

The Madisonian.

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

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FROZEN RIVER



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
The frozen Madison River from the west bank, just south of Ennis.

Sub zero temperatures hasten Madison River gorge, which passes Ennis. See more on A5.

Coach of the year

Ennis' Hess earns class C 8-man football honor

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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After an undefeated season and a state championship, Ennis football coach Chris Hess has one more accolade to add to the list.

Last week, the Montana Coaches Association announced the coaches of the year for each fall sport and classification in Montana – Hess received the class C 8-man award. According to Don Olson, executive director for MCA, members of the association are sent a ballot with the top four finishers in each sport for each class from which to select a winner.

"It almost always goes to a coach that wins a state championship, predicated on them being a member of the association," Olson said. "(The award) is an affirmation of the esteem their fellow coaches hold them for."

As Olson often says, "championships don't come often and they don't come easy," which is to say the Ennis football team achieved a great feat this year.

"We had a really special group of seniors who put in so much time from last year to this year," Hess said. "They had it in their heads they would not accept defeat."

The Mustang football team charged past opponents in the regular season, and did not experience a close game until the championship in Charlo, which Ennis ultimately won in a sudden death-style overtime.

"That type of championship game is one we won't forget," Hess added. "We had an idea the season (would be like that), so we knew we had to be ready for the playoffs."

Hess said the team would come up with scenarios throughout the season to prepare for the challenges to come, but it is "obviously" difficult to act out what might happen.

For Hess, the coach of the year award speaks volumes about the entire staff and everyone involved in the team's success.

"It takes a lot of people to achieve what just happened," he said. "It means a lot for everyone, not just me."

As icing on the cake, multiple Mustangs will play in the Bob Cleverly game later this year.

"Championships don't come often and they don't come easy."

**- Don Olson,
Montana Coaches Association**

Turn to COACH on p. A2

Channel migration and mapping



CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
Tony Thatcher, left, explains the channel migration of the Madison to Liz Davis during the Dec. 14 introductory meeting.

Engineers present maps, ask for feedback on Madison River

CAITLIN AVEY
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Before the storm hit last Wednesday, nearly 40 members of the community and surrounding conservation districts gathered at the Ennis school cafeteria for a presentation on mapping the Madison River regarding floodplains and channel migration.

"There is really a state need for flood hazard mapping," said Rebecca Ramsey, Ruby Watershed Coordinator, as she addressed the crowd.

The purpose of creating a comprehensive and up-to-date map of the river could help landowners, developers and current homeowners understand the river system and how it moves, as well as provide information and aid in future land development or restoration projects.

After a high water year and flooding in 2011, a team of interagency staff from different divisions of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Department of Environmental Quality determined a need for flood hazard mapping, according to Ramsey.

"We at the Ruby Valley Conservation District had channel migration maps completed in either 2009 or 2010, and found them so useful and had given feedback to the state agen-

cies," she said.

After being approached to support a channel migration and floodplain mapping project, the Ruby Valley Conservation District applied for a Reclamation and Development Grant through the DNRC. The competitive process includes an appearance in the legislature and a proven crucial state need for the grant. After the RVCD obtained a planning grant in 2012, they hired DTM Consulting to write a full proposal for the \$350,000 RDG grant.

"There's not a lot of information (regarding the Madison River) out there and part of what we do is to try to provide education and not just regulation, which is why we decided we would be a good candidate to spearhead the project," Ramsey said.

A first step

The Dec. 14 meeting was just a first step in determining a list of priorities regarding mapping and migration of the Madison River, according to Jen Johnson with Allied Engineering, who presented data and findings from her research, as well as a drafted map to community members.

"This is really just the first step in the process and we want to hear

CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN

Ruby Watershed
Coordinator
Rebecca Ramsey
addresses the
crowd.



Turn to RIVER on p. A3

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“Every starting senior got a spot in the all-star game,” Hess said. “Jake Knack, Austin Baum, Gavin McKittrick, Grady Lohrenz, Ty Morgan, Bridger Williams and Tracer Croy – we are pretty thrilled.”



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
Mustangs Corbin Wood (L) and Ty Morgan (R) hug coach Chris Hess following a playoff win against Wibaux at Scully Field in Ennis this November.

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BASKETBALL ROUND UP

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Due to plummeting temperatures, high winds and blowing and drifting snow, all Madison County basketball games for Dec. 16 were postponed. The Harrison vs. Sheridan game was rescheduled for Jan. 6, and the Ennis vs. Twin Bridges game was rescheduled for Feb. 7.

However, despite cool temperatures, some Madison County teams braved the roads on Dec. 17 for regular season action.

Ennis

Ennis canceled both the Twin Bridges home game on Dec. 16 and their away game in Gardiner on Dec. 17. The Mustangs traveled to Sheridan on Dec. 20 for their first Madison County matchup. Check back next week for scores and highlights.

Harrison

Harrison braved the storm and hit the road for a conference match up against the Drummond Trojans on Dec. 17.

The Lady Wildcats had a hard time at the basket and fell short to the Lady Trojans, 29-44.

“We couldn't buy a basket

and we didn't rebound well,” said head coach Zach Dyk.

“Eight for 20 from the (free throw) line will not win many games. It was a winnable game that we lost.”

Josie Hokanson had five points, seven rebounds and four steals for the Wildcats while Alexys Bacon contributed 14 points and Stephanie Strong added seven.

On the boys' side, despite a hard fought game, the Wildcats just could not connect with the basket falling to Drummond, 24-53.

“We were outrebounded by a considerable margin throughout the game and had difficulty finding our groove,” said head coach Nick Dyk. “The boys continued playing hard until the buzzer and didn't give up! This week we are looking to work on speeding up the pace of our offense and increase our talking on the defensive side of the ball.”

Derik DeFrance led the Wildcats with 10 points, followed closely behind by Lane Buus who added eight and Donny Crill who contributed five.

Sheridan

The Lady Panthers traveled to Philipsburg on Dec. 17 to

take on the Granite Prospectors, ultimately losing 16-52.

“We just didn't respond to their defense very well,” said head coach Matthew Rockeman. “When we get back in the gym at the end of this week we will be going back to maintaining defensive pressure.”

Janie Smart had nine points for the Panthers against the Lady Prospectors while Tionna Schwend and Micara Devereaux had three and four points, respectively.

Sheridan challenged Twin Bridges on Dec. 19 and Ennis on Dec. 20 – for those scores and highlights, check out next week's issue of *The Madisonian*.

The boys' team fared a little better than the girls, holding close to Granite in a 48-56 loss.

“We did alright,” said head coach Clay Pierson. “We had some easy buckets but we need to work on layups.”

Though no official stats had been submitted by *The Madisonian's* Tuesday press time, Tyler Haag, Tristen Horn and Jack Gilman led the Panthers in scoring.

“We had some pretty even scoring throughout the team,” added assistant coach Ben

Holland. “It's good to know we can do that.”

Twin Bridges

Twin Bridges dominated the Lima Bears, both boys' and girls' teams, with victories of 61-17 on the girls' side and 88-37 for the boys. Head coach Josh Keller said both the boys and girls played great games, especially defensively.

Kailee Oliverson led the girls in scoring with 25 points and nine rebounds, Raeanne Bendon added 12 to the mix and Cassie Williams contributed four assists.

“I really give all the girls credit,” Keller said. “... They are all executing their roles.”

For the boys, four team members scored in the double digits and Nate Konen and Cooper Christensen grabbed double points and double rebounds.

“We had a new game plan and the boys came out and executed it very well for the little amount of practice we have had for out different schemes,” said Keller. “We put up a big offensive number and got everyone some playing time.”

Twin Bridges hosted Sheridan on Dec. 19 and Drummond on Dec. 20. Check next week's issue of *The Madisonian* for scores and highlights.

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How well do YOU know Madison County?

Thanks for playing by the rules last week! To even the playing field, we asked you call after 9 a.m. on Friday the week the paper comes out. We're continuing that this week, so if you know where the photo was taken, be sure to call after 9 a.m. on Dec. 23! Thanks!

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY

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Though sub-zero temperatures changed the way this trail looks, we still think someone should be able to identify it!

Call 682-7755 with your best guess!

Our friend Mark Savinski knew this was the Sphinx, which is good because we would have been disappointed if this went unidentified!

MORE NEWS:

ENNIS SCHOOL

Board has a special visitor – school mascot Thunder stops by

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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“Two years ago when (Gavin Terrell) and his family moved here, he was in seventh grade and asked if the school had a mascot,” said Dan Olkowski, special education teacher at Ennis Schools. “He expressed it was a dream of his.”

This year, Terrell started high school, but still had not given up on his dream. When he brought up his desire to be the school mascot at the start of the year, Olkowski had him apply for the position. Terrell interviewed with school administration was officially given the role of Thunder, the Ennis School Mustang.

“The first time he put on that old costume was at the bonfire,” Olkowski said. “He performed admirably.”

Olkowski could not shake the nagging feeling that Thunder deserved a new uniform. Fortunately, the school had the funds to make it happen, and at the Ennis School Board meeting on Dec. 14, the fruits of his labor were unveiled – as AC/DC’s “Thunderstruck” played, Terrell entered the room to wild applause.

Once Thunder gave everyone a high-five and showed off his new look, he left the room, and the atmosphere took on a somber feel. Olkowski presented the board and school administration with a letter announcing his resignation at the end of the

year.

Though taken aback by the news, Klasna expressed his appreciation to Olkowski for his work, and said the new mascot has been a highlight of his year.

Cell phone policy

Four representatives from student council approached the board about amending the school’s cell phone policy. Currently, cell phones are not allowed at any point during the school day, explained student council president Baylee Sciuchetti.

“We are here to express a need we heard from the student body,” Sciuchetti said.

The council’s proposal would allow the use of cell phones during the lunch hour, and only then.

Student council member Lane Sitz said allowing students to use phones during lunch would cut down on the amount of kids who currently “bombard” the office to call home, and make communication and coordination with parents easier.

Since the students approached the board during the public comment portion of the meeting, trustees were prohibited from asking questions and discussing the request. The next step is for the student council to speak with Klasna to get on next month’s board agenda.

Building reserve

The school’s building reserve levy is sit-

ting at \$305,000, some of which will be used to remodel the vo-tech classroom and shop.

“I want to open a discussion about possibly running a building reserve levy,” Klasna said. “It’s important to keep that fund.”

The last time the school asked for a building reserve levy from taxpayers was six years ago, and the voters passed the request.

The board asked Klasna to come to the next meeting with a recommendation of what to ask the community.

“If we do ask for it, educating the community about why is the most important thing,” Klasna said, adding he was willing to interact with community organizations to explain the request.

Working with the senior center

Bernie Oglietti, a trustee on the Ennis Senior Center, Inc., Board of Directors, approached the board with information about a drafted memorandum of understanding, which would allow senior center employees and volunteers to use the school’s parking lot on the west side of Charles Street.

“We are in the middle of fundraising for an expansion and modernization of our building,” Oglietti said. “Our plan is to make our parking lot new and better.”

The intention is to incorporate the senior center building and lot into the school “campus” feel, Oglietti said.

Oglietti said the senior center wants to “institutionalize” the parking agreement before investing a quarter of a million dollars in a project that would not function without the agreement.

Oglietti’s draft included language that would dissolve the agreement if the school needs to change the use of the parking lot, and he asked for a 25 year timeframe.

“If we end up needing that parking lot, it’s ours to build on or use it however we need,” Klasna said. “Twenty-five years is a long time, but this protects the district.”

Trustee Karen Ketchu made a motion to approve the MOU pending review by the school’s legal counsel, to ensure the school district is protected. Trustee Julie Funston seconded the motion and all the trustees in attendance – Ketchu, Funston, Kris Inman and Chad Coffman – voted in favor.

Cleanliness in the school

Two months ago, representatives from a cleaning company surveyed the school to assess how clean it is, and what, if any, areas need improvement. The survey involved touring the building and taking photos, an occupant survey and surface testing of highly touched objects.

Brian Waddell, who completed the survey and assessment, said the results were mixed – most areas were excellent, but locker rooms and restrooms needed improvement.

“Some efforts need to be redirected and some procedures changed,” Waddell said. “Our ultimate recommendation is continued custodial education.”

Klasna said he understands the results to mean the custodial staff can work “smarter, not harder,” and that there is adequate staffing for the size of the building.

Superintendent evaluated

Prior to the meeting, board members filled out evaluation forms on Klasna’s performance. Though Klasna had the option to ask for his evaluation results be told in a closed meeting, he asked it be kept open to the public.

“On everything I say you meet or exceed expectations,” Coffman said. “Mostly exceed. Right from the get go, you’ve been looking out ahead. You got more work done and lightened the board’s work load more in 30 days than the previous 12 months.”

Inman agreed with Coffman, saying Klasna’s level of communication has been great.

“I struggled to look for substantive constructive criticism,” Ketchu added, citing Klasna’s good work ethic, decision-making and communication.

Finally, Funston said the other trustees summed up her evaluation, and said the board is “extremely thankful” Klasna is the school superintendent.

Other business

- The plans for a new vo-tech building, which will involve remodeling the current bus barn, are finalized and will go out to bid in January. According to Klasna, that will allow construction to start at the end of April, with an end date prior to next school year.

The building committee will narrow down the bids and present them to the board for interviews before the March meeting.

- Teacher Casey Donahue, who handles in-house IT support for the school, requested a technology stipend, since she spends time outside of teaching on IT work. Donahue also said technology education at lower grade levels would help “tremendously” to cut down on some of the work load.

Since a technology stipend would have to be negotiated, in the meantime the board approved Klasna to approve extra hours for Donahue in the interim. The board also plans to focus on the future technology needs of the district in future strategic planning sessions.

- The board heard a presentation from an organization that hosts websites and creates mobile apps for schools, and asked for more information before having a discussion about it.



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN

Thunder the Mustang doles out high fives at the school board meeting.

SHERIDAN SCHOOL

Board hears update about potential track facility, receives donation

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Sheridan School Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee is working with an architect from Billings to create a drawing for a possible track facility at the school.

“We still need to hear some prices,” Wetherbee said.

At the board’s Dec. 13 meeting, Wetherbee informed trustees he is getting closer to a point where he would consider asking the community if they would be interested in supporting a new facility via a bond request.

Currently, Sheridan does not have a track – the tentative idea is to construct one at the current football field, running east, with a new football field in the middle.

“The current football field would move east,” Wetherbee ex-

plained. “Concessions would stay where they are.”

Wetherbee told the board he hopes to have a more formal request by spring.

“We’re going slowly so everyone can get their heads around it,” he said. “All the board members feel it is a worthy project and something we want to pursue.”

School athletic director Ed Burke said the plan is still in its infancy.

“It has been something talked about on and off since I arrived in Sheridan in 2001,” Burke said. “I think it would help our track programs immensely, simply by having a better facility to practice.”

Right now, track athletes practice on the football field.

“We do have adequate areas to practice shot (put) and discus, as well as pole vault, long jump and triple jump,” he said. “Distance

runners do much of their work on road, and sprinters do much of theirs either on the football field or running around the football field. It works, but it would sure be nice to have something better.”

Wetherbee thinks a track facility would benefit the community as well as students.

“Number one kids could practice,” he said. “But we could hold small meets and the community could use it.”

Other business

Sheridan resident John Hammerman donated \$1,000 to the school’s STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) program at the start of the meeting.

“He gives us the latitude to do what we want with it,” Wetherbee said. “Last year, we spent it on 3D printers in the elementary, and this year I have a few ideas, but nothing concrete yet.”

RIVER from pg. 1

from you guys,” said Johnson. “We want your community input and concerns in regard to the river.”

During the meeting, Tony Thatcher with DTM Consulting spoke about channel migration of the Madison River and the difference between channel migration mapping and floodplain mapping, while also showing a progression of the migration of the Madison River over time.

“When we look at channel migration, we’re asking, ‘will the river move into a field or bridge, etc., based on its previous migrations versus will

a field or house be inundated during a high water year,” he said, adding this first meeting was the outreach and educational piece of the project.

“This is not just a study that sits on the shelf,” Thatcher said. “It gets used and used and we want landowners and stakeholders to have a hand in it.”

Ramsey said she hopes the public meetings will help make the maps more accurate.

“People who have been around a long time can contribute and say ‘this is where the river always gorges,’ or provide information of that

nature,” she said. “There was no prior inventory and once everything is combined, I hope these communities find (the maps) as useful as we have in the Ruby. It’s an educational tool – it’s a great way to sit down with a landowner and say this where your property is so they can make better land use decisions; whether it’s where to put a barn or fencing or where they want to do a restoration project. Every landowner or potential landowner on the river can use these (maps) and have a science-based tool.”

The Madison, Beaverhead, Jefferson, Gallatin and East Gallatin rivers are all part of the mapping process, which is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2017.

If you are interested in viewing any of the current drafts regarding the channel migration map and the floodplain map of the Madison River, or have comments or concerns, please contact Jen Johnson with Allied Engineering at jjohnson@alliedengineering.com or Tony Thatcher with DTM Consulting at tony@dtmgis.com. Maps can also be viewed via the Montana State Library’s website, www.msl.mt.gov.

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ENNIS, MONTANA

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NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE

5 p.m. - Friday

Holiday hours for Dec. 23, 2016

Readers,

We hope everyone is looking forward to a lovely holiday weekend - *The Madisonian's* offices will

close early on Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, so if you need to see us, come before noon!

Otherwise, feel free to call 682-7755 and leave a message. We will still honor

the 5 p.m. deadline for ads and content. You can also email any questions or submissions to editor@madisoniannews.com.

Fortunately, we will be

back in action on Monday to plan our Year in Review edition, which will be out Dec. 29.

Cheers!

The Madisonian

OBITUARIES

Deneice (Dege) Keller

May 23, 1946 - December 15, 2016



Deneice Keller was born May 23, 1946, to Leland (Sport) and Alice Shelton Keller in Butte. While just an infant, the family moved to the Shelton ranch at Cameron, owned by her grandparents, Sam and Eula Shelton. They soon moved to their own ranch south of Ennis, and she later became a long-time resident of Ennis with her own family.

Deneice graduated from

Ennis High School in 1964, went to business school in Billings and received a scholarship for fashion design to the Trap Hagen School of Art and Design in New York. During her travels, she became a jack-of-all trades, from building Trident missiles in Utah, to hair stylist, to working for the Air Force in Germany.

Deneice showed a proclivity for art, poetry and music at a young age and these talents were sharpened throughout her life. She was an accomplished pianist and twice-published poet.

She was a self-taught artist, but also studied under Gary Carter in West Yellowstone, renowned for his western paintings, and under A.J. McCoy of Ennis, world-renowned for her portrayal of wildlife. Deneice also worked and studied under the famous artist Robert

Shields in Sedona, Ariz., as a copy artist for five years.

Deneice sold her artwork for many years, focusing on all mediums from carving ivory to scrimshaw to painting on subjects ranging from western and endangered wildlife to cowboys and Native Americans. (Many of you may very well have one of Dege's paintings on your wall).

The only things more important to Deneice than her art were her children, grandchildren and her family and friends. Deneice leaves behind her son, Shane Norman, and his wife Marie; daughters, Lisa Hill and Angelee Lombardi; her niece, Amber Keller, (whom she loved like a daughter); her sister, Shauna Sprout of Bozeman; and nine adoring grandchildren; along with numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. She loved them all

dearly.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Sam and Eula Shelton; her parents, Sport and Alice Keller; sisters Arietta Helland and Laurie Johnson; and brothers, Stanford (Buzzy) Keller and Gayle DeArmond.

She was as tough as she was beautiful, but the autumn of her life turned too swiftly to winter, and Deneice passed peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 15, in Great Falls. Her wishes were to be cremated, and her family is planning a celebration of life for her in the place she loved most, the Madison Valley, on May 20.

In lieu of an immediate memorial service, her children would ask that family, friends and folks whose lives she touched share in a moment of silence at 7 p.m. MST, on Dec. 24 to remember her.

Dorothy L. Smith

June 22, 1922 - December 13, 2016

Dorothy L. Smith, 94, formerly of Reed Point, departed to her heavenly mansion from her earthly home at Parkhaven in Manhattan on Dec. 13, 2016. She was born June 22, 1922, in Sheridan, one of five children born to Clarence and

Ester (Nielsen) Lichte. These children were Gary, Ellen, Ruth and Vivian.

Dorothy was raised in Madison County where she was educated, graduating from Virginia City High School. Dorothy married E.W. "Bud" Smith on April

23, 1940. To this union, two sons were born, C. Milton and Richard.

E.W. "Bud" Smith loved mining and ranching. He worked in both concerns in several locations while he and Dorothy raised their family. They both worked at

the talc mine near Cameron for a number of years later moving to Reed Point to fulfill Bud's lifelong dream of owning their own piece of the Big Sky Country. They lived there until Bud's death on Feb. 4, 2009. Dorothy lived at the ranch until moving to assisted living in May of this year to Parkhaven at Manhattan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Bud of 68 years; three of her siblings; one daughter-in-law; and two great grandchildren.

Surviving Dorothy are her son and daughter-in-law Richard "Dick" and Sharon Smith of Three Forks; Her son Dr. C. Milton Smith of Reed Point; along with six grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

K&L Mortuary of Three Forks has charge of cremation and graveside committal services. Committal services will take place in the spring at the Virginia City Cemetery.

Memorials preferred in lieu of flowers to donor's choice or to the following: Christian Worship Hour, P.O. Box 2002, Aberdeen, SD 57402 or Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care, 301 Edelweiss Drive, Suite 6, Bozeman, MT 59718.

With Appreciation

We want to give kudos where they are due. We would like to recognize First Madison Valley Bank and all of their associates for the great service they provide to both the Madison and Ruby Valleys. They are a joy to work with, very accommodating and go out of their way to make things run smoothly for their clients! We have been banking with FMVB for almost 20 years and have no complaints regarding the personal service we have received. We especially appreciate Rebecca's pleasant reception on the phone and in the lobby, Stacey's quick help via email, Roy's keeping an eye on our business deposits for us, and Matt's laid back, easy going way of making things work out just right! Of course there are many more people we should acknowledge but these are the folks we work with the most. Great job Mary for keeping such a great team! We wish you all a blessed holiday season!

Sincerely,

Scott & Dawn Hagedorn

WE OFFER COMPLIMENTARY OBITUARIES

Guidelines: Must be 450 words or less and one photo. (Otherwise, it will be 25 cents per word thereafter)

Please call or email:
682-7755 or editor@madisoniannews.com

& MORE NEWS:

Buzz from the schools



Happy holidays to all!

It has been a successful fall here at Ennis Schools and a significant amount has been accomplished. As the new superintendent, I am pleased with the school system and the community. Being new to a community can have its challenges, but Ennis has been good to me and my family.

Being a lifelong resident of the state of Montana and this being my third school in the last 15 years, I can say not too many schools can compare to Ennis Schools. So what makes a school great? The people do. The community of Ennis is involved in the school from the parents, to the staff, to the Lions Club, to the newspaper, to the businesses, etc. That to me is perfect. Talking to my own children who are all in school, they have mentioned that there is so much to do in the school and community. This community is very generous and that is why it is so desirable to live and work in Ennis.

There has been much success in our academic and extracurricular programs. We have student athletes that experienced playing in the state championship game both in volleyball and football. Not too many students can say they had that experience. The cross country team had a successful season. The speech and debate team continues to be a force in class C and has placed very high in the competitions. At

the junior high level, we started a junior science Olympiad, which our students did very well at the regional competition. Our student councils have been very involved and have made their voices heard. At the elementary level, students have found much success in their academics and have been recognized for their achievements from recess rewards, to monthly mathletes, etc.

Another highlight has been the strategic planning and the staff and communities' involvement in that process. It is obvious we all want what's best for our kids. Another exciting project is the VoTech project that is scheduled to start this spring. Final preparations are being made to start the process.

School administration and staff continue to work together to make this school the best that we can. The stakeholders of the community are encouraged to call or schedule a visit if any questions come up.

In closing, we wish everyone a fantastic holiday season. Your support for our school and our kids is top notch. Thanks for what you do and continue to do for kids.

*Casey Klasna
Ennis School Superintendent*

Gorge continued from A1

The science behind the Madison River gorge

ABIGAIL DENNIS
editor@madisoniannews.com

Thanks to a few consecutive days of below-zero temperatures, the Madison River gorge moved rapidly upstream from Ennis Lake and reached Ennis over the weekend.

An anthology of contemporary western writing, an essay by David Quammen, who lived in Ennis for a few years, speaks to the science behind what makes rivers – and the Madison River in particular – gorge.

According to Quammen's writings, as temperatures cool in the

area the entire mass of flowing water drops below 32 degrees and small disks of ice, called frazil ice, appear. Because of river turbulence, the frazil ice does not just float on the surface but mixes throughout the river's depth.

This is what makes the Madison River's gorge unique.

"Frazil ice has a tendency to adhesion, so some of it sticks to riverbed rocks," according to the book. "Some of it gloms onto bridge pilings and culverts, growing thick as a soft fur. Some of it aggregates with other frazil ice, forming large

dollops of drifting slush."

While that happens, huge slabs of ice combine with that frazil ice like "bricks and mortar."

"Stacking up at a channel constriction, they can lock themselves into an ice bridge," the book continues. "Generally, when such an ice bridge forms, the river will have room to flow underneath. If the river is very shallow and the slabs of sheet ice are large, possibly not."

The Madison River is incredibly shallow, which is why the gorge leads to a blocked river, flooding and ice jams.



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
O'dell Creek, which flows parallel to the Madison River, picked up the river's flow since the usual channel gorged over the weekend.



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
The gorge reached the highway bridge entering Ennis on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Traditions and a holiday cactus!

Dear readers,

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, another holiday or nothing at all, this time of the year is full of traditions.

I love traditions and I really love family time. My parents were never into a big Christmas as I was growing up – we didn't have a Christmas tree, but when I was 3 years old, my mom helped me decorate her huge cactus ... Ouch!

But I always got a healthy dose of holiday spirit at my grandparents' house. Early in December I would spend an entire day with Gran and Gramps, decorating their tree and turning their house into a magical winter wonderland. When I was very young, my Gran and I made a star for the top of the tree using cardboard, glue and lots and lots of glitter! One of my favorite things was the choir of 12 angels that we sat on the mantle. Each angel had been crocheted by my great-grandmother and someday they will be mine.

Gran and I spent Christmas Eve in the kitchen, up to our elbows in dough for homemade rolls. And on Christmas, we always had a big dinner – ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, salad, fresh veggies and more. After we stuffed ourselves, we retired to the living room and I opened gifts from my grandparents and we all relaxed in each other's company.

I haven't been home for the holidays since I graduated college and moved to Madison County, and I've really missed our family traditions. However, this year Mike and I were ready to start some of our own.

We loaded up the truck at the beginning of December and headed to the hills to find our first tree. It took awhile to locate an evergreen – thanks to junipers masquerading as Christmas trees. Mike spotted one a little way off the road and we parked and struck out to see if it met our requirements. We had our pup, Calamity Jane, with us and while I slogged along through snow on our uphill hike, Jane frolicked. When we reached the only evergreen on the hillside, Mike handed me a saw and put me to work.



Cutting down trees is hard! Even a measly little tree like the one we found! I eventually was successful and Mike graciously dragged the tree downhill and loaded it into the truck.

Now our home is especially cozy thanks to the evergreen, which is decked out in red and gold. Our tree is not perfectly shaped ... but it has character! The best part is Mike and I have started a great new tradition.

So however you and yours celebrate the season, I hope you'll do it with wholehearted enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Cheers!
Abigail





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CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Christmas Eve
4 pm—Trinity, Jeffers
7 pm—St. Paul's, Virginia City

Christmas Day
9:30 a.m.—Trinity, Jeffers

AROUND THE COUNTY

Christmas services at Alder School

SUBMITTED BY SHERI JARVIS
Grace Community Fellowship

Grace Community Fellowship's traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 p.m. at Alder School, Saturday, Dec. 24.
Refreshments and fellowship to follow. Our Christmas Day service will be at 10 a.m. Sunday morning, also at the Alder School. Please come and join us as we worship and celebrate our Lord's birth. For more information call 842-5915.

Ennis Assembly's services

SUBMITTED BY GREG LEDGERWOOD
Ennis Assembly of God

Ennis Assembly of God will not be having services on Christmas Day. The Christmas Eve service will start at 5 p.m. and serve as our main worship service for the weekend.

Episcopal services in Ennis, Virginia City

SUBMITTED BY FR. KEITH AXBERG
Trinity Episcopal Church

On Christmas Eve, services will begin at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers, and at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's in Virginia City. On Christmas Day, service will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church.

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 Friday, Dec. 23 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.

Local artist donates to MVPL

SUBMITTED BY KAREN KETCHU
Madison Valley Public Library

Sherril Gold, a local artist, donated a portion of her profit from the Right Angles Boot Scootin' show to the Madison Valley Public Library.

PHOTO COURTESY KAREN KETCHU
From L: Sherril Gold and Karen Ketchu.



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Madison Dam hydro team honored for safety effort

SUBMITTED BY BUTCH LARCOMB
NorthWestern Energy

Employees at NorthWestern Energy's Madison Dam have been honored for their workplace safety efforts by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The hydroelectric facility near Ennis was recently recognized with re-approval as a Voluntary Protection Program Star Facility. The Voluntary Protection Program recognizes work sites that demonstrate exemplary safety performance that goes beyond compliance with safety regulations. Such approvals can occur every five years and are attained through the completion of a rigorous multi-day audit by a team of OSHA VPP represen-

tatives.

The VPP process promotes a safety partnership between management, workers and OSHA and encourages shared ownership of safety and health responsibilities. Along with promoting safer workplaces, the VPP program can help reduce off-the-job injuries and illnesses.

Madison is one of four NorthWestern Energy hydroelectric operations in Montana to earn the VPP Star certification. Just nine work sites statewide have earned the honor.

"This is a well-deserved recognition for the Madison crew. Their ongoing commitment to improving safety has been a model among our fleet

and has 'raised the bar' on safety expectations throughout our organization," said Jeremy Clotfelter, superintendent of hydro operations for NorthWestern Energy. "The partnership with OSHA through VPP has helped guide improvement in our safety procedures, processes and most importantly, our safety culture."

PHOTO COURTESY
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY
From L: Employees honored at Madison include Dan Collier, David Carney and Kurt Keller. They are supervised by Roscoe Kronfuss (not pictured).



Operation Christmas Child collects more than 3,600 gifts in Ennis

SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HENG
Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week ended Nov. 21, during

which Ennis and surrounding area residents generously contributed to the record-breaking collection of more than 3,600 gift-filled shoeboxes for

children in need.

This year's gift collection from Ennis-area is an increase over last year's collection of 3,137 gifts.



MADISON COUNTY SANITARIAN'S OFFICE

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mcsani@madison.mt.gov

SEPTIC INSTALLER'S TRAINING

The Madison County Sanitarian's Office will be holding a Septic Installer Training. There is no fee for attending. Lunch will be provided. The training will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attendance is required in order to maintain your current Installers License for Madison County.

Date: February 2, 2017

Location: Virginia City

Public Meeting Room, Madison County Administration Building

Please call the Sanitarian's Office at 843-4275 to register by January 26, 2017.

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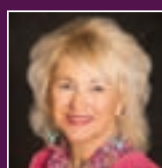
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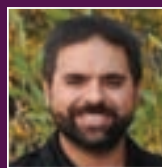
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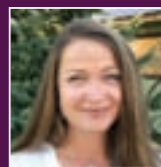
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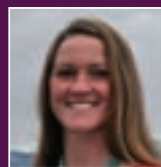
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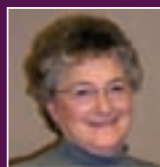
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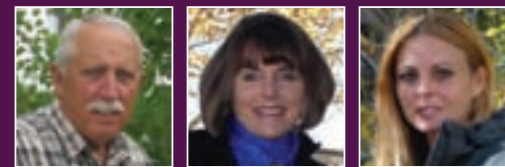


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Lions Club donates \$25,000 to senior center

SUBMITTED BY
CORINNA CHRISTENSEN
Ennis Lions Club

The Ennis Senior Center has been open just over a year now and has proven to be a major asset to the community. Serving lunch every Tuesday through Friday has been a significant benefit to the seniors of our community. The center is also doing a commendable job in fulfilling the needs of the meals on wheels program, where meals are delivered to the home bound seniors.

Upon hearing of the expansion plans and the added benefits to be derived, the Ennis Lions Club voted to donate \$25,000 to expedite this effort. The club also made provision to consider donating more should the need arise. The planned improvements to the center will encourage increased participation from the community. We are excited and looking forward to the expansion plans coming to fruition in the near future.



WISHING ALL OF OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS A WARM AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.

All the best,
THE MADISONIAN CREW
Susanne, Erin, Abigail, Caitlin and Rachel

Santa visits Bear Creek Schoolhouse



PHOTOS COURTESY JAN SMITH
Cameron residents celebrated Christmas last weekend with a party and visit from Santa at the Bear Creek Schoolhouse.

Please join Christ Episcopal Church in a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at a candle light service on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm
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4 **P A W S** RESCUE PET OF THE WEEK

SPECIAL

Hello there, I love to get pets and cuddle when you are sitting or laying down. Don't do really well with toddlers, but older kids and grown-ups I'm okay with. A little skittish when you are standing up. Had to leave my family because of really bad allergies [one of them, not me]. We were all so saddened by this state of affairs. I'm spayed and up to date on my shots, declawed in front and of course - house trained. I'm a good girl!

Oh and another cat bullied me so I'm afraid of others. Get along with dogs tho. Please come see me really soon. I'd love my own forever home again before CHRISTmas. You can call Misty at 439-1405 about me. I appreciate it, Special

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 29F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.
Friday	Mostly cloudy with snow showers during the morning. High near 25F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 50%. Snow accumulations less than one inch.
Saturday	Mostly cloudy. High 19F. Winds light and variable.
Sunday	Cloudy skies. High 17F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.
Monday	Mostly cloudy skies with a few snow showers later in the day. High 21F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 30%.

Quote of the Week:

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."

Edna Ferber

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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December 24 thru January 4
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A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Ennis students find happiness in speech, drama and debate

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com

Tucked away in the northeast corner of Ennis School, 10 high school students gather in a small room. A whiteboard with a Mustang Speech and Drama decal adorns the front of the room, and a small plaque with the words "First place" is on display.

"We get to be nerds," said Chrissy Ackerman, a junior at Ennis High School, as most of the Mustang speech, drama and debate team sat in a circle, each wearing a different hat, including one old-fashioned lampshade.

The definition of a nerd is someone who is "foolish" and "boringly studious" or "lacks social skills." While these students are quirky and fun as the toss markers across the room trying to land them in each other's hats, they are anything but boring. And as for their social skills, there's no "lacking" in that department either.

"It's just an amazing program and I'm so impressed with these young people," said first year coach Allyson Adams. "I think it's one of the most important programs you can be involved in ... and it really gives these kids a leg up as they get ready for college - it's basically college prep work."

Speech, drama and debate offers a unique spin on small-town extracurricular activities - from working with a partner in a humorous duo piece to writing an original oratory piece to honing your debate skills, there is something for everyone.

"It's important to include yourself in something and (speech, drama and debate) is a good resort for people who aren't good at sports," Ackerman said.

Parts of speech, drama and debate

There are many different facets of speech, drama and debate: dramatic solo, hum-duo, impromptu, informative, debate and everything in between. The Mustang speech, drama and debate has a player in nearly every category.

Rounding out the thespian side of the team, Ackerman and fellow junior, Quinten Hamilton, compete in dramatic solo; sophomore Dillon Williams and junior Elyse Conklin team up for a humorous duo; and seniors Bryson Glines and Becca Thomas also compete in hum-duo.

For the speakers and debaters of the group, first timer and

junior Emma Crickmer competes in informative, sophomore Madi Goettle does impromptu and sophomore Max Trapp and senior Caelin Marum compete in Lincoln-Douglas debate.

"I'm really interested in law and being part Native, I want to be the liaison between the government and the tribe," said Marum on why she got involved with speech, drama and debate. "I thought this would be a good way to learn how to argue and debate while being able to listen to both sides."

In Lincoln-Douglas debate, competitors are given a topic, prior to the meet, and must present both sides of the issue.

Crickmer, who joined the team this year, got involved because it sounded fun and seemed like a good way to meet a variety of people, as well as help get over her fears.

"(Speech) has really helped with my anxiety - I get really nervous before I go in," she said, adding she does special breathing techniques to help calm her nerves. "It's really competitive but also very inclusive."

Crickmer competes in informative, where she wrote an original speech about mental illness, in hopes to inform and educate her peers, a piece which landed her first place at their most recent meet.

"I chose mental illness because I think it's important and I want to be able to inform people more about it," she said.

Aside from gaining speaking and performing skills, students also gain skill in creative and technical writing. While it is not required to write your own piece, unless you are performing original oratory or one of the debates, most students enjoy the freedom and creativity.

"If you don't add part of yourself into whatever you're performing, it doesn't seem original," said Trapp.

Behind the scenes

When it comes to speech, drama and debate season, these kids are busy. With a meet usually every weekend until March, there is no time for slowing down.

"We're at the bus at 6 a.m. to head to wherever the meet is," said Glines.

"We leave at six," clarified Conklin. "Unless Bryson's late."

As the Mustangs peel out in the wee hours of the weekend morning, the team says they are usually sleeping, drinking coffee or going over their skits and speeches. Come 8 a.m., when the meet officially starts, there is no time for sleeping - the kids hit the ground running.

With three to four rounds before potentially making the move into finals, a speech, drama and debate meet is an all day venture.

"Even though we're all competing against each other, at any point someone in the crowd can yell group hug and everyone goes running in," said Goettle.

When the day is done and the Mustangs head back for home, the quietness of the ride up disappears and suddenly the bus turns into a musical "love fest."

"The drive home is really just a big love fest," said Crickmer. "We play guitars and sing and just have a good time."

Curtain close

"The speech, drama and debate community really believes in what they're doing," said Adams as practice came to a close for the night. "And these are just some of the best kids - they're really great kids."

Before breaking for the night, the small group of students gathered in a circle and Adams led them in a breathing exercise. What might be considered awkward and uncomfortable for most 15, 16 and 17 year olds, this group of performers was able to find relaxation and humor in the exercise.

"Is this right?" asked Glines as a grin spread across his face.



- Caelin Marum
Ennis senior

ALL PHOTOS CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
CLOCKWISE STARTING FROM TOP:

From left: Emma Crickmer, Bryson Glines, Elyse Conklin, Chrissy Ackerman, Quinten Hamilton, Madi Goettle, Max Trapp and coach Allyson Adams.

Caelin Marum explains why she got involved with speech, drama and debate.

Madi Goettle and Bryson Glines share a laugh during practice.

* Editor's note: Check back in the New Year for a feature on the arts in the Ruby Valley!



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Follow these tips to curb muscle loss as you age

SUBMITTED BY STATEPOINT

As the population of Americans over age 55 soars toward 70 million over the next decade, more Americans are searching beyond avoiding wrinkles and fine lines for tips, foods and products that will help them live the lives they desire well into their advanced years — and this includes muscle maintenance.

As people age past 30, they can lose up to 8 percent of their muscle mass each decade. Finding a way to maintain muscle through the years has been one of the more elusive parts of the healthy aging quest.

“Muscle loss can really take its toll. Even simple movements like opening a jar of pickles or gardening, become more difficult,” said Dr. Steven Lamm, medical director of NYU Langone’s Preston Robert Tisch Center for Men’s Health. “When you have less muscle mass, the muscles you have must work harder. It can be exhausting.”

Per Lamm, there are a few easy steps that can keep your muscles healthy as you age — and new research shows there may even finally be a way to curb muscle loss associated with aging.

Be active

One of the most effective ways to keep muscles in tip-top shape is to be active. Even quick exercises done regularly can make a huge difference in your muscle health.

“Try the long route when you’re taking the dog for a walk or take the stairs instead of the escalator. Staying active can also maintain joint health,” said Lamm.

Feed your muscles

Most people know that protein is a building block for muscle, yet do not get enough of it. Sleep also feeds muscle growth and recovery.

“I tell my patients to aim for a regular sleep schedule of eight or nine hours each night to promote optimal muscle mass, heart health and brain health,” said Lamm.

Try a supplement

You cannot halt aging, but new research shows you may be able to curb the muscle loss that comes with getting older.

Muscle maintenance is a key to healthy aging. Luckily, there are many steps you can take to prevent muscle loss and stay strong through the years.



5 resolutions to keep your eyes healthy in 2017

SUBMITTED BY STATEPOINT

The new year is the perfect opportunity for reflection, renewal and the chance to start

fresh. Consider making lifestyle changes that can improve your vision and health throughout the year.

Here are five ways that you can help keep

your eyes and body healthy in 2017.

1. Get an eye exam.

An annual trip to the eye doctor is critical for the entire family to ensure healthy and sharp vision. But did you know your visit to the optometrist is important to your overall health too? A routine eye exam can potentially detect signs of chronic diseases like diabetes, high cholesterol, and more. Because many symptoms of health conditions often don’t appear until damage has occurred, eye exams are a powerful, preventative health tool to keep tabs on what’s happening in your body.

An eye exam is a small investment for your eyes and body that is well worth it, and a vision plan can help you keep the cost down. To search for a vision plan, visit vspdirect.com.

2. Eat an eye-healthy diet. You probably know carrots are good for your eyes, but so are dark leafy greens such as spinach, kale and collard greens. Eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables for a hefty punch of key vitamins, and a vision protecting-substance called lutein.

3. Quit smoking (or never start). Smoking cigarettes has many well-known associated health risks, such as cardiovascular problems and cancer. Did you also know that smoking

can contribute to the cause of many vision problems? Research links smoking to an increased risk of developing age-related macular degeneration, cataracts and optic nerve damage, all of which can lead to blindness.

4. Maintain a healthy weight. Weight is a contributing factor for your overall health as well as your eyes. Conditions such as obesity and diabetes can lead to vision problems, like cataracts. By eating healthy portions and exercising regularly, you can reduce your risk.

5. Protect eyes from blue light. Much of our days are spent with our faces glued to devices like smartphones, computers and televisions. Those digital screens emit high-energy blue light, which causes digital eye strain that leads to headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes, and even neck pain.

Ask your eye doctor about the best options to help you reduce eye strain, including using lenses with coatings that reflect and absorb blue light. You can also follow the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, spend 20 seconds looking at something at least 20 feet away.

With a balanced approach to preventative care, you can help keep your eyes and body healthy throughout 2017 and beyond.



7 ways to get fit as a family

SUBMITTED BY STATEPOINT

Healthy eating habits and gym routines can be hard

to keep up after the excitement of the holidays fizzle. For parents who juggle busy schedules, it can be particu-

larly challenging to squeeze in the recommended amount of physical activity each day.

However, with a little motivation and a dose of creativity, families can resolve to stay active and get fit together — without stepping foot into the gym. Here are seven ideas to consider:

1. Explore the neighborhood.

Take the children on regular strolls around the block. Create your own nature walks by identifying different insects, leaves and animals along the way. Collect pinecones, acorns or other foliage that can be used for fun crafts back at the house.

2. Take advantage of local parks.

Visit a local park to discover different walking

paths or bike trails. And spend some time on the playground while you are at it. Equipment, such as monkey bars, climbing walls and balance beams are all fun ways to get moving.

3. Invest in gear without breaking the bank.

Athletic clothes and accessories with the latest performance fabrics enhance comfort and safety while working out. What is more, new gear can be a great way for each family member to show his or her sense of style, which can be just the motivation needed to get moving.

4. Schedule dance parties.

Enjoy music and shake off some stress by scheduling regular dance parties after school, during commercial breaks or before

bedtime.

5. Make a game out of chores.

Make the most of family chores. Shoveling snow, raking leaves and mowing the grass does more than enhance your curb appeal. You get great exercise too.

6. Get in a routine.

A routine ensures consistency. Set aside time each week for bike rides, tag football and soccer games, all of which can all be done in the neighborhood, backyard or at a favorite park. In bad weather, head to a local trampoline park, climbing gym or indoor soccer field.

7. Make a Matrix.

Planning fun activities increases the chance you will keep up the good work. For those who love to check items off a list, a color-cod-

ed spreadsheet can be a fun visual reminder to test out new activities. Hang this in a common area, such as the kitchen, to keep track.

Once you have the plan in place, get into a fitness routine that works for your family and stick with it.

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COLUMNS



This, OUR VALLEY:

By Reverend Keith Axberg

The birth of Christmas

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...” Isaiah 9:6

Many years ago there lived a young girl; she was probably 16 to 18 and betrothed to a village handyman. Some traditions suggest he might have been in his 30s or 40s, and possibly a widower. However, it's more likely he was younger – perhaps 18 to 21 years of age. We don't know, of course, as the evangelists did not provide those details. Maybe age isn't important for what followed, but I think it helps set the tone for our understanding Christmas a little better.

In modern-day America, Christmas conjures up images of reindeer, chubby elves, nativity sets, candy canes and a saccharine yearning for a world that never really was – snow falling at the perfect moment, or families gathered Norman-Rockwell-like around a tree.

Consequently, Christmas can often be a letdown. For many people it is a blue season; it's a depressing time of year that fits in with the long, cold, dark nights much better than the twinkling delights hung in windows and along eaves troughs, or images of steam wafting gently into the snow-chilled air from a cup of scalding hot chocolate.

The first Christmas was definitely not a dazzling one for that first couple those many years ago. For one thing, while Mary and Joseph were betrothed and supposed to be looking forward to life shared together in matrimonial harmony, she came down with a sudden case of the “preggers.” This did not bode well on many levels, not the least of which was living in a town whose major trade was likely in the field of gossip.

Secondly, since Joseph was not the father, humanly speaking, Mary was seriously at risk of being accused of adultery and suffering lethal consequences. Even if she were allowed to slip away quietly, everyone would know she was “tainted goods” and she'd live out her days with a scarlet letter hung invisibly about her neck. Happy days? I think not.

Still, we are told that Joseph was a “righteous” man. That means he was trusted to act and judge wisely; his primary desire was to always do what was

pleasing to God.

He was told in a dream, “Don't be afraid to take Mary for your wife.” Therefore, he did not condemn her, but chose instead to embrace the dream, and through the dream, he embraced Mary, and in embracing Mary, he received as his own the One whom she carried.

Mary herself was no shrinking violet. Although the arts have often portrayed her as a quiet, mouse-like figure “pondering” the words of the angel and puzzling out what they meant, she was not one to let life run her over; she was a typical teenager.

“Hail, Mary, full of grace ...”

“What sort of greeting is that?” asked Mary in return. She wasn't batting her baby blues, biting her lip and acting demure (and please note, her “baby blues” were no doubt the chocolate brown of her Semitic heritage). Having God drop into one's life, whether directly or by angelic stunt-double, never bodes well for the recipient; it means one's life and plans are being irretrievably changed.

As the old saying goes, God loves us the way we are, but loves us too much to leave us that way.

Mary doesn't just blithely accept the words of the angel. She challenges the notion she will have a child when she hasn't done anything to make that happen (and hadn't planned to until after the nuptials!). But the angel assures her it won't be her doing, but God's, and while she has every reason in the world to say, “Thanks, but no thanks,” she doesn't. Instead, she bows her head and gives herself to God – who gives himself to her.

Christmas isn't about the tree, the tinsel, the lights or the presents we exchange. As with Mary, it's about God becoming vulnerable, placing his life in our hands, entrusting his own well-being to our questionable, human mercies, and saying, “I've got your back; will you have mine?”

And if, like Mary, we've got any gumption at all, we'll accept the challenge, receive the child, and seek to bless the world – making a very Merry Christmas that much more possible in this, our valley – for unto us, the Son IS given.

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

NATURAL Resource News

By Rebecca Ramsey, Ruby Watershed Coordinator

WHAT IS SCIENCE?

Science is defined by Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language as: (n.) systematized knowledge derived from observation, study and experimentation carried on in order to determine the nature or principles of what is being studied; knowledge, as opposed to intuition, belief, etc. Science is a systematic enterprise that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe.

Contemporary science is typically subdivided into: the natural sciences, which study the material universe; the social sciences, which study people and societies; and the formal sciences, which study logic and mathematics. Disciplines which use science, like engineering and medicine, may also be considered to be applied sciences. All but the formal sciences depend on empirical observations, which is a collective term for the knowledge or source of knowledge acquired by observation and experimentation. The term comes from the Greek word for experience, (empeiria).

From classical antiquity (a broad term for a long period of cultural history centered on the Mediterranean Sea, comprising the interlocking civilizations of ancient Greece and ancient Rome) through the 19th century, science as a type of knowledge was more closely linked to philosophy than it is now, encompassing fields of study such as astronomy, medicine and physics. However, during the Islamic Golden Age (roughly the 8th – 14th centuries) foundations for the scientific method were laid by medieval Middle Easterners using practical and experimental observation to classify materials.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, scientists increasingly sought to formulate knowledge in terms of physical laws. Over the course of the 19th century, the word “science” became increasingly associated with the scientific method itself as a disciplined way to study the natural world. It was during this time that scientific disciplines such as biology, chemistry and physics reached their modern

shapes. That same time period also included the origin of the terms “scientist” and “scientific community,” the founding of scientific institutions, and the increasing significance of their interactions with society and other aspects of culture.

The scientific method, which is taught to grade schoolers here in America as early as in the first grade, is a body of techniques for investigation, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. The scientific method is a continuous process, which usually begins with observations about the natural world. Human beings are naturally inquisitive, so they often come up with questions about things they see or hear and often develop ideas (hypotheses) about why things are the way they are.

The best hypotheses lead to predictions that can be tested in various ways. The strongest hypotheses come from carefully controlled and replicated experiments that gather empirical data. Depending on how well the tests match the predictions, the original hypothesis may require refinement, alteration, expansion or sometimes, rejection.

Many of us have been judges at the local science fair where we see the scientific method written out on the student's display board. The scientific method includes:

- 1.) Forming a question, for instance, “What is snow?”
- 2.) Create a hypothesis, which is a conjecture, or a

conclusion or proposition based on incomplete information. For instance, “Snow is frozen water.”

3.) Make a prediction. For instance, “Snow is created at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.”

4.) Test for accuracy. This is where you do experiments with controls.

5.) Analysis. This is where you review your test results, see if it matched your hypothesis and make adjustments if necessary, going back to re-evaluate based upon what you have learned.

Science is included in the core curriculum of education at all levels (grade school, high school, college and many advanced degrees). Science teaches us not only critical thinking, but how to verify facts, come to truthful conclusions, adjust to new information, create sound models and predictions. Science is at work in every aspect of our lives, as each breath we take is a series of scientific functions. Even as adults, we should be educating ourselves through science at every opportunity. The Ruby Watershed Council is the education and outreach arm of the body of the Ruby Valley Conservation District. We strive to bring science-based education to our community in the form of workshops, such as the soil health series, as well as fun events like the Wildlife Speaker Series. We also work with scientific professionals to develop science based tools to share with the public such as wetland mapping. Science is a special part of humanity. Learn something new today!

How to outsmart a K9!

By Charlie Rossiter

Dogs have always had a special place in my heart and my family has owned many over the years. They all have their own personalities along with the quirks and flaws associated with that individual dog. My special love is for the Labrador Retriever, which dates to my early childhood. More recently, while my children were growing, I took on a rescue dog, who we named Tess.

Tess had a questionable pedigree, which included multiple races – she had the facial expression of a raccoon. She had to be the best kids dog ever and was inseparable from the boys. Wherever they went, including school, she would surely follow. She was a regular on the playground and knew most of the teachers personally. She had the sweetest disposition and had never been tutored on performing any silly instructions such as sitting or coming on com-

mand. She was in a world of her own, which suited her to a tee. My account begins when we started to experience our garbage cans being rummaged through during the night and the contents strewn over the yard.

I decided to investigate the next morning and noticed some large paw prints in the soft dirt where the violator had also left their calling card, which by the size of it was a very large dog indeed. My neighborhood had multiple suspects but I seemed drawn to a Mastiff cross, which had recently taken up residence a couple of houses from ours. He was an enormous beast and had an appetite that would not be content with just a mere 55 pound sack of dog chow. He was elusive and did most of his dirty work nocturnally so his deeds would not be observed. I approached his owner but to no avail, as he

was sure that his beloved dog would never commit such heinous crimes as I was alleging. I wasn't the only one on our block that had this happen, and after spending several weeks cleaning up trash, one of my neighbors spotted the culprit in the act and managed to get a snapshot of him. The picture was quite explicit so I contacted the dog's owner immediately. I said I had proof, without a reasonable doubt, that his adored canine was the neighborhood's sinister “serial dumpster diver,” and I wanted him to take care of the problem.

The dog's owner's brother lived in the country, and had taken a shine to the big fella, and said he'd take on the responsibility of housing the problem-ed pup. He had several dogs of his own and one more mouth to feed (albeit a very large and hungry one) shouldn't pose a problem. The neighborhood was over-

joyed with the news and felt that life could now return to normal. The next morning, I arose and surveyed my front yard and sadly I learned my garbage cans had been toppled with everything from coffee grounds to egg shells scattered everywhere. I called the owner of the wayward hound and asked him if his dog had been paroled the previous night and was told the dog was still in the country and would never darken my yard again. This perplexed me, and I went over my suspect list again. I was drawing a blank, but then noticed a mutt lying under a lilac bush about 100 feet away watching me. He seemed almost undetectable with a dirty brown face and black, white and tan markings on his legs and body and seemed to have a smile on his back face.

Check back next week for a continuation of my battle with this canine!

Commodity Insite! PDG

by Jerry Welch

The Federal Reserve hiked interest rates this week by 1/4 percent in a move universally expected. Historically, higher rates is a negative for most all markets except for the United States dollar. Adding to the woes and concerns of “all markets” and those bullish was a statement from the Fed that was slightly more hawkish by saying another three to possibly four rate hikes can be expected in 2017. It was the first rate hike in a year and only the second in 10 years!

On Jan. 8, in the first column I penned for this newspaper in 2016, I stated the following regarding bonds, currencies and commodities. I am reprinting my previous comments from 12 months ago to show clearly how events unfolded in the final weeks of 2016 as predicted. My forecast was PDG – pretty damn good!

“Bonds: In 2015, with the Fed embarking on tighter monetary policy, bonds should grind lower. History shows that bonds are a leading indicator for the Dow and other equity markets. In the New Year, expect bonds to move lower and rates higher. History also shows that higher rates is only bullish for the U.S. dollar.

“Currencies: The New Year will be known as the, “Year of the Dollar.” In 2015, the dollar rose

9 percent and is off to a good start in 2016. The Fed hiking rates will provide the 'ol greenback with a stiff tail wind for all of 2016 and likely beyond. When President Reagan was in office in the 1980s, the dollar rallied to 128.00 and in the 2000s, when Mr. Clinton was president, the dollar rallied to 112.00. This week, the dollar kissed a one month high of 99.73. My work suggests the dollar will peak a bit above where it was when Mr. Reagan was in office before the rally ends.”

“Commodities: The upside potential for commodities per se is limited in 2016 even though values are at a 13 year low. Keeping hard assets in check will be the same forces that weighed on values last year. A strong dollar, higher interest rates, a weak Chinese economy and the potential for crude oil prices to work lower yet.”

Here is how bonds, currencies and commodities ended this week compared to what I wrote nearly a year ago.

Bonds: The market was slammed when the Fed hiked rates. Bond futures fell to levels not seen since July 2015, while interest rates rose to levels not seen since July 2015.

Currencies: Lower bonds and higher rates is, historically speaking, bullish for the dollar and

this week, the 'ol greenback rose to a level not seen since October 2002.

Commodities: The CRB Index which is to commodities as the Dow Jones is to stocks hit a six month high a few days ago but slipped modestly lower this week following the hike in rates by the Fed. Commodities per se are holding up well all things considered.

However, based on recent USDA projections for grain and livestock prices in the New Year, it seems as if farmers, ranchers and consumers are going to enjoy a cornucopia in 2017. According to Wikipedia, a horn of plenty is called cornucopia symbolizing abundance and nourishment. Or, a horn of plenty.

Of course, yours truly is the one calling for the New Year to be a cornucopia, not the USDA. But here are some bullet points from USDA price projects for grains and livestock in 2017. Read carefully the points and judge for yourself whether or not the year will be one of abundance when it comes to grain and livestock supplies and lower prices.

** The USDA pegs beef production in 2017 to be 3.2 percent greater than 2016. They believe cattle prices will decline 14 percent in the New

Year while hog prices slip 12.6 percent. The reason for the lower prices is an increase in production amid plenty of supplies and questionable demand. And if the USDA is correct, livestock producers should be hedging expected production sooner than later.

** The USDA is also forecasting new crop corn prices to hit \$3.35, new crop soybean prices to fall to \$9.25 and wheat prices are generally expected to decline \$.50 a bushel from current levels. But in the case of grain prices, a big variable is the potential for farmers to switch more acres from corn to soybeans. The USDA now expects the switch to be limited to about 900,000 acres but my work suggests the switch to be closer to 1.5 million acres. If so, corn may be well priced right now but soybeans may hit \$8.50 rather than finding a bottom around \$9.25.

The New Year may indeed be a cornucopia for grains and livestock with supplies ample to burdensome. Only time will tell. But with the Fed hiking rates, bonds into a new, half year low, interest rates moving north and the mighty U.S. dollar at a new, 14 year high, the downside potential for a host of commodities led by grains and livestock seems likely as 2017 is at hand.

COMICS & PUZZLES



A HERO ALL OF AMERICA COULD LOOK UP TO...

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Final
- 5 Recipe meas.
- 8 Foolproof
- 12 Eastern pot-entate (Var.)
- 13 Carnival city
- 14 Slaughter of baseball
- 15 Parks at a bus stop?
- 16 Japanese sash
- 17 Gallon fraction
- 18 Hands-on-hips
- 20 Small combo
- 22 Women's wear
- 26 Wander off
- 29 Height of fashion?
- 30 Bother
- 31 Addict
- 32 Supporting
- 33 Cruising
- 34 Aries
- 35 Despondent
- 36 Square dance group
- 37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- 40 Hearts, for one
- 41 Phone function
- 45 "Simpsons" creator
- 47 Yoko of music
- 49 Nervous

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- 53 Indiana city
- 54 CD successor
- 55 Verve
- 8 Brown tone
- 9 Norma Rae, for one
- 10 Paul of politics
- 11 Superlative ending
- 19 Chesapeake, e.g.
- 21 Spinning stat
- 23 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
- 24 Genealogy chart
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Look for a website
- 27 Despot
- 28 Digitize an old LP, e.g.
- 32 Bit of trivia
- 33 College life
- 35 Tackle moguls
- 36 4-Down contents
- 38 Eccentric
- 39 Pleased with oneself
- 42 "American —"
- 43 City in India
- 44 Loretta of country music
- 45 Periodical, for short
- 46 Lawyers' org.
- 48 Thanksgiving mo.

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All puzzle answers on B7

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BOARD VACANCIES

NOTICE OF BOARD VACANCIES:
The Board of Commissioners has vacancies on the Weed Board, the Mental Health Local Advisory Council (2 positions), the Planning Board representing the Pony, Norris, Harrison Area, the Madison Valley Cemetery Board, the Alder Rural Fire District Board and the Virginia City Fire District Board (2 positions). If you are interested in serving on any of these boards please contact the Commissioners' Office at 406-843-4277, by email at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madison-countymt.gov. The Madison County Board of Commissioners also has a vacancy on the Big Sky Transportation District Board, and a vacancy for a Madison County member on the Big Sky Meadow Trails, Recreation, and Parks Special District Board, ("Members of these two boards must reside in the respective county and either own property or reside within the district boundary from which they are appointed..."). 9-2-b

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Work Wanted. Handy man. Very experienced in maintenance, wrangling, snow removal, and general labor. Experience with variety of tools and equipment. Call home 682-4600 or cell 660-7152. 6-2-b

FOR RENT

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

3bd/1bth mobile home for rent in Sheridan. Close to stores. New carpet, fresh paint. W/D hook up. No pets. \$500/month. Water included, utilities not. Call 503-314-3902 or 406-560-3558. 9-4-b

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

Place Your Classified
682-7755

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

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

FOR SALE

For Sale:
Guitars, guitars, guitars. Best prices around, now thru Christmas. Also violin, mandolin, uke, and accessories. Call Jim @ Mountain View TV, 682-7858 5-5-b

Year End Steel Building Clearance Sale
For Immediate Purchase
Call for deals & sizes
Discounted erection!
Ask for Jason
800-964-8335 Ext. 4850
6-4-b

1983 Model Steel Bull Trailer.
8x8x20 foot with gooseneck over the front. 451-4791 7-2-b

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SERVICES

Madison Valley Caring & Sharing
Hours:
Mon. Noon-2:00 p.m.
Sat. 9-11:00 a.m.
Wed. 5-7 p.m.
Lone Elk Mall, Unit 4. Ennis.
682-7844
30-tfc-b

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406-865-0000
60' Lift Truck
ISA Fall is ideal removing and pruning time!



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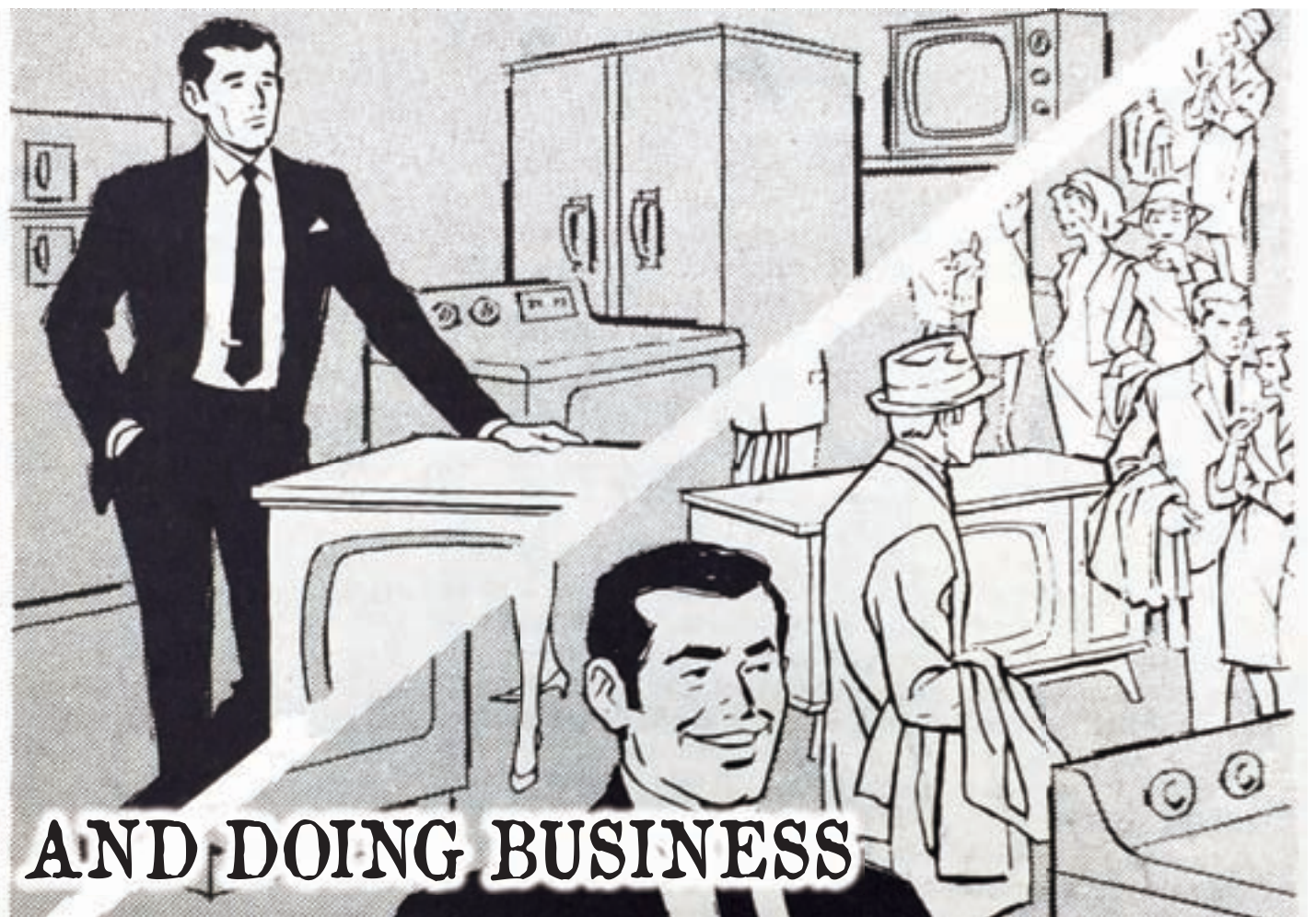
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Someone is really happy it is truly winter now!

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The Madisonian.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 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

(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 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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ruby Valley Hospital
Sheridan, MT
RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS
Sealed bids will be received by Ruby Valley Hospital (RVH) and Langlas and Associates at 1019 E. Main St. Suite 101 Bozeman, MT 59715 no later than 2 pm on Tuesday, January 10th, 2017. The bids will be reviewed by Langlas and Associates and Ruby Valley Hospital in accordance with the Specifications and the Contract Documents prepared by SMA Architects P.C.
Bids shall be submitted on the form provided with the Contract Documents and in accordance with the "Instructions to Bidders" in the Contract Documents.
OBTAINING CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
On Monday, December 19th, 2016, bidding documents will be on file at Montana plans exchanges as listed in the "INSTRUCTIONS

TO BIDDERS" and physical sets may be obtained on December 19th., 2016, at Langlas and Associates office located at 1019 E. Main Street Suite 101, Bozeman, MT (406) 585-3420 upon deposit of \$100.00 per set. Plans are also available at www.langlas.com. The password can be obtained by contacting Langlas. Please ask for Matt Drake or Roger Davis for plan information.
Documents remain the property of the Architect and must be returned. Full refund of deposit will be made for complete sets that are returned in acceptable condition: without notes, marks, or mutilations, and within 15 calendar days after the opening of proposals. Plan holders that do not submit a proposal will forfeit their deposit.
PROPOSAL GUARANTEE
Bid Package Bids do not need to be accompanied by bid security. A performance and payment bond may be required before contract award. Please fill out the bid form correctly to include the additional amount for a performance and payment bond. If the Proposal is accepted, the Bidder may be asked to execute the Contract and fill acceptable Performance and Labor & Material Payment Bonds no later than ten (10) days after the Award of the Contract.
OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED
The Ruby Valley Hospital, hereinafter called the Owner, reserve the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any formality or technicality in any proposal in the interest of the Owner.
END OF INVITATION FOR BIDS
(Pub. Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5, 2017) l&a
MNXALP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY
IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Probate No. DP-29-2016-32
KESIT SOMCHHYA,
Deceased.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the 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 be mailed to the Estate of Kesit Somchhya, c/o Berg, Lilly & Tollefsen, P.C., Attn: Jeremy J. leFeber, 1 West Main Street, Bozeman, Montana 59715.
DATED this 15th day of December, 2016.
BERG, LILLY & TOLLEFSEN, P.C.
/s/ Jeremy J. leFeber, Attorney for Personal Representative
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.
Signed this 15th day of December, 2016.
/s/ William Ross Pnsent, Personal Representative
(Pub. Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5, 2017) bit
MNXALP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minutes of the Madison County Board of Commissioners' meetings for the period beginning November 1, 2016, and ending on November 30, 2016, are now available for public review in the office of the Clerk and Recorder at the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, MT. Individual requests for personal copies of these minutes, or any previous minutes, will be accepted by the Clerk and Recorder in her office. Approved minutes can also be viewed on the Madison County website at www.madisoncountymt.gov. Signed this 16th day of December, 2016.
Kathleen Mumme
Madison County Clerk and Recorder
(Pub. Dec. 22, 2016) mcc
MNXALP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Madison County Board of Commissioners approved payroll for payment in the amount of \$920,117.75 and claims for all funds in the amount of \$1,383,026.69 with a total of \$2,303,144.44 for the period beginning November 1, 2016, and ending on November 30, 2016. The full and complete claims and payroll lists are available for public review in the office of the Clerk and Recorder at the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, MT. Individual requests for personal copies of these lists will be accepted by the Clerk and Recorder in her office and can also be viewed on the Madison County website at www.madisoncountymt.gov. Signed this 16th day of December, 2016.
Kathleen Mumme
Madison County Clerk and Recorder
(Pub. Dec. 22, 2016) mcc
MNXALP



Bicentennial Apartments

Dillon, MT., Senior Housing 62 or older or handicapped, rent based on income, HUD Subsidized util. paid. Qualifications apply. Market rent apartments also available.

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We're available!
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Ruby Valley Hospital Physical Therapy
Occupational & Speech Therapy
Hands on care for all your body needs.

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Total Joint Rehabilitation
Back & Neck Care
Sore Stressed Muscles
Tension Headaches & Chronic Pain

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MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DISPATCH LOG

Dec. 11, 2016 – Dec. 17, 2016

12/11
Public Safety Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 11 Virginia City
Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 41 MM 13 Twin Bridges
Citizen Assist in 200 Blk E Crofoot St Sheridan
Wildlife Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 46 Ennis
Accident on MT Hwy 287 MM 7 Ennis

12/12
Suspicious Circumstanc-

es on MT Hwy 287 Ennis
Medical Aid in 200 Blk Beatrice St Pony
Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 55 McAllister
Accident on MT Hwy 41 MM 59 Whitehall

12/13
Accident on Dry Boulder Lakes Rd Twin Bridges
Accident at Pennington Rd & Paige Ln Twin Bridges
Wildlife Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 47 Ennis

Wildlife Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 18 Cameron
Accident on MT Hwy 287 MM 26 Laurin
Wildlife Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 16 Cameron

12/14
Disturbance in 200 Blk N Bridge St Twin Bridges
Abandoned Vehicle on Ennis Lake Rd McAllister

12/15

Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 51 Ennis
Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 14 Virginia City
Traffic Complaint at First St & Steffens St Ennis
Suspicious Circumstances at US Hwy 287 & Airport Rd Ennis
Traffic Complaint at Ennis St & Comley Way Ennis
Wildlife Complaint on MT Hwy 287 Mm 33 Sheridan
Traffic Complaint in 100

Blk Charles Ave Ennis

12/16
Fire Call on Cactus Ridge Rd Twin Bridges
Accident on Mill Gulch Rd Sheridan
Medical Aid on Ennis Lake Rd McAllister
Dog Complaint at Comley Way & W Fagin St Ennis

12/17
Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 61 Norris

Missing Person in Sheridan
Accident on MT Hwy 41 S MM 19 Twin Bridges
Wildlife Complaint on W Main St Ennis
Wildlife Complaint in 300 Blk Poppleton St Sheridan
Medical Aid on Madison Dr Ennis

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 57 calls for service from Dec. 11 - Dec. 17, 2016.

GET RESULTS.

advertise in The Madisonian. call 682-7755 to make a plan.



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)
Wed. 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
Aides 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 406-684-2200

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.ChristianScience.com

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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!

THE BAHAI FAITH
Say: no man can attain his true station except through his justice. No power can exist except through unity. No welfare and no well-being can be attained except through consultation.

451-3923 or 1-800-UNITE
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

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

Wearing and Sharing THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

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 22: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn roll and dessert

Tuesday, December 27: Cheeseburgers, fries and 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 22 - DECEMBER 29
THURSDAY DECEMBER 22: SHEPHERD'S PIE, SALAD, ROLL, DESSERT
FRIDAY DECEMBER 23: CHICKEN PESTO PASTA, VEGGIES, GARLIC BREAD, DESSERT
TUESDAY DECEMBER 27: SLOPPY JOE, FRIES, VEGGIE STICKS, DESSERT
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28: POT ROAST, MASHERS, VEGGIES, DESSERT
THURSDAY DECEMBER 29: TUNA CASSE-ROLE, VEGGIES, DINNER ROLL, DESSERT



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— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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

Vennis Over The Hill Unity Group
Faced with a drinking problem?
Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help.
SUazN - 10 a.m., No Smoking,
Virginia City Library

MON. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking
WED. - 7:30 p.m., Trinity Church in Jeffers
FRI. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking

682-3490, 682-7023 Ennis
843-5352 Virginia City

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

DAYSRING MISSION
3648 Hwy 287, Sheridan
596-0707

All we want for Christmas is our 2 front teeth!



PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS
Twin Bridges kindergarten students Gus, Lilly and Elle show off their Christmas wish.

White-tailed deer in the Ruby Valley

SUBMITTED BY DEAN WALTEE
Montana Fish,
Wildlife and Parks

From Dec. 8 through 15,

I classified 767 white-tailed deer from the ground in the Ruby Valley. The purpose of this effort was to document the buck to doe to fawn

ratio for the year. This was the fourth consecutive year I completed this effort. The 767 deer included 371 fawns, 246 does, 50 yearling bucks

and 100 adult bucks. The observed fawn to all does ratio was 66 to 100 – compared to 61 to 100 last year and an average of 68 to 100. The estimated fawns to adult (≥ 2.5 years old) does ratio was 83 to 100 – compared to 89 to 100 last year and an average of 87 to 100.

The observed buck to doe ratio was 40 to 100 – compared to 53 to 100 last year and an average of 40 to 100. The observed adult buck to doe ratio was 27 to 100 – compared to 32 to 100 last year and an average of 24 to 100. The observed yearling buck to doe ratio was 13 to 100 – compared to 21 to 100 last year and an average of 15 to 100.

All classifications were similar to last year or the survey area average. The buck to doe ratios are very healthy. The fawn to doe ratios are healthy from a population perspective, but not great for white-tailed deer living in agricultural areas. I suspect fawn mortality between early summer and now is high in the valley and influences the ratios observed during the winter. Contributing mortality factors in no particular order include vehicle collisions, lion predation, coyote predation, eagle predation, fence mortality, drowning, hay machinery and severe hail storms. A measurable annual yearling doe crop is also influencing the observed fawn to doe ratio.

I observed 95 turkeys – compared to 111 last year and an average of 86. Turkey populations continue to increase throughout Southwest Montana. Game Damage complaints resulting from turkeys are increasing. We are currently discussing moving towards an unlimited one per hunter over-the-counter turkey license. This would need to go through the public season setting process following the 2017 hunting season. If passed, it would take effect beginning with the 2018 hunting season. That proposal would need to be drafted this coming fall. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts, if any, on this potential change.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Don't drink and drive...those who love you won't understand why you didn't come home!

Be The Change **406** Coalition

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Cell: 406.198.275
406.156.8284
BeTheChange406@yaho.com

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TOMORROW'S HISTORY...

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The Madisionian est. 1873

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or Fax 406-624-0684

We want to welcome everyone to our

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

Saturday, December 24th at 6 p.m.

Madison Valley Baptist Church
(406)682.4244 5050 US Hwy. 287 North, Ennis
(across the highway from the Firehouse in Ennis)

58th annual Christmas dinner

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MARTIN
American Legion Post 31

Saturday, Dec. 17 was the 58th annual veterans Christmas dinner in Twin Bridges. Volunteers started preparing the meal at 2 p.m., and food was served from 5 - 7 p.m., followed by a raffle.



PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS
Dick Marshall and Byron Bayers greet community members at the door.



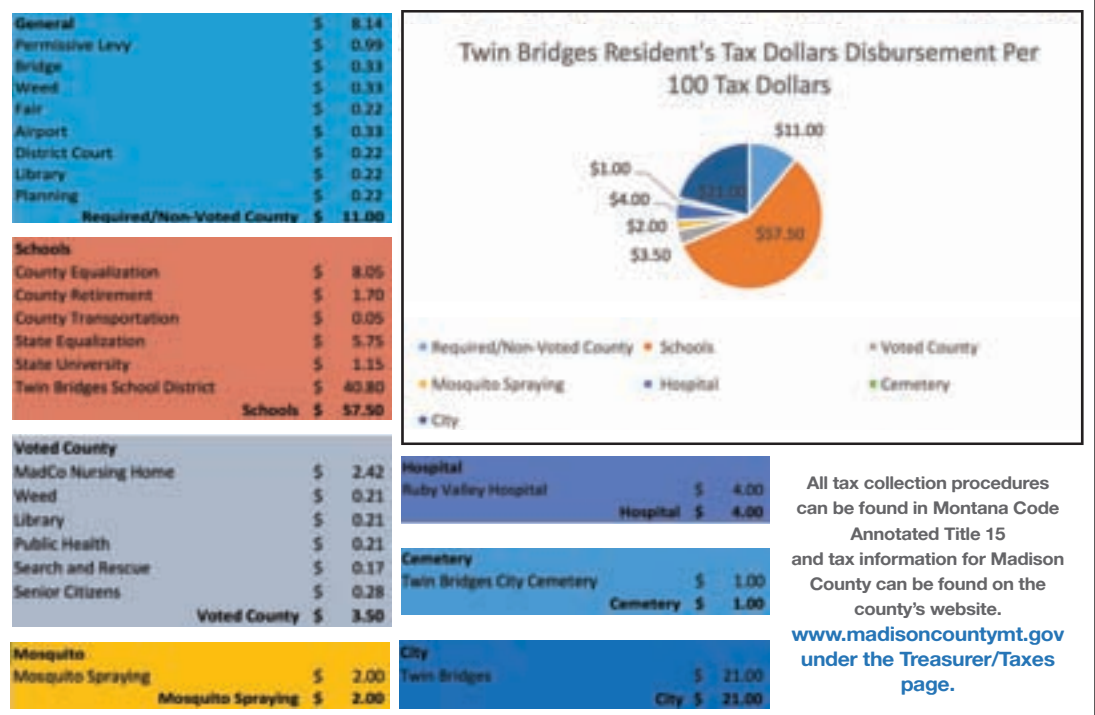
PHOTO COURTESY GAIL BANKS
Doug Martin hard at work in the kitchen.

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?
Give me a call!
406-570-8729
RE/MAX Mountain Property
MontanaGilmore@gmail.com

Twin Bridges Resident's Tax Dollars Disbursement Per 100 Tax Dollars



Happy Holidays

Our Clinic, Outpatient Services, and Business Office will be closed on Monday, Dec 26th and Monday Jan 2nd

The ER and Inpatient Hospital services will be open as usual.

MADISON VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

406-682-6862 | www.mvmedcenter.org
305 N. Main, Ennis, Montana

ENNIS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Winter Session Classes Coming Up!
January 16-March 10th
ON-LINE OR IN-PERSON REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 2ND

Classes:

- Recent Discoveries that Explain the Geology of the US through Continental Drift: **Russell Scuggs**
- Open Sew: **Kathy Olkowski & Jamie Diehl**
- Fancy Forest Quilt: **Kathy Olkowski and Lexie Brundin**
- Fly Tying: **John Way**
- Back to Basics - Cooking Skills to Increase Your Home Production: **Jamie Diehl**
- Yoga for Athletes: **Cori Koenig**
- Early Bird Yoga: **Cori Koenig**
- Felting: **Jenn Doney & Gail Barnt**
- Introduction to Amateur Astronomy: **Larry & Lonie Swenson**
- Jewelry Making: **Kay Gogery**
- A Few Montana Novels: **Lee Robison**
- Beginning Welding: **Charlie Zitting**
- Vinyasa Yoga: **Manuela Redmond**
- Beginning Pickleball: **Patty Hunter**
- Line Dancing: **Melissa Unger**
- Learn to Play Bridge: **Denyse Lemaire**
- Discover Geology: **Denyse Lemaire**
- Piloxing: **Vickie Richardson**
- Barre Class: **Vickie Richardson**
- Exercise for Seniors: **Vickie Richardson**
- Basic Accounting: **co-op with MCEDC**
- Beginner Quickbooks: **co-op with MCEDC**
- Let's Get Growing - Seeding Starting and Sharing : **co-op with Madison Valley Public Library**

682-4258 • ENNIS-ECE.ORG

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B10 Thursday, December 22, 2016

GO TO outpostevents.net FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23

Skate with Santa, Virginia City
Join VICE and skate with Santa at the Virginia City ice rink from 1:30-3 p.m. Come for gifts, refreshments and good fun before the holiday!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

Christmas services, Ennis
Join the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church for spoken word, hymns, scripture, candle lighting and fellowship on Christmas Eve

beginning at 7 p.m.
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.

Christmas services, Alder
Grace community Fellowship's traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service is at 6:30 p.m. at the Alder

School Christmas Day services will be at 10 a.m. at the school.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas dinner, Twin Bridges
Santa has gifted the Ruby Valley with a community Christmas dinner being served at the Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center on Christmas Day from 1-5 p.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 and April. Potluck dinner at 6:30, performances at 7:30. Call 843-5507 for more information.

SATURDAY APRIL 15

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



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE ELLIOTT
A cattle drive passes through Ennis' main street on a frosty December morning.

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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 at 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.

GRAVEL BAR
MONTANA DELUXE
featuring **BILL DWYER & DAVE WALKER**
NEW YEAR'S EVE
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NORRIS HOT SPRINGS
MUSIC THIS WEEKEND:
Fri 12/23 Aaron Williams
Sat 12/24 CLOSED
Sun 12/25 CLOSED
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
HOURS:
FALL HOURS
Thurs-Fri-Mon 4-10
Sat & Sun 10-10
www.norrishotsprings.com
406.882.3303

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MADISON THEATRE 682-4023
115 Main St., Ennis, MT
Friday, December 23, 2016
Held over by popular demand!
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 \$5 • Children (12 & under) \$2 Show time at 7:15 pm, Box Office opens at 6:30 pm
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www.ennismovies.com
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

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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