

The Madisonian.

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

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SPORTSMEN WORKING TOGETHER In the Ruby Valley, a group of hunters meet to stay informed

Abigail Dennis
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Between 30 and 40 Ruby Valley sportsmen gathered at the Sheridan High School library on Jan. 29 for a presentation and discussion with Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist Dean Waltee. "There are a lot of political issues that get influenced from different groups,"

Bobby Sutton said. Sutton is a Sheridan resident, a sportsman and one of the facilitators of the presentation. "Together, sportsmen have a larger voice than each individual."

Sutton said an organized group of area sportsmen would have the power to disseminate information, influence politics and support Waltee, who he said is a "great biologist."

"There were a lot of diverse

"It behooves sportsmen locally to have a voice to bring to the statewide discussion."
—Dean Waltee, Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist

questions and discussion," Waltee said after the meeting. "I presented elk movement data across the Gravelly Elk Management Unit from radio collar information."

Waltee presented radio collar data from the 1980s and recent years, drawing a trend in how elk move across the landscape.

"They have similar moving patterns," he explained. "They move across that land-

scape as the snow melts and the country opens up."

The elk generally summer farther south in the unit, toward the Centennial Mountain Range and Idaho, Waltee said. However, they usually end up in Montana during the winter.

"We do our elk population surveys in the winter, so we are counting all those elk as our population, but during the fall hunting season, there's

overlap because some of the animals may be in Idaho," he said. "Those animals are inaccessible to the hunting population in Montana."

The sportsmen were curious about the impacts of that on hunting Montana's hunting season, Waltee said. Out of 60 elk collared in the Centennial region in 2011 and 2012,

Turn to GAME on pg. 2

SEARCH AND RESCUE



Ruby Valley Search and Rescue members take a break after a long back country trip.

Courtesy of Bill Sinclair

Ruby Valley SAR participates in rigorous training program

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On Jan. 17, a group of dedicated search and rescue volunteers practiced avalanche rescues and learned snowmobile techniques deep in the backcountry of the Upper Ruby as part of Ruby Valley SAR training.

"First we had the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center guys come teach a class, then we took the things we learned to the ground and practiced them," Ruby Valley SAR president Bill Sinclair said.

Sinclair took over the leadership of the Ruby Valley SAR nearly two years ago when the former president quit. Just last year, Madison County voted in a permanent

SAR mill levy – approximately \$85,000 per year – to help fund both the Madison Valley and Ruby Valley SAR units.

"We're funded by taxpayers," Sinclair said. "Those who are paying taxes deserve a product, a trained service."

Sinclair implemented a rigorous training program when he took over the presidency – in this year alone, the Ruby Valley SAR will travel to Dillon to hone their swimming skills, get practice with wetsuits, and complete a certification course for swift water rescues.

During the Jan. 17 training, SAR volunteer Robert Allhands from Sheridan taught the rest of the group about operating snowmobiles, Sinclair said.

Allhands said he is a SAR member because he wants to

give back to the community.

"Volunteering and helping out is what makes these small communities work," Allhands explained. "I enjoy it, the training is a chance to get outdoors."

Since Sinclair became

president, Allhands said the group's training schedule has easily tripled.

"We're all getting certified and qualified in the areas we can help out with," he said.

In addition to snowmo-

Turn to SAR on pg. 2



Graham Turnage from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center demonstrates how to conduct snow analysis to determine snow stability. Courtesy of Bill Sinclair



Madison River Foundation Director Mark Petroni (L) presents Ryan Gosse (center) a framed photo by Ken Hall (R) in appreciation for Gosse's years of service helping to protect and preserve our fish and wildlife resources in the Madison Valley. Photo courtesy of Ken Hall

Madison Valley game warden moves on

With Ryan Gosse's departure, future of warden district unclear

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A group of Madison Valley community members gathered in McAllister on Jan. 24 to bid goodbye to Fish, Wildlife and Parks game warden Ryan Gosse.

"You don't replace an employee like (Gosse)," said Sam Sheppard, FWP region 3 supervisor. "He's meant a lot to the community, the region and the resource. We're better for the time he spent with us."

As for what is next for the Madison Valley, Sheppard said it could be awhile before the situation "sorts itself out."

"The position will be open for a lateral transfer opportunity to other wardens across the state," Sheppard said. "Everything is still up in the air because we don't know what is going to happen with our budget."

Sheppard said he was unable to give a timeline for when the position will be filled.

"I can tell you that Ennis and that warden district is one of the busier ones in the region, if not the whole state," Sheppard concluded. "It will remain a priority for us."

The Madisonian was not able to reach Ryan Gosse by press time Tuesday.

Commissioners approve capital improvement plans for county airports

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At their regular meeting on Jan. 26, the Madison County commissioners approved two capital improvement plans – one for the Ennis airport and one for the Twin Bridges airport.

"We are periodically required

to do a plan for both airports," commissioner Jim Hart said. "Generally speaking, we have it for five years out. It is to make sure the (Federal Aviation Administration) is aware of what we hope to do in a given year up to five years."

Airport board chair Tom

Turn to AIRPORT on pg. 2

DISTRICT COURT ROUND UP

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Shrader given deferred sentence

On Feb. 2, 2015, at the Madison County Courthouse, Spencer Joseph Shrader

pleaded guilty to one charge before Judge Loren Tucker and was given a deferred sentence.

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 Infor-

mation explained two charges against Shrader – count one of criminal endangerment, a felony, and a second count of partner or family member assault, a misdemeanor.

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

dant 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.

The charge of criminal

endangerment was dropped on Jan. 12, 2015, and Shrader's case was set to go to trial.

"Until 15 minutes before business hours closed Friday, this was set for a jury trial," Judge Tucker said. "Now we are here for a change of plea."

Shrader pleaded guilty

to the misdemeanor charge of partner or family member assault.

The maximum possible punishment for the charge is a \$1,000 fine, up to one year in prison or both.

Turn to COURT on pg. 2

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GAME from pg. 1

eight percent were in Idaho during hunting season.

The wolf question

Waltee also spend quite a bit of time discussing the presence of wolves in the area, due to questions from the sportsmen about the potential impacts the animals have on big game hunting season.

"Right now, I think wolf densities relative to the number of elk on the ground are low," Waltee said. "There aren't enough to have a significant impact on the elk."

Instead of wolves, Waltee said the primary drivers in elk populations are summer precipitation – how much forage is available for consumption – pregnancy rates and the level of hunter harvest.

"When we get a lot of snow early, the elk are pushed down into accessible places and there's quite a bit of harvest," he said.

Sutton said sportsmen are also concerned with grizzly bear management and the possible listing of sage-grouse on the endangered species list – both issues have the potential to change the way Montana's public lands and hunting season is managed.

Examining elk numbers

Waltee covers Southwest Montana from the Lewis and Clark Caverns, south through Whitehall and Dillon all the way to the Idaho border. His range continues along the Idaho border east to the Madison River and then back north along the river all the way to Cardwell – it is a large area to cover, he said. In that landscape, Waltee has two elk management units – one centered around the Gravelly Mountain Range and another in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

Just last month, Waltee completed his elk population count in the Tobacco Root Mountains. "The objective there is

1,000," he said. "We never find every elk, even from an airplane. This year there were 1,297 minimum observed elk."

Waltee is currently surveying the Gravelly elk, but last year's count was more than 10,000 – the objective is 8,000. "Those numbers are what we use to make our harvest numbers," he said. "We are in a very liberal harvest here ... I anticipate that structure will start to bring that population down and when it gets back to the objective range, we'll reassess."

Another future concern is the presence of brucellosis in elk herds, Sutton said.

"The Department of Livestock has taken over management of the bison because of brucellosis and we as sportsmen don't want that to happen to the elk," he said. "It's not an issue yet, but could become a really big one. Anything is a possibility ... we need to ensure it won't happen."

The need to organize

Waltee pointed out there are currently 133 introduced and un-introduced bills with a wildlife tag in the 2015 legislature.

"It behooves sportsmen locally to have a voice to bring to the statewide discussion," he said. "Groups that can work with local biologists to stay informed and efficiently get information to all sportsmen are popular. Keeping the conversation local, then having an organized voice to bring to the Fish and Game Commission is valuable."

Sutton said the group has not officially organized – the Jan. 29 presentation and discussion was intended to gather folks and pass around contact information while assessing if there is an interest in formally organizing.

"We're planning another presentation from someone with Fish, Wildlife and Parks maybe," Sutton said. "We can get more contact numbers and then start making an organization."

SAR from pg. 1

bile training, the group was deployed to find a buried avalanche beacon with beacons of their own, and also learned how to dig pits to check snowpack.

"We were going to set out from Vigilante," Sinclair said, referring to the Forest Service cabin in the Upper Ruby. "But it's hard to run a snowmobile in the dirt so we had to head 10 miles up the road before we could practice."

Out on the job

SAR units are private organizations that can only be mobilized by the sheriff's office – in Madison County, that is Sheriff Roger Thompson.

"They're a critical group," Thompson said. "They get called out on hunter rescues, water rescues, missing people."

Approximately 10 years ago, former Sheriff Dave Schenk reached out to a group

of people in the Ruby Valley about organizing a formal SAR group, Thompson said.

"(Schenk) wanted one in the Ruby (Valley) so there would be resources spread across the county," Thompson explained. "There was already a SAR program in the Madison Valley."

Since then,

participation in the Ruby Valley SAR has grown steadily.

"They're a vital re-

source," Thompson said. "We have a lot of rural space in this area to cover."



Courtesy of Bill Sinclair
 Robert Allhands, Ruby Valley Search and Rescue member and expert snowmobiler, gives a presentation on a pre operation snowmobile check.

Want to volunteer? To join the Ruby Valley SAR, you must be 18 years or older, pass a background check and attend 75 percent of meetings and trainings.

AIRPORT from pg. 1

Miller said it is important to remember where the money for improvements comes from.

"It is all general aviation fuel taxes," he said. "Each airport around the country is entitled to a portion of those taxes collected through the year."

Generally, the FAA covers 90 percent of project costs and the county is responsible for 10 percent, Hart said.

The funds are distributed by the FAA on an "as needed" basis, Miller explained, and capital improvement plans serve to give the FAA a heads up on what the future looks like for both airports.

For example, the capital improvement plan for the

Twin Bridges airport is blank until 2017 because the airport received an upgrade and expansion in 2014, Miller said.

"Twin Bridges doesn't have anything for the next few years because we got the airport up to snuff," he said. "But in the future, we will look at widening the runway."

On deck in Ennis

However, in Ennis, the county has bigger plans for the airport

For this coming summer, the plan outlines rehabilitation work on the airport's aprons, a project that will cost \$783,333.33 total.

"We work with the FAA to determine what is needed to keep all the runways and

taxiways from deteriorating," Miller said. "The minute you put asphalt in, it starts to wear out. You have to plan to keep it up and maintain it, as well as ultimately changing it out."

Though the capital improvement plan is only guideline that can be rearranged if circumstances and priorities change, it currently shows runway and taxiway rehabilitation work in Ennis ever year until 2018.

The importance of airports

The presence of two airports in the area is a huge benefit to Madison County, Hart said.

"We have a number of recreationists who come here to fish and hunt or who want a short route to Big Sky," Hart said, explaining who uses the

airports. "The airports benefit economic development because air traffic equates to hotels, restaurants and businesses."

Miller pointed out another positive of having county airports.

"It's a big safety factor," he said. "We get lifeflights coming and going from the hospital (in Ennis) and they use the airport quite a bit too. They fuel up at the airport but some lifeflight aircrafts come into the airport."

Aircrafts capable of assisting with disaster situations in the county, like forest fires, are also a perk, Hart said.

"They're great economically, but also with safety concerns," Miller concluded. "It's a great safety benefit as well as a tremendous economic benefit."

COURT from pg. 1

Before sentencing, Judge Tucker asked Shrader if the "sequence of events ... gave

you time to think about how you would handle a situation like this in the future?"

Shrader said it did, and Judge Tucker pro-

ceeded to sentencing.

Shrader received credit for one day of jail time served, was fined \$500 and received a deferred one year sentence.

Shrader must also complete an anger management course and is not allowed contact with the victim.

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Alright, who knows this historical site in Madison County? Call 682-7755 with your guess!
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MORE NEWS:

FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

New BSWC member works with Wildlife Conservation Society in Ennis

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* Here is the final feature of Madison County's new Big Sky Watershed Corps members – meet Sara Moore.

Sara Moore is in love with Montana. In fact, Moore said she fell in love with the state before moving here earlier this year.

"I have a friend living in Bozeman and he was always sending me photos of Montana," she said. "It always looked like the most beautiful place in the world."

Moore is a Big Sky Water-

shed Corps member working with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Ennis. The BSWC is an Americorps program that places members in a Montana watershed community, where they are supervised while assisting with projects ranging from data collection to water monitoring and more.

Moore, who spent a year traveling and volunteering in the Caribbean and South America before applying to the program, is focusing on the WCS's community partnership program.

"The goal of the program is to take the field science we do with wildlife and make it applicable to local folks who are most impacted

by the science," explained Kris Inman, Moore's supervisor at the WCS. "The biggest issues we focus on are human-wildlife conflict resolution, maintaining and restoring habitat, drought tolerance and outreach."

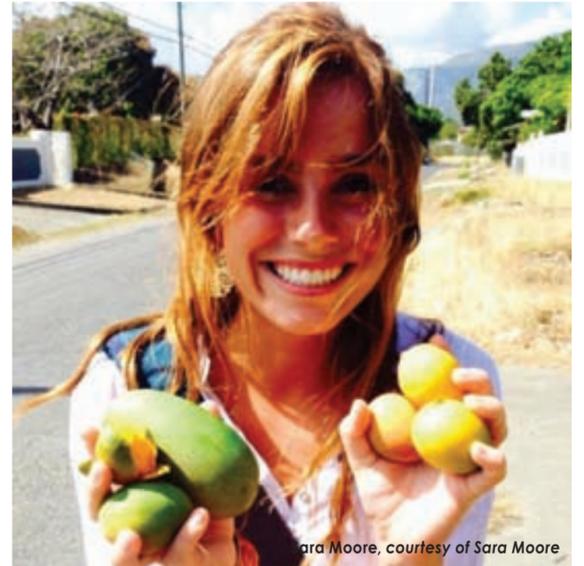
Moore's tasks include planning a summer speaker series, working on implementing mimic beaver dams to help restore riparian areas and expand the program's social media and online presence.

"It should be really fun," Moore said. "Right now I'm working on a grant to fund the speaker series. And then I'll get to facilitate the partnership between

all the organizations working on the mimic beaver dams and evaluate the success of those."

After graduating from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in natural resources management, Moore worked for the Rocky Mountain National Park Service in Colorado as a field biologist and was an intern at New York's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Moore loves the outdoors – she always has. Some of her passions include climbing, hiking and skiing. She said the opportunity to combine conservation work with exploring the outdoors is what made Montana so appealing.



Sara Moore, courtesy of Sara Moore

Twin Bridges expands science program with \$5,000 grant

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Next year in Twin Bridges, middle and high school students are going to get firsthand experience conducting experiments relating to how the community impacts the rivers in the area.

"Back in the fall, I was approached by the head of the Big Hole River Foundation – he wanted to know if we wanted to put in a trout hatching aquarium at the

Montana State University in the 1990s, moved to Madison County in August 2014 and currently teaches high school science in Twin Bridges.

Before that, she taught at a private school in New Jersey and spent 17 years teaching public school in Texas.

Males submitted a grant titled Fishing for Community Involvement to the National Educator's Association last fall – she based the application on the aquarium plan. The maximum amount offered through a NEA grant is \$5,000, which is what Males received.

"Students are going to design and conduct experiments that show how communities impact river health," Males said. "Then they will report their findings to interested parties in the communities around here – fishing guides, conservation districts, river foundations."

The handheld devices Males plans to purchase with the grant money have various probes that collect different information in digital data form, Males said.

"We want to use the equipment in all grade levels so the students will all be involved," she said. "The younger students will be able to do work with the aquarium, while older students can collect data in the field."

The grant for the aquarium is not yet complete, but Males said the Big Hole River Foundation is confident they will get it in time for students to use it next fall.

"We're going to go ahead and order the equipment so the students can get familiar with it," she said. "Right now, they're used to using old fashioned water testing kits, but this will give them digital

data – it's very advanced."

Knowledge in the classroom

All of Males's science classes will be involved in the projects, she said. In foundations of chemistry, students can examine water quality. Biology deals with ecological systems and the way organisms interact, which ties in nicely, Males said.

"I made a point of putting

materials on the equipment list that all the classes can use," she said. "For example, physics may do stream flow rate and water depth studies."

Middle school science teacher Jenifer Kearns and after school program advisor Michelle Head are working with Males to develop exercises with the new equipment so more students can be involved, she said.

Superintendent Chad Johnson said the opportunity for applicable learning is a benefit to the school.

"I think the opportunity is great," Johnson said. "Anytime we can get hands on experience and community involvement is a positive learning environment and great for the staff and kids and community as well."

"Students are going to design and conduct experiments that show how communities impact river health."
- Nancy Males, Twin Bridges science teacher

school," said science teacher Nancy Males, explaining why she then applied for a grant. "He said he would write a grant for that, and I decided I wanted to get updated science equipment for the school – data collection probes."

Males, who graduated from



WATERSHED WEDNESDAY

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Both of Madison County's watershed coordinators – Sunni Heikes-Knapton from the Madison Valley and Rebecca Ramsey from the Ruby Valley – traveled to Helena on Wednesday, Jan. 28 to meet with state legislators

on Watershed Wednesday.

"The work that local watershed groups do is so important for Montana," Heikes-Knapton said. "Watershed Wednesday is a great way to show legislators the wide range of conservation work being done by community groups in their areas, and how this session's bills

can support these efforts."

Ramsey agreed with Knapton and said the day is "a great opportunity for conservation groups and agencies to get together to learn about the great work happening on the ground around the state and to educate our legislators on how important the funding they allocate during the session is."



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Ramsey. Heikes (L) and Ramsey (R) pose with Rep. Ray Shaw from House District 71.

Smart laws keep our communities safe

By Sen. Debby Barrett
SENATE DISTRICT 36

I've always believed that government exists for just a few basic reasons: to facilitate the economy, to ensure responsible use of our environment and to keep the peace. And it's important that every function of government be efficient, effective and serve to improve our communities. Unfortunately, government is sometimes driven by misguided objectives that lead to public policy disasters. A classic example is America's unique and disappointing problem with

expensive, over incarceration. The United States has by far the highest incarceration rate of any industrialized country in the world at 716 inmates for every 100,000 citizens. The next highest rate for an industrialized nation is Russia, at 470 inmates for every 100,000 citizens. The cruel reality is that we use our detention facilities as a universal tool for punishment, leading to a "lock-em up" culture that costs taxpayers millions and millions of dollars every year.

I think we can all agree that law enforcement and detention facilities are essential func-

tions of government and should be well funded to ensure the safety of our communities. But there is a line separating what is essential for public safety and what is simply politically convenient. And when public policy becomes driven by convenience rather than utility, we all suffer the consequences.

Just look at how expensive incarceration is right here in Montana. It costs the state over \$30,000 every year for each prisoner incarcerated in our correctional facilities. Compare that to the \$13,000 that we spend on each student in

our schools. Does that really sound like a smart investment of our public resources?

I think it's clear that throwing money at a problem like crime is ineffective with our country's culture of quick incarceration. We must re-prioritize what crimes deserve the punishment of jail time and what crime can be handled in a different, more effective manner.

The requirements in Montana statute compelling local prosecutors to seek a sentence of incarceration for first time offenders of non-violent crimes puts a strain on resources, and

limits the ability of local detention centers to handle more dangerous criminals. For every first time offender of a non-violent crime that we incarcerate, that is resources we take away from incarcerating violent criminals that pose a dangerous threat to society. Does it really make sense to lock-up the person writing bad checks before the person convicted of assault?

Mass incarceration is a problem in every state across the country and there is a lot that our federal government can do to change the "lock-em up" culture in America.

But the real progress is made when change starts at the bottom, in our communities and at our state legislatures.



Sen. Debby Barrett

OPINION

The *Madisonian*.

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ALEC and the legislature

Dear Editor,

Our Montana legislators have an "on your honor" policy of reporting any gifts over \$50. Who records this and where is this record kept? I cannot find it and it should be public disclosure. On your honor, Sen. Debby Barrett? To whom and when did you report your corporate gift for travel of \$1,584.31, a \$1,000 per day expense account from the American Legislative Exchange Council for their event? ALEC is a corporate bill mill. It is not just a lobby or a front group, it is much more powerful than that.

Through ALEC, corporations hand state legislators their wish lists and write bills behind closed doors with no public or press allowed. To benefit the corporations' bottom line. Montana has laws that legislators cannot take gifts from lobbyists, but those are not enforced because the legislators police themselves. Barrett, Sen. Dee Brown, who introduced Senate Bill 16, and Rep. Ray Shaw have all been wined and dined by ALEC.

Barrett wants the legislators to police Montana campaign regulations when they cannot police themselves from taking lobbyists'

gifts. Like the fox watching the chicken house.

The power deregulation bill that increased Montanan electric bills in 1997 was an ALEC bill written by Enron and introduced by former state Sen. Fred Thomas (ALEC member). Meetings were held behind closed doors (illegally) on the Montana power deregulation bill. Montana legislators' campaigns were funded by Enron. The bill was sold to Montanans by former Gov. Marc Racicot that it would lower energy prices after Racicot left office and went to work for Enron as a lobbyist. Northwestern

Energy helps fund ALEC with former Rep. Ronald Devlin, a lobbyist for Northwestern Energy, and state co-chairmen for ALEC Sen. Roger Webb. So do not look for energy prices to come down.

What all voters should ask any candidate is this: "Do you have any ties with ALEC?" That should tell you they are not working for you and what is best for Montana.

Judith M. Wiancko
Ennis

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Margaret Baker McCallum Hokanson

October 14, 1919 - January 29, 2015

Elizabeth Margaret Baker McCallum Hokanson, 95, passed away Jan. 29, 2015, in Butte. Beth was born Oct. 14, 1919, in Butte to Adolph Ario Baker and Hazel Mae Argall Baker. When she was a young girl, the family moved to the family ranch on Nez Perce Creek near Elk Park, Mont. It was there she spent her formative years. She and her siblings enjoyed an idyllic life exploring the surrounding mountains on horseback and on foot. Beth attended the country school at Trask in Elk Park. In those days school ran from March to November, and Beth either rode her horse or walked to school (surely it was uphill both ways). She always talked about racing the train on her horse. On Aug. 15, 1937, she married the love of her life, Kenneth Edwin McCallum at the Grace Methodist Church

in Butte. They resided in Butte for two years and then moved to the McAllister area. It was on various ranches in the area that they raised their family. Beth and Kenny worked side by side with ranching chores. They spent long hours riding horseback in the Tobacco Root Mountains. She loved to garden and always had a big, productive garden, which she canned and preserved to feed the family during the winter. Beth and Kenny moved to Ennis on New Year's Day 1969. Kenny passed away shortly after on Jan. 29, 1969.

Beth married Fred Wilhelm Hokanson on June 9, 1970, and moved to Norris. Beth and Fred loved camping in the mountains and traveling to visit family and friends. They traveled on an epic train trip shortly before Fred passed away on April 6, 1995.

Beth was a genius at em-

broidery and made pillowcases relished by family members and friends. She was also an expert at crocheting and she especially loved making baby afghans and lap robes for disabled veterans. In her later years she enjoyed doing beadwork and many people have her Christmas ornaments.

Beth is survived by her children Florence McCallum of South Byron, N.Y.; Jennette Mitchell of Wasilla, AK; Doris Baker-Ryen (Lloyd) of Bozeman; and Keith McCallum (Dawn) of Helena. Her devoted and loving sister Stella Myott (George) and brother Bill Baker (Carole) also survive. Beth is survived by 15 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Beth is also survived by Fred's family, Alfred Hokanson (Dixie) of Norris; Elsa Makirzu (Corey) of Meridian, Idaho; Sharon Smith (Dick)

of Three Forks; Nancy Stewart (Gaither) of Ennis; Rod Hokanson (AJ) of Bozeman; son-in-law Chuck Zachary of Powell, Wyo.; and daughter-in-law Gayle Hokanson of Bozeman. Also surviving are Fred's many grand, great and great-great grandchildren. Beth was quite proud of the fact her combined family included more than 70 grandkids.

Preceding Beth in death were her parents, both husbands, daughter Elizabeth Wood, son-in-law Jim Baker, brothers Harry Baker and Adolph Baker, sister Mary Nikula and two siblings who passed away in childhood, Marie and Martin. Fred's daughters Charlene Zachary and Bethel Anderson and son David Hokanson and three Hokanson grandchildren also preceded Beth in death.

At Beth's request, there will be no funeral service.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Twin Bridges veterans' news

Submitted by Al Fox
Twin Bridges Veterans

The Jan. 13 Twin Bridges veterans' meeting went well though there were few members in attendance.

Adjutant Douglas Martin made a good report on the results of the community Christmas dinner. While raffle ticket sales were up, numbers of those attending the dinner were down. It was felt by all that the dinner went well, that the improvements we made fol-

lowing last year's dinner were helpful, but that there was more that could be done - suggestions were made and notes kept for improving the 2016 event.

Our first appearance with the Twin Bridges Elementary School students will be Jan. 30. We expect to have three veterans attend that day.

The meeting was adjourned after the 50/50 drawing where absent member Rob Ball's number was drawn. As Ball was absent, the pot will continue to grow.

Trinity Church hosts pancake dinner

Submitted by
Trinity Episcopal Church

The newly-remodeled Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers is back and ready to host community activities. Last year's Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was missed last year while the church

was undergoing renovation.

This year's pancake dinner will be from 5 - 7 p.m. on Tuesday Feb. 17. The Trinity Men's Group will be cooking. Pancakes and sausage will be on the menu along with customary sides and beverages. This year, we are adding gluten free pancakes.

Welch named to Dean's High Honor List

Submitted by Jerry Welch

Samantha Welch, 2014 graduate of Ennis High School, was named to the Dean's High Honor List for the fall semester at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. To qualify for the High Honor List a student must have completed 15 hours with a grade

point average of 3.75 to 4.0.

Welch is majoring in political science with a minor in English. Her parents are Jerry and Carrie Welch of Ennis. Marietta College was founded in 1836 and is a private Liberal Arts college. Welch is also a member of the sorority Alpha Xi Delta. She will graduate in 2018.

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LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

State of the State, infrastructure plans showcase party divide, lawmakers consider same-sex marriage bill and Zinke addresses lawmakers

Submitted by Michael Wright
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
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In the middle of the fourth week of the 64th Montana Legislature, Gov. Steve Bullock took the rostrum in the House of Representatives with a big smile.

"The state of our state is strong," Bullock said, beginning his State of the State address.

Bullock touted his fiscal discipline and pushed his big legislative priorities, getting multiple standing ovations from democrats and occasional claps from a few republicans.

He called for investment in infrastructure, early education and mental health care. He urged the Legislature to pass his Healthy Montana plan, which would expand Medicaid to as many as 70,000 uninsured Montanans.

Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Moore, R-Miles City, gave the republican response in the Senate chambers shortly after the Bullock's speech.

Moore criticized the Governor for wanting to expand "broken" government programs and said the Healthy Montana plan would give free health care to "able-bodied, childless adults."

The official response was not the only Republican pushback on the Governor last week.

In a press conference Thursday, Rep. Mike Cuffe, R-Eureka, announced a republican plan to split Gov. Bullock's infrastructure plan, the Build Montana Act, or House Bill 5, into separate bills.

Republicans did not like that the Governor stuffed all of the infrastructure projects in one bill, and they want to pay for them with cash instead of borrowing money by selling bonds.

Cuffe announced the introduction of five bills that include some of the projects from the HB 5, funding them with existing cash. Preliminary numbers say the republican plan will use slightly less cash than Bullock's did, but the bills do not include all the projects.

Cuffe said all the projects are important, and will be included in bonding bills that will come later.

HB 5 has been in committee for more than two weeks. People from across the state came to testify on the bill in support of projects affecting their areas – like rebuilding roads, updating water systems and improvements to university buildings. With the new republican bills, those who testified may have to take another trip to Helena to support their projects.

Otter Creek water bills

Sen. Duane Ankney, R-Colstrip, introduced three bills dealing with water quality standards in specific southeastern Montana waterways, including Otter Creek and other tributaries of the Tongue River.

Representatives of Arch Coal supported the package, along with the Montana Contractors Association and the Montana Mining Association. Arch Coal has made plans to develop a mine in the area, but the project has been stuck in the permitting process.

Ranchers, farm groups and conservationists opposed the package, saying it would allow mining companies to pollute their water sources. "We view this as a blatant attack on agriculture," said Clint McRae, a rancher in the area.

The supporters mostly claimed the bills would expedite the permitting process.

Senate Bill 122 would give the Department of Environmental Quality 180 days to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for a stream that a mining company wants to dump waste into. TMDLs set the amount of the pollutant that can be discharged

into the stream and still meet water quality standards.

"There's nothing harder for an applicant ... than not knowing a road map to follow," said Tammy Johnson of the Montana Mining Association.

Opponents said the bill would rush the DEQ's studying of the waterways. Anne Hedges of the Montana Environmental Information Council said measurements done in that time frame would not be complete.

"It will be a piece of garbage," Hedges said. "It won't be worth the paper it's written on."

Senate Bill 159 would ensure that the amount of pollutants in some of those Tongue River tributaries wouldn't be higher than natural. Senate Bill 160 makes it harder for someone to challenge pollution discharge permits by increasing the burden of proof in court. A person would have to prove the definition of the stream's natural condition was "arbitrary and capricious."

Guns on campus makes a return

The Senate Judiciary committee is considering Senate Bill 143, which would allow guns on campus by prohibiting the Board of Regents from making rules against guns.

Sen. Cary Smith, R-Billings, the bill's sponsor, said the right to bear arms was a basic right that the Board of Regents does not have the authority to abridge.

Gary Marbut, president of the Montana Shooting Sports Association, said the list of exceptions in the bill would give the board enough authority to maintain safety on college campuses. A recent University of Montana student and a current Montana State University graduate student also supported the bill.

Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education Kevin McRae said because the Legislature has not made carrying guns legal in other government buildings, it would be wrong to do so only in state universities.

"Campuses are, in our view, very safe but sensitive places," McRae said.

J.C. Weingartner of the MEA-MFT, the teachers' union, also opposed the bill.

The committee also heard Senate Bill 165, which would increase the fine for driving without a seatbelt from \$20 to \$100.

"The intent is to increase the deterring effect of the current law," said Sen. Dick Barrett, D-Missoula, the bill's sponsor.

Marbut made another appearance on this bill, in opposition and representing only himself.

Marbut called seatbelts a "great invention," but opposes seatbelt laws because he does not believe the government should legislate to prevent someone's bad decisions.

"People have to be left to make their own mistakes," Marbut said.

Identity theft affecting children came up in the House Judiciary committee last week.

Rep. Kim Dudik, D-Missoula, introduced House Bill 232, which would increase maximum fines and prison terms for identity theft if the victim is a minor.

Dudik said children are easy targets for identity theft because they have not used their social security numbers to get credit cards, driver's licenses or loans. Dudik called a child's identity a "blank slate." Criminals could steal the numbers and use it to get loans or credit cards.

Bryan Lockerby, an administrator for the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, spoke in support of the bill. He said adults whose identities are stolen often notice within two months, but a child might not find out until they are 18 and try to take out private loans.

Marriage equality bill

Rep. Bryce Bennett,

D-Missoula, is carrying a bill that would eliminate Montana's prohibition of same-sex marriage.

"What we're asking to do with this bill is strike the words," Bennett said.

House Bill 282 would solidify a recent Ninth Circuit Court decision that allows same-sex marriage in Montana. Through court precedent – and some state law – more than 30 states allow same-sex marriage.

The Supreme Court has not acted on the issue yet, but has said it will take up cases on the issue later this year, which some opponents said was a reason not to pass this bill.

Pat Plowman, a nurse from Carbon County, said the bill was pointless because the Supreme Court said it will hear same-sex marriage cases later this year.

"Why this exercise in futility?" Plowman said.

Bennett addressed that in his closing statement.

"Betting the Supreme Court will side with the states who haven't affirmed marriage equality is a bad bet," Bennett said.

Fish Wildlife and Parks presents license fee increases

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is facing a potential \$5.6 million budget shortfall, and one solution is increasing fishing and hunting license prices.

House Bill 140, sponsored by Jeffrey Welborn, R-Dillon, would raise prices mostly on in-state licenses, with a couple of out of state increases as well. Welborn said the increases are necessary to maintaining FWP's functions.

"Existing fish and wildlife management programs will have to be cut to balance the budget," Welborn said.

Resident hunting licenses would be increased by \$8, resident fishing licenses by \$3. Non-resident fishing licenses would go from \$60 to \$86, which Welborn said would not be unreasonable compared to surrounding states.

"Montana's high quality opportunities are currently undervalued," Welborn said.

Ranchers, sporting goods store owners and wildlife groups supported the bill.

Opposition came from student lobbyists from the University of Montana, who said the bill would unjustly penalize out-of-state students by eliminating discounts on the licenses.

U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke calls for better public land management, less bureaucracy

With a hoarse voice after his first month in Congress, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke became the latest Montana political figure to address a joint session of the Legislature.

He told a story of trying to hang a picture in his new office. He was stopped, and instead three other people showed up to hang the picture for him.

"In that one small act, we're drowning in bureaucracy," Zinke said.

He went on to say that bureaucracy was one of the problems with public lands management in Montana, saying that local forest rangers were controlled by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

He said it was time to explore more state management of land with pilot projects, but said he does not support privatizing the land.

"I will not tolerate selling our public lands," he said, getting a standing ovation.

He closed by saying the nation's problems are fixable, and he intends to be a part of it.

"This Congress is going to go from a Congress of 'no,'" he said, "to a Congress of 'go.'"

- Michael Wright is a reporter for the Community News Service at the University of Montana School of Journalism. He can be reached at michael.wright@umontana.edu. Follow him on Twitter @mj_wright1.

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All the generous community members, foundations, service organizations and businesses.

Thanks to everyone's generous support, we met our Capital Campaign Construction goal of \$545,868 on December 30, 2014.

At this time we are pleased to announce that we have received \$22,000 towards our \$100,000 goal for Phase III -"FFE" Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment.

The Center will be located at 501 North Madison Street in Twin Bridges. After we select a contractor, construction is scheduled to start on April 1, 2015. Completion date is targeted for the end of December 2015.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Our stellar community volunteer, Frank Colwell, for all you have done and continue to do to help us with our project.

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SPORTS



BASKETBALL ROUND UP



Kurtis Koenig

THE MADISONIAN

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GIRLS

Harrison Lady Wildcats 37, White Sulphur Springs 23

The Wildcat defense continues to impress as Harrison held the Hornets to only six points in the first half on their way to another conference win last weekend.

Though Harrison only managed eight points in the first quarter, their defense allowed the Rebels only two.

Britt Cooper went to work in the second quarter and dropped in six of her 15 points to ignite the Wildcats. Harrison enjoyed an 18-6 lead at the half.

An explosive third quarter extended the Wildcat lead and Harrison was able to cruise to the win in the final stanza.

Cooper built a double-double with her game high 15 points and ten rebounds. Harrison 8 10 12 7 - 37 WSS 2 4 7 10 - 23

Harrison Lady Wildcats 34, Gardiner Bruins 30

The Lady 'Cats squeaked past upset-minded Gardiner last weekend in a game that came down to some sharp-shooting from the charity stripe late in the fourth quarter.

Harrison led by only three points at the conclusion of the first quarter and neither team was able to put the ball in the hole.

Then Gardiner went to work. The Bruins dropped in 11 second-quarter points to gain the lead. Harrison retreated to the locker room down 13-10.

Britt Cooper sighted in her shooting in the third quarter and erupted for 10 of her

game-high 24 points. Harrison regained the lead and added to one of their own by holding Gardiner to only six points.

Up by five points, the Wildcats were only able to secure two field goals in the fourth quarter. Gardiner, meanwhile, put down nine points from the field. The difference that decided the game was free-throws.

Harrison made good on six of 13 free-throws, and Cooper netted five of eight hold on to a four point lead and the win. Harrison 5 5 14 10 - 34 Gardiner 2 11 6 11 - 30

Sheridan Lady Panthers 16, Lima 59

Still plagued by injury and a depleted roster, the Lady Panthers fell to Lima last weekend despite a third quarter rally.

Sheridan struggled to get the ball rolling in the first half scoring only three and two points in the first and second quarter respectively. The Lady Bears cruised to a monstrous lead in the first quarter and added to it in the second.

Sheridan trailed 31-5 at the break.

The Lady Panthers managed to put up 11 points in the third quarter, but Lima was able to rally for 17 buckets. The Bears blanketed Sheridan in the final stanza to coast in for the lopsided win.

Alexis Woirhaye scored six points for the Lady Panthers and April Degel added four while Destiny Fable and Abigail Sullivan each chipped in two. Sheridan 3 2 11 0 - 16 Lima 17 14 17 11 - 59

Sheridan Lady Panthers 15, Shields Valley 84

The Runnin' Rebels decimated a struggling Lady

Panthers team last Saturday.

Alexis Woirhaye scored half of the points - eight - for Sheridan in a game where Shields Valley scored enough first quarter points to win the game.

Though the Lady Panthers managed at least a bucket in each quarter, the Rebels activated the mercy rule in the third quarter.

April Degel contributed four points and Destiny Fable added three in the loss. Sheridan 2 9 2 2 - 15 Shields valley 27 24 14 19 - 84

Ennis Lady Mustangs 46, Manhattan Christian 39

The Lady Mustangs put down a late Lady Eagle surge to walk away with a win in basketball action last weekend.

Hot-handed Laney McNally iced a pair of three-pointers in the opening quarter to spur a 13 point Mustang run, which earned Ennis a seven point lead. They extended that lead in the second quarter and enjoyed a 22-11 half time advantage.

The Lady Eagles began to chip away at their deficit in the third quarter, but some clutch free-throw shooting in the final quarter allowed Ennis to maintain control of the ballgame.

The 'Stangs found success in five of nine last quarter free-throws which proved instrumental in their victory.

McNally ended the night with 13 points and Caitlin Klatt and Makenzie Moen each added eight in the win. Ennis 13 11 11 11 - 46 MCHS 6 5 12 16 - 39

Twin Bridges Lady Falcons 66, White Sulphur Springs 56

The Lady Hornets led at the conclusion of both the first and second quarter before the Lady Falcons were able to gain the ad-

vantage and close out with a win.

White Sulphur Springs came out strong in the opening quarter and knock the Lady Falcons on their heels. Twin Bridges, down a couple players due to injury and illness, took a while to get rolling, but they eventually found their stride.

Down 28-31 at the break, the Falcons erupted for a 26 point third quarter to gain the lead. Behind Audrey George's 12 points the Lady Falcons continued to put distance between themselves and their foes.

A strong defensive output in the fourth quarter allowed Twin Bridges to cruise a come-from-behind victory.

Julia Cox added 10 points and Mara Johnson contributed 9 in the win. Twin Bridges 6 22 26 12 - 66 WSS 11 20 17 8 - 56

BOYS

Harrison Wildcats 80, Gardiner Bruins 61

In a game where 54 free-throws were shot, the team who drained the higher percentage has a discernable advantage.

Harrison made good on 79 percent of their free-throws to the tune of 26 points. That advantage translated into a huge conference win for the 'Cats.

Jed Fike not only earned game scoring honors with 33 points, he shot a perfect 10-10 from the wellfare line.

Both teams got off to a mediocre start with 11 first quarter points. Then Fike sparked his team in the second quarter with an 11-point performance. The Wildcat defense held the Bruins to only 13 second-quarter points.

The rallying 'Cats went to the locker room with a 35-24 advantage.

Even scoring in the third period set the stage for an exciting final period. Harrison shot 12 free-throws in the fourth quarter compared to Gardiner's four. The Wildcats dominated the fourth quarter and cruised to a huge upset win. Harrison 11 24 21 24 - 80 Gardiner 11 13 21 16 - 61

Harrison Wildcats 74, White Sulphur Springs 77

The Wildcats' second-half rally fell short as they could not overcome a crippling first half deficit.

Jed Fike scored more than 30 points for the second consecutive game and Chas Buus added 15 points in what was nearly a come-from-behind victory.

Harrison struggled in the first quarter while the Hornets hammered out 20 points. White Sulphur Springs exploded in the second quarter and added an additional ten points to their lead. Harrison trailed 31-50 at the break.

Then Fike and company got hot.

He capitalized on three three-pointers and a three-point play to contribute 16 points and spur on his Wildcats. The 'Cats chiseled away 11 points from the Hornet lead.

Down 54-62 at the start of the final quarter, the Hornets found a way to neutralize Fike, but Zane VonBergen took on the role of scorer. He put up eight of his nine points in that quarter to give the 'Cats a shot at a comeback.

Alas, despite a huge comeback, the Hornets escaped the Wildcats 77-74. Harrison 11 20 23 20 - 74 WSS 20 30 12 15 - 77

Sheridan Panthers 41, Lima Bears 52

Despite Sam Wood's game-high 19 points, the Panthers fell to Lima last weekend.

Sheridan was unable to recover from a low-scoring first half. They trailed by 10 points in the opening quarter; Lima extended that lead by four in the second quarter.

Down 27-13 after the break, Wood hit a hot streak and drained 10 points to spark a potential comeback. Colter Kenworthy added seven of his 11 points in that quarter to bring the Panthers to within 10 at quarter's end.

The Bears kept Wood quiet in the final period, but Sheridan continued to fight, scoring 11 points. In the end, the first quarter deficit would be too much to overcome as the Panthers dropped the conference matchup. Sheridan 5 8 17 11 - 41 Lima 15 12 13 12 - 52

Sheridan Panthers 17, Shields Valley 75

Shields Valley decimated the Panthers in a conference basketball matchup last weekend.

The Panthers were held to single-digit scoring throughout the game and were unable to find

a way to stop the balanced attack of the sharp-shooting Rebels.

Shields Valley did all the damage they needed to in the opening quarter, racing out to a 17-4 lead. Their relentless attack posted 22 second-quarter points and the route was set.

Sam Wood led the Panthers with six points, Colter Kenworthy chipped in five and Nick Haag and Cam Haag each added two in the loss. Sheridan 4 6 4 3 - 17 Shields 17 22 19 17 - 75

Ennis Mustangs 51, Manhattan Christian 67

Ennis came out slow in the opening quarter and could not muster enough buckets to overcome an early deficit as they fell to the Eagles last weekend.

The Eagles doubled up the Mustangs in the first quarter cashing in on four three-pointers while holding the Mustangs to only 12 points.

Ennis battled back to cut their deficit in half in the second quarter and trailed 31-37 at the break.

However, they came out of the locker room cold for the second time in the contest and the Eagles took advantage.

Giving up a pair of three-pointers to their foes, the Mustangs fell behind even further with their eighth point, third quarter output. Though Jake Knack piled up 16 points and Walker McKittrick added 14, Ennis could not catch up to the high-flying Eagles as they fell 67-51.

Ennis 12 19 8 12 - 51 MCHS 24 13 14 16 - 67

Twin Bridges Falcons 66, White Sulphur Springs 59

In a game that was too close for comfort, the Falcons knocked off the Hornets in conference action last weekend. Twin Bridges jumped out to a seven point first quarter lead, a lead they would hold onto for the entire game, and eventually came away with the win.

However, the Hornets were not going to go away that easily.

After Twin added to their lead and went to the locker room up 37-26, the Hornets came out in the second half with a vengeance.

Behind Tracen Egger's game high 26 points and Nolan Konen's 12, the Falcons put down the revolt and cruised to another conference win.



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Photo courtesy of Kelley Knack
Mustang Gavin McKittrick drives to the basket over Falcon defender Nolan Konen (0).

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FALCONS versus MUSTANGS

Kurtis Koenig
THE MADISONIAN
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Mustangs avenge early season loss

As the post-season ranking is starting to take shape, crucial matchups between top-tier teams become all the more important. Though Manhattan Christian appears to be unbeatable at this point in the season, the battle for that number two spot in the conference is hotly contested.

The Twin Bridges Falcons and the Ennis Mustangs are two such teams jockeying for position, and it culminated last Thursday night in Twin Bridges.

The Falcons downed the Mustangs in their first matchup of the season back in December – this time, the pressure was on Ennis to find a way to avenge that loss.

Ennis opened up in man-to-man defense, a front they would

drought, Kyler Elliot scored a put-back bunny. He had the final say in the quarter after dropping a free-throw and completing a three-point play.

The Falcon defense easily won the turnover battle in the first quarter, which earned the home team a 13-8 advantage.

The Mustangs charged back in the second period and brought the score to within two. W. McKittrick, with two fouls already, jumped into the lane and took Konen's charge with 6:40 remaining.

"I was nervous when he got in there," said Smithson, "but he did exactly what I need him to do and took that charge."

Though both teams demonstrated that they could run, and quickly, neither team opted to drop into full court pressure.

"They take very good care of that basketball," Smithson said of Twin Bridges, "when you play against that good of a team, a press might have slowed them down a little, but most of the time the press would have

pivotal juncture in the game.

With five minutes remaining, Crowley buried a three from the corner. One play later, W. McKittrick drew his third charge of the evening.

"At the middle of the third quarter, we started to turn things around," Smithson said. "We played good defense but we couldn't get things done offensively up until then."

The Mustangs thundered back into the game and trailed by only six points with four minutes left in the quarter.

Then Konen went back to work.

He pulled off a three-point play, and then, after a nifty drive through the lane with 2:23 remaining, the Falcons led by 10 points again.

Forty seconds later, Knack wrestled a rebound and put it back up for two points to start a 5-0 run for the Mustangs.

With just a few ticks remaining in the quarter, Crowley sunk his second long-ball of the quarter to bring the Mustangs to within four.

But Konen would have the final say.

As time ran out, the senior hurled a bomb from the visitors' bench that sailed three quarters of the length of the gym and rattled home as the buzzer rang out.

Twin Bridges led 47-40. "[Konen's] shot sucked some of our momentum out," said Smithson, "that was huge."

Momentum or not, the fourth quarter promised to be explosive.

Christensen drew his fourth foul early in the fourth quarter. The Mustangs immediately began to exploit this. Several layups later and Ennis was on a 7-0 run.

With 4:47 remaining, G. McKittrick hit two free-throws to knot the game up at 47 all. Two minutes later, his 15-foot jumper would give Ennis its first lead since thirty seconds into the first quarter.

"The turning point was when we started to work the ball down low instead of relying on our outside game," W. McKittrick said.

And he was correct. Ennis worked the ball inside as much as possible in order to attack Christensen who was in foul trouble. The result was a slew of free-throws.

Ennis shot 16 times from the welfare line in the fourth quarter, and they capitalized on 11 of them.

With 1:17 remaining, Ennis led 54-47 but Twin had a few tricks remaining.

In under a minute, Konen, Eggers and Wesley Armstrong would each cash in on a three-ball. Konen led all scores with 25 while Eggers chipped in 11. The Falcons would get to within two points of Ennis, but the Mustangs were hot from the free-throw line. In that same time frame, Ennis buried six free-throws, and that would be enough for the 60-56 win.

"I attribute our victory to our defense," Smithson said, "there were a couple times when we got behind and we started hanging our heads, but we came together and found ourselves."

And two Ennis sophomores found their way into 19 points each. Knack and G. McKittrick both scored on nine of 13 free-throw attempts and paced the Mustangs with their combined 38 points.

"In the first half, we didn't play great team ball, but we changed that in the second half and got a big win," W. McKittrick said. "It feels great."

Ennis 8 13 19 20 – 60
Twin 13 17 17 9 – 56

Lady Falcons storm past Ennis

It did not take long for the Lady Falcons to get on the board and once they did, they never looked back as they toppled the Lady 'Stangs last weekend.

Megan Martin got things off to an early start as she dropped a pair of free-throws to put the Falcons on the board. Madison Beagley doubled their lead on the next play and the 11-0 Falcon run was underway.

The Lady Falcons raced through Ennis's full-court press, finding easy layups. Twin Bridges earned 10 opportunities at the free-throw line and came away with six points.

Tragedy struck midway through the quarter when Beagley went down with a possible knee injury, but Audrey George stepped up immediately. On the next play, she fired off a deep three-pointer, snagged her own rebound and put it back up for two.

Lady Mustang Brigit Croy had several good looks at the basket early on and she finally put her Mustangs on the board with 29 seconds left in the quarter after picking a pocket and racing coast to coast for the layup.

The Falcon's devastating full-court diamond trap caused problems for Ennis throughout the quarter, causing Ennis to fall behind by 10 points.

Then the game got really interesting.

It appeared as though the ball had been dipped in butter. Both teams struggled to maintain possession of it, and Ennis had it worse.

The Lady Mustangs frantically attempted to move the ball around the perimeter, but several passes found their way out of bounds. The Falcons suffered a slew of turnovers as well.

With 5:40 remaining in the quarter, Kelsie Roberts hucked up a prayer that miraculously rattled its way home. The "trick shot" sparked the Mustangs and their offense began to click.

Martin picked off a pass and drove it the length of the court for the layup to halt a short-lived Ennis run. For two minutes both teams shot exceptionally well, but Twin Bridges maintained the upper hand.

At the end of the second quarter, Twin Bridges would hold a 24-9 advan-

tage over the Mustangs.

Croy led her Lady 'Stangs into the third quarter and netted six buckets to spur a comeback attempt. The Mustangs gathered four points from the charity stripe and McKenzie Moen started connecting on a few shots.

The Falcon lead diminished by only one point at the conclusion of the third period and it was all Twin Bridges after that.

The Mustangs continued to threaten, but the Lady Falcons controlled the fourth quarter and came away with a convincing win 53-37.

The Lady Falcons shot an impressive 64 percent from the free-throw line compared to Ennis's 44 percent. The sharp-shooting Falcons also managed a mere 29 percent shooting percentage from the

field. Their saving grace lay in their persistence in securing offensive rebounds, of which they earned many.

The Mustangs were severely hurt by foul trouble as starter Caitlin Klatt and offensive weapon Moen were both relegated to huge chunks of time on the bench with three or more fouls.

Paige Phillips led her Falcons with nine points and every Falcon player scored at least a point. George, Cassidy Wetzel and Martin each contributed eight in the win.

Croy led the Ennis charge with 11 nets and Moen and Danika Philpott came away with six each.

Twin	12	12	15	14	–	53
Ennis	2	7	16	12	–	37



Photo courtesy of Kelley Knack
Gavin McKittrick (2) deftly handles the ball against the Falcons.

stay in for the entire game while Twin adopted its standard 1-3-1 zone. With all the pieces set, Super Fight II began.

A key to victory for the Mustangs would be containing the hot hand and shifty drive of Falcon senior Nolan Konen.

"The kid is a great player," said Mustang coach Jared Smithson. "He takes the ball inside and puts down some great shots. He is the facilitator of that offense and we wanted to take him out of the game as much as possible by constantly applying pressure."

Konen, however, had motives of his own.

Though powerhouse sophomore Jake Knack would strike first for Ennis, Konen pointed out demonstrably why he is one of top players in the conference by knocking down a huge three right at the six-minute mark.

The two-point lead held by Ennis was not only erased, but it would also be the last time they saw a point advantage until the end of the fourth quarter.

After Konen's three, the Falcons rallied for a 6-0 run. The Mustangs worked the ball around the perimeter of the zone very effectively and even fed it to Knack on the block, but the disciplined 6'4" frame of Cooper Christensen proved too difficult a barrier to overcome.

Gavin McKittrick broke the streak by hitting the first end of two free-throws. Two plays later, his brother – Walker – picked a pocket and raced to the key for a layup.

Konen, however, spoiled the potential momentum swing by taking his first charge of the night.

The sharpshooter then drained his second three-pointer of the quarter with 2:20 remaining to go up 13-5.

After a six-minute field-goal

worn us down even more."

The Falcons made good on five of six shots from the charity stripe and added some stellar outside shooting from Konen and Tracen Eggers.

With three minutes remaining, the Falcons led by 10 points. A few transitions later, Twin held a half-time advantage of nine points, 30-21.

Twin shot a better free-throw percentage in the first half and they were making good from the field. The comprehensive Falcon defense held back the Mustang attack, especially Ennis's hot-handed G. McKittrick.

"(G. McKittrick) got a little cold," said Smithson. "[At half time] I told him to keep focus, don't worry about the things you can't control."

The pep talk worked. G. McKittrick poured out 13 second-half points, including 5-6 from the free-throw line.

But the Mustangs would suffer a few setbacks on the road to victory.

With 5:26 remaining in the quarter, Wylie Leo jumped into the lane in an attempt to draw a charge. The collision caused an injury from which Leo did not recover for the remainder of the contest.

"When Wylie went down, Cole Crowley came off the bench and did spectacular job," Smithson said.

According to Smithson, Crowley is one of the most improved players on the team this season.

His teammate, W. McKittrick, agrees.

"Without a doubt," W. McKittrick said. "Cole played huge. He came in and hit some big threes. He had the best performance tonight."

Though Crowley only managed six points, they came at a

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Merritt Medows. Madison Valley bathed in afternoon sunlight.

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4 **P A W S** RESCUE
PET OF THE WEEK

BELLADORA

Humph! Been sitting around here waiting for you and guess what? You have been noticeable in your absence. I really would love it if you'd hurry up and get here. I'm not getting any younger. I'm a good, sweet girl and I'm also good at my job - focused, determined, and deadly when it comes to



mice. Otherwise I'm gentle, a little timid at first, clean and neat. Please call on me soon. Thanks, Belladora You can call either Misty: 439-1405 or Afton: 287-3613 and tell them I asked you to call. Oh and they accept members and donations. Much appreciated, Belladora

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday
 Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 40 to 50. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 55 mph.

Friday
 Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain and snow. Lows 25 to 35. Highs 40 to 50. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday
 Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain and snow. Highs 40 to 50. Lows 25 to 40.

Sunday
 Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain and snow. Highs 40 to 50. Lows 25 to 35.

Monday
 Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain and snow. Highs 40 to 50. Lows 25 to 35.

Quote of the Week:

"Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change."

Stephen Hawking

Hauoli Makahiki Ho from the Staff of
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STUDENT OF THE WEEK ALDER



The Alder School is proud to announce **Andreana Bock** as the Student of the Week. Andreana is a very capable 3rd grade student who enjoys having fun and playing with others. She is quite active, brave, creative, and helpful. There is not much that slows Andreana down. She has a beautiful singing voice, as she performed a solo part in the Christmas program. She enjoyed participating in the wrestling program last year. Congratulations to Andreana!

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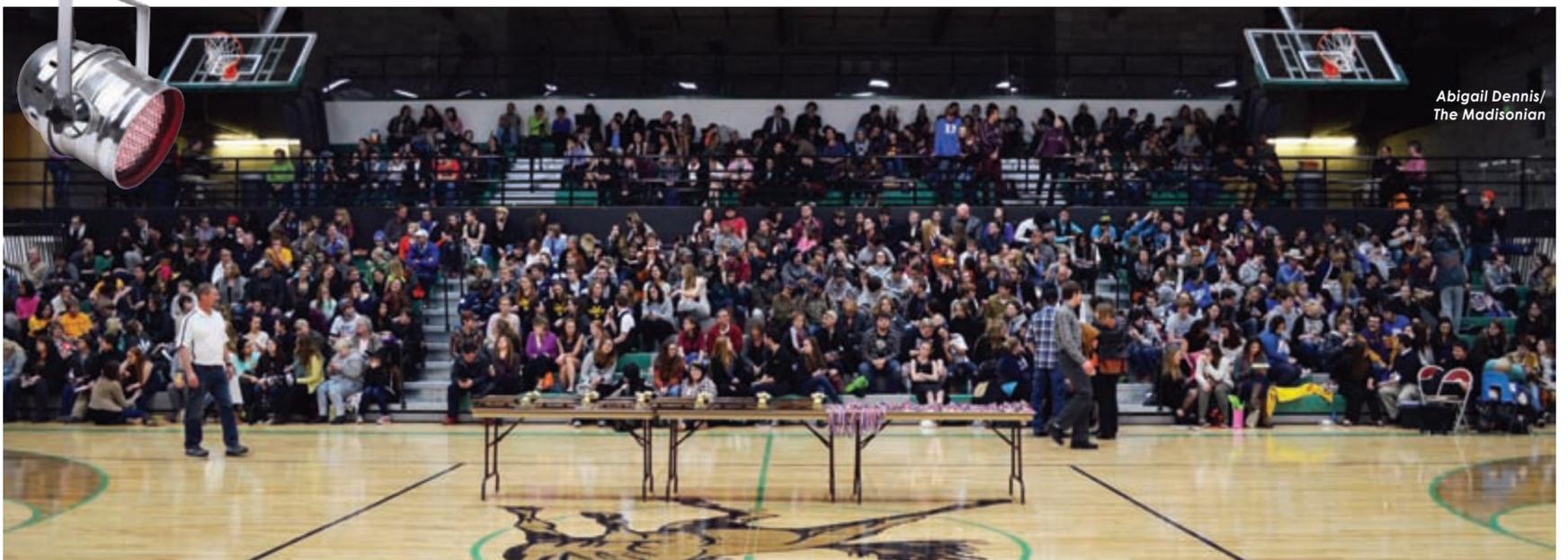
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STATE

Speech, Drama and Debate



Abigail Dennis/
The Madisonian

On Jan. 30 and 31, debaters, orators and performers from 47 Class B and C schools across the state descended on the town of Ennis for the 2015 state speech, drama and debate competition. Ennis's own speech and debate coach, Marilyn Jenkins, organized the event, which took approximately 140 volunteers to pull off.



Abigail Dennis/
The Madisonian



Abigail Dennis/
The Madisonian



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Courtesy of
Jody Sandru



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The Madisonian

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tips to boost baby and toddler brain development

Submitted by StatePoint

While formal education may not begin until age five, those years preceding classroom learning are crucial to brain development. You can get your child started on the right path early on by encouraging learning whenever possible.

Sing a song

Simple songs can be a fun and helpful way to reinforce basic concepts like numbers, letters and animals. Sing with your little one in the car or when you have free time at home.

Stock your home with simple instruments like kazoos, tambourines and mini keyboards built for little fingers to encourage impromptu solos. Also, consider enrolling your child in music classes, which can be a great way to lay the foundation for music instruction later in life.

Colorful books

For newborns, get books with bright, bold colors and vivid patterns that are easy to hold, for sharing

between baby and parent.

Toddlers love pointing out things they know and saying the words out loud. They appreciate book content that features images of their real world. Surprise elements like flaps, sounds, pull tabs and textures can provoke curiosity and engage reluctant readers.

For this age group memory is a very important reading skill to develop, so parents should look for titles that include fun, repetitive text. Clear word labels can help young children make associations between images and words.

Be active

Babies, toddlers and preschoolers need lots of mental stimulation for brain development. Rather than simply sitting them in front of the television, take little trips that can foster questions and observations. Whether that be the playground, the zoo or even a run-of-the-mill trip to the grocery store, these experiences are crucial for early learning. Talk to your child throughout the

trip, pointing out things you see. When you get home, you can reinforce the real-world

concepts with learning books. Do not wait until kindergarten to get the ball

started on education. By simply reading out loud and encouraging

everyday play, you can help develop key learning skills in your child.



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3 easy changes to meet diet goals

Submitted by StatePoint

The biggest hurdles to sticking to a new diet are convenience and flavor. Who wants to eat food that does not taste good or is hard to make? You and your family are more likely to stick to your commitments if the changes you make suit your schedule and your palate.

Here are three easy changes you can make to your diet today:

Hydrate yourself

Water reigns supreme as the health drink of choice among nutritionists and dieticians. Most diet plans include the following crucial advice: Stay hydrated, but avoid sugary beverages.

In addition to all of the critical functions water performs in your body, staying hydrated will help you feel fuller so you eat less over the course of the day.

But water does not have to be tasteless to bestow benefits. There are many virtually calorie-free ways to dress up water and add a hint of nutritional value: Add slices of strawberry or cucumber, wedges of lemon, lime or orange, chunks of watermelon or several sprigs of fresh mint or basil. Refrigerate until you are ready to drink. Or get hydrated with green tea, which is loaded with antioxidants.

Snack on bold flavors

Whether you are on the go or at home, snack time can be a dieter's downfall. Rather than buying full-sized bags of high-fat snacks

like chips, which are easy to binge on, opt for single-serving snacks that are wholesome and full of flavor. For example, olives in ready-to-go cups are a fuss-free way to punch up the flavor profile of a meal or snack.

Make friends with fat

A major mistake many dieters make is trying to cut all of the fat from their diet. Fat is a necessary

component of any healthy diet. Monounsaturated fat, polyunsaturated fat and Omega-3 fatty acids should comprise the majority of the fat you eat. Great sources of healthy fat include olive oil, salmon, tuna, avocado, olives, seeds and nuts. Olives and avocados are fruit, so they also boost your fruit intake.

Try tossing olives, canned

tuna or avocados into a salad; sprinkle almonds or walnuts over oatmeal; swap commercially made salad dressings and marinades with good-quality olive oil and flavorful herbs and spices.

To make your commitment to healthy eating a long-lasting one, be sure the changes you make are sensible, sustainable and, above all, delicious.



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9 Marks Watson	10 Davenport Hensel Holland Watson Marks	11 Davenport Marks Hensel	12 Marks Davenport	13 Davenport Watson
16 Watson Davenport	17 Davenport Erb Marks Hensel	18 Hensel Marks Watson	19 Hensel Watson Marks	20 Marks Davenport
23 Watson Marks	24 Marks Watson	25 Davenport Watson Hensel	26 Hensel Davenport	27 Hensel Marks

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COLUMNS



This, OUR VALLEY:

By Reverend Keith Axberg

Treasures in the valley

"The tragedy of life is often not in our failure, but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in our living above our ability, but rather in our living below our capacities."

– Benjamin E. Mays

Organization has never been my strong suit. For most of my life, January is a month where I annually promise "this year will be different."

I clean out my files and desk drawers, buy organizers and labels and sort through assorted papers stacked from here to eternity, but by the time the Super Bowl rolls around, chaos is once again crowned king.

King Clutter rules my life. I wish it were different, but it isn't.

I see a gizmo being sold on television that takes your receipts and transfers all the information neatly and painlessly into your computer.



Rev. Keith Axberg

Ah, the promise of a life that is both paperless and organized is very attractive – but will it deliver? I'll never know, because I lost the name and number of the scanner; it's around here somewhere.

Oh well, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Such is life. I am finally able to take a long hard look at my inner soul and recognize that this particular characteristic is highly unlikely to change. I can (and do) make efforts to improve along these lines, but I'll never really be successful – and that's OK.

My bureaucratic inadequacies will make for a delightful discovery 2,000 years from now when some archeologist will find my stash of scrolls and detritus and puzzle over the meaning of life as it was expressed and experienced in the "old west" of early 21st century America.

My being a slob today may help some future slob keep his or her job centuries down the road. When it comes to dirt, archeologists dig it, and that's nothing to sneeze at.

Knowing my limitations doesn't stop me from trying to improve; it just helps me adjust the energies I put into the matter. Organizational experts tell us "files are not a storage system, but a retrieval system." I know that. My brain accepts it to be true. But I have squirrel DNA. I take my precious treasures and bury them hither, thither and yon, and then I devote the rest of my waking moments scratching my head and wondering where

on earth I buried my nuts. So, I know that about me. I am not proud of it, but I accept it. I don't rest on my laurels (partly because I can't find where I put those dog-gone laurels, to begin with), but I can improve.

As useless as it may feel each January to strive to get organized, it would be worse if I did nothing at all. At least last year's files are in a carton that is clearly labeled (but the label is on the side of the box I shoved up against the wall ... sigh) and this year's records will be in a fresh new container that I will label sometime between now and next January (after I locate my magic marker).

What is it about human nature that moves us to organize everything?

I suspect it has to do with control. When things are where they're supposed to be, we save time and energy retrieving them. I admire folks with peg-boards in their garages and shops with "shadow-marks" outlining where each tool is supposed to hang. I like having things out where I can see them. I don't like things hidden away in drawers or boxes so they're hard to find.

I wonder if God is well organized. There are times I presume God has a list of who is naughty and nice – a cosmic Santa, if you will. But my hope is that God has my permanent record locked up in a drawer for which the key has been lost. Better yet, I pray those records get shredded every January.

As I picture it, confetti falls from the divine shredder into a chute that pours it all down into the bowels of Perdition, where the devil and his minions toss it into the fires while muttering under their breath, "Filing is Hell!"

If true, that could prove to be good news to treasure for everyone here in this, our valley.

Keith Axberg writes on matters concerning life and faith. He can be reached at kfaxberg@gmail.com.



NATURAL Resource News

By Ethan Kunard
MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WINTER WORKSHOPS:

The more you know



Ethan Kunard

The long days of winter can be a welcomed downtime for many in the valley. The list of things to do is a little on the shorter side, which is a good fit for our short number of daylight hours. It's also a great time to learn some new

conservation practices at our Winter Workshop Series.

During these days with a more forgiving schedule, the Madison Conservation District hosts education workshops in Ennis, bringing experts in to present on conservation and agricultural topics. The workshop series allows professionals to present topics in a casual setting, allowing attendees a chance



AROUND THE WOOD STOVE

by Gail Banks

There is lots of therapy around lately using different kinds of oils. Personally, I have used different oils for health issues for years. Some work I think, some are just nice smelling. My oldest son and I have always had some problems with psoriasis on elbow areas especially in winter. A friend of mine years ago said to use Montana Arnica oil on it. She even had just made some oil from Arnica she harvested in the hills by Rochester outside of Twin Bridges giving me some to use. Not kidding, mine was got in one week and hardly ever comes back nowadays. My son took a bit longer, but still the same thing; gone. Montana Arnica is wonderful

for the skin, even with no problems, it is so soothing. We have used wintergreen oil for tummy problems, black licorice oil for upset tummies, peppermint oil for upset tummies, colic or headaches and lavender oil to sleep better. I have used garlic oil for years and truly believe it is the best for building the immune system.

I ordered a sample order of some new oils the other day, so when my little grandson came down with strep throat and a bad cold this weekend I decided to try a few of the new oils on him. He let me put them on him, which surprised me. But pretty soon, even though he was plugged up from the cold, he was mad at me, "Grandma, I smell like a skunk ... a girl skunk! Get it off." Kind of hard to get the oil off, but he thought I was trying, so he wasn't mad at me any longer, until I tried to put good ole' Vicks on him and he ran. No more oils or any kind of potions for him unless he is sleeping!

My goodness the weather

to learn the latest in natural resource management or farm and ranch operation. Workshop speakers are often based within the region and they apply their knowledge specifically to our location.

The first workshop in the series was hosted in late January and discussed the topic of groundwater and surface water connections. More than 30 community members filled the room to hear Ginette Abdo and Todd Myse from Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology discuss the importance of understanding our groundwater resources and the connection that those resources have on the quality and quantity of our surface water resources.

In addition to the January workshop, there are three more workshops scheduled in the coming months. These topics include: carcass composting (Feb. 26); forage valuation (March 11); and pasture

resting (April 7). The topics are chosen with input from community members, and the conservation district is always interested in hearing what you might want to learn about in future workshops.

In past years, the CD has also hosted a Summer Field Tour series that compliments the topics covered through the winter workshops. These tours allow community members an opportunity to look at projects and landscapes that tie into the topics covered in the indoor lecture series. In the summer of 2015, however, the district will not be hosting the summer field tours and will instead host a larger statewide event: The Montana Range Tour.

You can contact the Madison Conservation District office, or visit our website for more information. After all, there's never a bad time to learn a good practice that improves our natural resources for the future.

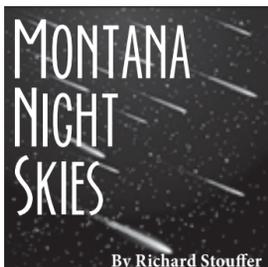
you couldn't find health insurance cheap enough to purchase. Something really wrong with that picture!

So what have we learned this week? No one is responsible for your behavior but you. Life doesn't get better because you ignore reality. It gets better when you accept reality and learn from your mistakes. You can make all the stupid mistakes you want, but don't drag the kids into it!

Never tolerate cruelty. Ignoring something doesn't make it go away. It's often the little things that make the biggest difference in a marriage or relationship.

Hard to believe that next week is Valentines Day. Wasn't it just Christmas?! Now don't get me wrong cause this is my choice, but I still have my Christmas decorations up in my home. They are just too pretty to have up for that short of a time; I like looking at them. Maybe Easter, I'll take em' down.

Never become silent about things that matter.



MONTANA NIGHT SKIES

By Richard Stouffer

As February opens, dazzling Venus shines brightly in the evening sky, where, as the month progresses, it catches up to and passes very close to a much fainter Mars. On the other side of the evening sky, the giant planet Jupiter rises earlier and earlier as the month progresses. Much later in the night, the ringed planet, Saturn, joins the planetary parade to be followed in the latter part of the month by speedy Mercury, which shines

briefly in the pre-dawn light.

As darkness falls, Venus shines brilliantly in the western sky, setting about two hours after sunset as the month begins and about two and 1/2 hours after the Sun as February comes to a close. Mars begins the month setting about three hours after sunset, but ends the month setting a little over two hours after the Sun. During this time, Mars and Venus come to within one degree of each other from Feb. 20 to 23 and pass less than 1/2 degree from each other on Feb. 21. Next up in the night sky is the giant planet Jupiter, which rises about 20 minutes after sunset as February begins and may be found well up in the eastern sky just to the right of the question mark shape of the head of the constellation Leo, the lion, as darkness falls later in the month. Jupiter dominates

the night sky once Venus sets. As the night progresses, Jupiter is joined by Saturn, which rises a little after 3 a.m. as the month begins, but a little after midnight as the month comes to a close. Saturn is located just above the three stars forming the claws of the scorpion in the constellation Scorpius. By the second week in February, Mercury starts to become visible in the southeast before sunrise. It will be possible to spot the speedy inner planet low in the sky for the rest of the month, but it will take a careful scan of a clear horizon just as the morning sky starts to brighten to find it.

The Moon is full on Feb. 3 and is found to the right of Jupiter that same night. The next night, the Moon is found just to the right of Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo. On Feb. 13, the Moon forms

an approximate equilateral triangle with Saturn and Antares, the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius. The Moon appears just to the left of Mercury on the morning of Feb. 17. On Feb. 20, the Moon is located near to Venus and Mars when those two planets are closely grouped together. The Moon is very close to Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation, Taurus, the bull, on Feb. 25.

For meteor shower watchers, there are no major meteor showers this month. However, a sporadic meteor can flash across the sky at any time. From a dark site, meteors typically can be seen at a rate of about five meteors per hour.

**Life-long amateur astronomer and former member of Delaware Astronomical Society and National Capital Astronomers*

Through the WINDOW OF THE ARCHIVES

By Evalyn Batten Johnson



Evalyn Batten Johnson

Women of one room schoolhouses back in the 1860s should be noted as some of the historical heroines of the times. Many of them did choose to journey from the east to the west for the express

purpose of teaching school. Many of the women came from seemingly "sheltered" lives and trained to teach, signed two-year contracts and set forth to unknown sites.

Some of these women came for the sense of independence and adventure that the west had to offer. They found the challenge was formidable and it was accompanied by very low wages and a

high cost of living. Many struggled with loneliness.

At the very onset, the promised schoolhouse might be nonexistent or disappointing. They were expected to do furnishings for the school, provide supplies, keep the classroom in clean and orderly fashion and teach all the subjects to all grades in the school.

For the teachers, each day

was a long one, discipline was always a major challenge and the students ranged from age 5 to 22, making teaching much more difficult.

Virginia City was then the largest center in the Montana Territory and the first to lay out a public school district. The first school was organized in January 1866. Miss Sarah Raymond was the teacher and she held

school in the Union Church. Miss Raymond's salary was \$200 per month, however the weather was so fierce in January 1866 the school did not open until March 5, and continued until Aug. 17.

Miss Raymond earned her teaching credentials at the age of 14 and taught in Missouri before traveling across the plains with her mother and two brothers in 1865. There were no textbooks in common, so she relied on a variety of books brought from home. However, at John Ming's bookstore, a small speller could be had for \$1.

On Fridays, parents and other visitors came to visit to hear recitations and spelling bees.

Later Miss Raymond taught the older pupils, and

was named principal – coming home after an exhausting day she said, "Oh, this tedious tiresome life of a school teacher, I know I was born for something better."

The following year she married James Herndon and retired. However the couple started a

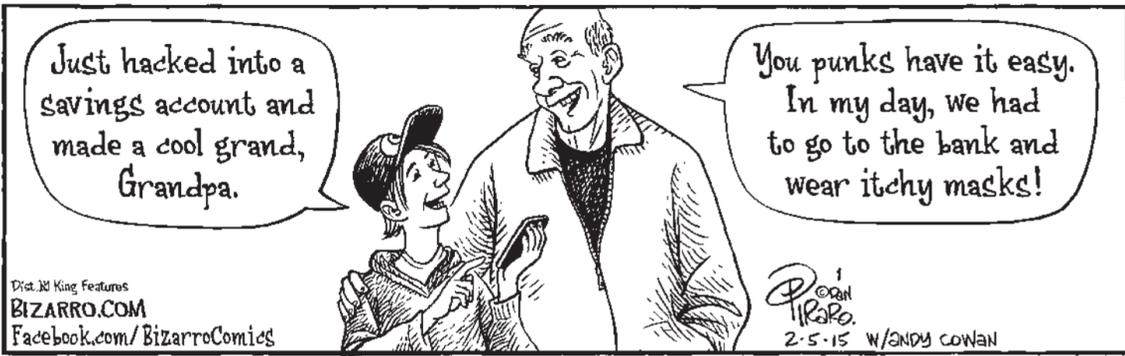
Protestant Sunday School that lasted for 40 years.

In all situations the challenges were formidable and the combination of obstacles, social restrictions, community bias, physical hardship and poor health sent some back to their homeland.

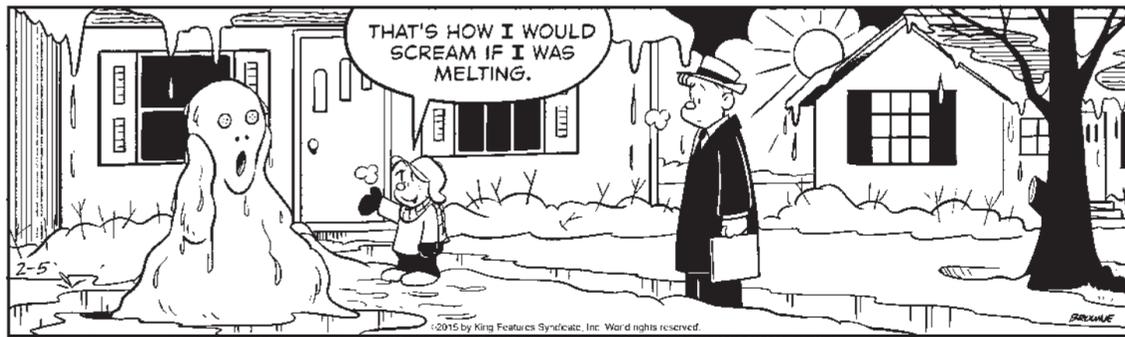
**Sources: Uncommon Common Women; History of Madison County; The Montana Frontier*

COMICS & PUZZLES

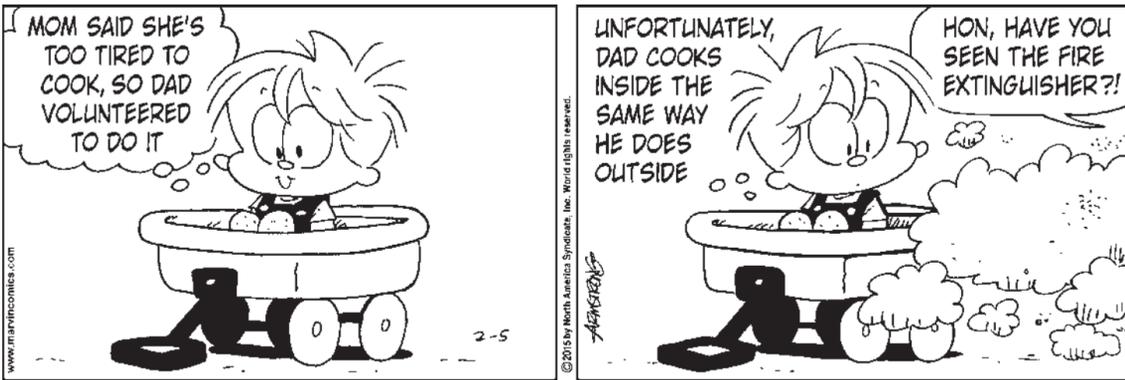
BIZARRO



HI & LOIS



MARVIN



RHYMES



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Monumental
 - 5 Fool
 - 8 Air pollution
 - 12 Catherine — -Jones
 - 13 Puncturing tool
 - 14 Havana's land
 - 15 Spool
 - 16 Favorable vote
 - 17 Sahara-like
 - 18 Factions in Risk
 - 20 Fail miserably
 - 22 Aegis
 - 26 Greek letter
 - 29 Consume
 - 30 Id counterpart
 - 31 New Mexico art colony
 - 32 Ostrich's cousin
 - 33 Capri, e.g.
 - 34 Tin Man's need
 - 35 Litter member
 - 36 The Plaza, e.g.
 - 37 Estimate of future possibilities
 - 40 At hand
 - 41 Concealed
 - 45 "Yeah, right"
 - 47 Pi follower
 - 49 Nil
 - 50 Rounded ottoman
 - 51 Listener
 - 52 Satanic
 - 53 Active
 - 54 Pigs' digs
 - 55 Trig term

CRYPTOQUIP

Q V D L G G M V O L G N R F S K
T F N G B I T G Y S O D G Z V F Z V S D
Z Y B L O I V S Z V N O I G T
E G I Z V H V Z K : M O O Q H O Y G T
Z E O R O F L O .

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T=F

Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons
By Janet Tharpe

Citrus Adds Lovely Flavor to Valentine Sugar Cookies

"A special treat for the loves in your life!"

Add a zing to your Valentine's Day with Malinda Coletta's citrusy-sweet Valentine Sugar Cookies! We used orange zest in our test batch and were thrilled with the refreshingly light flavor. Add your favorite icing, or maybe drizzle with some chocolate, and you have a special treat! See step-by-step photos of Malinda's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at: www.justapinch.com/valentine

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

- Janet

Valentine Sugar Cookies

What You Need

- 4 c flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 2 1/2 sticks butter, cut in pieces
- 3/4 c sugar
- 1 large egg, plus one egg white
- 2 tsp lemon, lime or orange zest

Directions

- In a food processor, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Pulse to mix.
- Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
- Add sugar, eggs and lemon zest. Process until mixture resembles wet sand.
- Turn mixture out onto a lightly floured surface; knead several times until dough comes together.
- Divide into 3 portions; flatten each into a disk.
- Roll each disk to an 1/8-inch thickness between sheets of parchment.
- Stack dough (still in parchment) on a baking sheet; refrigerate 20 min.
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees, with racks in middle and lower thirds.
- Working with 1 dough sheet at a time, peel off parchment (save for baking).
- With lightly floured cutters, cut dough into desired shapes and arrange, 1 inch apart, on two parchment-lined rimmed baking sheets (re-roll scraps).
- Bake until cookies are set but still pale, 7 to 9 min., rotating sheets halfway.
- Transfer cookies to wire racks and let cool completely.
- Using a pastry bag and tip, frost cookies with icing and decorate with sugar!

Submitted by: Malinda Coletta, North Providence, RI (pop. 178,042)
www.justapinch.com/valentine

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Pete Allhands 406-596-7980
Brian Allhands 406-596-1337

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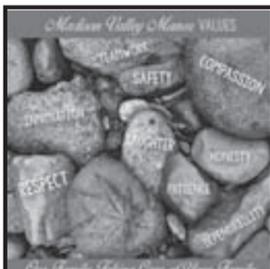
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the Madison County MARKETPLACE

View classifieds online at www.madisoniannews.com/classifieds.

HELP WANTED



The Madison Valley Manor is hiring for a full-time House-keeper/Maintenance position. Experience is preferred but can be taught to the right person. This is a great opportunity to work in a personal healthcare setting.

- Excellent pay
 - Government retirement.
 - Benefits including life and health insurance.
- If you are interested in a rewarding career, Madison Valley Manor is the place. Please contact Tom Burt, Maintenance Supervisor at 682-7271 for more information. EOE 13-2-b

Montana Department of Revenue Property Valuation Specialist II Position # 58108029 Virginia City, Montana \$23,187 - \$27,206/yr DOQ Closes: 2/10/15 To apply for this job posting, please see: <http://statecareers.mt.gov/> 15-1-b

Local Insurance Agency looking for an agent. Experience preferred/will train. Computer skills a must. 2 locations (Ennis/Sheridan). All types of insurance. Send resume to jackdaughertyinsurance@gmail.com. 15-2-b

Bartenders Needed
Goldmine Lounge & Casino
Send resumes to PO Box 55, Cardwell, MT 59721 or fax to (406) 287-5092. 45-tfc-b

Part time now, more hours in the spring. Wait on customers, make soup, bake goodies. Call The Shovel and Spoon 842-7999. 12-tfc-b

Custom Farm Equipment Operator
in Harrison and surrounding area. Seasonal and full time positions avail. CDL preferred. \$30-\$40K/year. DOE. Call 406-660-6000 14-4-cc

JOB NOTICE:
The Board of Madison County Commissioners will be accepting applications until filled for one full time, permanent road crew position in the Ennis area. This position starts at \$16.87 per hour for approximately 40 hours per week starting immediately. Primary duties will be assisting the Ennis road crew doing maintenance on county roads. The position requires a Class A CDL, with Air Brake and Tanker endorsements. Interested candidates may request a job description and employment application by contacting the Madison County Commissioners' office at 406-843-4277, via e-mail at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madison.mt.gov. Madison County is an equal opportunity employer. 14-2-b

NOTICE OF BOARD VACANCIES:
The Madison County Board of Commissioners has vacancies on the Big Hole River Advisory Board, the County Compensation Board, the Mental Health Local Advisory Council, the Senior Citizen' Advisory Board, the Tax Appeal Board, the Weed Board, the Twin Bridges Cemetery Board, the Virginia City Fire District Board, and the Ruby Valley Hospital Board. If you are interested in serving on any of these boards please contact the Commissioners' Office at 406-843-4277, by email at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madison.mt.gov. 14-2-b

AUCTION

AUCTION
Moving and MUST sell.
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11 am
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John Deere 110 Backhoe, quality furniture, power hand tools, stock tanks, metal corral panels, antiques, original art and MUCH more.
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842-5364
15-1-b

FOR RENT

PETERSON'S DISCOUNT STORAGE
Indoor & Outdoor
RV/Boat storage, storage units.
Ennis, 682-7442
18-tfc-b

House for rent near Bear Creek area. 4 bdrm, 1 bath. Woodstove. Available after 2/15. \$625 per month. First, last and security. Call Mike 775-721-0510 14-1-call

FOR RENT: Lone Elk Mall Professional office space, 90sf to 120sf, \$100-\$155/mo., utilities included. Retail/office unit, 975 sf, \$460/mo. plus utilities. 682-5653 5-tfc-b

House in McAllister. 2 BR/1BA. Available now. W/D hookup. No pets/No smoking. \$600+ utilities. Call 715-478-2085 13-15-p

Office/Retail space available
Main and 3rd. St. in Ennis
1020 Sq. Ft. with full bath.
\$600 a month.
Call Paul at 406-581-7878
15-tfc-b

BARKER VILLAGE APARTMENTS:

1 bedroom furnished apartments available in Ennis. A/C, washer/dryer equipped, private location. 4 month lease, \$700 per month plus security deposit, utilities included, non-smoking, no dogs. Call Erich Vogeli, Manager at 406-682-5737. 15-tfc

FOR RENT: Large mobile home site 1 mile from Ennis. 100 x 150', water & sewer, country atmosphere, quiet. **NO DOGS.** 682-4854. 29-tfc

2 bd apartment. Between Sheridan and Twin Bridges. Gas fireplace. Washer/Dryer. Electricity included. \$700 per month. 842-5888, evenings. 50-tfc-b

MADISON MANAGEMENT
Vacation and Long Term Rentals
570-5401
www.madisonmanagement.com
22-tfc

BARKER VILLAGE APARTMENTS:

1 bedroom unfurnished apartments available in Ennis. A/C, washer/dryer equipped, private location. 1 year lease, \$650 per month plus security deposit, utilities included, non-smoking, no dogs. Call Erich Vogeli, Manager at 406-682-5737. 15-tfc

FOR RENT: Call Apex Management at 682-7112 or 581-0103 for long term or vacation rentals in Ennis and the Madison Valley. 1-tfc

ENNIS MINI STORAGE
New low prices with 10 x 10's starting at \$35. Larger sizes available. Call Melinda at 596-4288. 15-tfc

126 Main, Harrison -1 Bd, 1 Ba, all util incl. \$530. a mo. Call Baycroft's Prop. Mgmt, Inc. 406-560-3274 11-tfc-b

2 bedroom mobile, unfurnished, major appliances/shared yard. For quiet, mature single or couple. You pay heat, light. \$450 per month plus deposit. Available NOW. Call 682-7345. 13-tfc-b

WANTED

WANTED:
New clients to stay LOCAL with their insurance policies. Single or multi-policies welcome. Call 682-4202. 30-tfc-b

Ranch hand available, Ennis area I'm seeking fulltime work in the Ennis area. I'm well-versed in hay operations, repairs, irrigation, tractor maintenance and driving, discbines, balers, etc. I have 2 cow-savvy horses, my own tools, vehicle, horse trailer. I'm very proficient with cattle, including winter calving, pulling, tagging, banding, etc. I want to be an asset to your ranch operation ... therefore, I provide my own health insurance. Salary is negotiable, but pasture for my horses is a MUST. I have EXCELLENT local references and will be happy to supply them. Please contact me. I am a well-proven hard worker and you won't regret it. 35+ years experience, great attitude. Contact 406-209-2038. 14-2-p

SERVICES

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30-tfc-b

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FOR SALE

Firewood for Sale. 5 true cords of dry pine, split. \$185 per cord. Delivery negotiable. Call 539-4741. 15-2-b

GRASS/ALFALFA HAY
Large round 3/4 ton bales for \$100 each.
Volume discount for a load of 11 bales, \$907.50
Delivery in Madison County for \$150.
Call 562-477-8572
12-4-b

Hay for sale. First and second cuts, small square bales. Located in Ennis area. Call 490-6582. 13-4-b

Leer truck topper 70"x82" GMC metallic blue. Lights, locking door, sliding windows, new condition. \$1000 OBO. Call Brad at 581-4117. 14-2-p

ESTATE SALES

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FOUND

FOUND
Set of keys on Indian Creek Road in Sheridan. Call 842-7199.

REAL ESTATE

Ennis Lake, Rainbow PT, fully remodeled home w/private road & private lake access. \$429,000
Info @ www.ennislakefront.com/406-581-7820
13-tfc-b

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Complete programs, refresher courses, rent equipment for CDL, Job Placement Assistance. Financial assistance for qualified students. SAGE Technical Services, Billings/Missoula. 1-800-545-4546. #047

HELP WANTED

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE Paid training with U.S. Navy. Good pay, medical/dental, vacation, great career. HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri (877) 475-6289, or jobs_seattle@navy.mil #048

HIGH-TECH CAREER with U.S. Navy. Elite tech training w/great pay, benefits, vacation, \$ for school. HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri (877) 475-6289, or jobs_seattle@navy.mil #049

THE NAVY IS HIRING Top-notch training, medical/dental, 30 days' vacation/yr, \$\$ for school.

HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri (877) 475-6289, or jobs_seattle@navy.mil #050

NAVY RESERVE HIRING in all fields. Serve part-time. Paid training & potential sign-on bonus. Great benefits. \$ for school. Call Mon-Fri (877) 475-6289, or jobs_seattle@navy.mil #051

NAVY RESERVE Serve part-time. No military exp needed. Paid training & potential sign-on bonus. Great benefits. Retirement. Call Mon-Fri (877) 475-6289, or jobs_seattle@navy.mil #052

THE CONRAD POLICE DEPT. is seeking applicants for an open Police Officer position. LE certification a plus but not a requirement for hire. For job description, benefit package, and details contact Conrad City Hall at 406-271-3623. Standard POST application is required. #053

AGCALL INC. HAS IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY for agricultural professionals for project work with wheat growers in Montana, representing major seed & crop protection manufacturer. Work is part-time, contractual and based from home in Feb-March. Contact Kristen 816-734-3917 or info@ag-call.com. #054

MORTGAGES / CONTRACTS

EQUITY LOANS ON NON-OWNER OCCUPIED MONTANA REAL ESTATE. We also buy Notes & Mortgages. Call Creative Finance & Investments @ 406-721-1444 or visit www.creative-finance.com #055

FOR SALE

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WANTED

\$\$\$ I BUY MINERAL RIGHTS (OIL) \$\$\$ Les Lorentzen leslorentzen@gmail.com 701-460-0307 or 907-830-2222 #057

EVENTS

ANNUAL SALUTE TO SERVICE MEN & WOMEN BENEFIT: Wounded Warriors featuring RINGLING 5 & cowboy Poets Feb 21, 2015 – Big Timber Civic Center Info: 406-932-4227 #058

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HOWARD H. MILLS, Deceased.
Probate No: DP-29-14-19
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to JOHN WARREN, DAVIS, WARREN & HRITSCO, P.O. Box 28, Dillon, MT 59725, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated January 13, 2015
//s/ HOWARD W. MILLS
Personal Representative
Personal Representative's Attorney
John Warren
Davis, Warren & Hritsco
PO BOX 28
Dillon, Montana 59725
(Pub. Jan. 22, 29, Feb 5, 2015) dwh
MNXALP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF MADISON IN RE ESTATE OF:

GEORGE JOSEPH KLEINSCHMIDT, also known as GEORGE J. KLEINSCHMIDT, Deceased

Cause No. DP-29-2015-1
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 JULIE M. DIETHELM, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at 1034 Riverside Drive S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304 or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

Dated: December 30, 2014
//s/ JULIE M. DIETHELM
Personal Representative
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

ss. COUNTY OF STEARNS)

JULIE M. DIETHELM, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says:

That she 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 her knowledge and belief. I make this declaration under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana.

//s/ JULIE M. DIETHELM
Personal Representative
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 30TH day of December, 2014.

//s/ Kent David Fieck
Notary Public for the State of Minnesota
Residing at: Wells Fargo
My Commission expires: 1/31/2018

(SEAL)
Personal Representative's Attorney:
Karen McMullin
Post Office Box 55
Ennis, MT 59729
Telephone: (406) 682-7878
(Pub. January 22, 29, Feb 5 2014) km
MNXALP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Madison County is accepting Request for Proposal for a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Unified Communications System. This Request for Proposal (RFP) is being used to obtain proposals for replacement of the current telephony system in use at Madison County's Offices located in the County Courthouse, Broadway Annex and Thompson-Hickman Library. The County is seeking to replace the current Nortel PBX phone system with a VoIP (or IP PBX) system. The VoIP system will be able of providing phone service to the Courthouse, new Annex building and Library as well as capable of providing future expansion of service to the counties outlying offices.

Parties interested in submitting a proposal may obtain more detailed information from the County's IT Department by calling (406) 843.4254, or the Counties website at www.madison.mt.gov located under Public Notices.

(Pub. Jan. 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 2015) mci
MNXALP

NOTICE

The Board of Madison County Commissioners will not be holding their regular Commission meeting the week of February 9, 2015, as they will be attending the Montana Association of Counties Midwinter Conference in Helena, Montana. Because Monday, February 16, 2015, is a holiday and the Courthouse and County Offices will be closed, the regular meeting for that week will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.
(Pub. Jan. 29, Feb 5, 2015) mcc
MNXALP

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TO BE SOLD FOR CASH AT TRUSTEE'S SALE on April 3, 2015, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. at the Main Entrance of the First American Title Company of Montana located at 122 South First Street in Ennis, MT 59729, the following described real property situated in Madison County, Montana:

Lot 7 in Block 1 of the Passamari Heights Subdivision, Phase 1, Located in the S1/2 SW1/4 of Section 26, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, P.M.M., according to Plat Book 4, Page 252, records of Madison County, Montana

Deanna M Noon, as Grantor(s), conveyed said real property to American Land Title, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, by Deed of Trust dated on June 01, 2007 and recorded on June 04, 2007 as Document No. 120284. The beneficial interest is currently held by Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA). First American Title Company, LLC, is the Successor Trustee pursuant to a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Madison County, Montana.

The beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust by failing to make the monthly payments due in the amount of \$770.43, beginning April 1, 2014, and each month subsequent, which monthly installments would have been applied on the principal and interest due on said obligation and other charges against the property or loan. The total amount due on this obligation as of October 31, 2014 is \$115,910.46 principal, interest at the rate of 6.00% now totaling \$4,628.48, escrow advances of \$819.38, suspense balance of \$-651.25 and other fees and expenses advanced of \$2,395.21, plus accruing interest at the rate of \$19.05 per diem, late charges, and other costs and fees that may be advanced.

The Beneficiary anticipates and may disburse such amounts as may be required to preserve and protect the property and for real property taxes that may become due or delinquent, unless such amounts of taxes are paid by the Grantors. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, the amounts or taxes will be added to the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust. Other expenses to be charged against the proceeds of this sale include the Trustee's fees and attorney's fees, costs and expenses of the sale and late charges, if any. Beneficiary has elected, and has directed the Trustee to sell the above described property to satisfy the obligation.

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the beneficiary, excepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid immediately upon the close of bidding in cash or cash equivalents (valid money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks). The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed without any representation or warranty, including warranty of Title, express or implied, as the sale is made strictly on an as-is, where-is basis, without limitation, the sale is being made subject to all existing conditions, if any, of lead paint, mold or other environmental or health hazards. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The grantor, successor in interest to the grantor or any other person having an interest in the property, at any time prior to the trustee's sale, may pay to the beneficiary or the successor in interest to the beneficiary the entire amount then due under the deed of trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and thereby cure the default.

The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation up to 15 days for any reason, and in the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Dated: November 20, 2014
Dalia Martinez
Assistant Secretary,
First American Title Company of Montana, Inc.

Successor Trustee
Title Financial Specialty Services
PO Box 339
Blackfoot ID 83221
STATE OF Idaho)

ss. County of Bingham)

On this 20th day of November, 2014, before me, a notary public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Dalia Martinez, known to me to be the Assistant Secretary of First American Title Company of Montana, Inc., Successor Trustee, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

Lisa J Tornabene
Notary Public
Bingham County, Idaho
Commission expires: 11/6/2018
(Pub. Jan. 29, Feb 5, 12 2015) mk
MNXALP

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
TO BE SOLD FOR CASH AT TRUSTEE'S SALE on March 20, 2015, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. at the Main Entrance of the First American Title Company of Montana located at 122

South First Street in Ennis, MT 59729, the following described real property situated in Madison County, Montana:

That portion of Lot 9, Block 1 of the Yeo Addition to the Town of Sheridan, according to the official plat of the survey thereof now on file and of record in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Madison County, Montana, described by metes and bounds as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Lot 9 at a point on the Westerly side of Washington Street in the said Town; thence running in a Northwesterly direction over and along the Easterly side of Lot 9 a distance of 80 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 9; thence in a Southwesterly direction over and along the North line of said Lot 9 a distance of 100 feet to a point; thence in a Southeasterly direction parallel to the East line of the said Lot 9 a distance of 80 feet to the point of intersection with the South line of said Lot 9; thence in a Northeasterly direction over and along the South line of said Lot 9 a distance of 100 feet to the place of beginning.

Deed Reference: Book 231, page 845
Donald L Edmisten, as Grantor(s), conveyed said real property to American Land Title Company of Montana, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, by Deed of Trust dated on August 17, 2009 and recorded on August 17, 2009 as Document No. 132597. The beneficial interest is currently held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, First American Title Company, LLC, is the Successor Trustee pursuant to a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Madison County, Montana.

The beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust by failing to make the monthly payments due in the amount of \$672.11, beginning June 1, 2014, and each month subsequent, which monthly installments would have been applied on the principal and interest due on said obligation and other charges against the property or loan. The total amount due on this obligation as of September 26, 2014 is \$111,487.21 principal, interest at the rate of 5.375% totaling \$2407.92, late charges in the amount of \$80.64, escrow advances of \$391.90, and other fees and expenses advanced of \$51.01, plus accruing interest at the rate of \$16.65 per diem, late charges, and other costs and fees that may be advanced.

The Beneficiary anticipates and may disburse such amounts as may be required to preserve and protect the property and for real property taxes that may become due or delinquent, unless such amounts of taxes are paid by the Grantors. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, the amounts or taxes will be added to the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust. Other expenses to be charged against the proceeds of this sale include the Trustee's fees and attorney's fees, costs and expenses of the sale and late charges, if any. Beneficiary has elected, and has directed the Trustee to sell the above described property to satisfy the obligation.

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the beneficiary, excepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid immediately upon the close of bidding in cash or cash equivalents (valid money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks). The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed without any representation or warranty, including warranty of Title, express or implied, as the sale is made strictly on an as-is, where-is basis, without limitation, the sale is being made subject to all existing conditions, if any, of lead paint, mold or other environmental or health hazards. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The grantor, successor in interest to the grantor or any other person having an interest in the property, at any time prior to the trustee's sale, may pay to the beneficiary or the successor in interest to the beneficiary the entire amount then due under the deed of trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and thereby cure the default.

The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation up to 15 days for any reason, and in the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Dated: November 12, 2014
Lisa J Tornabene
Assistant Secretary,
First American Title Company, LLC
Successor Trustee
Title Financial Specialty Services
PO Box 339
Blackfoot ID 83221
STATE OF Idaho)

ss. County of Bingham)

On this 12 day of November, 2014, before me, a notary public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Lisa J Tornabene, known to me to be the Assistant Secretary of First American Title Company, LLC, Successor Trustee, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

Dalia Martinez

Notary Public
Bingham County, Idaho
Commission expires: 2/18/2020
(Pub. Jan. 29, Feb 5, 12 2015) mk
MNXALP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless are proposing to build a 95-foot Self-Support Communications Tower in the vicinity of 96 Manley Lane, Ennis, MT 59729. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: K. Pirot, 303.218.3536, 165 S. Union Blvd., Ste. 310, Lakewood, CO 80228 or by email at kate.pirot@us.bureauveritas.com.
(Pub. Feb 5, 2015) bv
MNXALP

INVITATION TO BID

Madison County will be accepting sealed bids for a proposal to install an emergency standby generator at Sheridan Elementary School in Sheridan, MT. Bids will be received by the Madison County Department of Emergency Services, 7 Placer Loop, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755-0278, (406) 843-4253 until 4:00 pm MST on Friday the 27th of February, and will be publicly opened on Monday the 2nd of March @ 10 a.m. in the commissioners conference room, Virginia City. A complete copy of Request for Proposal/specifications will be available on line: www.madison.mt.gov, or contact Christopher W. Mumme, Director of Emergency Management, WK: 406-843-4253 email: dircems@3rivers.net
(Pub. Feb 5, 12, 2015) mcems
MNXALP

NOTICE

Imerys Talc America, Inc. (Imerys) has requested the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue a full bond release for the Antler Chlorite Mine (the Mine). Chlorite ore was extracted from the Mine under Operating Permit No. 00109. The Mine is located in Township 2 South, Range 6 West, Section 14, near Twin Bridges in Madison County. DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$39,054.56. DEQ inspected the Mine on January 15, 2015 and believes the site has been reclaimed according to the approved reclamation plan. Areas have been regraded, reseeded, and appropriate weed control has been performed. The only remaining road has been reclaimed to a two-track trail. Therefore, DEQ is proposing to release the full amount of the bond. Pursuant to Section 82-4-338(5), MCA, DEQ may not release or decrease a reclamation bond until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. A request for a hearing on the proposed bond release must be submitted by February 27, 2015, to the postal or e-mail address set forth below.

Comments on the proposed bond release or requests for additional information should be sent to: Herb Rolfes, DEQ-Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by contacting Herb Rolfes at (406) 444-3841 or hrolfes@mt.gov.
(Pub. Feb 5, 12, 2015) mdeq
MNXALP

NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
In Re:
Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana, a Montana Religious Corporation Sole,
Debtor-In-Possession
Chapter 11
Case No. 14-60074

NOTICE OF (I) APPROVAL OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT; (II) HEARING ON CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN AND PROCEDURES FOR OBJECTING TO CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN; AND (III) PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR VOTING ON THE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT

1. On December 12, 2014, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana (the "Debtors") and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana (the "Committee") collectively, the "Proponents") filed their "First Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana" (the "Plan") dated December 12, 2014 and a Disclosure Statement with respect to the Plan, dated December 12, 2014 (as such Disclosure Statement may be amended, the "Disclosure Statement"), pursuant to Section 1125 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

2. After a hearing (the "Disclosure Statement Hearing") held on January 14, 2015, the Court entered an Order approving the Disclosure Statement and the Proponents' solicitation procedures (the "Disclosure Statement Approval Order"), in accordance with which you are receiving a copy of the Disclosure Statement and the Plan and certain other materials relating to the solicitation of votes to accept or reject the Plan.

3. A hearing (the "Confirmation Hearing") to consider confirmation of the Plan and related matters will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 4, 2015 before the Honorable Terry L. Myers, United States Bankruptcy Judge, at the United States Bankruptcy Court, 6450 N. Mineral Drive, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The Confirmation Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice other than announcement made at the Confirmation Hearing or any adjourned hearing, and the Plan may be modified, if necessary, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1127 prior to, during, or as a result of the Confirmation Hearing, without further notice to interested parties.

4. If you hold a claim against the Debtor and are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan, you have received with this Notice, a Ballot form and voting instructions appropriate for your claim or interest. For your vote to accept or reject the Plan to be counted, you must complete all required information on the Ballot, execute the Ballot, and return the completed Ballot to the Balloting Agent so that it is received no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing Mountain Time, on February 25, 2015. Any failure to follow the voting instructions included with the Ballot may disqualify your Ballot and your vote.

5. Holders of (i) unpaired claims and (ii) claims and interests who will receive no distribution from the Debtor under the Plan are not entitled to vote on the Plan and, therefore, received a Notice of Non-Voting Status rather than a Ballot. In addition, unless otherwise set forth in the objection, claims that are the subject of an objection are not entitled to vote on the Plan and, therefore, did not receive a Ballot. If you disagree with the classification of, or objection to, your claim or interest and believed that you should be entitled to vote on the Plan, then you must (i)

have timely filed a proof of claim by the applicable Bar Date and (ii) serve on the Proponents and file with the Court (with a copy to Chambers) a motion for an Order pursuant to Rule 3018(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (a "Rule 3018(a) Motion") temporarily allowing such claim in a different amount or in a different class for purposes of voting to accept or reject the Plan. All Rule 3018(a) Motions must be filed on or before ten days before the hearing set for confirmation. In accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 3018, as to any creditor filing a Rule 3018(a) Motion, such creditor's Ballot will not be counted unless temporarily allowed by the Court for voting purposes, after notice and a hearing. Creditors may contact the Balloting Agent to receive a Ballot for any claim for which a proof of claim and a Rule 3018(a) Motion have been timely filed. Rule 3018(a) Motions that are not timely filed and served in the manner set forth above shall not be considered.

6. Objections, if any, to the confirmation of the Plan must (i) be in writing, (ii) state the name and address of the objecting party and the nature of the claim or interest of such party, (iii) state with particularity the basis and nature of each objection to confirmation of the Plan and (iv) be filed, together with proof of service, with the Court (with a copy to Chambers) and served so that they are received no later than 5:00 p.m., (prevailing Mountain Time) on February 25, 2015, by (a) Elsaesser Jarzabek Anderson Elliott & Macdonald, Chtd., J. Ford Elsaesser, Esq. and Bruce A. Anderson, Esq., 320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815 and; (b) attorneys for the Committee, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard, 13th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, Attn: James I. Stang, Esq. and 780 Third Avenue, 36th Floor, New York, New York 10017, Attn: Ian D. Scharf, Esq. Objections not timely filed and served in the manner set forth above shall not be considered and shall be overruled.

7. Any holder of a claim that (i) is scheduled in the Debtor's Schedules of assets and liabilities at zero or in an unknown amount or as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated, and is not the subject of a timely filed proof of claim or a proof of claim deemed timely filed with the Court pursuant to either the Bankruptcy Code or any order of the Bankruptcy Court or otherwise deemed timely filed under applicable law or (ii) is not scheduled and is not the subject of a timely filed proof of claim or a proof of claim deemed timely filed with the Court pursuant to either the Bankruptcy Code or any order of the Court or otherwise deemed timely filed under applicable law, shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claim for purposes of (a) receiving notices regarding, or distributions under, the Plan or (b) voting on the Plan.

8. Any party in interest wishing to obtain (i) information about the solicitation procedures or (ii) copies of the Disclosure Statement or the Plan should contact the undersigned counsel to the Debtor or visit the official website of the Official Creditors Committee www.pszjlaw.com.

Dated: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

January 21, 2015.

ELSAESSER JARZABEK ANDERSON

ELLIOTT & MACDONALD, CHTD.

By: /s/ Bruce A. Anderson

J. Ford Elsaesser, Esq.

Bruce A. Anderson, Esq.

320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Counsel for Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana

Debtor and Debtor-in-Possession

Dated: Los Angeles, California

January 21, 2015.

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP

By: /s/ James I. Stang

James I. Stang, Esq.

10100 Santa Monica Boulevard, 13th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90067-4003

Tel: (310) 277-6910

Fax: (310) 201-0760

Ilan D. Scharf, Esq.

780 Third Avenue, 36th Floor

New York, New York 10017

Tel: (212) 561-7700

Fax: (212) 561-7777

Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana

(Pub. Feb. 5, 2015) dh

MNXALP

NOTICE

BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In re: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana, a Montana Religious Corporation Sole (Diocese of Helena) ("Debtor")

Case No. 14-60074

NOTICE OF DEBTOR'S MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, RELEASES AND POLICY BUYBACKS WITH GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INCLUDING THE SALE OF INSURANCE POLICIES FREE AND CLEAR OF LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND OTHER INTERESTS ("SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT"); AND NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Debtor has filed

in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana, a motion for approval of the Settlement Agreement with Great American Insurance Company ("Motion"). THE MOTION SEEKS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AN ORDER OF THE COURT, PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(A) AND 363 AND FRBP 6004 AND 9019, APPROVING A SETTLEMENT, RELEASE, AND COMPROMISE OF ALL CLAIMS AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. IF THE MOTION IS APPROVED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE DEBTOR WILL SELL, AND GREAT AMERICAN WILL PURCHASE, THE SUBJECT INSURANCE POLICIES (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT), FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL INTERESTS (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT), INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ALL LIENS, CLAIMS AND ENCUMBRANCES. GREAT AMERICAN WILL PAY \$1,750,000 FOR THE BUYBACK OF THE SUBJECT INSURANCE POLICIES FREE AND CLEAR OF SUCH INTERESTS AND GREAT AMERICAN WILL PAY \$1,750,000 TO OBTAIN THE BENEFIT OF THE PERMANENT INJUNCTION (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. THE ABOVE PAYMENTS SHALL BE PAID TO THE DIOCESE TRUST (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT). TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEBTOR'S FIRST AMENDED JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION PROPOSED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF HELENA, MONTANA AND THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS ("PLAN"). ALL ABUSE CLAIMS (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT) AGAINST THE DIOCESE PARTIES (AS DEFINED IN THE PLAN) WILL BE CHANNELLED TO THE DIOCESE TRUST AS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH CLAIMS. IN ADDITION, PURSUANT TO THE MOTION, THE DEBTOR SEEKS FINDINGS THAT, AMONG OTHERS, GREAT AMERICAN IS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF AN INJUNCTION, PERMANENTLY BARRING ALL CLAIMS BY ANY ENTITY (AS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT) AGAINST THE SUBJECT INSURANCE POLICIES, AND AGAINST GREAT AMERICAN RELATING TO SUCH POLICIES. THE AGREEMENT ALSO REQUIRES THAT ANY ORDER CONFIRMING THE PLAN ENJOIN ALL ABUSE, CONTRIBUTION, DIRECT ACTION, EXTRA-CONTRACTUAL OR TRUST, CLAIMS AGAINST GREAT AMERICAN (AS EACH TYPE OF CLAIM IS DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT). THE DESCRIPTION ABOVE OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT BY THE MOTION, AND THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ARE SUMMARY ONLY. REVIEW THE MOTION AND THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN THEIR ENTIRETY FOR A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT. IF YOU HAVE A CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTOR AS TO WHICH INSURANCE COVERAGE IS OR MAY BE AVAILABLE, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.

If you object to any aspect of the Motion or the sale of the insurance policies, you must: (1) file with the Clerk of the Court at U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Montana, Room 263, 400 North Main Street, Butte, MT 59701 a written response stating the specific facts upon which the objection is based; (2) serve a copy thereof on Bruce Anderson, counsel to the Debtor, at Elsaesser Jarzabek Anderson Elliott & Macdonald, CHTD., 320 East Neider Avenue, Ste 102, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815, no later than February 25, 2015; and (3) attend the hearing on March 4, 2015, at 9 A.M. Pacific Standard Time at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 6450 North Mineral Drive, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. If no objections are filed, the Debtor may seek entry of an order approving the Motion without further notice or hearing. A copy of the Motion (Docket No. 430) can be obtained through the PACER system on the Court's Website at https://ecf.mtb.uscourts.gov or by contacting Bruce Anderson, Elsaesser Jarzabek Anderson Elliott & Macdonald, CHTD., 320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.
(Pub. Feb. 5, 2015) dh

8. Any party in interest wishing to obtain (i) information about the solicitation procedures or (ii) copies of the Disclosure Statement or the Plan should contact the undersigned counsel to the Debtor or visit the official website of the Official Creditors Committee www.pszjlaw.com.

Dated: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
January 21, 2015.
ELSAESSER JARZABEK ANDERSON
ELLIOTT & MACDONALD, CHTD.
By: /s/ Bruce A. Anderson
J. Ford Elsaesser, Esq.
Bruce A. Anderson, Esq.
320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Counsel for Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana
Debtor and Debtor-in-Possession
Dated: Los Angeles, California
January 21, 2015.
PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP
By: /s/ James I. Stang
James I. Stang, Esq.
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4003
Tel: (310) 277-6910
Fax: (310) 201-0760
Ilan D. Scharf, Esq.
780 Third Avenue, 36th Floor
New York, New York 10017
Tel: (212) 561-7700
Fax: (212) 561-7777
Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana
(Pub. Feb. 5, 2015) dh
MNXALP

January 21, 2015.

ELSAESSER JARZABEK ANDERSON

ELLIOTT & MACDONALD, CHTD.

By: /s/ Bruce A. Anderson

J. Ford Elsaesser, Esq.

SPEECH, DRAMA AND DEBATE

Results from the Class B and C state competition

Submitted by Marilyn Jenkins
ENNIS SCHOOLS

The following is a list of results from area students in individual events:

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Sixth, Cailen Marum, Ennis; fourth, Maggie Kosevich, Three Forks; second, Merrill Steketee, Jefferson

Policy Debate
Second, Steve Cole and Jamie Dundas, Three Forks

Expository
Sixth, Madison Robischon, Broadwater; fourth, Kjersten Sandru, Twin Bridges; first, Tristan Rhodes, Gardiner



Pantomime
Seventh, Samantha Shaefer, Three Forks; sixth, ReAnne Kingma, Gardiner; fifth, Libby Burke, Gardiner; third, Marena Stidham, White Sulphur Springs

Humorous Duo
Fourth, Riley Lynn and Reagan Manion, Townsend

Classical Duo
Second, Victoria Padilla and Zac Macy, Gardiner; first, Avery Conner and Ethan Peterson, Sweet Grass

Impromptu
Second, Erin Dingman, Sweet Grass

Original Oratory
Eighth, Megan Garrard, Sweet Grass; sixth, Leah

Porzner, Gardiner

Serious Oral Interpretation
Third, Isaiah Hesford, Jefferson; second, Destani Spencer, Townsend

Spontaneous Oral Interpretation
Second, Jessie Davey, Gardiner

Memorized Public Address
Eighth, Rachel Hostleer, Three Forks; sixth, Hana Sieler, Three Forks; second, Caitlin Evans, Whitehall

Serious Solo
Seventh, Amberlin Nimmick, Three Forks

Serious Duo
Fourth, Hunter Ament and Shanell McCracken, Whitehall



Abigail Dennis/
The Madisonian

Ruby Valley Baptist Church
Tony Shaw, Pastor
842-7688

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday Eve 7 p.m.

One block behind IGA, Sheridan

We are an independent Fundamental Baptist Church. Located in the heart of the Ruby Valley. For the hearts of Ruby Valley.



Find Fellowship With Us

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church
Vern Grotzke, Pastor
682-4949

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Mid-Week Service, Wednesday 6 p.m.

606 Comley Way, Ennis
6 Blocks South of City Complex

Located in the heart of Madison Valley for the Hearts of Madison Valley

Dayspring Church
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Nursery
Non-Denominational Christ Centered, Spirit Led Worship
Joel Trenkle/Pastor
Check website for ministries: dayspringsheridan.com

596-0707 • 3648 Hwy 287
Between Sheridan & Twin Bridges

HARRISON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Harrison, Montana

Adult Bible Study ~ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Church Services ~ 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Joe Miller
Come Worship & Sing Praises To Our God. Spread the Word!

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Sheridan Ward - Visitors Welcome

Sacrament Meeting
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
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

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
The Church of Word and Sacrament
Visitors Welcome

Pastor Ken Stensrud
Lenten Services starting Feb. 18 at 7 pm

- 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 406-484-4400

Madison Valley Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP
September - April ~ 11 a.m.
May - August ~ 9 a.m.

Everyone Welcome Fully Accessible

Rev. Jean M. Johnson
682-4355 ~ Ennis
Corner of S. Charles & W. Hugel

Dr. Ray Teston
Pastor
Sunday School ~ 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.

5050 Hwy 287, PO Box 668, Ennis, MT
Phone 682-4244 SBC
MADISON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Aides for the hearing impaired

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
682-4911, 682-7415, 682-3614
Pres. Thompson 682-7415
133 MT Hwy 287

Christian Science Society
Sunday Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

ALL WELCOME

Each week a Bible lesson full of healing Christian concepts is read aloud in our Sunday service.

4983 US Hwy 287 N. • Ennis, Montana
www.spirituality.com

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Your Local Assembly of God Church
114 N. Main, Sheridan
842-5845

Pastor Lonnie Horn

THE BAHAI FAITH
If the learned and worldly-wise men of this age were to allow mankind to inhale the fragrance of fellowship and love, every understanding heart would apprehend the meaning of true liberty, and discover the secret of undisturbed peace and absolute composure.

451-3923 or 1-800-UNITE
www.bahai.org

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Love God, Love People
SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Children's Church 10:45
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
682-4197

Sunday Service
10:30 a.m. (Children's Ministry)

Wednesday (Kids/Youth)
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kid's Club (3 yrs-4th grade)
Pre-Teen Youth Group (5th-6th grade)
Youth Group (7th-12th grade)

Ruby Valley Food Pantry
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-Noon

We are a church dedicated to serving this valley!

Ruby Valley United Methodist Parish
Invites You To Worship With Us

Pastor Paul Stearns
Office: (406)842-5934
Home: (406)842-7732

Church of the Valley Twin Bridges
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group Weds at 6:30 pm

Bethel UMC
Sheridan
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Youth Group Sunday evenings

Ready Set Grow Preschool
Contact Kaycee Gilman 842-5311

Madison County Episcopal Churches
In full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

Trinity Jeffers/Ennis 11:00 a.m.	St. Paul's Virginia City 9:00 a.m.	Christ Church Sheridan 10:00 a.m.
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www.rvec.org
Prayer requests: 682-4788 843-5296 842-7713

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SUNDAY SERVICES
Service at Alder School at 10 am with Sunday School Following.

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Bible Based Teaching
Open Question Forum

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Pastor Tom Luksha

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406-842-5081

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET
Southwest Montana's EVENTS Calendar

AREA SENIOR MEALS

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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Cryptoquip Answer:
BIG COOKIE COMPANY FAMOUS FOR NEGOTIATING TRUCES IN TIMES OF HOSTILITY: KEEBLER OF THE PEACE.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meeting Every Thurs. at 8 p.m., Church of the Valley, Twin Bridges
ALANON MEETING
Same Time Same Place

ALANON
Twin Bridges • Church of the Valley
Thursdays, 8 pm

ALANON
Pony School House • Weds. 7 pm
Suzy 685-3692

ENNIS ALANON
Monday ~ 10:45 a.m.
Basement of Madison Valley Presbyterian Church, Ennis
Hugel & Charles
CALL 682-5097 or 682-7023

"Keep it Simple."
A.A. MEETING
Bethany Hall, Sheridan
(behind Methodist Church)
Wednesdays ~ 8 p.m.

Vennis Over The Hill Unity Group
Faced with a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help.
SUazN - 10 a.m., No Smoking, Virginia City Library
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
Meets every Saturday at 6 p.m. & starts with a meal.

DAYSRING MISSION
3648 Hwy 287, Sheridan
596-0707

Keeping accurate statistics since 1997!



Melinda Merrill, Broker

In Town Home Sales

- There were 15 sales inside of Ennis proper
- Average price has increased to \$160,000 – up 13% from 2014

Out of Town Home Sales

- There were 60 total “out of town sales” with 54 in the Madison Valley; 4 in Virginia City; 1 in Harrison; 1 in Cardwell
- Average price has increased to \$336,000 – up 7% from 2014

Bare Land Sales

- There were 69 sales in the Madison area compared to 43 last year – up 60% from 2013
- Price per acre definitely seems to be up across the board with one or two exceptions – call 406-596-4288 for specific information and understanding
- There were 7 sales of larger acreages (36 to 634 acres)

Commercial Sales

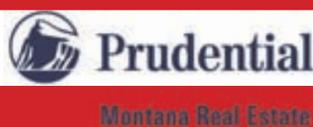
- There were 4 sales in the Madison area – 3 with improvements – call 406-596-4288 for specific details and information
- Prudential represented either or both of the Buyers or Sellers in 38% of all transactions in 2014

Thinking of selling?

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MADISON VALLEY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRELINE

By Steve Orr | MADISON VALLEY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014 IN REVIEW

The annual National Fire Incident Reporting System figures are in for 2014 for the Madison Valley Rural Fire Department. Last year's figures show a steep decline from the previous two years. The MVRFD responded to 31 fewer calls last year compared to 2013. While several factors attributed to the decline in response activity, the majority of the decrease was due to a relatively slow summer fire season. Here is a summary of the response activity for the MVRFD last year:

Calls By Incident Type	Frequency	Percent Of Total Calls	Mutual Aid None	Mutual Aid Given	Mutual Aid Received Incidents	Total
FIRES						
Structure Fires (110-118, 120-123)	4	4.94 %	4	0	0	4
Vehicle Fires (130-138)	1	1.23 %	1	0	0	1
Other Fires (100, 140-173)	12	14.81 %	9	0	3	12
Total Fires	17	20.99 %	14	0	3	17
RESCUE CALLS						
Emergency Medical Treatment (300-323)	20	24.69 %	19	3	1	23
All Others (331-381)	2	2.47 %	2	0	0	2
Total Rescue Calls	22	27.16 %	21	3	1	25
Hazardous Condition Calls (400-482)	5	6.17 %	5	0	0	5
Service Calls (500-571)	5	6.17 %	5	0	0	5
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	18	22.22 %	17	0	1	18
FALSE CALLS						
Malicious Calls (710-715, 751)	0	0.00 %	0	0	0	0
Other False Calls (700, 721-746)	14	17.28 %	14	0	0	14
Total False Calls	14	17.28 %	14	0	0	14
TOTAL CALLS	81	100.00 %	76	3	5	84

JANUARY RECAP

On Jan. 17 at 12:39 p.m. the MVRFD and Ennis Ambulance were dispatched to a one vehicle rollover accident on MT Hwy 287 in front of the U.S. Forest Service's Madison Ranger District Station. MVRFD firefighters and Ennis Ambulance personnel were undergoing Emergency Medical Technician refresher training when dispatched. The MVRFD responded a rescue and a command with six firefighters from station one but were canceled en route when Ennis Ambulance EMTs determined that the fire department resources were not required.

At 2:41 a.m. on Jan. 20 the MVRFD was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at the Sportsman's Lodge in Ennis. The MVRFD responded an engine, a command, a rescue and a ladder with nine firefighters from station one; a rescue with two firefighters from station two; and an engine with one firefighter from station three. While still responding MVRFD, fire chief Shawn Christensen quickly requested mutual aid from the Harrison Fire Department, who responded an engine with two

firefighters, and the Virginia City Rural Fire Department, who responded two engines with five firefighters.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office assigned two deputies to conduct traffic control operations at the scene. Two ambulances from the Ennis Ambulance responded to conduct firefighter rehabilitation and standby for any medical emergencies. Christensen requested the Montana State Fire Marshal's Office respond to assist with the investigation into the cause of the fire.

As fire suppression activities extended well into the day and on scene firefighters became exhausted, Christensen issued a second mutual aid request for Sheridan Fire Department, who responded an engine and a command with two crews. Christensen also requested mutual aid from the Hebgren Basin Fire Department to respond with their mobile air refilling station to refill breathing air tanks for firefighters. The MVRFD owes a great deal of gratitude to all of the mutual aid departments who responded and worked so hard in the fire suppression effort.

Firefighters battled the blaze for 15 hours. By 6 p.m. weary firefighters

returned to station to refit and make ready apparatus. The MVRFD would like to thank the Ennis Lion's Club who put together a crew of 15 volunteer Lion's Club Members who washed and dried hose, help refit hose on apparatus, cleaned equipment and assisted with refitting and refilling breathing apparatus tanks. The help was greatly appreciated by all of the members of the MVRFD.

On Jan. 21 at 12:04 p.m. the MVRFD returned to the Sportsman's Lodge fire to suppress several hotspots that began to smolder again. The MVRFD responded a rescue with three firefighters from station one who worked an hour on suppressing hotspots.

If you have any questions or concerns, Christensen invites you to contact us at 682-3311. We look forward to hearing from you. If no one is available, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. Remember, you can get up-to-date emergency information at the Madison County Montana Emergency Information web site, at <http://madison.homestead.com/>. Please visit our home page at www.mvrfd.org/. Remember to sign our guest book and let us know what you think.

HEALTHCARE

Open Enrollment

February 15th is the last day to get Healthcare coverage for 2015!

Call now to schedule an appointment.

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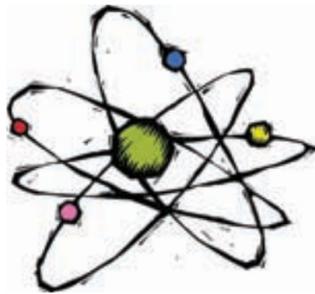
Elina Dilschneider



McKenzie Taylor-Casey



Logan Crowley and Katherine Ball



EAA AWARDEES AT ENNIS SCIENCE FAIR

Submitted by Barbara Pierce
Ennis Arts Association

Ennis Arts Association presented four artistic ability awards at the Ennis Science Fair on Jan. 26, 2015. Each student received a certificate and \$50.


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 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11:00A.M.
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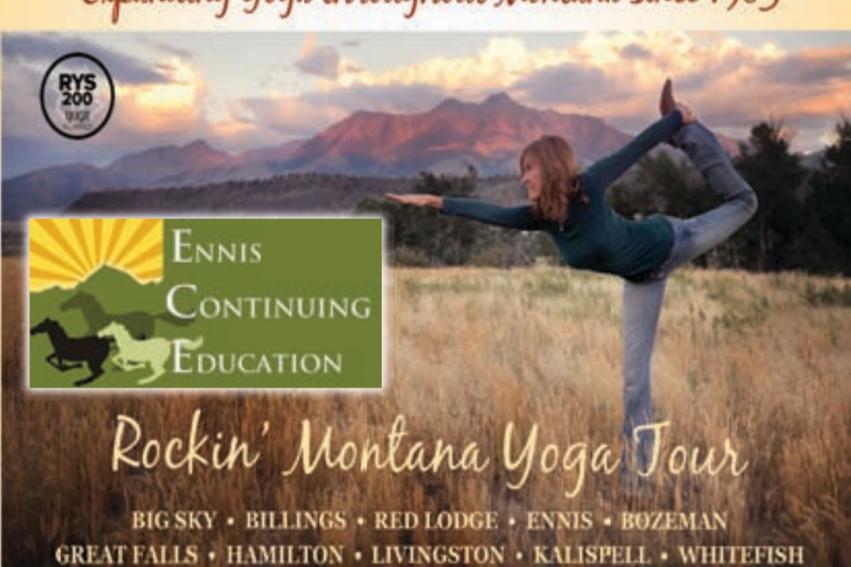
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FEBRUARY 8 & 22
Reservations Recommended

\$27.95 per adult
 \$14.95 children
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Experience a Sunday morning like never before.
 On February 8 & 22 come in for a relaxing brunch in the restaurant. We've got a taste for every craving. Sundays 9 am - 1 pm.


Paint & Party
•FEBRUARY 20•
 Join us on Friday, February 20 to party and paint. We're offering food and drink specials PLUS a lodging special for Art Party participants. When you reserve your easel, make sure to also book one of our queen rooms for \$50.00!
 Call now to register for this amazing event.

FEBRUARY BANDS
 6: Diamond Rock & Soul • 7: Bottom of the Barrel
 13: Sunrise Karaoke • 14: Sugar Daddies • 20: The Wench
 21: Bluebelly Junction • 27: Sunrise Karaoke • 28: www.Twang

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OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B10 Thursday, February 5, 2015

GO TO outpostevents.net FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS

WEDS FEB 4 THROUGH MARCH 4

Bible Study, Ennis

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church hosts a 5 week bible study at the church on 606 Comely Way.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

Mental Health Discussion, Ennis

11 a.m. at Madison Valley Public Library. Featured topic will be OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). Lisa Brubaker, licensed therapist, will lead the discussion. She will talk about how depression as well as other behaviors are a component of the disorder. Everyone is welcome to this Friends of the Library

sponsored discussion.

Scouting for food, Ennis

Scouting for food at Madison Foods. Troop 1601, pack 4601. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

Business After Hours, Ennis

5 p.m. BAH hosted by Madison River Foundation. Come out and meet the new Executive Director Liz Davis.

Madison Valley Book Club, Ennis

The Madison Valley Book Club will meet Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Madison Valley Public Library to discuss the book The End of Your Life Book Club, by Will Schwalbe.

Judy Miller will lead the discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FRI-SAT-SUN FEBRUARY 13-15

Winterfest, Virginia City

Broomball, kids games and more! A weekend full of fun. Call 600-5302 for information.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

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.

Valentine's Day Dinner, Sheridan

5:30 to 8 p.m. at Ruby Hotel. Reservations suggested but not required. Have a wonderful meal and support Jackson's Garden.

Senior Valentine's Day, Ennis

1 - 4 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall. Free coffee hour. Come sit, visit "old" friends, have coffee and a dessert. The chess, cribbage and card tables will be open. Call 682-4360 for more info.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15

Sweetheart Breakfast, Whitehall

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Whitehall Senior Center Sweetheart breakfast.

Grab your sweetheart and come have breakfast with us. This fundraiser is to help the seniors maintain their building here in Whitehall. We are located at 3 N. Division St.

p.m., performances at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment and culture for the community with speakers, musicians, and more. Admission is by donation and open to the public.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17

Pancake Dinner, Jeffers

5 - 7 p.m. The Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers is holding its annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. The men of Trinity will be cooking. Tickets are available at the door.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Friends of Thompson-Hickman Madison Co. Library, Virginia City

5 p.m. Annual Meeting to elect board members and officers, progress on library addition, program planning for the year.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Potluck dinner at 6:30

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

Open mic night, Sheridan

7 p.m. at The Shovel and Spoon. Open mic for musicians, poets and story tellers, etc.

NORRIS HOT SPRINGS

MUSIC THIS WEEKEND:

Fri 2/6 - Jacob Lilley & the Forest Service
Old Time/Bluegrass

Sat 2/7 - Joe Schwem
Original Folk/Rock

Sun 2/8 Brent & Collett Trio
Jazz Fusion

HOURS:

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

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FEB. 16 3-5 P.M.

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A TESTIMONIAL:

Ed Hatlee is more than a Handyman, he is knowledgeable in plumbing, electrical, tile, and carpentry. He has been helping me do a lot of remodeling to an unfinished house. He is dependable, hard working, and also neat and meticulous. As a single woman, I am very comfortable with him working in my home.

~ Bev Gross, Cameron

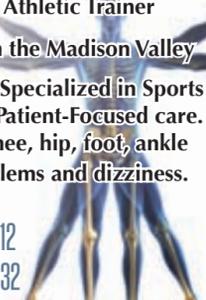
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\$65 for 22 oz RIBEYE with SEAFOOD BOWL
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MONDAY-THURSDAY, 4 PM-7 PM
HAPPY HOUR
FREE FOOD UNTIL 6 PM

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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.

SHERIDAN SCHOOLS ADULT EDUCATION

JEWELRY MAKING CLASS

COLD FORGED COPPER BRACELET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST 10AM - NOON
INSTRUCTOR: SALLY BEHR-SCHENDEL

Meet in the Sheridan High School Art room in the C.B. Murray building to learn this technique for making a beautiful copper bracelet. The class size is limited to 8 and you must call to reserve your spot. There is no charge for this class.

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

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ENJOY OUR REGULAR LIVE MUSIC ON
FRIDAY FEB 6TH FROM 5:30 - 7:30 - SEAN DEVINE

Happy Valentines Day Eve!

FEBRUARY 13

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Valentine's Day Dinner

A TASTE OF ITALY
Homemade Italian food

- Antipasto platter
- Crisp mixed greens salad with Italian vinaigrette and freshly grated parmesan cheese
- Homemade Italian bread and choice of:
 - ~Eight layer beef and sausage béchamel lasagna
 - or
 - ~Eight layer chicken and mushroom alfredo lasagna
- Finish your meal with the famous dessert of Italy ~ Tiramisu!

SAT. FEB 14, 5:30-8P.M.
THE RUBY HOTEL ON MAIN ST. IN SHERIDAN
Have a wonderful meal and support Jackson's Garden

\$25/person
Beer and wine available

Reservations not required but appreciated. Dine in or take out! For info and reservations, call: 842-7956

MADISON THEATRE 682-4023
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Friday-Sunday, February 6-8

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

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