

The Madisonian.

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

Montana's Oldest Publishing Weekly Newspaper. Established 1873

75¢ | Volume 146, Issue 11

Thursday, January 4, 2018

Spirits high AT WILLIE'S DISTILLERY

GEOFF HAMILL
editor@madisoniannews.com

Five years after Willie and Robin Blazer ran the first batch of brandy through their copper still in downtown Ennis, their small-batch liquor is flying off the shelves and the business has plans to expand.

Starting off with just Willie and Robin at the controls, Willie's Distillery now employs 19 workers and the team is working hard to keep up with demand. Willie's liquors are now sold throughout the Northwest and have gained traction with connoisseurs. The Ennis brand gained national attention when Fifty Best, a New York City guide to fine living, awarded Willie's Bighorn Bourbon Whiskey a gold medal in Dec. 2017. The Ennis-made liquors have fared well in other regional competitions, as well.

Willie's product line includes Montana Moonshine, Montana Honey Moonshine, Snowcrest Vodka, Willie's Genuine Canadian Whisky, Huckleberry Sweet Cream Liqueur, Coffee Cream Liqueur, Wild Montana Chokecherry Liqueur and the gold-medal-winning Bighorn Bourbon.

A circuitous career path led the husband-and-wife team to a fulfilling and successful career as distillers.

Robin grew up on a 2,000-acre farm near Toston, just a stone's throw down the road from

Radersburg, in Broadwater County. Her family pitched in together to help on the farm, where they grew wheat, barley and hay and raised a variety of livestock. When she headed off to college at the University of Montana, she held a love for literature and planned to join the Peace Corps after graduation to help people in Africa.

Willie grew up on a farm in the mountains of western North Carolina, where his family raised corn, tobacco, hay, potatoes, goats and chickens. "We worked the land and I went to school," said Willie. "I was always pretty big into sports and getting outside. My grandpa taught me how to fly fish. That's probably one of the reasons why I'm here in Montana. I really like to fly fish."

Willie's dad transferred to a paper mill in the Florida panhandle when cutbacks hit



Willie and Robin Blazer in a warehouse full of aging bourbon. The company obtains white oak bourbon barrels from Minnesota. (G. Hamill photo)



The tasting room at Willie's Distillery in downtown Ennis sees regular business in winter, but many more customers in summer. Free tours of the distillery are provided to tasting room guests on request. (G. Hamill photo)

North Carolina. Willie was a senior in high school when his family moved South. Fresh out of high school, Willie went to see an Army recruiter about being a helicopter pilot, like his Uncle Ronnie, whom his whole family admired.

The recruiter told Willie, "You can't fly helicopters but you can jump out of airplanes." So, Willie signed up to be a paratrooper and shipped off to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., where he earned his paratrooper wings. Following the graduation ceremony, two soldiers wearing black berets visited the new paratroopers, seeking volunteers to serve in the Army's toughest fighting force - the Rangers.

"PLENTY OF TIMES, WE COULD HAVE GIVEN UP AND QUIT - AND OTHER PEOPLE WOULD HAVE. THAT COMPETITION AND THAT DRIVE, LIKE THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES, THE SPIRIT TO PERSEVERE, THAT'S ALWAYS STUCK IN MY HEAD. JUST LIKE RANGER SCHOOL - WE'RE TOO STUBBORN TO QUIT."

- WILLIE BLAZER

WILLIE'S continued on A2

YEAR IN REVIEW: *News*

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65TH MONTANA LEGISLATURE

The 2017 Montana Legislature held their 65th session this spring without passing an infrastructure bill, the foremost priority - the \$80 million statewide infrastructure bonding bill failed just three votes short of the two-thirds need to pass. Gov. Steve Bullock called legislators back to the Capitol for a special session in November in an effort to fix the state's budget.

Throughout the session, *The Madisonian* started a series highlighting different bills to feature throughout the 90 days that might be pertinent to the county, including bills related to school funding, recreation and roads. For information on bills not featured, please visit www.leg.mt.gov.

SB 44 - HOLD HARMLESS

Senate Bill 44, which provides insurance companies and emergency providers be forced to find a compromise about coverage, or lack thereof, or settle in court, in an effort to "hold patients harmless" in regard to air ambulances was signed into law on April 25. The bill passed with little to no opposition in both the House and Senate.

HB 355 - ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOLS

House 355 passed through both chambers and was signed by Gov. Bullock on April 20, allowing schools to receive transportation reimbursements for school vehicles that can replace a traditional bus.

SB 305 - MAIL-IN ELECTION

Senate Bill 305, which dealt with a mail-only ballot for special elections, was tabled in the

House and failed to make its way into the law.

SB 307 - PERMISSIVE LEVY'S

Senate Bill 307 passed both chambers of the state legislature to be sent to the governor on April 26, which has made its way to enrolling after passing the governors amendments.

All schools will be required to advertise any anticipated changes to non-voted levies. Non-voted levies are also called permissive levies. Funds for adult education, bus depreciation, tuition and transportation have historically been permissive levies. SB 307 also includes language that would create a permissive building reserve levy, where schools would be permitted get up to 10 mills for a building reserve fund.

NEWS continued on A3

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WILLIE'S from A1

"A few of us raised our hands and had no idea what we were getting into, ended up going through RIP and passing," said Willie.

RIP, the Ranger Indoctrination Program, was a physically and mentally grueling, month-long program designed to weed out soldiers unsuitable for assignment in the Ranger Regiment, and to prepare them for an even harsher test - Army Ranger School. Blazer completed both RIP and Ranger School and served six years in the 3rd Ranger Battalion. (RIP has since been replaced by the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program)

While still with the Rangers, Willie visited friends in Montana and loved it. "I said, 'If I ever get out, I want to move to Montana,'" said Willie. "For a couple reasons - the fishing, the hunting, the mountains, the remoteness and smoke-jumping; I wanted to get into smoke-jumping."

Willie left the service and moved to Montana in 1997. He attended the University of Montana and made the football team as a walk-on. He met Robin, who was attending UM, and the couple eloped to Idaho and got married.

Willie worked as a wildland firefighter for a few years before some Army buddies convinced him to sign up for the Green Berets. Willie and Robin moved to Fort Bragg, N.C., where Willie



Willie and Robin Blazer obtained their unassembled copper still from Bavaria in 2012. Local builder Josh Vujovich helped them put it together. In the photo, left to right: chief distiller Terry Barsness, Robin Blazer and Willie Blazer. (G. Hamill photo)

to assist with hurricane relief, the couple decided to make a change. They considered several options for a family business they could operate together.

"That's when I got the entrepreneurial bug," said Willie. "I was kind of tired of moving around, whether it was fires or hurricanes or wars. I liked all that stuff, but I wanted to settle

down during the boom days, but the appreciation of and knowledge of the moonshine-making process are greater in the Appalachians, with their long history of backwoods stills, ridge-runners, chasing off "revenuers," and the birth of NASCAR, which traces its moonshine-soaked roots to hot rods hauling illegal whiskey dur-

and the Montana Small Business Development Center extended a Patriot Express loan, thanks to Willie's veteran status. The Blazers said banker Cleve Witham and SBDC manager Julie Jaksha were particularly helpful during the process to obtain funding.

Prepared with sufficient knowledge, capital and confidence to enter the world of spirit-making, the couple ordered a Bavarian still. "It came in four big crates," said Robin. "It was almost like getting a Ferrari in a lot of different crates; you've got a race car and you've got to put it together. But something that we're good at is finding people smarter than us to do things."

The smart person the Blazers found to help construct the still was Ennis builder Josh Vujovich. "He helped and had everything laid out," said Robin. "He was a pipe-fitter and he was an engineer and he knows how to do all that stuff. He basically put our entire still together for us."

With the magnificent German still assembled, the big day for the first batch came in October 2012. "I was on the phone, directly with the guy in Germany the whole time," said Robin. "We fired it up and off it went and it went really well. The first thing we did was brandy."

Prohibition.

One thing the couple agreed upon quickly was where to live. "We're both outdoor and recreation-minded," said Robin. "If we could both be outside all day, every single day, we would. That's why we decided to live in Montana. It became important to us - what can we do in Montana, where we can work hard - we're both extremely hard workers - let's give it a shot, let's work for ourselves and see what happens. Let's bring our kids up together."

Settling on a plan to distill spirits, the couple attended workshops at regional distilleries, researched learning materials online, and got advice from the Small Business Administration on running a new business. "A lot of this stuff was self-taught," said Willie. "With the internet age, there's a lot of stuff you can look up. Terry, our chief distiller, has never been to a school for this. He's learned by doing and he's been with us for four-and-a-half years."

The couple's first major investment would be a still of sufficient quality and size to serve a small market - not a homemade contraption like the ones in the old mining camps. As luck would have it, a German still manufacturer became one of their greatest sources of knowledge.

"At the time, there were only four manufacturers in the world that made stills for commercial use for a small distillery," said Robin. "Our still is made in Germany and it's made of copper and really well done." Willie's nine-foot-tall copper still is a remarkable example of German craftsmanship - what some might consider a metallic work of art.

Before making a final decision on distilling, Willie attended a three-day class in Arizona by the Bavarian still manufacturer, and Robin attended the same class a year later. Robin also attended an intense, two-week distilling course in Spokane, Wash., and took a tour of small distilleries on the East Coast.

Local banks helped the couple finance the business venture,



Willie Blazer points to his best-selling product, Bighorn Bourbon, in the tasting room at Willie's Distillery. With Willie is tasting room assistant manager Debbi Reed. (G. Hamill photo)

completed nearly three years of rigorous training to qualify as a Special Forces medic.

Willie was assigned to a National Guard SF unit at Fort Lewis, Wash., and the couple moved cross-country a second time. "We moved to Washington and we were literally homeless, because we had two dogs and we couldn't find a place to live," said Robin. "So, we were living at the KOA in Cashmere, Washington. My childhood pastor happened to live there, so we oscillated between living upstairs at his house and the KOA."

Fortunately, the couple didn't have to endure the unsatisfactory accommodations for long.

down and find a place where I wanted to live. We started getting business-minded."

A major life event made the change more urgent when Willie and Robin welcomed daughters Josie and Ruby to the family in 2005 and 2006. "We started having kids, and that really changed our perspective on being able to fly around everywhere and work anywhere we wanted," said Robin. "It changed our perspective on whether Willie wanted his summers for the family or for the Forest Service."

"At the beginning of our entrepreneur phase, we thought about raising goats, outfitting, porta-potties, all kinds of ideas,



Willie Blazer had an old dump truck that he converted into a decoration for outside Willie's Distillery. The Willie's company emblem seen on the door of the truck is derived from Robin Blazer's family farm brand. (G. Hamill photo)

Unfortunately, Willie's SF unit was deployed to Afghanistan, and Robin moved back home to Montana.

Willie served a tour in Afghanistan and, after he returned, worked as a wildland firefighter, including a year as a smoke-jumper in 2005. Between 2004 and 2011, Willie also worked as a contractor for the U.S. government, providing technical expertise in counter-terrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Naturally, the Blazer's family life suffered with Willie's frequent overseas trips and summers away from home fighting fires. Starting about 2006, after Willie's contractor job sent him to Louisiana for several weeks

even cowboy coffins," Robin added. "Every idea we had, I'd write up a one-or-two-page business plan. I've got a whole file folder full of them."

"We started looking at brewing; we'd always made our own beer," said Willie. "I grew up around homemade brandy and whiskey and moonshine. Grandpa played around with it. It's more common in North Carolina. I can't say I grew up making it, but you understand how it's made; you understand if it's good or bad and what it's made of. There's still a lot of people out West who don't know what moonshine is. Everybody back there does."

Willie noted many Montana "shine" stills operated in mining

with just one helper for the first six months, initially making brandy and moonshine. They hired a distiller, Terry Barsness, in 2013, who learned on the job, just like Willie and Robin. Barsness said making liquor is a science and an art. "You've got to have good grains and be patient and things will pay off," he said. "The art is just kind of being imaginative and coming up with different flavors and ingredients you want to try and play around with it, tweak it and get it right."

Denie Amberson is the office manager and jack-of-all trades at Willie's. "I absolutely love it," she said. "Willie and Robin are the greatest people to work for. I have learned so much more about whiskey than I ever thought I would."

Robin and Willie's backgrounds prepared them well for operating a small business.

"Just growing up with a strong work ethic and working on awesome teams helped me," said Willie. "I worked for some great managers, whether it was in the Forest Service or the military, and you learn from that. Sometimes, it might not be the greatest leader or manager, but you learn from that too. But I've had awesome leadership examples throughout my life."

"Plenty of times, we could have given up and quit - and other people would have. That competition and that drive, like the Outlaw Josey Wales, the spirit to persevere, that's always stuck in my head. Just like Ranger School - we're too stubborn to quit."

"I grew up on a third-generation family farm," said Robin. "I didn't realize it at the time, but a family farm is a small business. My parents worked together all the time and we hired people to get jobs done. My grandparents lived nearby and we all worked together. I really learned there are jobs to be done and it doesn't matter who does it - it just needs to be done. I was up on combines with my sister when I was seven or eight because it had to be done. We were all a big team."

YEAR IN REVIEW: *News*

Continued...

EXPANDING THE MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

After Great West Engineering completed a floodplains survey, members of the Madison County Fair Board made a list of priority projects to expand the fairgrounds. Craig Erickson with GWE said the floodplain survey determined flood elevations and FEMA do not allow new construction to be built within a 100 year flood area. The majority of the fairgrounds sit within a 100 year flood area and all new construction would need to take place west of the grandstands or the elevation raised. The board determined improvements to the hog barn, an indoor arena and campground improvements and shower facilities were the top four projects to consider first. (C. AVEY PHOTO)



LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

The Thompson-Hickman Library in Virginia City was named the 2017 Montana Library of the Year by the Montana Library Association. The library, originally built in 1918 and completed in 1923, has become a beacon for the county. With a new addition in 2016, the library is home to the Dick Pace Archives and offers children's programs, summer reading programs, movie and yoga nights and community space. (C. AVEY PHOTO)

BRUCELLOSIS DETECTED IN MADISON COUNTY

According to a release from the Montana Department of Livestock, brucellosis was detected in a Madison Valley cattle herd on Aug. 24. Brucellosis is a contagious bacterial infection that can be found in domestic animals and wild-life. The disease results in miscarriages or aborting of fetuses in pregnant animals and can cause undulant fever in humans. Once detected, the herd was placed under quarantine until all rounds of testing returned negative. (C. AVEY PHOTO)

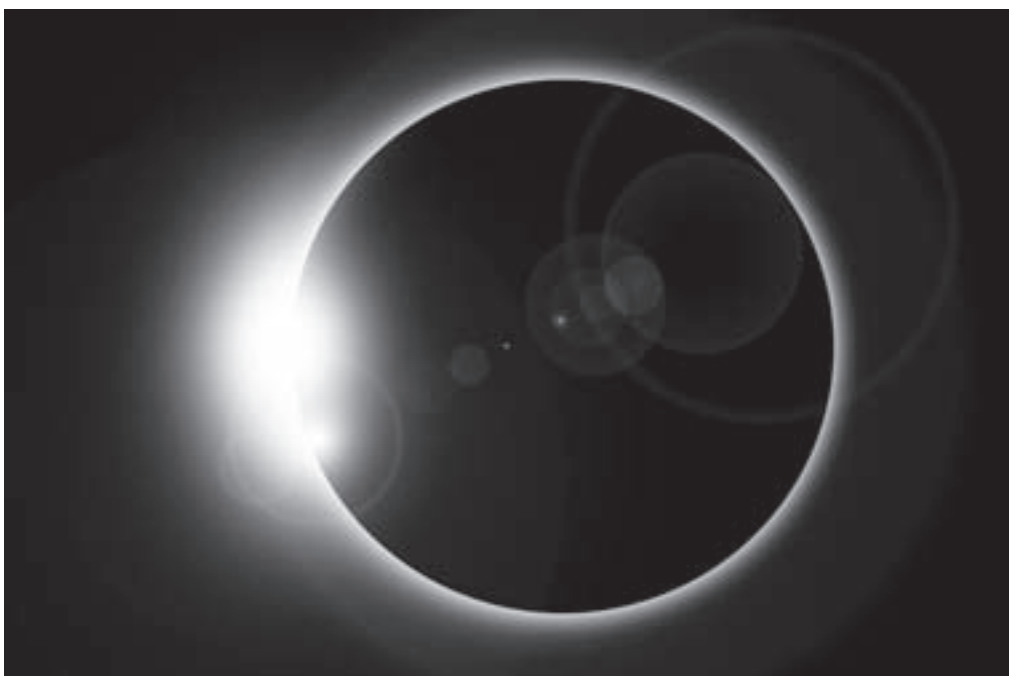


BAUSCH PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

Jason Bausch of Ennis pleaded guilty to federal charges of illegal possession of devices used to convert rifles into machine guns on March 23. Bausch was indicted of illegal possession of a machine gun and possession of an unregistered firearm, after police located gun parts used to convert AR-15 rifles to automatics, or auto sears. He was sentenced to one year, six months imprisonment with a three-year supervised release. Bausch was arrested in July 2016 by the Madison County Sheriff's Office after a woman reported she was being held hostage at Bausch's residence on Ennis Lake. In Madison County, Bausch was charged with three counts partner or family member assault, one count intimidation, one count theft and one count resisting arrest.

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Ennis resident Janet Dochnahl and Ruby Valley couple Steve and Jenny Wood were honored by the Madison County conservation districts for their dedication to the land in April. The Woods own and operate a ranch in the Ruby Valley and have instilled conservation practices into their everyday operations, including teaching their cattle to graze on weeds. Dochnahl was honored for her dedication to conserving the landscape through educating local students. She helped to found Madison Farm to Fork, which promotes local agriculture and sustainability, and helped introduce a farm to school initiative known as the GROWW program. (C. AVEY PHOTO)



SOLAR ECLIPSE

While not in the path of totality, Madison County residents were treated to a 95 percent coverage of the solar eclipse on Aug. 21. An eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and earth. In totality, an eclipse blocks the entire sun, leaving just the corona, an aura of plasma surrounding the sun, visible.

OPINION

The Madisonian.

Established in 1873

(USPS 325-340)

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ENNIS, MONTANA

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The Madisonian encourages the opinions of readers on public issues and matters of local concern. Letters must be close to 350 words, and author may only submit twice monthly. Please include the writer's name, address and phone number. *The Madisonian* reserves the right to edit

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NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE

5 p.m. - Friday

Any ads accepted after the Friday deadline of 5 p.m. will be charged a \$25 late fee.

School funding shortfalls

Dear Editor,

Referring to information in your two different articles on this topic I have to say Kudos to Jeff Welborn and others in Helena who voted 'no' to raising taxes for school funding shortfalls! Mr. Welborn is quoted as saying "in tight times, everyone should live within their means". Yeah Jeff! Individuals don't have the option of asking for more money every time things get tight. Also, Kudos also to whomever it was in the 80's that put some Twin Bridges money aside for 'a rainy day'! Has this NOT been done at other times during the three-plus decades since? If not, why not? There have been 'boom times' between then and now during which schools should have continued to do likewise. Instead it seems schools implemented more and more extra programs and luxuries (which we now consider necessities) when times were good. In a recent school bulletin, Twin Bridges indicated they are down in student numbers, hence also in numbers based federal funding. As opposed to going to the county property owners who already bear the brunt of this burden, perhaps it is time to seriously consider consolidating the Twin Bridges and Sheridan schools. One could be the high school and one the elementary. This would allow for the smaller classes in each to be combined into one larger class eliminating a lot of redundant expenses. They are only about eight miles apart. I'm sure there are a lot of tax payers in Twin and Sheridan who agree with this idea, but are too afraid to speak up, therefore I decided to start the discussion here.

Sincerely,
Lois Bush
Twin Bridges

COMMUNITY NEWS

Madison County democrats to meet

SUBMITTED BY IAN ROOT

The Madison County Democratic Central Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Sat., Jan. 13 at the Thompson-Hickman Library in Virginia City at 10 a.m. The main topics to be discussed will be electing a Democrat to H.D. 71, the 2016 election, and a round-table talk about our U.S. House candidates, and other topics. All Democrats welcome. Call Ian Root at 682-3151 for info.

OBITUARIES

Delores Theresa Nicholls

June 21, 1939 - December 28, 2017



On December 28, 2017, God called home another one of his angels, Delores Theresa Nicholls. She was a dedicated

mother, loving grandmother, proud great-grandmother, aunt, sister and wonderful friend.

Delores was born to Gus and Genevieve Lueck on June 21, 1939 in Sheridan, Mont. She was the youngest of three children. Being raised on a cattle ranch, Delores was raised to love animals, especially her hawk Henry who would fly down to meet her at the gate after school every day and her horse Ace, who, against her dad's wishes, she would race home when knew she would be late for curfew. Delores attended school in Sheridan and graduated from Sheridan High School in 1957. She fondly listened to the "Class

of '57" by the Statler Brothers because she said it was like they were singing about her class. Not many knew it, but in her younger years, she followed her brother Babe's footsteps in loving fast and classic cars. If it was a two door and a manual, it was her favorite. She could drive and drive well, and would often race stop light to stop light in Butte. The faster and more powerful the car, the better! She also loved to bowl, and was on the bowling league in Sheridan for many years.

Delores married Jim Nicholls in September 1959. Together they had two children, Lori and Tim. She was known for her dedication to her children, especially when Lori was in a car accident just out of high school and became paralyzed. Delores was the sole care provider for Lori for almost 40 years. She loved her children and her grandchildren and was especially proud of her great-grandson Trey. She will be fondly remembered for her love of cooking and baking

for others, her meticulous and colorful flowerbeds and her love of a good pot of coffee.

Delores is preceded in death by her parents, Gus and Genevieve; her brother, Kenneth "Babe" Lueck; her sister, Geraldine Hertzog; grandson, James Nicholls; and life partner, Dell White.

She is survived by her daughter, Lori; her son, Tim; granddaughter, Jess Farrand (Will); great-grandson, Trey Farrand; friends, Dean and Gail Leary; Cal Ward; Lissa Stewart; Camille Jacobson and many other friends and family.

As per her request, there will be no services. Delores was never one to like being the center of attention and preferred it to stay that way. Instead, the next time you drink a good cup of coffee, raise a cup to her. We all know she will be smiling.

"She was one of the rare ones, so effortlessly herself, and the world loved her for it." - Atticus.

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YEAR IN REVIEW: *Sports*

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com

Madison County stars shone brightly in 2017. Everything from making the top 10 at state cross country to a state volleyball title - student athletes achieved impressive accomplishments. Here's a look back at some of the sports year's top moments.

BASKETBALL

The Twin Bridges Lady Falcons swept both the district and divisional basketball tournaments last season. The girls finished their season with just one loss, at the hands of the Belt Huskies at the state tournament.

After losing both regular season games to the Mustangs, the Falcon boys got payback at the district tournament. The team upset the number-one-seeded Mustangs and took the top seed in the 12C divisional tournament.



(PHOTOS COURTESY LORI HARSHBARGER)

GOLF

The Ennis Mustangs, with the only golf team in Madison County, sent six athletes to the state golf meet in Seeley Swan on May 25. On the boys' side, Charlie Gilmore, pictured, finished 21st. Paige Anderson took the 20th spot in the girls' tournament.

(PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS MCCOWN)



TRACK

The Ennis Mustangs boys' track team took the state title at the Class C state track meet on May 27. The team consisted of Corbin and Tanner Wood, Ty Morgan, Austin Baum and Dillon Williams. Jourdain Klein of the Lady Mustangs defended her state title in the high jump.

The Lady Falcons saw great success in sprinting and hurdling as Kailee Oliverson placed first in both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles, while Megan Bausch took third in the 400 meter dash. Sheridan's Janie Smart placed fifth in the shot put; and Riain Deavel finished seventh in the 3200 meter run. Harrison runner Derik DeFrance took third in the 1600 meter run. (PHOTO COURTESY WENDY MCKITRICK)



CROSS COUNTRY

All four Madison County schools had athletes participate at the state cross country meet in Helena, Oct. 26. Sheridan's Riain Deavel and Luke Dvorak, along with Harrison's Derik DeFrance all placed in the top 15. Twin Bridges' Savanna Stewart finished 10th overall. (C. AVEY PHOTOS)



VOLLEYBALL

It was the Mustangs that commanded the volleyball court this season. The Lady Mustangs had a perfect season and took the district, divisional and state titles. Head coach Betty Klein also received the Class C Coach of the Year award. (PHOTO COURTESY WENDY MCKITRICK)

FOOTBALL

After a state title last season, the Mustangs 2017 season ended with a 38-50 semifinal loss to Forsyth. Co-op Whitehall/Harrison football team saw a successful season in class B, but lost out in the quarterfinals to Shelby. Of note this year, the Montana High School Association realigned divisions, once again pitting the Ennis Mustangs and the Twin Bridges Falcons against each other in the upcoming 2018 season. (PHOTO COURTESY BARBI HALVERSON)



YEAR IN REVIEW:

News continued...



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BEAR ATTACK IN SOUTH GRAVELLY'S

A grizzly bear feeding on an elk carcass charged a bow hunter over Labor Day weekend. The hunter, Tom Sommer, was in Cascade Creek in the south end of the Gravelly Range, when he and a hunting partner encountered the bear. According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Information Bureau Chief Greg Lemon, the hunters shouted, "hey bear" in an attempt to turn him away. The bear charged and only one hunter was able to deploy his bear spray. Sommer suffered non-life threatening injuries and received 90 stitches. (MAP COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS)



RUBY VALLEY HOSPITAL BEGINS CONSTRUCTION, TAKES OVER AMBULANCE

After ground-breaking of the new Ruby Valley Hospital in the fall of 2016, construction of the facility officially started this spring. The new hospital is funded through a \$9.95 million U.S. Department of Agriculture loan and \$2.5 million in contributions. The hospital is expected to be completed by summer of 2018. The RVH officially took over the Ruby Valley Ambulance on Aug. 18, after the volunteer department struggled to find volunteers. The exchange resulted in a paid ambulance department with four paramedics and nine EMTs. (PHOTO COURTESY RUBY VALLEY HOSPITAL)



ECE WINTER 2018 Classes

8 WEEK SESSION: JANUARY 15TH-MARCH 8TH
REGISTRATION BEGINS: JANUARY 2ND, 2018

- **Yoga for Athletes** | Monday & Wednesdays | 6am - 7am | Cori Koenig | Commons Room
 - **Open Sewing & Quilting** | Monday's | 4pm-7pm | Jamie Diehl/Kathy Olkowski | High School Rm #6 | Maximum of 10 students
 - **Taic Carving for Beginners** | Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00-8:00pm | Richard Flager | High School Shop | Materials Fee TBA | Beginning January 22nd
 - **Introduction to Amateur Astronomy: Observing the Northern Winter Constellations using Binoculars and Telescopes** | Mondays | 7pm-9pm | Larry & Lonie Swenson | High School Rm #5 | Materials Fee \$25 | Maximum of 8 students
 - **Early Bird Yoga** | Tuesday & Thursdays | 6am-7am | Cori Koenig | Commons Room
 - **Legendary Big Foot** | Tuesdays | 5pm-8pm | Kathy Olkowski & Lexie Brundin | High School Rm #6 | Materials to be purchased by the student | Maximum of 8 students
 - **Piloxing/Barre Class** | Tuesdays | 5:15 pm-6:15 pm | Vicki Richardson | Upper deck of Library | Materials Fee TBD, \$20-\$25
 - **Beginning Welding** | Tuesdays & Thursdays | 6pm-9pm | Charlie Zitting | High School Shop | Materials Fee \$40 | Maximum of 8 students
 - **Beginning Leatherworking** | Tuesdays | 7pm-9pm | Wade Miller | HS Room #3 | Materials Fee Depends on Project Chosen
 - **Fly Tying** | Wednesdays | 6pm-8pm | John Way & Bill Denuyter | Room #12 | Maximum of 8 students
 - **Conservation Concepts in the Madison Valley** | Wednesdays | 6-8pm | Multipurpose Room Partnering with Madison Conservation District and Madison Valley Ranchlands & Weed Committee to present individual workshops/lectures regarding natural resources issues. Come to one, several, or all! \$5 per class, includes dinner. RSVP to ethan@madisoncd.org or 682-7289 by Monday, at noon each week.
 - January 17th: **Understanding Chronic Wasting Disease**
 - January 24th: **Improving your small pasture**
 - January 31st: **The art and science of Composting**
 - February 7th: **Back to our roots: improving soil health**
 - February 21st: **Innovations in Irrigation Management**
 - February 28th: **Conservation Tree Plantings**
 - March 7th: **Protecting and promoting pollinator habitat**
 - March 14th **Noxious Weeds: Understanding and Managing Invasive Transplants**
 - **Knitting 101** | Thursdays | 5-8pm | Emily Hayes | High School Rm #6 | Maximum of 12 students
 - **Wet on Wet Landscape Painting** | Thursdays | 7-9pm | Jack Finley | Ennis HS Art Room | Materials Fee Approximately \$140 | Students must sign up and pay by January 8 to ensure supplies! | Maximum of 6 students
 - **Line Dancing** | Thursdays | 7-9pm | Melissa Unger | Commons Room
 - **Lapidary** | Mondays | 5:30- 8:00 pm | Russell Scruggs | High School Rm #4
- All classes \$20 plus any additional material fees noted *unless noted differently*

Workshops

- **The Felling Duo Shawl-Making Workshop** | Saturday, January 27th 9am-3pm | Jenn Doney & Gail Barnat | HS Art Room | Materials Fee TBA, \$50-\$75
 Wool Lovers- come join us for a Workshop Day of Fun and Creativity. Make a large hand crafted full length Designer Shawl with local curly fleece. Choose a color base to work with. Finished Shawl to wear for formal occasion or with your best blue jeans. Gail and Jen have enjoyed teaming up for a couple of years sharing skills and enthusiastic love of design. Must sign up and pay by Friday, January 12th to reserve your spot!
- **Feed A Bird: A Guide to Bird Feeding and Bird Feeders** | Monday, January 29th 6:30-8:30pm | Marc Elser | HS Room #5 | \$10

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OTTER ONSLAUGHT

While training for a triathlon while on vacation at Cliff Lake over the Fourth of July holiday, Washington resident Stew Larsen was bitten by a river otter. Larsen, a competitive triathlete, was completing a 1,600-meter swim when he stopped to see an otter watching in the distance. Continuing on, Larsen crossed the same otter and was again bitten on the return swim. Larsen said the otter bit through his neoprene wetsuit and broke skin on his thigh. (PHOTO COURTESY STEW LARSEN)



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BROADWATER DEPUTY KILLED AFTER HIGH SPEED CHASE

Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 16 near Three Forks. Moore was in pursuit of a speeding vehicle on U.S. Highway 287, which resulted in a 100 mile chase and shoot out.

Madison County Sheriff's Deputies and Sheriff Roger Thompson attended the memorial, saying their awareness had been raised after the incident in the neighboring county. "This hits a little close to home," said Thompson after Moore's death.



GRIZZLY BEARS DELISTED AFTER 42 YEARS

On June 23, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced grizzly bears would be delisted in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The species was originally placed on the endangered species list in 1975.

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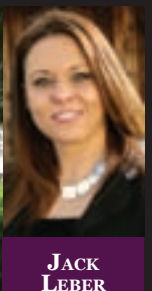
SAC HOTEL WINTER HOURS

Lodging at the Hotel and Pompey's Grill will be closed Jan. 1 - 12, 2018. The Sac Bar will remain open!

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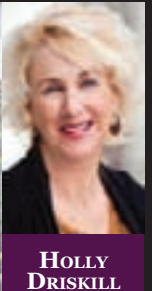
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117 MILL STREET | SHERIDAN
\$250,000 | #310852 | COMMERCIAL
Great investment opportunity! The Ruby Valley is in desperate need of additional rental properties. Why not let someone else pay off your property? This would make an excellent monthly or weekly rental. Currently owner occupied, but estimated rental value is approximately \$800/floor per month. Or \$150-\$200/night per floor. Call today for a showing!

RUBY ROCK SUBDIVISION | SHERIDAN
STARTING AT \$29,000 | LAND
New listings! Two perfect lots—2.12+/- acres & 1.03+/- acres that are located in the well-designed Ruby Rock Subdivision, which allows for manufactured and modular housing. There are site preparation services available (foundation, septic, etc.) There are many other lots to choose from!



404 EAST IDAHO, VIRGINIA CITY
\$399,900 | #220171 | VICTORIAN
The Elling House is a spacious 3,950+/-sf with 4 Bd of historic uniqueness that overlooks the wonderful town of Virginia City. Historic outbuildings are also a part of this 1+ acre lot & a portion of the home has been restored inside & out to its original beauty. Possibilities are endless with this beautiful home!

134 ANTELOPE MEADOWS ROAD, ENNIS
\$629,000 | #219917 | PRICE REDUCED
Large custom 5 Bd, 3 Ba home with forever unobstructed Madison Mountain views. Open floor plan, 7+ acres of elbow room, 2 attached garages (one with workbenches, a perfect shop), bonus room office, huge master suite, barn wood accents, large family room & so much more! This home has it all!



347 SHINING MOUNTAINS LOOP ROAD, ENNIS
\$349,900 | #301317 | NEWLY CONSTRUCTED
This great 3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1667+/-sf home is just minutes from the beautiful Madison River & borders the fish hatchery. It has an open floor plan & covered patio to take in the views of the Madison Range. Access to trout stocked Haypress Lakes, BLM, & Forest Service. Listing agent is part owner of home.

LOT 10 JEFFERSON STREET, ENNIS
\$49,000 | #300857 | BUILDING LOT
Super nice building lot on an elevated bench with spectacular views of the Madison Range and just minutes to downtown Ennis. A great opportunity to build your full or part-time home on this property only minutes from the Madison River and close to lots of recreational opportunities!

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday
 Sunny. High 36F. Winds light and variable.

Friday
 Mostly cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 38F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday
 Occasional snow showers mixing with rain in the afternoon. High 37F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precip 50%.

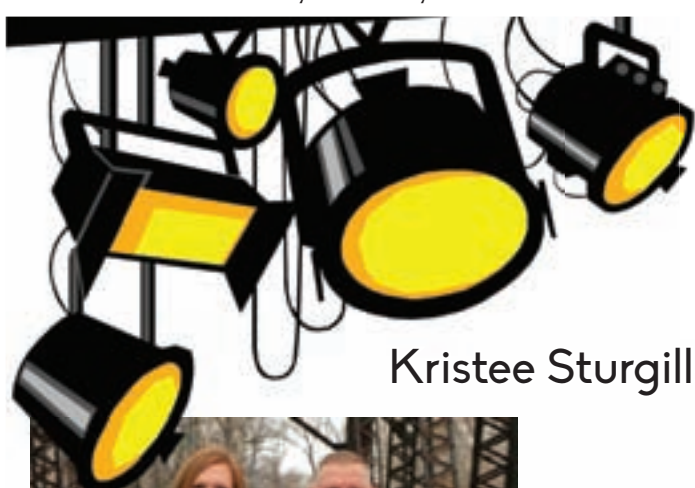
Sunday
 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 29F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday
 Some sun in the morning with increasing clouds during the afternoon. High 31F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Quote of the Week:

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."

- Buddha



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kristee Sturgill: Giving back by reviving Cub Scouts

CATLIN AVEY
 news@madisoniannews.com



After moving to the Madison Valley in April, Kristee Sturgill was surprised to learn there was not an active Boy Scout or Cub Scout program.

"We moved from Bozeman and my son was in a program there and we just assumed Ennis would have one," Sturgill said. "When we saw it didn't, he was sad and I went in right away to figure out how we could bring one to Ennis."

Sturgill started a Cub Scouts program in November, which already has 15 active members. The program is open to boys in kindergarten through third grade, and Sturgill hopes to eventually be able to offer more as the program grows.

"I was really surprised at how quick the community was to help," she said. Sturgill is the Cub Master for the program and has four den leaders assisting her, as well as a slew of community members that help to

oversee budgeting and fundraising events. "I think in small communities, what we have is limited and, if people have the willingness to help with programs, we can create more opportunities to expose our kids to."

Sturgill wants both her children to learn lessons and develop traits that will benefit them - and their community - in the future. "I want both my children to learn to be kind and caring and considerate and Cub Scouts helps to instill that," she said.

The Ennis Cub Scouts is not currently open to girls, but Sturgill hopes to one day have the resources to start a girls' Cub Scout program. "In order to offer to girls, you have to have separate dens and we do have girls that come to the meetings with their families, but we just don't have the resources right now to offer that," she said. "And we've got a really active Girl Scout troop in the community right now."

Although she started the program to keep her son active, Sturgill gets a lot out of the program too. "I really enjoy it," she said. "I'm helping to do something great for the kids but I have a ton of fun."

Sturgill is currently teaching the new scouts their oath, law, salute and hand shake. "We're also getting ready for derby cars," she said. "We're hoping to do that as a community event, so it should be a lot of fun."

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YEAR IN REVIEW: *Features*

Over the year, *The Madisonian* has been granted the ability to tell some amazing stories within our community. From stories of hope in unlikely places, to grizzly bear survivor tales and rodeo tours, here's a quick look back at some of our favorites from 2017.

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com



SURVIVING THE ATTACKS

Todd Orr, who faced a sow grizzly encounter twice in one morning, tells his tale

It was the grizzly attack seen around the world. Todd Orr, Ennis native and current resident of Bozeman, was scouting hunting spots on Oct. 2, 2016 in the Madison Valley when he was attacked by a sow grizzly bear – twice.

"I heard this noise over my left shoulder and I looked back and the bear was charging at me, about 35 or 40 yards away," Orr said. "I grabbed the spray and clicked off the cap and started spraying – it all happened in a matter of seconds."

Orr remembers the first bite as the grizzly's canines dug an inch deep into his arm, calling it excruciating. The 30-second attack left a half-dozen bite marks on his right shoulder. The second attack was much more aggressive.

After checking his wounds, Orr headed back toward the North Fork Bear Creek Trailhead. Thinking the bear had redirected the opposite direction, Orr ran into the sow grizzly nearly 10 minutes later.

"The power she had as she was picking me up and slamming me down was amazing," he said. "That's when the fear hit me and I thought I was going to die."

The bear bit Orr 20 to 30 more times in the second attack leaving him with lacerations to his scalp, ripped tendons and chipped bones. He hiked 45 minutes out after the second attack, posted a note of a bear encounter at the trailhead, shot a quick video and headed for the Madison Valley Medical Center.

After two attacks and a viral video, Orr was back to work two and a half months later.

*Feb. 16, 2017 edition of *The Madisonian*



'A FINE EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP'

Pony man receives prestigious honors from VFW as district commander

Brian Rumsey served in the United States Air Force from 1966-1969 and served overseas in southeast Asia, where he worked as a weapon's loader.

"The draft was breathing down my neck and I thought if I enlisted, I could at least attempt to determine my fate," he said.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War, Rumsey holds no hard feelings. Instead he holds his head high and gives back to the veterans who have also sacrificed so much.

"Freedom was not free," he said.

He first joined the Pony Post #3831 in 2005, but has been a part of the Pony community since 1994. He has served as the district commander for one of 14 Montana district Posts for one year, having just been reelected. Along with his re-election as district commander, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognized Rumsey as an All-American Commander.

"The All-American Commanders have attained this coveted title through outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in VFW programs," said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy in a press release. "They are a fine example of VFW leadership. Their hard work and dedication to the mission and values of our organization has rightly earned them this great honor."

Rumsey is one of only 64 other district commanders to earn the title.

*July 27, 2017 edition of *The Madisonian*

'13 REASONS WHY NOT'

Sheridan student is spreading the love - education about suicide

Did you know that Madison County has one of the top 10 highest rates of suicide in the state? Did you know that suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-44, and the eighth leading cause of death overall?

Through her '13 reasons why not' campaign, Devany Davidson, a Sheridan seventh grader, is shedding some light on suicide prevention and changing the way people view and talk about suicide.

"I just wanted to do something different and something new," said Davidson, who started the project through her Family, Career and Community Leaders of America group at school, which coincides with September being suicide prevention month. "It happens more than you think and more than it should and I wanted to find a way to honor those that have been lost or tempted."

Davidson presented her project idea to her fellow FCCLA members, which she said, "opened their eyes" to the importance of prevention. Aside from making posters, Davidson recited a poem about suicide awareness at various athletic events and shared facts with classmates. On her posters, Davidson posted the number to the suicide hotline, hoping that someone struggling might be inclined to call. Just having someone to talk to can make all the difference.

*Sept. 28, 2017 edition of *The Madisonian*



A CHANCE AT FINALS

Ennis Junior High rodeo champ tops Montana scoreboard, heads to national stage

Chance Story attended the National Junior High Finals Rodeo in Lebanon, Tenn., after placing in the top four at the state meet last spring. The freshman has been on the rodeo circuit since he was young and now competes in breakaway roping, chute dogging, tie down and .22 rifle shooting.

"I rodeo'd when I was little and my parents rodeo on the ranch," Story said of how he took to the sport.

Story competed against 1,000 of the best rodeo kids from North America and Australia this past summer and had the whole family cheering him on.

*June 15, 2017 edition of *The Madisonian*



STANDING WITH STANDING ROCK

Madison Valley residents travel to North Dakota to join peace movement

The Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation is home to Dakota and Lakota people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and throughout history have lived and governed throughout North and South Dakota and parts of Montana, Wyoming, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota.

In July 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted the authorization of the Dakota Access Pipeline, an 1,100-mile pipeline carrying crude oil across four states, crossing traditional and ancestral lands and sacred burial spots to the tribe.

On Dec. 3, 2016, Ennis residents Jonathan Klein, Gene Hardin and Jay Fredericks left to join the protests and peace movements in camp Oceti Sakowin. They took with them winter clothes, sleeping bags, firewood, hand and foot warmers, hay and other supplies, and monetary donations from residents around the valley.

"There is so much power in people," Klein said of the experience, adding the protest was more than just a protest against a pipeline. It was a vector for people to come together, to mobilize and to bring pride and positivity to their people and their way of life.

*Jan. 12, 2017 edition of *The Madisonian*



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fitness FRONT

by
Karen
Robiscoe

Hydration

Hitting the gym. The track. The links, or the courts, we do it because we want to gain muscle, and lose fat, but what else do we lose when working out? Our energy stores are depleted, and our bodies excrete fluids through perspiration. We need to replace those fluids, and refuel our muscles, too. Lately, though, the range of sport beverages has exploded. So which is the healthiest choice for you?

First let's look at the energy strenuous activity exacts from your body. It's tempting to get that extra oomph by taking a pre-workout supplement prior to exercising. While pre-workouts spiked with creatine, l-arginine, and beta alanine (that boost energy level, increase blood flow to the muscles, and reduce lactic acid, respectively) definitely increase performance, the stimulants many of these pre-workouts also contain cancels out the benefits. "I'm not keen on them due to the yoyo effect on overall energy level. Hype supplements are fine for short term bursts of energy, and may temporarily improve performance, but everything has a price." Mark Ashtiani said, an orthopedic medical provider, and former competitor in several bodybuilding competitions, including NPC's renowned Excalibur. "I rely on several small, healthy meals per day, adequate hydration with filtered water, and at least 7 hours of sleep to maintain a steady energy level. The quick fix is usually the road to avoid."

With doses of caffeine often triple that of a cup of coffee—an ergogenic that enhances output if consumed 20 minutes prior to workout—and unregulated herbal stimulants such as taurine, koala nut, guarana, dimethylamylamine (DMAA for short) added to many of these pre-workouts, you're asking for trouble. Putting extra stress on an already hard-working heart by elevating blood pressure, and giving you the jitters, nausea, headaches, heart palpitations.... or worse. What's more, the carbohydrates found in many of these products are heavy on sugars, both sucrose and high fructose corn syrup, leading to metabolic syndrome by spiking the amount of insulin you produce.

Next, let's look at what sweat is. Though human sweat varies in composition, it generally contains trace amounts of minerals, lactic acid, and urea—a bi-product of protein breakdown. When you perspire important electrolytes such as potassium, sodium, and chloride are lost, and since these electrolytes transmit electrical

impulses between cells to help cells communicate with each other, they need to be replaced, too—which brings us to another category of sports drinks: electrolyte enhanced beverages. Gatorade once dominated this niche market, but its high sugar and sodium content are counter-intuitive, and can be harmful if you don't sweat out the salt. A 12 oz. serving of Gatorade contains 21g of sugar, and 160 mg of sodium, but the average bottle size is 32 ounces, flooding drinkers with 54 grams of sugar, and 425 mg of sodium if they drink it all (and many do). Though a pound of sweat reduces sodium levels in the body by 500mg, it's easy to overestimate the amount of perspiration expended, and you must factor in the sodium content in the foods you eat, as well. The ideal limit to sodium is just 1500-2000mg per day.

There's no question muscles need protein to repair and rebuild after a hard workout. Optimally consumed within an hour after hitting the showers, ingesting about 20 mg of protein is best, and can be consumed in a variety of ways. Or should I say wheys. Protein drinks like Bone Broth and whey powder have grown in popularity, and they, more than others, live up to the hype. Bone Broth is high in minerals like calcium, magnesium, and potassium, supplying the electrolytes working out depletes, and a good chunk of protein, too. Biltmore security officer Ryan Gosselin prefers Isopure, a low-carb protein powder to meet his post workout needs. "It gives me extra protein for rebuilding muscles. I go to the gym about 5x a week, and play basketball, too, and I definitely notice my energy is better when I drink the supplement." An impressive 6'8 and 250 lbs, his words carry weight. Maybe not as much as the 225 lbs he favors for bench, flies, and curls, but even so.

Whey powder is a good choice, also. An easily absorbed milk protein that contains all the essential amino acids (EAAs) you need but can't produce. Of those 9 EAAs, the branched amino acids: leucine, isoleucine, and valine are relevant here. These branched amino acids encourage protein synthesis that heals the microscopic tears a heavy workout produces. Available in unsweetened, unflavored forms, with some containing small amounts of the electrolytes lost in sweat, it can be added to your post workout beverage of choice.

"I don't go for the pre workout, high stimulant stuff. I don't

put my money into it. I drink a little coffee now and then, and that's all." yoga instructor, Mike Lewis told me. "About an hour or two before I teach a class, I'll eat a half a banana. Or have a protein shake I make with whey powder, but the first thing in my belly in the morning is a tall drink of water."

My personal go-to before, during, and after. One that the American Council of Exercise advocates, too. According to the Council, it's best to hydrate with 20 ounces of water two to three hours before exercising, and an additional 8 ounces a half hour prior to your workout. Replace the water you sweat out every 20 minutes with 8-10 ounces during your activity, followed up with another 8 ounces within 30 minutes of cessation. It might seem like a lot of water, but as you can excrete up to 2 lbs of sweat per hour during vigorous activity, it's all about perspective. Rene Lomeli, a native Santa Barbaran, is like-minded: "In my job as a valet, I do a lot of running, and I usually drink a big bottle of Dasani water per shift—sometimes two," indicating the 1.5 liter bottle of Dasani water on hand, the hiker, cyclist and gym devotee told me he just refills it with filtered water from his tap. A practice espoused by retired Special-Ed teacher K. Brendi Poppel. "I've never even tried any sports beverages—pre-workouts, protein supplements, or ades. Even last week when they were offering it for free at the store, I skipped it. I drink filtered water."

There's your pie-slice consensus. Plenty of water, a nutritious diet, and occasional protein drink are the best and purest course for keeping your body fit.



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COLUMNS



This, OUR VALLEY:

By Reverend Keith Axberg

The Personal Assistant

"You're going to have a hard time in life if you let every little mistake bother you. Life is good. Enjoy it."

M.O. Walsh,
My Sunshine Away

Christmas is over. Well, not really. The tree is still up and will be until the 6th of January. The twelve days of Christmas end then. But psychologically and culturally, the feast really ended at sundown Christmas day.

The outside lights are still up, but they don't seem to twinkle quite as festively as they did in the nights leading up to Christmas. The wreaths continue to hang but seem a bit gray and tired – sort of like those who put them up in the first place. The stockings are droopy, having been dumped and emptied at the sound of Gabriel's horn on Christmas morn.



Rev. Keith Axberg

Yep. Christmas is over. We didn't get as much meat off the lamb as we usually would off a turkey, so the leftovers were pretty skimpy. The taters and rolls got scarfed down and about all we had left was the pink fluff we make for our holiday meal. It's mighty tasty, so I'm always glad to see a double-batch thrown together for the family supper. But still, there wasn't enough to last us even to the Five Golden Rings day of the season!

However, while the day itself may be done, finished, and caput, some parts of the holiday will live on for a long, long time because this year one of my true loves gave to me – a Personal Assistant!

It is one of those voice activated devices you set up to make life more convenient, which is a good thing, for there is nothing more inconvenient than living. For one thing, there's eating, breathing, and all sorts of biological minutia in which one has to engage if one is going to be considered alive. That's mighty inconvenient, as I've taken nicely to being a quiet lump on the couch staying out of everyone else's way.

But now I have a Personal Assistant available at my every beck and call. "Alexa,

what's the weather?"

"The weather outside is a balmy 39 degrees. Rain is expected, so you may wish to take an umbrella with you if you go outside."

Good heavens; not only do I get a weather report, but she gives it with sass! And, to be honest, I never get tired of being told what to do when I go outside, or how to dress, or what to take with me.

She is connected to my phone; I can ask her to fill out my grocery list so when I go to the store I don't have to fumble with a paper list – trying to cross items off as we load them into the cart. Now I can just check each item off as I get it and, voila, no punching holes in lists I generally can't read anyway (with my penmanship, I really should have been a doctor).

One downside to having an electronic PA is that she is limited in some of the more practical things one might desire. For instance, she can't fetch my slippers or run out to the mail box to grab the mail. She doesn't pour coffee or bring it when I ask, and she can't do all the things she could do if we lived in a smart house (like turn on lights, open the garage, or adjust the thermostat for when we leave or return home).

Still, it is kind of nice having someone to talk to when I'm by myself, but she also fosters an eerie sense that one is not really ever alone. Her green light fades in and out as she sniffs the air for sound – yearning for a question or command.

She sometimes interrupts a private conversation, interjecting, "I'm sorry, I didn't quite get that," so we know she's listening in; eavesdropping. Should we be worried? Is Big Brother or Big Sister listening in?

The answer is, probably, and for many that could be unnerving, but her microphone can be shut off. That reduces any concern I might otherwise have. For me, she's just the newest member of the family, and that's OK.

Now, if she'd just learn to fetch my slippers and pour my coffee here in this, our valley, I'd be set for life – a happy lump.

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



NATURAL

Resource News

By Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Madison Watershed Coordinator

RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR RANCH

We've had our celebrations and parties, and maybe more than our typical share of decadence. The overindulgence is coincidentally paired with the passing of the solstice, providing us a chance to exhale and see that we've turned an important corner. The days are slowly getting longer and we face the prospects of a clean slate – a chance to take stock of what we know is working and perhaps resolve to make some change or improvement.

As people, we tend to focus our resolutions on ways to make our individual lives better – healthier eating, more exercise, kicking that bad habit that's been sticking around too long. But what about your ranch?

Are there any resolutions that might help weather the ups and downs, while making sure that you're working smarter (and not just harder)? Are there new tools or skills that you'd like to learn to use, or maybe just a different way of thinking about the same old situations? Here's our top five that you might want to put on your list:

1. Mind the monitoring: This is a great time of year to plan how you are tracking the changes on your landscape in

a recordable way. The goal is to see how your management choices are causing a response in things like plant community and forage production. Just the simple act of an annual repeat photo from the same place can indicate big changes that you might not notice when you lay eyes on the place day after day. Having this record available to flip through will always be an asset to your operation, and a tool to help you know what's working and what might need a different approach.

2. Run the numbers: Even though we might begrudge them now and again, computers can be a big help in planning for stocking rates and dates. A handy program that makes quick work of this is a basic excel file, where you can enter your own specific numbers and see what you've got for AUMs and forage availability. The nice thing about this tool is that you get a chance to play with the numbers a whole host of ways and see how the numbers change right before your eyes.

3. Have stream sense: If you've got a stream or river on your place, you know full well that it provides more than just a place for stock to water

and shelter. In our region, our limited amount of waterways means that these features are essential for a host of other critters, and they provide some important functions for others downstream too. This means that the management along the stream should balance what the stream needs as well as what the livestock needs. Finding that balance can be done by thoughtful timing of access, and with use of mineral placement and tanks.

4. Think like a kid: Specifically, your kid. Or your kids' kid. If the decisions you're making today are rooted in the idea that it will be a benefit now, as well as 25 or 50 years from now, then you're on a good track. Also remember to tell them what you're doing, why you're doing it and what you hope for when you're not around anymore.

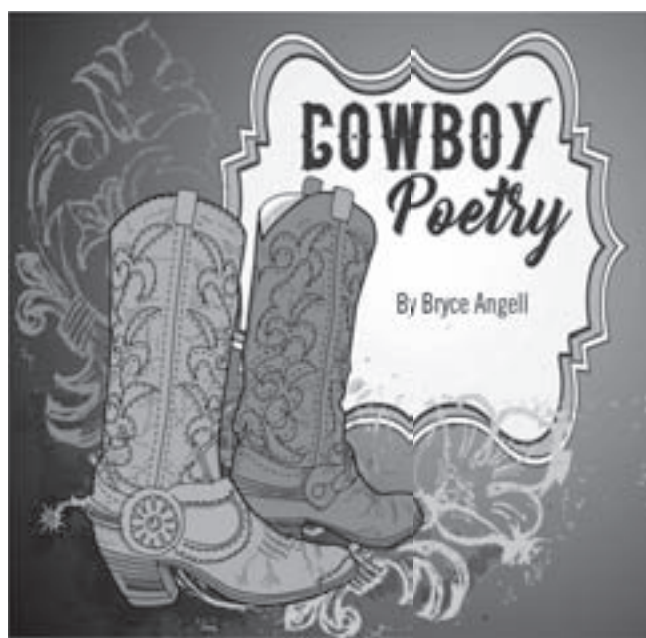
5. Stay connected and informed: Make a point to attend events that update you on industry issues and practices, and learn how new research and tools are improving the land and the bottom line. This might be the year that you want to try something new – chances are, there is someone out there who has done it already who is will-

ing to provide some guidance and advice.

Resolutions for the ranch could be these, as well as much more. But sometimes it's better to start with a short list of manageable items and really understand what it would take to do it correctly. It's good to really think what best fits your situation, and post them in a place that you'll see them often and remember to make some progress on them!

If you want to start right away with number five, plan to attend the Jan. 23 Range School where resolutions one through four will be covered in greater detail. The event will be hosted at the Madison Valley Baptist Church in Ennis, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Expert speakers will address each of these topics thoroughly, and attendees will take home helpful resources for planning and management. Registration is \$20, and includes lunch. For more information, contact Linda Owens at 682-3259 or Sunni Heikes-Knapton at 682-3181.

Happy New Year to you and your ranches – may the coming year be marked by successes and improvements for healthy and productive lands!



The smell of burning feathers, yes, a turkey's what we'd find.

I offered grace but didn't really get a chance to say, "Please bless this food, and by the way, don't let us die today." The biscuits were a golden brown, but hard and extra heavy. The turkey was so tough I bet she had to grind the gravy. I'd have to say that Edna's cooking hadn't changed a bit. 'Cuz if you were a dinner guest you had to have some grit. But one fine thing 'bout Edna, at the end of every day. She serves her turkey from a flask. "Wild Turkey" you could say.

Aunt Edna's Cooking

My Great Aunt Edna, from the Yaak, lacked culinary skills. She lived up in Montana, all alone in them, there hills. Last winter Edna sent an invitation to her kin. Her invite claimed she'd learned to cook. Was Edna sipping gin? She said she'd corresponded with a chef from Paris, France. And she'd like to serve a feast if we would give her this one chance. I cornered my physician. Would he lie and claim I'm ill? ut Doc said, "That's unethical." Should've shown him my last bill. No single other kin was going to drive to Yaak that day. My heart was feeling heavy for old Edna, in a way. I looked at Hap. He gave a bark and then he shook his head. He'd tasted Edna's table scraps. I bet Hap thought, "I'm dead!" But when a man is dying, maybe poisoned in the end. I'd say it is a privilege to go out with man's best friend. So, Hap and I drove up the Yaak. We knocked on Edna's door. She yanked us in. That's when I noticed feathers on her floor. I'm not the sharpest fellow, but a turkey came to mind.

Will Commodities Go Up or Down in 2018?

by Jerry Welch

The question raised most often in the final months of 2017 by commodity producers and traders was, "Will Commodities Go Up or Down in 2018?" In my opinion and with conviction I say, "Yes, they will!"

The question is asked because over the past 7 years, while stocks and cryptocurrencies have rallied sharply in value to all time historic highs, commodities per se have more or less been flat, a huge disappointment for ag-producers and traders. But with a New Year ahead, I am excited about the future and feel strongly that commodities are indeed headed higher or lower in 2018. And remember you heard that first from me!

Please understand that when investing or trading stocks, commodities or cryptocurrencies, there is an old Chinese

saying that should never be forgotten and practiced without hesitation. The age old Chinese saying I am referring to is, and I quote, "Or, Zng sh shyng yg tngzh." For those that forgot their Mandarin from high school or their days in college that simple old saw translated into English means, "Always use a stop."

There is no doubt in my mind that commodities will either go up or down in 2018. That is pretty much a given. However, there is nothing set in stone to suggest that there will be easy money made in such a precarious scenario. Also understand there are no guarantees when it comes to investing or trading. And that of course, reminds me of an old saying by America's most famous writer, Mark Twain who once said, "I am more concerned about

the return of my money than the return on my money." Wise words for sure!

Mr. Twain coined that phrase after losing a fortune on several investments. From Time.com, "Mark Twain was a great author—but a stupendously incompetent businessman. He lost money on an engraving process, on a magnetic telegraph, on a steam pulley, on the Fredonia Watch Company, on railroad stocks. He once turned down a chance to buy into Bell Telephone even though he had one of the nation's first residential phones. The author eventually lost so much money that in 1891 he moved the family out of their Hartford home; Twain would sell it after twenty years for about one-sixth the amount he put into it."

In 2018, since it is specula-

tive guess that commodities will either go up or down there is another saying attributed to Mr. Twain that should also be remembered. He said, "There are two times in a man's life when he can't afford to, and when he can." More wise words for sure!

An enormous pitfall in the New Year since the commodity markets are headed higher or lower is how confusing producers, end users or speculators will find themselves at various points in time. Such confusing situations was best summed up by William A. Feather, an American publisher and author that died in 1981. He once said this about the stock market, but in 2018 it may fit even more perfectly with the commodity markets. "One of the funny things about the stock market is that every time one person

buys, another sells, and both think they are astute."

As the New Year unfolds amid uncertainties, Mark Twain also urged caution about the best and worst times to invest in stocks, which in 2018 may also apply to commodities as well. He kept his opinion simple and to the point and stated, "October: This is one of the particularly dangerous months to invest in stocks. Other dangerous months are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February." Mr. Twain was storehouse of wise words!

If commodities in 2018 are, as I suspect, scheduled to go either up or down, then two the main investing rules from Mr. Warren Buffett, a gazillionaire, are well worth respecting and following. Here are Mr. Buffett's

favorite rules. "Rule 1. Never lose money. Rule 2. Never forget Rule 1." Exceptionally wise words.

Here are my two main rules for investing and trading. Rule 1. No One Knows for Sure. Rule 2. "Or, Zng sh shyng yg tngzh." I cannot think of two better rules to follow in a year with the odds great that commodities will either go up or down. But of the two rules, always follow Rule 2, first and foremost. Use a stop!

Finally, from an unknown and frustrated source comes the following quote, "The market may be bad, but I slept like a baby last night. I woke up every hour and cried." Now, welcome to 2018, where the only thing that is certain is uncertainty. But it is very certain that commodities in 2018, will either go up or go down. Bank on it!

COMICS & PUZZLES

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Winter woe
- 4 Movie fragment
- 8 Restaurant employee
- 12 Deteriorate
- 13 Stash
- 14 Head light?
- 15 Formed rust
- 17 Too
- 18 Felon's flight
- 19 Tasted
- 21 Miss Muffet's bugaboo
- 24 Prune
- 25 Candy in a dispenser
- 26 Deli buy
- 28 Rid of frost
- 32 Sandwich cookie
- 34 Yuletide quaff
- 36 Crucial time
- 37 Re ebb and flow
- 39 Existed
- 41 Individual
- 42 In medias —
- 44 Libra symbol
- 46 Sweet girl in an old song
- 50 Yale student
- 51 Poi base
- 52 Worried greatly
- 56 Ear-related
- 57 Links warning
- 58 Detergent brand

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- 59 Timid
- 60 Applications
- 61 Rep. rival
- DOWN**
- 1 To and —
- 2 Bagel topping
- 3 Worked with
- 4 Doorbells, often
- 5 Claiborne of fashion
- 6 Mid-month date
- 7 Accelerator, e.g.
- 8 In need of balm, maybe
- 9 Corridor
- 10 Differently
- 11 Comestibles
- 16 Father
- 20 Chic, in the '60s
- 21 Location
- 22 Actress Gilpin
- 23 Take off
- 27 Violinist's need
- 29 Put on a pedestal
- 30 Chaplin prop
- 31 Spud's buds
- 33 U-shaped part of a row-boat
- 35 Petrol
- 38 Hawaiian souvenir
- 40 Parts of an act
- 43 Big glitch
- 45 — Baba
- 46 Teeny bit
- 47 Piece of info on an invitation
- 48 Great Lake
- 49 Ids' counterparts
- 53 Raw rock
- 54 Before
- 55 Beavers' construct

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Join our team at Carbon County News. We are looking for a part-time or full time ad salesperson with a go-getting and positive attitude who can take direction and be self-sufficient. Learn to build current relationships and prospect new businesses. Must have reliable transportation. We are based in beautiful downtown Red Lodge with the Beartooth Mountains over looking us. Lots of opportunities to ski, hike, fish, hunt and simply enjoy the breathtaking scenery. Base pay plus commission and mileage. Email cover letter and resume to news@carboncountynews.com

Ad #006
For Sale two 2012 16 x 80 mobile homes in great condition \$43,900 each delivered and set up within 150 miles of Billings (406) 259-4663

Ad # 007
Largest selection of used boats ANYWHERE! Super clean and all with warranty! www.boatsmidway.com, Call or text (307) 272-7444 (ask about Free delivery)

Ad # 008
The Big Sandy 6th annual Gun and Ammo show will be held on January 26th, 27th, 28th at the Jerry Martin Memorial Hall Downtown Big Sandy MT. Call Vance or Jean at (406) 386-2259 For More Information.

Ad # 009
100 Firearms & Western Auction. Local Bozeman Event. FREE LUNCH. January 6th, 10am. 34156 E. Frontage Rd, Bozeman. Indian Artifacts, Weapons, Furniture, Antiques. NorthAmericanAuctionCo.com. 800-686-4216

Ad # 010
If you are reading this ad, you can see that classified advertising works! Reach over 400,000 readers in Montana and beyond to promote your product, service, event and business. To get results, contact this newspaper, or the Montana Newspaper Association at (406) 443-2850 or email stacy@mtnewspapers.com or member@mtnewspapers.com. 25 words for the small investment of \$149.

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Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Treatment
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Blake Amberson (406) 270-2716
Ennis, Montana 59729 ambersonfencing@gmail.com

WANT TO SUBMIT AN EVENT FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN OUR AROUND THE COUNTY SECTION!?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS EMAIL IT TO EDITOR@MADISONIANNEWS.COM. JUST MAKE SURE YOUR SUBMISSION IS 150 WORDS OR LESS.

THANKS!

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 4, 2017

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE
MONTANA 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF MADISON COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF BRITNEY MCPHETRES, RESPONDENT.
CAUSE NUMBER: DV-29-2017-75
This notice that Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name Britney McPhetres to Britney Burke.
Upon Courts own motion, a hearing for the above entitled action is set for Monday, January 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Madison County Courthouse, Virginia City, Montana.
(Pub. December 21, 28, January 4, 11, 2017) bm MNAXLP

take comments and make a decision on a variance request. The request is for a twenty-five (25) foot setback adjustment to the setback requirements for construction of a vehicle paint booth on property located at 852 Beaverhead St., Ennis, MT. 59729.
Information, including site plans, related to this variance request may be viewed at Ennis Town Hall, 328 W. Main Street, during normal business hours.
Public comment may be given at the public hearing. Written comments can be sent to Town of Ennis Variance, 328 W. Main Street, Ennis, MT. 59729 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., January 11, 2018.
(Pub. December 28, Jan. 4, 2017) toe MNAXLP

a proposed annexation.
The proposed annexation is described as: Lot 3 of Sportsman No. 2, a tract of land situated in the West 1/2 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 1 West, P.M.M.
Verbal comments will be accepted at the Public Hearing. Written comments can be sent to Town of Ennis/Annexation, P.O. Box 147, Ennis, MT. 59729, and will be accepted until 4:00 p.m., January 11, 2018.
The proposal can be seen at the Ennis Town Hall during normal business hours. For questions regarding the proposed annexation, phone 682-4287 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Ginger Guinn
Clerk, Town of Ennis
(Pub. December 28, Jan. 4, 2017) toe MNAXLP

under the laws of the State of Montana.
PATRICIA LYNN MURPHY
Personal Representative
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 6 day of December, 2017.
Bharat P. Patel

Notary Public for the State of New Jersey
Residing at: Pennington, NJ
My Commission expires: September 1, 2020 (SEAL)
Personal Representative's Attorney:
Karen McMullin

Post Office Box 55
Ennis, MT 59729
Telephone: (406) 682-7878
(Pub. December 28, Jan. 4, 11, 2017) km MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: SETBACK VARIANCE REQUEST
On January 11, 2018, 6:45 p.m., at Ennis Town Hall the Zoning Board of Adjustment will review,

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Annexation of Lot 3 of Sportsman No. 2, a tract of land situated in the West 1/2 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 1 West, P.M.M.
On January 11, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. the Ennis Town Commission will hold a Public Hearing, at Ennis Town Hall, to receive comments regarding

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF MADISON IN RE ESTATE OF: JOHN VINCENT BRUTHERS, also known as JOHN V. BRUTHERS, Deceased.
Cause No. DP-29-2017-37
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 PATRICIA LYNN MURPHY, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at 3438 E. State Street, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.
Dated: December 6, 2017
PATRICIA LYNN MURPHY
Personal Representative
STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
:SS
COUNTY OF MERCER
PATRICIA LYNN MURPHY, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says:

That she has read the foregoing NOTICE TO CREDITORS and that the facts and matters contained therein are true, correct, accurate and complete to the best of her knowledge and belief. I make this declaration under penalty of perjury

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DISPATCH LOG

Dec. 24, 2017 through Dec. 30, 2017

- 12/24/17
Medical Aid on Honey Ln Sheridan
Animal Complaint in 100 Blk Pony Rd Harrison
Accident in 300 Blk Shining Mtn Loop Rd Ennis
Animal Complaint on MT Hwy 41 MM 20 Twin Bridges
- 12/25/17
Accident on Jack Creek Bench Rd Ennis
Accident on Duncan District Rd MM 1 Sheridan
Public Safety in 5000 Blk US Hwy 287 N Ennis
Alarm Call on Golden Trout Ln McAllister
Accident on MT Hwy 87 MM 4 Ennis
- Animal Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 28 Sheridan
- 12/26/17
Animal Complaint in 400 Blk Hugel St Ennis
Accident on MT Hwy 87 MM 2 Cameron
Accident at MT Hwy 287 & Varney Rd Ennis
Medical Aid on Rainbow Loop Dr McAllister
Abandoned Vehicle Out of County
Wildlife Complaint in 100 Blk Jack Creek Rd Ennis
Medical Aid in 200 Blk Jefferson St Sheridan
Wildlife Complaint on MT Hwy 41 N MM 52 Silver Star
Fire Call in 800 Blk S Second St Ennis
- 12/27/17
Medical Aid in 500 Blk E South St Virginia City
Wildlife Complaint on US Hwy 287 MM 16 Cameron
Missing Person in 700 Blk Madison Ave Ennis
- 12/28/17
Accident in 200 Blk S Main St Sheridan
Accident Out of County
Medical Aid in 800 Blk Bauer Ln Ennis
Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 287 MM 14 Virginia City
Medical Aid in 100 Blk Madison St Harrison
- Suspicious Circumstances on MT Hwy 287 MM 31 Sheridan
Welfare Check in 400 Blk Mill St Sheridan
Abandoned Vehicle in 2300 Blk MT Hwy 287 Alder
Accident on US Hwy 287 MM 42 Cameron
Accident on MT Hwy 84 MM 2 Norris
Suspicious Circumstances in 4700 Blk US Hwy 287 Ennis
Accident on MT Hwy 41 MM 14 Twin Bridges
- 12/29/17
Welfare Check Out of County
Medical Aid Out of County
Medical Aid in 500 Blk Ruby River Dr Alder
Suspicious Circumstances on US Hwy 287 MM 63 Norris
Fireworks Complaint in 100 Blk N Main St Sheridan
- Warrant Service in 300 Blk E Main St Ennis
Disturbance in 100 Blk Mill St Sheridan
- 12/30/17
Medical Aid in 200 Blk W 8th Ave Twin Bridges
Abandoned Vehicle on Shining Mtn Loop Rd Ennis
Accident in Big Sky
Abandoned Vehicle on US Hwy 287 MM 3 Cameron
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief in 300 Blk S Main St Sheridan
Traffic Complaint in 300 Blk W Main St Ennis
Fraud Complaint on Montana Way Ennis
Missing Person on Upper Ruby Rd MM 23 Alder

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 79 Calls for Service from Dec 24-30, 2017.

SPONSORED BY:

VETERANS CORNER

Tester: Stop Putting Band-Aids on the VA, Fix it Now Ranking Member: Pass the Caring for Our Veterans Act

Submitted by Senator Jon Tester's Office

WASHINGTON - Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Jon Tester today took to the Senate floor to demand that his colleagues stop passing short-term bills that temporarily plug holes in the Veterans Choice Program. Instead, Tester called for the passage of his bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act.

Tester partnered with Veterans Affairs' Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) to draft the legislation that replaces the Veterans Choice Program with one, easy-to-navigate, community health care system that puts the decision of where to seek care in the hands of the veteran and their doctor. The legislation would also help address mental health workforce shortages in places like Montana and extend caregiver services to veterans of all eras.

"We don't need another band-aid fix," said Tester on the Senate floor.

"The Caring for Our Veterans Act is a long term solution that provides the VA with the ability to hire staff for top notch care. It provides an integrated network of community providers to fill in the gaps for that care, and it is a balance between those two so the veterans win."

Tester's call to action comes as the VA asks Congress for another round of emergency funding for the Choice Program. Tester is demanding that Congress stop dumping billions of dollars into the Program, which has been a bureaucratic mess for veterans and providers.

"We're going to pass a temporary stop-gap measure for our budget, and VA Choice funding will be a part of it probably," said Tester. "I will tell you that this is the last band-aid that I am willing to put on the Choice Program. We need a long term solution, and if we don't get that long term solution we're not doing right by our veterans in this country."



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Will Stevens, Pastor
682-4949

Sunday School 9:45am
Morning Service 11am
Afternoon Service 1:30pm
Tuesday Womens Bible Study 6pm
Wednesday Night Prayer Group 6pm

6 Blocks South of City Complex
Located in the heart of
Madison Valley for the
Hearts of Madison Valley

Dayspring Church
Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday School/Nursery 9 a.m.
Non-Denominational Christ
Centered, Spirit Led Worship

Check website for ministries:
dayspringsheridan.com

596-0847 • 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 Shaw 684-5255

Madison Valley Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP
September - April ~ 11 a.m.
May - August ~ 9 a.m.
Everyone Welcome, Fully Accessible
In communion with ELCA, UCC, RCA
Rev. Jean M. Johnson
682-4355 ~ Ennis
Corner of S. Charles & W. Hugel

MADISON COUNTY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Services:
4:00 P.M. AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN SHERIDAN
Sunday Services:
8:00 A.M. AT NOTRE DAME IN TWIN BRIDGES
9:30 A.M. AT ST. MARY'S IN LAURIN
11:00 A.M. AT ST. PATRICK'S IN ENNIS
Please call the Rectory for the daily Mass schedule at 842-5588
Father John Crutchfield, Pastor

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

Ruby Valley United Methodist Parish
Invites You To Worship With Us
Reverend Susan DeBree
Office: (406) 842-5934
Home: (406) 842-7732
Church of the Valley
Twin Bridges
Worship & Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Bethel UMC
Sheridan
Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Ready Set Grow Preschool
Contact Julie Russell 842-5876

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
We will have Soup Supper every Tuesday until Christmas, starting at 6:00 PM & Advent Service at 7:00 PM
Corner of Madison and Armitage St.
Ennis, Montana 682-682-4200

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
President Chandler
682-3020

Christian Science Services
Sunday Service &
Sunday School 10 a.m.
ALL WELCOME
Each week a Bible lesson full of healing Christian concepts is read aloud in our Sunday service.
4983 US Hwy 287 N. • Ennis, Montana
www.ChristianScience.com

Valley Assembly
Love Jesus • Love People • Reach the Valley
114 N. Main, Sheridan
842-5845
Pastor Duane B. Dasher
Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Valley Kids - after school to 6:45 p.m.
Ruby Valley Food Pantry - Saturdays 10 a.m. - Noon
Our mission is to Love Jesus, Love People, and Reach the Valley.

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH
Only when the lamp of search, of earnest striving, of longing desire, of passionate devotion, of fervid love, of rapture, and ecstasy, is kindled within the seeker's heart, and the breeze of His loving-kindness is wafted upon his soul, will the darkness of error be dispelled, the mists of doubts and misgivings be dissipated, and the lights of knowledge and certitude envelop his being. Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah
But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
Hebrew Scriptures
Deuteronomy
www.bahai.org | 406-451-3923
Bahá'ís of Madison County

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Loving God, Loving People
CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Thank you and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Greg Ledgerwood
402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
682-4197

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

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 9:00 a.m.
Christ Church Sheridan 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
www.rvec.org
Prayer requests:
682-4199 843-5296 842-7713

Grace Community Fellowship
WEARING AND SHARING
The Full Armor of God
SUNDAY SERVICES
10 a.m. at the Alder School
Alder, Montana
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Christ Centered
Bible Based
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.

NOTICE FROM THE CENTER: BEGINNING JAN 8TH THE CENTER WILL BE OPEN AND SERVING MEALS AT NOON 5 DAYS A WEEK - MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY EACH WEEK.

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, January 4: Chicken Pot Pie, dessert
Tuesday, January 9: Brats, Scalloped Potatoes, roll, 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.

SENIOR CENTER MEALS, ENNIS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
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

JANUARY 4 - 12
THURSDAY JANUARY 4
ORANGE CHICKEN & RICE, VEGGIES, DESSERT
FRIDAY JANUARY 5
HAM STEAK & VEGGIES, SCALLOPED POTATOES, DESSERT "PINOCHLE @ 12:45"
MONDAY JANUARY 8
BEEF STROGANOFF, SALAD & ROLL, DESSERT "MAHJONG @ 1:00"
TUESDAY JANUARY 9
CHICKEN & GRAVY, VEGGIES & GARLIC BREAD, DESSERT
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10
FISH TACOS, BLACK BEANS & FRUIT, DESSERT
THURSDAY JANUARY 11
REUBEN, JOJO POTATOES, DESSERT
THURSDAY JANUARY 12
MEATLOAF, BAKED POTATO & VEGGIES, DESSERT "PINOCHLE @ 12:45"

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

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.
ENNIS FAMILY and FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP
100 Prairie Way, Ennis (599-3659)
For those who have a loved one struggling with any type of addiction
Wednesdays ~ 5 p.m.

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

Vennis Over The Hill Unity Group
Faced with a drinking problem?
Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help.
SUN. - 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
12 step program

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B8 Thursday, January 4, 2018

GO TO outpostevents.net FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS

**THURSDAY
JANUARY 4**

BAH, Ennis
Business after hours hosted by Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, MVRG-Weed Committee and Ponderosa Advisors at 5 p.m. at the Moonlight building.

**MONDAY
JANUARY 8**

Meeting, Ennis
American Legion meeting at the VFW hall at 7 p.m.

Meeting, Twin Bridges
Masonic meeting at the Masonic Temple in Twin. 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 10**

Meeting, Ennis
School Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the high school.

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 17

Chili feed, Twin Bridges
Chili dinner for the Masonic Temple at 7 p.m.
Meeting, Ennis
MVMC Auxiliary meeting at 10 a.m. in the conference room at the medical center.

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 20**

Chautauqua, Virginia City
Chautauqua presentation at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck and performances starting at 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 31**

Chamber Fiesta, Ennis
Chamber member appreciation/drive fiesta at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dessert and friend to the Gravel Bar, food provided and cash bar.

Beyond Words.
YOUR future is OUR future.
THE MADISONIAN. Advertise today. 682-7755

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Ask about the weekend rate - pick up on Saturday by 12pm and return Monday morning for a 1 day rate!
Call for availability!
NEW HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. • Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
406-682-4748 • 201 MADISON ~ ENNIS, MT

EVENINGS: ADULTS \$8 • CHILDREN (2 & UNDER) \$6 SHOW TIME AT 7:15 PM. BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 6:30 PM
NOW PLAYING: WONDER (PG)
Let's Go to the Movies this Weekend!
Friday 7:15 • Saturday 7:15 pm • Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm
COMING SOON:
Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13)
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri (R)
682-4023 | 115 MAIN ST., ENNIS, MT | ENNISMOVIES.COM | FACEBOOK.COM/MADISONTHEATREENNIS

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

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.

Madison County Mental Health Local Advisory Council, Virginia City
Meeting the first Monday of each month from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Shape up, Ennis
Workout for seniors focusing on stretching and toning at the athletic club at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

Reach to Recovery, Ennis
Peer cancer supportgroup hosted by Lisa Brubaker, second Tuesday of the month in the Moonlight Basin building at 6 p.m. 670-4546.

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

Angelwings ministry, Sheridan
Every Wednesday from 2:45-4 p.m. at the Bloomin' Ruby Cafe.

Support group, Ennis
Ennis family and friends support group for those struggling with addiction. 5 p.m. 100 Prairie Way, 599-3659.

THURSDAYS

Shape up, Ennis
Workout for seniors focusing on stretching and toning at the athletic club at 9:15 a.m.

MV Women's Club FIRST THURS OF EA. MONTH
September through May at noon at the Madison Valley Baptist Church.

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

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.

Get Results.

tina@madisoniannews.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
WE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 24TH THROUGH JAN. 10TH, 2018
In Order for Our Staff to Celebrate the Holidays with Family & Friends We Look Forward to Serving You in the New Year!
WINTER HOURS WILL RESUME THURS. JAN 11TH
Dinner: Thurs. - Sat. 5pm-9pm
Brunch: Sunday 9am-2pm
Reservations Recommended
Mahalo Nui Loa for Your Support in 2017! Mele Kalikimaka! Hauoli Makahiki Ho!
THE OLD HOTEL
Rustic Charm, Brilliant Cuisine in Twin Bridges...
101 E. 5th Avenue • Twin Bridges, MT
www.theoldhotel.com
406-684-5959

SHERIDAN
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9 7 p.m.
Media Tech Center
Charles B. Murray Building

Happy New Year from BOZEMAN SADDLE OUTLET
SALE Discounts Good Through January 31
Extra 10% OFF Sale Room
Saddles • Tack • Accessories
30% off Mayatex Wool Saddle Blankets
Other specials throughout the store
EVERYTHING ALWAYS AT GREAT LOW PRICES
(406)586-8225 | Mon-Sat 10-5 | Closed Sun
80155 Gallatin Rd. 2Mi S of Four Corners
bozemansaddleoutlet.com - We Ship!
Gift Certificates Available

WILLIE'S DISTILLERY
ENNIS, MONTANA
WILLIE'S DISTILLERY UPCOMING EVENTS
312 E MAIN STREET, ENNIS 406-682-4117
www.williesdistillery.com
LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY 5:30 - 7:30 PM
COME JOIN THE FUN, LISTEN TO SOME GREAT MUSIC AND ENJOY SPIRITS WITH A WESTERN FLAVOR!!
FRIDAY JAN 5TH: THE COYLES
NOW THRU JAN 15TH, GET \$5 OFF ALL APPAREL ONLINE AND IN OUR TASTING ROOM
FRIDAY JAN 12TH: LEFT FOR DEAD
FRIDAY JAN 19TH: FAN MOUNTAIN FROG DOGS
FRIDAY JAN 26TH: MIKE COMSTOCK
FRIDAY FEB 2ND: ETHAN KUNARD
ASK ABOUT OUR WEEKLY BOTTLING PARTIES

LOCAL H-T SPOT
NORRIS HOT SPRINGS
MUSIC THIS WEEK
Fri 1/5 Chad Ball Folk/Blues
Sat 1/6 Poppy Roots Americana
Sun 1/7 Lang Termes Acoustic Eclectic
hwy 287 & route 84 - 15 miles north of ennis
FALL/WINTER HOURS: TH, FRI, MON: 4PM - 10PM
SAT & SUN: 10AM - 10PM | CLOSED TUES & WED
norrishotspings.com 406.685.3303