot for 25 years. He retired in 1984.

Upon his retirement he began enjoying Montana. He

owned his own pack string and packed often into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He was an avid fly fisherman, bear hunter and bird hunter. In 1984 he also started fox hunting with Sedgefield Fox Hunting Club.

Lloyd was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, three brothers, and a grandson, Charles Matthew Lyons.

Survivors include his sons Keith, Charles and

Kevin; daughter Lauren; grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; three sisters; and three brothers.

Cremation has taken place and services in North Carolina will be held at a later date.

K&L Mortuaries of Sheridan assisted with arrangements.



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News from the Manor



Courtesy of Melody Clark

Residents at the Madison Valley Manor enjoyed a prime rib Christmas dinner. Pictured is Dorothy Gail, George Mickleberry and Kaycee Hanson. Peggy Todd and daughter Lacey Insel from Arizona are in the background.



Courtesy of Melody Clark

Madison Valley Manor residents partied and celebrated the birthdays of Ed Williams Sr. and Karen Claassen this month. The Tune Tanglers were present playing their favorite songs along with auxiliary members. Some residents will be getting out of the facility next week for lunch in Twin Bridges.

Sheridan Schools announces December students of the month

Submitted by Emily McParland
SHERIDAN SCHOOLS

Students are chosen by faculty and staff members based on the following criteria: citizenship, leadership and academic attitude.

Kindergarten – Ben Patterson
First-grade – Brandin Crismore

Second-grade – Tristan Stout
Third-grade – Katie Hamilton
Fourth-grade – Abigail Curtis
Fifth-grade – Kole Hill
Sixth-grade – Delilah Puckett
Seventh-grade – Tia Hill
Eighth-grade – Isaac Bendon
Ninth-grade – Alessia Baker
10th-grade – Janie Smart
11th-grade – Hanna McParland
12th-grade – Caleb Bowey

Forensics in Ennis

Submitted by Marilyn Jenkins
ENNIS SCHOOLS

Ennis High School is hosting its annual community open house on Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. for the forensic team before the Southern Divisional Tournament the following weekend. Competitors placing in the top six in each event at the divisional tournament will move onto the state meet, which will

be in Ennis on Jan. 30 and 31. Multiple students will perform at the open house. Race Owens (memorized public address with analysis), Caelin Marum and McKenzie Shields (Lincoln Douglas debate), Christy Ackerman, Kelsie Frey and Emily Schaufler (serious oral interpretation), Bryson Glines and Krysta Saudners (humorous duo) and Rachel Ledgerwood (serious solo) will all perform.

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SPORTS



BASKETBALL ROUND UP

Kurtis Koenig

THE MADISONIAN

k.koenig@madisoniannews.com

BOYS

Twin Bridges Falcons 30, Whitehall 47

The Falcons rallied late against Whitehall last weekend but could not overcome their class B foe.

Twin Bridges could not scrape together a double digit quarter until the fourth stanza, scoring only 11 first half points.

Down 20-11 at the break, the Falcons could not quite ignite a comeback fire. Nolan Konen served up nine points and Wesley Armstrong added six in the loss. Twin Bridges 6 5 7 12 30 Whitehall 10 10 14 13 47

Twin Bridges Falcons 54, Lone Peak 33

The Falcons staved off a first half scare to convincingly win a conference matchup last weekend against Lone Peak.

Twin Bridges found themselves down four at the conclusion of the first quarter and though they outscored the 'Horns

in the second period, went to the locker room down 17-15. The Falcons have historically pounced on their opponent in the first quarter, but Lone Peak found a way to secure the early lead.

That is until quarter three.

The Falcons erupted with 18 points in the third stanza and erased Lone Peak's lead by holding the 'Horns to only seven buckets.

Tracen Eggers's 15 points and Nolan Konen's 12 helped the Falcons put the pedal to the metal and cruise to a huge fourth quarter and yet another conference win. Twin Bridges 7 8 18 21 54 Lone Peak 11 6 7 9 33

Sheridan Panthers 26, Manhattan Christian 81

The Panthers were unable to score more than eight points in any of the quarters as top-ranked Manhattan Christian flew to a lopsided win last weekend.

The sharp-shooting Eagles made good on seven shots from behind the arc and scored 27 first quarter points en-route to a 55-13 first half lead.

Colter Kenworthy managed to

bucket 12 points and Sam Wood added 11, but the Eagles were too much to handle. The struggling Panthers remain winless thus far. Sheridan 7 5 8 6 26 MCHS 27 28 11 15 81

Sheridan Panthers 29, Gardiner 68

The Panthers could not get anything going in their conference matchup against Gardiner last weekend.

The Bruins roared to a 22-8 first quarter lead and Sheridan had no answer for the sharp shooters from Gardiner. By half time the Bruins had scored all the points they needed for the win, but a 15 point third period advantage increased the Gardiner lead.

Sheridan managed a late run but it was too little too late. Colter Kenworthy led the Panther attack with nine points and Sam Wood chipped in eight in the losing effort. Sheridan 8 10 2 9 29 Gardiner 22 25 17 4 68

Ennis Mustangs 55, White Sulphur Springs 35

Though arguments could have been made suggesting that the Hornets would roll into Ennis and down their conference rivals, the Mustangs left no doubt in a convincing win last weekend.

Ennis shot an unprecedented 72 percent from the free-throw line and were perfect from the stripe in the first period to fuel a 14-8 lead at the end of one. Jake Knack knocked down seven of his game-high 14 points in that quarter as the Mustangs began to find their stride.

With a 31-18 first half lead secured, the Mustangs continued to pour it on.

Walker McKittrick and Knack combined for 11 points in the third period while the Mustangs extended their lead and never looked back. McKittrick finished with 13 buckets and Ty Morgan added 10 in the win. Ennis 14 17 18 6 55 WSS 8 10 9 8 35

Harrison Wildcats 51, West Yellowstone 35

Jed Fike earned a double-double and Zane VonBergen netted 19 points to hoist the Wildcats past West Yellowstone last week.

Fike piled up 11 points and shot perfectly from the line while snagging 14 rebounds in the win. He also picked six pockets.

Fike and VonBergen combined for nine first quarter points, which was more than enough to eclipse West Yellowstone's four.

The 'Cats went to the locker room with a 21-17 lead,

but the third quarter was the Fike-VonBergen show.

VonBergen netted eight points, including a pair of three-balls and Fike chipped in six. John Ervin added four of his 11 points in the third period and Harrison began to pull away.

Though the wildcats only shot 28 percent from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, they did end up there for 14 chances. Harrison would cruise to a convincing win 51-35. Harrison 15 6 18 12 51 West 13 13 9 9 35

GIRLS

Twin Bridges Lady Falcons 69, Lone Peak 44

Lone Peak could not keep pace with the hungry Lady Falcons last week as Twin Bridges dominated in the district matchup.

Twin Bridges leapt to a 23-12 first quarter lead and never looked back. Steadily improving freshman Kailee Oliverson shot a perfect 8-8 from the field and 3-4 from the free-throw line to pace her team in the win.

The Lady Falcons found their pace in the second quarter and enjoyed a 37-23 lead at the break. An explosive third stanza extended that lead by 16 points and the Falcons cruised to the win.

Megan Martin knocked down 13 points and Audrey George added 10 in the win. Twin Bridges 23 14 24 8 69 Lone Peak 12 11 8 13 44

Sheridan Lady Panthers 28, Manhattan Christian 57

The Lady Panthers hung in tough against a hard-nosed Manhattan Christian team, but they could not overcome a 19 point first half deficit last weekend.

The Eagles rocketed to a nine point first quarter advantage. The Lady Eagles shot the ball 60 times in the contest and completed eight of 14 free-throw attempts. The Panthers managed only 2-7 from the welfare line and a dismal 26 percent field goal percentage hurt them in the end.

Aggressive play allowed the Lady Panthers to keep pace with the Eagles in the second half but it was too late. Alexis Woirhaye led her team with 12 points while Janie Smart added nine in the loss. Sheridan 5 6 7 10 28 MCHS 14 16 16 11 57

Sheridan Lady Panthers 13, Gardiner 64

Only three Lady Panthers managed to score in the conference loss to Gar-

diner last weekend.

Janie Smart (7) Destiny Fabel (2) and Alexis Woirhaye (4) found the basket against a tough Lady Bruin team that put up 55 points in the first half.

The tenacious Gardiner defense held the Lady Panthers at bay while nine Lady Bruins scored points in the route. Sheridan 7 2 4 0 13 Gardiner 23 22 13 6 64

Ennis Lady Mustangs 34, White Sulphur Springs 27

The Lady Mustangs came from behind to upset a tough White Sulphur Springs team last weekend.

Only two days after the Ennis girls scored just one field goal against the Harrison Wildcats, six Lady 'Stangs put up points to defeat the Hornets.

Ennis trailed at the break 13-10 before taking the lead midway through the third quarter fueled by Brigit Croy's seven points. Croy would go on to earn game scoring honors with 13.

Though Ennis only managed 43 percent from the free-throw line, they shot 23 times from the stripe. However, in the second half the Lady 'Stangs made good on 8-14 to spur the comeback.

A 13 point fourth quarter for Ennis gave them enough of a lead to cruise to the conference win. Caitlin Klatt added eight points and Stephanie Weddle knocked down five in the win.

Ennis 5 5 11 13 34 WSS 7 6 5 9 27

Harrison Lady Wildcats 46, West Yellowstone 14

Britt Cooper continued her outstanding weekend by scoring 13 points to lead her Lady Wildcats to another huge win over the West Yellowstone Wolverines.

This time, however, teammate Addie Nesbit, on the strength of an eight-point third quarter, eclipsed Cooper and earned game scoring honors with 14.

In a game that was never really in question, the Lady 'Cats did what they do best. The held their opponent to 10 or fewer points in each quarter.

Allowing only two points from free-throws in the first half, Harrison was up 10-6 at the break. That is when Nesbit and Cooper erupted for 15 of their team's 22 third quarter points. Combine that with a defense that held the Wolverines to only two points (both free-throws), and this game was all but over.

Harrison continues its winning streak and remains undefeated in conference play. Harr 10 6 22 8 46 West 1 1 2 10 14

Twin Bridges Lady Falcons vs. Whitehall

* No statistics were made available at press time.



Photo courtesy Nancy Nesbit
Josie Hokanson drives past a Brigit Croy block.



Photo courtesy Nancy Nesbit
Senior Kyler Elliott drives to the basket while Senior Jarrod Nye tries to stop him.

BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Mustangs vs. Wildcats

Kurtis Koenig

THE MADISONIAN

k.koenig@madisoniannews.com

Britt Cooper drains 23, Lady Wildcats stun Mustangs

An interesting phenomenon occurred in Harrison last Thursday night. The Lady Wildcats hosted the Lady Mustangs in a basketball game in which both baskets seemed to have a lid firmly fastened over their opening. Though two basketballs can easily be passed simultaneously through the orange hoop, the Lady 'Cats and the Lady 'Stangs seemed to have difficulty with the transition of one.

That is unless you are Britt Cooper.

Ennis went home licking their wounds after the blow-out battle and they will certainly be reminded on their next meeting of just how effective Cooper is on the court. Cooper drained 23 points including 8-11 from the free-throw line and completed a double-double with her 10 rebounds.

But it is the Wildcat defense that will keep the district head coaches awake at night.

Neither team shot well in the

contest, which can always be attributed to one of three things: poor shooting, stellar defense or a combination of both.

Last Thursday night, it was the latter.

It took three minutes for the first points of the game to be scored. Cooper buried a three off of a nice Taya DeFrance screen after the Wildcats recovered three offensive boards. Ennis earned a few nice looks at the basket, but their shots contacted nothing but iron.

Cooper continued the 10-0 Harrison run with a pair of smooth drives and she made good on 3-4 shots from the penalty stripe.

Both teams sported a man-defense, and Ennis skipper Nick Burgess tried a few different players on the hot-handed Cooper.

Ennis came away from the quarter empty handed. Two and a half minutes into the second stanza, DeFrance broke the streak and became the second person to score in the game with a long field goal. Two plays later, Cooper dazzled the home crowd with a finger roll to extend the Wildcat lead.

Brigit Croy put her Mustangs on the board by hitting the second half of a pair of free-throws. That point would be all Ennis could muster in the first half.

After the break, Cooper continued her dominance but Alecia Panagakis and Addie Nesbit chipped in a few points as well. With 3:30 remaining in the third quarter, Taylre Sitz scored the Lady Mustangs' only field goal of the night with a 19-foot jumper.

Ennis struggled with ball control as the relentless, ever-present Wildcat defense forced hasty passes and created general disarray. Though down 26-5 at the start of the fourth quarter, Ennis refused to lie down.

And Harrison refused to take their foot off the gas. The transition and key play continued to escalate for the first two and a half minutes into the fourth quarter. This caused Ennis's Caitlin Klatt, a strong inside presence, to sit much of the second half due to foul trouble. She still managed to lead her Mustangs with four points.

Cooper broke the scoring drought with a chance at a three-point play with 5:20 remaining. She missed the charity toss, but her bucket put the Wildcats up 29-5. Ten seconds later, both coaches called in the reserves to hash out a final score.

The Lady 'Cats remain undefeated in conference play with a 31-7 win over Ennis. Harrison's defense is a

force to be reckoned with. In the past six outings, they have held their opponents to 21, 24, 15, 15, 14 and seven points. This week that defense will be put to the test when they play a top-shelf Three Forks team on Friday. They will then challenge a tough Shields Valley club.

However, the Harrison-Twin Bridges game on Jan. 22 is shaping up to be a game with conference-crown implications. That will not be one to miss.

Harrison 10 6 10 5 31 Ennis 0 1 4 3 7

Ennis Boys use huge fourth quarter to escape Wildcats

As soon as the girls broke the seal on the baskets, the boys came in and put on a show. Twenty-seven points were scored from behind the big arc as the Mustangs pounded out a conference victory that could have gone either way in the fourth quarter.

One thing became perfectly clear in the early moments of the game: these two teams love to run.

Transition play became the modus operandi in this contest of speed shooting. In the fast-paced contest, Harrison's Jed Fike struck first with a nice floater to give the Wildcats an early lead. Steadily improving sophomore Ty Morgan completed a three-point play two transitions later to take it back. The battle between Fike,

who finished with a game high 25 points, and Morgan who followed close behind with 19, began to manifest itself.

Fike slashed through the key repeatedly throughout the night. If he did not come away with two points or a pair of free-throws, Morgan came away with a rebound.

Harrison recognized that Ennis was not hitting solid from the outside and dropped into a 2-3 zone with 3:30 left in the first. The Mustangs tossed around a few hasty passes, which Harrison greedily snatched up. With 2:15 remaining, the quarter belonged to anyone.

Then Ennis hit a stride. Morgan snagged his fifth rebound of the quarter and put it back up for two. One steal and a quick pass later and Gavin McKittrick drained a deep three-ball. A rebound and a quick pass later Walker McKittrick knocked down a three-point play. The eight-point run gave the Mustangs a 15-7 lead that they would extend to 19-9 at quarter's end.

Harrison would not roll over. Fike drained his first three of the night with only eight seconds off the clock in the second quarter. The Wildcats switched to a man defense in order to contain W. McKittrick and Morgan.

This let Troy Fortner loose – he knocked down four consecutive points to extend Ennis's lead. Chas Buus answered right back with a deep three-pointer

and it seemed for a few minutes that neither team could miss. Ennis would get the edge and the half-time lead, 31-19.

Harrison had a few second-half tricks up its sleeve.

The Wildcats methodically chewed up the Mustang lead in the third quarter and got to within eight points on the strength of two consecutive Fike steals. The Wildcats, on a 6-0 run, appeared to have all the momentum going into the final quarter and down 42-32.

Enter the Mustangs' dark horse.

Cole Crowley knocked down three three-balls and buried three free-throws to pace Ennis's 30-point fourth quarter. Crowley, a junior, was aided by Fortner, who also nabbed a three and Morgan who found himself in a pair of three-point play scenarios.

Despite the momentum shift, Fike and his 'Cats still had more fight in them.

Fike buried 14 points in the fourth quarter including a 4-6 effort from the free-throw line. In the end, it was not enough. Ennis pulled away and downed the Wildcats 72-52.

Zane VonBergen added 12 points for the Wildcats and W. McKittrick finished with 15 for Ennis.

Ennis 19 12 11 30 72 Harrison 9 10 13 20 52

HOBY



Courtesy of Gail Banks

Twin Bridges High School senior Spencer Stewart recently received his certificate from the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership for 100 hours of community volunteer service. He also received a presidential volunteer service award for 2014. As a school sophomore, Stewart attended HOBY in Missoula – it was there that he took on the challenge to give 100 hours of community service in one year to his school and community. Stewart helped tutor at the school after school program, helped elder residents of Twin Bridges do yard work and after the terrible wind storm that hit the Twin Bridges area, Stewart helped with the town clean up to earn his 100 hours.

Twin Bridges American Legion oratorical scholarship contest

Submitted by Debra McNeill
AMERICAN LEGION POST
#31, TWIN BRIDGES

The American Legion Post #31 of Twin Bridges invites the Ruby Valley community to attend the American Legion oratorical scholarship program's A Constitutional Speech Contest, on Wednesday, Jan. 21, starting at 4 p.m. in the Montana Room of Twin Bridges School. Students from Twin Bridges School will be presenting prepared and extemporaneous speeches regarding citizenship and the U.S. constitution in a competition for a spot at the district competition with the ultimate objective of participating in the national

competition in Indianapolis. The objective of the competition is to "instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the constitution of the United States in high school students." To this end, each contestant will give two speeches. The first is a prepared speech on an area of the U.S. constitution emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to her/his government. The second speech is a short, extemporaneous response to an assigned topic from the constitution. The winner of the Twin Bridges competition will receive a \$100 award, which may be used to defray travel expenses to the district competition. District competition

winners receive a \$250 award. The American Legion pays the travel expenses for each state's winner and a chaperone to the national contest in Indianapolis, IN. The winner of the national contest will receive a scholarship for \$18,000. The second place contestant will receive a \$16,000 scholarship and third place receives \$14,000. A total of \$138,000 is given in scholarships at the national level by the American Legion. The American Legion has sponsored this competition since 1938. For more information regarding this program and to see a video of the winning 2014 presentation, please visit www.legion.org/oratorical.

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DISPATCH LOG

Jan. 4 – Jan. 10, 2015

Jan. 4

Alarm in 300 Blk of Olive Way Ennis
Civil Standby in Sheridan
Accident with damage at MT Hwy 41 MM 20
Unfounded 911 call
Animal Theft Complaint/follow up Ennis
Traffic Complaint at MT Hwy 41 MM 55
Citizen Assist on North Meadow Creek Rd McAllister
Traffic Complaint on US Hwy 287 Virginia City
Suspicious Person/Circumstance in Ennis

Jan. 5

Welfare Check in 200 Blk of Poppleton St Sheridan
Welfare Check in 100 Blk of W Main St Ennis
Unfounded 911 Call
Accident with Damage at 3rd and Main St Ennis
Welfare Check in 500 Blk of Mill Creek Sheridan
Unfounded 911 Call

Jan. 6

Suspicious Person/Circumstance at MT Hwy 41 MM 50
Suspicious Person/Circumstance at Golf Course Dr Ennis
Welfare Check in 200 Blk E Williams St Ennis
Civil Standby in 100 Blk E 5th Ave Twin Bridges
Suspicious Person/Circum-

stance at MT Hwy 359 & Armstrong Rd Cardwell
Traffic Complaint at MT Hwy 287 MM 21
Citizen Assist at MVMC in Ennis

Jan. 7

Coroner Call in Shining Mountains Ennis
Unfounded 911 Call in 300 Blk Madison St Sheridan
Welfare Check on Two Bumps Loop Ennis
Unfounded 911 Call Virginia City
Suspicious Person/Circumstance in 800 Blk Madison Ave Ennis

Jan. 8

Unfounded 911 Call Virginia City
Accident at US Hwy 287 MM 60
Dog Complaint on Dolly Varden Dr McAllister
Unfounded 911 Call Virginia City
Traffic Complaint at US Hwy 287 MM 73
Unfounded 911 Call Virginia City

Jan. 9

Welfare Check in 200 Blk N 2nd St Ennis
Animal Problem at MT Hwy 287 MM 18
Unfounded 911 Call in Virginia City

Dog Complaint at Ennis Dump Site
Privacy in Communications in 100 Blk Shining Mountains Loop Rd Ennis
Alarm in 4000 Blk US Hwy 287 N
Unfounded 911 Call in Virginia City
Domestic Disturbance on Tobe Ln Ennis

Jan. 10

Unfounded 911 Call on Ennis Lake Rd Ennis
Alarm on Boulder Lakes Rd Silver Star
Dog Complaint in 100 Blk Otis Ave Ennis
Dog Complaint at US Hwy 287 MM 72



Sadie is home

After more than four months of relentless searching, posters everywhere, newspaper articles, Facebook, TV news interviews and countless, nationwide prayers, along with 24/7 personal despair and sadness, Sadie is finally home.

I was especially sad on Christmas Eve. Sadie, my best friend and only family west of the Mississippi was absent. That afternoon, an anonymous phone call was received which led to an immediate fast-forward of Sadie's rescue.

I find it difficult to list everyone who contributed so much in so many different ways to her rescue.

First and foremost is our Father in heaven who kept my hope, faith and trust in Him strong by way of not only my daily prayers, but the prayers of, well, thousands of others nationwide.

I'd also like to name my sister Louise in Pennsylvania and, locally, Mike and Eileen White and family and staff, Nancy, Jill, Gwen, Lisa, Sheila, Karen, Vicka, Linda, Melissa and the entire Ennis and Madison County community who have gone above and beyond in support.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office along with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office were extremely helpful along with Red and Nancy of Eureka, Calif.

*Many thanks and God bless you all.
Sadie and Bobby*



The Twin Bridges Senior & Community Center Board of Directors would like to thank all the businesses, foundations, corporations, ranches, community members, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for their generous support for Phase II of the Capital Campaign to build a Senior & Community Center in Twin Bridges. Because of your generosity, we are pleased to announce that we successfully met our \$545,868 Capital Campaign "Construction Goal" in December 2014. \$100,000 is our projected goal for Phase III of the Capital Campaign known as the Finish Phase FFE "Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment". Thanks to a \$10,000 gift from the Ruby Valley Foundation we have the funds set aside to purchase a commercial gas range and convection oven for the Senior & Community Center, which leaves us with a \$90,000 goal for Phase III.

The Twin Bridges Senior & Community Center will be located at 501 North Madison Street in Twin Bridges.

Construction is scheduled to start on April 1, 2015.

The Center is scheduled to open at the end of December 2015.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and on-going support for the Twin Bridges Senior & Community Center Project, "A Place for Everyone".

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year.

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Registration Form

Ennis Continuing Education Registration Form

Please print and fill out form completely. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Name: _____

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Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

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Course Title #1: _____

Course Title #2: _____

Check # and Amount: _____

Please make checks payable to: Ennis High School, c/o ECE Program, PO BOX 517, Ennis, MT 59729

1. Select the course(s) you would like to take
2. Fill out the registration form above
3. Mail it and a personal check (\$20/class) to the school OR simply provide both to your instructor at your first class session.

682-4258 • WWW.ENNIS-ECE.ORG

Record high visitation for Montana State Parks

Submitted by Betsy Kirkeby
MONTANA STATE PARKS

In 2014, Montana's 55 state parks experienced 2.255 million visits, setting record high visitation for the second straight year. From January to December 2014, the statewide visitation numbers show a 3 percent increase over 2013.

Overall, the North Central Region (Great Falls area) saw the highest annual visitation in 2014 with 593,000 visits and Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls had the highest visitation for the year of all state parks with more than 316,000 visits.

In addition to record visitation numbers, Montana State Parks also experienced increased participation in volunteerism. In 2014, volunteers dedicated almost 43,000 hours to state park operations and programs, which is the equivalent of more than 20 full time employees.

"The growth in our visitation and volunteer support is very exciting," said Chas Van Genderen, administrator for Montana State Parks. "Since 2002, annual park use has increased by a million visits. This trend has led to greater demands for staffing and services in our parks. Our

volunteers are vital to meeting those demands. We thank the public for their ongoing support, and look forward to continued growth for years to come."

The Top 5 Parks for annual visitation:
1 – Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls (316,483 visits)
2 – Lake Elmo State Park in Billings (163,265 visits)
3 – Cooney State Park in Roberts (160,070 visits)
4 – Spring Meadow Lake State Park in Helena (141,727 visits)
5 – Wayfarers State Park in Kalispell (133,473 visits)

Fish and Wildlife Commission video conference

Submitted by Tom Palmer
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana's Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet via video conference call Jan. 15. The call, set to begin at 8:30 a.m., will be video streamed live at Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters in Helena and at each FWP regional office.

There are three final-action items on the commission's agenda: a land donation for a fishing access site near Logan; an instream-flow acquisition on Long Creek near Lima to benefit Arctic grayling; and

approval of a list of waters where bait seining is allowed.

Items proposed for public comment include an off-season closure of the White Bear fishing access site near Great Falls to curtail recent vandalism; commercial-use fee rules; and fishing access site rules.

Additionally, a boundary change and license-quota reduction from one to zero is proposed for bighorn sheep in hunting district 315 in the Tendoy Mountains near Lima. The proposed changes are in response to a population that is struggling with poor lamb

survival. The proposed changes also anticipate a possible future population augmentation.

FWP will also ask the commission for an endorsement to possibly move 10-20 bighorn sheep from the Tendoy Mountains to an out-of-state disease-research facility if such a facility is found.

The commission will also be informed about FWP starting the process to write a new mountain lion conservation plan.

For the full agenda and additional information, visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

FWP to host brucellosis discussion

Submitted by Ron Aasheim
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will host a half-day discussion on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman, Saturday, Jan. 17, on topics related to the transmission of brucellosis from elk to cattle in southwest Montana.

FWP has assembled a diverse group of experts to discuss brucellosis in elk, disease genetics and livestock investigation

techniques and processes. A panel discussion among presenters will be facilitated by Dr. Mike Mitchell, leader of the University of Montana's Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

"FWP has heard from some constituents about providing more information on the science that identifies elk as one possible source of brucellosis infection in cattle in parts of southwestern Montana," said Jeff Hagener, director of FWP in Helena. "In response, we've

assembled this presentation to illustrate that science."

The session is designed to describe, inform and discuss data addressing the potential for some elk in southwestern Montana to infect livestock with brucellosis, a disease that can cause some pregnant bison, elk and domestic cattle to abort their first calf.

The talks are open to the public and are set for 8:30 a.m. to noon on Jan. 17 at 101 Gaines Hall on the MSU campus.



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Ask the Expert

Local businesses have the information you need to make a variety of decisions. Best of all, they are here and available to meet your needs. In our "Ask the Experts" section, we went to these local experts for information on topics important to you.

Ask the Expert forum appears the second Thursday of each month. If you have questions for these area professionals e-mail us at editor@madisoniannews.com.

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD



Q: Every year I make resolutions to be healthier in various ways, exercise more or quit eating Snickers bars. My resolutions never stick very long because I hate to run and I do love candy. Do you know any secrets for a lazy man's way to fitness?

A: Try making a resolution you can live with, maybe just fewer Snickers bars. Find some exercise you enjoy, try walking or yoga. Rather than worrying about living without Snickers, add healthy foods that taste good to you into your diet. At The Shovel and Spoon, we offer a menu full of foods that are nutritious and delicious, including hearty soups full of fresh vegetable goodness and whole grain cinnamon rolls baked fresh in our kitchen, always from scratch. The Shovel and Spoon has gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian options. We resolve to serve a variety of interesting, healthy foods, which are above all delicious. A healthy lifestyle need not be torture. Enjoy!

Janet Marsh, Owner
Shovel and Spoon • 406-842-7999

AUCTIONS



Q: How does 2015 look for the auction business?

A: If our New Year's Day Auction was any indication, 2015 is looking great! We couldn't fit any more people in the community center without making everyone sit on someone else's lap! Great prices too! The 140 KW Cummins Propane Generator went to a ranch in Reed Point for irrigation pumps, the custom trusses went to Helena for a new home and our \$100 CASH prize went to Avon, Mont., with a very nice family that comes to almost every one of our auctions! With over 300 people in attendance, merchandise went out from Whitehall to all over the state – from Missoula, Butte and Great Falls to Bozeman, Billings and all points in between! So, if you are thinking about selling your estate, business or personal items at auction, we welcome you to come out to one of our auctions and check us out first hand. Our next auction will be Feb 1st in Whitehall. We look forward to seeing you there!

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BUSINESS CONSULTING



Q: I own a small business with fewer than 5 employees. Why would I need documented job descriptions for my employees?

A: Job descriptions outline the main responsibilities and tasks for each employee. If your business consists of employees that have been working there for years, everything is running smoothly, and you don't anticipate having to hire new employees, it's possible you don't need job descriptions. But chances are, things could run more smoothly and/or you may have to hire new employees. In either case, documenting the responsibilities and tasks of each job or role in your company, and then gaining agreement from those in the jobs, or even having them help create the document, will benefit your operations. You can use documented job descriptions to create "help wanted" advertisements, set expectations with new employees, review current employees' responsibilities and ensure that all tasks necessary for efficiently running your business are covered. If you have questions or need assistance with creating customized job descriptions, call Carol Delisi at Facilitating by Design.

Carol Delisi, Learning Consultant
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YOUR EXPERTISE

Q: A question frequently asked by your customers.

A: This is your opportunity to provide your current and future customers with accurate, valuable information about your product or service.

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BOOKKEEPING



Q: Should I be feeding my birds this winter?

A: Yes, having a predictable food supply provides many benefits for the birds, especially during periods of extreme cold weather. Birds with access to feeders are able to obtain a large amount of energy in a short period of time with a minimum amount of foraging. Winter survival rates for some birds can be twice as high when they have feeders within their home range. Provide high-energy foods and fat, such as peanuts, nyjer and suet. These foods help provide the extra calories birds need to stay warm. Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatches and many other birds utilize the extra calories from these sources to keep their bodies warm in the winter. Birds also need a source of open or unfrozen water during the winter. By providing a heated birdbath, birds will be able to enjoy a hearty drink and have a place to bathe in order to keep their feathers clean.

Debi Naccarto, Owner
WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED • 406-219-2066

INSURANCE

Q: How do I prevent water damage from freezing pipes?

A: Property damage due to plumbing failures and freezing pipes is the second most common cause of homeowner loss. January is the most common month for pipes to freeze and burst. Take these precautions to prevent a costly disaster in your home:

- Insulate pipes, especially those close to outside walls, attics or crawl spaces
- Seal air leaks near pipes
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage
- Disconnect outdoor hoses and turn off water to exterior faucets and sprinkler systems
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate
- Keep heat at 65 degrees F. or higher even when you are out of town
- During a cold spell, turn on hot and cold faucets near outside walls to allow a small trickle of water during the night
- If you need to be away from home, leave the heat on and drain your water system before you go
- Identify shutoff valve locations so you are prepared to stop the flow of water when a pipe bursts

Amanda Smethurst, Agent
THE AGENCY INSURANCE DIVISION • 406-682-4202



DENTISTRY

Q: I don't have insurance, how can I afford dental care?

A: Insurance should never dictate your physical, mental or oral health. Whitehall Dental Group is committed to providing the very best dental care available and offer a variety of ways to pay for treatment. We offer a Membership Plan that includes preventive care, x-rays and a discount on restorative work. We also offer a cash discount and various payment plans to qualified patients. The mouth is the gateway to overall health. Many health issues can be detected in the mouth first. Preventive care is valuable to the overall oral health. In addition to regular brushing and flossing of teeth and gums, it is recommended you visit your dentist twice a year. The Hygienist will remove tartar and plaque, check gum tissue health and recommend the right brush and floss. The dentist will check teeth for decay, the condition of previous restorations and do an oral cancer screening. X-rays are used to evaluate tooth structure and the health of your teeth and gums. We would love to provide you with the knowledge and the best products to help you maintain and keep your teeth for the rest of your life.

Cheryll McCloskey, Office Manager
Whitehall Dental Group • 406-287-3026



REAL ESTATE

Q: Is this a good time to list my property?

A: It is a great time to explore your options! But you need to figure out what is best for you. The 2014 statistics show that we have once again reached a record number of residential sales, 75 (including Harrison, Virginia City, & Cardwell). Not only have the number of sales improved, but prices are also increasing. In-town homes (15 sales as reported on the SWMLS) sold for an average of \$160,000 – up 13% from 2013. Out of town homes (60 reported to the MLS outside Ennis proper) sold for an average of \$336,000 – up 11% from 2013. The market has definitely improved. Bare land and commercial statistics are harder to capture due to limited number of sales. Contact your favorite REALTOR for a comparative market analysis or to discuss past market trends and see what we believe 2015 will bring.

Melinda Merrill, Broker
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GENERAL HEALTH

Q: What services does Madison Valley Medical Center offer beyond the clinic and ER that may allow me to stay close to home?

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Madison Valley Medical Center
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Ask the Expert



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Kathy Swett. Montana winter sunset on Highway 287.

December at TRMCC

Submitted by Roseann Troyer
TOBACCO ROOT MOUNTAINS CARE CENTER

Dashing December has already come and gone – what a fast month.

The month started with our lively resident council on Dec. 2. On Dec. 3, students from the PALS Program came and visited for a spell. These students are in fourth through sixth-grade. They were very entertaining. Red and green attired cloggers brightened our day with their boisterous dance moves. Everyone was busy on Dec. 5 decorating Christmas cookies to give to family members. We baked extra taking breakage into account. We had a marvelous time. We had frosting and gaily colored sprinkles from windowsills to the floor. The next week we picked out and addressed several Christmas cards.

Dec. 12 was our most well attended Christmas party ever. Over 130 people came to share their time with family members and friends. Our care center was festively decorated. Our huge 12 foot tree was surrounded by many sizes and colors of gifts. Our dietary department put out a delicious array of food. Everything from hot and zesty meatballs, fresh crab salad and raspberry filled sugar

cookies. Santa arrived and visited every resident and helped pass out the numerous packages. Our residents must have been very good. Everyone received a present. We also held our Christmas raffle – thanks to our very many volunteers sharing their time and talents. Thank you to everyone who helped our residents have a great Christmas.

The Ruby Valley chorale entertained us on Dec.

14 at 4 p.m. They were very good.

The next week we finished our Christmas cards. On Dec. 23 Mike Boston came from Butte and played Christmas carols and read the Christmas story to us in our dayroom.

Christmas Day everyone received another gift and enjoyed a holiday meal with all the trimmings.

We ended the year with a happy hour, patiently awaiting 2015. Happy New Year!

Curly and Bebe Mantha enjoy the Christmas party.



4 P A W S RESCUE PET OF THE WEEK



CARMEL

Just thought I'd let you all know I got adopted by a wonderful family. I just love them. I play with the dog and, altho the other cat doesn't like me much, she will. I just know I can wrap her around my little paw once she gets used to having me around. There's so much love in this home, I can't believe it. GOD was so good to me. HE answered my prayers. Soooo, while I won't go home with you, you can still get a wonderful companion like me. Just call the folks at the rescue. You can call Misty: 439-1405 or Afion: 287-3613. Just tell them I told you to call. Love ya, Carmel

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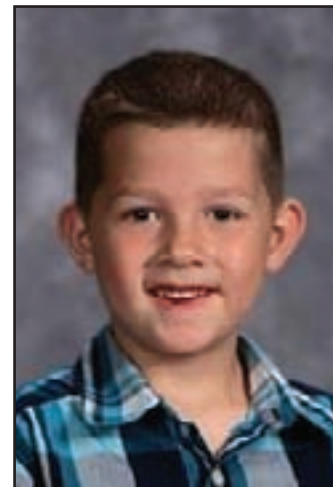
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STUDENT OF THE WEEK HARRISON



Morgan Taylor is a second grader at Harrison Elementary School. Morgan is a conscientious, hard-working young man. Morgan is a good friend to all of his classmates and tries to include all of his peers in outside games. Morgan is a joy to have in class because he is a good listener and is always willing to go the extra mile to help out in the classroom. Morgan is the son of Parker and Jamie Taylor.

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday



Partly cloudy. Highs 30 to 35.

Friday



Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 20 to 25. Highs 30 to 40.

Saturday



Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 40.

Sunday



Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain and snow. Lows 20 to 30. Highs 30 to 40.

Monday



Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 20 to 25. Highs 30 to 40.

Quote of the Week:

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

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CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT

Abigail Dennis/The Madisonian

Donald Rumsfeld, 13th and 21st United States Secretary of Defense, addresses a crowd of Ruby Valley residents and veterans on Jan. 10. Joe Carroll, a former B17 pilot shares stories from his 35 combat missions during World War II.

Donald Rumsfeld thanks a group of Ruby Valley World War II veterans at a ceremony honoring their service on Jan. 10.

WWII VETERANS HONORED IN THE RUBY VALLEY

“The only thing that protects us are the individuals willing to serve.” – Donald Rumsfeld

Abigail Dennis
THE MADISONIAN
a.dennis@madisoniannews.com

“Everyone who benefits from living in this country needs to pause more than on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and say, ‘thank you,’” Donald Rumsfeld told a group of World War II veterans at the Dayspring Church in the Ruby Valley on Jan. 10. “The only thing that protects us are the individuals willing to serve. These, and all our veterans, deserve undying gratitude.”

Rumsfeld, who served as the 13th and 21st United States Secretary of Defense, attended the event after one of his employees who is also a member of the church mentioned it.

“She told him what was going on and asked him if he wanted to be there and he said absolutely,” said Joel Trenkle, the church pastor.

The entire event was organized by Bob Fryer, a member of the church, who first had the idea to honor WWII veterans in the area after he met Joe Carroll and noticed his bomber jacket that sarcastically says “tell them I called,” across the back.

Carroll, who flew B17 planes in WWII said the bombs they dropped were anywhere from 500 to 1,000 pounds, but, “tell them I called,” as if a 1,000 pound bomb would go unnoticed. Carroll told the crowd he flew in 35 combat air missions, for the 35th, he

was part of the largest air strike on Berlin, Germany.

The church hosted a lunch for the veterans and their families before welcoming the public in to hear from the men who served in WWII – Rumsfeld was in attendance to speak to the veterans and answer questions from the community. Once the meal wrapped up, Fryer took the chance to introduce the veterans who stayed to share their stories with the community and also presented them with a plaque to honor their service.

Carroll, Bill Lester, Bob Hoffman, Hank Hancock, Allen Fox, Dick Todd, Dell Hartford and Bob Birrer shared bits of their histories with the community.

Hartford served in the

Army in Germany, directly after the European armistice – he was part of the army of occupation. Following his basic training, Hartford remembers wanting to go to Japan, which is where the combat was.

“I don’t know how anyone could not feel patriotic,” Hartford said. “I wanted to go to Japan so bad. But what did they do? They sent me to Germany as a truck driver.”

Next, Lester told the story of flying a B17 during the war. He was piloting a plane when enemy fire knocked the nose right off the aircraft. Lester and his navigator were in the nose and were instantly hit with a blast of negative 65 degree wind.

“I tell you, we got out of there fast,” he said.

Hancock, born and bred in Virginia City, had never left Montana’s borders before he joined the military. He was 21 years old and had been married six months when he found himself in Nebraska for basic training. Then, Florida, Trinidad, Brazil, Senegal, Morocco, Tunisia and Italy.

While flying a B24 bomber, Hancock was shot down over Germany. It was his 24th mission.

He was taken captive and placed in a German prisoner of war camp for eight months – the final two months, Hancock was marched back and forth across the country because his captors were avoiding Russian troops.

“It was about 500 miles, all by foot,” Hancock said. “I was 175 pounds and ended

up at 120 pounds. But I’m 94 (years old) and still here.”

Combat engineer Hoffman was part of one of the first troops to enter Vietnam, and when his turn to speak came, he thanked the unsung heroes of the war – the mess hall workers, latrine cleaners and more.

Both Birrer and Todd thanked the community for attending, and the event organizers for making the effort to plan the day.

“We guys who haven’t had the sense to go when our time came thank you,” Fox said, jokingly. “There aren’t many of us left.”

Trenkle said he thought the event was “great.”

“Our purpose was to honor them and I believe they felt that,” he concluded.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Job seekers: resolve to make a better impression in 2015

Submitted by StatePoint

First impressions matter, particularly when you are in the market for a new job. While a top-notch resume and cover letter can help get your foot in the door,

only you can seal the deal.

The New Year is the perfect time to revamp your look for a smooth job search. Make a strong first impression at your next interview or networking event with these easy tips:

- Be a good listener. What

you say is just as important as being engaged when others are talking. Make good eye contact and ask questions to show you are interested in what is being said.

• Anticipate the questions you will be asked so you are prepared with intelligent, confident and articulate responses. Define your strengths and weaknesses ahead of time to answer every hard question with ease.

• Get a good night's sleep the night before an important interview or convention. Not only will you look fresher and more alert in the morning, you will be thinking more clearly as well.

• Know how to explain any gaps in your resume. If you have taken time off from your field to pursue a passion for travel, be ready to discuss this time off and explain how it has helped you professionally.

• Prepare your 30-second elevator pitch to communicate your strengths and goals. You never know where a conversation with a hiring manager may lead, so be sure to tailor it to each person you speak with so it does not sound over-rehearsed or unnatural.

• The maxim often holds true that, "it's not what you know; it's who you know." Be sure that your LinkedIn profile is up to date, showcasing all

of your recent work. Connect with headhunters, friends, family or even old classmates and coworkers to learn about opportunities you may not have heard about otherwise.

In the professional realm, presentation matters from your social media profile to your suit and tie. For a successful job search, resolve to showcase the best version of you in the New Year.

Tips to manage pain from arthritis naturally

Submitted by StatePoint

One in five adults in the United States now reports having doctor-diagnosed arthritis, according to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC). For those living with the chronic pain of this disease, learning how to manage arthritis is crucial to the health and happiness of millions of Americans.

With that in mind, here are several natural ways to reduce complications and pain associated with arthritis:

• Those who are overweight or obese are diagnosed with an arthritis symptom more often than those with a lower body mass index, according to CDC statistics. Take a load off your joints by maintaining a healthy weight. Weight loss has also been linked to less pain from arthritis, especially in the knees, which bear the brunt of excess pounds.

• Evidence indicates that both endurance and resistance exercise can provide significant benefits to those with osteoarthritis, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. However, arthritis patients should typically avoid placing too much pressure on joints.

Low-impact exercises such as biking, swimming and walking are recommended treatments for arthritis. A doctor or physical therapist is a good resource for helping you make a fitness game plan.

• No matter what precautions you take, pain from your condition is sometimes inevitable. And when it is severe, it can be debilitating.

Some arthritis medications mask pain, which may make it harder to gauge the status of your condition. A homeopathic medicine, however, works naturally

with your body to ease suffering from arthritis pain.

• Stiff joints can be painful. Stretch regularly to prevent stiffness. Full range of motion exercises can help you stay limber and maintain function.

Arthritis actually refers to more than 100 different kinds of musculoskeletal disorders that affect people of all ages. If you are one of the millions of Americans suffering from arthritis, take natural steps to prevent and manage the pain associated with your condition.



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COLUMNS



HOLLOWTOP SMOKE SIGNALS

By Art Kehler

FOR THE MADISONIAN

Unofficial confusing winter custom

Some observations concerning a cherished Harrison tradition



Art Kehler

Every winter it's an ongoing happening. Though it's an unofficial sort of thing, there's no denying it's real. Just beneath the surface of feigned cordiality, the competition is fierce. Even the wording of its coveted award can be confusing. Nonetheless, when the snow has settled winners smugly reign while losers enviously sulk.

After each winter storm, every adult in Harrison capable of movement scrambles from bed well before daylight. Instinctively, they grab the flashlight left purposefully lying on the cabinet close by their beds. Without delay, they walk to those windows in their homes that face a thermometer.

Shortly, in what sounds like a scourge of beavers feverishly gnawing in the forests, ice is being scraped from windows across the length and breadth of the town. Next, like the rudely awakened eyes of fire-spewing dragons, beams of light pierce the darkness all around. Then, with their flashlights clearly focused on their thermometers, the beady-eyed residents wait for the mercury to inch downward to its lowest point. Somewhat confusingly, that lowest point (also represented by the largest-negative-number) is referred to locally as the "highest-low-temperature."

No one in Harrison knows for sure how the "largest negative number" came to be interpreted as the "highest low temperature" and no one cares. All that matters is that the latter term has become the accepted norm. So, with their cherished figures in hand, the citizens migrate downtown where feigned cordial greetings are exchanged. Then, the undeclared competition begins when someone poses the incendiary question that every ear has been straining to hear – "How cold was it at your place this morning?"

Immediately, the verbal mittens come off and folks begin barking out their individual temperature recordings. In a scene reminiscent of a fast-paced auction, each submitted temperature observation is quickly trumped by an even more bone marrow-solidifying,

counter observation. Soon, the noise level rises to a crescendo rivaling that of the New York Stock Exchange during a market rally. Finally, after all the recordings have been compared, the unofficial "highest-low-temperature in Harrison" winner is announced. Within seconds, aside from muffled grumbling, quiet is restored.

Considering all the fuss, one would think the reward for such a chilling honor would be something along the lines of a frozen turkey. Instead, because the event is only quasi-formal, the winner is awarded something far more valuable – community bragging rights! Until the next winter storm blows in, the chosen one savors a temporary level of elevated community status. Meanwhile, the rest of the townfolk have to endure his or her intolerable snobbery with barely concealed resentment.

Alas, one local rogue was recently rumored to have used a portable fan to blow icy wind against his thermometer. That would have increased the wind chill factor thereby lowering his reading for the highest-low-temperature reading. Clearly, such skulduggery cannot go unchallenged.

Consequently, there has been talk of forming a "verification vigilance committee," whose job it would be to authenticate every temperature submission. As a result, the only acceptable readings would be those recorded on a cell phone selfie photo. Said picture would need to display the date, the time, the submitter's face and unencumbered hand along with the thermometer reading in the background (aka a thermometer photo bomb).

Ultimately, the problem is that enacting the above measures may threaten the event's unofficial status, which would only confuse matters even more. Only time will tell if Harrison's cherished winter custom will endure. We'll keep ya posted.

© Art Kehler

Art lives in Harrison, Montana. His essays, stories and poetry have been published in newspapers, journals, literary magazines, and on-line magazines.

Sometimes you just have to step back in your daily walk through life and do yourself a favor and get an alignment. There are little things in life, big things in life and really big things. Those little things aren't even worth grumbling about, especially if you think to yourself how you handle really big things. Well, I got my



AROUND THE WOOD STOVE

by Gail Banks



Gail Banks

alignment this week – hopefully the only one I will need this year. I have been whining about my knee hurting, a relative that hardly works buying a new Impala car when I work and can't put the ends together to buy a car 10 years old, being tired of having a cold all winter long, it being time to do taxes again and more (whine whine whine). Wow, really big deals to whine about! I have a friend that really stepped in years ago and helped my dad, my little brother and myself out when my mom died. She simply was a friend and not for a short time, but for a couple years she made sure she was around to help out. You don't forget friends like that.

There is a saying about people like her, "Good friends look at their schedules and tell you when they can help you out, really good friends pay no attention to their schedules, they just help out whenever you need them." That was Laura, she cared and wasn't even related. She just met us and took all of us under her wing. Anyhow, we keep in touch still after nearly 50 years. She is retired from Northwestern Energy and lives in the Townsend area. She has fought cancer two times and now has it again. Every Friday she travels to Helena for chemo treatments. I asked her the other day how she was doing and she said, "Gail, this time it isn't treatable, I am only buying time." On new years day her resolution was to make it one more year ... Like I said, really big things.

One of my brothers best friend's, Dean Hunt who lives in Waterloo, found out this week he now is battling cancer. The

same kind as my brother Tim – cancer trying to destroy his back. Another young family man fighting the terrible battle of cancer. Again, really big things.

A young wife and mom, Karen Redfield Gibson who graduated from Twin Bridges and lives in Dillon is now fighting cancer and traveling to Missoula for treatment. Karen is the nicest young woman and such a hard worker. Again, really big things.

I look at the fight that Tammy Graham Hatfield had recently with cancer while still maintaining her job as president of the High Peaks federal credit union. She is such a strong wife, mom and businesswoman going through a really tough struggle. Not little things, really big things.

The Davis family coping with the sudden death of their daughter Debbie's husband, Charles Johanson, in a tragic accident in Salt Lake City this week. Another really big thing.

The list could go on and on weekly. I think of the saying, "I prayed for shoes until I met a man with no feet."

Prayers and many thoughts go out to all these special people and their families mentioned and those not mentioned but certainly out there.

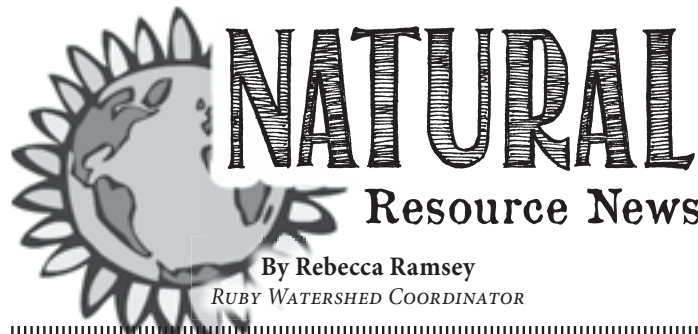
It is so cool that Sadie the dog has been reunited with her owner Bobby Bock in Ennis. It had to be a long four months since Sadie went missing for Mr. Bock, not knowing what had happened to his companion dog. It will be interesting to hear the rest of the story – how they found her in California, knew it was her and got her back to Ennis. Miracles always do happen, surely can't stop hoping.

I heard the funniest little story this week. It said if you want to know who really loves you the most, lock your dog and your husband in your car trunk for an hour. When you let them out see who is happiest to see you ...

So what have we learned this week? Life is not how fast you can run or how high you can climb, it is about how well you can bounce. A flower does not think to compete with the flower next to it, it just blooms. Spend time with those you love. One of these days you will either say, "I wish I had" or "I'm glad I did." Quit overthinking!

Area speech and drama teams are headed to divisionals this next week. It is so neat that the state competition is in Ennis this year. I can remember driving the bus for speech and drama to Havre for state and getting snowed in up there for two more days before we could get home.

"If your life isn't adding up, try subtracting."



NATURAL Resource News

By Rebecca Ramsey

RUBY WATERSHED COORDINATOR

DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE!

While the last week here in Madison County has had mild temperatures and very little precipitation, this is the time of year when well-meaning people are feeding



Rebecca Ramsey

wildlife through the winter. Perhaps they keep wild bird feeders full and put out suet blocks. Maybe they toss their old apples, melons or carrots for the deer. Some folks go so far as to buy bags of corn to feed deer and other critters. All are good intentions by people who think they are helping the wildlife get through difficult times, but sadly, feeding wildlife does more harm than good.

Winter is a difficult season for birds who stick around in northern climates. They

need extra stamina to keep themselves warm, just at the time of year when their usual foods are in short supply. However, it is very important to take precautions not to attract other wildlife to your bird feeders, because feeding wildlife can be harmful to those other animals and it is illegal in the state of Montana.

Ungulates such as whitetail deer have evolved learning to get through winter with adaptations such as a special winter coat with hollow guard hairs for insulation and a fine, hairy undercoat for warmth, helping them to retain body heat and reducing energy demands to stay warm. They also develop fat reserves throughout the summer that provide nutrition over the winter. Their metabolic rate naturally decreases, reducing food requirements to approximately one half of what is needed in summer,

according to an article by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The needs of the deer are substantially decreased and can be met by browsing on grasses, bark, shrubs, seeds and dried fruits such as rosehips left on the bush. In locations where a severe winter is an annual event, deer migrate to wintering habitat complexes, which are areas with thicker cover and natural winter browse available. These complexes provide thermal cover and sufficient natural food for deer to survive winter.

Deer are ruminants, meaning they have a four-part stomach with microbes that help digest the woody winter forage material. When deer eat food that has not been part of their diet, such as high carbohydrate fruits and grains or any other readily available handout, they may pass up the digestible natural food and fill their bellies with supplemental diet they cannot digest, causing a deer to starve, even though its stomach is full.

Providing artificial food may also increase the energy demand on deer. The deer may regularly leave the wintering complex to gain access to the food, or deer may be disturbed within the wintering complex when food is artificially distributed within the complex. Feeding deer may also concentrate the animals into a smaller

area than the habitat that they usually winter in, which increases the potential for disease transmission and habitat degradation.

According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, "A person may not provide supplemental feed attractants to game animals by purposely or knowingly providing supplemental feed attractants in a manner that results in an artificial concentration of game animals that may potentially contribute to the transmission of disease or that constitutes a threat to public safety."

Feeding deer is illegal, makes them dependent on artificial food sources which are not readily digestible, attracts predators, can result in deer-caused damage on neighboring properties, increased deer/car collisions and you could be held legally liable for any problems or damage caused by the deer on neighboring property. So love your wildlife through the winter from afar, and trust that Mother Nature will take care of her own.

** Correction: Last week's Natural Resource News was written and submitted by Jane Mangold, Associate Professor and Extension Invasive Plant Specialist, Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Abigail Dennis
THE MADISONIAN
a.dennis@madisoniannews.com

Sheridan Library open house

The Friends of the Library in Sheridan are hosting an open house to showcase their expansion project on Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. Head to the library for refreshments and information about the library's big project.

Chautauqua season in Virginia City

The Elling House Arts and

Humanities Center is hosting the year's first Chautauqua on Jan. 17. The event starts with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by performances at 7:30 p.m. A Chautauqua is hailed as a sharing of entertainment and intellectual knowledge. A variety of writers, musicians and special topic speakers will take center stage at the Elling house. Have a performance? Call Toni James at 843-5454.

RUBY VALLEY DAYS

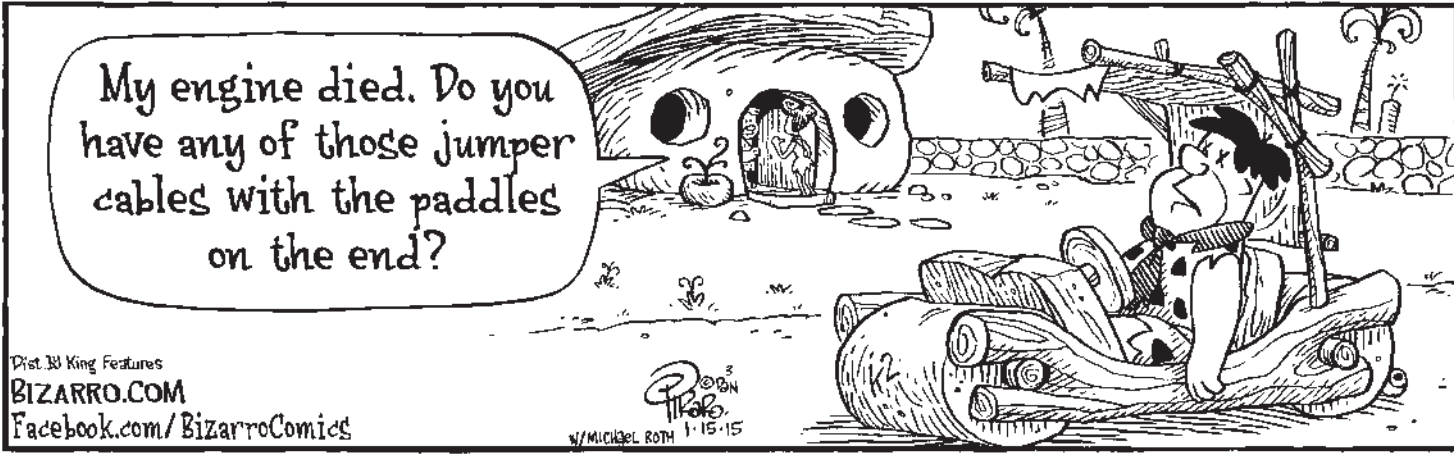


Days in the Ruby Valley are never a waste. Pictured is the Ruby Mountains from California Creek near Laurin on Jan. 8.

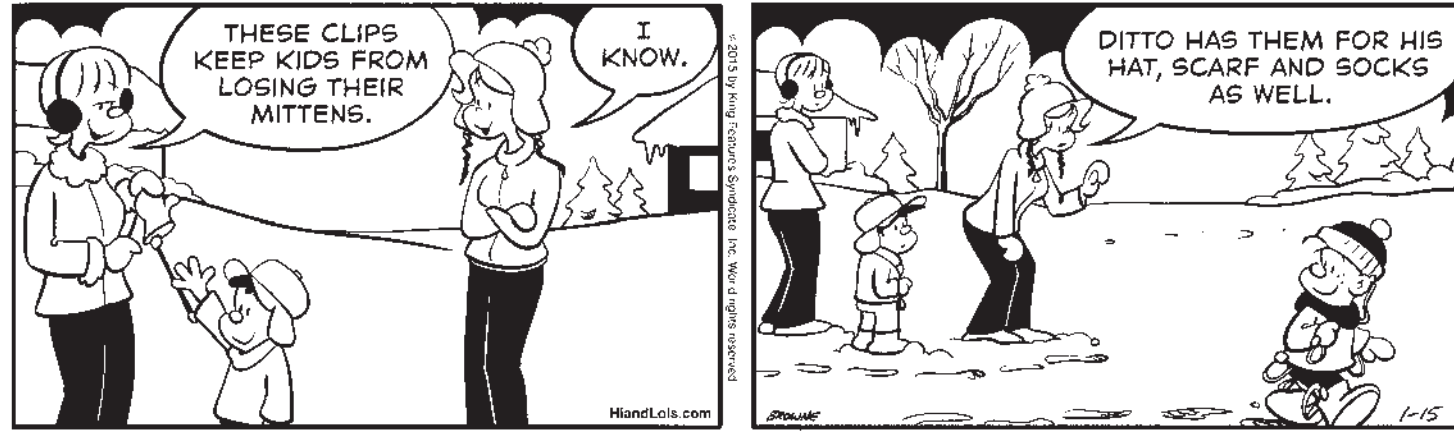
Abigail Dennis/The Madisonian

COMICS & PUZZLES

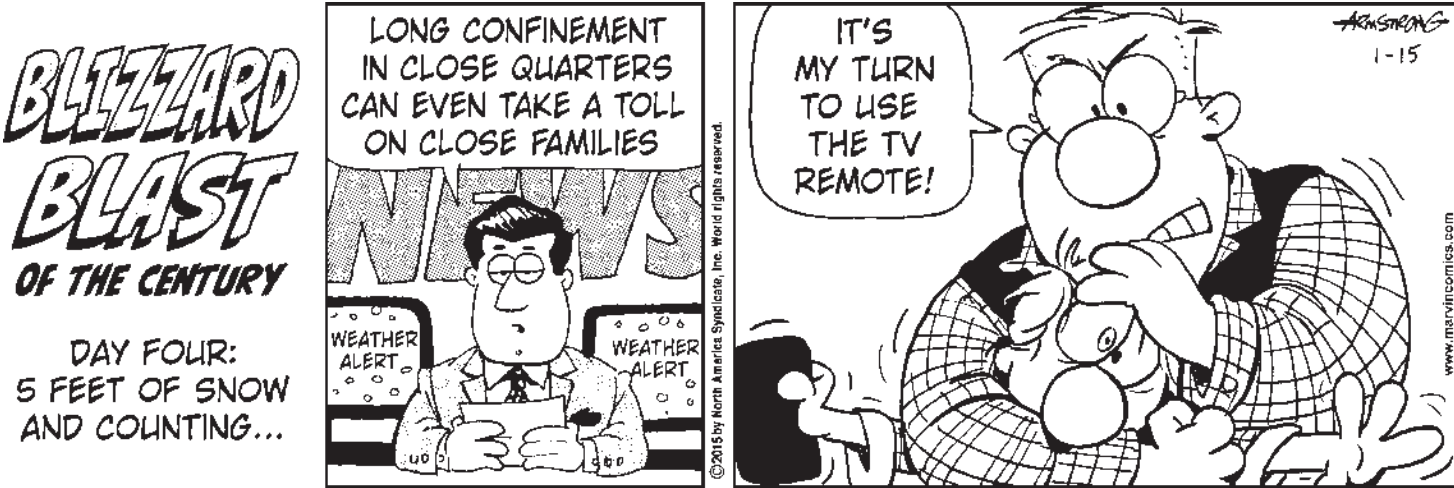
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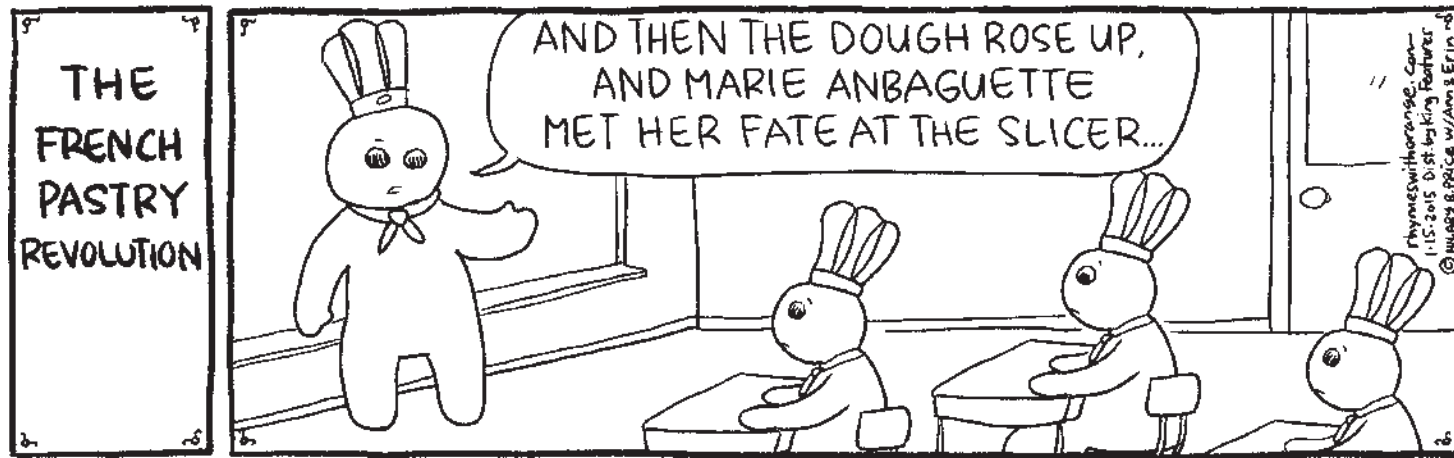
HI & LOIS



MARVIN



RHYMES



CRYPTOQUIP

OGIP TRC-SMW ZCIPSH
WLMYMSI HGMOH, R RYZCRPI
SGIRL KBSH YRCGS SUWRKZXXU
TI KRLKBH SIPSGH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K=C



Tender and Flavorful Slow Cooker Pork and Beef Roast



"Your mouth will water while this is cooking!"

Combining two types of meat adds lovely layers of flavor to Gail Springsteen's Slow Cooker Pork and Beef Roast. I guarantee this will become a favorite Sunday dinner for your family. Be sure to use a larger slow cooker because this recipe makes a lot. And, customize the veggies based on your taste buds. The options are endless! See step-by-step photos of Gail's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at: www.justapinch.com/roast

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

- Janet

Slow Cooker Pork and Beef Roast

What You Need

- 3 lb beef roast
- 3 lb pork roast
- 1 lb carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 4 potatoes, washed, cut into chunks (peel if you wish)
- 8 oz fresh mushrooms
- 3 medium onions, peeled, cut into chunks
- 1 pkg onion soup mix
- 1 pkg brown gravy mix
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp butter
- Salt and pepper

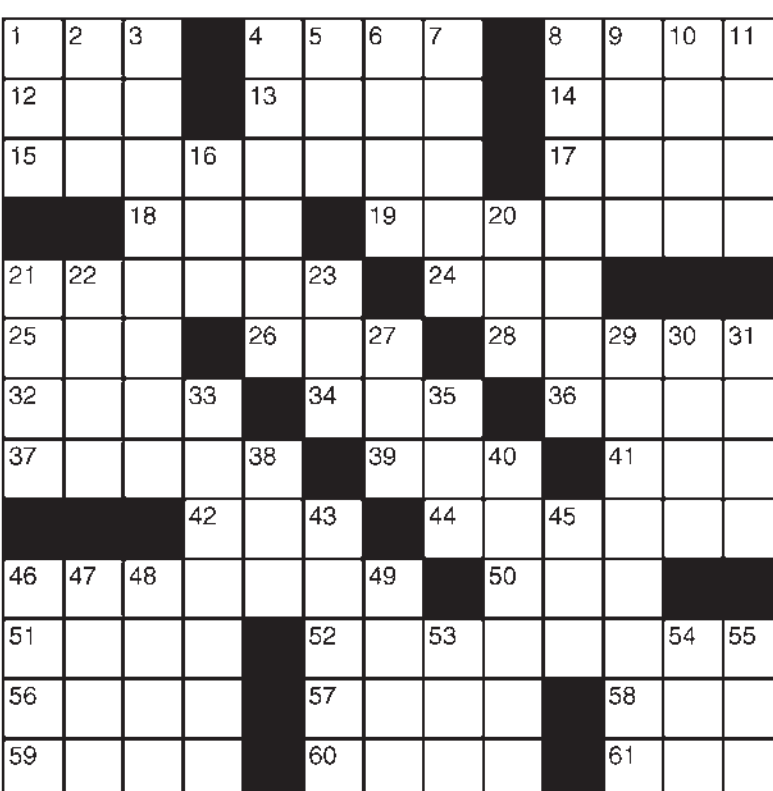
Directions

- Add olive oil and butter to a frying pan. Melt butter over medium to medium-high heat.
- Cut roasts in half so you have four chunks of meat.
- Salt and pepper each chunk as you wish.
- Brown meat in the frying pan on all sides. Set aside.
- Put vegetables into the slow cooker. Lay browned meat on top.
- Cook on high for 4-6 hours.
- Remove the meat and vegetables to a platter or bowl.
- Put the onion soup mix and brown gravy mix in a medium saucepan.
- Whisk in the juices from the slow cooker and warm on medium heat, stirring occasionally, until it comes to a boil.
- Lower to a simmer and cook, stirring constantly, for at least one minute.
- Return your meat and veggies to the slow cooker and pour the gravy over it.

Submitted by: Gail Springsteen, Waupaca, WI (pop. 6,069)
www.justapinch.com/roast

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



- ACROSS**
- 1 Homer's cry
 - 4 Knocks
 - 8 Warp crosser
 - 12 Actress Gardner
 - 13 Wrinkled fruit
 - 14 Bread spread
 - 15 Henry Hudson's ship
 - 17 Addict
 - 18 Dandy
 - 19 Use up
 - 21 Talk nonsense
 - 24 Marry
 - 25 Altar
 - 26 constellation
 - 28 Wapiti
 - 32 Bonfire residue
 - 32 "Casablanca" role
 - 34 A mere handful
 - 36 Recording
 - 37 Snatches
 - 39 Talk
 - 41 Michele of
 - 42 "Glee"
 - 44 Second person
 - 46 Internet browser?
 - 46 Clam or snail
 - 50 Tailoring concern
 - 51 Woodwind instrument
 - 52 Small-of-stature sort
 - 56 Not so much
 - 57 Writer Wiesel
 - 58 Soccerstar
 - 59 Hamm
 - 59 Easter buys
 - 60 51-Across need
 - 61 Freddy's street
- DOWN**
- 1 Doo follower
 - 2 Eventual aves
 - 3 Gridiron position
 - 4 Make unkempt
 - 5 Past
 - 6 Trudge
 - 7 Tendon
 - 8 Relative of "dost"
 - 9 Differently
 - 10 Pentameter parts
 - 11 Rent
 - 16 "Gift of the Magi" gift
 - 20 Shell game need
 - 21 Olympic
 - 22 gymnast Conner
 - 23 Met melody
 - 23 Will Ferrell movie
 - 27 Frat party item
 - 29 Break in the game
 - 30 Duel tool
 - 31 Burn somewhat
 - 33 High-tech type of
 - 35 car entry
 - 38 Existed
 - 38 Old French coin
 - 40 Polished
 - 43 Leading man?
 - 45 Wardrobe malfunction
 - 46 Penicillin base
 - 47 Do what you're told
 - 48 Come in second
 - 49 Hardy cabbage
 - 53 Whopper
 - 54 Zero
 - 55 Highland hat

All puzzle answers on B7

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DIESEL TECHNICIANS - GLASGOW, MT BORDER PLAINS EQUIPMENT, a certified Case IH dealer in Glasgow, MT is looking for Diesel Technicians with a minimum of 2 years' experience that understands the importance of doing a job correctly and the value of satisfied customers. Ag background a plus. We offer competitive wages, 401k retirement plan, health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, short-term & long-term disability insurance, life insurance, tool allowance, paid vacation, personal leave days and eight paid holidays. Housing options available. Applicants must be able to meet and maintain insurable driving status and pass pre-employment drug testing. If you are ready to work in a great environment with great people, email your resume to deann.grundstad@plainsag.com Border Plains Equipment GLASGOW, MT #013

PARTS SPECIALIST - GLASGOW, MT Glasgow Implement, a certified Case IH deal-

ership, is currently accepting applications for a full-time Parts Specialists. The position will involve processing parts orders, warranty, credits, freight shipments, purchase orders and procuring outside parts. Applicant should be self-driven, have good organization & computer skills and successfully help customers identify and fulfill their parts & accessory needs. Experience working with agricultural parts preferred. Applicants must be/and possess: Excellent organizational, communication & problem solving skills, Thrive & multi-task in a fast paced environment, Superior customer service skills, Computer skills with the ability to learn new programs. Applicants must be able to meet and maintain insurable driving status and pass pre-employment drug testing. We offer competitive wages, 401k retirement plan, health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, short-term & long-term disability insurance, life insurance, paid vacation, eight paid holidays and job training. To be considered for this position - Email resume to: deann.grundstad@plainsag.com #014

RES. ASSOC-CEREAL GRAINS \$35,000 to \$40,000 @ montana.edu/jobs/research/14-454 Farm Ops Manager \$45,000 @ montana.edu/postings/982 CARC Moccasin MT #015

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EVENTS/SHOWS

GUNS AND AMMO SHOW JANUARY 23 noon to 6:00, January 24 9:00 to 6:00, January 25 9:00 to 3:00 Jerry Martin Memorial Hall, Big Sandy Montana. For more information call 406-386-2259. #020

THE BOAT SHOW! "Boat Buying Event of the Year" at the Lewis & Clark Fairgrounds, Helena, MT. January 23rd, 24th & 25th, 2015. The Montana Boat Show's \$3 admission charge gives you a chance at over \$1,500 in door prizes! Children under 12 enter free. For info call (406)443-6400 or 266-5700. Mark Your 2015 Calendar! www.mtboatshow.com #021

CABIN FEVER ANTIQUES FAIR Helena Civic Center January 24 & 25 beginning 10 am. Fresh new merchandise from first time dealers & up to date choices from old favorites. \$5 BD #022

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Madison County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 6:15 pm in the Commissioners meeting room of the Madison County Broadway Annex, 205 N. Broadway, Virginia City, Montana.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comment on the Golf Course Villas Subdivision Preliminary Plat, Variance, and Yellowstone Mountain Club Master Plan Update. The proposed subdivision would subdivide a 14.96-acre portion of the NE 1/4, Section 18, T7S, R3E, PMM, into 4 lots of 1 commercial condominium lot (clubhouse) with 6 overnight rental (condominium) units; 1 residential condominium lot with 16 overnight rental (condominium) units in 4 buildings; 1 maintenance area lot; and 1 open space lot of 4 acres. A variance is requested to permit a cul-de-sac length of 1,000 feet. The area to be subdivided is located south of the Yellowstone Mountain Club Golf Course.

Written comments should be received by 3:00 p.m. on January 26, 2015 and may be sent to the Madison County Planning Board by: Mail to P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755; Fax to (406) 843-5229; or E-mail to planb@madison.mt.gov. Oral or written comments may also be given at the public hearing.

The preliminary plat, variance request, and supplemental information pertaining to this proposed subdivision is available for review at: Madison County Planning Office, 205 N. Broadway, Virginia City; Madison Valley Public Library, 210 E. Main Street, Ennis; and Yellowstone Mountain Club, Big Sky, MT 59716 Call (406) 843-5250 for more information. Richard Meehan, President, Madison County Planning Board (Pub. Jan. 8, 15 2015) mcpc MNAXLP

MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Madison County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 6:15 pm in the Commissioners meeting room of the Madison County Broadway Annex, 205 N. Broadway, Virginia City, Montana.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comment on the American Spirit Planned Unit Development Phase 3 Subdivision and Overall Development Plan update. The proposed subdivision would subdivide 13 acres of property in the East 1/2, Section 11, Township 7 South, Range 2 East, PMM, to create 10 lots and 1 road tract. The proposal will remove existing cabins, provide 6 residential tracts/dwellings near the Rainbow Lodge, 2 condominium tracts incorporating 16 cabins into the rental pool, and 2 commercial lots for the Rainbow Lodge and the maintenance building. Located in the Pioneer Mountain area northwest of American Spirit Phase 1 and west of Rainbow Minor Subdivisions on Pioneer Mountain.

Written comments should be received by 3:00 p.m. on January 26, 2015 and may be sent to the Madison County Planning Board by: Mail to P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755; Fax to (406) 843-5229; or E-mail to planb@madison.mt.gov. Oral or written comments may also be given at the public

hearing. The preliminary plat, variance request, and supplemental information pertaining to this proposed subdivision is available for review at: Madison County Planning Office, 205 N. Broadway, Virginia City; Madison Valley Public Library, 210 E. Main Street, Ennis; and Yellowstone Mountain Club, Big Sky, MT 59716 Call (406) 843-5250 for more information. Richard Meehan, President, Madison County Planning Board (Pub. Jan. 8, 15 2015) mcpc MNAXLP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF JEFFERSON IN RE ESTATE OF: LEONARD RALPH HUCKABA, Deceased. Probate No. DP 2014-35. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against said decedent 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 to Susanne Huckaba, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at c/o Berg Law Firm, One West Main, Bozeman, Montana 59715, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. Dated: Dec. 22, 2014. Berg, Lilly & Tollefsen, P.C. /s/ Rienne McElya Attorney for Personal Representative I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed this 23 day of December, 2014. /s/ Susanne Huckaba 26 Highway 359 Cardwell, MT 59721 (Pub. Jan. 8, 15, 22 2015) blt MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Madison County Commissioners will not be holding their regular Commission meeting on Monday, January 19, 2015, as County Offices will be closed to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. The next regular meeting following this date will be held on Monday, January 26, 2015. (Pub. Jan. 8, 15, 2015) mcc MNAXLP

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual Hospital District meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in the lower level conference room of Madison Valley Medical Center, 305 N Main Street, Ennis, MT. The public citizens of the hospital district are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. (Pub. Jan. 15, 22, 2015) mvmc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 11:00, in the Commissioners' Conference Room at the Broadway Annex in Virginia City, Montana, to receive public comment on a resolution establishing County office hours.

Copies of the resolution are available for public review and comment at the Madison County Commissioners' Office and posted on the Madison County website, www.madison.mt.gov.

Comments on the resolution are welcome. Written public comments may be submitted or delivered to the Madison County Commissioners' Office, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755; faxed to (406) 843-5517; or emailed to madco@madison.mt.gov. Written comments must be received by close of the January 26, 2015, public hearing. (Pub. Jan. 15, 22, 2015) mcc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF MADISON IN RE ESTATE OF: BYRAM DeLOYD OWENS, also known as BYRAM D. OWENS, Deceased Cause No. DP-29-2014-27. That the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against said decedent 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 to LESLIE EUGENE OWENS, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at P.O. Box 2856, Norris, MT 59745, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. Dated: December 23, 2014. /s// LESLIE EUGENE OWENS Personal Representative STATE OF MONTANA) ss COUNTY OF MADISON) LESLIE EUGENE OWENS, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says: That he has read the foregoing NOTICE TO CREDITORS and that the facts and matters contained therein are true, correct, accurate and complete to the best of his knowledge and belief. I make this declaration under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana. /s// LESLIE EUGENE OWENS Personal Representative SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 23rd day of December, 2014. /s// Janet R. Cookson Notary Public for the State of Montana Residing at: Ennis, MT My Commission expires: 1/30/2017 (SEAL) Personal Representative's Attorney: Karen McMullin Post Office Box 55 Ennis, MT 59729 Telephone: (406) 682-7878 (Pub. January 15, 22, 29, 2014) km



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Consignment deadline is February 6.

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Madison Conservation District Meeting

Mon., January 19

Lone Elk Mall
Ennis

7:00 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL DISTRICT XII

Will be holding their ANNUAL BOARD MEETING Thursday, January 22, 2015 At the Emma Park Neighborhood Center 25 W. Silver Street Butte, Montana 59701 Board meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. For further information please Feel free to call HRC, Dist XII at 406-533-6855

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Saturday
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The Rocky Mountain Product Fair
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Jefferson County men sentenced for trespass, poaching elk

Submitted by Bruce Auchly
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE
AND PARKS

Two Jefferson County men were fined \$9,270 and lost their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for two years for trespassing and poaching two bull elk – one

a trophy – on a private ranch on the Rocky Mountain Front last hunting season. Mark E. Niemeir, 46, of Basin, and Matthew W. Burgan, 52, of Boulder, were sentenced by Teton County Justice of the Peace Pete Howard for trespass on the Diamond 4D Ranch and

shooting the elk Oct. 29. The incident happened west of Choteau in hunting district 442. Burgan was fined \$135 for trespass and \$8,000 restitution for illegally taking a trophy bull elk. The bull had six points on each antler, each main beam measured 48 inches long and the inside spread of

the antlers measured 45 inches. State law for restitution purposes considers a bull elk a trophy if it meets three criteria: At least six points on each antler; a main beam length of each antler of at least 43 inches; and an inside spread of at least 36 inches. Niemeir was fined \$135 for

trespass and \$1,000 restitution for illegally taking a bull elk with six points on one antler and four on the other. A ranch employee found the kill site several days after the animals were poached and contacted Fish, Wildlife and Parks game warden Rod Duty. Duty and a U.S. Forest

Service employee located Niemeir and Burgan at their camp west of the ranch on Forest Service land. The elk antlers will be auctioned later at FWP's statewide trophy auction. The meat from the elk was donated to the Helena Food Bank.

Forest Service closing visitor services in Whitehall

Submitted by Leona Rodreick
BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE
NATIONAL FOREST

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest will no longer be staffing its Jefferson Ranger District office at 3 Whitetail Road in Whitehall after Jan. 30, 2015. "Our declining federal budget has caused the Forest Service to evaluate present and future cost commitments within three major areas: fleet, facilities and personnel. For this reason the BDNF has made a decision to no longer operate the office in Whitehall," said Butte/Jefferson district ranger Dave Sabo. "We will still maintain a Forest Service presence in Whitehall by establishing a work center at the old Forest

Service administrative site located at 401 1/2 West Legion Street. This will include staffing of three permanent full time employees at this location as well as summer

staffing of two fire engine crews, one initial attack fire crew and a small range crew that works in managing range and noxious weeds."



Trapper education class

Submitted by Montana
Fish, Wildlife and Parks

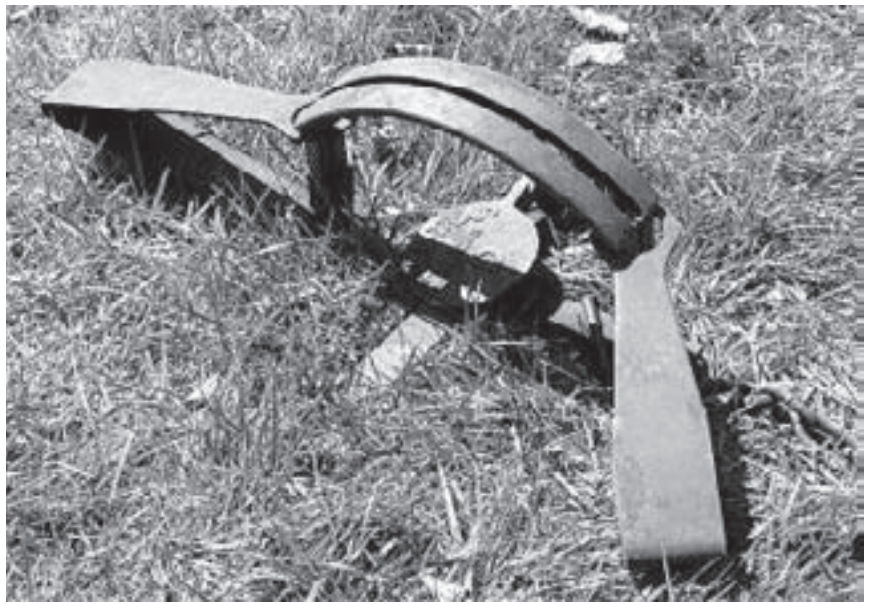
A trapper education class is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Butte area office (1820 Meadowlark Lane). An adult must accompany youth under 12 years of age.

The class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour break for lunch. Topics will include trapping equipment, trap setting, ethics, rules and regulations, furbearer identification and fur handling.

Class participants will receive a certificate of completion, the Montana Trappers Association

trapping handbook and other informational material. However, please be aware this class does not certify participants for Montana's wolf trapping season. All would-be wolf trappers needed to have completed a formal wolf

trapping certification class held in the fall. For more information contact Vanna Boccadori at 494-2082 or Fran Buell with the Montana Trappers Association at education@montanatrappers.org.



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Sheridan Ward - Visitors Welcome
Sacrament Meeting
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Sunday School
11:20 a.m.
R S & Priesthood
12:10 p.m.
Mutual (Youth Group)
Wed. 7:00p.m.
3560 | MT State Hwy 287
Sheridan 842-5860
Bishop Dustin 684-5255

Liturgy Schedule
St. Patrick, Ennis
Sunday ~ 10:30 a.m.
St. Mary, Laurin
Sunday ~ 8:30 a.m.
Deacon Andy Dorrington,
Pastoral Administrator ~ 842-5588

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• Sunday Service 9:00 am
• Bible Study 10:15 am
• Sunday School 10:15 am
Advent Services at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10, Dec. 17
Corner of Madison and Armitage St. Ennis, Montana 406-684-4920

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Ennis Branch
Sacrament Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
11:20 a.m.
R S & Priesthood
12:10 p.m.
Family History Center
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Southwest Montana's EVENTS Calendar

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SENIOR MEALS, VIRGINIA CITY
Senior meals now being served in Virginia City for citizens 60 and over every Tuesday and Thursday at the VC Creamery for a nominal fee of \$3. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m. to noon.
MEALS FOR SENIORS, TWIN BRIDGES
The TBS&CC provides meals for seniors every Tuesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Twin Bridges for seniors 60 years and up. (Spouse and caregivers are invited.) Donations for meals are appreciated.
RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY, SHERIDAN
Open Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon. Located at 114 N. Main St. in New Beginnings. Serving the Ruby Valley from Silver Star to Virginia City. Contact Doris at 842-7161 or Wannetta at 842-5783 for more information.
MEALS ON WHEELS, SHERIDAN
The Sheridan Senior Center offers meals for seniors 60 years and over Monday - Friday. Seniors may choose to eat at the senior center, family style for \$3.50 or have their meal delivered for \$4.00. Delivered meals are within the city limits of Sheridan and should be called in by 10 a.m. Call Shirley Sand at 842-5966.

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A	R	A	E	L	K	W	A	S	H	E
R	I	C	K	F	E	W	T	A	P	E
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Same Time - Same Place

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Twin Bridges • Church of the Valley
Thursdays, 8 pm

ALANON
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Wednesdays ~ 8 p.m.

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SUZAN - 10 a.m., No Smoking,
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MON. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking
WED. - 7:30 p.m., Trinity Church in Jeffers
FRI. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking
682-3490, 682-7023 Ennis
843-5352 Virginia City

Celebrate Recovery
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3648 Hwy 287, Sheridan
596-0707

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B8 Thursday, January 15, 2015

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THURSDAY JANUARY 15

Business After Hours, Ennis

Ennis Chamber of Commerce BAH hosted by Ponderosa Advisors at the old Moonlight Basin building, 5 to 7 p.m. Great networking event! 682-4388 for more info.

Madison Valley Book Club annual selection lunch, Ennis

12 p.m. at Madison Valley Presbyterian Church. Potluck lunch followed by discussion and selection of books for monthly meetings in 2015.

Montana Centennial Train of 1964, Ennis

The Madison Valley History Assoc. presents history insights and a DVD of the Montana

Centennial Train of 1964. 4 p.m. at First Madison Valley Bank.

FRIDAY JANUARY 16

NAIFC Ice Fishing Tournament, West Yellowstone

A weekend of fun for the whole family. Hebgen Lake NAIFC qualifier.

Fun Run Sled Dog Races, West Yellowstone

Two-day race featuring six dog teams and an open class. Races start at 9 a.m. each day at trailhead on the north end of Dunraven Street. Free to public

Kids 'N' Snow, West Yellowstone

Weekend long outdoor and indoor activities for kids and parents. Snowshoeing, learning

about nature, ice skate, cross country ski and more. www.kidsnsnow.org

SATURDAY JANUARY 17

Chautauqua, Virginia City

The Elling House Arts and Humanities Center will host the first winter Chautauqua in the intimate, historic ballroom at 6:30 p.m. for potluck and 7:30 p.m. for performances.

THURSDAY JANUARY 22

Annual hospital district meeting, Ennis

7 p.m. at Madison Valley Medical Center. MVMC hosts the annual hospital district meeting. Public welcome.

Mad Gals monthly meeting, Ennis

Social hour at 12:30 p.m. and lunch at 1 p.m., at Alley Bistro. Call by Jan. 19 at noon to reserve your spot.

FRIDAY JANUARY 23

Game night at Christ Church, Sheridan

6-8 p.m., at Parish Hall behind Christ Episcopal Church in Sheridan. Join us for another game night in the Parish Hall at Christ Church. We've got Scrabble, Cribbage, Candyland, Rummikub, Dominoes, Sorry and many more fun games for kids and adults. We'll be serving our famous flavored popcorn and other refreshments. If you have a special game you like, please bring

it! We're always eager to learn a new game.

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

Open Mic Night, Sheridan

7 p.m. at The Shovel and Spoon. Open mic for musicians, poets and story tellers- all performers welcome. PA and microphones will be available if needed. Food is available. Call 842-7999 for more information.

Supper Club, Ennis

Enjoy tasty cuisine created by local

chef Amy Kelley at Gravel Bar. Call for reservations. 682-5553.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

Library gathering, Sheridan

The Friends of the Sheridan Library will be hosting a gathering with presentations by locals and information on the new archival expansion on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Sheridan Library. Refreshments will be served. Open to the public. Please call 842-5770 with questions.

ENNIS MEALS ON WHEELS

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
11:30 AM - 1 PM
MADISON VALLEY MANOR

WEDNESDAY, JAN 14:

CRAB CAKES, RICE PILAF, MIXED VEGGIE, APPLE PIE

THURSDAY, JAN 15:

MEATBALLS, BUTTERED NOODLES, CABBAGE, STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

FRIDAY, JAN 16:

BEEF RIBS, MASHED SWEET POTATOES, CHEESY BROCCOLI, PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE

TUESDAY, JAN 20:

CHIX DRUM, BAKED POTATO, BROCCOLI, LEMON BLUEBERRY BREAD

WEDNESDAY, JAN 21:

SPAGHETTI, MEATBALLS, SPINACH, GARLIC BREAD, CARROT CAKE

MADISON THEATRE 682-4023
115 Main St., Ennis, MT

Friday-Sunday, January 16-18

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES (PG-13)

Friday & Saturday 7:15 pm Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm

Coming Soon -
UNBROKEN (PG-13), INTO THE WOODS (PG)
TAKEN 3 (PG-13)

Evenings: Adults \$8 • Children (12 & under) \$6 Show time at 7:15 pm.
Box Office opens at 6:30 pm

Find us on at Madisontheatreennis www.ennismovies.com

GRAVEL BAR

SUPPER CLUB

SATURDAY JANUARY 24
7 PM

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
682-5553

SHERIDAN SCHOOLS ADULT EDUCATION

PHOTO ALBUMS IN THE DIGITAL AGE
7-9 PM
JANUARY 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 AND 28
SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL - BUSINESS LAB

Bring your old photos and be ready to create lasting memories. You will learn how to use different hardware to scan pictures, organize your files, back them up and how to use web based software to create legacy quality memory books and other projects for your family and friends. Bring a large thumb drive or external hard drive for photo storage.

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY OUTSIDE THE GREEN BOX
6-8 PM
FEBRUARY 5 - ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

Learn the building blocks to great photography and about the different functions on your camera. This class is geared towards users of DSLR cameras or cameras with interchangeable lenses. Bring your camera with batteries charged and memory card cleared. If you do not have a DSLR camera you are still welcome to attend to learn the building blocks to taking better pictures. There is no charge for this class.

BEGINNING FLY TYING
INSTRUCTOR ED BURKE • 7:00-8:30 PM
JANUARY 6, 7, 14, 20, 21, 28
IN THE ELEMENTARY MEZZANINE

To register for a class call Emily at 842-5302.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Commissioner's Meeting, Virginia City
Madison Co. Commissioners meet every Monday, unless noted, public welcome. 9:30 a.m. Annex Building

TUESDAYS

Fly-tying Roundtable, Ennis
Come one, come all. Tuesday nights 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Ray Plante's cabinet shop at 113 Antelope Meadows.

Lego Club, Ennis
Come to the Madison Valley Public Library to join, build and create every Tuesday after school until 5:00. No club on Dec. 23 & 30.

Madison County Mental Health Local Advisory Council, Virginia City
Meeting the first Tuesday of each month from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. in County Commissioner's conference room in Broadway Annex.

Children's Story & Craft Time, Virginia City
Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Thompson Hickman Library.

WEDNESDAYS

Open Table Tennis, Pony 7 - 9 p.m.
For all ages and skill levels - Two Tables At the Pony School Info @ 685-3481

TOPS, Ennis
Weekly weigh-in, 9:00 a.m. Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

MVMC in downstairs conference room. Jeanne, 682-3299

Books and Babies, Ennis
Madison Valley Public Library, 10:30 a.m. 682-7244

Grief Support Group, Ennis
Everyone welcome. Meets every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Madison Valley Baptist Church

THURSDAYS

MV Women's Club FIRST THURS OF EA. MONTH
Regular monthly meeting noon at the Madison Valley Baptist Church on 287 N.

MV Manor Auxiliary Meeting, Ennis SECOND THURS OF EA. MONTH
1 p.m., Madison Valley Manor SunRoom

FRIDAYS

Story Time, Ennis
Pre-K to Grade 2, 11 a.m. Madison Valley Public Library. 682-7244.

Live Music, Ennis
Willie's Distillery hosts live music in the tasting room, 5:30 p.m.. See the weekly ad on this page for performers.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Live Music - Norris
7 p.m. See the weekly ad on this page for weekly performers.

THE SHOVEL AND SPOON

What makes our ham sandwiches so good?

We buy whole hogs grown by John Smith at Whitehall. Western Meat Block (in Butte) cuts them up and smokes the ham.

We slice the ham.

We make sandwich rolls from Wheat Montana flour.

We add sharp cheddar or swiss, lettuce and tomato.

Yup, they're good!

108 N. Main • Sheridan
842-7999 • theshovelandspoon.com

NORRIS HOT SPRINGS

MUSIC THIS WEEKEND:

Fri 1/9 - Chad Ball
Folk/Blues

Sat 1/10 - Cottonwood Line
Acoustic Roots

Sun 1/11 - Tom Catmull
Original and Stolen Americana

HOURS:

Pool & Cafe (September - May)
noon - 10 sat-sun
4-10 thurs-fri-mon

norrishotsprings.com
406.685.3303

MADISON VALLEY AQUATIC CENTER

a **BOLD** goal...

Together... let's be **BOLD**

mvacdivein.org