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CLIMATE CHANGE Already impacting the Montana you know

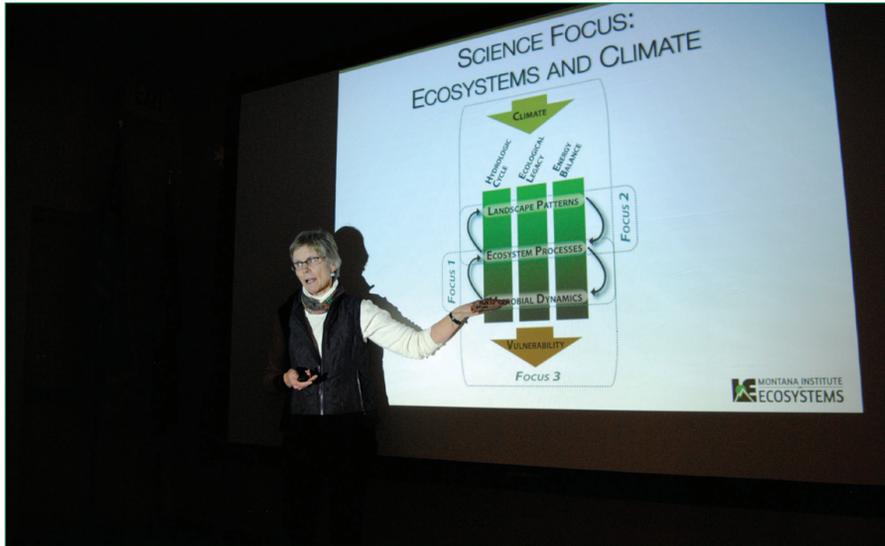
Man-made or natural, Montana is already warming, says MSU professor

JOHN D. TAYLOR
editor@madisoniannews.com

ENNIS - About 60 people crammed into the Madison Valley - Ennis fire station north of town on Wednesday evening, November 28, to participate in what the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative (GLC) was calling a "Community Climate Conversation."

GLC - along with the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, the Ruby Watershed Council, the Mule Deer Foundation's Ghosts of the Madison chapter, the Madison Conservation District and the Madison River Foundation - had invited Dr. Cathy Whitlock, a professor of Earth Sciences at Montana State University (MSU), and a fellow with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, to talk about her findings on how climate change is impacting Montana.

After a social time and a pizza dinner - it quickly ran out - GLC's Jennifer Boyer introduced Whitlock, noting Whitlock had recently become a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the first Montana scientist to join this august organization, a high honor. Whitlock, Boyer also noted, has spent the last 40 years studying the environmental history of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem as well as comparable large landscapes in New Zealand, Tasmania, and Pa-



Dr. Cathy Whitlock, a professor of Earth Sciences at Montana State University (MSU), and a fellow with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems told a packed Ennis fire station that warming due to climate change is already here on Wednesday, Nov. 28. (J. TAYLOR)

tagonia. Whitlock's special focus is long-term climate and ecological change. In this field, she has authored more than 200 publications and trained more than 40 graduate students.

More important to the talk, Whitlock was the lead author of the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment.

As Whitlock dimmed the lights and launched her presentation, she explained why she was in Ennis to talk climate.

First, she said, climate is not weather. Weather is short term - days, weeks, months, years. Climate is long-term - centuries, millennia.

Whitlock said she is a paleo-climatologist: a scientist who looks at

climate across those centuries and millennia, using lake bottom core sediment samples, tree rings, pollen, bones and other measurable monitors that can track climate. Lake bottom sediment cores, for example, can reveal the chemistry of the air, water, soil and anything that went into the lake - like pollen - over time. Tree rings can reveal drought, growth and other information. Pollens tell what plant life was there, which says a lot about the climate.

Whitlock and her students might spend several hours collecting the raw materials for climate analysis in beautiful places, she said, then take three years analyzing this data in the lab at MSU.

What she came to Ennis to talk about was Montana's changing climate and the issues and opportunities this might present, as revealed by the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment. This document, available on line at (<http://montanaclimate.org/>), looks at hard scientific data about Montana's changing climate based on evidence from the sources Whitlock talked about.

Climate change: The evidence

• During the last 115 years, Whitlock said, there has been a definite warming trend in Montana. She showed a chart that compared tem-

CLIMATE continued on A2



The Ruby Habitat Foundation welcomed nearly 2,000 visitors to Woodson Ranch in 2018. The nonprofit's annual fundraising appeal is currently in full swing. (R. COLYER)

Ruby Habitat Foundation celebrates eventful 2018

Gearing up for annual appeal to continue conservation, education programs

REAGAN COLYER
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SHERIDAN—The Ruby Habitat Foundation does a lot of things, but there are some workings of nature that they simply can't control.

One such occurrence happened again in 2018, for the second time in a row, when Canada Geese displaced the bald eagle family that had built a nest in one of the tall trees on Woodson Ranch's 1100-acre conservation area, co-opting the nest and using it for their own. The contesting species were only two of the 94 species of birds that have now been spotted on the Foundation's property.

"For two years we watched them raise eaglets, and then these geese showed up," says Dave Delisi, outreach coordinator for the Foundation. "It kind of blew everybody's minds."

The nest sits under the Foundation's live-streaming nest cam, which had been installed to watch the progress of the eagles and their fledglings. But as time went on, the geese gained a sort of minor fame in the area.

"The elementary kids in both Alder and Sheridan just fell in love with the goose," says Delisi. "The Alder school kids wanted to change their mascot to the Alder geese, and they wrote letters from the goose to the eagle and vice versa. It was just sweet and funny."

Kindergarteners from Sheridan named the goose "Rebecca," and the live-cam caught video of four goslings making the epic 65-foot leap out of their nest while learning to fly back in May. It may not be science, but it was an educational experience for the kids regardless, says Delisi. It gave them a chance to create a genuine connection to the natural world.

Those school children were only a few of the over 1,800 visitors welcomed to Woodson Ranch by the Ruby Habitat Foundation this year. As 2018 draws to a close, the Foundation is looking back on an eventful 12 months and preparing for more years at the nexus of outdoor education, recreation, agriculture and wildlife.

History

The Ruby Habitat Foundation was founded in 2002, a decade after Craig and Martha Woodson purchased Woodson Ranch. Initially intending to keep it as a place to fish and enjoy a little slice of Montana paradise, their plans for the property changed after Craig suffered a stroke shortly after buying the land.

While recovering, Craig adjusted his focus to pursuing something that would preserve the property and keep it from being subdivided in the future. Eventually, the Montana Land Reliance came forward, willing to protect the land so a greater mission could be established.

"The foundation has a pretty complicated mission, but it synthesizes into four things," says Delisi. "Balancing agriculture and wildlife, while at the same time providing recreational and educational opportunities on the ranch."

Craig Woodson passed away in 2011, but Martha, well over 80 years old, still spends half the year on Woodson Ranch. And year round, the Ruby Habitat Foundation coordinates intimate access

RUBY continued on A3



Young attendees of Sheridan's Christmas Stroll on Friday, November 30, lit sparklers to add extra shine to the lighting of two Christmas trees at Sheridan's north end. Hundreds of locals celebrated the start of the holiday season with lights, bonfires and festive snacks. (R. COLYER)

Christmastime is here

Holiday strolls in full swing

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SHERIDAN—The first of many holiday festivities kicked off on Friday evening, November 30, as Sheridan hosted its annual Christmas Stroll.

Businesses exceeded their regular business hours and supplied hot chocolate, cookies, cinnamon rolls and even soft pretzels if you stopped by the Shovel and Spoon, and hay rides traversed Main Street all evening.

Met by the first significant snowfall of the season, hundreds of revelers

HOLIDAY continued on A3

Ennis, Twin Bridges players named to all-state football team

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TWIN BRIDGES - Twin Bridges may not have made the Class C 8-man football championship bracket this year, and Ennis may have been knocked out in the first round after a 500-mile—one way—road trip, but both teams were well represented in the post-season honorary teams announced last week.

The Mustangs had four players honored between the all-state team and the divisional honorees while the Falcons had five. Senior Brayden Oberg and junior Talon Fortner of Ennis and Jake Hughes of Twin Bridges made up three of the just eight athletes named to the

FOOTBALL continued on A3



The Twin Bridges Falcons had five football players named to all-state and all-conference teams: Jake Hughes (81) was all-state and first team all-conference, while Daniel Krueer (15), Bryce Nye (3), Nate Konen (7) and Steven Smathers (11) all made the second team all-conference list. (TWIN BRIDGES BOOSTER CLUB)

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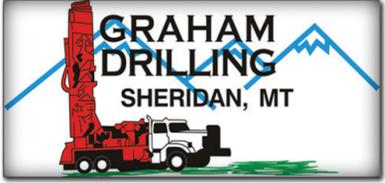
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CLIMATE continued from A1: Warming is already affecting Montana, what about the future?

perature trends across the last 1,700 years. For most of that period, temperatures rose and fell in a pattern that was fairly regular. However, between 1918 and 2017, there was a 1.5 degree Fahrenheit (F) temperature increase, with 2013-2017 being the warmest five years on record, and 2017-2018 featuring climate-related disasters such as huge forest fires, deepening drought.

- Annual average temperatures, including daily minimums, maximums, and averages, have risen across the state between 1950 and 2015. The increases range between 2.0 - 3.0°F during this period.
- Winter and spring in Montana have experienced the most warming. Average temperatures during these seasons have risen by 3.9°F (2.2°C) between 1950 and 2015.
- Montana's growing season is lengthening due to the earlier onset of spring and more extended summers. There are more warm days and fewer cool nights. From 1951-2010, the growing season increased by 12 days. In addition, the annual number of warm days has increased by 2.0 percent and the annual number of cool nights has decreased by 4.6 percent over this period.

Despite no historical changes in average annual precipitation between 1950 and 2015, there have been changes in average seasonal precipitation over the same period: Average winter precipitation has decreased by 0.9 inches, which can mostly be attributed to natural variability and an increase in El Niño events, especially in the western and central parts of the state. A significant increase in spring precipitation, 1.3 - 2.0 inches, has also occurred during this period for the eastern portion of the state.

All of these things, and the science from other studies across the globe, indicate that climate change is, indeed, taking place.

Scientists can point to some natural factors involved with climate change – atmospheric chemistry, ocean circulation patterns, solar radiation intensity, snow and ice cover, Earth's orbit cycle around the sun, continental position and volcanic eruptions.

However, as the Montana assessment points out, since the Industrial Revolution, global climate has changed faster than at any other time in Earth's history. Whitlock called the rate of change "unprecedented."

The rapid rate of change is the result of change in atmospheric chemistry, specifically the increase of greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), water vapor (H₂O), and ozone (O₃). This has been attributed to increased fossil fuel use, land-use changes such as deforestation and fertilizer production.

Whitlock talked about how ice cores from the Antarctic show CO₂ levels across the last 800,000 years have risen from 200 parts per million (ppm) during the Ice Ages to 280 million ppm during the warmer periods between ice ages. In 2013, CO₂ levels hit 410 ppm for the first time in history. Whitlock linked this astounding jump in CO₂ levels with fossil-fuel burning.

There is a relationship between temperature and CO₂ levels, Whitlock said.

The last time the Earth's atmosphere had CO₂ levels this high was during the Pleistocene Epoch, when mammoths, sabre-toothed tigers, American camels, American lions, horses, short-faced bears and the like roamed the Earth. Pleistocene temperatures were 5.5 - 7.5 degrees warmer, 18 degrees warmer at the poles, there were no ice caps, and the sea levels were 82 feet above today's mark.

At that time, Whitlock said, Montana's climate was more like South Carolina's: hot, humid, mug-

gy, with the vegetation that goes along with this.

Whitlock pointed out that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by 2050, the Earth will experience a rise in global temperature of 1.5 degrees – a conservative guess of what will happen with rising CO₂ levels. This would result in the death of all coral reefs in the oceans, more coastal flooding, and other impacts, which will have rebounding impacts on any number of things. If we continue along the same path, global temperatures could rise more than 8 degrees.

Reviewing 11,000 years of change in North American pollen records, Whitlock said, 2016 was 99.4 percent warmer than all of those years, a harbinger of things to come.

Montana's future

According to the state climate assessment, Montana is projected to continue warming across all seasons, and under all CO₂ scenarios throughout the 21st century.

Since 1950, temperatures have warmed 42 degrees in Montana, while the U.S. average is .26 degrees, Whitlock said.

By mid century, Montana temperatures are projected to rise by about 4.5 - 6.0°F depending on which scenario is considered: If the world can reduce fossil fuel emissions and hold to IPCC's goal of "only" a 1.5 degree warming, the lesser amount might apply. If we continue to do nothing, the higher amount applies.

By the 2100, Montana temperatures are projected to increase 5.6 - 9.8°F.

All the models agree, Whitlock said, it will get warmer.

These state-level changes are larger than the average changes projected globally and nationally due to the fact that Montana is not located near an ocean, which could help moderate temperatures somewhat, Whitlock said.

The number of days in a year when daily temperature exceeds 90°F and the number of frost-free days are expected to increase across the state.

Increases 90°F-plus days are expected to be greatest in eastern Montana. Increases in frost-free days should be greatest in the western Montana.

Across the state, precipitation is projected to increase in winter, spring, and fall; decrease in summer.

The largest increases are expected to occur during spring in the southern part of the state. The largest decreases are expected to occur during summer in the central and southern parts of the state.

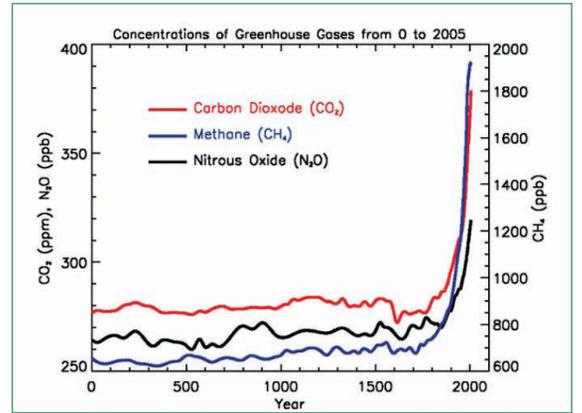
These changes will impact water, forest and agriculture:

Water - No getting around it, water is life.

Since the 1930s Montana's mountain snowpack has declined. This has been most pronounced since the 1980s. Warming temperatures through 2100, especially during spring, are likely to reduce, possibly alleviate mid- and low-elevation snowpack, make snowmelt come earlier, and result in an earlier peak in spring runoff, Whitlock said. This will reduce the amount of water available in later summer, especially in snowmelt driven watersheds.

Total annual streamflows are projected to increase slightly for most state rivers, but the magnitude of change varies.

Changes to groundwater resources will depend on the response of individual aquifers to warming. Still, the assessment says demand for groundwater is likely to increase as warmer weather dries up stock



ponds or irrigation canals can't deliver enough water in a timely manner. The amount of water available for irrigation, for example, could buffer some climate-driven changes, unless demand exceeds surface water supplies.

"Mega-droughts," Whitlock said, will continue as a natural feature of Montana's climate, but rising temperatures are likely to exacerbate these droughts, which will likely occur during the late summer and early fall. She pointed to climate records showing such droughts in 936 1054, and 1150 A.D. Also, 2017's drought was a "flash drought" with a warm, wet spring followed by the precipitation simply getting turned off. Whitlock expected there to be more of these events, larger fires, and more crop damage in the future.

Forests - Warming can have positive or negative effects on forests, depending on the location and conditions. However, the impact of extreme heat will not be good for trees, and the response of forests to warming is likely to be complex.

The effects of warming will be driven by temperature in energy-limited forests and moisture in water-limited forests. Also, the speed and magnitude of climate change is likely to outpace any gains in forest growth, resulting in a net loss of forests.

This will impact the U.S. Forest Service, which controls 59 percent of Montana's forested lands, the most Whitlock said.

Forest fires and fire behavior are big concerns. Fires are likely to be more frequent and larger with increased temperatures. A prolonged "fire season," perhaps year-round, is also predicted. Insect problems are also likely.

Finally, since forest store carbon, their reduction could hasten rising CO₂ levels, a multiplying effect on both CO₂ and temperatures.

Agriculture - Since multiple drivers – seed costs, market demands, machinery, growing seasons, etc. – steer agriculture, things get complex here. Climate is just one element of this, but the assessment says it will become more important as warming continues into the 21st century. Every component of agriculture—from prices to plant pollinators and crop pests—has complex relationships to climate.

Adaptability has always been a hallmark of Montana ag producers, and the assessment says this should continue. Diversified cropping systems, including rotation with pulse crops and innovations in tillage and cover-cropping, along with measures to improve soil health, will help adapt to climate change. Some warming may actually be good for crops and forage in the short term, but the impact of warming will become increasingly problematic as time continues.

Also, how climate change affects global commodity prices will have a big impact: Small grain markets, for example, are globally driven, where non-commodity crops tend to rely on local or specialized

customer service representatives. Customers with questions or concerns about potential scams should contact NorthWestern Energy to report concerns or questionable calls. Montana customers can contact NorthWestern at (888) 467-2669.

NorthWestern does not call customers and demand immediate payment of past-due bills. The utility will provide multiple past-due notices before terminating service. If you get a cancellation notification, verify it by calling customer service. Don't supply any personal information unless you are sure you are indeed working with the utility. NorthWestern never asks customers to use a prepaid debit card for payment.

Challenges & opportunities

A warming climate has far-reaching consequences, the assessment says. So climate change – whether you believe it to be man-made or part of a natural cycle – is here. What are the anticipated impacts? Are there any opportunities that might result from this?

Nationally, climate change is anticipated to cost billions of dollars – as much as 10 percent of the U.S. gross national product – by 2100, Whitlock said. Some of the costs involved would be the results of storm damage, heat waves, drought, flooding, fires and other extreme forms of weather.

Yet at the same time more frost-free days and longer growing seasons could enable greater crop diversity. She talked about how some ag producers were now growing cantaloupe – really good Montana cantaloupe, she joked – instead of traditional crops, and how commercial timber companies were already planting larch, which do better in warmer climates, than Montana's current conifers.

Still, more 90°F-plus days in a warming climate will stress crops and up water demand for most crops; limit grain development from pollination to seed and elevate heat stress on livestock.

Decreasing snowpack means reduced streamflow and less reliable irrigation, which will impact hay, sugar beet, malt barley, market garden and potato production; less water for trout, a hit on tourism; and so fourth, Whitlock said.

The assessment predicts hard hits by climate change on fast-growing "micropolitan" areas like Bozeman; resource dependent industries like agriculture, timber and tourism; and rural communities.

Water and water storage, extreme floods and droughts, wild-land-urban interface fires, livestock and crops, public health, wildlife like grizzly bears coming downslope and into human habitation, are all areas of concerns with rising temperatures.

Whitlock said she would like to see the assessment expanded into more localized regions – a drilling down of the data, as she described it, to the watershed level – so conservationists, planners and others can start getting a handle on dealing with the impacts of climate change.

NorthWestern warns of imposter utility scam

BUTTE – NorthWestern Energy is warning customers about reported incidents in Montana of scams involving imposter callers fraudulently claiming to be representing the utility company and threatening to shut-off service unless immediate payment is made on utility bills.

More than 80 incidents have been reported to the NorthWestern Energy Customer Care Center in Butte, as of 8 a.m. Wednesday, November 28.

A government office in Stillwater County received a call from a person claiming there was an emergency and that he was from the utility company. When the caller was told he had reached a government office, he hung up. The Stillwater County official reached out to NorthWestern Energy to warn about the suspected scam.

In Hamilton, a restaurant re-

ceived a call from a person threatening that utilities would be shut off unless an immediate payment was made. The caller gave the restaurant a phone number to call and restaurant personnel reached out to a radio journalist in an effort to warn others about the scam. That journalist called the phone number and was hung up on when he asked questions about the calls.

This type of scam activity is not new and has targeted utility customers across Montana and the nation for several years. The scam calls can be very convincing.

"The scammers are telling people their electricity or gas service will be cut off in 30 seconds if payment isn't made," said Terri Lewis, NorthWestern Energy Customer Care Supervisor in Butte, Mont. "They are nice at first and then get upset when people ask questions.

They are very convincing." NorthWestern reminds customers to be vigilant when it comes to anyone seeking payment information on utility bills, either in person or via the telephone or internet.

Scammers typically tell customers that their electric or natural gas bill is overdue and service will be shut off if payment is not made quickly; or to purchase pre-paid debit or cash cards sold at retail outlets and to call the scammers with the relevant numbers that allow the cards to be redeemed quickly.

"We've also heard reports that the scammers are telling people they need to change their meter and there is a charge," Lewis said. "That is not true."

If you think you have received a scam collection call, it is very helpful if you make note of the phone number and share it with NorthWestern

customer service representatives.

Customers with questions or concerns about potential scams should contact NorthWestern Energy to report concerns or questionable calls. Montana customers can contact NorthWestern at (888) 467-2669.

NorthWestern does not call customers and demand immediate payment of past-due bills. The utility will provide multiple past-due notices before terminating service. If you get a cancellation notification, verify it by calling customer service. Don't supply any personal information unless you are sure you are indeed working with the utility. NorthWestern never asks customers to use a prepaid debit card for payment.

For more tips to avoid imposter utility scams visit, www.UtilityScam.org.

FOOTBALL continued from A1: Ennis, Twin Bridges players named to All-State team

all-state team. Fortner and Oberg were also named to the First Team all-division offensive team in both the offensive and defensive fields, while senior Clay Coffman received a Second Team nod in the both categories and senior Rusty Lucas joined the First Team all-division defense.

For the Falcons, junior Jake Hughes (81) capped off a stellar season as Twin's only representative to the all-state team. He swept the honors, joining the all-division First Team in both offense and defense, leading a class of honorees that will mostly be returning for their senior seasons next fall.

Senior Daniel Krue (15) was named Second Team all-division offense, while junior Bryce Nye (3) earned an honorable mention. Junior Nate Konen (7) and senior Steven Smathers (11) were both named Second Team all-division defense. It's a better-than-average showing for the Falcons, who usually qualify three or four athletes to the all-conference teams, but no surprise to head coach Brett Nordahl.

"We'd really hoped to make the playoffs this year, and we fell just two points short to Ennis," says Nordahl. "But it was a strong season nonetheless. The kids really competed hard and to have five

athletes on the all-conference list is really great." It's even more impressive when you look closely at the five Falcon athletes named to the honorary teams.

"Jake, Nate and Bryce have been consistent players for us over the last couple of years," says Nordahl. "But this was Daniel's first year playing high school football, so to have him go out there and be second team all-conference was a really welcome surprise. And Steven took two years off and came back to play his senior year, so for him to then make that all-conference team as well was really great."

Konen, Nye and Hughes all have another season to gun for those First Team slots in 2019, which Nordahl says will set a good foundation for the 2019 season, which can begin with even more momentum than this year. But all five athletes have other sports to play before they can refocus on football.

"Jake, Nate, Bryce and Daniel all play basketball and do very well," Nordahl says. "And Steven is javelin record for track team. He excels in track as well as a big contributor to the football team."

So, before football season starts again, there's much to be excited about in Twin Bridges athletics for

- the rest of the school year.
- Class C 8-man Football Honorees 2018:**
- All-State Honorees
 - Jordan Nees, Hobson—12
 - Justin Harris, Joliet—12
 - Brayden Oberg, Ennis—12,
 - Rylan Olson, Joliet—12
 - Jake Hughes, Twin Bridges—11
 - Beau Drivdahl, Hobson—12
 - Talon Fortner, Ennis—11
 - Grand O'Rourke, Joliet—12
- Divisional Honorees – Offense**
- First Team**
- Walker Antilla, Joliet—12
 - Grant O'Rourke, Joliet—12
 - Talon Fortner, Ennis—11
 - Jordan Nees, Hobson—12
 - Simon Hanson, Absarokee—12
 - Justin Harris, Joliet—12
 - Rylan Olson, Joliet—12
 - Brayden Oberg, Ennis—12
 - Caleb Bailey, Joliet—11
 - Jake Hughes, Twin Bridges—11
- Second Team**
- Beau Drivdahl, Hobson—12
 - Austin Dennis, Park City—11
 - Dylan Morris, Hobson—9
 - Zack Thomas, Hobson—11
 - Hayden Patnode, Hobson—12
 - Wyatt Anderson, Joliet—12
 - Clay Coffman, Ennis—12
 - Daniel Krue, Twin Bridges—12

- Honorable Mentions**
- Art Cavill, Harlowton—12
 - Bryce Nye, Twin Bridges—11
- Divisional Honorees – Defense**
- First Team**
- Rylan Olson, Joliet—12
 - Tayt Hansen, Hobson—11
 - Connor McNeil, Park City—12
 - Wyatt Anderson, Joliet—10
 - Beau Drivdahl, Hobson—12
 - Talon Fortner, Ennis—11
 - Tucker Brown, Hobson—10
 - Kelly Lind, Joliet—10
 - Jake Hughes, Twin Bridges—11
 - Justin Harris, Joliet—12
 - Brayden Oberg, Ennis—12
 - Grant O'Rourke, Joliet—12
 - Rusty Lucas, Ennis—12
- Second Team**
- Clay Coffman, Ennis—12
 - Troy Fiscarelli, Park City—11
 - Austin Dennis, Park City—11
 - Nate Konen, Twin Bridges—11
 - Simon Hanson, Absarokee—12
 - Steven Smathers, Twin Bridges—12
 - Colter Deupree, Hobson—12

HOLIDAY continued from A1: It's Christmastime



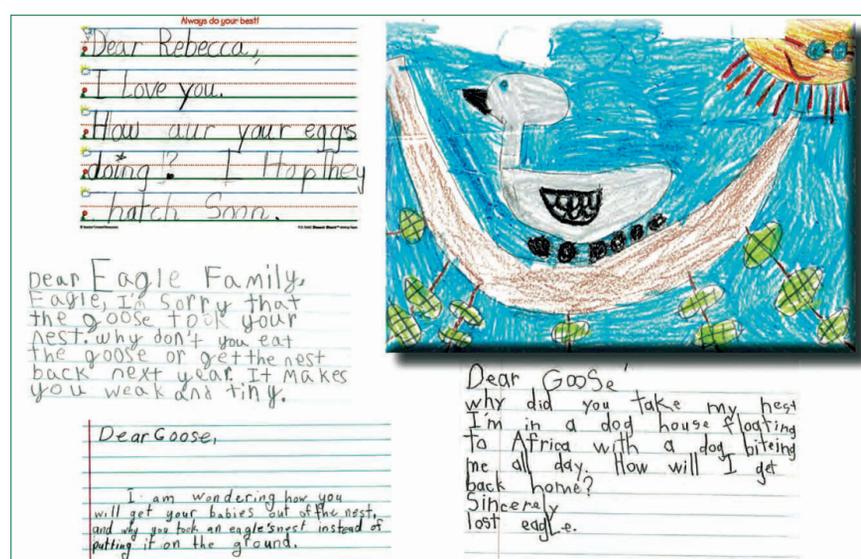
A familiar face noting who's naughty and who's nice: Santa made an appearance at Sheridan's Christmas stroll to hear what everyone had on their Christmas list. (R. COLYER)

RUBY continued from A1: Conservation, education focus of Ruby Habitat Foundation

to Montana's most important natural resources for the people of the Ruby Valley.

Projects

In addition to observation of nest-stealing geese, the Ruby Habitat Foundation conduct research, bring speakers and offer habitat access for human and animal species alike.



Kindergarten students from Alder and Sheridan fell in love with a nest-stealing goose at the Ruby Habitat Foundation's Woodson Ranch this year, writing letters to the goose—who they named Rebecca—from the perspective of the eagles whose nest she co-opted. (RHF PHOTO)

In August, the Foundation hosted its annual Wildlife Speaker Series, which this year focused on the complex relationship between trout and agriculture. It ended with a catered dinner and drew around 150 people, cementing it as one of the Foundation's most successful events.

"There's sort of a constant hum of activity throughout the year," Delisi says. One such recent hum came from a project conducted by Sheridan High School students, who used some of Woodson Ranch's aquatic invertebrate analysis equipment to, as he says, "look at the squiggly things in the water, and so some applied science."

In the end, those squiggly things proved helpful for the fishermen who come to Woodson Ranch each year to fish the Ruby River, Clear Creek, Alder Creek and a manmade spring creek, all of which flow within the Foundation's 1100-acre boundaries. Many of them ask what flies they should use to have the most success, and now Delisi can tell them.

"Not only did they do some actual science and get out and get dirty, but those students gave me a tool that I can use," he says. "Now I know what flies are living in the water that people are going to fish, because we partnered with those high school kids."

The Foundation also hosts an annual summer intern, usually a college student, who allows them to dig deeper into conservation-oriented agriculture. As the nonprofit conducts agricultural research and experiments, they share their findings with local ranchers and agricultural stakeholders, then put that information to use, like on one of their biggest—and most costly—projects to date.

Clear Creek Project - A water quantity and quality project in Clear Creek has been a major focus of the RHF since an NRCS evaluation labelled the creek "unsustainably impaired" back in 2010. The impairments were repercussions of creek straightening efforts from decades ago in the 1950s, designed to make the Ruby Valley more accessible for agriculture.

The water quantity issues were relatively easy to address, because most of the water removed from Clear Creek was being used to irrigate nearby fields. With the help of a grant from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and collaboration with the ranchers using Clear Creek, RHF managed a transition to pulling water from a nearby reservoir instead of the creek and a transition to pivot irrigation rather than the traditional flood method, which uses significantly more water.

"Last year, I had people calling me and asking if there was any way to get more water into Clear Creek," says Delisi. "And this year, people were calling to ask why there was so much water in it. And my response was, 'We fixed it!'"

Though the quantity of water is

on the mend, the results of straightening Clear Creek are still felt, and are the next project RHF hopes to tackle. Following a straighter path, the water flows faster and also takes more sediment with it, promoting erosion and skewing the levels of various pollutants in the creek. Slowing it down would require un-straightening it, and that's exactly what RHF plans to do. Delisi calls it "restoring sinuosity."

"We'd be reconnecting it to its floodplain and removing fish barriers that are there right now," he says. "About 25 percent of Clear Creek is going to be 'fixed' in that regard. There's still work to do, and it's a gigantic project, but we've made a lot of progress."

But such an enormous project carries with it a correspondingly large price tag: Delisi's preliminary estimate for a section where Clear Creek meets the Ruby is as much as \$100,000.

the RHF's largest fundraising push of the year comes in: The annual appeal. As a nonprofit that doesn't charge a rod fee to fishermen or admission to its speaker series, the appeal is the primary way it generates the funds to continue its programming.

RHF participated in Giving Tuesday this year the week after Thanksgiving and is also a member of 1% for the Planet, an organization that connects business donors with worthy beneficiaries. Those organizations then donate 1 percent of their revenue to those recipients. With the work they do, Delisi says, there are countless reasons for donors to support RHF.

"Everybody is looking out at the horizon," he says. "What do we want to look like in 50 years? We're not a pay-to-play kind of place. We're here as a sort of community benefit and we get people from all over the country, but in the end we want to be here for our neighbors and help them."

Annual Appeal - That's where

Whitehall opens basketball season against Manhattan Christian

REAGAN COLYER
news@madisoniannews.com

WHITEHALL—The Trojans kicked off their boys' and girls' basketball seasons at home on Saturday, December 1, when they hosted the Manhattan Christian Eagles.

The Eagles came into the day's games ranked at the top of district 11C (Whitehall is in the 12C district) and showed exactly why in the boys' game, defeating the Trojans. Manhattan Christian took an early lead, outscoring Whitehall 14-2 in the first quarter and leading 40-14 by halftime.

Dylan Smith led the Trojans in an attempt to make a comeback, logging 14 of Whitehall's 25 points, while Flint Smith

added nine more, but it wasn't enough. With Manhattan Christian's Caleb Bellach scoring 20 points, Caidin Hill adding 17 and Sam Leep with 12 more, the Eagles swept the Trojans 65-25 in their season opener.

But, Whitehall turned the tables on Manhattan when the girls took the court. Led by Brynna Wolfe's 12 points—including a pair of three-pointers, Jada Clark-son's 11 and Asha Noyes' seven, the lady Trojans took an early lead by 16 points in the first quarter and didn't let it go, dropping the Eagles 49-29.

Whitehall and Manhattan Christian will meet up again this weekend when Manhattan hosts its Tip-Off Tournament Friday and Saturday, December 7-8.

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OPINION

Politics wrongly threatens conservation program

By Jim Goetz & Paul Burdett,

In 1987 the Montana Legislature directed Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to establish a statewide wildlife habitat system to better conserve "our wildlife resources and pass them intact to future generations." This program, called "Habitat Montana," turned out to be one of the most successful conservation and public access programs in the West. A recent opinion by Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, however, places the power to approve all conservation easements funded by the program in the hands of the Land Board. This oversight by an obstructionist Land Board interferes with FWP's management of Habitat Montana and threatens the long-term sustainability of the program.

The money for the program comes from a small fee on hunting licenses (92 percent of the funding comes from non-resident hunting license fees). While FWP can purchase some land outright, FWP can also obtain conservation easements from willing landowners. The beauty of the conservation easement approach is that private landowners continue to own their land while the easements protect habitat and ensure recreational access. As of December 2016, FWP held 43 Habitat Montana wildlife conservation easements covering 240,452 acres.

Many federal agencies, private companies and conservation organizations have partnered with FWP to use Habitat Montana to protect tracts of important habitat, including the Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Flathead Tribes, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Montana Wildlife Federation, Northwestern Energy, and PPL-Montana.

Conservation easements are also essential to farmers and ranchers. The funding for a conservation easement is a strong tool to protect open space and help keep family ranches intact. By entering into voluntary agreements with FWP, agricultural producers can pay off debt, expand their operations, and address a host of other financial needs. These Habitat Montana conservation easements provide families a vital asset to secure their financial future.

In the past, most, but not all, of the FWP easements were routinely submitted to the Land Board for approval, although it is questionable whether this is a legal requirement. As long as the Land Board deferred to FWP's expertise, no one ever raised the question whether taking these projects before the Land Board was founded on custom or law.

Since the 2016 election, however, the composition of the Land Board has changed—and so has its attitude toward

conservation easements. After years of deference to FWP, the Land Board (consisting of five state-wide elective officers including the governor and attorney general) began rejecting or delaying Habitat Montana conservation easements. Currently, FWP has over a dozen easements in the works, several of which need to close by the end of the year. Three have received final approval by FWP. Just these three easements alone will protect over 18,000 acres of land and will provide public access to them.

A technical legal question has arisen as to whether the Land Board's approval is required for implementing a conservation easement. Montana law requires Land Board approval for "land acquisitions" of a certain size. The attorney general has prepared an opinion arguing that conservation easements must receive Land Board approval—Gov. Bullock disagrees because the placement of a negative easement does not amount to land acquisition. Gov. Bullock has brought this issue to the Montana Supreme Court, which scheduled argument for Dec. 5, 2018.

While the legal issue presented is narrow, the impact of this decision will make a difference in the lives of sportsmen and other outdoor recreationists across Montana for years to come. The viability and continued success of the Habitat Montana program is at stake.

Habitat Montana has been used by FWP for over three decades to put together land deals that benefit landowners and provide public access to both public and private land for every Montanan.

The opposition of four members of the Land Board to FWP's conservation easement program is puzzling. This program is critical to keeping agricultural land in the hands of Montana families with the added benefit of being an invaluable public access tool. The program is a win-win for everybody because it protects open spaces and recreation and habitat values, while keeping lands in private, economically productive ownership. With this vital conservation program threatened by politics, it is the public who stands to pay the price through loss of that wildlife habitat—and the loss of access to thousands of acres of lands.

Jim Goetz, Bozeman attorney, drafted the original Montana conservation easement legislation in the early 1970s at the request of a group of Blackfoot River ranchers.

Paul Burdett is the in-house attorney for the Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA). Goetz and Burdett recently filed an amicus brief with the Montana Supreme Court for the PLWA supporting the governor's petition.

OBITUARIES

Darwin Burnett

November 28, 2018

Darwin Burnett passed away November 28, 2018, in Bozeman, Montana. He was known for his friendly nature and expressions of gratitude. Aesop wrote, "Gratitude is the sign of noble souls."

Darwin Eugene Burnett was born to George Benjamin Burnett and Margaret (Thomas) Burnett on September 14, 1929, in Shelley, Idaho. In childhood he lived in Bannack, Twin Bridges, and Sheridan, Montana. A wooden desk in the Bannack school where he attended first grade is suspiciously etched with his initials.

After graduating from Sheridan High School, he enlisted in the Air Force, serving as an airplane mechanic during the Korean War. He met Barbara Jean Miller at a fraternity party at Montana State College and they married in Sheridan on December 23, 1951.

At the urging of two of his brothers and Barbara, he attended Montana State College and graduated with a plan to teach shop in high schools.

During the college years, Darwin and Barbara bought twenty acres in Bear Canyon eight miles east of Bozeman and built a cabin using recycled lumber from a chicken barn and linoleum salvaged from a decommissioned battleship. There they lived with the first three of their nine children.

Darwin taught in Whitewater, Baker, Deer Lodge, and Bozeman, Montana, and Ogden, Utah. He was a beloved teacher. One student wrote, "I would like to thank you once again for being my teacher. You were a role model for me, an example of the kind of man I wanted to be someday—kind to others, serious about work, shy and respectful, with a sense of humor, and smart. You were all those things as a teacher. Words cannot express my gratitude for what you gave us." High school students in Baker dedicated the yearbook to him.

He served the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in various capacities including missionary, branch president, and bishop's counselor.

After retiring from teaching,



Darwin and Barbara operated a bed and breakfast and a sawmill; they also worked in the salmon canning industry in Valdez, Alaska. They served four full-time church missions: in Mexico twice, and once each in Argentina and Chile.

When not in their Bear Canyon home, or on one of their fourteen tours of Alaska, or traveling to visit family members spread from Minnesota to San Diego, they resided in their winter home in Quartzsite, Arizona. Through missions, reunions, dances, music jams, and constant traveling, Darwin and Barb made friends from Nuiqsut, Alaska to Concepcion, Chile.

Darwin's goodwill was exemplary. He was independent, resourceful, helpful, happy, gregarious, and again, grateful. He was "easy to be intreated," and proof that the meek shall inherit the earth.

Darwin is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Rhyll (Steven) Croshaw, Tom (Melani) Burnett, Del (Kevin) Searle, George (Christy) Burnett, Marta (Bruce) Rigby, Ross (Rebecca) Burnett, Shauna (Jeanne) Sticht, Dawn (Reed) Frandsen, Heidi (Jon) Obray; brother, Keith (Marlene) Burnett; sister-in-law, Patricia Burnett; forty-five grandchildren; forty-eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held Fri, Dec 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Dokken-Nelson and Sat, Dec 8 from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Colter Ave with a funeral service to follow at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at 3:30 p.m. at the Sheridan Cemetery, Sheridan, MT

Bill Hatch

November 27, 2018

Our beloved brother and uncle has joined loved ones in heaven.

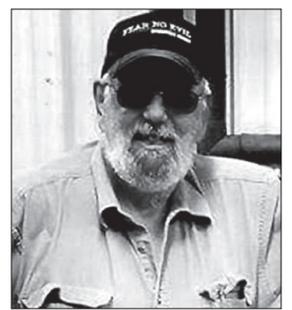
Bill was born in Butte Montana on October 23, 1952 to Fred and Lois Hatch. He joined sister Connie and three years later was joined by sister Cindy.

Bill was a proud Navy veteran.

Bill was a gentle soul who loved his family and made friends easily. He loved to tell stories about his life adventures. All who knew Bill heard his stories. He loved family time, especially during the holidays.

Bill lived in Butte and Wyoming but made his home in Sheridan. He made numerous friends over the years but most of all he gained an extended family at the Ruby Valley Brew. He talked a lot and in length about his friends at the brewery. Bill was also very proud to be a member of the Mug Club.

Bill is preceded in death



by his parents, grand parents and numerous aunts and uncles. He is survived by sisters Connie (Ed) Engle, Cindy Fischer; nieces Tabatha (Speedie) Lingenfelter, Tammy Engle, Kim (Jess) Nixon and Amy Fischer; great-nieces Ashlie Engle and Abby Melvin.

We will forever remember your stories. Services are planned for June 2019.

K&L Mortuaries & Crematory of Sheridan is assisting with arrangements.

David Gazzara

November 17, 2018

David Gazzara, 63, of Hamilton passed away peacefully at his home on November 17, 2018.

He was born David Anthony Gazzara to Joseph and Shirley Arcey Gazzara on September 10, 1955 in Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania.

David was raised in Claysburg, Pennsylvania where he received his education. Later in David's life he became very interested in taxidermy and attended a taxidermy school. He became quite the artist and won many awards for his taxidermy work.

David will be remembered for his love of his family and the gentle nature that he carried. He will also be remem-

bered for his sense of humor. He loved the outdoors and was a lifetime member of Trout Unlimited. David loved fly-fishing and hunting where he was proud of the many trophies he had collected. He was also a big Penn State football fan.

David is survived by his wife Kathleen, son Nickolas (Molly) Gazzara and his brother William Gazzara.

He is preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Shirley Gazzara.

At David's request, no formal services will be held.

Please express your condolences with the family by visiting www.dalyleachapel.com under the obituary section.

County Public Health readies for second wave of flu vaccinations

County public health updates commissioners

REAGAN COLYER
news@madisoniannews.com

VIRGINIA CITY—Melissa Brummell, RN, of the Madison County Public Health Department (MCPHD) gave a public health update to the county commissioners at their weekly meeting on Tuesday, November 27, showing just how busy the office has been as southwest Montana braces for winter.

Vaccinations

Brummell said the public health department has administered 629 vaccinations so far in 2018, including 452 flu vaccines, up by nearly 25 percent from last year at the same time, though she said that kind of variance isn't unusual with flu vaccines, generally increasing if there are flu cases reported locally. There have been 31 reported cases of the flu in Montana this year, but none in Madison County.

MCPHD administered vaccinations at schools, nursing homes and businesses around the county this fall, as well as in local clinics. Nurses also administered other required or recommended vaccines to students at local schools who needed them.

Brummell said there is usually a second round of flu vaccinations later in the season, but that she expects demand to taper off by February. She also noted that the county has seen a rash of both strep throat and pinkeye cases this fall and a couple of early season pneumonia cases in senior citizens. Pneumonia can develop from the flu if not treated properly, one reason the annual flu season poses an additional threat to older people.

Truck Wreck Protocol

Brummell presented MCPHD's truck wreck protocol to the commissioners for its annual review, but the document has a more specific purpose than only what to do in the event of a crash: it deals specifically with trucks that carry food or products for public consumption.

Back in March a livestock trailer crashed in Madison County, carrying over 200 pigs. In instances like that, where cargo is destined for market, Brummell says it's MCPHD's job to ensure those products are still safe.

"It doesn't really concern me unless food gets out and people consume it," Brummell said. "If that happens, then it becomes a big, huge deal."

There were no major changes to the protocol this year, which is written by county sanitarian Van Puckett. If a truck crashes carrying consum-

ables, it is the responsibility of the Department of Emergency Services (DES) to contact the Food and Consumer Safety office (FCS) to determine whether the products are still safe to be transported, sold or consumed, usually involving a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection.

Exposure to dust, dirt, fuel, oil or refrigerants, exposure of refrigerated foods to warm temperatures or dented or broken containers are automatic criteria for products to be thrown away, but the protocol also outlines a series of criteria that determine whether they may be "salvageable." Damaged products can also be used as animal feed, as long as the state Department of Agriculture signs off on it.

Madison County receives a weekly update from the state of Montana reporting all truck crashes, including the number of wrecks and any trends involving certain transportation companies or geographic locations where crashes seem to happen more frequently. But Brummell says MCPHD rarely has to utilize its truck crash documents.

"It's just good to have these protocols in place to protect our communities," she told the commissioners.

Other public health business

Brummell noted that the county's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) contract was renewed in July, but that some extra grant funds were made available after that renewal that only recently got transferred to MCPHD.

"It's extra money in our pocket to support some of the PHEP-related activities we do," she said. The extra funding amounts to around \$4,000, spread out quarterly in installments of \$1,000. PHEP is a nationwide program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and designed to help ensure that local health departments are prepared for unlikely crises—infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters or chemical or nuclear events.

Brummell also said that public health staff would soon be undergoing a QPR training, a response to feedback in MCPHD's annual patient survey earlier this year. Many respondents said that they would like to see the department offer more suicide prevention information.

QPR stands for "question, persuade, refer," and is a tool health care providers or bystanders can utilize to evaluate whether someone they know is at risk for suicide and to ensure they get the help they need. Public health employees will receive the training, Brummell said, who can then lead trainings around Madison County for residents who are interested in becoming certified.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

What's Smarter – Paying Off Debts or Investing?

It probably doesn't happen as much as you'd like, but you may occasionally have some extra disposable income. For example, perhaps you have recently received, or will soon receive, a year-end bonus. Or maybe you will get a sizable tax refund in just a few months. Wherever this money comes from, you will want to put it to good use. Should you use the cash to pay down debts or should you invest it instead?

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

- Evaluate your cash flow. If you already have enough cash to meet your daily living expenses, you might lean toward investing the money, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your newfound funds to reduce your debt load. Another way of possibly reducing your debt load is to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt, to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

- Evaluate your debts. Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider using your excess cash for investments, rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate and whose interest payments are not deductible, you might be better off paying down this debt.

- Evaluate your investment opportunities. You may have heard that one season or another is a "better" time to invest – but there's really no

strong evidence to support this claim. However, now that we are nearing the end of the calendar year, and only a few months away from the tax-filing deadline on April 15, you may want to take advantage of at least one time-related investment opportunity. Specifically, you could use whatever extra money you have to fully fund your IRA, if you haven't done so already. For the 2018 tax year, you can contribute \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older. (Depending on your income, you may not be able to contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA.) You've got until the April 15 deadline to fully fund your IRA, but if you have the money sooner, why wait? The quicker it's in your account, the faster it can go to work for you.

One final suggestion: If you have a company match as part of your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, consider contributing enough to get your employer's full matching contribution before you pay down debts – don't leave this "free money" on the table.

Your year-end bonus, tax refund or other source of beyond-the-paycheck money can help you make progress toward your financial goals – so evaluate your situation and options carefully before making any moves. It will be time well spent.

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FIND YOUR wild

Justin Gnerer: Game retrieval service

By John D. Taylor

Justin Gnerer finds his wild on horseback in the backcountry, helping hunters retrieve their game.

Gnerer, based in Whitehall, this year began a game retrieval service. Using horses in a packstring, and with the help of his brother, he hauls hunters' trophies out of the backcountry – no easy chore when it's 15 miles back in over rough country, icy trails, and there are several hundred pounds of elk meat and antlers to haul out. And his work is not without other hazards. He said he has seen plenty of grizzlies hanging around the site of a big game kill, but the horses know when bears are close – they start prancing, snorting and let him know when to be careful.

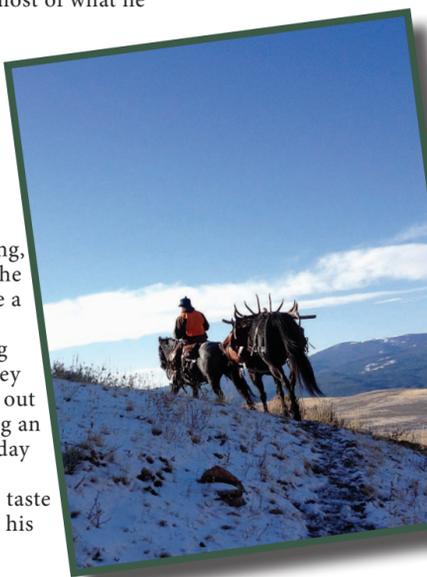
Although not limited to elk, he said most of what he fetched from the backwoods was elk, because most hunters typically handle deer-sized game themselves.

Gnerer had been working with the U.S. Forest Service – the agency that licenses him for game retrieval, an organization he said was great to work with – for a couple of years in order to get the business going.

"I was out anyway, I do a lot of hunting, and people were asking me to do this," he said, noting that it is not legal to charge a fee for this unless a person is licensed.

Gnerer enjoys simply being out, being the person who thrills hunters when they see his horses get their hard-won game out of the wild places. Without him, hauling an elk out by backpack could be a couple-day adventure.

Bringing joy, horses, a memory and a taste of the wild home is where Gnerer finds his wild.



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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
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Welcome aboard, Jonathan!

Jonathan Nutt has joined Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Montana Properties at the local Ennis Office. Jonathan, a licensed Montana Broker, brings with him over a decade of real estate experience including owning his own company in Mississippi, Lineage Properties, LLC. Jonathan graduated from Mississippi State University with both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Business Administration and before he became a REALTOR he worked in finance for Fortune 500 defense contractor.



Jonathan moved his wife Krystin, and their two children to Montana to enjoy the mountains and our vast outdoor life. He is an avid lover of hunting, fishing, and hiking and whenever possible you will find him in the back country. Krystin is a nurse practitioner at Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis and their children attend the Ennis schools. Jonathan also brings a strong knowledge from construction and looks forward to helping people find their dream in the Madison Valley area.

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Remax Mountain Property donated \$1,000 to the Ennis Senior Center. Pictured left to right are Corinna Christensen, Brianna Nelson, Lynne Foreman, Laura Gilmore, Jennie Rohrback, Pam Menzel, Kim Foreman, and Lincoln Roberts. Please support our Ennis Seniors. (SUBMITTED)

Senators Daines, Tester fight to fully fund conservation bill

Land and Water Conservation Fund expired September 30

REAGAN COLYER
news@madisoniannews.com

HELENA - Montana's Republican Senator Steve Daines and Democratic Senator Jon Tester joined congressional representatives and conservationists for a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, November 29 to call for the permanent reauthorization of a program first established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is one of the largest sources of government funding for public lands and recreation. The fund partners with more than 1,000 entities, including businesses, conservation groups and federal, state and local governing bodies, to preserve areas like national parks, monuments, battlefields, wildlife refuges, trails and national forests.

"The land and water conservation bill assures our growing population that we will begin, as of this day, to acquire...the outdoor recreation lands that tomorrow's Americans will require," said Johnson when he signed the bill. Since then, LWCF has funded countless projects across the U.S. with the interest of preserving public lands, history and culture.

Daines touched upon his upbringing in Bozeman while praising the work of the LWCF.

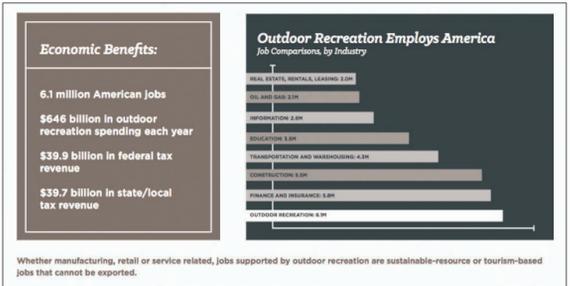
"When my parents moved to Bozeman when I was a year old, it was a town of 15,000," Daines said. "Today, Bozeman is the fastest-growing micropolitan area in America. Why is that? It's because of the quality of life there, and that's because of programs like the LWCF that allow us to access public lands."

Daines was joined by senators from Colorado and Washington and representatives from New York, Pennsylvania and Arizona to call for permanent funding of the LWCF, which expired on September 30. The bill has required consistent re-upping over the past several years, but President Donald Trump's new budget has drastically cut the program's funding, something at which Senator Jon Tester expressed frustration on Thursday.

"Over the years, the LWCF has set aside thousands of acres of land, increased access to our public lands so we can hike and bike and hunt and fish, and done some great things for parks and urban areas," Tester said. "The president's budget cut this fund by 99 percent. We need \$900 million in it. That's what it was initially funded at. It's important we make this a top priority."

The \$900 million budget requested by LWCF has been funded in the past by offshore drilling revenues, which measured more than \$5 billion in 2015 and about \$3 billion in 2016. In recent years the fund has not received its full funding, what the congressional push seeks to remedy.

"We need to get the LWCF permanently reauthorized," said Washington Senator Maria Cantwell. "It's time that Congress not go into 2019 with a question mark around



Sen. Daines and supporters of LWCF rally outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C. (SUBMITTED)

something that's so important to our economy."

Cantwell wasn't the only speaker to touch on the importance of recreation to state economies. Tester noted that the recreation and outdoor industries bring \$7 billion to the Montana economy annually, and the LWCF reports that outdoor recreation creates 6.1 million American jobs and brings in \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue.

LWCF Projects

The LWCF uses four major avenues to contribute to conservation nationwide:

- The Forest Legacy Program is a voluntary program designed to protect forest land from development via conservation easements or outright purchases;
- The Cooperative Endangered Species Fund works under the Endangered Species Act to conserve both threatened species and the habitats they live in;
- The American Battlefield Protection Program works to protect historical parks, military parks, monuments and battlefields in order to preserve the sites of historical events and history-changing conflicts;
- State and local assistance grants, which make up the largest portion of the LWCF's work.

In its 54-year history, the LWCF has facilitated over 42,000 grants to state, local and tribal governments to create and expand parks, recreation facilities and strategic recreation plans. In Montana, the fund has contributed to over 600 projects.

Locally, since 1964, 17 of those projects inhabit Madison County. From city parks in Sheridan and Ennis, to the Varney, Valley Garden and Burnt Tree fishing access

sites used by thousands of Madison River fly fishermen annually, LWCF has contributed nearly \$570,000 in grants to Madison County alone, supporting one of the area's largest economic sectors.

In addition to the politicians, community members have been advocating to fully fund LWCF since before its September expiration. Lynn Scarlett, head of external affairs for the Nature Conservancy, noted that in just a month, over 2 million messages have been sent to policymakers from people who care about conserving their public lands.

"We have 1.5 million members, and they have one big message: we need mandatory, permanent and full funding of the LWCF," Scarlett said. "Why that message? We at the Conservancy like to say that nature is not just nice. It's essential. The benefits are vast."

Several congressmen made a plea for Congress to accomplish this goal before the end of its current session during the upcoming month. The bill to fully and permanently fund LWCF, co-sponsored by 42 Democrats, six Republicans and two independent senators, was referred back to the Senate on October 2 by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The 115th Congress ends on December 14, so senators only have days to approve the bill before Congress goes into recess.

Representative Lee Zeldin of New York brought the message home at Thursday's press conference in Washington.

"This shouldn't be a Republican or Democrat win, a conservative or liberal win," Zeldin said. "It's an American win. We have a responsibility to leave this world better than we found it."

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UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

to be held during the Christmas Stroll.

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Most Creative ugly Christmas Sweater \$25

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- Supports school sober parties
- Supports and participates in the school's Business Professionals of America, helping students with programs that focus on safety i.e. reducing underage drinking and driving impaired.
- Provides grants to community programs that help reduce underage drinking and driving impaired.
- Collects County Data for baseline and trend data
- Supports Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service Trainings
- Supports victim advocate programs that help reduce driving impaired and underage drinking
- Supports training for Law Enforcement to reduce underage drinking and impaired driving

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Madison County Dui Task Force does not use tax payer dollars to fund their programs they are funded by re-instatement fees through the department of transportation and donations. Please consider donating to the Madison County Dui Task Force... if you are interested in one of our programs please give Lynn a call at 406-660-7330

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Cameron Christmas Party

CAMERON – The public is invited to the Bear Creek Schoolhouse for a potluck dinner 6 p.m., December 19, the dinner to be followed by Christmas Carols and a visit from Santa.

In years past, notes Janet Smith, the local schoolhouse served not only as the center of education, but was also the gathering place for community events.

Neighbors looked forward to getting together for dances, church services, weddings, picnics, and a variety of social gatherings.

The historic Bear Creek Schoolhouse still serves as a gathering place where friends and neighbors get together for celebrations, or just to catch up with what's going on in the neighborhood.

When cabin fever starts set-



Bear Creek Schoolhouse near Cameron

ting in, there are March Madness Pinochle parties.

Summertime brings the neighborhood BBQ and also the popular Cowboy Poetry Night.

But Christmas is also a special time to get together for an old-fashioned potluck supper, followed by Christmas carols and a visit from Santa.

Smith asks those attending to bring a favorite dish and also a wrapped gift for the kids you bring (which you will place in Santa's bag in the foyer).

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Sheridan names students of the month

SHERIDAN – Sheridan School district has announced their Students of the Month. Students are chosen by faculty and staff members based on their citizenship, leadership and academic attitude. The following students were selected for October:

- K – Cole Hansen
- 1 – Nicole Braaten
- 2 – Maelin Brown
- 3 – Riley Chisholm
- 4 – Benjamin Patterson
- 5 – John Martens
- 6 – Sawyer Anson
- 7 – McCall Leavens
- 8 – Natalie Schrank
- 9 – Jenna Nate
- 10 – Coleman Gilman
- 11 – Amanda Grow
- 12 – Ashton Sheffield

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



The Berkshire Hathaway window displaying Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary projects.

Dee Loveland and Cherrie Zitting

Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary president Dee Loveland and member Cherrie Zitting created the MVM November window display at Berkshire Hathaway in downtown Ennis to showcase the manor, volunteers and activities. Dee, aka "The Window Whisperer," transformed the window with support from the MVM Auxiliary and Berkshire Hathaway.

"The MVM Auxiliary members spend countless hours helping the MVM residents," says Shari, one of the Manor's activities di-

rectors, who nominated Loveland and Zitting as this week's volunteer spotlight. "They've provided weekly hair care for some of our ladies and are always quick to respond to the MVM Wish List and special requests."

Auxiliary members often accompany MVM Activities Staff on outings to help with the residents. They also sponsor and host the monthly resident birthday party, complete with live music, birthday gifts, cake and ice cream.

"Financially they have always been there to fill in the gap for items not available in the budget," says Shari. We so appreciate all that the MVM Auxiliary members do for Madison Valley Manor!"

Madison County DISPATCH

November 25 - December 1, 2018.

November 25 – Citizen Assist on Ramshorn Creek Rd., Sheridan; Welfare Check on Davey Creek Rd., Alder; Medical Aid in 300 Blk Boundary St., Sheridan; Medical Aid in 500 Blk Ray Ln Sheridan; Accident on East Bench Rd Twin Bridges; Accident on US Hwy 287, MM 19, Cameron; Fire Call on MT Hwy 359, Cardwell; Accident at MT Hwy 287 & Beaverhead St., Ennis.

November 28 - Welfare Check in 400 Blk W. Hugel St., Ennis; Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 287, MM 5, Ennis; Coroner Call in Sheridan; Theft Complaint in 10000 Blk Stone Creek Rd., Twin Bridges; Traffic Complaint on MT Hwy 41, MM 26, Twin Bridges.

November 26 – Wildlife Complaint in 100 Blk Varney Rd., Ennis; Medical Aid in 2200 Blk MT Hwy 287, Alder; Theft Complaint on Cactus Ridge Rd., Twin Bridges; Abandoned Vehicle on MT Hwy 41, Twin Bridges; Accident on MT Hwy 287, Ennis; Assault on MT Hwy 84, MM 9, Norris; Accident on MT Hwy 287, MM 5, Ennis; Alarm Call in 100 Blk Bear Creek Rd. E, Cameron; Accident at MT Hwy 287 & Bivens Creek Rd., Sheridan

November 29 - Fire Call on Wet Georgia Rd., Sheridan; Medical Aid on Cottonwood Ln., Ennis; Suspicious Circumstances on Reel St., Pony; Theft Complaint on Forest Service Rd., Ennis; Traffic Complaint at MT Hwy 287 & MT Hwy 41, Twin Bridges.

November 27 - Wildlife Complaint in 800 Blk Madison Ave., Ennis; Medical Aid on Cottonwood Ln., Ennis; Suspicious Circumstances in 100 Blk Madison St., Sheridan.

November 30 - Theft Complaint in 200 Blk W. Wallace St., Virginia City; Trespass Complaint on Pony Rd., Pony; Accident in 500 Blk Varney Rd., Ennis; Accident on N Meadow Creek Rd, McAllister; Suspicious Circumstances in 300 Blk N. Main St., Twin Bridges; Accident on MT Hwy 41, MM 23, Twin Bridges; Accident on US Hwy 287, MM 53, McAllister; Medical Aid in 100 Blk Main St., Harrison.

December 1 - Medical Aid in 200 Blk Boundary St., Sheridan.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 76 Calls for service from November 25 - December 1.

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All Day * First Interstate Bank Stop by and choose a gift to donate from the Christmas Tree. All gifts are for Madison Valley Manor residents.

6:30 to 12 * On the Fly Espresso \$1 off your order and proceeds go to the Friends of the Library

8AM - 5PM * Trenz Salon Annual Food Bank Drive! Bring in 3 cans of food and receive a free gift! Enjoy drinks, treats, and sign up for awesome gift drawings all day!

8AM - 8PM * The Tackle Shop Storewide sales of 10% off everything as well as whiskey and eggnog for adults and Christmas cookies for kids. We will be playing Holiday Movies!

10AM - 8PM * Plain Janes Deck the Halls with 25% off everything and homemade mulled cider.

10AM - 8PM * Willie's Distillery Get a delicious Peppermint Hot Chocolate with our peppermint infused Montana Moonshine. We will be giving out \$10 gift cards for every \$100 spent, Door Prize and Christmas Snacks.

10am-6pm - Whispering Willow/The Daily Grind & Boutique 50% off clothing. Serving coffee and chocolate covered candy canes

11:30AM - 1PM * Ennis True Value and Mountain View TV & Satellite Annual fundraiser for the Food Bank - Hot dog BBQ - \$1 Donation - in front of True Value.

3PM - 5PM * Ice Sculpture Contest Judging by the public. Voting is at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club Park. Turn in voting tokens by 7:30PM. Ice sculptures are throughout Main St (locations detailed on the ballot).

3PM - 6PM * River Dogs Stop by for cookie decorating!

3pm-8pm * Black Jack Ranch Gallery Miniature Show of artists works. Reception for Miniature Show starting at 5pm.

3PM - 6PM * Thurston Family Insurance Stop in for some holiday cheer! Drinks and finger foods around a fire pit!

3PM - 8PM * Madison Valley Public Library (Conference Room) Stop by for stories, crafts, cookies and hot chocolate!

3-8pm Madison Foods will have kids cookie decorating and carrots for reindeer. Hot Apple Cider served. FREE Gift Wrapping with donations. All donations go to the Ennis Community Children School.

3PM - 8PM * My Home in Montana Goodies, hot cocoa, and 25% off laser engraved products.

3PM - 8PM * Artist on Main Open to see their artwork and refreshments

3PM - 8PM * RE/MAX Mountain Property First Annual Ugly Sweater Contest will be judged at Re/Max. Stop in for treats, hot cocoa, and goodie bags!

3PM - 5PM * Caldera Junction and Back Road Antiques both businesses will be open and giving holiday treats. Visit their location by the Lone Elk Mall. Behind Pure West Christies.

3PM - 5PM * Antler Design will be serving spiced wine, cider, and baked goods for everyone!

3PM - 5PM * Buckboard Mercantile Popcorn garland stringing and mulled wine and hot cocoa.

3PM-8PM * Silver Dollar Saloon Holiday featured drink specials during the stroll. Karaoke and DJ Sunrise Entertainment will follow.

4PM - 6PM * Berkshire Hathaway Stop by for children's craft project of a reindeer necklace, cookies and drawing for \$100 Chamber Cash! Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy (around \$30 value) for ages newborn-age 14 and drop it off in our Toys for Tots box or any of our offices Statewide before December 20th. Every Thursday, a volunteer for the Marines will pick up the toys to take them to the Salvation Army.

4PM - 8PM * US Forest Service at Lions Club Park Warming fire and the fixings for s'mores!

4PM - 8PM * Ennis Trading Post Free ornament with purchase. Also, hot cider and holiday meatballs.

4PM - 8PM * Ennis Pharmacy Get your picture taken with Santa and then pick them up the next day.

4PM - 8 PM * The Nearly New Shoppe will remain open for extended hours, stop by for cookies and a hot beverage! Provided by the MV Women's Club.

4:30PM - 8PM * Sponsored by First Madison Valley Bank Dressed in Holiday Style, Mason & Amber Hamilton will fill the air with Christmas Greetings in song as they stroll in and out of the Ennis Main Street businesses.

5PM * Main Street Business Christmas decoration judging. Let's see you go all out!

5PM * Lions Club Tree lighting at Lions Club Park.

5PM - 8PM * The Pic-a-Nic Basket Customer Appreciation Open House.

5PM - 9PM * El Western Outdoor Christmas Light Display - Drive on by!

5:30PM - 8PM Gallery 287 hosting Christmas Tree Ornaments at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce.

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Winning Artist—Audrey Jones, 6th Grade

Artist Signing will be at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center 3pm to 5pm

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DEC. 8: 30% off entire store	DEC. 12: 40% off Johnny Was
DEC. 9: \$10 tote item w/ purchase	DEC. 13: 25% off Life is Good

For the rest of December's Advent Calendar, go to:
www.facebook.com/ennistradingpost/

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AOS A. Ortega & Sons LLC, Cory Johnson, D&D Auto, ERA Landmark Arrow Real Estate, L&J Construction Group, LLC, Madison Foods, MDM Construction, Murdochs, Plain Janes and Re/Max Mountain Property for sponsoring this trip. We want to personally thank everyone for participating in the raffle drawing that was held for Brummie. A big thank you to Urban Photography, Woolzies Willow Creek Café, Harrison Town Haul Diner, Trenz Salon, Shedhorn Sports, Nacho Mamas and The Daily Grind Espresso & Boutique for donating the raffle prizes.

And a huge shout out to the whole community of Ennis for supporting Brummie as he follows his dreams in rodeo.

Sincerely

Jamie, Holli, Brummie, Ruby and Brynlie Boggus



The Ennis Lions Club is donating \$500 to Brian Hilton for the Ennis schools' Colt Club after school program. The money will be used to help purchase winter gear for students in need. (SUBMITTED)

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Cheatgrass management

DILLION - Do you have a cheatgrass problem?

Join the Beaverhead County Weed District & Extension Office Monday, December 10, from 6 - 8 p.m., at the Beaverhead County 4-H Building on the fairgrounds in Dillon, for dinner and a presentation on Cheatgrass Management in Southwest Montana.

Cheatgrass is a big issue threatening agriculture and conservation alike.

Kyle Cutting, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Biologist, and Dr. Lisa Rew, and expert in plant invasion ecology at Montana State University, have been working on a project that is treating cheatgrass in rangelands, while max-

imizing native plant diversity.

Cheatgrass treatments began in Fall of 2017, and so far, the method is proving highly effective.

One Credit toward application licenses is available.

Dinner will be provided courtesy of the Weed District and the Beaverhead County Extension Office. An RSVP, while not required, is appreciated to ensure enough food is available for all.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Amber Burch at 406-683-3790 or email aburch@beaverheadcounty.org; or call the Beaverhead County Extension office at 406-683-3785 or beaverhead@montana.edu.

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday



Sunny, High 24, low 3. Winds SSW 3 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.

Friday



Mostly sunny, High 30, low 8. Winds SSW 4 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.

Saturday



Partly cloudy, High 32, low 13. Winds SSW 5 mph, 10 percent chance of precipitation.

Sunday



Partly cloudy, High 32, low 19. Winds S 6 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.

Monday



Cloudy, High 35, low 20, Winds S 7 mph, 10 percent chance of precipitation.

Quote of the Week:

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

William Arthur Ward

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PANORAMA



Uncovering history

Toni Bowen couldn't find the story she wanted to read, so she wrote it herself

REAGAN COLYER
news@madisoniannews.com

ENNIS—Earlier this year, Toni Bowen tried to look up the history of the Madison Meadows Golf Course, and by extension, the ranch that had been there for decades before the golf course came to be. She was simply interested out of curiosity, but quickly became shocked to find that there was nothing, anywhere, about the history of the golf course, the development it houses or the ranch it had once been.

"I've lived here for 25 years, and there's nothing about the history of how the golf course came about, or how it was involved in Valley Garden Ranch," says Bowen. "I was just flabbergasted when I couldn't find anything on this."

Bowen lives in the very first house that was built on the golf course, having bought and remodeled it last year. She also knows Dan Leadbetter, one of the men responsible for the project in the first place.

She began by consulting the Madison Valley History Association, which keeps meticulous records, relics, photographs and stories of the history of Madison County and its communities. They didn't have anything on the area she was interested in.

So, she went farther back, consulting Madison County's archives, old land purchase deeds and even the Montana Pioneer Book, a directory and anthology of the families who settled the Last Best Place, well back into the 1800s. Curiosity drove her to every source she could think of.

Soon, she set about writing the story she couldn't find anywhere else.

"Madison Meadows and Valley Garden Golf Village—A History"

By Toni Bowen

According to James Spray in "Early Days in the Madison Valley," a gentleman by the name of Wetmore Hodges purchased the famous Valley Garden Ranch, which included the Oliver Ranch and the Sawtell Place, in 1929. The transaction also included property which Hodges purchased from Ernest Vetter, which he named the Jumping Horse Ranch and where he raised polo-type horses. In 1948, Hodges sold Valley Garden Ranch to Mr. L. W. Fitzgerald.

Valley Garden Ranch was purchased by Win-Del Ranches Inc. of Colorado Springs in May 1951. Win-Del was named for Deb Leadbetter's parents, Winnie and Del Holbrook. Deb and her husband Dan Leadbetter moved onto the ranch from Colorado in 1957 and took over after Deb inherited the property from her parents.

In the late 1970s, Dan Leadbetter and several of his golf buddies tired of playing the golf courses around the Bozeman area and decided they needed one closer to home. Bob Rice, owner of the Rice Ranches in Harrison, was a friend and fellow golfer of Dan Leadbetter and owned some adjoining ranchland.

The two decided to donate parts of their respective properties for community use as the golf course they wanted to build. Leadbetter donated 80 acres of hay ground near the Ennis Rodeo grounds and Rice donated 20 acres to the west, making up what is now the 102 acres of golf course property.

During that time, there was a government program funding public proj-



Above - Before it became the Madison Meadows golf course and Valley Garden Golf Village, Valley Garden Ranch was a stretch of ranchland with a diverse history, from polo horses to cattle. Toni Bowen, who lives in the golf course development now, decided to research the story earlier this year.

Below - Dan Leadbetter (right), owner of the Valley Garden Ranch and one of the minds behind the Madison Meadows golf course and Valley Garden Golf Village, surveys his domain with a friend, their horses and Leadbetter's trusty dogs. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF JILL CONNOLLY)



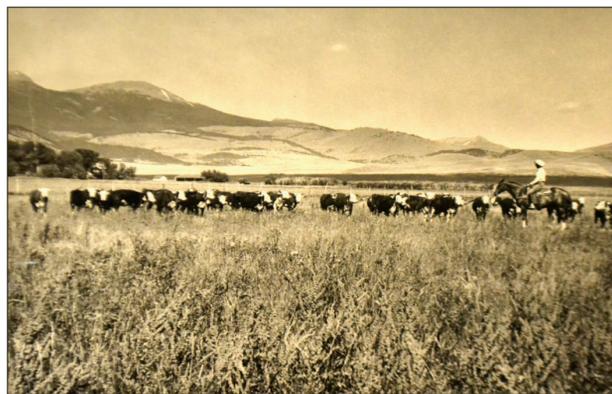
ects by which the government would match land pledged by local communities. The acreage donated by Leadbetter and Rice, plus fifty shares of water rights in the Madison Canal, were enough to get the project approved, and the land was deeded to Madison County. That program later folded, says Leadbetter, now 84 and living in Bozeman, and he doesn't remember what it was called.

A group of friends and neighbors—Leadbetter and Rice, plus Peter Combs, Elmer Hotvedt, Andy Kelly, Dan Segota, Bob Brand, Clancy Stalcup, Bob Storey and Gene Hanni, among others—hired a golf course architect from Colorado to design the course. The par-36, nine-hole, links-style course opened for play in 1982. Additions like the clubhouse, tennis courts and maintenance shed were added later with the provided government funds and course revenue.

The Leadbetters, along with Deb's mother Winnie, later planned the residential development surrounding the golf course. The subdivision, laid out by Christian Spring Engineering, included a community water system, as the Leadbetters believed the lots would be more valuable if water was included. The original project took approximately 6 months.

In 1982, the first phase lots were put on the market for sale in the golf course development. However, Montana's economy during the 1980s was in a years-long slump, and while the development had been named Valley Garden Golf Village, there was a write-in vote for "Fool's Folly" due to lack of interest in the lots.

"It was my first and last subdivision. They didn't sell," laughs Lead-



Dan Leadbetter and his wife, Deb, took over the Valley Garden Ranch from Deb's parents in 1971. Dan would later donate 80 acres of the property to the project that would become the Madison Meadows golf course. (JILL CONNOLLY)

better. "My timing couldn't have been any worse."

But he and his board believed the golf course was good for the community and continued to add value by expanding and further developing the course and the subdivision. Over the years it became one of the most populated residential areas in Ennis, with new homes being built every year.

Madison Meadows continues as a very popular hometown golf course, known around the state for being both fun and challenging. Dan Leadbetter, Bob Rice and their families still have standing lifetime memberships. And what started as a wild idea has become one of Ennis's most successful community projects.

What's next?

Now that she's found the answers

to most of her questions—having consulted everything from topographical maps to town ordinances to obituaries—Toni Bowen hopes to record the story of Madison Meadows and the Valley Garden Ranch somewhere it can be read and remembered.

"There used to be a photo and a story of the golf course hanging on the wall in the clubhouse, and one day it disappeared," she says. "Maybe we can get another story hung up there so people can read it."

She also plans to donate some of her materials and research to the Madison Valley History Museum, where visitors and researchers like herself can find them. In the meantime, she's learned the history about the very home she lives in, and the land it sits upon.

It's beginning to look a lot like Splendid Feast!

REAGAN COLYER
news@madisoniannews.com

VIRGINIA CITY—Volunteers spent the weekend of December 1-2 decorating the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in anticipation of one of the Center's most anticipated events of the year: the annual Splendid Feast.

The halls will be truly decked when guests arrive for a locally-prepared four-course meal on December 15 and 16. Preceded by a cocktail hour with mulled cider and good old-fashioned wassail and accompanied by live music, it's an event that has frequently been so popular there's been talk of adding a third evening in future years.

The entire Elling House will be decorated inside and out and will remain in its festive finery until January. Event director Toni James said some of the most important decorations are the wreaths, handmade by local artists out of fresh boughs from area fir trees, which will adorn each table as guests enjoy food, music and good company on a cold winter's night.

"The wreaths will be the centerpieces for the evening," James says. "And at the end of the night they'll be auctioned off as part of the fundraiser."

Splendid Feast is one of the Elling House's only events that carries an admission fee, which is why it's such an important couple of evenings. Admissions, auction proceeds and donations from supporters help the Center keep most of its events throughout the year free to the public, or admission by donation.

The push to get the Center decorated came a little earlier than usual this year, as volunteers hurried to have the space prepared for another concert on Saturday, December 8.

Folk duo Willson & McKee will perform a concert at the Elling House, preceded by a potluck and followed by an informal jam session in which attendees are encouraged to participate. After hours of hard work over the weekend, the Center will be cozy, festive and prepared to welcome the holidays. To learn more about upcoming concerts or the Splendid Feast, call 843-5454.



Above - Handmade wreaths made from local fir boughs will adorn the tables at the Splendid Feast in Virginia City on December 15 and 16. Volunteers spent the weekend of December 1 and 2 decorating the space in preparation for the event. (R. COLYER PHOTOS)

Below - Toni James (left) and Emily Osborn, along with other volunteers, spent their weekend decorating the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center will garlands, swags, lights, ornaments and wreaths to prepare for the Splendid Feast, one of the Center's most popular winter events.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beyond brushing and flossing

Five ways to stay out of the dental chair

For good dental health, regular checkups are a necessity.

But let's face it. Regardless of whether your teeth are in good shape or bad, going to the dentist, even just for a cleaning, doesn't make everyone's list of top things they like to do.

And when there's extra work to be done — such as filling cavities — it can be even more troubling. Most people know they should brush and floss. But beyond that, what are some of the things you should do to stay out

of the dental chair?

"Reducing the amount of sugar in your diet is a great place to start," says Dr. Anita Myers, a dentist and author of the book "Stunning Smiles: A Dental Guide To Improve the Way You Eat, Smile & Live" (www.dranitmyers.com).

"Many people when they get up in the morning get a croissant, muffin or doughnut, and a coffee with sugar. To protect their teeth, it would be much better to substitute whole grain cereal and then sweeten it with fruit."

While Dr. Myers says most people worry about the impact of sugar on their weight, the damage done to teeth is just as bad if not worse. "If you change your lifestyle you can lose extra weight. But if you lose your teeth because of too much sugar, you can't get them back."

Dr. Myers offers the following advice for those who want to do a better job of caring for their teeth and gums:

- Make good diet choices. Stay away from processed foods, which often contain sugar even when you don't realize it. Sugar, of course, leads to tooth decay that causes cavities. Here's how: The mouth has both good and bad bacteria in it. The harmful bacteria feed off the sugar, and as they do so they produce acid that breaks down your teeth layer by layer. Some processed foods that people may not realize have significant amounts of sugar include low-fat yogurt, condiments such as ketchup and barbeque sauce, pasta sauce and salad dressings.

- Don't abuse over-the-counter medications. Prescription drugs can create dental issues. For example, a side effect of many medications is dry mouth, which leads to a variety of oral-health problems. And watch out for the sugar in most cough drops and antacids, as some people tend to rely on these on a regular basis.

- Stop smoking and using tobacco. In addition to being bad for teeth and gums, they increase the odds of oral cancer.

- Drink plenty of water. Water cleanses the mouth of toxins.

- Stop illegal drug use. Cocaine and methamphetamine cause a reduction in saliva flow that results in decay and affects the entire mouth.

"Too many people think brushing and flossing are the only aspects of good dental care," says Dr. Myers. "While those activities are important, there are many other things patients can do to maintain a great smile."

Dr. Anita Myers, is a dentist and a graduate of the University of Texas Dental Branch and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University. She is an alumnus and visiting faculty member of the Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education; a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Voted one of "America's Top Dentists" 2010-2018 by the Consumer's Research Council, she is also a member of several local, state and national dental associations.

Can childhood stress affect the immune system?

by Dr. Francis Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Whether it's growing up in gut-wrenching poverty, dealing with dysfunctional family dynamics, or coping with persistent bullying in school, extreme adversity can shatter a child's sense of emotional well-being. But does it also place kids at higher of developing heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic health conditions as adults?

Katherine Ehrlich, a researcher at University of Georgia, Athens, wants to take a closer look at this question. She recently received a 2018 NIH Director's New Innovator Award to study whether acute or chronic psychosocial stress during childhood might sensitize the body's immune system to behave in ways that damage health, possibly over the course of a lifetime.

She'll start her investigation by focusing on a familiar measure of biological response to an external event: the annual flu shot. Ehrlich will study 150 children who've received the flu vaccine to see if there's any link between their levels of psychosocial stress and their blood levels of antibodies, which are immune molecules that the body generates to fend off the influenza virus.

What makes Ehrlich's approach so innovative is it involves kids in real-time. For the past 30 years, most similar studies have asked adults to recall their childhood experiences and then associated those sometimes fuzzy memories with their current health status. The phenomenon of "recall bias" has often



Katherine Ehrlich, a researcher at University of Georgia, Athens, is studying the relationship between childhood stress and immune health. (NIH)

made it difficult to interpret such retrospective studies.

While most kids who get the flu vaccine are protected against the potentially fatal disease, there is a subset whose immune systems generate suboptimal levels of antibodies. And even among kids who are protected, there exists tremendous variability in antibody levels among individuals. Ehrlich hopes to be able to determine whether a child's current sense of well-being, along with history of psychosocial stress, might help explain some of those differences. Possible stressors include poverty, racial discrimination, strained family relationships, harsh discipline, community violence, and limited social opportunities.

Ehrlich and her colleagues plan to follow their initial study with an analysis of the household dynamics of recently immunized kids. That follow-up work will include tapping into an ongoing, NIH-sup-

ported study called Strong African American Families Project, which involves low-income parents and their children in nine counties in rural Georgia. Ehrlich wants to look for specific psychosocial stressors associated with impaired immunity, as well as specific factors that may offset such stressors.

As Ehrlich notes, her research is just part of an emerging area of scientific inquiry that seeks to develop a more holistic view of the potential health impacts of the psychosocial stressors of childhood. Among the various biological and behavioral questions being explored by such researchers are whether psychosocial stressors may produce a chronic, low-grade inflammatory state in some kids, resulting in health repercussions throughout their lives. Whatever the results may be, let's hope that critical inroads can be made soon to find better ways to help all children thrive and grow into healthier adults.

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 Contact: Chairman, Ted Linn, 682-3614 or 581-7055 for more information.

Madison Valley Rural Fire District seeks a Training Officer to plan and facilitate monthly and special trainings and to maintain training records for all personnel. Other responsibilities will include responding to calls when available, enforcing department policies and procedures, having knowledge of fire equipment. Must have knowledge of firefighting tactics and procedures for a variety of calls.
 Preferred qualifications include: EMT, basic or higher, knowledge of programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Firefighter 1 & 2 certified, and 5 years of firefighting experience. Up to 40 hours per month are expected, salary commensurate with District salary schedule. MVRFD is an equal opportunity employer. Please send letter of interest and resume to MVRFD, PO Box 649, Ennis, MT 59729 no later than December 21st for consideration. Email: mvrfd@bigskyfire.com for a full list of responsibilities and requirements. Please Chef Shawn Christensen, 682-4748 or 570-6741, for more information.

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New funding available to train community health workers

MONTANA - Several new entry-level health care professions are emerging in Montana including the paraprofessional position of Community Health Worker (CHW). New, temporary funding is now available to cover these training costs at health care facilities, including hospitals, clinics, health centers, medical offices and community-based organizations.

The Montana Office of Rural Health at Montana State University will distribute funding to employer facilities when an employee has completed the 85-hour CHW training. The funding is available through a grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. State-wide training partners include the Montana Hospital Association, Montana Area Health Education Centers, RiverStone Health and Montana Health Network.

The American Public Health Association (APHA) defines a Community Health Worker as a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. The CHW training will provide individuals skills in the following areas: professional skills and conduct; communication; self-care; interpersonal relationships; outreach, navigation and coordination; organization; advocacy; capacity building; and teaching. The CHW training is facilitated by an instructor and provides a certificate upon completion.

Learn more about these trainings: <http://healthinfo.montana.edu/workforce-development/chwtraining.html>

Contact: Beth Ann Carter, Montana Office of Rural Health, beth.carter@montana.edu, (406) 925-1261.

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Close your eyes just for a sec and imagine taking a bite from a chilled, ripe, juicy watermelon?

Imagine your mouth filled with the sweet juice as you chew the imaginary fruit? Did your mouth water as you ran the thought through that beautiful mind of yours? If you swallowed, it's physiological proof that you have a great imagination and your body responded viscerally to the thought.

Think how powerful your imagination is! You can use this power to solve all kinds of problems, like this one, for an example. Say you want to make Wiener Schnitzel and most recipes call for one inch thick, boneless pork loins to be flattened to a quarter of an inch thick. What if you don't have one of those wooden hammers you see in fancy kitchens? What could you use?

When I was confronted with this problem, I actually had one of those hammers, so I took one of the loins and started pounding it to ¼ inch. At the time I was writing a cookbook (The Phony Gourmet) with my sister and I wanted to be able to tell my readers cor-

rect times for my recipes, so I timed it—five minutes! If I'd continued the marathon pounding I would have had to say this particular dish (for four) would take 20 minutes of pounding time! Who has 20 minutes to whack at a bunch of pork before ever starting the recipe?

I got quiet and asked myself, what can I use instead of this stupid decorator hammer? Five seconds later the answer came to me!

Use the car! Whoop whoop! I couldn't wait to try it. I put a loin in a zip-lock bag, put the bag under one of the back tires of my Ford (in front of the tire) and slowly rolled the car forward over the pork.

SCHPLOTT! the piece of meat cut through the bag and sailed out behind the car into the street! I looked to see if the meddlesome neighbor had her nose on the window but her blinds were closed so I peeled the pork off the pavement and went in the house to consult with my imagination, this time with more information.

I would need to find a way to keep the loin under the tire, but how? That's

when it occurred to me I could put the meat in a zip-lock bag and wrap the bag in an old towel or rag. I found an old dishtowel in the rag bag and wrapped another victim up for the crunch. IT WORKED! The fabric kept the protein in place and the tire pressed that loin into a beautiful specimen for my Wiener Schnitzel.

Within minutes I realized I could use the Ford in place of my Cuisinart for making crumbs, crushed nuts, and to tenderize any tough cut of meat.* So how do you use your imagination for helping you get organized?

As you begin making a meal, imagine what you'd like the kitchen to look like when you're ready to sit down with your family to eat. Would you like the kitchen counters clear of all ingredients, and utensils used for preparation? Would you like pots and pans to be soaking in a sink of hot sudsy water while you eat? Imagine it. Keep the vision in your head as you prepare the meal and watch what happens! You'll sit down with your family leaving a neat and tidy kitchen just waiting for the family to bring their

dirty dishes in to put in the dishwasher and ready to help wash the soaking pots and pans.

*If considering this tip, use a mid-size car (no SUVs or Hummers) and make sure you don't have studded snow tires on the vehicle.

If you liked what I did with the pork, I think you'll like The Phony Gourmet Cookbook (the recipe for that pork dish is called Wiener Schnitzel Michelin and it's in the book!). I've even got a clearance price and now this hardback book is just \$5 (down from its original price of \$15).<http://shop.cluborganized.com/everything-is-5-phony>

Happy Imagining,

Kids have messy rooms? End the arguments about cleaning them. Check out my House Fairy program. http://lp.housefairy.org/lp-joy-of-being-disorganized-chapter-seven-9?hs_preview=G-pnbKrVf-3590384407



For more from Pam Young go to www.cluborganized.com. You'll find many musings, videos of Pam in the kitchen preparing delicious meals, videos on how to get organized, lose weight and get your finances in order, all from a reformed SLOB's point of view. Pam's books are also available on Amazon.

COMMODITY INSITE: Annus Horribilis followed by Annus Mirabilis

BY JERRY WELCH

The Latin phrase, "annus horribilis" means horrible year and was first used in 1891. In 1992, the expression was brought to modern prominence by Queen Elizabeth II in a speech marking the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne. She described the year as, "annus horribilis" because of all the personal problems her family endured such a divorces, separations, scandalous photos of loved ones and a fire that destroyed one of her personal residences. She said, "1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure."

Though there only a few weeks left in this calendar year, I am going to borrow the phrase, "annus horribilis" to describe the performance of the Big Four: stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities for 2018. The year has a bit more to run but by any measure, it has been a horrible year for investors, ag-producers and ag-traders.

Here are just a few thoughts about 2018 from Bloomberg News in an article entitled, Worst Day of an Awful Year Leaves No Corner of Market Unscathed, published November 20. "One of the toughest years for financial markets in half a century got appreciably worse with simmering weakness across assets boiling over to leave

investors with virtually nowhere to hide." And, "nowhere to hide" simply means all markets crashed in 2018.

The Bloomberg article goes on to state, "Stocks buckled...sending the S&P 500 careening toward a correction. Oil plumbed depths last seen a year ago, while credit markets -- recently impervious -- showed signs of shaking apart. Bitcoin is in a freefall, while traditional havens like Treasuries, gold and the yen stood still."

In the case of Bitcoin, it traded as high as \$20,650 each in December, 2017 but this week hit a low of \$3498. A few days ago, the CRB Index that is to the commodity markets as the Dow Jones is to the stock market hit a new, 15 month low with soybean and wheat prices \$2 a bushel off the best levels of the year. Crude oil prices have dropped more than 36% in the past 2 months going from a high of \$77 a barrel to a low of just under \$50 a barrel.

The S&P and the Dow a few days ago had erased all the gains for 2018. Bonds have had their worst year since 2014. And from Barron's published today. "Lately, commodities have performed so poorly investors would be forgiven for thinking people no longer need anything to eat,

drink, or fuel their cars. In the past five years, the average commodity mutual fund has lost 8% a year."

The first column I wrote this year was entitled, "Bubble of Historic Proportions." I wrote, "On the final day of 2017, the CRB hit a 10 month high, back up to the levels of mid-January. With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear the CRB was roller coaster like last year offering something for the bulls and something for the bears. But a New Year lies ahead and hopes are high that commodities will do better and be less roller coaster like."

As it turned out the high point for commodity values per se was in the January to February period of 2018. After that, commodities rolled over, headed south and posted a 15 month low in late November. The Dow Jones took a hard hit in February, recovered nicely into October before succumbing to another disastrous decline.

Over the past 7 years including this year, hard assets have done poorly. But with the lowest number of unemployed in 49 years in the U.S., a rise with commodity prices per se should be close at hand. After all, history shows an inverse relationship between job creation and inflation.

When job creation is robust, inflation tends to rise. The phenomena is called the Phillips Curve and it should prove itself to be accurate in the New Year.

No doubt, 2018, was, "annus horribilis." But traditional investment groups are viewing the recent weakness with commodities as an alternative to stocks. If stocks move sideways to lower over the next decade as my work indicates, commodities will improve amid increased demand thanks to the lowest jobless rate in 49 years. In fact, Goldman Sachs is calling for a 19% rise with commodities per se in 2019 and I agree wholeheartedly.

If my work and the work of Goldman Sachs is accurate, 2019 will be dubbed, "annus mirabilis" which is a Latin phrase for, "wonderful year." And how would that be for a stroke of irony? "Annus horribilis" followed immediately by "annus mirabilis."

And do take the time to check out my book, "Haunted By Markets" at www.commodityinsite.com. After all, Christmas is just around the corner! And look for the Special Offer that comes with each purchase. Look for it!

A wake-up call for investment in America's transportation infrastructure

By Paul P. Skoutelas

Recently, the world learned yet again that inadequate investment in infrastructure—roads, bridges, tunnels, and railways—can have tragic consequences.

This time, those consequences befell the people of Genoa, Italy, where the collapse of a 51-year-old bridge killed 43 people. Area residents had long expressed concern about the bridge's structural integrity. For years, blocks of concrete had been falling from the span onto their cars. Yet only the bare minimum of maintenance appears to have been performed.

The tragedy in Italy should serve as a wake-up call in the United States. Plenty of bridges, tunnels, railways, and roads in this country are deteriorating. Our leaders must make the investments necessary to restore our infrastructure—and prevent a similar catastrophe here.

Simply put, our nation's infrastructure is failing. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) most recent report card gave the

overall condition of American infrastructure a D+. Bridges, specifically, received a C+—a bit better, but not exactly glowing.

In fact, public transit needs more investment than any other infrastructure sector. ASCE has graded the condition of the public transportation network as a D-, teetering on failing.

This lack of investment over the years in America's public transportation infrastructure has made modernizing these systems an enormous challenge for local public transit officials. For example, this past summer, Metrorail officials in the nation's capital had no choice but to address essential maintenance to overcome decades of America's underinvestment in our local public transit systems. As a result, riders have had to cope with planned partial shutdowns.

That's largely a function of inadequate funding. Public transportation accounted for over 10 billion trips last year. Yet, public transit systems are chronically underfunded. Ac-

ording to the U.S. Department of Transportation, public transit needs more than \$90 billion to bring our aging systems to a state of good repair. Failing to address this backlog results in a loss of \$340 billion in business revenue to the U.S. economy over a six-year period.

Fortunately, Congress has begun to act. Earlier this year, Congress appropriated more than \$16.3 billion for public transportation and intercity passenger rail construction. This summer, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have advanced transportation funding bills that build upon this critical investment.

Such investments in public transportation rebound across the American economy. Seventy-one percent of government funding for public transit flows to the private-sector. Those dollars support millions of jobs.

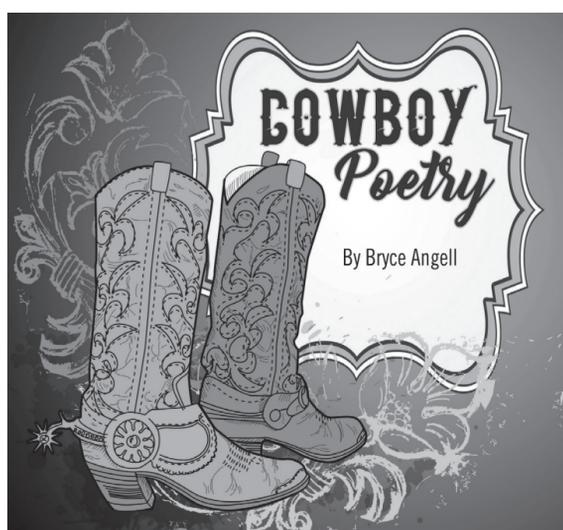
All told, investing to restore the nation's public transit systems to a state of good repair would create 162,000 new jobs and generate over \$180 billion in economic activity over a

six-year period.

The American public is on board with such public investment. More than six in 10 Americans told Gallup last year that they supported the Trump Administration's call for \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending. It's among the most popular items on the President's governing agenda. In addition, a survey by the Mineta Transportation Institute shows that 74 percent of Americans want Congress to increase federal investment in public transportation.

We don't need any more wake-up calls like the catastrophe in Italy. Our elected leaders must increase investment in our nation's transportation infrastructure.

Paul P. Skoutelas is president and CEO of the American Public Transportation Association.



Elk Hunt

The morning snow was on the ground. Our guide sized up the air.

Bellies full of scrambled eggs. Coffee that'd stand up your hair.

We'd planned the day a year ago. This place of all our dreams. And there we were ready to start, surreal so it seemed.

I heard the guide make mention, "Let's go easy on these guys. They both look like they're nervous. I can see it in

their eyes."

How could we fail with such a guide? He seems to know so much. Cuz we're a couple of city boys. And prob'ly out of touch.

Our leader had us pegged. We were not tough-like hunter men. We both were soft as Twinkies cuz each day we pushed the pen.

I knew that it was gonna be tough as sweat fogged up my glasses. We're just two outdoor wannabees? We're both slow as

molasses.

The days flew by with nothing but the blisters we'd been branded. It was plain that we weren't hunters and were going home empty handed.

I wondered what my wife and kids would say to no elk rack. Hopefully they'd all agree it's good to have me back.

Then our guide gave us direction. Two bulls who had been fighting. Aim must be true, and furthermore, faster than the lightning.

I squeezed my trigger to the right. He shot the one still standing. And this is where the work began yet didn't feel demanding.

The bounty had been made complete while cooking on the fire. Should I have felt so different and held my head up higher?

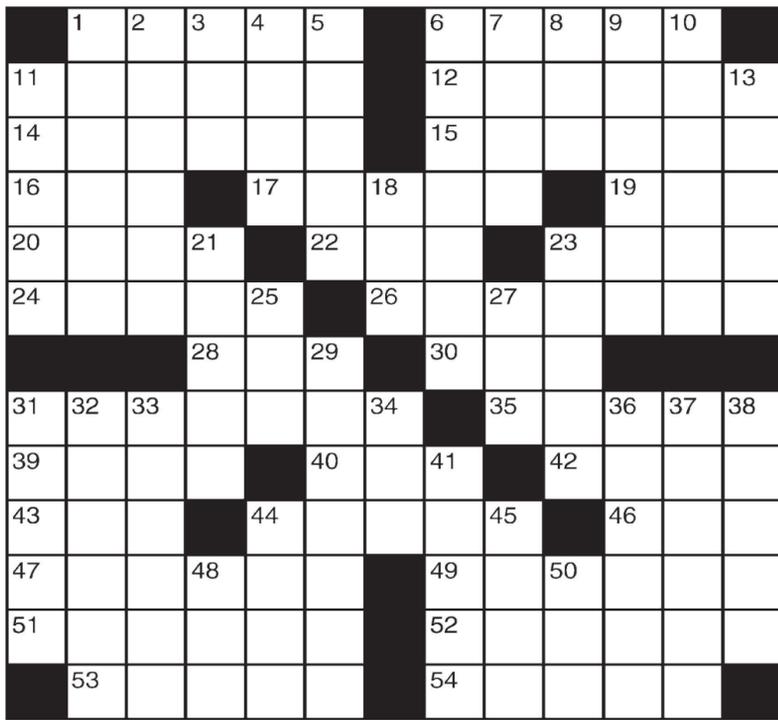
Cuz after all our mountain guide did almost all the work. So, I thought I'd keep it humble. It was all his handiwork.

COMICS & PUZZLES

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Yard activities
- 6 Measuring device
- 11 Wig
- 12 Show up
- 14 Hang around
- 15 Vocalist
- 16 Big bother
- 17 Formal pronouncements
- 19 Yoko of music
- 20 Spill the beans
- 22 Bear hair
- 23 Coaster
- 24 Black-and-white movie, e.g.
- 26 90210, for one
- 28 Always, in verse
- 30 Mongrel
- 31 Sways from side to side
- 35 "Gone With the Wind" star
- 39 Look lasciviously
- 40 Three-man vessel?
- 42 Intend
- 43 Grazing area
- 44 Filleted
- 46 Suitable
- 47 Identify
- 49 Sarcastic remark
- 51 Stag's lack



- 52 With malice
- 53 Butcher's wares
- 54 Keglers' venue
- 9 51-Across of a sort
- 10 Tied
- 11 "The Republic" man
- 13 Wear away
- 18 Since, slangily
- 21 Belgian city
- 23 "Get lost!"
- 25 Conger or moray
- 27 Boxer
- 29 Cutting responses
- 31 "Look Homeward,
- tainer
- Angel" author
- 32 Anti-elderly bias
- 33 Quick look
- 34 Baltimore newspaper
- 36 Snoopy, e.g.
- 37 Boutonnieres' sites
- 38 Access
- 41 Watch-crystal holder
- 44 Ernie's pal
- 45 Prima donna
- 48 — long way (last)
- 50 Diarist Anais

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All puzzle answers on B7

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Madison Valley Medical Center seeks Part Time Night Nurse. Applicants to complete an employment application and submit a resume to careers@mvmedcenter.org or call Madison Valley Medical Center at 682-6862.

Alder School seeks a substitute cook to fill in for the head cook. For more info contact Renata Nichols at 596-3328.

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The Ruby Valley Medical Center is accepting applications for a PRN Medical Technologist (ASCP). Applicants must have a Montana CLS license. This is a per diem position with on-demand scheduling as needed. Please visit www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities for more information and to apply online.



The Ruby Valley Medical Center is accepting applications for a Certified Nurse's Assistant. This is a full-time position eligible for benefits. Applicants must have a CNA certification and be CPR qualified. Please visit www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities for more information and to apply online.

Madison Valley Rural Fire District seeks bids for snow removal for the 2018-19 season. Mail proposals to MVRFD, PO Box 849, Ennis, MT 59729, to be received no later than December 10. Must be licensed and insured. Contact Chairman Ted Liss, 682-3614 or 581-7055 for more information.

Madison Valley Rural Fire District seeks a Training Officer to plan and facilitate monthly and special trainings and to maintain training records for all personnel. Other responsibilities will include responding to calls when available, enforcing department policies and procedures, having knowledge of fire equipment. Must have knowledge of firefighting tactics and procedures for a variety of calls.

Preferred qualifications include: EMT basic or higher, knowledge of programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; Firefighter 1 & 2 certified, and 5 years of firefighting experience. Up to 40 hours per month are expected, salary commensurate with District salary schedule. MVRFD is an equal opportunity employer. Please send letter of interest and resume to MVRFD, PO Box 849, Ennis, MT 59729 no later than December 12th for consideration. Email mvrfdbooks@3rivers.net for a full list of responsibilities and requirements. Phone Chief Shawn Christensen, 682-4748 or 570-6741, for more information.

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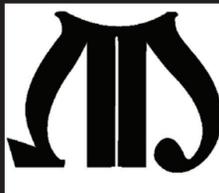
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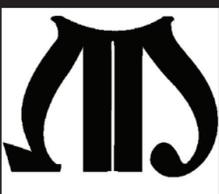
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MORE Marketplace on page B6

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 - Registered Nurse-Full-time or Part-time; and
- Madison County
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Please visit Madison County's online employment page at www.madisoncountymt.gov for additional information or contact the Human Resources Department at 406-843-4201
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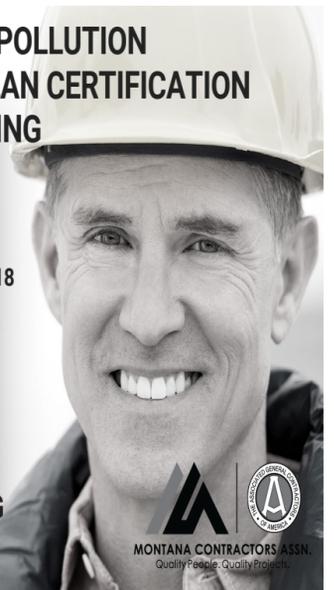
Sale- Tuesday, December 11, at Lewistown Livestock, 12 noon. Bred females calving from February to May. View consignments at lewistownlivestock.com. Ad #373

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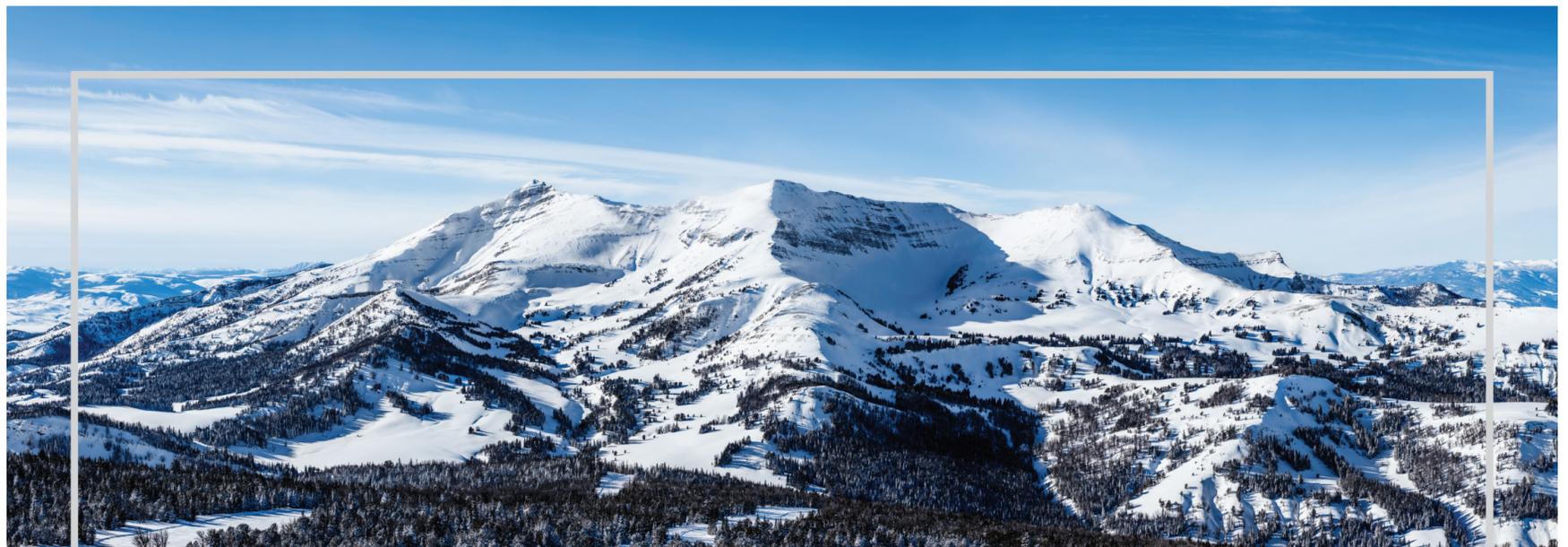
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PUBLIC NOTICES DECEMBER 6, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice to Water Users

(Pursuant to Section 85-2-307, MCA) The following application has been submitted to change a water right in the State of Montana. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION PROPOSES TO GRANT AN APPLICATION TO CHANGE A WATER RIGHT. DESCRIBED BELOW ARE THE PERTINENT FACTS WHICH SUMMARIZE THE APPLICATION. THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION (PD) DOCUMENTING THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE WATER RIGHT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/>. OBJECTION DEADLINE: JANUARY 22, 2019. THE DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY ACCEPT OBJECTIONS FILED ON AN OBJECTION TO APPLICATION, FORM 611. MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM AND THE \$25.00 FILING FEE TO THE DNRC, PO BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601 BY THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE. DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION, TO OBTAIN THE PD OR OBJECTION FORM TO THE WATER RESOURCES OFFICE AT 2273 BOOT HILL COURT, SUITE 110, BOZEMAN, MT 59715-7249 FAX:406-587-9726 PHONE: 406-586-3136. Application Number: 41D 30113222 and 41D 30115264 Applicant: SRI RIVER HOLDINGS LLC % JAIME WOOD PO BOX 447 TWIN BRIDGES, MT 59754 0447 WATER RIGHT NUMBER(S) BEING CHANGED Water Right Type(s): STATEMENT OF CLAIM Water Right Number/Priority Date 41D 195096-00/ DECEMBER 31, 1880 Historical Flow Rate: 5. CFS 41D 195095-00/JUNE 29, 1973 Historical Flow Rate: 2.45 CFS PAST USE OF WATER: HISTORICALLY, SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENTS OF CLAIM 41D 195095-00 AND 41D 195096-00 IRRIGATED 140 ACRES LOCATED IN THE N2 OF SECTION 29, T03 S, R06 W, MADISON COUNTY, VIA HAND LINE SPRINKLERS. STATEMENT OF CLAIM 41D 195095-00 DIVERTED GROUNDWATER AT A RATE OF 2.45 CFS FROM A PIT DUG TO GROUNDWATER LOCATED IN THE SWNE OF SECTION 29. STATEMENT OF CLAIM 41D 195096-00 DIVERTED WATER FROM THE BIG HOLE RIVER AT A RATE OF 5.00 CFS FROM A POINT IN THE NWSNE OF SECTION 29 THROUGH A SIDE CHANNEL AND INTO A MANMADE DITCH, FROM WHICH WATER WAS PUMPED AND APPLIED TO THE PLACE OF USE. PROPOSED CHANGE: FLOW RATE: 7.45 CFS ACRES: 111.62 THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE 140-ACRE PLACE OF USE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENTS OF CLAIM 41D 195095-00 AND 41D 195096-00. THE PROPOSED PLACE OF USE IS 111.62 ACRES TOTAL. OF THE PROPOSED ACREAGE, 67 ACRES ARE TO BE LOCATED IN THE S2 OF SECTION 20, AND 44.62 ACRES ARE TO BE LOCATED WITHIN THE HISTORICAL PLACE OF USE FOR THESE WATER RIGHTS, IN THE N2 OF SECTION 29. THE REMAINING 95.38 ACRES OF THE HISTORICAL PLACE OF USE WILL BE REMOVED FROM IRRIGATION. NO CHANGES ARE PROPOSED FOR THE POINTS OF

DIVERSION OR PURPOSE, AND THESE WATER RIGHTS DO NOT INCLUDE A PLACE OF STORAGE. (MADISON COUNTY) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: CHANGE APPLICATIONS 41D 30113222 AND 41D 30115264 ARE INCLUDED IN THE SAME PUBLIC NOTICE BECAUSE THE WATER RIGHTS 41D 195096-00 AND 41D 195095-00 ARE USED ON THE EXACT SAME ACREAGE, ARE COMINGLED, AND HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN OPERATED AS PART OF THE SAME IRRIGATION SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE PRIMARY POINT OF DIVERSION WILL NOT BE EXACTLY THE SAME FOR EACH WATER RIGHT UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, SO PURSUANT TO ARM 36.12.1901(7), ONE CHANGE APPLICATION WAS REQUIRED FOR EACH WATER RIGHT. PUBLISHED IN: MADISONIAN ON DECEMBER 6, 2018.(Pub. Dec. 6, 2018) dnrc MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE: MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING
The Madison Conservation District board of supervisors will be having a gathering on December 11, 2018 at 6pm at the Madison Valley Ranch. No business will be discussed. (Pub. Dec. 6, 2018) MCD MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE-AIR QUALITY PERMIT

Notice of Application for Air Quality Permit (pursuant to Section 75-2-211, MCA, and ARM Title 17, Chapter 8, Subchapter 6, Open Burning), Madison County Solid Waste Program name of applicant(s) Will file on or about November 29, 2018 an application for a conditional air quality open burning permit from the Permitting and Compliance Division of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Department). Applicant(s) seeks approval of its/their application to open burn clean wood waste and tree branches, At Madison County Class III Landfills; Ennis S1/2, SW1/4, S36 T5S, R1W/ Twin Bridges NW1/4, SW1/4, S26, T3S, R6W Any member of the public with questions or who wishes to receive notice of the Department's determination, and the location where a copy of the application and the Department's analysis of it can be reviewed, or to submit comments on the application, must contact the Department at 1520 East Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901, phone (406) 444-3490. Any comments on the application must be submitted to the Department within 20 days after publication of this notice or filing of the application, whichever is later. The Department's decision to approve or deny an application for a conditional open burning permit may be reviewed by the Board of Environmental Review (Board) according to the following procedure: When the Department approves or denies the application for a conditional open burning permit under this section, a person who is jointly or severally adversely affected by the Department's decision may request, within 15 days after the Department renders its decision, upon affidavit setting forth the grounds therefor, a hearing before the Board. A hearing shall be held under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. The Department's decision on the application is not final

unless 15 days have elapsed and there is no request for a hearing under this section. The filing of a request for a hearing postpones the effective date of the Department's decision until the conclusion of the hearing and issuance of a final decision by the Board.. (Pub. Dec. 6, 2018) MCS MNAXLP

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

Montana Fifth Judicial Court, Madison County In the Matter of K.Q., Youth In Need of Care Cause No. DN-29-2018-3 To: Kyle Schultz, Birth Father of K.Q., Address Unknown YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the above-titled court by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Division (the Department), 2 South Pacific Street, Dillon MT 59725, requesting emergency protective services, adjudication as a youth in need of care and temporary legal custody be granted; that the Department be granted temporary legal custody; and that said youth be otherwise care for. Now, THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY

DIRECTED to appear on the 10th day of December, 2018, at 1:30 p., at the Courtroom of Madison County District Courthouse, 100 West Wallace, Virginia City, Madison County, Montana, then and there to show cause, if any you may have, why said youth should not be declared a Youth In Need of Care, and why the Department should not be granted Temporary Legal Custody. The youth was born on the 31st day of May, 2007. K.Q.'s birth mother is Shaleena Quilici. You have the right to be represented by an attorney in these proceedings. If you are unable to afford an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney to represent you. Failure to appear at the hearing will constitute a denial of interest in the child, which denial may result in, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, a judgment by default being entered for the relief requested in the Petition. A copy of the Petition hereinbefore referred to is filed with the Clerk of District Court for Madison County (406-843-4230) WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 26th day of November, 2018. /s/ Karen J. Miller Clerk of District Court

(Pub. Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2018) MCA MNAXLP

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

Montana Fifth Judicial Court, Madison County In the Matter of B.Q.M., Youth In Need of Care Cause No. DN-29-2018-4 To: Ernie Mize, Birth Father of B.Q.M., Address Unknown YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the above-titled court by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Division (the Department), 2 South Pacific Street, Dillon MT 59725, requesting emergency protective services, adjudication as a youth in need of care and temporary legal custody be granted; that the Department be granted temporary legal custody; and that said youth be otherwise care for. Now, THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED to appear on the 10th day of December, 2018, at 1:30 pm, at the Courtroom of Madison County District Courthouse, 100 West Wallace, Virginia City, Madison County, Montana, then and there to show cause, if any you may have, why said youth should

not be declared a Youth In Need of Care, and why the Department should not be granted Temporary Legal Custody. The youth was born on the 16th day of July, 2011. K.Q.'s birth mother is Shaleena Quilici. You have the right to be represented by an attorney in these proceedings. If you are unable to afford an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney to represent you. Failure to appear at the hearing will constitute a denial of interest in the child, which denial may result in, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, a judgment by default being entered for the relief requested in the Petition. A copy of the Petition hereinbefore referred to is filed with the Clerk of District Court for Madison County (406-843-4230) WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 27th day of December, 2018. /s/ Karen J. Miller Clerk of District Court (Pub. Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2018) MCA MNAXLP

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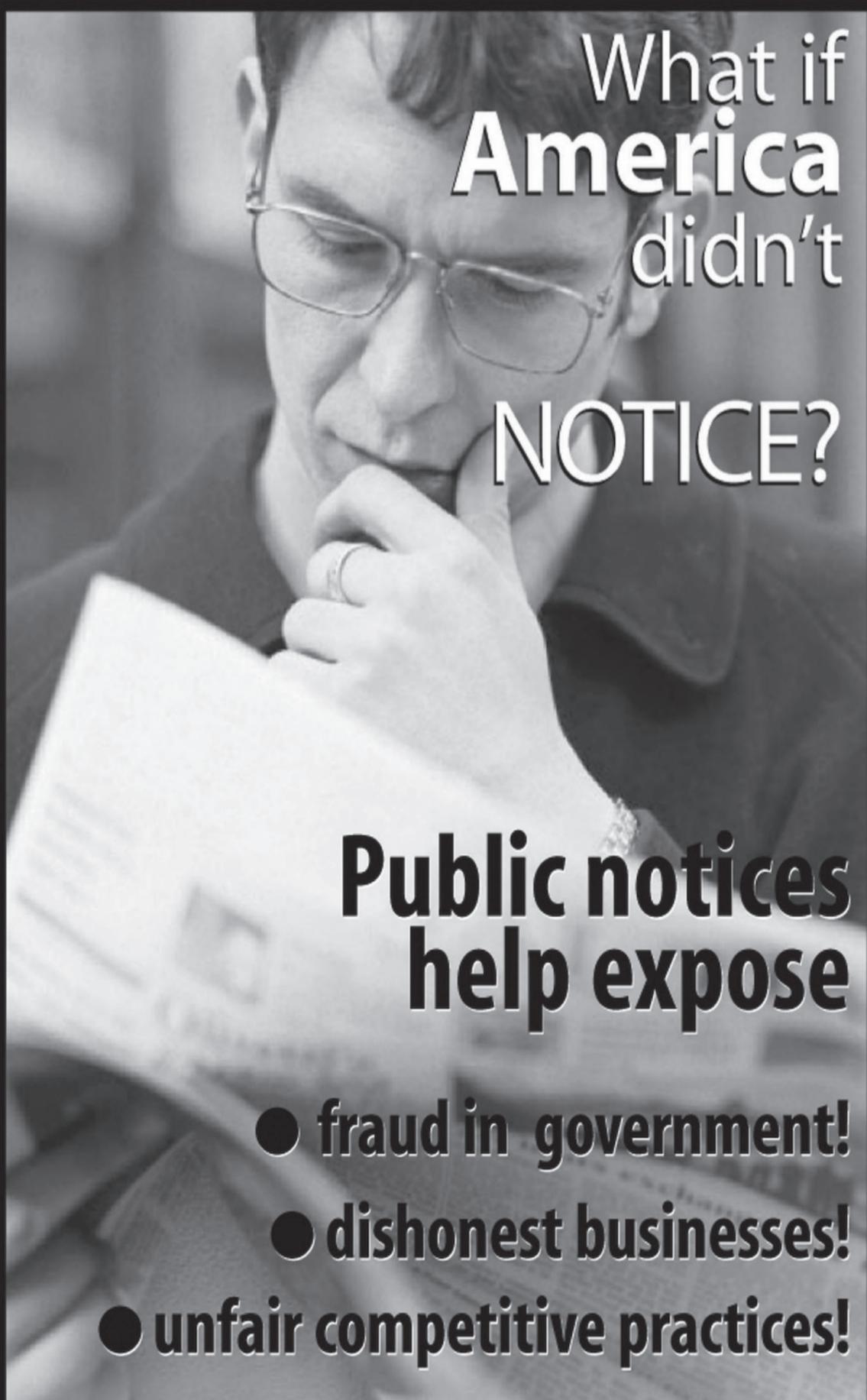
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Safety advised on National Forest during trapping season

DILLON—Montana's trapping season is in full swing and the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest wants to offer important reminders for all winter recreationists.

Melany Glossa, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor, says "Montana's Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has trap setback requirements from roads,

trails and campgrounds and most trappers take additional efforts to place traps in areas well away from those frequented by other recreationists."

Dog owners and others concerned about trapping can minimize risks by staying on well used routes and keeping pets close by when hiking, snowshoeing, or skiing. According to FWP, winter rec-

reationists should be on the lookout for signs of trapping activity; a lightly traveled snowmobile track or a few footsteps in the snow may indicate a trapper's presence and should be avoided.

To learn more about trapping visit <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/trapping/>. For more winter recreation opportunities call (406) 683-3900.

Teddy Bear Classic swim meet coming to Bozeman

BOZEMAN - More than 250 of Montana's top swimmers to compete for teddy bears at the TYR Teddy Bear Classic Swim Meet at Bozeman Swim Center from 8am-4pm on Saturday, December 8th and Sunday, December 9th.

Youth and adult swimmers from across Montana come to compete. This year, Charlotte Sanddal, in the 95 to 99 age group, stands to bring down a few Master's Swimming national records. As Sand-

dal races the clock in the hunt for another national record, younger swimmers will be looking to garner the most points for their team in order to be crowned high point athlete for his or her age group.

High point athletes typically receive a trophy or medal, but at this swim meet swimmers receive a teddy bear. This award is a favorite amongst the Montana Swimmers in attendance. Even current Bozeman High School swimmers still

have teddy bears they won in years previous. A couple high school swimmers still plan to rack up a few more bears at this year's meet.

The Bozeman Barracudas host this meet every December and with the addition of a new bulkhead last year, the team is able to elevate the competition and attendance to this meet. The Bozeman Barracudas welcome the over 250 families that will be in Bozeman for the TYR Teddy Bear Classic Swim Meet.

Jack Creek Preserve holds first conservation field school focusing on elk ecology

JEFFERS - The Jack Creek Preserve Foundation (Preserve) kicked off its newest program, a Conservation Field School for educators.

"What better way to fulfill their mission of 'Preserving wildlife and its habitat by educating youth about the importance of conservation' than by going right to the source of education," said Jack Creek Executive Director Abigail King. The goal was to offer educators the knowledge, experience, and data that they need to provide real and local examples of conservation and wildlife management in their curricula.

In mid-October, King and Field School Program Instructor Robin Hompesch welcomed 17 participants to the Preserve's Education Center from as far as Circle, MT and as close as Ennis. Hompesch got things started welcoming MT Fish Wildlife and Parks biologist Julie Cunningham, from Region 3 to the day filled with elk ecology presentations, questions, discussions, and a field trip to collect data from a nearby herd of elk.



Conservation Field School participants



One of the Preserve's founders, Dottie Fossil, talking to the Field School participants

Some of the topics covered included:

- The unique adaptations that have co-evolved in elk, mountain lions, and wolves.
- The history of these three species and how they illustrate different components of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.
- The different ecological niches occupied by wolves and mountain lions preying on the same species.
- Disease in Montana's ungulate populations and the potential impact on ranchers and hunters in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- And the complexity of managing large prey and predator populations on a multi-ownership landscape such as the Madison Valley.

On Friday, talks included one of the Preserve's founders, Dottie Fossil, and Jessie Weise from MT Land Reliance, sharing the ins and outs of conservation easements. By 3 p.m., participants were headed home after enjoying the Preserve's beautiful setting and earning 19 Office of Public Instruction renewal units.

"I learned so many different ways to teach my students how to gather their own data (as well as

use the data FWP has spent years collecting) to draw educated conclusions about the world around them," said Ennis Schools' Brenda Glines.

This was the Preserve's first Conservation Field School and King anticipated it was the beginning of another successful program.

Generous support and granting entities of the Preserve made it possible for the Preserve to offer scholarships for participants, with only a minimal registration fee.

Jack Creek Preserve will hold additional Field Schools.

For more information, visit <http://www.jackcreekpreserve.org/conservation-field-school/>, or email info@jackcreekpreserve.org



Susannah Murphy and Julia Crocker from Frenchtown Public Schools spotting a herd of elk



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We are pleased to welcome Dr. Richards, DO.

Dr. Daniel T. Richards is a specialist with more than 16 years' experience in Orthopedic Surgery - Sports Medicine, seeing patients of all ages.



No referral necessary! Call 406-683-1188 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Richards today.

Student of the Week

Sheridan Elementary School is proud and excited to announce 5th grade student John Martens, JT, as our Student of the Week. JT is an exceptional student, always performing near the top of his class. He is also more-than-willing to step up to help others whenever and however they may need it during the school day. He has a great sense of humor and smile to go along with it.

JT has a number of things he likes to do when he is not at school, including playing outside with his brother, playing video games and hunting. His favorite sports are football, baseball, and basketball. He is planning on being active in Ruby Valley 4-H this year; he plans on raising a pig for fair and participating in shooting sports. Great job JT of embodying Sheridan Elementary's universals of Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be Successful, and BE A PANTHER!

We are proud of **YOU!**

Congratulations!

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Twin library gets funding to develop youth coding programs

TWIN BRIDGES - The Twin Bridges Public Library received \$500 from the American Library Association (ALA) to help plan and implement coding activities during Computer Science Education (CS Ed) Week 2018 (December 3-9) and beyond. Twin Bridges Public Library is one of 250 school and public libraries around the country to receive this micro-funding from Libraries Ready to Code, an initiative of the American Library Association sponsored by Google.

The grant was awarded to the Benefactors of the Twin Bridges Library, a volunteer organization that works to support library services and programs. This particular grant will promote an important part of the Benefactors stated mission - providing educational opportunities for the users of the Library, particularly among the youth of Twin Bridges. Many of the libraries that have been granted this opportunity serve large

urban populations, and the Benefactors are excited to have been selected to bring the same opportunity to youth in our rural town.

"Libraries are the cornerstones of our communities," said Google program manager Nicky Rigg. "We are proud to include the Twin Bridges Public Library in our CS Ed Week activities this year. We hope this library will join the growing number of libraries excited to offer CS programs that help youth create, problem solve, and develop the confidence and skills to succeed in their future careers."

"ALA is pleased to provide microfunding to the Twin Bridges Public Library and other Ready to Code libraries," said ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo. "We hope this microfunding will not only generate enthusiasm for CS Ed Week, but spark year-round programming to develop critical thinking and digital skills youth can draw on over a lifetime."

An Unusual Discovery

Join the Twin Bridges Public Library on Thursday December 6 at 6 p.m. for pizza and to participate in a new activity created by Google called, "An Unusual Discovery." Participants will learn how to program conversations and animate characters to create fun interactive stories. Lots of alternate coding activities are available and activities will be tailored to interests and comfort-levels. Everyone will have a chance to have fun experimenting with computer science with plenty of help on hand!

Vacation rentals must be state licensed

MADISON COUNTY - The Madison County Sanitarian office wants residents to know that the state of Montana requires tourist homes to contact their local health department to obtain an annual public accommodations license.

A tourist home (commonly called a vacation rental, VRBO, Airbnb) is defined as a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests on a daily or weekly basis.

Licensing is necessary to ensure and maintain safe and healthy conditions for guests of tourist homes, and complies with state health regulations, which ultimately benefits Montana's tourist industry.

In Madison County, our sanitarians assess conditions of local tourist homes that could impact the health of the traveling public. Our main priority is to assist noncompliant businesses with obtaining the proper state health license in order to operate in a safe manner.

Mandatory pre-inspection paperwork, specifically a Plan Review Application, License Application, and Fire Safety Checklist, must

be completed, reviewed, and approved by the sanitarian department before an initial inspection is performed and a license can be issued. If a tourist home is using a private water supply system, a wastewater test will have to be analyzed for coliform bacteria and nitrates.

Deadline for submission of the Pre-Inspection Plan Review Application, License Application, and Fire Safety Checklist is February 1, 2019.

If documentation has not been submitted and approved by this date, the county Sanitarian may issue a certified cease and desist letter to unlicensed tourist homes.

It's important tourist homes currently operating without a license contact the Madison County Sanitarian Department. For more details and to schedule a mandatory pre-license inspection, contact the Madison County Sanitarian Department, located at 103 W Wallace St., Second Floor, in Virginia City, telephone: (406) 843-4275, Fax (406) 843-5262; Van Puckett, RS, (406) 596-8063, email - vpuckett@madisoncountymt.gov or Jessica Wittenberg, SIT, (406) 579-2934, jpye@madisoncountymt.gov.

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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

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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



MADISON COUNTY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S MASS SCHEDULE

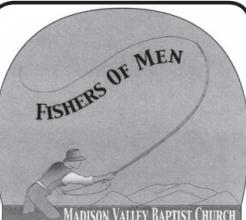
MASS AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN SHERIDAN AT 4PM ON SATURDAYS.
MASS AT NOTRE DAME IN TWIN BRIDGES AT 8AM ON SUNDAYS.
MASS AT ST. MARY'S IN LAURIN AT 9:30AM ON SUNDAYS.
MASS AT ST. PATRICK'S IN ENNIS AT 11AM ON SUNDAYS.
MASS DURING THE WEEK: 7:30AM TUESDAY AND THURSDAY'S AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN SHERIDAN.
9AM AT ST. PATRICK'S IN ENNIS.
Please call the Rectory for the daily Mass schedule at 842-5588
Father John Crutchfield, Pastor

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!

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



Phil 2:16
Holding forth the word of life:

Dr. Ray Teston

Pastor
Nathan Nutter, Minister of Music and Youth
Sunday School ~ 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Nights:

(dinner provided)
Kids Club (K-6): 5:30-7:30pm
Youth Group (7-12): 6-8pm

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

AREA SENIOR MEALS

Ennis Senior Center

315 W Main Street; Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 2 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.

- Thursday, December 6 - Meatloaf and mashers, veggies, dessert
- Friday, December 7 - Ham and bean soup, salad and croissant, dessert pinochle at 12:45 p.m.
- Monday, December 10 - Spaghetti and veggies, roll, dessert mahjong at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 11 - BLT sandwich and chips, veggie sticks and pickle, dessert, play pan at 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 12 - Cod basket and slaw, fries, dessert, mahjong at 1 p.m.
- Thursday December 13 - Meat and veggie fritata, potatoes and fruit, dessert, Red Hat ladies

Ruby Valley Food Pantry, Sheridan

Open Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 12 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 older. Monday - Friday. Seniors may choose to eat at the Senior Center, family style for \$3.50, or have their meals delivered for \$4. Delivered meals are within the city limits of Sheridan and should be called in by 10 a.m. Contact Shirley Sand at 842-5966.

Virginia City Café

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

- Thursday, December 6 - Cabbage rolls, roll, dessert.
- Tuesday, December 11 - Grilled ham & cheese, soup, dessert.
- Thursday, December 13 - Ham & potatoes au gratin, veggie, roll, dessert.

Twin Bridges Senior Center

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. Activities include bingo each Monday, cards on Wednesday. The Senior Center Group meets the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

Corner of Madison and Armitage St.
Ennis, Montana 406-682-4910

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

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ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Madison County Episcopal Churches

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Join Us for Sunday Worship!

Trinity Jeffers/Ennis 10 a.m. adult forum 11:00 a.m.	St. Paul's Virginia City Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Christ Church Sheridan Sunday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
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www.rvec.org
Prayer requests:
682-4199 843-5296 842-7713

Valley Assembly

Love Jesus • Love People • Reach the Valley
114 N. Main, Sheridan 842-5845
Pastor Duane B. Deshner
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.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

10 a.m. at the Alder School
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Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Christ Centered
Bible Based
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100 Prairie Way, Ennis (599-3659)
For those who have a loved one struggling with any type of addiction
Tuesdays ~ 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

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

Go to outpostevents.net for a complete listing of events

Thursday, December 6
Business After Hours, Ennis
Fan Mountain Inn and 3 Rivers
will host Business After Hours at
204 Main Street with light appetizers
and great networking opportunities,
beginning at 5 p.m.

Friday December 7
Spirit of Christmas Stroll, Ennis
Experience Ennis with an old-fashioned
Christmas Stroll!

Photos with Santa, Christmas stories,
roasted chestnuts, live music and
more, 3-8 p.m. Call the Ennis Chamber
at 682-4388 for information.

Saturday December 8
Christmas Shopping Child
Care, Ennis
Ennis Community Children's
School is offering child care so
parents and grandparents can get
their Christmas shopping done!

Snacks, lunch, dinner and fun provided.
8am-6pm, \$25 per child. Call 406-682-7338
for information.

Butte Symphony Christmas Home Tour, Butte
Five homes around Butte will be
decorated for Christmas and on
display for the annual Home Tour!
All proceeds to the Butte Symphony.
Tour from 12-4 followed by tea
and cookies at The Springs from

3-5. Tickets at Books & Books,
Keenan Jewelers or any of the
show homes.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser, Ennis
Gallery 287 will work with the
Ennis Senior Center for "Empty
Bowls." Area potters will donate
bowls and \$20 gets you a hand-
made bowl of homemade soup,
plus salad and bread. Proceeds
benefit the Senior Center's Meals
on Wheels Program. Visit Gallery
287 for details.

An Evening with Willson &
McKee, Virginia City
Willson and McKee return to
the Elling House Arts & Humanities
Center! This time with an evening
full of community, music and
participation: a casual potluck at
6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. and a
fun-filled jam session afterward.
Tickets \$15 at the door, call 843-
5454 to reserve your spot!

Sunday, December 9
60th Annual Veterans Community
Christmas Dinner, Twin Bridges
The veterans of Twin Bridges
will put on their annual free
Christmas dinner for the surrounding
area, including delivering meals to
those who can't make it in. Dinner
at 5 p.m. at the Twin Bridges
school cafeteria with a raffle at 7
p.m. Come enjoy a good meal
and good company.

Monday December 10
American Legion Meeting,
Ennis
The American Legion will hold
its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at
the Ennis Legion Post on First and
Steffens.

Tuesday December 11
The Polar Express, Ennis
The Madison Theatre continues
its free Christmas movie series
with The Polar Express! Doors
open at 5:30 p.m., movie at 6:15
p.m.

Wednesday December 12
Brown Bag Lunch with Doug
Ammons, Butte
The Butte-Silver Bow Archives
continues its brown bag lunch
series with a presentation by
Doug Ammons on "Four Counts
of Espionage vs. the 'Big Butte
Attorney:' Matt Canning and the
Battle for Freedom of Speech." Bring
a sack lunch to the archives at
17 W. Quartz Street, presentation
at noon. Call 782-3280 for
information.

Thursday December 13
Library Book Club Meeting,
Ennis
The Ennis Book Club will meet
at the Madison Valley Public
Library to discuss "News of the

World," by Paulette Jiles. Presentation
led by Lucy Ennis, 1 p.m.

Mad Gals Christmas Gathering, Bozeman
The Mad Gals will be meeting
at Kountry Korner Café in Four
Corners for a Christmas get-to-
gether. Social at noon followed by
lunch at 12:30. RSVP by Decem-
ber 10 and bring a gift to exchange!

Friday December 14
Elling House Splendid Feast,
Virginia City
The historic Elling House will be
decorated inside and out with a
warm and comfortable atmosphere,
wassail social hour and four-course
feast, plus music and fellowship
on Friday, December 14 and
Saturday, December 15. Tickets
\$50, call 406-843-5454 for
reservations.

Saturday December 15
Yuletide Festival Craft and
Trade Show, Twin Bridges
Photo ops with Santa, plus 24
vendors selling their Christmas
wares and a chicken diablo dinner
for \$5, back by popular demand.
Free entrance and door prizes.
Kids welcome in the Kids Zone
with crafts and cookie decorating!
Jeffers building at the Madison
County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 6
p.m. Call 406-596-1978 for
information.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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, 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

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

WEDNESDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 1p.m., come play tennis at
the Madison Meadows Golf Course.
All levels welcome.

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.

THURSDAYS

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
Sun-Room

SUP Land/Water Fitness Class, Ennis
Paddle & Pilates on stand-up
paddleboards on Ennis Lake. 75-
minute classes every Thursday at 7
a.m. Call or text Christine at 406-600-
6379 to reserve your spot.

FRIDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 1p.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.
Farmers' Market, Twin Bridges
9 a.m. every day.

SHERIDAN
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 11
7 p.m.
Media Tech Center
Charles B. Murray Building

JR'S TIRE
Customer Appreciation!
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
December 13 & 14
10 am - 3 pm
Coffee and Cookies Served
6522 Us Highway 287, Norris, MT • 59745 • (406) 685-3384

We are open for the
WINTER SEASON!
We Will Reopen on Thursday,
October 25th
for Our Winter Season
Dinner
Thursday-Saturday 5pm to 9pm
Brunch
Sunday 9am to 2pm
It's NOT too Early to Book a Holiday Party!
Call Us, Today, to Start Planning Your Event!
View Our Weekly Dinner Menu on
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Cameron, Montana
NEW HOURS!
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
4PM- CLOSE
WE WILL CLOSE ON
DECEMBER 23RD
UNTIL JAN 2019.
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Cameron, MT | 682-4555

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Ask about the weekend rate - pick up on Saturday by 2 pm and return
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EVENINGS: ADULTS \$8 • CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) \$6 SHOW TIME AT 7:15 PM. BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 6:30 PM
NOW PLAYING:
INSTANT FAMILY (PG-13)
Let's Go to the Movies this Weekend!
Friday 7:15 • Saturday 7:15 pm • Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm
COMING SOON:
Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (PG), Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (PG-13)
Please call to verify for last minute changes 682-4023 | 115 Main St, Ennis
EnnisMovies.com | Facebook.com/MadisonTheatreEnnis

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WILLIE'S DISTILLERY UPCOMING EVENTS:
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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!!
FROM NOW TIL DEC 24TH, RECEIVE A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR
EVERY \$100 YOU SPEND IN OUR TASTING ROOM
FRIDAY, DEC 7TH: LEFT FOR DEAD
FRIDAY, DEC 14TH: ROAD AGENTS
FRIDAY, DEC 28TH: FAN MOUNTAIN FROG DOGS
FRIDAY, JAN 4TH: LOGAN DUDGING
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Cid Klebenow, Manager
WE SHIP!

NORRIS HOT SPRINGS
WINTER HOURS: TH, FRI, MON: 4PM-10PM
SAT & SUN: 10AM-10PM
CLOSED TUES & WED
MUSIC THIS WEEK
FRI 12/7 ARAN BUZZAS
Homegrown Montana Folk
SAT 12/8 TODD GREEN
Acoustic Eclectic
SUN 12/9 ROD MORRISON
Acoustic Rock/Americana
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