

**CHRISTMAS STROLL IN TWIN BRIDGES
MORE PHOTOS ON A5!**

PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS
Johnny Banks visits Santa at the Twin Bridges Christmas stroll.



The Madisonian

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BRIDGE OVER ICY WATERS



Blaine Spring Creek Bridge open to traffic following replacement

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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The replacement of the Blaine Spring Creek Bridge south of Ennis wrapped up in early December.

The county received \$700,000 in 2010 from a Treasure State Endowment Program grant to replace the bridge, which is located just west of Varney Bridge near the Madison River south of Ennis. Though the project was estimated to cost more than \$2 million when finished, the county is only responsible for around \$250,000, per an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation. Then MDT will cover all expenses except for the \$700,000 from the TSEP and the county's contribution, Madison County commissioner Jim Hart said.

"We set aside \$200,000 over the years, and we got \$65,000 from private donations, to ensure the new bridge will look like the old one," Hart said.



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
Last week, the Blaine Spring Creek Bridge construction wrapped up – traffic can now cross the creek, 10 miles south of Ennis. The bridge replacement was necessary considering the original bridge was slowly deteriorating.

Future of the water

Sustainable Water Solutions Forum hosts public meeting

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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Water is the lifeblood of any community – something Big Sky area residents have recognized. On Dec. 6, around 100 people attended a public meeting about the future of Big Sky's water, hosted by the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum.

"The central part of the whole process is a group of stakeholders who are driving the effort to develop solutions to some of the water issues (Big Sky) is facing," explained Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force.

Though the Gallatin River Task Force is organizing the process, around 35 stakeholders including agency representatives, community members and government officials are identifying future water-related issues and coming up with solutions.

"We are growing rapidly right now and the water and sewer district is going to need additional options in the next five years or so," Gardner explained. "The rapid growth of our community combined with the change in climate makes this an important topic."

In addition to the water and sewer district, the stakeholders are addressing ecological health of area waterways.

Though most of the process is focused on the Gallatin Watershed because that area is more populated, some of Big Sky is in the Madison Watershed.

"Additionally, a portion of the Jack Creek drainage that feeds into the Madison Watershed is protected under conservation easements," explained Ethan Kunard, water programs manager for the Madison Conservation District. "Therefore, the Jack Creek drainage does not currently have the same type of water quality impairments seen in the more developed portions of Big Sky that feed into the Gallatin (River)."

Kunard said the goal is to ensure development in the Madison Watershed continues to maintain and protect the

Turn to BIG SKY on p. A2

ENNIS TOWN

Madison Valley Public Library receives 5 stars

CARLTON AVEY
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The Ennis Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Dec. 8 and discussed zoning and Armitage Alley before adjourning into the snow covered night.

Judge Art Behar addressed the council about two zoning permits that have been requested, one for the Ennis Senior Center addition and one from the Town Pump.

The council decided to schedule a work session before moving forward with either permit.

After zoning and other department reports, Ennis' city lawyer, James Greenbaum, addressed the council about where they stand in regard to litigation with property owners along Armitage Alley.

Greenbaum informed councilmembers the alley is privately owned and the town should look into potentially purchasing the alley with the intention of public use. The council scheduled a work session to discuss it further and will hold a public hearing before moving forward.

MVPL is seeing stars

Adding to Madison County's two five-star nursing home facilities, the Madison Valley Public Library recently received a five star rating from the Library Journal and is

Turn to ENNIS on p. A2

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BIG SKY from pg. 1

health of the Jack Creek drainage.

Future demand

"If the resort area were to suddenly stop growing tomorrow, the solutions to these issues would be much simpler," Kunard said. "However, this process is looking beyond the current conditions, and is trying to identify the expected needs for a fully developed community to sustain itself into the future."

Therein lies the complica-

tion. At the public meeting, Gardner and the involved stakeholders informed interested community members about the issues they have prioritized: identifying a sustainable water source for the growing community, identifying reliable waste water treatment that meets the capacity of the growing resort and managing and improving the health of the watershed that encompasses the resort.

"There were a lot of questions (from the community) about what the outcome will be," Gardner said. "But we don't know that yet."

Gardner is encouraged the Big Sky community has water on the brain.

"Now we will have more stakeholder meetings where we will really get into the issues and start looking at solutions," she said.

Solutions will not be easy to come by - Kunard said addressing the issues in a single, comprehensive plan is almost unprecedented in Montana.

"The resort community recognized the only way to develop solutions to address all of these concerns was by bringing a very diverse group of stake-

holders that can contribute in a meaningful way," he said. "Each of the issues on their own is incredibly complex, and will require thoughtful and innovative solutions."

Up next

Gardner and the stakeholders plan to hold more meetings in the future, where solutions will be identified as stakeholders come up with them.

"The growth of Big Sky is what is driving this," she said. "It doesn't look like it's slowing down."

ENNIS from pg. 1

one of two Montana libraries recognized.

"It just proves our library is used, is supported and is

appreciated," said librarian Karen Ketchu during the Dec. 8 meeting.

Ratings are based off the library's per capita use and are measured in five categories:

library visits, circulation, electronic circulation, attendance and public Internet terminal use. The only other library in the state to receive a rating from the Library Journal is

the Whitefish Community Library.

"We're very proud of the library and we are looking forward to the future," Ketchu said.

BASKETBALL ROUND UP

BOYS

ENNIS

The Mustangs were in Manhattan Christian last weekend for pre-season tournament action, where they charged passed the Conrad Cowboys, 55-35, and fell to the Manhattan Christian Eagles by 13 - 50-63.

Seniors Gavin McKittrick and Jake Knack led the way as the Mustangs rolled passed the Cowboys, netting 18 and 16 points, respectively.

The game against the Eagles was pretty much the same - McKittrick and Knack once again paved the way, earning 14 and 18 points, respectively, while fellow senior Ty Morgan grabbed nine points.

The Mustangs will face-off against their Madison County rival, the Twin Bridges Falcons, on Dec. 16 at Ennis High School.

HARRISON

The Wildcats had their first home game of the season as they hosted the Lone Peak Big Horns on Dec. 8. The Wildcats lost to the Big Horns, 43-67.

"I think as a group we are showing lots of potential," said head coach Nick Dyke. "A couple of the younger players have contributed some significant minutes in our past two games."

Derik DeFrance led the scoreboard, netting 33 points against the Big Horns and nine rebounds, while Jakob Nye contributed 10 rebounds and two points.

"We are working on getting everybody healthy and on learning our offensive sets," said Dyke.

The Wildcats took on Absarokee on Dec. 10. No stats were submitted for that game by *The Madsonian's* press time.

The Wildcats travel to Panther country on Dec. 16 for a clash of purple as Harrison looks to defeat Sheridan.

SHERIDAN

The Panthers took in pre-season tournament action, where they were victorious in a close game against Roberts. Sheridan snuck ahead of Roberts, thanks to a game high of 55 points from senior Tristen Horn. Tyler Haag added eight points for the Panthers, while Moxon Lee, Isaac Bendon and Jack Gilman each had two.

The Panthers also played West Yellowstone last week, but scores and statistics were not made available by *The Madsonian's* press time.

TWIN BRIDGES

The Falcons were in Three Forks last weekend for a pre-season tournament, where they rolled passed Thompson Falls, 74-55, and fell to the Jefferson Panthers, 49-61.

"We changed a few things up for Saturday and we saw some great benefits," said head coach Josh Keller of the tournament. "I really felt like the boys took a big step from Friday to Saturday. We are playing some new kids and it will take a little time to get where we want to be."

Wesley Harshbarger took home the game high with 25 points against Thompson Falls, while Chace Guinnane added 17 and Cooper Christensen had 14.

Christensen had 18 points for the Falcons against Boulder, while Harshbarger added 12.

GIRLS

ENNIS

The Lady Mustangs saw success last weekend at the Manhattan Christian tournament, where they defeated the Conrad Cowgirls, 29-24 and the Lady Eagles, 44-28.

"The girls did a great job of competing and playing hard every possession," said head coach Jordan Overstreet. "We rebounded the ball extremely well and played great defense."

The ladies in green were led by Danyel Martin and Jourdain Klein, who used their height to their advantage and posted up to snag 16 and 11 points, respectively. Point guard Danika Philpott added nine points to the Mustangs' total against the Eagles.

Martin also led the team against the Cowgirls with nine points, while Philpott and Klein each added seven.

The Lady Mustangs host the Lady Falcons on Dec. 16.

HARRISON

The Lady Wildcats hosted the Lady Big Horns from Lone Peak on Dec. 9 and lost in a tough battle, 32-51.

Josie Hokanson led the way for the Lady Wildcats with 23 points, eight rebounds, four steals and three assists, while Stephanie Strong added six points.

"It was a good game ... I saw a lot of improvement," said head coach Zach Dyk. "We still need to get better on the rebounds and execution of our offense. I'm expecting a great week of practice to get ready for our conference games this weekend."

The Lady Wildcats took on Absarokee on Dec. 10. No stats were submitted by *The Madsonian's* press time.

The Lady Wildcats will travel over the hill to take on Madison County rivals, the Sheridan Panthers, on Dec. 17.

SHERIDAN

The Lady Panthers took home a W on Dec. 8 after defeating the West Yellowstone Wolverines, 30-27, in overtime.

"Defensively, they did a great job of keeping West (Yellowstone) out of the interior," said head coach Matthew Rockeman. "They were aggressive in the first quarter and did a good job of getting inside and getting to the rim to take shots."

Seniors Janie Smart and

Tionna Schwend led the way for the Panthers, scoring 12 and nine points, respectively, while sisters Destiny Fabel and Madison Fabel contributed eight and two points, respectively.

The Panthers finished out the Lone Peak tournament on Saturday, Dec. 10 in Absarokee where they lost to Belgrade's C-squad, 14-33.

The Panthers will host the Harrison Wildcats on Dec. 16 and are preparing for the game by working on defense and shooting.

"We're working on team defense and rebounding, as well as streamlining our offense so our scoring is a little more distributed throughout the team," Rockeman said.

TWIN BRIDGES

The Lady Falcons saw success this weekend at the Three Forks pre-season tournament where they defeated both Thompson Falls, 71-32, and Boulder, 59-35.

Kailee Oliverson led the way for the Lady Falcons with 22 points against Thompson Falls, while Cassie Williams and Reanne Bendon each contributed 13.

Oliverson once again topped the scoreboard in the game against Boulder with 27 points. Bendon added 18 points and Williams put up seven for the Falcons.

"The girls played very hard and unselfish basketball," said head coach Josh Keller, who took over after long time coach Rob Lott retired last year. "I was impressed at how well they picked up on a whole new system of basketball. We also played those games without three of our varsity girls - we had to really dig deep and play disciplined due to the lack of depth."

The Lady Falcons head to Ennis this week for some cross-county action on Dec. 16.

How well do YOU know Madison County?

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MORE NEWS:

NO WAKE ZONE

Fish and Wildlife Commission initiates rule change on Madison River from Ennis Lake Bridge to dam

ABIGAIL DENNIS
editor@madisoniannews.com

“What it boils down to is user conflict,” said Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks game warden Shane Brozovich, explaining a portion of the Madison River should be a no wake zone.

On Thursday, Nov. 17, the commission started that process – the Madison River from the north Ennis Lake Bridge to 600 feet above the Madison Dam is now a no wake zone, according to FWP public information officer Andrea Jones.

“(The commission) did approve initiating rule making for a petition requesting an administrative rule limiting the Madison River to a no wake zone from the north Ennis Lake Bridge to 600 feet above the Madison Dam,” Jones said.

Brozovich said the area is popular for a variety of recreators from kayakers to paddleboarders and swimmers.

“People come in there with their boats

and there just isn’t enough room,” Brozovich said. “This was my second summer (as game warden in this area) and we haven’t had any accidents. But (former warden Ryan Gosse) dealt with a number of them.”

The proposed no wake zone is located at the north end of Ennis Lake, where the lake funnels back into the river at the start of the Bear Trap Canyon. In the summer months, kids dive off rocks and play on a rope swing, landing in the water and swimming.

“It’s similar to the area at Harrison Lake, where there is a no wake zone in the canyon from 6 p.m. to 11 a.m. the next day, but this is going to be full time,” Brozovich said. “A lot of people fish down there too, and boats speed by.”

“No wake” means you cannot have white water behind your watercraft, Brozovich clarified. Once the rule is formally adopted by the commission, it will be a ticket-able offense, he added.

“It’s all about improving safety,” Brozovich concluded.

ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
The Madison River between the bridge and the dam.



New parking lot at the manor

Madison Valley Manor continues facility upgrade with an updated parking lot; construction halts for winter

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com



CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
The Madison Valley Manor has nearly completed their final construction project for the 2015-2016 remodel.

After applying for a Community Development Block Grant in 2014 and talking with contractors, construction on the remodel of the Madison Valley Manor began in October of 2015, and is now near completion as crews work on repaving the parking lot.

“It’s not 100 percent complete – we’re kind of at a winter shut down,” said Darcel Cook, MVM administrator. “All the electrical is in so the lights can go in and they can get those up, it’s just a matter of decent weather.”

In the spring, Cook said the contractors hope to sealcoat the parking lot and paint the lines, as well as add bumpers along the fence.

“And the dirt along the side is where the Montana Department of Transportation (is going to put in a sidewalk), so we’ll be really excited when they get that going,” said Cook.

“So far, they’ve done a terrific job,” said Madison County Commissioner Jim Hart. “All that’s really left is to put in the sidewalk and put up the lights.”

Cook said everything has gone as planned and the remodel definitely has added

to the facility and its five-star rating, something the manor has in common with the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center in Sheridan.

“The residents really love the new look and the public response has been wonderful,” said Cook. “And now, both care facilities in Madison County are five-star facilities and that’s something we should all be very proud of.”

“What a bonus to have two five-star facilities within a 100 mile radius,” Hart said, adding that both facilities are publicly funded, which means a lot to him. “Folks around the county said we need both of these and the turn around is that the people who work there appreciate that and have made those facilities.”

More improvements

Cook said she is considering applying for another planning grant in 2017 to go toward a kitchen expansion and remodel, as well as looking into replacing the boilers and the air conditioning.

“I think we’re going to postpone that for a year,” Cook said. “I want to make sure that we are financially able to do that and it isn’t something we are stressing over – it’s still up in the air.”



CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
Residents and workers initialed their names into the new curbing along the parking lot.



CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
The last step will occur when MDT constructs a sidewalk.

DISTRICT COURT ROUND UP

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Gill’s probationary sentence revoked

Steven Richard Gill appeared at the Madison County Courthouse before Judge Loren Tucker on Dec. 12 to respond to allegations that he violated the terms of his probationary sentence.

Gill was sentenced in Madison County in 2012 for the offense of criminal distri-

bution of dangerous drugs, a felony.

“At that time, the defendant was sentenced to the Department of Corrections for five years, all suspended,” according to court documents.

Deputy County Attorney Justin Ekwall alleged Gill violated the terms of his suspended sentence by failing to report to his probation officer, informing his probation officer when he changed residences, maintaining employment and complying with

all laws and court orders.

According to Ekwall, Gill was recently sentenced for robbery in Yellowstone County.

Gill said the allegations were true, aside from failing to maintain employment – he said he worked part time for cash, but did not have a steady paycheck.

Judge Tucker said that allegation was “insignificant” in light of the robbery.

Ekwall recommended Gill be sentenced

to the DoC for the full five years that were suspended in 2012, with credit for 17 days served, and the sentence run concurrently with his sentence from Yellowstone County. Gill’s attorney, J. Blaine Anderson, agreed.

Judge Tucker adopted the recommendation from the attorneys, and Gill was released into the custody of the Madison County Sheriff’s Office for transport to the DoC.

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OBITUARIES

Jack Fenton

May 2, 1923 - December 9, 2016



Jack Fenton passed away Dec. 9, 2016, at his home. He was born May 2, 1923, to Stanley and Helen Fenton in Provo, Utah. Two years later he was joined by a sister, Virginia. The family moved to Sheridan in 1932 where Jack would live for the next 83 years, only taking time away to join the army

during World War II. Jack attended school in Sheridan and was the first president of the Sheridan Future Farmers of America when they received their charter. Jack graduated from Sheridan High School in 1942 and in 1944 he enlisted in the Army where he was stationed in the Philippines and Japan. While in Japan he was Stable Sergeant in charge of the Japanese cavalry horses for recreation of United States soldiers in that area.

He was discharged in 1946 and returned to the family ranch. In 1950 Jack married Frances Edwards. They continued ranching together until her death in 2006. To this union, two daughters were born.

Jack belonged to numer-

ous organizations serving as an officer in many of them. He was the charter member of the Southwestern Montana Marketing Association. He received his private pilot's license in 1978 and continued to fly until his 80th birthday. He remained an active member of his community until his death.

He was baptized as an infant by his grandfather who was a Methodist minister. Jack remained a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

He is survived by his daughters, Lynne (Steve) McWilliams and Kathleen Wuelfing; sister, Virginia Thompson; grandchildren, Scott (April) Wuelfing and Lindsey Wuelfing; and great grandchildren, Lane Poirier-Wuelfing and

Pattyn Wuelfing. Jack is also survived by his two nephews Ty (Rudrani) Thompson and Steve (Darlene) Thompson, and niece Christine (Dave) Schultz and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances, and his son-in-law, Gus Wuelfing.

Funeral services will be held Saturday Dec. 17, 2016, at 11 a.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church. Interment will follow in the Sheridan Cemetery with military honors.

Memorials may be made to the Sheridan Senior Center, P.O. Box 283, Sheridan, MT 59749, the Bethel United Methodist, P.O. Box 367, Sheridan, MT 59749 or the Sheridan Library, P.O. Box 107, Sheridan, MT 59749.

Cliff Klemo

July 27, 1928 - December 6, 2016

Cliff Klemo was born in Butte on July 27, 1928. He went to meet his Savior Jesus Christ on Dec. 6, 2016.

In addition to their family, ranching and raising horses were the combined greatest passions for Cliff and his wife of 64 years, Dolly. They owned several ranches in Southwest Montana before settling down north of Sheridan.

He was a man's man, a cowboy's cowboy and ever a gentleman around women of any age. Cliff was a veteran of

World War II, having joined the Navy at age 17 and serving in the Pacific theater.

Earlier in life, along with his brother Jack, they owned and operated the Classic Bar in uptown Butte for six years. He worked as an underground miner in Butte for a number of years. During difficult times during mine strikes, he would trap beaver in the Highland Mountains for additional income.

In later years, along with his ongoing love of family and

horses, Cliff perfected his self taught talents in wood working and was a lathe artisan. He could always be counted on to help neighboring ranches work cattle, and any opportunity to be in a saddle suited Cliff.

Cliff was preceded in death by his beautiful daughter Robin, and his brother and great friend, Jack.

He is survived in addition to wife Dolly, by his son Clint, son-in-law Howie Lemm, granddaughters Amber and Kara, grandson Kekoa, great

granddaughters Ava and Malea and sister-in-law Mary Lou Klemo, along with a great group of nieces and nephews.

Cliff had a number of classic quips, and maybe first among them was his answer as to what he would want said in his own celebration of life gathering. He said to tell everyone he would much rather be there enjoying the party than being the reason for it in the first place.

That celebration will be scheduled at a later date.

Carol McMullin

September 9, 1922 - December 6, 2016



Harriet "Carol" McMullin, the beloved matriarch of a large, extended family, passed away peacefully on Dec. 6, 2016, at age 94.

Carol was known and respected by many. Adored mother, grandmother, great-

grandmother and friend, she is survived by five children (Stephany, Anne, Paul, Susan and Peter), 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Carol was born on Sept. 9, 1922, in Oakland, Calif. She obtained a B.A. in art from Pomona College and a graduate degree from Mills College.

Carol met her husband, Paul McMullin, while working as an occupational therapist in Richmond, Va. She married Paul in 1947 and they raised their five children in southern California. It was a warm, ram-bunctious household and there was always room for friends and stray animals, including an orphaned raccoon.

In 1968 the family purchased land in the Madison Valley, built a summer home and began a decades long migration to a full-time residence in Montana. In the early years, Carol and Paul camped with the family by the river and hiked the mountains. As she got older, hikes turned to walks and walks turned to picnics.

Carol was a strong, intelligent and independent woman. She was a true individual, gracious host, healthy competitor, talented artist, tennis player and cook. She had resolute determination in all her pursuits, yet was forever capable of laughing at herself. She led an exemplary life and inspired

those around her to set the bar high.

At 94 she had slowed, but she still rowed down the Madison. She played bridge, she traveled to see her children, went to the gym and took great pleasure in painting the beautiful Montana landscapes that she appreciated so much.

She was never one for long goodbyes and her sudden passing is somehow fitting for her embrace and acceptance of life and all its stages. She was an inspiration and will live on in the many lives she touched.

A celebration of her life will take place at her McAllister home Saturday, July 1, 2017, at 4 p.m.

MOOOOOVING THROUGH TOWN



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE ELLIOTT
A cattle drive passes through downtown Ennis on a cold, December morning.

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& MORE NEWS:

Christmas cheer in Twin Bridges

Community hosts annual stroll at Madison County Fairgrounds on Dec. 9



Photos clockwise from bottom right

PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS

Ke'lay Willhauer from the Women's Resource Center in Dillon helps Quincy Eby pin a heart on the Grinch.

PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS

Larry and Verta Dorseth call bingo for a chance for some lucky winner to win a turkey provided by Berkshire Hathaway and Frank Colwell.

PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS

National Honors members, Savanna Stewart, Roman Hendrickson and Mandy Baugh, helped festival visitors choose tags from the giving tree at Twin Bridges. All the tags were taken.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Art Behar: Investing in the community

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com

After permanently moving to the Madison Valley six years ago, Art Behar began serving as the Ennis town judge, a role he does not take lightly. Another role in Behar's life that he holds to great standards is his volunteerism with Madison Valley Search and Rescue and Ennis Ambulance.

"A little over two years ago I joined the ambulance," Behar said. "I was sitting in my office when a page went out and I literally said, 'what does it take to drive one of those things?'"

After some schooling, Behar joined the ambulance department as a driver before going on to get his EMT certification, a position he has now held for just over a year.

"Without it, we wouldn't survive," said Behar about the ambulance. "If we don't all chip in, it won't be here."

Prior to joining the ambulance depart-

ment, Behar got involved with MVSAR.

"I always enjoyed that part of my military career," he said.

Behar served eight years with the Air Force and attributes that time to his interest in medicine.

"I took a wilderness first aide course and then I felt like I had the background to join the ambulance and become an EMT," he said. "For me, it was a way to give back to the community."

Behar started the drone program for MVSAR and said it has come in handy for the group.

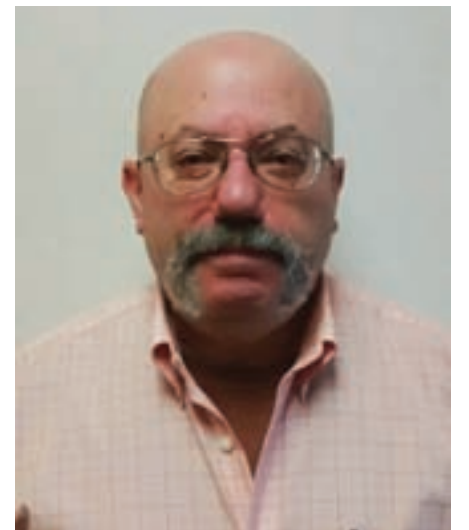
"I like flying the drone and I like just hanging out," Behar said about time spent away from the ambulance or search and rescue.

Behar knows the need for volunteers throughout the county first hand and suggests community members should simply attend a meeting.

"Call someone who's involved and ask when the next meeting is and see if it is for you," he offered. "There are millions of things you can do to help out, but you have to get up off the couch and do it."

For Behar, the definition of volunteering is investing in your community.

"We all need to take a stake in the community and invest in our community," he said. "Ennis seems to flourish because of the interaction of all of its citizens - the community is filled with good people who give back."



"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." ~Tom Brokaw

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

PROUD VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR

Buzz from the schools



Happy holidays from Sheridan Schools!

We sincerely hope your holiday season is full of happiness and good cheer. On the focus of school at Sheridan we continue to try and strive to educate our kids to be as academically competitive as we are

able. For our seniors, that means moving into the scholarship season ready to compete for thousands of dollars to help with their post high school goals, which can range from four year degrees to certificate training at a technical school. This brings me to the focus of our portfolio program, which at Sheridan is a major initiative throughout the school year.

The student portfolio for a Sheridan student is built beginning in kindergarten and follows them through their senior year of high school. The intent of the portfolio is to highlight work students are completing in all of their classes throughout the year and includes a reflective piece on each project placed in their individual portfolio. It also includes community service hours, transcripts and awards, as well as work in Indian Education For All and senior projects. These are the

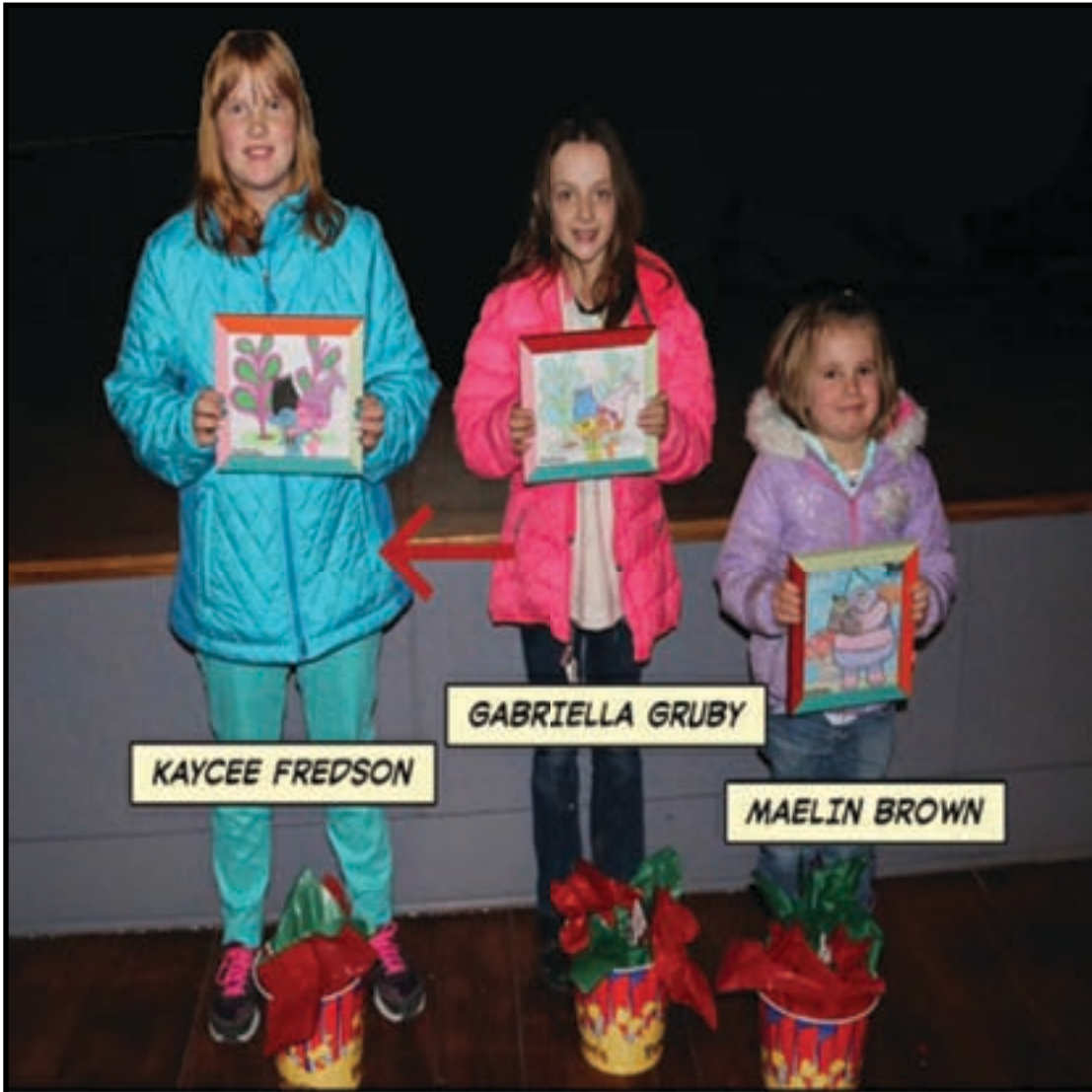
tools that help our seniors to apply for scholarships in a more organized manner. The portfolio is presented by every student in grades seven through 12 in a PowerPoint fashion. This presentation is graded as part of the overall grade for the portfolio. By the time our students are seniors, they are expected to deliver an 18 to 20 minute oral presentation on their senior project. In the end, the portfolio and its components are worth 10 percent of the student's final grade in each of their classes. As you can see, we place great value on the student's portfolio and its worth in helping develop our students and enhance their well-rounded education. As the spring season begins to show itself, so will our portfolio project and the need for folks to come help evaluate portfolio presentations. If you are interested in helping evaluate our student's portfolio presentations, please give us a call at Sheridan School and come join in on some of the excitement of being a Panther!

Along with the middle and high school portfolios, Sheridan Elementary School students also prepare a comprehensive portfolio to highlight their academic projects throughout the school year. The elementary students wrap up their portfolios with a presentation to their parents in the spring. It is exciting for these students to be able to show their parents all the great work they have competed in each subject area.

One area of focus in the elementary is on our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) initiatives from kindergarten to sixth-grade. Staff and students have been expanding in each of these areas all year long. Currently we are using our 3D printer to print Christmas ornaments. Along with the 3D printer, we are extremely excited to begin using our new Lego WeDo 2.0 robotics program with our students. Elementary staff participated in a hands-on training during our last PIR day to begin to familiarize themselves with the possibilities of Legos and robotics for our students. We can't wait to begin having our students build the various robots and explore this exciting technology in the classroom. In addition to all of that, our fifth and sixth-grade students took a field trip to Montana Tech to visit their 3D welding lab. While they were there, students had the opportunity to watch the welder in use and ask their guide, Bruce Madigan, a variety of questions about the processes and what types of projects are being done with the unit. Upon their return these students had classroom activities to complete that related to their field trip.

Again, everyone at Sheridan Schools wants to wish you a safe and relaxing holiday season and a happy New Year!

Mike Wetherbee
Sheridan School



KAYCEE FREDSON

GABRIELLA GRUBY

MAELIN BROWN

Thanks to all the kids who entered the Ennis True Value Troll Coloring Contest. The three girls pictured were the winners in each age group.

Each of them received a prize basket containing movie passes to the Madison Theater for a family of five, bowling passes from Fishbowl lanes, a gift certificate from True Value and a frame containing their winning picture.

Thanks to John Heckler of the Madison Theater, Brian and Sarah Sennette of the theater and Fishbowl Lanes for their generous contributions to the prize baskets and Chelsee Mahsman of Right Angles for the beautiful framing job.

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for another great season!
See you in the Spring!

Wednesday, December 21st will be the last day we're open.

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WHAT IS THIS ROOM?

TONI BOWEN
ERA Landmark Arrow Real Estate

WHAT IS THIS ROOM? Yes, this question does come up when viewing properties. Rooms are often used for purposes other than what one would normally expect. Listing descriptions of rooms in a home are often misleading. It is in the interest of homeowners, sellers and buyers to know the subtle definition differences between the safety/builder perspective and the real estate/home value perspective, and to know one's state and local guidelines for determining, for instance, what can and cannot be considered a "bedroom!" Here are some general guidelines that are commonly accepted in defining certain ambiguous rooms:

- **Bedroom.** Defining the bedroom space is important for two main reasons: home value and safety. In the real estate world, a bedroom is a space that has a door that can be closed, a window, a closet, a ceiling height of 7' or more and area enough to accommodate a small bedroom set. However, building codes are more specific and require that the egress window must have a minimum opening area of 5.7 SF, a minimum opening height of 24 inches and a minimum opening width of 20 inches. The maximum distance between the finished floor and the finished window sill is 44 inches. A recent addition to the IRC mandates a minimum distance between the finished floor of the room and the window sill of 24 inches. In addition, whether means of egress is a window or a door, it must be operable from the inside without the use of keys, tools, or special knowledge. In the real estate world, there are other considerations, such as the age of the home and how comparable homes like it are viewed. For instance, many older homes did not have closets, but rather used wardrobes. Therefore a closet is not actually required.
- **Bathroom.** Have you ever wondered what a "3/4 bathroom" meant in a real estate ad? Is that like a car with three wheels? Actually, it means that the bathroom has a sink, toilet and a shower stall, but no tub. A powder room has a sink, a toilet and is considered a "half bath." A "full bath" has all 4 units, sink, toilet, tub and shower or combo.
- **Finished Basement.** Any area that is less than fully above grade is considered to be a basement. One of the main criteria of a "finished basement" is whether or not the area is heated and cooled with the same type of system as the rest of the home. Another consideration is whether or not the quality of finish is similar to the rest of the house, including flooring, wall finish, and ceiling. Appraisers will generally give more value to the area if access is from inside the house. Even though a finished basement adds value to the home, Fannie Mae states that, "Only finished above-grade areas can be used in calculating and reporting of above-grade room count and square footage for the gross living area." Fannie Mae considers a level to be below grade, if ANY portion of it is below grade, regardless of the quality of its finish or the window area of any room. Appraisers do make exceptions based upon the market, the area and comparables.
- **Dining Room.** Any area designed as the official area of the home where food is consumed. The placement of this room is typically near or connected to the kitchen and features room for a large dining table and adequate lighting for guests to clearly see their meals. A Breakfast Room, also known as a breakfast nook, is designed to be in close proximity to the kitchen. This room is designed to offer a relaxing and comfortable space to enjoy the first meal of the day; however, it may also be utilized for non-formal lunches or dinners. Many home owners use this space for other purposes, such as offices.
- **Great Room.** A large multi-purpose room that is centralized in the design of the house, with no walls separating the living/family room, dining area and kitchen. It simply flows. This concept is actually nothing new, but began in the castles of Europe. They fell by the wayside in the 1900's but now the demand for great rooms has risen to epic proportions. It has become the biggest trend in housing development in the past few years, replacing the traditional and more formal living room and the casual family room.

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Historic home in Virginia City is a must see! This 1,482 sf home built in 1900. Charming and quaint 3 bed/2 bath with tons of character. The grounds are beautiful with lots of room for a garden and mature fruit trees. A new patio on the back of the house gives you much privacy. There is a 678 sf cottage that could be used as a studio, woodworking shop, or as a rental for income.

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Michelle Van Dyke
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SPEECH, DRAMA, DEBATE

Ennis students compete at meet last weekend



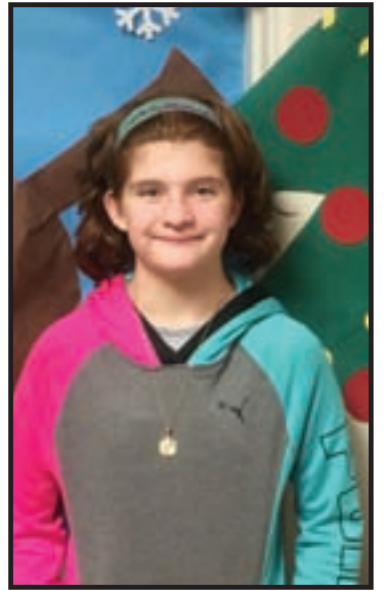
PHOTOS COURTESY ALLYSON ADAMS

The Ennis High School speech, drama and debate team took first place in speech on Dec. 10 in Dillon. Debater Caelin Marum took first place in debate.

Madi Goettle placed third in impromptu at the Dillon meet – the first time she has placed, thanks to her hard work.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK TWIN BRIDGES

McKenzie Stack is a hard worker, respectful, and very compassionate and considerate of her fellow students. McKenzie goes out of her way to treat younger students well. She participates in Missoula Children's Theatre and the sixth-grade school play. She is a huge Harry Potter fan, and is a fantastic reader.



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4 PAWS RESCUE PET OF THE WEEK
DIETRICH
Just wanted to tell you all thanks. I got a wonderful home for the Holidays and furever! Best part, well the next best part was that my brother Bonhoeffer and I went together. We are getting lots of loves, cuddles and playtime. Come and help my friends who are still here. You can call Misty at 439-1405. GOD bless and thanks again. Dietrich PS/They appreciate donations of many kinds to help us rescued pets - older meat, veggies, blankets, etc.
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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Thursday | Snow showers early will become steadier snow in the afternoon. High 29F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 80%. Snow accumulating 1 to 3 inches. |
| Friday | Snow showers. High 7F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 40%. About one inch of snow expected. |
| Saturday | Partly cloudy skies during the morning hours will become overcast in the afternoon. High 6F. Winds light and variable. |
| Sunday | Partly cloudy skies. High 11F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. |
| Monday | Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 17F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. |

Quote of the Week:
"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."
John E. Maxwell

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Winter tales from Alder's finest

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com

The 2016-2017 winter edition of *The Loop* magazine is finally out! This year, to aid in *The Madisonian's* efforts to bring you the best possible magazine we could, I reached out to the kids of Madison County for help, and the students at the Alder School came to my rescue. Check out the compilation of stories, drawings and poems below that did not make the magazine, and be sure to be on the lookout for *The Loop* on a newsstand near you for more!

The dog who ruined my snowman
Alexander Musso
Fourth grade

In winter, I was building a snowman. I first rolled up a HUGE ball for the bottom. Next, I rolled up a medium sized ball for the body. For the last part, I rolled up a ball as big as a basketball for the head.

Now it was time to decorate the snowman! I used raisins for the mouth, eyes and buttons on the snowman's body. Next I put a carrot for the nose and winter hat for the head. Finally, I put the winter scarf on and the sticks for the arms. I was done!

Suddenly, a dog appeared and jumped on the snowman's head and ate his nose and eyes, and his buttons! Well, the nose was a carrot and the eyes, buttons and mouth were made out of raisins. Who wouldn't want to eat that? After the dog ruined my snowman, he came back so I threw snowballs at him to show that no one messes with my snowmen.



Winter beauties of the Madison
Andreena Bock
Fifth grade

The wintertime is really cold
Even for the old.
For the young it is so much fun
They want it to never be done.
Sledding down a hill is cool
But you still have to go to school.
Hot cocoa is really yummy
Do not drink too much or you will upset your tummy.
Christmas is the best time of year
I like to play with all of my new gear.
Those are what I do for fun
Under that winter sun.

WINTER SNOW SCENE, BRITTANEY WALKING EAGLE, FIFTH GRADE



Winter in Montana
Audrey Smail, third grade

Madison County is where I live. I like to sled with my family or build a snowman. I make a trail with my sled or maybe climb on top of the mountain. But when it is summer again, the snow will melt away. I guess we'll have to wait for next year to come and then we can have snow fun again!



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Public health reports increase in norovirus outbreak

SUBMITTED BY JON EBELT
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

The Department of Public Health and Human Services announced that in the last three months there have been 12 norovirus outbreaks in Montana that have sickened more than 250 people.

This is three times the number of outbreaks usually reported during this time of year.

Norovirus, a very contagious virus that can affect anyone, is the most common cause of gastroenteritis in Montana and the United States.

Outbreaks have occurred in the counties of Cascade, Flathead, Rosebud, Sanders, Valley and Yellowstone.

"Most of these outbreaks occurred in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, putting our elderly population at risk," said Dana Fejes of the DPHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology

Section. "Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water often can protect you and others from norovirus."

The usual symptoms of norovirus include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. There is no specific treatment for this illness and most individuals recover in one to three days. The illness can last longer and be more severe in young children, older people or people who have other chronic health conditions.

The virus is highly contagious and can spread rapidly between persons and through contaminated food or water. Norovirus can survive on surfaces and be transferred to other people when they touch the contaminated surface.

DPHHS and local authorities are reminding individuals to stay home when ill to prevent exposing others.

"It's a simple and effective method to keep infectious diseases from spreading: stay home when you are ill," Fejes said.

Public health officials advise following simple tips to prevent the spread of norovirus and many other infectious illnesses:

- Practice proper hand hygiene: Wash your hands carefully with soap and water, especially after using the bathroom or changing diapers and always before eating or preparing food. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used in addition to hand washing. But, they should not be used as a substitute for washing with soap and water.

- Take care in the kitchen: Carefully wash fruits and vegetables, and cook oysters and other shellfish thoroughly before eating them.

- Do not prepare food while ill: People who are infected with norovirus should not prepare food for others while they have symptoms and for three days after they recover from their

illness.

- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces: After throwing up or having diarrhea, immediately clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces. Use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000 – 5,000 parts per million (generally 5 to 25 tablespoons of standard household bleach per gallon of water) or other disinfectant labeled as effective against norovirus.

- Wash laundry thoroughly: Immediately remove clothing or linens that may be contaminated and wash with detergent at the maximum length available cycle, then machine dry. Handle soiled items carefully – without agitating them – to avoid spreading virus.

More information is available on the state health department website at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/>.

Choose success in 2017

Do not wait to call the Montana tobacco quit line

SUBMITTED BY PHIL TAYLEN
Madison County
Public Health Department

Every New Year's Eve, thousands of people across Montana resolve to improve

their lives, vowing to give up their bad habits in exchange for healthy lifestyles. The Montana tobacco quit line wants to assist people who attempt to quit tobacco and has free programs designed for all

Montanans. The quit line has expanded services and now offers a dedicated American Indian quit line, dedicated female coaches and additional incentives for pregnant and pre-natal women, with electronic enrollment for all services.

For 2017, the quit line aims to help those with New Year's resolutions to quit using tobacco products or e-cigarettes by offering free support, a

personalized quit plan and proven cessation medications at no or reduced cost. Quitting tobacco can be the most important thing you can do for your health. The United States Food and Drug Administration has not approved smokeless tobacco or e-cigarettes as successful cessation devices. Use of these products may hinder your success of quitting tobacco, said Phil Taylen, tobacco prevention

specialist, with Madison and Beaverhead counties. The quit line has proven success.

Callers who enroll receive guidance from specialists who help each person set a quit date, develop a personalized quit plan, guide the individual through the quitting process and discuss the best cessation medication options/benefits for an individual.

The Montana tobacco quit line is a free service available

to all Montanans who would like to quit using tobacco products. Calling the quit line is toll-free at 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669), or visit the website at www.QuitNowMontana.com to enroll, if appropriate, ask for one of the dedicated programs. American Indian callers can reach Native coaches directly by calling 1-855-374-0037. Make your New Year's resolution today.

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Getting back to basics

The lost art of writing things down in a planner

SUBMITTED BY STATEPOINT

In this digital age, you may go days without using a pen and paper, but there are many reasons to skip the devices and stick to writing things down. From staying organized to planning your week to tracking career growth, here are a few things to take note of when it comes to taking notes.

- Taking notes in long-hand can help you retain more information, suggests a study from Princeton and University of California – Los Angeles, as

taking notes makes you more likely to process the information and reframe it in your own words. Not only that, your notepad is likely to contain fewer distractions than your laptop, tablet or phone.

- Look professional and stay organized at your next interview or meeting. Taking notes will make you look engaged and interested in what is happening, and a professional planner and/or notebook are must-have workplace accessories.
- Making comments in your

notebook or planner helps you become the publisher of your story, capturing your life's moments along the way. These are tools that help you look back on events in a tangible way.

- Rid yourself of the ever-present stress that comes with a busy life. Seeing everything written down will give you a sense of control. You will feel confident in knowing you have it all set, and keeping a record of your tasks in one location gives you an easy, organized way to get a grasp on your days.

- Using a planner to track your schedule can actually help you find missing time. You will have a better grasp on what is coming up and may even see a break that leaves you time to schedule dinner with a friend, try that new recipe you have been craving, or time to search for that special birthday present you need for the party this weekend.

- Increase productivity by maximizing the 24 hours that you have. Seeing everything on

paper will help you plan and prioritize. Having "scheduled downtime" can help you to know when to go full steam ahead and when to take a break and unwind for a bit.

- Tracking in one place can also help prevent committing to things you cannot do. Wall calendars for the house are a great tracking tool for multiple schedules, helping day-to-day tasks run smoothly.

- Whether you are planning a wedding or a work conference, a planner is among the most important assets you can use to aid your efforts, helping you keep track of all the details, large and small.



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COLUMNS



HOLLOWTOP SMOKE SIGNALS

By Art Kehler
FOR THE MADISONIAN

IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH DECEMBER

Some reasons for thriving during the 12th month

As the opening lyrics to Merle Haggard's song imply, December is often thought of as a period of time to endure. The days are too short and the nights too long. Cold temperatures are the norm, and snow seems to have settled on the ground in perpetuity. Even so, I can't help but think December's bad reputation is not fully deserved. Surely the 12th month offers some redeeming aspects.

To begin, frozen fingers discourage texting, thus leaving more time for socializing with family. Carhartt coveralls become (no matter how swank the destination) tolerable attire. Most heartening, the 21st of December marks the official first day of winter, which also signifies a gradual turn toward spring – be it ever so distant.



Art Kehler

Moreover, scraping ice from windshields loosens cold-temperature-produced, stiff elbows and wrists. Putting chains on tires prevents loss of strength in under-utilized neck muscles. Shoveling snow has been proven to be (providing it doesn't trigger a cardiac arrest) excellent aerobic exercise. Constantly blowing one's nose clears nasal passages to inhale ice crystals from the arctic air into exertion-induced, overheated lungs. Meanwhile, toxic exhaust fumes, from idling automobiles, produce a picturesque winter haze.

Also, December is the time for colorful, lighted holiday decorations (aka, the man-made northern lights) that brighten our dark winter nights. Inspiring listeners everywhere, Christmas carolers brave the elements to screech songs of joy and peace, through half-frozen vocal chords and chattering teeth. The 12th month is also the only time of the year when people chop down whole, living trees and bring them into their houses to die. Colorfully-wrapped presents are then tucked beneath the doomed trees so that, on Christmas morning, contentious siblings can exchange such heartfelt gifts as Wart-Off and Prepara-

tion H lip balm – all in the spirit of yuletide bliss.

Haggard's lyrics also unfairly suggest that December is a lean month. However, such is seldom the case. Fact is, in the great majority of homes, there is an abundance of Christmas chow, ranging from a mega-stuffed turkey to a bountiful assortment of fat pills (aka – candy, cookies, pies, etc.). It is also the only interval of the year when normally fussy eaters willingly drink wretch-worthy raw eggs cleverly concealed in eggnog. So merry is the atmosphere that even blue lips, protruding from ice-covered facemasks, can't discourage mistletoe encounters.

As well, December is when large numbers of smashed bathroom scales begin to appear in local dumpsters. Correspondingly, fitness center memberships skyrocket, thereby stimulating the otherwise tepid late-winter economy. Fractured bones and dislocated joints, incurred while engaged in such snowy weather frolic as skiing, sleigh riding and snowmobiling, ensure local medical facilities of eager customers.

Last, but certainly not least, the final day of the final month of the year corresponds with the first day of a brand new year. At the stroke of midnight (the last second of December), raucous cheering erupts from crowds of New Year's Eve revelers. At the same time, in order to usher in the New Year properly, many of the thoroughly intoxicated participants "mistakenly" smooch (slobber on) someone other than their date/mate. Thus, the month ends on a happy note (at least until the morning hangover sets in and the previous night's behavior is called into question).

In the final analysis, the 12th month of the year remains a mixed bag. Still, in my opinion, the good outweighs the bad. In fact, with the above-noted redeeming compensations in mind, not only do I think I'll "make it through December" – I believe I'll thrive.

© Art Kehler

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

NATURAL Resource News

By Jane Mangold, Associate Professor and Extension Invasive Plant Specialist
Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, MSU

COMMON MULLEIN (VERBASCUM THAPSUS)

History: Common mullein is native to Europe, northern Africa, and Asia. It was intentionally introduced in America by early settlers, who placed crushed seeds of common mullein into slow-moving water to poison fish. The toxic seeds caused the fish to stop breathing, making them easy to collect and harvest. By the late 1800s, it was reported on the west coast and is now common in all states. This species is listed as a noxious weed in Colorado and Hawaii. In Montana, common mullein is listed as a noxious weed in Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Lewis & Clark, Mineral, Stillwater and Yellowstone counties.

Identification: Common mullein is a densely woolly, spring-germinating biennial. In the first year, it produces a basal rosette of large furry leaves and a substantial crown. In the second year,

it produces a single, thick, erect flowering stem with yellow flowers. The flowering stem is typically several feet tall.

Habitat: Typical habitats include burned areas, roadsides, fields, pastures, forest clearings, abandoned agricultural land, waste areas and other disturbed areas. It is found most commonly on well-drained, dry and sandy or gravelly soils. It is considered a pioneer species because it is often one of the first species to grow in disturbed areas.

Spread: Common mullein reproduces by seed, and a plant can produce between 136,000 to 175,000 seeds. Seeds can remain viable for 35 to 100 years or longer. Because the seeds need light to germinate, germination is restricted to primarily bare soil after disturbances. Seeds have no mechanism for efficient long distance disper-

sal by animals or wind, and about 95 percent of seeds fall within 5 meters (16 feet) of parent plants.

Impacts: In initial stages of growth, common mullein grows more vigorously than many native plants, and colonies may delay reestablishment of native plants and grasses in a newly disturbed setting. However, it can be outcompeted by more desirable plants and often disappears from plant communities over time. Common mullein is a minor problem in cropping systems, because it is unable to survive cultivation and is intolerant of shade. It can persist and remain problematic in overgrazed pastures; it is generally avoided by livestock because of the woolly leaves. Common mullein can be beneficial in some circumstances and is considered a medicinal plant, as well as a food source for elk and deer, and a pollen source for bees.

Management: Avoid-

ing disturbance is the most cost-effective way to manage this species. Common mullein is difficult to eradicate once established due to its long-lived seed bank, but there are several options for management. Hand pulling is an effective method for reducing populations if plants are pulled before seed production. Similarly, removing plants with a hoe, making sure to cut through the crown, can control common mullein. Control with herbicide is considered difficult due to woolly foliage that impedes herbicide absorption. However, use of a surfactant can alleviate that problem. Glyphosate, 2,4-D, triclopyr, sulfometuron-methyl and tebuthiuron have been found to provide control when properly applied. Mowing is not considered effective, and no insects or diseases have been approved for introduction as biological control agents for common mullein in North America.

PHOTO COURTESY MATT LEVIN, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



The Flaming Chef

By Charlie Rossiter

I've always been a meat and potatoes kind of guy, possibly due to my upbringing in rural Montana. Good beef, pork and lamb is raised by a majority of ranchers in our area, so it goes without saying we have some of the best meat available anywhere. My mother was from a cattle ranching family, so beef was a staple on our table. I like to think of myself as a fair-to-good steak cook, and have some equipment needed to produce a mouth-watering piece of meat. The following account happened, much to my chagrin, due to my negligence in maintaining my cooking equipment. This is where I insert that I am a self-proclaimed professional and young children should not to try this at home.

It was a Friday night and I invited my mother to dinner, as my wife had other dinner plans. I had my heart set on a good steak, which I ordered earlier in the day from our local butcher. He cut me five of the most unbelievable ribeye steaks you ever saw, each 1 1/2 inches thick. They had to weigh 10 pounds and the marbling was picture perfect for our evening's barbecue. I baked some large, locally grown potatoes and purchased some fresh asparagus earlier that morning. At about 5:30 p.m. she arrived and I seated

her, while I fired up my trusty and well used smoker. I offered her a cold drink, as was our custom for Friday night get togethers, while my three sons were in the living room watching T.V. My grill is a combination smoker and gas cooking unit, which I use primarily for slow cooking meat by smoking it with local apple wood. Cooking with a low heat I feel makes the meat extremely tender and gives it a very aromatic and pleasant taste. The butcher had been cutting these steaks for me for a couple of years and had nick named this cut the "Rossiter Ribeye." I spend one to two hours in the actual cooking process and the steak can literally be cut with a fork. After lighting the grill, which I kept on our screened-in deck overlooking Mill Creek, I placed the steaks on the smoker and adjusted the heat. I covered the barbecue with the kettle top lid and went back into the kitchen where my mother and I chit-chatted about the week's comings and goings. We'd been talking about 15 minutes when my mother noticed some black smoke emanating from the smoker and asked, "Is your grill supposed to smoke like that?" At the same time, one of my sons bellowed from the living room, "Look at all that smoke! Dad! I can't see the deck!"

It became clear the cooker was exhibiting much more smoke than usual and I raced over to the unit and grabbed the lid. It was so hot that it burned my hand and I dropped it on the carpet covered floor. It melted a large circle in the synthetic carpet, producing more fetid black smoke. The fat from the steaks was flaming up as a grease fire erupted; blowing a large ball of supercharged fire to the ceiling. It had the same appearance as the first atom bomb going off. I tried to put it out by hitting it with a towel but this complicated the problem even more, giving me multiple grease fires, which popped up all over the floor. I sprinted for our fire extinguisher, located nearby, and upon returning, I pulled the pin and fired the retardant at the 36-inch-high inferno shooting out the top of the smoker. The pressurized foam hit the flaming smoker with such force that it blew the kettle over the rail and through the screen. The smoker and contents tumbled down 10 feet and landed unceremoniously on the rocks below in a jumbled, greasy mess.

I stood there, looking down at the still smoldering creek bank below, where our divinely prepared steaks sadly lay, and I felt like sobbing over their untimely demise. I looked at my mother for consolation and

asked her what she thought we could substitute for dinner? She said, "Just rinse them off and serve them." I said, "But they're covered with dirt!" She then floored me and said, "We had this happen a few times over the years and I just rinsed them off and served them to you kids anyway. Nobody was any the wiser, including your father." This came as a shock to me as my mother was a registered nurse and a stickler for details; clean and sanitary being foremost on her list. This was the hands-on side of her that I'd never seen before and I chuckled with the new found knowledge.

I picked the mess up off the creek bank, washed the steaks off and then finishing cooking them in the oven. We ate a little later than usual but the extra time helped the anticipation of our appetites. I watched my boys devour their meals in record time, and none seemed to notice any difference in the flavor or texture of the meat. My oldest son even commented that the steaks seemed to taste better than average. (It might have been a combination of things but mainly the fact he was a big eater and hungry.) Who knew the secret ingredient for cooking the picture-perfect steak is a dusting of dirt and flame retardant to really enhance the natural flavors?

MADISON VALLEY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRELINE

By Steve Orr | MADISON VALLEY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

November was a relatively slow month for the Madison Valley Rural Fire Department as call volume returns to a more seasonal norm. The MVRFD responded to seven calls for service in November.

Two MVRFD firefighters from station one conducted a check for carbon monoxide at a residence on Moore Creek Court on Nov. 7, after the resident expressed concerns about possible excessive carbon monoxide levels in the home. No adverse levels of carbon monoxide were found.

On Nov. 8 at 4:02 p.m., the MVRFD responded to a two vehicle accident with injuries on U.S. Highway 287 in front of MVRFD station one. Nine firefighters responded from station one. Firefighter/EMTs assisted Ennis Ambulance EMTs with patient care and conducted traffic control operations with traffic block off on the north bound lane due to debris from the crash.

It was a privilege for the MVRFD to escort the Ennis Mustangs volleyball team

through town after their return from a successful second place finish in the Montana State Championship Tournament on Nov. 12. The team had a truly remarkable year.

On Nov. 13 at 8:42 a.m. the MVRFD was dispatched to a fire alarm on Riverview Drive. The MVRFD responded an engine with four firefighters from station one. One additional firefighter stood by at station one and two firefighters stood by at station three. Arriving firefighters found no fire conditions and it is suspected that the alarm was caused by a wood burning stove.

The MVRFD was dispatched for a smoke check in the Jack Creek drainage on Nov. 18 at 9:57 a.m. The MVRFD responded a command with three firefighters to check the situation out. The fire causing the smoke was determined to be a permitted controlled slash burn.

The MVRFD was again honored when they had the opportunity to escort the Ennis Mustangs Montana State Class C Football Champions through town on Nov. 19. The MVRFD provided five pieces of apparatus for the well deserved homecoming.

On Nov. 24 at 8:55 p.m. the MVRFD was

dispatched to a one vehicle crash at mile marker 1 on MT Highway 87. The MVRFD responded an engine and two commands with 11 firefighters from station one and an engine with three firefighters from station three. A Fremont County Idaho Deputy Sheriff responded and was first on scene due to the close proximity to the state line. The Hebgen Basin Fire Department was requested to provide mutual aid and sent an ambulance, which arrived on scene before MVRFD. Hebgen Basin firefighters advised that there was no blockage and the driver was refusing medical treatment. MVRFD units arrived shortly after Hebgen Basin Ambulance and were released from the incident.

With the Christmas season upon us the MVRFD would like to offer a few reminders about Christmas decorating safety.

- Indoors or outside, always use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory that indicates conformance with safety standards.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

- Use no more than three standard size

sets of lights per single extension cord.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

- Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.

- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

If you have any questions or concerns, Madison Valley Rural Fire Chief Shawn 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. Please visit our home page at www.mvrfd.org/. Remember to sign our guest book and let us know what you think.

COMICS & PUZZLES



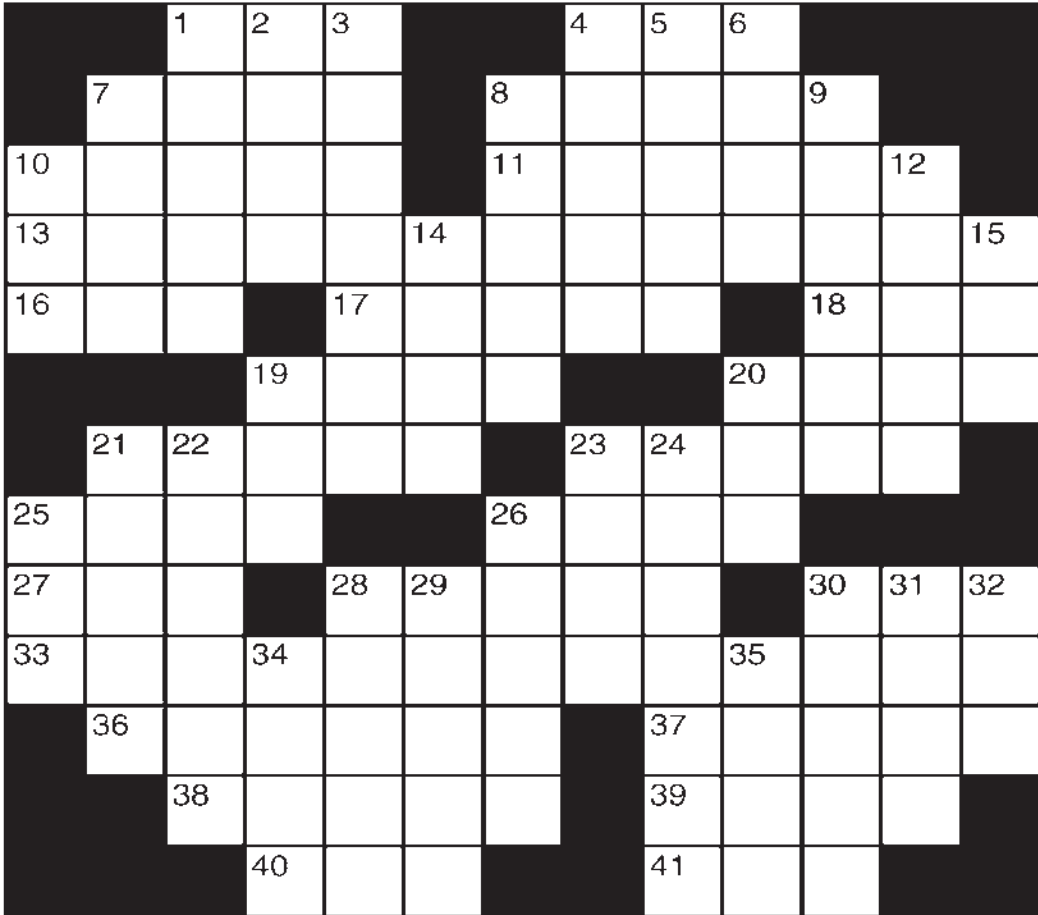
"Dad, I can read my own fake news on the internet now!"

Editor's Note: Any editorial cartoons printed in our paper do not reflect the opinion of the staff of The Madisonian.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 More, to Manuel
- 4 Humorous one
- 7 St. consisting of two peninsulas
- 8 Infants
- 10 Raccoon relative
- 11 Expiated
- 13 Executive, often
- 16 Island garland
- 17 Mill input
- 18 Pair
- 19 Sorts
- 20 Huffed and puffed
- 21 Many Christmas trees
- 23 Portobello alternative
- 25 Actor Gregory
- 26 Volcanic outflow
- 27 Exist
- 28 Persistent attack
- 30 Bashful
- 33 Cabal member
- 36 Mexican entree
- 37 Neighborhoods
- 38 Rind-



- 7 Fashion
- 8 Foundation
- 9 Put down roots
- 10 Western st.
- 12 Wooden peg
- 14 Annoys
- 15 Ply oars
- 19 Squid squirt
- 20 Underwear with underwire
- 21 1990s presidential candidate
- 22 Polar feature
- 23 Creche trio
- 24 Generally
- 25 Campaign fundraising grp.
- 26 Shunned one
- 28 Trap
- 29 Archipelago component
- 30 Lieu
- 31 Frost
- 32 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 34 Muscat's land
- 35 Met melody

DOWN

- 1 Florida city
- 2 Start of a play
- 3 Roof component
- 4 Bulb measures
- 5 End abruptly, NASA-style
- 6 Actress Rowlands

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Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis, MT is seeking a full-time Medical Collections Specialist. Responsible for establishing systems to monitor denied insurance claims and collect on outstanding patient balances. For more detailed information or to apply online, go to www.mvmedcenter.org/careers or send application letter and resume to MYMC 305 N. Main, Ennis, MT 59729.
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6-2-b

Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis MT is seeking a controller or Chief Financial Officer, depending on experience. Responsible for all financial and accounting functions, including financial reporting, financial analysis, budgeting, forecasting, accounts payable and payroll. Bachelor's degree in accounting and healthcare experience preferred. For more detailed information or to apply online, go to www.mvmedcenter.org/careers or send application letter and resume to MYMC 305 N. Main, Ennis, MT 59729. Questions, please call 406-682-6862.
6-tfc-b

Executive Director for Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Send resume to ennischamberjobs@gmail.com. To view job description go to ennischamber.com.
7-3-b

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Senior Citizen Bus Driver - Part-time
Madison County is accepting applications until filled for a Senior Citizen Bus Driver. This is a part-time position working three (3) days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday-approximately 20 hours per week-shifts may vary) to meet the needs of the department. The County provides citizen transportation on a weekly fixed rotating schedule to the following locations: Alder, Bozeman, Butte, Dillion, Ennis, Pony/Harrison, Sheridan, and Twin Bridges. Work Unit Overview: Madison County provides transportation services to county citizens including the elderly and developmentally disabled and handicapped individuals requiring special assistance. The county system may include fixed routes with set schedules, which include door to door service for qualified citizens at flexible times.

Job Summary: The Senior Citizen Bus Driver drives passenger vans, buses, or motor coaches to safely transport county citizens while obeying all traffic laws. This may include transporting the general public, senior citizens and/or developmentally disabled, handicapped individuals on fixed routes with set schedules, coordinate citizens door-to-door service, charters, and/or other specialized trips for various purposes. Hourly Wage: \$11.00 per hour with an increase after a six-month probationary period. Employee Benefit Options: Health insurance, dental, and vision plans • Flexible spending account or Health Savings account available • Montana Public Employee Administration (retirement benefit) and optional 457-b savings plan • Life insurance • Vacation and sick time benefits. Education and Experience: High school diploma or GED required and five (5) years experience in the safe operation of passenger vehicles; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which indicates possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed.

Licensure Requirements:
• Current Commercial driver's license with passenger endorsement - referred but not required.
• Driving record verified by Montana Highway Patrol Request form.
• Current First Aid and CPR certification and Passenger Assistance or be willing to obtain certification when the class is offered in the area.
The above information on this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees in this position. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and qualifications required of employees assigned to this job. Interested persons may request a job description and employment application by contacting the Madison County Commissioners' office at 406-843-4277, e-mail at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madisoncountymt.gov. Madison County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and promotes a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Conditional offers of employment are contingent upon successfully passing pre-employment screenings
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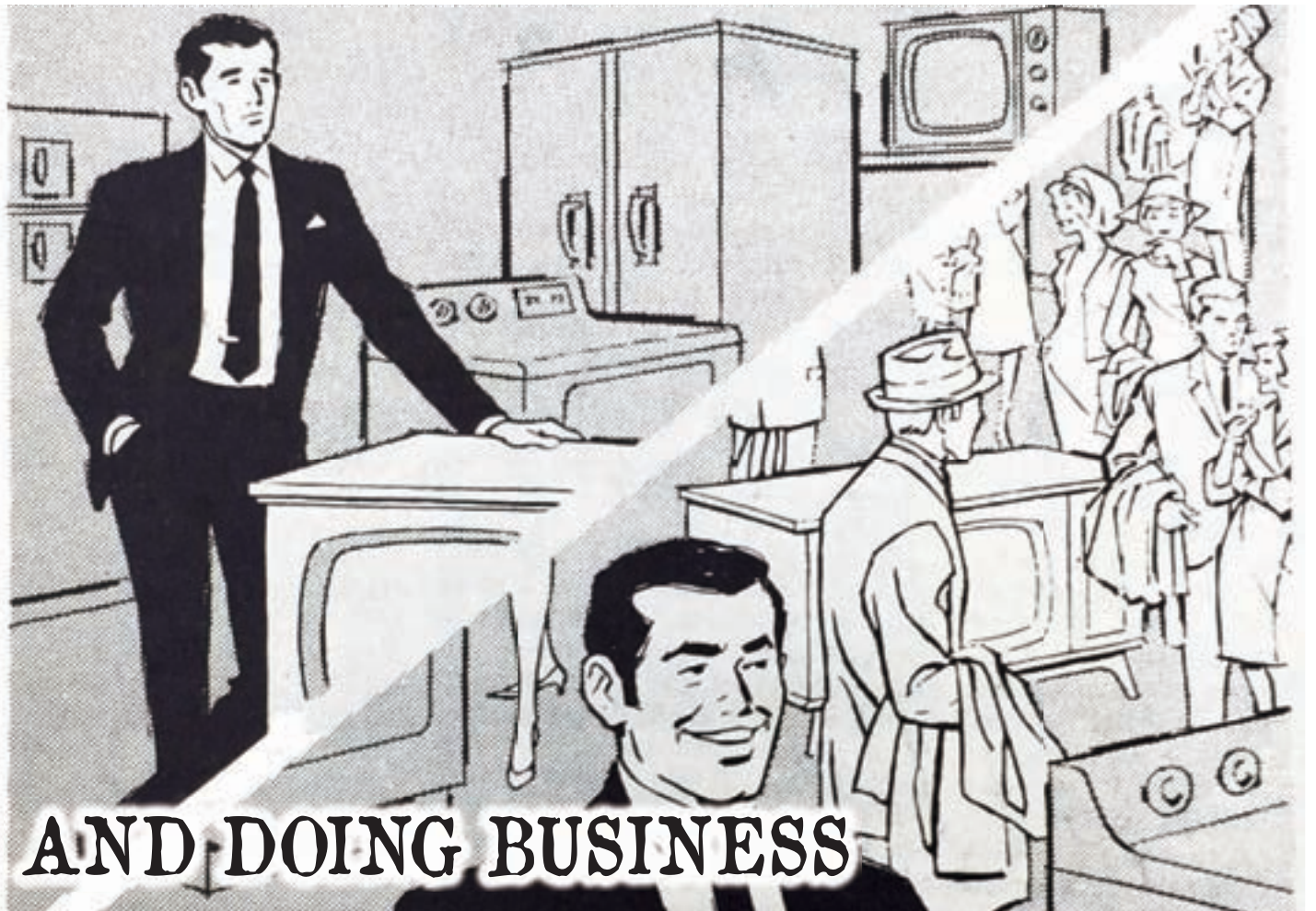
THE SNOW MONSTER



Jane excitedly takes a romp in the snow!

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The Madisonian.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2016

NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING CHANGES:
The Madison County Board of Commissioners will not be holding their regular Commission meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016. The regular meeting for that week will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
The Board will not be holding a regular meeting on December 26, 2016, to observe the Christmas Holiday. There will be no regular

Commission Meeting that week.
The Board will not be holding a regular Commission meeting on Monday, January 2, 2017, to observe the New Year's Day Holiday. The meeting for that week will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.
(Pub. Dec. 8, 15, 22 2016) mcc
MNXALP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF MADISON
IN RE ESTATE OF:
KELLY ANN KIVLIN,
Deceased.
Cause No. DP-29-2016-31
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 KEITH G. ALTIMUS, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at P.O. Box 701, Ennis, MT 59729, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

Dated: November 29, 2016
/s/ KEITH G. ALTIMUS
Personal Representative
STATE OF MONTANA)
:ss
COUNTY OF MADISON)
KEITH G. ALTIMUS, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says:
That he has read the foregoing NOTICE TO CREDITORS and that the facts and matters contained therein are true, correct, accurate and complete to the best of his knowledge and belief. I make this declaration under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana.
/s/ KEITH G. ALTIMUS
Personal Representative
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 29 day of November, 2016.
/s/ Karen McMullin
Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at: Ennis, MT
My Commission expires: September 14, 2019 (SEAL)
Personal Representative's Attorney:
Karen McMullin
Post Office Box 55
Ennis, MT 59729
Telephone: (406) 682-7878
(Pub. Dec. 8, 15, 22 2016) km
MNXALP

upon to provide final engineering design services, including preparation of final plans and specifications, supervision of the bidding process, and final project inspection.
Consistent with Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, CDBG regulations governing the grant require that to the greatest extent feasible, opportunities for training and employment arising in connection with this CDBG-assisted project will be extended to local lower-income residents. Further, to the fullest extent possible, business concerns located in or substantially owned by inhabitants of the project area will be utilized. Disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE's) are encouraged to apply.
For more information, please contact Ron Nye at P. O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755 or call 406-843-4277. All responses to the Madison County RFP must be submitted by January 6, 2017, by 5:00 P.M.
(Pub. Dec. 15, 22 2016) mcc
MNXALP

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
ON MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2016, AT 5:00 P.M. AT ENNIS TOWN HALL, 328 WEST MAIN STREET, ENNIS, MT. THE TOWN OF ENNIS COMMISSION SHALL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT AND VOTE ON A "RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ENNIS, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA TO ACCEPT REAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE FROM ESTHER WARBURTON" THE RESOLUTION AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT TOWN HALL.
(Pub. Dec. 15, 22 2016) toe
MNXALP

AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of the affairs of the Madison VALLEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT, Ennis, Montana, has been conducted by Wipfil LLP. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication of the following summary of significant findings.

Summary of Significant Findings
Section 1-Summary of Auditor's Results.
Financial Statements
Type of auditors issued: Adverse Opinion
Internal Control over financial reporting:
Are any significant deficiencies that are not considered toe material weaknesses? No
Are any material weaknesses identified? Yes
Is any noncompliance material to financial statements noted? No
Section 2-Financial Statement Findings
Component Unit:
The district did not include the Madison Valley Rural Department as a discretely presented component unit.
Section 3- Summary of prior Audit Findings
15-001 restated as 20156-001
Public Inspection of Audit Report
The complete audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at 5037 HWY 287 North and that the Madison Valley Rural Fire District will make available a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.
Sincerely,
Nathan Tubergen
Financial Consultant
(Pub. Dec. 15, 2016) mvrfd
MNXALP

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

PLANNING & ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES MADISON COUNTY FAIR-GROUNDS
Madison County has received notice of the award of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Montana Department of Commerce. The Madison County Board of Commissioners is soliciting proposals from qualified planning and engineering firms to prepare a Master Plan for the Madison County Fairgrounds property located in Twin Bridges, MT. This includes holding and facilitating several public hearings and additional meetings as necessary in Madison County.
Copies of the detailed request for proposals (RFP) can be obtained by contacting the Madison County Board of Commissioners' Office at 406-843-4277 and P. O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755.
Madison County's RFP includes a description of the services to be provided by respondents; the minimum content of the responses; and the factors to be used to evaluate the responses. Subject to the approval of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, the selected firm or firms may also be called

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EVENTS@MADISONIANNEWS.COM
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Back & Neck Care
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Tension Headaches & Chronic Pain

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Home Safety
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Hand, Wrist & Elbow Syndromes
Neurological Rehabilitation

Available Mon.-Fri. at Ruby Valley Hospital
220 E. Crofoot, Sheridan, MT 59749-9508
406-842-5081

Get Results.

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DISPATCH LOG

Nov. 27, 2016 – Dec. 10, 2016

11/27
 Accident on MT Hwy 287 MM 20 Alder
 Coroner Call in Ennis
 Trespass Complaint in 100 Blk Middle Rd Sheridan
 Medical Aid in 300 Blk W Steffens St Ennis
 Traffic Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 35 Cameron
 Wildlife Violation on Old Mill Rd Harrison
 Fire Call on US Hwy 287 Harrison
 Wildlife Violations on Sterling Rd Norris
 Accident at Varney Rd & 66 Ranch Rd Ennis
 Abandoned Vehicle on Judy Ln Alder
 Alarm Call in 100 Blk E Main St Ennis

11/28
 Medical Aid in 500 Blk Centennial St Sheridan
 Accident on Wisconsin Creek Rd Sheridan

Accident on Varney Rd MM 3 Ennis
 Accident on Wisconsin Creek Rd MM 2 Sheridan
 Accident on MT Hwy 287 MM 11 Virginia City
 Accident on I-15 MM 86 Glen
 Accident on MT Hwy 287 MM 22 Alder
 Fire Call in Axolotl Lake area Ennis
 Traffic Complaint at MT Hwy 41 & MT Hwy 55 Silver Star
 Accident on MT Hwy 87 MM 2 Cameron

11/29
 Medical Aid on MT Hwy 84 MM 1 Norris
 Wildlife Complaint in 300 Blk Armitage St Ennis
 Traffic Complaint on Wisconsin Creek Rd Sheridan
 Medical Aid on MT Hwy 41 N MM 57 Twin Bridges

11/30
 Suspicious Circumstances in 300 Blk N Main St Twin Bridges
 Suspicious Circumstances in 5300 Blk MT Hwy 41 N Twin Bridges
 Suspicious Circumstances Out of Madison County
 Animal Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 9 Ennis
 Suspicious Circumstances on Bull Trail Ennis
 Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 55 McAllister
 Abandoned Vehicle in 100 Blk Granite Creek Rd Virginia City

12/1
 Suspicious Circumstances in 5300 Blk MT Hwy 41 N Twin Bridges
 Accident on MT Hwy 41 MM 22 Twin Bridges
 Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 3 Cameron
 Welfare Check on Centennial Dr Ennis

Fraud Complaint on Britton Way Sheridan
 Stolen Vehicle on Main St Pony

12/2
 Medical Aid in 200 Blk Charles Ave Ennis

12/3
 Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 191 Big Sky
 Accident in 200 Blk E Idaho St Virginia City
 Abandoned Vehicle at Charles Ave and Fagin St Ennis
 Accident on Mill Creek Rd Sheridan

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 69 calls for service from Nov. 27 - Dec. 3, 2016.

12/4
 Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 18 Cameron

12/5
 Medical Aid in 200 Blk E Main St Ennis
 Fire Call in 100 Blk Harrison St Harrison
 Medical Aid in 100 Blk Harrison St Harrison

12/6
 Coroner Call in 300 Blk Main St Ennis
 Wildlife Complaint in 400 Blk Hinch Creek Rd Alder
 Wildlife Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 44 Twin Bridges

12/7
 Theft Complaint on S Boulder Rd Cardwell
 Welfare Check on Ramshorn Creek Rd Sheridan
 Traffic Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 47 Ennis

12/8
 Traffic Complaint in 200 Blk Charles Ave Ennis

12/9
 Medical Aid in 100 Blk Silver Spring Rd Sheridan
 Public Safety on MT Hwy 287 MM 35 Sheridan
 Accident on MT Hwy 84 MM 2 Norris
 Wildlife Complaint on Jeffers Loop Rd Ennis

12/10
 Fire Call in 300 Blk US Hwy 287 N Ennis
 Medical Aid in 200 Blk W 8th Ave Twin Bridges
 Fire Call in 100 Blk E Warren St Virginia City
 Accident at Varney Rd & Shining Mountains Loop Rd Ennis
 Wildlife Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 31 Sheridan

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 51 calls for service from Dec. 4 - Dec. 10, 2016.

Ruby Valley Baptist Church
 Tony Shaw, Pastor
 842-5602

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

Find Fellowship With Us



Rocky Mountain Baptist Church
 682-4949

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Sunday evening bible study and prayer time, 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)
 Weds. 7:00p.m.
 3560 | MT State Hwy 287
 Sheridan 842-5860
 Bishop Dustin 684-5255

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
 St Joseph's in Sheridan
 Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.
 St Mary's in Laurin
 Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.
 St. Patrick's in Ennis
 Dec. 25 at 11 a.m.

Father John Crutchfield • Pastor ~ 842-5588

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
 Aids for the hearing impaired

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
 The Church of Word and Sacrament
 Visitors Welcome
 Pastor Ken Stensrud
 • Sunday Service 9:00 am
 • Bible Study 10:15 am
 • Sunday School 10:15 am

DEC. 24: Candlelight Service @ 7 pm
 DEC. 25: Christmas Day Service @ 9 am

Corner of Madison and Armitage St.
 Ennis, Montana 406-684-0000

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.
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 www.baha'i.org

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Loving God, Loving People
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Worship Service 10:30 AM
 Wednesday Ministries
 Kids Club Submerge (K-6) 3:15 PM
 Family Dinner 5:30 PM
 Youth and Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM
 Pastor Greg Ledgerwood
 402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
 682-4197

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
 Your Local Assembly of God Church
 114 N. Main, Sheridan
 842-5845
 Pastor Duane Deshner
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
 Pastors Travis & Kristina Walker
 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.

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 10 a.m. adult forum 11:00 a.m. | St. Paul's Virginia City Sunday 9:00 a.m. | Christ Church Sheridan Sunday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. |
|--|---|--|

www.rvec.org
 Prayer requests:
 682-4199 843-5296 842-7713

GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
 In Association with The Conservative Baptists of America

ALDER SCHOOL
 10 am
 Christ-centered, Bible Based Teaching
 Open Question Forum
 Tel. 406-842-5915
 Pastor Tom Luksha

AREA SENIOR MEALS

MEALS FOR SENIORS, TWIN BRIDGES

The Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center provides meals for seniors every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon at the Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center. Meals are for seniors 60 years and up (spouses and caregivers are invited). Donations for meals are appreciated.

SENIOR MEALS, VIRGINIA CITY

Senior meals for Madison County Seniors 60 and over will be served at the Virginia City Cafe on **Tuesday & Thursdays** from 11 am to 3 pm for \$4.00.

Thursday, December 15: Lasagna, salad, garlic toast, dessert
Tuesday, December 20: Ham with mac and cheese, green beans, dessert

RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY, SHERIDAN

Open Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon. Located at 114 N. Main St. in Valley Assembly (formerly New Beginnings). Serving the Ruby Valley from Silver Star to Virginia City. Contact Doug 842-5587 or Jim 842-5573 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.

ENNIS MEALS ON WHEELS, ENNIS
Tuesday-Friday 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Reservations 682-4422

To help us plan, please call at least 24 hours in advance for meal delivery or if you plan to dine in. Ennis Senior center, 315 W Main Street

DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 22
THURSDAY DECEMBER 15: CHICKEN & GRAVY, MASHERS, VEGGIES, BIRTHDAY CAKE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 16: BEEF EMPANADA, REFRIED BEANS, FRUIT, DESSERT
TUESDAY DECEMBER 20: HAM & CHEDDAR SANDWICH, CHIPS, PICKLE, DESSERT
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21: CHICKEN BACON RANCH STROMBOLI, VEGGIE, DESSERT
THURSDAY DECEMBER 22: SHEPHERDS PIE, SALAD, ROLL, DESSERT

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 Gary at 581-3531 or Paul at 581-7878

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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

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

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

Meets every Saturday at 6 p.m. & starts with a meal.

DAYSRING MISSION
 3648 Hwy 287, Sheridan
 596-0707

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Grandma's Overflow

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Hours: 10am to 4 pm; Tuesday through Saturday
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Hand Crafted Christmas Cards
by Mary Todd Robertson

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TOMORROW'S HISTORY...

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Dennis Sacry, DDS, (406) 287-3026
Christi Barclay, RDH
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or Fax 406-624-0684

AROUND THE COUNTY

Open burning closes

SUBMITTED BY LISA PETERSON
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has announced that the fall open burning season ends on Nov. 30, 2016. No open burning is allowed in the Western Montana Burn Zone until March 1, 2017, unless specific permission is obtained from the DEQ. The Western Montana Burn Zone includes the following counties: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Ravalli, Granite, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin and the portion south of I-90 in Park.

For more information, please visit the department's open burning website at www.burnclosures.mt.gov.

Headwaters will submit Brownfields Assessment Grant

SUBMITTED BY KOLTEN LAMIAUX
Headwaters RC&D

Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc., has formed a coalition with Butte Local Development Corporation and Anaconda Local Development Corporation to submit a Brownfields Assessment Grant. If awarded, the project will provide grant funds for assessing contaminated properties in the seven county Headwaters region. Assessing these properties will lead to redevelopment and promote community and economic benefit on a region wide level.

A copy of the application will be available for public comment Dec. 12 through 15 at Headwaters office, 65 E. Broadway 2nd floor, Butte.

For more information or to register, contact Joe Willauer at 406.533.6783 or email jwillauer@headwatersrcd.org.

Apartment dwellers deserve smoke free homes

SUBMITTED BY PHIL TAYLEN
Madison County Public Health Department

Everyone needs a safe, healthy place to live. Yet, many Montana renters contend with a health risk they cannot control: secondhand tobacco smoke.

Exposure to secondhand smoke causes up to 65,000 deaths in the United States each year and can make problems such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease worse.

To protect health, smoking should be prohibited from all apartments and common areas such as entries, lobbies, hallways and balconies. This does not mean prohibiting smokers. It just means asking those who use tobacco to respect the rights of their fellow tenants to stay healthy by not smoking inside the building.

Going smokefree is legal and relatively easy. The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program can help by providing sample policy language, free educational materials and free smoke free signage. Interested landlords and tenants can get more information at dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/mtupp/SFH.

I am the tobacco use prevention specialist for Madison and Beaverhead counties and can help too. Get in touch at mcphd.phillip@madison.mt.gov.

Twin Bridges missionary returns

SUBMITTED BY JANET DUSTIN
Twin Bridges

Kelsie Dustin, daughter of Shawn and Janet Dustin, returned home on Dec. 14 to Twin Bridges after leaving from the Sheridan Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and serving 18 months as a missionary in the Belem, Brazil, Mission.

She will speak on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. at the Sheridan ward building of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 3560 Highway 287. All are welcome.

Kids drawing in Twin Bridges

SUBMITTED BY THERESE HUTCHINS
Main Street Market

Kids 12 and under have until Dec. 20 to submit their guess for a chance to enter the drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the toy room at the Main Street Market in Twin Bridges. Count all the animals painted on the store windows throughout town and submit your best guess. Winner will be announced on Dec. 20. For more information, call Therese Hutchins at 596-5933.

Skate with Santa in Virginia City

SUBMITTED BY SCOTT KELLEY
Virginia City Ice

Virginia City Ice is hosting a skate with Santa party at the Virginia City ice rink on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Santa and his elves will be in attendance to skate with the kids and hand out gifts. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided.

If your kids do not have their own skates, do not be deterred. There are a lot of kids skates in many sizes to use at the rink. There will also be opportunities for photos with Santa.



PHOTO COURTESY KARI MONTGOMERY
Two to 4-year-olds take the stage.

SUBMITTED BY KARI MONTGOMERY
Twin Bridges

The Shine dance studio Christmas recital was on Dec. 3 at the University of Montana, Western, auditorium.

PHOTOS COURTESY KARI MONTGOMERY
L: Kindergarteners and first-graders perform; third to fifth-graders perform; dance teacher Ashley Houle dances with a student.



Junior high basketball tournament

SUBMITTED BY ED BURKE
Sheridan Schools

Sheridan Booster Club hosted a junior high girls basketball tournament on Saturday, Dec. 10. Twelve teams from eight schools attended.
Eighth-grade division: Twin Bridges, first; Lima, second; Sheridan, third
Seventh-grade division: Twin Bridges, first; Clark County, Idaho, second; Cardwell, third



PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS

Twin Bridges sixth and seventh-grade team, and the town's eighth-grade team won the Sheridan tournament on Saturday, Dec. 10.



PHOTO COURTESY LOIS TATE
Panther Mackenzie Fabel and a White Sulphur Springs player battle for the tip.



PHOTO COURTESY LOIS TATE
Claire Haag of Sheridan is guarded closely by Daisy Lewis of Harrison/Willow Creek.

Twin Bridges missionary returns

SUBMITTED BY JANET DUSTIN
Twin Bridges



Kelsie Dustin, daughter of Shawn and Janet Dustin, will return home on Dec. 14 to Twin Bridges after leaving from the Sheridan Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and serving 18 months as a missionary in the Belem, Brazil, Mission. K. Dustin graduated from Twin Bridges High School in 2014 and attended college at BYU-Idaho before applying and receiving her mission call. She served in different areas of Brazil and has learned to speak Brazilian Portuguese fluently. K. Dustin has loved her time serving some of the most sincere, humble people of Brazil that she has truly grown to love. She spent time in very diverse surroundings, from the Amazon River to the rain forest jungle, as well as the most humble of places throughout her mission.

Merry Christmas!
Thank you all for helping to make a successful year!
From **Laura Gilmore** BROKER

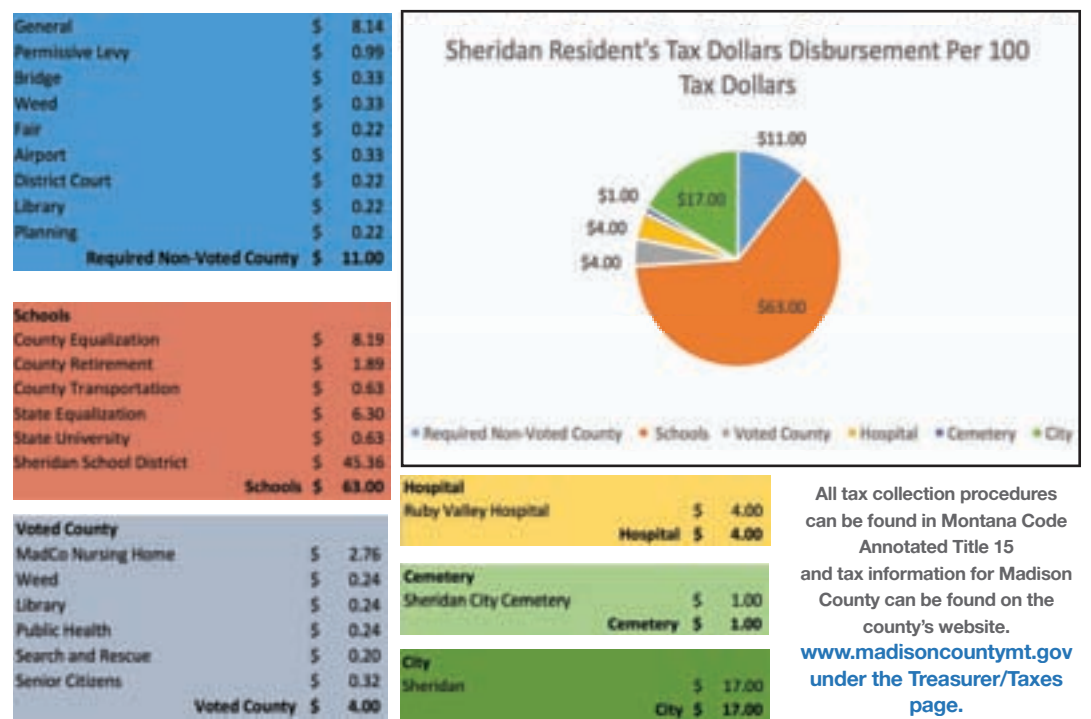
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thinking of listing in 2017?
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LOCAL SUBCONTRACTORS

Langlas and Associates the Construction Manager for the Ruby Valley Hospital would like to invite all subcontractors and community members to a workshop to discuss the Ruby Valley Hospital Project. This meeting will be held at the Philanthropy Building at 120 S. Main St. in Sheridan, MT. Tuesday December 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. This meeting is not mandatory. This workshop will review the upcoming bid process and project scope. This is an opportunity for the local community to understand the bidding requirements, schedule, and ask questions before the bid. The bid date is January 10, 2016. The project will not start construction until late February of 2017. For further information, please contact Roger Davis at 406-585-3420 or email rdavis@langlas.com

Sheridan Resident's Tax Dollars Disbursement Per 100 Tax Dollars



Public Service Information Paid for by Madison County Commissioners, PO Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59775

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OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B10 Thursday, December 15, 2016

GO TO outpostevents.net FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

Presentation, Ennis
Madison River channel migration map presentation at the elementary cafeteria at 4:30 p.m. Call 682-3181 for more information.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

Holiday concert, Twin Bridges
The Twin Bridges Elementary Students invite our community to our holiday concert in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Mad Gals, Bozeman
Mad Gals Christmas at

Riverside Country Club at 12:30 p.m. Bring a gift to exchange and your holiday spirit.

MVHA potluck, Jeffers
The Madison Valley History Association will host a potluck for the community at Trinity Episcopal Church. Call Lee Robison for details, 682-3341.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

Steak feed, Ennis
Come support the Ennis High School's clubs at the 16th annual steak feed held in the lobby during the basketball games from 4-7 p.m. For more information

call 682-4258.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

Dinner, Twin Bridges
Veteran served Christmas dinner from 5-7 p.m. at the school cafeteria with a raffle to follow.

Skate with Santa, Virginia City
Join Santa and his elves at the Virginia City skate rink for an afternoon of skating, refreshments, food, fun and gifts for all from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Live music, Cameron
Fools Gold will be performing at the Blue Moon Saloon beginning at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

Concert, Sheridan/Twin Bridges
The Ruby Valley Chorale will be singing their Christmas cantata "Winter Rose" at the Bethel United Methodist Church in Sheridan at 2:30 p.m. and the Church of the Valley in Twin Bridges at 7 p.m.

Potluck supper, Cameron
Join the Cameron community for some old time fun at the historic Bear Creek Schoolhouse with a potluck supper beginning at 6 p.m. Santa Claus will be on hand and all are asked to bring a non-perishable item for the food bank.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 20

Contest, Twin Bridges
Kids 12 and under are invited to count all the animals painted in the store windows around town for a chance to win a gift certificate to the Main Street Market toy room. Submit your name and your best guess to Therese by Dec. 20. For more info, call 596-5933.

DECEMBER 24-25

Christmas services, Ennis
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Ennis invites you to join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for services: Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. and Christmas morning service at 9 a.m.

JANUARY 6-7

Hockey tournament, Virginia City
Winter Classic Pond Hockey tournament. For more information contact Justin at 579-2168.

JANUARY 13-15

Winterfest, Virginia City
Broomball, log saw, fire hose roll and much, much more!

SATURDAY JANUARY 21

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Chautauqua winter season begins at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center on the third Saturday in Jan., Feb., March and April. Potluck dinner at 6:30, performances at 7:30. Call 843-5507 for more information.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Chautauqua winter season begins at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center on the third Saturday in Feb., March and April. Potluck dinner at 6:30, performances at 7:30. Call 843-5507 for more information.

SATURDAY MARCH 18

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Chautauqua winter season begins at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center on the third Saturday in March. Potluck dinner at 6:30, performances at 7:30. Call 843-5507 for more information.

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Chautauqua winter season begins at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center on the third Saturday in March and April. Potluck dinner at 6:30, performances at 7:30.

Madison Conservation District Meeting

No Meeting This Month
Happy Holidays

Call 682-7289 for time & location



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9 pm

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REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

KnitNite, Ennis
Meets at Right Angles Framing and Gallery from 5-7 p.m. the first and third Monday of the month.

Bridge, Ennis
Every Monday at 11:30 at the First Madison Valley Bank. New players welcome.

TUESDAYS

Madison County Mental Health Local Advisory Council, Virginia City
Meeting the first Tuesday of each month from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Ennis Arts Association, Ennis
Meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. ennisartsassociation.org

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

Movie Night, Virginia City
Movie Night at the Thompson-Hickman Madison County Library
Every other Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 2p.m., come play tennis at the Madison Meadows Golf Course. All levels welcome.

Open Sew, Ennis
Open Sew with the Quilt Guild- open to the public from 2-5pm at Madison Valley Public Library

TOPS, Ennis
Weekly weigh-ins are at 9 a.m.

Meetings at 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

Baby Bistro, Ennis
First and third Wednesday of the month at the Madison Valley Public Library and 11 a.m.

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

Yoga, Virginia City
Gentle yoga with Andrea Frederick at 6 p.m. at the library. Call to confirm.

THURSDAYS

MV Women's Club FIRST THURS OF EA. MONTH
NO meetings June, July or August.

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

Shape up, Ennis
Workout for seniors focusing on stretching and toning of the athletic club at 9 a.m.

FRIDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 2p.m., come play tennis at the Madison Meadows Golf Course. All levels welcome.

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.

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MUSIC THIS WEEKEND:
Fri 12/16 Chad Ball
Sat 12/17 Tommy Georges
Sun 12/18 Weston Lewis / Micah Swanson
HOURS:
FALL HOURS
Thurs-Fri-Mon 4-10
Sat & Sun 10-10
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FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG-13)
Friday & Saturday 7:15 pm Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm
ALSO SHOWING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2016 @ 7:15PM
COMING SOON:
MOANA (PG), ROGUE ONE - A STAR WARS STORY PG-13
Evenings- Adults \$8 • Children (12 & under) \$6 Show time at 7:15 pm
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FRIDAY DEC 23RD: STEVE INGRAM
FRIDAY DEC 30TH: RUBY VALLEY BOYS
FRIDAY JAN 6TH: FAN MOUNTAIN FROG DOGS
FRIDAY JAN 13TH: UNFORTUNATE COOKIES
FRIDAY JAN 20TH: LEFT FOR DEAD
ASK ABOUT OUR WEEKLY BOTTLING PARTIES