

# The Madisonian.

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

Montana's Oldest Publishing Weekly Newspaper. Established 1873

75¢ | Volume 147, Issue 3

Thursday, December 13, 2018

## Veterans still serving in Twin Bridges

60th annual Community Christmas dinner fills school gym

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TWIN BRIDGES – On Sunday, December 9, the veterans of Twin Bridges and the surrounding area kept up a tradition six decades strong.

The Twin Bridges community Christmas dinner has become a staple of the holiday season for the town, routinely feeding around 300 people, free of charge. Army veteran Joe Witherspoon has been helping with the event for nearly a decade.

“We had a group of veterans that decided to put on this free Christmas dinner, and then it evolved into a dinner that we also use for a fundraiser,” says Witherspoon, who helped to cook and serve the dinner again

DINNER continued on A2



Scenes from Twin Bridges Community Christmas dinner, held Sunday, December 9. (KARI MONTGOMERY PHOTOS)



Madison Valley Medical Center is one place where flu shots are available. Get yours today. (R. COLYER)

## ‘It can be deadly’

Healthcare providers urge residents to get flu vaccine

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MADISON COUNTY – Last flu season, 80,000 people in the U.S. died from the flu or from complications once they’d contracted it. So far this year, five people have already died from the flu, including one in Montana: a six-year-old girl in Missoula County.

“Even for people who don’t have other health problems it can be deadly,” says Peggy Shumsky, a cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation coordinator for Madison Valley Medical Center and Madison County’s infection control officer. “It’s very easily spread through coughs or sneezes, or even by coughing or sneezing and then shaking someone’s hand.”

Shumsky says that people often think of the flu as something that comes with symptoms like nausea, vomiting and diarrhea—the “stomach flu.” But the actual influenza virus carries more subtle symptoms that someone might not recognize as the “flu”: a high fever, nasal congestion, fatigue, achiness. If gone untreated, it can lead to further complications.

“It can cause pneumonia, infections in the heart, brain and muscle tissue, and can lead to kidney failure and sepsis,” says Shumsky. “A big

FLU continued on A3

## Co-ops, computers dominate Twin Bridges school board

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TWIN BRIDGES – Two possibilities for joining cooperatives and computer services dominated the discussion at Twin Bridges school board’s November 20 meeting.

### Special ed co-op

Sara Novak, the new leader of the Great Divide Education Services – a special education cooperative – came to the school board meeting to pitch the idea that Twin Bridges school district would rejoin this co-op.

Twin Bridges left the co-op in the 2016 – 2017 school year, because the board decided it wasn’t getting the service it was paying for.

Novak, emphasizing that the organization had changed under her leadership and was in a better position to serve the clientele, noted that several schools pulled out of the coop during the 2016 - 2017 school year.

“We got dinged on this,” she said.

Novak explained that Great Divide Education Services (GDES) is one of 23 statewide co-ops, and that school districts have two choices with special education requirements: Larger schools can run their own programs; smaller districts, if their special ed needs are under \$8,000, must join a co-op. Novak said TB is a larger school.

Within the co-op, school districts pool their resources in order to provide special education programs and those who service them. The obligation to serve special needs kids is sometimes outside the school district’s abilities, which is why co-ops make sense.

Novak said these programs – which are serviced by psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and special education teachers – are very costly, one reason why many districts go the co-op route.

Fees charged to district are in proportion to their size, Novak said. Some block grant money goes to the schools to help with this, but this funding stays within the co-op.

Novak said filling these special education positions was hard. However, House Bill 27 revised funding for special ed and is helping fund co-ops.

Novak said GDES had restructured their fees schedule, linking it to enrollment numbers and the average special education population.

Under her leadership, GDES would offer “open communication.” Novak noted that she’d cut back on some staffing levels, but refocused efforts to cover the territory necessary within the co-op.

She wondered what the board’s expectations of re-joining the co-op were.

“We’re moving forward with a fresh plate and new hires,” she said.

Board member Gary Konen said cutting staff in the coop was a red flag for him. He wondered what assurances the school could have that the services the coop would provide would be delivered.

Novak said that she could totally understand the board’s concerns about issues with the service provider, but noted that the coop was serving all of the necessary services with the current staff.

“We have the same values and commitment as the board,” Novak said. “We anticipate adding staff next year, especially in psychology and speech.”

Board member Mike Hughes wondered about the student to instructor ratio.

Novak said her staff was spread out to cover each of the districts in the coop – GDES covers the area from Lima to Lincoln, east to Alder, also Anaconda, Drummond, Phillipsburg, Dillon and Deer Lodge – where a special ed provider would be visiting one school every couple of days.

Novak also pointed out that by being in the coop, Anaconda this past school year paid \$209,000 for \$240,000 worth of services thanks to the collective value of being a member, federal monies, and how the coop can carry a district.

Superintendent Thad Kaiser said he’d contacted several other school districts and reviewed with their administrators the value of co-ops versus going the independent route. Three said they were “all on board” with a co-op, including GDES; two liked the independent route.

Kaiser also said that the co-op would be the best way to handle special needs students arriving in the district at mid-year.

SCHOOL continued on A2

## Christmas kickoff

Ennis Christmas Stroll lights up Main Street

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ENNIS—Adding to a long string of holiday festivities, Ennis hosted its annual Christmas Stroll on Friday, December 7, with a slew of festive activities and competitions.

Businesses around town offered specials and sales all day, but the real festivities got underway in the evening with

caroling, an ice-sculpting competition, tree lighting all through Lions Park and a decoration competition amongst the Main Street businesses.

Kiddos at the Ennis Pharmacy got to tell Santa exactly what was on their Christmas lists, then went down to Lions

STROLL continued on A2



ABOVE - A S’mores station — complete with fires for keeping warm and roasting marshmallows — proved to be one of the more popular additions to the Ennis Christmas Stroll on Friday, December 7. The Ennis Forest Service office supplied all the necessary fixings. ABOVE RIGHT - Led by Ennis music director Andrew Scruggs (right) carolers traversed up and down Main Street and even entered businesses like Shedhorn Sports to spread some holiday cheer. RIGHT - An ice replica of the Willie’s Distillery historic copper still earned Willie’s second place in the Ennis Christmas Stroll ice competition. (R. COLYER PHOTOS)



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**DINNER continued from A1: Veterans, Rotary, 4-H serve up holiday cheer in Twin Bridges**

this year. "Of all the activities we do during the year, this is our biggest fundraiser."

Volunteers cooked more than 20 turkeys on Sunday evening, serving them with all the fixings to anyone who wanted to join in. Women for Veterans supplied homemade desserts, while the Twin Bridges Rotary Club helped serve and local 4-H clubs delivered plates to community members who weren't able to make it into town to partake.

"The original dinner was in 1958, and it was a moose feed," says Doug Martin, one of the event coordinators. Since then the fare might have changed, but the community has only grown stronger over the years.

After dinner, revelers enjoyed a fundraising raffle featuring locally donated items. The featured prizes were two 75-pound sides of pork, although Witherspoon said they've adapted that particular element a little bit. The organizers consulted with the Butcher's Block in Butte, who supplies the products, and changed things up.

"They suggested doing a gift certificate for the price of a side of pork," he says. So the butcher's shop figured the price of a 75-pound chunk of pig and wrote out gift certificates for that amount. "That way people can get exactly what cuts they want."

Last year's community dinner raised around \$4,000, which over the course of the year was used for the military funerals the local veterans put on, as well as the local kids' fishing derby each July and Twin Bridges' veterans' memorial, which dates as far back as the Civil War and which gets updated with plaques commemorating local veterans who have passed away.

Attendees also got a chance to visit with Santa, who is becoming busy with less than two weeks before his big night. But he made time for a worthy cause, and hundreds of Twin Bridges residents who certainly made the nice list this year—at least for a night of shared community, food and fellowship.



**ABOVE -** Members of the Starbusters 4H club and Kenna Milhouse from the Trailblazers 4H club, helped fill to-go plates of food that were delivered to those who couldn't make the dinner at the school. **BELOW -** Helping in the kitchen



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**STROLL continued from A1: Christmas gets kicked off a bit early in Ennis**



**ABOVE -** An antler, carved by representatives from Jack Creek Preserve, won the ice sculpting competition at Ennis's annual Christmas Stroll. Voting was close though; the preserve only outscored Willie's Distillery by two votes. **BELOW -** Santa visited Ennis Pharmacy during the Christmas Stroll.



Park to roast marshmallows for s'mores, supplied by the local chapter of the U.S. Forest Service.

Vigilante Stageline gave free carriage rides all evening long and the Buckboard Mercantile hosted traditional decoration craft making, stringing popcorn and cranberry garlands—a festive decoration and a snack all in one, for some crafters.

The climax of the evening was the voting on the ice sculptures that adorned Main Street: an open book at the Madison Valley Public Library; a mountain at the Gravel Bar, a nutcracker at Right Angles, plus three that made the voting very close.

"It was only a two-vote separation because they were all so good," says Chamber of Commerce executive director Halley Perry. "It was such a great competition this year."

The victor proved to be Jack Creek Preserve's antler, a dead ringer for the preserve's logo. A close second place went to Willie's Distillery, who created a doppelganger for its historic still, complete with copper pipes. In third was a trout carved by the employees of ReMax real estate.

But ReMax came back strong, winning top prize for their Main Street lights and decorations. That honor was bestowed by the Ennis Cub Scouts, who presided as "secret celebrity judges."

In all, it was another successful Christmas Stroll, filled with festive songs, holiday goodies and lots of cheer.

"It was one of the best years yet," says Perry. "We really want to thank our sponsors as well: Madison Valley Bank, Fan Mountain Inn and the Pic-A-Nic Basket. We had a great turnout this year!"

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**SCHOOL continued from A1: Co-ops and computers dominate Twin Bridges school board**

Kaiser said the district spent \$48,000 on special education last year, but paid \$75,000 to the coop in 2017. Between grants and juggling other monies, this wasn't actually \$75,000, but more like \$25,000, the amount of money that must be spent on special education. On average, the district was spending about \$55,000 on special education annually, with special ed costs ranging from \$55,000 to \$65,000 annually.

Re-entering the coop would cost the district about \$43,000

After much discussion, the board decided to look at a draft contract at the December meeting.

**Sheridan co-op?**

The board also discussed a co-op with Sheridan school district, particularly for fall sports like football and cross-country teams.

Kaiser said he visited with Sheridan's school board at their last meeting and noted that the board discussed this, but nothing was decided because this was not an official agenda item. He said there were some comments about this, but Superintendent Mike Wetherbee welcomed the opportunity to discuss

the opportunity.

A straw vote Kaiser took resulted in 25 yes, 17 no for such a co-op, he said.

Board member Gary Konen also attended the meeting and noted "little opposition."

Hughes said the public hadn't received enough notice about this, and he said he wanted the "best possibilities for students."

School board student representative Blue Keim said she'd talked to a couple of people and they thought a co-op would work out better for football than for sports where there was not a need to compete against another team — such as cross country, where the competition is more against yourself in terms of time, than another team.

Board member Steve Janzen said there would be many savings to both schools if there could be one bus, on coach for both schools.

Residents at the meeting wondered what was the hold-up, what were the concerns about doing this.

"There are more issues for them," said one resident.

Another resident said football teams would be reduced to 6-man

instead of 8-man teams in the future if enrollment did not pick up.

A third talked about how his two sons have a "total disadvantage" not playing junior varsity football. They used practice dummies most of this year because there were not enough players to field two teams to scrimmage. He also suggested everyone look at an article on [www.406sports.com](http://www.406sports.com), "We are the Titans," about how Drummond and Phillipsburg put aside community rivalries to form a co-op and for the last five years have fielded good football teams.

"Sheridan needs another meeting before this this is mutual," said school board president Allison Wentzel.

Kaiser said that combining the two district's efforts on many things would result in safer conditions for students, and could span more than just sports — resources, training, other items.

The board made no decision on furthering conjoining teams with Sheridan.

**Computer system**

Kaiser urged the board to con-

sider working with Schoolhouse IT, a technology company he had worked with in other schools where he served as superintendent, to clean up the district's computer system.

The district's current system is unsupported because it was built by two individuals in 2012, and if they decide to walk away from it, the district is on its own.

Kaiser said Schoolhouse IT was "fabulous to work with," and could alleviate problems.

Hughes wondered about the cost of this.

Kaiser said Schoolhouse IT charges a monthly fee. He said the school spent \$49,000 in 2017 on its computer system, which is now quirky. Kaiser believed Schoolhouse could reduce the district's costs, overall, by building a "robust computer system without problems."

Janzen wondered about phones being part of this. Kaiser said they could be.

Board member Patty Nelson suggested the board review Schoolhouse's proposal and make a decision at its December meeting.

**State health officials confirm first influenza death this season**

MISSOULA — Missoula County Health Department, with the state Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), confirmed the state's first influenza-related death involving a Missoula County child.

Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports five flu-related pediatric deaths so far this season.

Influenza activity is currently at low levels; however, this is expected to change in the coming weeks. Influenza activity increases in December and

peaks in January and February.

To date, there have been 36 cases and six hospitalizations reported in Montana. Last season, over 10,000 cases, 979 hospitalizations, and 79 deaths were reported across Montana.

The disease spreads through coughing and sneezing with symptoms that can include high fever, chills, headaches, exhaustion, sore throat, cough and body aches. It takes up to four days after being exposed to the virus for symptoms to develop; and those infected can pass the flu to someone else a day

before and a week after becoming sick.

The CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, and everyday precautions — covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands often, don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth, and avoiding close contact with sick people.

For more information, visit the DPHHS influenza website at: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/influenza>

**Clarification**

In the feature story "Uncovering History" in the December 6 edition, Winnie and Del Lichtenberg were misidentified as Winnie and Del Holbrook. We apologize for the confusion.

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# Gearing up for basketball season

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MADISON COUNTY – Volleyball, cross country and football have already flown by, and it's time for the winter season to begin. For some that means skiing, but for local high schools it means basketball.

Harrison, Ennis, Sheridan, Twin Bridges and Whitehall began practicing in mid-November and the season got rolling with all five teams in action with multiple pre-Christmas games.

Ennis played the Lima Bears on Tuesday, December 4 while Twin Bridges took on the West Yellowstone Wolverines.

Madison County's teams did themselves proud in those games, with Ennis and Twin Bridges girls' and boys' teams sweeping their respective competition. The lady Falcons topped West Yellowstone 51 - 40 while the boys took a more decisive victory, outstripping the Wolverines 72 - 40.

The Ennis boys topped the Lima Bears 68 - 49, but arguably the most impressive game of the week has to have been the Lady Mustangs, who kept Lima to only eight points in the entire game, running away with it to win by 45 points, 54 - 8.

The Mustangs then took on Whitehall at Manhattan Christian's Tip Off Tournament on Saturday, December 8. On the boys' side Whitehall, who had fallen to the Deer Lodge Wardens on Friday 42-29, came back strong to take an early lead, outscoring Ennis 30 - 12 in the first half. The Mustangs made a late-game surge led by Trevor Swanson's 11 points and Kurt Funston's nine, but it wasn't enough to hold off the Trojans, who prevailed 56 - 37.

On the girls' side, Whitehall defeated Deer Lodge on Friday 40 - 31 before turning to take on the lady Mustangs on Saturday and prevailing again in a close game of 35 - 29. Klein sisters Jourdain and Shelbey notched eight and seven points respectively, followed by Whitney McKittrick's seven. The Mustangs outscored the Trojans in the first and third quarters, but Brynaa Wolfe's 15 points and Asha Noyes' 10 put the Trojans far enough ahead to hang on.

It's still a strong start for area teams who are looking for a better showing than they saw last season. None of the local boys' teams made it into the 2018 state championship bracket; two girls' teams did, but they'll seek to improve upon their finishes.

Twin Bridges earned a fourth-place finish after falling to Froid-Medicine Lake in the consolation game last February. The Ennis lady Mustangs made it through three rounds in the championship before also being knocked out by the Redhawks, one game before they'd have faced Twin Bridges themselves.

With an eye to the future, the 2019 post season will begin Valen-



**Harrison's Vern Homner (23) goes for a layup during Harrison's game against Absarokee on Saturday, December 8. The Wildcats hosted a six-game tournament over the weekend. (A. CHRISTENSEN)**

tin's Day weekend in Butte with the district tournament February 14 - 16, followed back-to-back by the divisional championships, also in Butte February 21 - 23. Then the genders will split as girls head to GreatFalls for their state tournament February 28 - March 2 and boys convene in Billings for their state games March 7 - 9.

As the season gets rolling, there will be plenty of basketball action to catch throughout the winter. We've rounded up the schedules for the Ennis Mustangs, the Harrison Wildcats, the Sheridan Panthers and the Twin Bridges Falcons for easy access. Remember that game times are subject to change and to double check on school websites as game day approaches. Upcoming games include:

<b>Ennis Mustangs</b>
12/14 vs. Twin Bridges 2:30 p.m.
12/15 at Gardiner 2:30 p.m.
12/20 vs. Sheridan 2:30 p.m.
1/4 at Granite 2:30 p.m.
1/5 vs. White Sulphur Springs 2:30 p.m.
1/10 at Harrison 4 p.m.
<b>Harrison Wildcats</b>
(games at 5:30 and 7 p.m.; boys first)
12/14 at Drummond
12/15 vs. Sheridan
12/18 vs. Lone Peak
12/20 at Phillipsburg
1/4 at Lima
1/5 vs. West Yellowstone
<b>Sheridan Panthers</b>
12/14 at Phillipsburg 5:30 p.m.
12/15 at Harrison 5:30 p.m.
12/17 vs. Twin Bridges 2:30 p.m.
12/20 at Ennis 5:30 p.m.
1/4 vs. Drummond 5:30 p.m.
1/5 at Gardiner 5:30 p.m.
1/8 at Jefferson (C and JV only) 4:30 p.m.
<b>Twin Bridges Falcons</b>
(JV first, then varsity)
12/13 vs. Lima 5:30 p.m.
12/14 at Ennis 2:30 p.m.
12/17 at Sheridan 2:30 p.m.
12/20 vs. Drummond 2:30 p.m.
1/3 at Whitehall 3 p.m.
1/4 at Lone Peak 2:30 p.m.
1/7 vs. Dillon (JV only) 4:30 p.m.

# USDA allocates funds for future Sheridan well project

Rural Development to provide more than \$21 million for projects in MT

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SHERIDAN — Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced millions of dollars in funding that have been set aside to bring increased water access, quality and efficiency to communities around Montana, including a long-awaited project in Sheridan.

The USDA's Rural Development (RD) program provides grants and loans in infrastructure, business, housing, public safety and other areas focused on small, rural communities around the nation. One of its sub-programs, the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program, funds projects for water and environmental-oriented programs ranging from drainage and waste disposal to drinking water and infrastructure improvements.

Remediating the effects of natural disasters is often a key element of the need for such projects.

The allocation also comes as an action of the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity established by President Donald Trump in 2017, designed to identify areas where legislation, regulation or policy changes could help increase prosperity in rural areas of the U.S.

"The Task Force's findings...included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America," writes the USDA. "Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation."

Senator Jon Tester was one of the congressional delegation to help secure the funding through Congress' 2018 budget agreement, and offered thoughts on the proposed projects last week after the announcement was made.

"Whether it's used for running a business, growing crops, or raising a family, water is life in rural Montana," Tester said in a statement on Tuesday, December 4. "These investments will strengthen our water infrastructure, pave the way for more good-paying jobs, and benefit rural communities for years to come."

Six projects in Montana are just a small part of the 234 projects the newly-delegated funds will facilitate in coming years. In all, the RD program will invest \$1.2 billion nationwide in these projects, improving infrastructure that serves nearly a million rural Americans in 46 states.

Communities with 10,000 residents or fewer can apply for grants or loans, something Madison County and the town of Sheridan did earlier this year to move toward building the town a new well.

Well troubles began for Sheridan back July 2017, when a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shifted local geography enough to impact well yield and damaged some of the equipment pumping water to Sheridan's four wells. Since earlier this summer, Sheridan has been operating on just one of those wells.

At the height of summer, limited water access became so severe that mayor Bob Stump issued a code red restriction over water use, temporarily suspending all lawn watering in an effort to conserve water. The town's 300,000-gallon tank was so low there was concerns over whether or not there would be enough water to fight a structure fire—which fortunately did not occur.

Lawn watering is much less of a concern during the winter months, but a new well remains high on Sheridan's list of priorities. The total cost of a new well would be around \$1.5 million, and around two-thirds of that has been covered by grants.

The RD funding would be around \$400,000 in the form of a loan, and would facilitate the drilling and installation of a brand new well at the north end of town, about a mile from where Sheridan's other wells are located. However, there is still one more formality the town is waiting on before contracting can begin.

"The last condition I think we have to fulfill is to get the closing instructions from Rural Development," says Stump. "We can't really do anything until we are able to access the money, including going out to contractors for bids."

Stump hopes to receive those closing instructions before the new year. Once that happens and the town has access to the USDA funding, it will be all systems go.

"Rebuilding rural infrastructure is critical to rural prosperity and economic growth," says USDA Rural Development State Director Charles Robinson. "I encourage more rural Montana communities take advantage of opportunities to partner with USDA to meet their infrastructure needs."

And hopefully in the summer of 2019, residents of Sheridan will be able to water their lawns once again.

## USDA Rural Development projects

The USDA's allocated rural development funds are set aside for 243 projects, six of which are in Montana. Aside from the hoped-for well project in Sheridan, other Montana RD projects include:

- Thompson Falls: a \$14 million project plans to improve the town's wastewater collection system and connect 320 new users to the system.
- Sanders County: \$1.1 million was allocated to construct a solid waste transfer station and improve sites in Heron, Noxon, Trout Creek and Plains near the Montana-Idaho border.
- Belt: \$850,000 was set aside to update three lift stations in the local wastewater system.
- Scobey: \$3.9 million is bookmarked to update outdated cast iron water mains, which had created water system loss, inoperable fire hydrants and skewed mineral levels in water.
- Glasgow: a \$1.3 million project plans to upgrade a local water treatment facility to address water sediment levels, and to update the water distribution system to 1,500 residents.

# Cast your eyes to the skies

Comet to make appearance over Montana Dec. 15, 16

By Joe Witherspoon

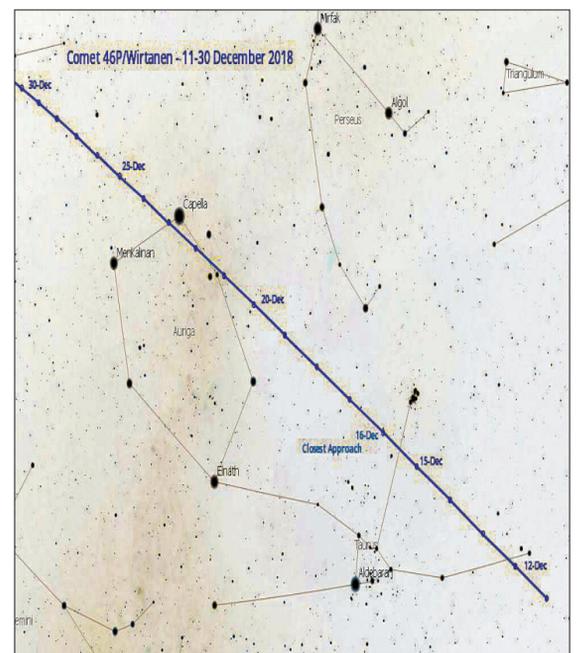
MADISON COUNTY – Comet 46P Wirtanen, a short-term comet, will sail over the Madison Valley this December. It will reach perihelion — its closest point to the Sun — on December 12 and is expected to reach a brightness of magnitude 3, which is well within naked eye visibility.

The comet was first discovered in 1948 by astronomer Carl Wirtanen — for whom it is named — and is estimated to be around three-quarters of a mile in diameter. This passage of 46P will likely be its brightest, most visible passage for the next 20 years or so. 46P will be in the Constellation Taurus (The Bull) on December 12 and will pass between The Hyades and Pleiades (7 sisters) Star Clusters just before its closest approach to Earth, approximately 7 million miles away, on December 18. The Comet should appear reasonably large due to its proximity to Earth.

Viewing the comet will be a bit of a challenge due to the moon. On December 12 the moon will be in a waxing crescent phase, in its first quarter phase on December 15, full on December 22 and in its last quarter phase on December 29.

Viewers around the world will be watching for 46P, and Cottonail Observatory outside Twin Bridges plans to host some of them. The observatory will host three viewing parties to see the comet, provided that the skies are clear enough to see the stars. On partly cloudy nights the Observatory will set up telescopes and have a warm classroom with coffee and hot chocolate.

Viewing parties will be at the Madison County Fairgrounds on December 15 at 6:30 p.m. and at the Observatory on December 16 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. For more information about Comet 46P or the viewing parties, call the observatory at (406) 842-7722.



This map shows the path Comet 46P Wirtanen will take across the night sky this month. The comet will be bright enough to be visible to the naked eye in the middle and end of December. (COURTESY OF JOE WITHERSPOON)

## FLU continued from A1:

problem is that people get so dehydrated from the fevers and don't want to eat or drink because they feel so lousy."

Pre-existing conditions like asthma or heart disease can also make the experience of the flu even worse, Shumsky says. And just because someone had had a mild case of the flu before, that doesn't mean every flu season will treat them so kindly.

It's not an exact science like measles or mumps vaccines, she says. There are so many different strains of the flu that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is constantly monitoring which strains are being seen and where.

There are also concerns from patients who have had the vaccine before and still say they've gotten sick. But Shumsky says that isn't a side effect of the vaccine.

"It's not a live virus, so you cannot get the flu from the vaccine," she says. "It takes two weeks for the vaccine to work, so if someone thinks they got sick a few days after the vaccine, they really just waited a little too long to get vaccinated."

And even if you get the vaccine for the wrong strain of the flu virus, you'll still receive some protection from whatever strain you get exposed to, Shumsky says. The more regularly patients are vaccinated,

## Get your shot

the more immunities they build up to different strains of the virus.

Shumsky says the idea that only very young or elderly people really need to be vaccinated is also false. Holiday travel increases potential exposure to the flu, and having out-of-town guests increases the likelihood that they'll bring it along with them. Someone who's been exposed to the flu can actually be contagious for two or three days before symptoms even really start showing.

"Most of what we've given so far this season are to people who are 65 and older, but even younger people should get it," she says. "Not only to protect themselves. It helps you not to spread it to young children or to the elderly. You can be spreading it without even knowing it."

Montana generally sees the flu virus crop up a little later in the season than other states, Shumsky says, but it varies from year to year. Often there's a resurgence in the spring-time after the initial season in the fall, largely influenced by people traveling and returning home.

Madison Valley Medical Center has given nearly 750 vaccines this year, around 23 percent of the populace it serves. Madison County's public health department has administered over 400 vaccines, but it only takes one unvaccinated person to expose everyone around them to a potentially deadly virus.

# BANK SMALL. LIVE BIG.

Welcome to Madison Valley Bank, where living big means giving big.

Pick up a wish card from The Giving Tree and share the joy of the holidays with children throughout our community. Cards are available in the Madison Valley Bank lobby on Main Street. We ask that gifts be wrapped and returned to the tree by 4pm on Friday, December 14. Cash donations are also accepted.

If you desire assistance for your family, call Liz at 682-5902. The last day to sign up your family will be Friday, Dec. 7. No financial information is required and all names are confidential.

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Established in 1873

(USPS 325-340)

Montana's Oldest Operating Weekly Newspaper

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John D. Taylor

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**ENNIS, MONTANA**

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Editorials are intended to acquaint our readers with the Editor's viewpoints on matters of public importance. Guest editorials and letters from readers (Letters to the Editor) reflect the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or the staff of *The Madisonian*.

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# OPINION

Editor:

At this time of Thanksgiving and joy, I want to take a moment to express my personal thanks for my new community in Sheridan. Following surgery in Bozeman, I was fearful of coming home alone – that didn't happen. I was care for by our beautiful new medical facility and members of this fantastic valley – from Ennis to Dillon.

As I reveled in my warm, loving care, I also thought about what it took to make it all come to fruition... the dedication of the community at large, the largesse of many individuals, the countless hours put in by the Ruby Valley Hospital board and the Ruby Foundation board. Thank you!

My care began several months ago under the unbelievable scrutiny and diligence of the physical therapy department in their new "digs" (provided by yet another generous donor!) My surgeon was very impressed by my recovery response with the comment, you must

have had good preparatory physical therapy." Thank you!

Care was extremely efficient from doctors, staff, nurses, aides and custodial personnel.

Then how does one even begin to thank the countless friend and acquaintances who have come to my aid. With calls, cheer, caring and yummy concoctions. When I was running out of reading material at the hospital, the librarian even delivered books to me, on his time. Thank you!

This is a time for loving and giving. Take a moment to reflect how you can give. Of yourself to someone who is lonely, or "down," or ill. You have no idea how even the smallest gesture will make someone's day.

Happy holidays to a brilliant valley.

Ann Good, Sheridan

**Card of Thanks**

We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all that have so graciously and thoughtfully helped in so many ways over the last several months since Lisa's hemorrhagic stroke. While it has been an arduous journey that continues on, the outpouring of love and prayers on our behalf has been overwhelming and humbling, leaving us without adequate words to express our appreciation. It is times like this that makes us so thankful that we live in a neighborhood and community that reaches out to those in need with a helping hand and loving heart. God has richly blessed us with you all and may you all be blessed by Him.

With our love and thanksgiving,

The Larry Mehlhoff Family



## To drain the VA swamp, Trump must first wade into it

By Bob Carey

President Trump campaigned on cleaning house at the Department of Veterans Affairs, to fire inept and corrupt bureaucrats, and give veterans greater choice in their health care.

Veterans responded enthusiastically. President Trump won their votes by a margin of almost 4 million.

The president has tried to make good on his promises. He signed into law the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which gives the Secretary the authority to fire inept or corrupt bureaucrats. He ratified the MIS-SION Act, which expands veterans' healthcare choices and support for caregivers for the seriously disabled.

But his efforts have been frustrated by the bureaucratic swamp at the VA he campaigned against. President Trump needs people who agree with his vision for the VA -- not civil servants who were there before he took office and will be there after he leaves.

In other words, he needs more political appointees at the VA.

Each presidential administration gets about 4,000 political appointees spread across all the various executive agencies. Responsible for implementing the administration's policies, they serve at the pleasure of the president and can be fired at will. Career civil servants, by contrast, have no stake in the president's agenda and can hardly be held accountable for their work. Dismissing a civil servant for poor performance can take years.

If the VA is to be reformed, political appointees will be the ones to do it. Yet the VA only gets 38 -- the fewest of any cabinet-level agency. That's less than 1 percent of the appointees the administration is allotted.

Even the leaders of the VA's regional divisions are civil servants. Regional and state administrators at the Departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services, by contrast, are all appointed by the president.

So 38 people have the impossi-

ble task of turning around the federal government's second-largest agency, with 373,000 employees.

There's a lot of misbehavior to clean up. Career civil servants are using the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act to fire whistleblowers and protect themselves from accusations of corruption.

If President Trump is to drain the VA swamp, he needs to first populate it with more political appointees.

In the long term, Congress must restructure the VA so every Under Secretary, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretary -- the three levels below the Secretary on the organizational chart -- is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

In the shorter term, the Trump administration should shift 75 to 100 political appointees to the VA -- and make every Principal Deputy Under Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary appointees. Likewise, all regional Veteran Integrated Service Networks directors should

become appointees.

Departments with less checkered histories than the VA have five to 10 Senior Policy Advisors reporting to the Secretary who act as fixers for urgent policy priorities -- and can maneuver around bureaucratic inertia. The VA needs them, too.

Finally, the VA would benefit from a new Under Secretary of Policy to assist the Secretary with setting and enforcing standards of performance, integrated budgets, and system-wide policies and procedures.

The VA's bureaucracy is the chief impediment to delivering quality care and services to our country's veterans. Asking that same bureaucracy to fix itself is folly.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie needs to be given the accountable personnel and political muscle required to bring about the change voters demanded in 2016.

Bob Carey, a retired U.S. Navy captain, is chief advocacy officer of *The Independence Fund*. This piece originally ran in *Detroit News*.

# OBITUARIES

**Jack Edward Pfertsh**  
November 30, 2018

DILLON -- Jack Edward Pfertsh, 78, passed away in his sleep surrounded by family and friends on November 30, 2018 in Dillon, Montana. He was born on April 15, 1940 to Elmer and Katherine Pfertsh in Denver Colorado. On June 24, 1958 he married Marolyn Lewis in Welby County, Colorado. Jack enjoyed being with family, his Denver Bronco games; and ranching at Hawxhurst Ranch and Trailsend Ranch.

Survivors include his wife Marolyn, brothers Elmer and Donald Pfertsh, and sister Geraldine Chester. His 6 children: Debbie (Randy Burke), Jack, Bill (Tina), Candis (Kevin Rogers), Miste, Dezzi. His 9 Grandchildren: Mindy (Mike Maesar), RJ, Kelsey, Cheyenne, Kenya, China, Jesse, Katie, Slade. His 11 Great grandchildren: Cailin, Aiden, Liam, Laine, Leigha, Avandria, Maddox, Chris, Gracie, Owen, McKenzie.

He was preceded in death by



his parents, sister Jodi Russell, and grandson Michael Pfertsh.

A time of gathering will be held on Saturday, December 15 from 10am -- 2pm. At K&L Mortuary in Sheridan Montana. In conjunction with the viewing there will be a reception held at the Mill creek Inn in Sheridan Montana. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Pioneer Rehabilitation Center in Dillon, Montana.

**Barbara McGowan**  
December 7, 2018

ENNIS -- Longtime Ennis resident, Barbara McGowan, age 94, passed away December 7, 2018 at the Madison Valley Manor at Ennis. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life in Ennis is being planned for this coming spring.

K&L Mortuaries & Crematory of Ennis assisted with arrangements.

**Wilma Mae Seidensticker**  
December 4, 2018

TWIN BRIDGES -- Wilma Mae Seidensticker, 76, of Twin Bridges, passed away at home on the evening of December 4, 2018. Wilma was born the second oldest of six siblings on October 14, 1942 in Huntington Park, California to Warren Bedell and Wilma Bedell (Grya). After graduating Montebello High School in Montebello, California she began working as secretary at Bateman Brokerage. During that time, she met Frederick Bond Seidensticker and the two married on November 24, 1962. They enjoyed 56 years together living in southern California and Des Moines, Iowa before settling in Montana in 1975 to raise their four kids; Fred Jr., Samantha, Robert, and Mathew. She worked 28 years as a secretary at public schools in Twin Bridges, Kremlin-Gilford, and Shelby, Montana before retiring to the longstanding family residence near Twin Bridges in 2003.

A devout Catholic, Wilma lived her life with unyielding devotion to the principles and values of the faith. She exemplified selflessness and service to others. Whether it was the myriad students, teachers, principals, and superintendents she served during her career as a school secretary to, her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends, she always put their needs before her own. And, it was always with a warm heart and a smile. To those who knew her, it was just who she was. Wilma is now in the arms of her beloved God but will always be remembered



with good thoughts and a smile. She will be deeply missed by many.

Wilma is preceded in death by her parents and brother Robert George Bedell. She is survived by her husband Fred; brothers Warren (Karen), Winfield (Katie), Bill (Kathy), and sister Winona; children Fred Jr., Samantha (John), Robert (Lindsey), Mathew (Peggy); grandchildren Bethany (Shawn), Eric (Jenny), Jake, Brandon, Chip, James, Jackie, and Ashley; great grandchildren Tate and Kinley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Catholic funeral service will be held at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Twin Bridges at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 15. Rosary begins at 9 a.m. In lieu of flowers, Wilma requested donations be made to Ruby Valley Ambulance Services, Twin Bridges Fire Department, and Notre Dame Catholic Church in Twin Bridges. K & L Mortuary is assisting the family and cremation has taken place.



## Virginia City council approves several new projects, considers new trails

Heritage Commission announces new operators for the Bale of Hay Saloon

REAGAN COLYER  
news@madisoniannews.com

VIRGINIA CITY – The Virginia City town council was busy at its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 6, unanimously approving several upcoming projects before the start of 2019.

The meeting began with the announcement from the Montana Heritage Commission (MHC) that the contract for a new operator for Virginia City's iconic Bale of Hay Saloon has been issued to the owners of Chick's Bar in Alder. The saloon will retain its well-known and well-loved feel, and \$10,000 of its revenue has already been earmarked to assist the Virginia City Fire Department. In the future the plan is to have the saloon remain open year-round.

MHC's update also noted that the gas tanks have been installed in the nearly-complete information center on the east end of town. Executive director Elijah Allen says they hope to have pumps installed and running by the end of the month.

Mayor Justin Gatewood made one note in his mayor's report that Virginia City's flock of wild turkeys is becoming more of a nuisance. With around 20 large birds, the flock is becoming more acclimated to humans, Gatewood said, mostly because they have been intentionally fed.

"I would urge folks to stop feeding them," Gatewood said. "The more we feed them, the more aggressive they're going to become."

Clerk Nancy Stewart reported that Virginia City saw a \$2,500 increase in its received resort tax after the 2018 tourist season. The town saw an overall revenue of \$93,900 thanks to taxes on the biggest elements of tourist season: food, lodging and attractions.

### New Mountain Bike Trail

The first proposed project heard by the council came in the public comment section of Thursday's meeting. Scott Kelley proposed to the board a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) project that would add a multi-use trail for hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers in the hills outside of town.

"They've asked for local endorsements," Kelley said. Kelley is spearheading the project, which would be built by volunteers and grants sponsored by the non-profit Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association (SWMBA). The trail would be a loop of around 7 miles and not limited to bikers; Kelley said any non-motorized recreationists would be welcome. Kelley said his list of "local endorsements" included MHC and the local Chamber of Commerce in addition to the council itself.

The council unanimously supported the project, saying it would attract a new demographic of visitors to Virginia City and could also encourage visitors to extend their stays. At next month's meeting, the council will vote on a support letter or resolution to formally lend their support to the new addition.

### Sign additions

The next two projects approved by the council were no-brainers: changes of two signs around town, which require a vote to ensure they maintain accordance with Virginia City's historic preservation office requirements.

The council unanimously supported the addition of a sign added to the hangman's building which will denote the Bovey Memorial honoring Charles Bovey, who along with his wife Sue Ford Bovey was largely responsible for the preservation of Virginia City's historic buildings and character.

They then voted to allow a new sign along main street reflecting the name change of Madison Valley Bank from First Madison Valley Bank. The new sign will go up above the ATM building near the post office and will be virtually identical to the old one.

### Barn and Garage Project

Things got slightly more complex after that with two development permits proposed for a project that will help maintain a historic barn via what Gatewood called "addition by subtraction."

The project involves tearing down a non-historic garage in order to rehabilitate a historic barn. The rub came when it was noted that the garage is largely responsible for keeping the barn upright as the construction currently stands, so its demolition will be one of the last elements of the project.

Historic preservation officer Jim Jarvis called the project a "historically sensitive rehabilitation," noting that contractors would start by jacking up the barn, then removing and cutting out some of the accumulated earth beneath the building to even the grade with the adjacent alley, then pouring a concrete foundation to keep the structure stable once the garage is removed.

It's a project that has been in the works for around two years, Jarvis says, but which the council agreed would be a beneficial change for a historic building in need of refurbishment. Both development permits were unanimously passed.

### Library Addition

A development permit proposed by the Thompson-Hickman library will add a vestibule to the library's entryway to reduce the frigid gusts that drop the temperature around the circulation desk where librarians spend their days.

Jarvis explained the project to the council, saying that the \$21,000 project would add a vestibule with two doors and considerable window area to maintain light shining through into the library itself. The vestibule would include a book drop and would provide a space for early patrons to stay warm before the library opened or to grab the library's internet signal.

The council approved that permit as well, and construction is set to start as soon as possible to keep the Thompson-Hickman's librarians warmer this winter.

### Old Fire Hall conversion

The final development permit approved by the council concerned a transition of Virginia City's old fire hall into new town hall offices.

The footprint of the building will stay the same, said Jarvis, maintaining the 1935 building's character while adding sufficient windows to allow maximum light flow through the north-facing façade.

The primary debate at the council meeting was over how those windows would be constructed. Adding dividers to the double-hung window panes creates a more artistic and detailed look, said Jarvis, but can also inhibit light entry a surprising amount.

The council ultimately approved the permit with the addition that the windows would be "six over one" meaning six small rectangular panes in the top of the window with one large pane in the bottom. The façade of the new town hall offices will be designed to look similar to the Allen and Willard bank, which is just down the street.

The Virginia City town council's next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 3, at 7 p.m.

## Big Sky Fire Department donates vehicle to Sheridan

SHERIDAN – With the recent acquisition of a new command vehicle, the Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD) looked to take an 11-year-old command vehicle out of service. The 2008 Chevy Suburban and had been utilized as a command vehicle and as an EMS quick response vehicle for many years.

BSFD felt it still could be used by a department that has a lesser incident volume. With the Sheri-

dan, Montana Rural Volunteer Fire Department's command vehicle having been destroyed by a tree that fell during a straight-line wind event, BSFD saw an opportunity to repurpose the vehicle and donate it to help a Montana fire service partner.

The vehicle donation was accepted by Ben Hitchcock, Sheridan's Fire Chief and Rahn Abbott, Sheridan's Deputy Chief.



Show above is the Big Sky vehicle donated to Sheridan, and Sheridan Fire Chief Ben Hitchcock, Big Sky Deputy Chief Dustin Tetrault, Sheridan Deputy Chief Rahn Abbott, and Big Sky Deputy Chief Greg Megaard. (SUBMITTED).

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### WHAT DOES MADISON COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE DO?

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- 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

### SUPPORT YOUR TASK FORCE WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MADISON COUNTY.

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

# Ask the Expert

Local businesses have the information you need to make a variety of decisions. Best of all, they are here and available to meet your needs. In our "Ask the Experts" section, we went to these local experts for information on topics important to you.

Ask the Expert forum appears the second Thursday of each month. If you have questions for these area professionals e-mail us at [info@madisoniannews.com](mailto:info@madisoniannews.com).

**HEALTH CARE**

**Q:** How does hypnosis change behavior?

**A:** Hypnosis is a natural relaxed state of mind which facilitates communication between your conscious and subconscious mind. Hypnotic trance facilitates a high level of focused concentration and an emotionalized desire to satisfy suggested behavior. It must be entered into willingly and does not cause loss of self-control, but instead, it intensifies it. Hypnosis induced trance makes an individual more driven to comply with suggestions. Suggestions can be used to change deep seated beliefs in the subconscious which then allow current behaviors to change. You cannot be hypnotized unless you want to. Mankind has used this trance state to help individuals correct unpleasant or unwanted behaviors for thousands of years, by using the power of their own mind. Hypnosis can be safely induced by a board certified Hypnotherapist and patients can be taught self-hypnosis techniques. The Ruby Valley Medical Clinic plans to offer hypnotherapy services by mid-2019.



**Dr. Roman Hendrickson, MD**  
RUBY VALLEY CLINICS

SHERIDAN 842-5056 • TWIN BRIDGES 684-5546

**BIRDING**

**Q:** What can you tell me about bird behavior in cold weather?

**A:** Some birds, such as Black-capped Chickadees, go into a state of torpor at night during extremely cold weather. During the evening, the birds enter a sheltered cavity or similar place to spend the long night. Sometimes they huddle with other birds to share body heat. The birds will shiver to keep warm, but they interrupt it with periods of inactivity, causing the body core temperature to drop slightly. As they alternate shivering with staying still, the heart rate and respirations decrease along with their reducing temperature. When they reach a full state of torpor, they lose consciousness. The more their body temperature drops, the more precious fat they save, which they use for energy. Toward morning, the birds start shivering again. As this increases, the body core temperature rises. When the birds are fully out of torpor, they leave the shelter and go about their day. Keep your bird feeders full and chock full of nuts and high fat foods. If you haven't taken down your nesting boxes, keep them up or put some roosting boxes if you have them.



**Debi Naccarto, Owner**  
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**FITNESS**

**Q:** How can I stay accountable?

**A:** Plan healthy meals, snack properly, workout 4-5 times a week. Goals we've all set. Goals we've all met. Goals we've all failed at. Often we can get motivated to start a fitness program, but too easily we let work, family and chores become the "out" to not continue with that program. The best way to "keep going" is to find some sort of accountability that works for you. Pay for 6 months in advance for the gym, yoga or pilates classes. Make a pact with a friend/family member to meet 3 times a week to workout. Use a fitness tracker, either by purchasing one specifically designed to help you track things, or find a free app that can be uploaded to your phone. Write it on your daily calendar and treat it like an appointment. Find what works for you and use it!

**Madison Square Athletic Club**



**Madison Square Athletic Club**  
406-682-4560

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**Q:** What is the pelvic floor?

**A:** The pelvic floor is a complex set of muscles located in the bottom of the stomach cavity. They are interconnected to the tailbone and hip bones and form a hammock like configuration. The function and purpose of the pelvic floor is stability of the pelvis for the intestines, female and male reproductive organs. Women generally exhibit pelvic floor problems due to vaginal childbearing and broader flatter joints surfaces in the pelvis. Symptoms are incontinence, pelvic pain as well as low back pain. Men have a low incidence due to the pelvis, narrower than women and muscular nature of that region. Pelvic floor dysfunction requires a women's health specialist with symptoms of incontinence. Low back pain with treatment of pelvic floor decreases back pain. Stability of the pelvis and spine is related to the pelvic floor muscle. These muscles and many others are directly related to the function and stability of a the pelvis and spine. Ennis physical Therapy, Robert "Bob" Sahli PTATCLAT, the "Oldest healthcare practice" in the Madison Valley. 682-3112.



**Robert (Bob) Sahli, PTATCLAT**  
ENNIS PHYSICAL THERAPY PC • 406-682-3112

**EYE CARE**

**Q:** Is it safe to use over-the-counter eye drops?

**A:** OTC drops are generally safe for regular use, but follow directions carefully. Drops marketed for red eyes or allergies generally contain decongestant which, with frequent use, can cause increased irritation and redness. If you wear contacts, wait at least 10 minutes before putting the lenses in. Some drops shouldn't be used with contacts, so consult your eye doctor. Most products, including store brands, contain the same basic ingredients within their category, so more expensive brands aren't necessarily better. Most eye drops contain preservatives which can cause inflammation and worsen symptoms for some. If you have sensitive eyes or severe dry eyes, look for preservative-free options. A simple lubricating product is often a good first treatment for dry eyes, allergies, and other minor eye irritations. If you develop any irritation from the drops, stop using them immediately. If symptoms persist or worsen after three days of use, or if you have vision changes, eye pain or develop other eye problems, see your eye doctor.



**Dr. Jeff Squire**  
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Image result for happy holidays images

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**Amanda Smethurst, Agent**  
THE AGENCY INSURANCE DIVISION • 406-682-4202

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**Q:** What can you tell me about Mental health and aging?

**A:** The United States Surgeon General reported that while most older adults enjoy good mental health, nearly 20% of those 55 and older experience some type of mental health concerns that are not part of normal aging. The following are some of the most common disorders:  
1) Anxiety  
2) Depression, which may be associated with distress and/or suffering, weakened functional status, widowhood, and intense alcohol consumption.  
3) Dementia or some level of cognitive impairment  
4) Suicide  
Because depression is one of the most effectively treated illnesses, most older adults who are depressed can improve significantly from treatment. If you have concerns and would like to talk to someone, please call Lisa at (406) 670-4546.



**Lisa Brubaker, LCSW**  
(406) 670-4546

**REAL ESTATE**

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**PHARMACY**

**Q:** What is the Senior Care Pharmacist Directory and how can I access it?

**A:** This May kicks off a nationwide recognition of Older Americans Month, with this year's theme being "Engage at Every Age," encouraging everyone, regardless of age, to take steps to improve one's wellbeing. The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) will be observing Older Americans Month with a number of exciting new tools available to help older adults become more engaged with their health. ASCP's new Senior Care Pharmacist Directory makes it easier to identify pharmacists who can help older adults manage their medications and overall health. The directory consolidates senior care pharmacist contact information and certifications/qualifications into one online phone book, allowing consumers to easily search for information on pharmacists in their state. Older adults, caregivers, and even health care team members will be able to use the directory to identify senior care pharmacists they can contact with concerns regarding medications, including how to appropriately use medications safely and effectively. You can access the directory and free educational materials at [HelpWithMyMeds.org](http://HelpWithMyMeds.org). Older Americans Month is led by the Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living. For more information on activities and ways you can become engaged, go to the official Older Americans Month website at <https://oam.acl.gov/>.



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## More CWD positive deer discovered

HELENA – First seven, then nine more deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease in Montana during the last two weeks.

The first seven deer were mule deer bucks: four harvested in CWD-positive areas in Blaine and Carbon counties, then three more harvested in new areas in Valley and Daniels counties.

In Valley County, a positive deer was harvested about 18 miles west of Opheim. In Daniels County, a positive deer was harvested 15 miles northwest of Scobey near the Canadian border, and another just inside the Fort Peck Reservation about 15 miles southwest of Scobey.

In addition, a mule deer buck was confirmed positive in Hill County. As a result, Hill County, north of U.S. Highway 2 is now a CWD positive area.

Nine more deer were found suspect for CWD: three south of Billings, six on the Hi-Line.

South of Billings in Carbon County, two mule deer — a buck and a doe — and a white-tailed buck from CWD-positive areas showed suspect for the disease.

Along the Hi-Line, three mule deer from CWD-pos-

itive areas in Blaine County and two mule deer bucks from the CWD-positive area in Valley County all returned as suspect for the disease. A mule deer buck from Phillips County, outside a CWD positive area, was also discovered to be suspect for the disease.

This brings the total suspect of positive animals found in this year's surveillance efforts to 22 deer — five from the CWD positive area south of Billings and 17 from along the Hi-Line.

In the coming weeks, FWP officials will look back at this year's surveillance effort along the northern part of the state and determine the next steps forward in addressing CWD, including any management actions. CWD surveillance efforts will continue next year to include portions of the southeast corner of the state.

For more information on CWD in Montana, go online to [fwp.mt.gov/CWD](http://fwp.mt.gov/CWD).

Hunters should properly dispose of carcasses. Once an animal with CWD dies, any part of the carcass can transmit the disease for at least two years. Safely disposing of all animal parts in solid waste landfills will help prevent the transmission of CWD.

## U.S. Forest Service seeks stolen sign

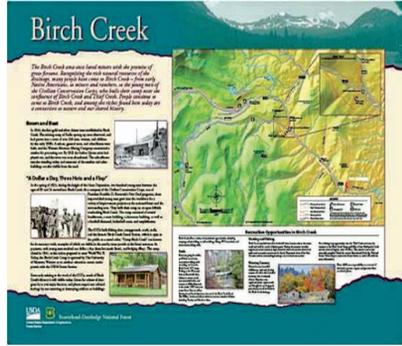
DILLON – The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest wants public help to recover an interpretive sign stolen near the forest boundary along the Birch Creek Road (No. 98) north of Dillon.

The new sign had been installed on May 5 and was reported missing in mid-August.

The sign along with materials and employee time to install it is valued at approximately \$6,000.

The Forest Service is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) involved in the theft of this sign.

If anyone has knowledge of who stole the sign and where it is located, contact Matt Mickelson at (406)-683-3963.



# Three

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## Pet of the Week

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**P**urrow? Are you coming? Haven't seen you yet and was just wondering. I've been purrraying and still no one for me. Aloysius and Stormin Norman got adopted, but my brothers and I are still here. Makes us so sad. We are young, playful and loving guys. We have everything taken care of for this year and are neutered. Please call Misty at 439-1405 and ask about me. I'll be forever grateful, Big Whitey



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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Laura Long helped spread mulch this summer for the Thompson-Hickman Library's new playground in Virginia City. It's just one of the ways Long has given back to her community, capitalizing on sharing her love of reading. (Courtesy of Christina Koch)

### Laura Long

Laura Long has been a reader all her life but being a business owner in Denver didn't leave her much time for recreational reading. "I always wished I had more time to read," she says. "And now I do!" Long's daughter, Christina Koch, is the assistant librarian at the Thompson-Hickman Library in Virginia City and hosts a weekly story time for local kids. Around eight years ago, Long got involved as well. Koch sets a theme each week for story time, sometimes seasonal, sometimes random. And each week, Long makes treats for the young readers that fit with the week's theme. "If it's dinosaurs, then I make dinosaur cookies or cakes to go along with the theme," says Long. "Recently the theme was snow, so we had brownies shaped like snowflakes and decorated." The kiddos who come to read have fallen in love with the program, so much so that this summer the

library had to offer it twice a week: once for kindergartners and younger and one for elementary-age students. "It's just grown so much for the last few years," says Long. "In the winter we have anywhere from eight to 20 kids, and they come from all around: Ennis, Sheridan, Alder, Virginia City. It's pretty good for this little tiny town." Koch usually does the reading, but Long fills in when she's needed, then oversees the kids' craft time that happens before they indulge in each week's themed treats. She also serves as the secretary for the Friends of the Library, helps out with events like the used book bazaar, library cabaret and decorating downtown Virginia City for Christmas and coordinates the annual "Feed your Firefighters" event. "She is always willing to help anyone in town," says Koch. "She makes Virginia City a happy, loving place... VC wouldn't be nearly as sunny without her!" One week at a time, Long is passing her lifelong love on to another generation of readers, and making her community a warmer, more compassionate place at the same time.



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# Madison County DISPATCH

December 2 - 8, 2018.

December 2 - Suspicious Circumstances in 1900 Blk US Hwy 287, Cameron; Traffic Complaint in 100 Blk Madison St., Sheridan.

son; Accident on MT Hwy 287, MM 8, Ennis; Accident on US Hwy 287, MM 53, McAllister; Alarm Call in 300 Blk Madison St., Sheridan.

December 3 - Fire/Gas Leak call on Wisconsin Creek Rd., Sheridan; Trespass Complaint on Andren Ln., Silver Star; Medical Aid in 300 Blk W. Main St., Ennis; Medical Aid on Moores Creek Rd., Ennis; Dog Complaint in 100 Blk Gallatin St., Harrison.

December 6 - Traffic Complaint on US Hwy 287, MM 32, Cameron; Wildlife Complaint at US Hwy 287 & Cemetery Loop Rd., Ennis.

December 4 - Fire Call on MT Hwy 287, MM 14, Virginia City; Suspicious Circumstances in 300 Blk E. Ennis St., Ennis; Medical Aid in 2300 Blk MT Hwy 41 S, Twin Bridges; Accident at MT Hwy 287 & Wet Georgia Rd. S, Sheridan.

December 7 - Medical Aid in 100 Blk W. 2nd Ave., Twin Bridges; Trespass Complaint in 4900 Blk US Hwy 287 N, Ennis; Wildlife Complaint on MT Hwy 287, MM 29, Sheridan; Accident on MT Hwy 287, MM 38, Twin Bridges.

December 5 - Medical Aid on Kearney Ln., Sheridan; Dog Complaint in 200 Blk E. Crofoot St., Sheridan; Coroner Call in Sheridan; Dog Complaint on Norwegian Creek Rd., Harri-

December 8 - Vandalism/Criminal Mischief in 7500 Blk US Hwy 287, Harrison; Burglary Complaint on Noack Rd., Ennis; Disturbance in 200 Blk Madison St., Sheridan; Welfare Check in 100 Blk Main St., Ennis; Citizen Assist in 200 Blk Madison St., Sheridan.

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The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 81 Calls for Service from Dec 2 - 8.

## DISTRICT COURT ROUNDUP

The Madison County District Court heard eight cases between Dec. 3 and Dec. 10:

• Joel Mitchell Davis is charged with a fourth count of driving under the influence, a felony. Davis was stopped in late October and was allegedly found to be in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

• Dan Eugene Hastings is charged with felony criminal endangerment along with three misdemeanors associated with a high-speed chase that occurred in October: driving with a suspended or revoked license, failure to carry proof of or exhibit insurance and a seatbelt violation. Hastings allegedly led both Dillon police and Montana Highway Patrol on a high-speed chase before driving off the road in Madison County, endangering other vehicles on the road as well as a passenger in his vehicle.

• Jennifer Rose Lince is charged with felony exploitation of an older person for allegedly using her grandmother's funds or assets with intent to temporarily or permanently deprive her of those assets, between May and September of this year.

• Michael Scott Rinaldi is charged with felony attempted theft for allegedly opening or examining a toolbox owned by Madison County with intent to steal one or more of the tools inside, valued at over \$1,500. Rinaldi is also charged with criminal trespass to property associated with that attempted theft, as well as three other misdemeanors: obstructing a peace officer or public servant, criminal possession of dangerous drugs for marijuana found in his possession and criminal possession of drug paraphernalia for rolling papers also found in his possession.

• Carol Ann Feist faces a petition to revoke an earlier suspended sentence associated with criminal proceedings from 2014 and 2016.

In 2014 Feist was charged with deceptive practices for attempting to pay bills with cancelled or revoked credit card numbers or with credit cards that did not belong to her. She was also charged at the time with two counts of issuing a bad check and misdemeanor attempted theft of labor or services. Feist was found guilty of deceptive practices in May 2015 and was found guilty in 2016 of tampering with or fabricating evidence for producing a fabricated recommendation letter to her employer at the time. Feist was sentenced to 10 years suspended for the 2015 conviction and five years suspended for the 2016 conviction. She was arrested for parole violations in June of this year and again in November, and currently faces a petition to revoke her suspended sentence.

• Zachary Patrick Rogers is charged with three felonies stemming from a June incident. Rogers is charged with attempted sexual intercourse without consent, sexual assault and sexual abuse of children. He is alleged to have demanded via electronic messages that a 12-year-old girl perform oral sex on him, and also alleged to have knowingly persuaded or encouraged sexual conduct, including asking her to send him sexually explicit photos or videos. Rogers is also said to have taken the girl's hand and put it on his crotch. The legal age of consent in Montana is 16, so the girl in question is too young to have been legally able to give consent.

• Justin James Cowee is charged with one felony and four misdemeanors stemming from a traffic stop earlier this year. Cowee is charged with criminal child endangerment for allegedly causing substantial risk of death or injury to a four-year-old child who was in a vehicle Cowee was driving while allegedly under the influence of marijuana. Cowee is also charged with a seatbelt violation, failure to carry or exhibit vehicle insurance, operation of a vehicle under the influence of marijuana and use of marijuana at a public park or bench. Cowee pled not guilty in May of this year and awaits sentencing.

• Dalton Furie Depaoli faces probation violation charges after being arrested in Gallatin County earlier this year. Depaoli was on probation following a conviction for aggravated assault back in 2014 and had allegedly violated probation multiple times before. When arrested, Depaoli allegedly tested positive for methamphetamine. He was found guilty of probation violations in July and awaits sentencing.



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## MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday	Partly cloudy. High 31, low 17. Winds S11 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.
Friday	AM clouds, PM sun. High 38, low 22. Winds S 9 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.
Saturday	Partly cloudy. High 35, low 21. Winds SSW 8 mph, 10 percent chance of precipitation.
Sunday	Partly cloudy. High 39, low 24. Winds S 8 mph, 0 percent chance of precipitation.
Monday	Partly cloudy. High 39, low 24. Winds SSW 8 mph, 10 percent chance of precipitation.

### Quote of the Week:

“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.”

Confucius

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# PANORAMA



## Empty bowls, full hearts

Gallery 287 and Ennis Senior Center host first annual event

REAGAN COLYER  
news@madisoniannews.com

ENNIS – Artist and Gallery 287 owner Cathy Toot has been familiar with the nationwide “Empty Bowls” fundraiser series for quite a while, and with a selection of local potters’ work on display in her gallery, thought it was time that she brought the movement to Ennis.

“I just wanted to do something to benefit the community,” she says. “It’s a great way to get people involved, and it makes a difference.”

So, on Saturday, December 8, in coordination with the Ennis Senior Center, Gallery 287 hosted its first Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Empty Bowls first became an idea in the 1990s, and similar events have sprung up all over the United States. Artists and galleries donate handmade bowls, then guests make a donation to purchase a bowl, and receive along with it a soup dinner, complete with salad and bread.

It’s a unique way to draw attention and resources to the plight of millions of Americans who don’t reliably have enough food on the table. Last weekend’s fundraiser focused on Ennis’s Meals on Wheels program, raising money to ensure that homebound senior citizens are supplied with enough healthy meals.

Saturday’s event featured artists from Ennis, Billings, Hamilton, Virginia City, Butte and Miles City, just to name a few. There was even a featured artist from Minnesota. Many are artists whose work is on display in Toot’s gallery. Donors also purchased bowls from the gallery and donated them to the fundraiser to take their contribution a step further.

Brianna Nelson of Ennis Senior Center, Sherry Shows of the Pic-A-Nic Basket and Derek Rudzinsky of Alley Bistro donated homemade soups, plus salad and bread, and visitors packed the senior center. By the end of the evening, the over 100 bowls donated were purchased, filled, emptied and taken home. At \$20 apiece, that’s around \$2,000 raised to help those in need.

And Saturday’s won’t be the last Empty Bowls. Toot already has plans to make the event annual – or even twice yearly – rotating the beneficiaries of the fundraising, to continue to make an impact on her community.



Artists on display at Gallery 287 in Ennis donated some of their handmade bowls to be used at an “Empty Bowls” fundraiser on Saturday, December 8. Attendees purchased a bowl, which was then filled with homemade soup, salad and bread. Proceeds benefitted the Ennis Meals on Wheels program. (R. COLYER PHOTOS)



Left - The Alley Bistro, Pic-A-Nic Basket and Ennis Senior Center all donated soups to be served, along with salad and bread, on Saturday, December 8, with proceeds from the dinner benefiting the local Meals on Wheels program.



Below - Visitors packed the Ennis Senior Center on December 8 to enjoy homemade soup and to purchase handmade bowls at an Empty Bowls fundraiser.



## Giving opportunities abound as Christmas approaches

Toys for Tots, giving trees seek to fill needs and spread cheer

REAGAN COLYER  
news@madisoniannews.com

MADISON COUNTY – Berkshire Hathaway first reached out to Gallatin County’s Toys for Tots drive last holiday season, but by the time everything got sorted out it was too late to participate in the drive.

So, when Toys for Tots reached out to Ennis’s Berkshire Hathaway office to see if they wanted to participate in 2018, Jennifer Barsness had an idea.

“I figured, let’s do one better,” says Barsness. “Let’s get everyone in the state involved.”

It proved a popular idea, and Barsness’s vision came true—every Berkshire Hathaway office in the state is a drop-off spot for donated toys, contributions to one of the largest annual toy drives in the nation.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks and his unit distributed 5,000 toys to children in their Los Angeles area. The very next year, in 1948, the effort went nationwide, spurred by its iconic three-car train logo, which was designed by Walt Disney.

The nonprofit has grown exponentially and now distributes over 18 million toys to children in need each year. Barsness says parents in need get to pick out several toys to ensure each child has something in their Christmas stocking.

“They set up ‘stores’ that parents can go to and pick out four or five toys per child,” she says. “We weren’t sure how it would go. We may end up with only half a box, but half a box is better than no box.”

Ennis’s Berkshire Hathaway office has ended up with more than half a box, and volunteers come out to collect the donations weekly. They’ll continue to do so until December 20 so they have

time to distribute toys before Christmas.

While all Berkshire Hathaway offices across Montana are participating in Toys for Tots, they aren’t then only players in this year’s season of giving.

A popular option for holiday gift giving is “giving trees” and there are several of those to be found around Madison County as well. A giving tree at Madison Foods in Ennis features tags benefiting Ennis Community Children’s School, featuring a different item for each tag taken from the tree—from glue sticks to craft paper and other classroom and educational supplies.

Madison Valley Bank also features a giving tree bearing tags with specific gifts that area children are hoping for. Anyone can ask to have a tag added to the tree, just as anyone can take a tag—or multiple tags—as well as the mantle of Santa Claus and fulfill a wish for a local child, donating the unwrapped gift at the bank.

First Interstate Bank’s giving tree is geared toward the other end of the age spectrum, featuring gift tags geared toward the residents of Madison Valley Manor. It works the same way, with community members donating much-hoped-for gifts to those who may not have a chance to do much holiday shopping of their own.

For residents of Sheridan and Twin Bridges, Opportunity Bank has giving trees in each of its local branches, and the Berkshire offices in those areas are also acting as Toys for Tots drop-off locations. Regardless of where or who you are around the Madison and Ruby valleys, there’s a multitude of giving opportunities near you to make the holidays a little brighter to those in need.



Berkshire Hathaway offices around the state of Montana are drop stations for the annual Toys for Tots drive this year. But they’re only one option for those who want to give back in their communities to help those less fortunate. (R. Colyer photo)

## County infection control officer: Get your flu shot

MADISON COUNTY – Peggy Shumsky, BSN, RN, MVMC Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation Coordinator/Infection Control Officer for Madison County wants people to know that according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services December 3 report, there

have been five deaths from the influenza virus so far this year. One of those has been a Montana child.

It takes two weeks for the flu shot to completely activate your immunity. The longer you wait to receive your immunization, the more at risk you are to get the flu.

If you get the flu and have obtained the flu shot, your course of the disease has been proven to be shorter.

It’s not too late to receive your flu immunization.

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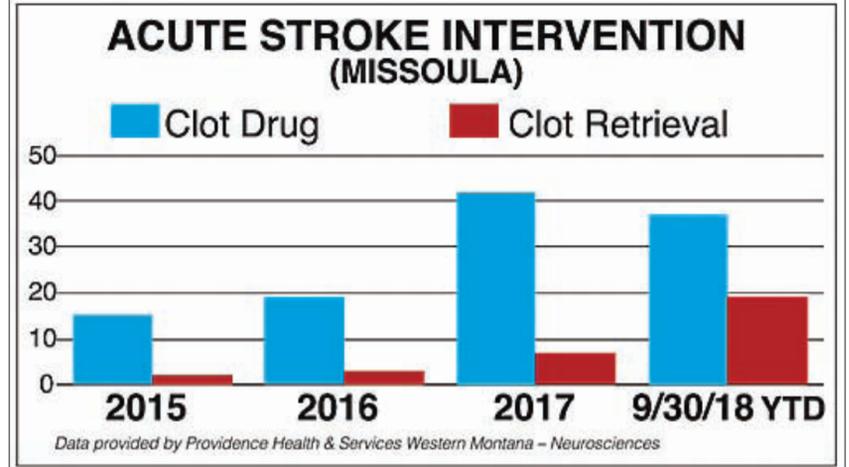
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# HEALTH & WELLNESS



Madison Valley Manor news... All of the Madison Valley Manor residents are looking pretty and handsome just in time for Christmas! Thanks to Travis Shipman, stylist extraordinaire, the folks are receiving cuts and curls on a regular basis. This has been especially nice for the residents. One of the new residents exclaimed that "she has never been this pampered in her life!" It is nice to see so many smiling faces (see photo) and hear about how great it was staying warm and dry in Travis's chair.



## After stroke: Missoula survivors share their stories

### Early stroke intervention increasing

MISSOULA – In 2015, Missoula's Rob Owens knew something wasn't quite right, but suspected his wife Jennifer was experiencing a stroke.

He knew he needed to take quick action. "Grab my hands and squeeze for all you're worth," he told Jennifer.

Two weeks prior, Rob's co-worker Gordon Stabler had a stroke. Alarmed when he was told he wasn't making sense, Gordon walked from work to the nearby emergency room at Providence St. Patrick Hospital. Moments after he arrived with a weak arm and confused speech, Gordon was in the hands of the hospital's stroke team.

"I knew what to look for, because I'd seen how stroke affected Gordon," Rob remembers.

Jennifer Owen and Gordon Stabler talk about their personal experiences with stroke in a new public health video designed to help Montanans recognize the signs of stroke. The video was developed by the Montana Cardiovascular Health Program of DPHHS in partnership with Providence St. Patrick Hospital.

Identifying a stroke and taking action quickly are key to stroke recovery. The crucial factor in effective treatment is time. The test for a possible stroke is based on F.A.S.T: Face drooping; Arm weakness;

Speech problems; Time to call 9-1-1.

For most of the modern era of medicine, treatment for stroke was directed after the stroke was done doing its damage. If the patient survived, a rehabilitation team would step in to help the patient relearn movement and speech.

A game-changer occurred in 1996, however, when the Food and Drug Administration approved use of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) to treat strokes caused by clots. Given early enough in the course of the stroke, the drug can restore normal blood flow. In the 22 years since this breakthrough, the medical approach to stroke has evolved dramatically. Early intervention is now the goal—not only to prevent death, but also to reduce disability.

"We are aggressive in treating stroke from the very early going," says Dr. John Schaefer, a neurologist with Providence Montana in Missoula. "When an artery is blocked, brain cells start to die. That's what a stroke is: dead brain cells due to lack of blood supply. It's imperative to get to the hospital immediately."

The clot-dissolving drug can only be administered within the first three or four hours from the start of symptoms. Other options, such as removing the clot with advanced mechanical tools, also have a limited time window. Until treatment occurs, brain cells continue to die.

Those patients who receive acute stroke intervention such as tPA or mechanical clot retrieval may be 25 to 30 percent



more likely to have an outcome with few or no impairments.

In Missoula County, the medical community has made a concerted effort to improve the number of patients receiving the best options in stroke treatment. Coordination between EMS, rural hospitals and a stroke hub like Providence St. Patrick Hospital have increased the use of the IV drug; some patients are receiving it prior to arrival. The number of St. Pat's stroke patients who received tPA increased 280 percent from 2015 to 2017. As of September 30, 2018 a total of 37 patients have received the drug—a rate of about 22 percent. St. Pat's averages about 250 to 260 stroke patients per year.

The hospital has also become a regional center of endovascular thrombectomy (EVT)—mechanical clot removal. In 2015, clot retrieval was performed twice; then three times in 2016. By the end of September in 2018, 19 clot retrievals were recorded.

Information about stroke signs and prevention is now available at many community outlets, area health care providers and @MTStroke.

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- Basic routine maintenance. Not enough people actually floss or know the proper way to do it. The four most common flossing mistakes are flossing too often, moving too quickly, missing both sides of the tooth and quitting at the sign of bleeding gums.

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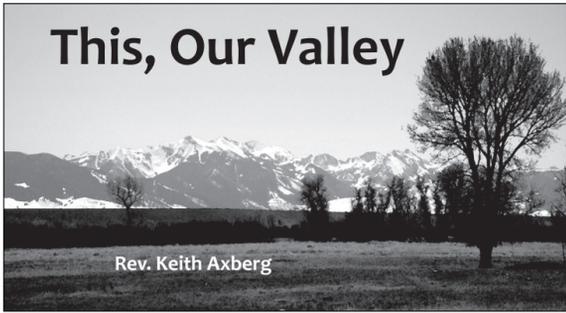
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# COLUMNS



## This, Our Valley



Rev. Keith Axberg

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed ... Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Psalm 126

My wife and I went out to dinner the other night with some friends. They'd come up to visit from Texas, and as we enjoyed our time together, a few tables away was a young child who was absolutely unhappy with her situation. She was just an infant, so she wasn't behaving in a bratty or spoiled manner. She was just plain unhappy, and she let the

world know about it.

One of the things I love about children is their unfiltered and unfettered capacity to be honest in their expression of pain or joy. It can certainly be disconcerting for their parents when it happens in a restaurant, and I suspect there were patrons closer to “the action” who were disturbed by the incessant yowling that was drowning out the overhead music or the sounds of Thursday Night Football being telecast nearby.

Such is life, and I like it, because it is real. It is such a complete contrast with the saccharine storylines of so many

Christmas specials and Christmas movies. I'm nowhere near as cynical as Jean Shepherd in his holiday classic, *A Christmas Story*, but I am a realist. The days are short and cold; there are precious few signs of Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards All to be found on the news.

Our visitors received word while with us that one of their church stalwarts down in Texas passed away in the night – having taken a recent turn for the worst in her battle with cancer. Holiday cheer is deflated daily with news of violence at home and abroad. The stock market is careening wildly, blown (as always) by the high pressure winds of Greed trying to hold at bay the low troughs of Fear.

Admittedly, the holiday displays of lights and yard decoration in our neck of the woods seem much more prolific than

last year. In fact, I saw my first set of Christmas lights burning brightly on a home near us ... the week before Halloween!

It causes me to wonder if the outward appearance of Christmas cheer is genuine, or if it isn't folks near and far whistling their way through the graveyard – putting on a brave face as their innards jiggle Santa-like in the manner of a bowl-full of jelly. There are people, of course, who absolutely delight in the holidays. The lights and tinsel put them in a festive spirit; images of the Holy Child cavorting with reindeer, snowmen, elves, camels, kings, and Dickensian Carolers. What's not to love?

For myself, I fall somewhere between the extremes. I separate the world's manifestation and understanding of the season from the Church's experience and expression of the holiday. In

the tradition to which I belong, this is the season of Advent. It's a season of waiting, patiently preparing heart, mind, and body to receive the One who comes in grace. When Christmas comes, it isn't as a jolly old elf distributing goodies from his bounty (or charcoal, as the case may be), but a tiny child – who comes empty and totally dependent on the grace of others to survive.

“... no crying he makes?” What a pile of reindeer foo-foo! God did not send a baby mannequin, but a real honest-to-goodness infant who cried when hungry, dirty, or wet, jumped when startled by loud noises, who bled when cut, who needed the warm embrace of mother and father when cold. It is this very real human being I have come to love, embrace, hold fast, and share.

I do my civic duty, of course. I've hung my lights. Barb and I

put up our tree the other day (earlier than usual) in order to snap some holiday photos with our friends. We will make the rounds to oo, ah, and critique neighborhood decorations. I've been humming (for weeks) seasonal favorites (both religious and secular) as I've trundled through the shops or driven down the road.

But now there's more: when I hear an infant scream, I can smile – not because I'm some malicious sadist, but because “the one who sows with tears will (come to) reap with songs of joy.” I think that's what we're aiming for in this, our holiday valley.

Keith Axberg writes on matters concerning life and faith. He can be reached at [kfaxberg@gmail.com](mailto:kfaxberg@gmail.com).

## Five ways parents and coaches can take the toxicity out of youth sports

For many kids, organized sports aren't much fun anymore.

Overbearing parents, over-the-top coaches and overzealous competition are frequent images associated with youth-athletic leagues today. Though playing ball often used to embody the enjoyment of being a kid, the experience for many youngsters is too serious and stressful – and ultimately not worth it.

One study revealed 70 percent of U.S. children drop out of organized sports by age 13, with pressure and burnout among the main reasons cited.

“The politics, as well as the over-emphasis adults put on kids to see a college scholarship as the ultimate goal, is ruining a kid's ability to get the most out of sports,” says Maya Castro, author of “The Bubble: Everything I Learned as a Target of the Political, and Often Corrupt, World of Youth Sports” ([www.thebubbleweb.com](http://www.thebubbleweb.com)).

“This over-emphasis has created an environment amongst the parents and coaches that

is similar to a mafia. We badly need changes in this toxic, political and corrupt environment. And it must start with the parents.”

Castro, who says her own experience as a young soccer player was tainted by misguided and misbehaving adults, offers ideas on how adults can improve the youth-sports culture:

- Strive to be a mentor. Castro says parents and coaches have a great opportunity to use sports as a teaching tool for life.

- “The learning aspect of the game needs to be the focal point of youth sports,” Castro says. “Sports should be an extension of family values and behaviors. Good parents and coaches tie in the ups and downs of competition with the challenges in navigating adult life.”

- Model positive behaviors. Part of the negative image of youth sports is related to parents yelling at coaches, referees, opponents, or even their own kids.

- “There are enough critics in the stands hurling profanities and insults during a game,” Castro says. “Parents should set the right ex-

ample for their kid – and for adults who obviously haven't grown up.”

- Enjoy the moment. Too many parents and their young athletes are fretting the future.

- “Too often it's all about winning and getting the scholarship,” Castro says, “but my parents told me there was a time when kids actually enjoyed playing for the sake of playing, and parents won just by getting to watch them play. We need to get back to that. Without it, memories are wasted.”

- Be encouraging. “Celebrate the effort, not just the result,” Castro says. “This goes for youth coaches as well as parents. When kids do some good things, don't let the mistakes cloud your post-game comments. Be honest in discussing room for improvement, but not at the expense of making them feel like they have to play perfect to get praise.”

- Make education first. Castro and many observers of youth sports say parents have lost perspective by thinking their kid is on the fast track to a scholarship or a pro career. Statistics

show few advance that far.

“In the meantime, kids are exhausted from travel leagues and tournaments,” she says, “and the way their future through sports is emphasized, education becomes a distant second.”

“Whether a kid decides to keep playing sports or to walk away,” Castro says, “he or she should be able to do so without deep regret in having wasted their time.”

About Maya Castro – Maya Castro ([www.thebubbleweb.com](http://www.thebubbleweb.com)) is the author of “The Bubble: Everything I Learned as a Target of the Political, and Often Corrupt, World of Youth Sports.” A recent graduate of Sonoma State University with a degree in finance, she played soccer from sixth grade until her senior year of high school, giving the sport up “because of the politics.”

## COMMODITY INSITE: A week of discombobulation

BY JERRY WELCH

The word, discombobulation, when spoken, rolls off the tongue and past the lips with an air of elegance. The dictionary defines the word as, disconcerting or, confusing someone. Synonyms include addle, baffle, bamboozle, befuddle, bewilder, disorient.

I would describe this week for stocks and commodities as one of discombobulation. But any of the synonyms above would equally describe what unfolded over the past five trading sessions.

Here are just a few of the bewildering, mystifying and perplexing scenarios that surfaced with the Big Four: stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities.

It has been quite the week considering the holiday season is at hand, a period when confusing market movements, more often than not, simply do not take place.

For stocks and bonds, it does not get any crazier than this week. Dow futures fell 4 percent while bond futures rose more than two full points, a wildly bullish rally. Historically, it is as rare as hen's teeth to for such a situation to be seen with stocks and bonds. But it happened this week amid the holiday spirit.

What caused the turmoil was when the yield

curve inverted.

An inverted yield curve is, as Bloomberg News describes it, “a harbinger of doom.” Bloomberg News described the event when, “short-term interest rates climb above longer-dated ones and the signal is considered among the best predictors of a future economic slowdown. The spread between three-and five-year Treasury yields turned negative for the first time in more than a decade.”

Adding to the woes of the stock market was the S&P that fell below its 200-day moving average while the “death cross,” a chart pattern that suggests a major downturn is at hand, looms large.

The, “death cross” is when the 50-day moving average falls below the 200-day moving average. History shows that when the, “death cross” appears a great deal of pain is ahead for the stock market... a great deal of pain.

For the week, the yield curve inverted, something not seen in 10 years. The S&P is below its 200 day moving average and the “death cross” trying to rear its ugly head. Those bullish stock markets are mystified and bewildered about the new and bearish scenario that suddenly surfaced this week.

History shows they should be!

But there are puzzling scenarios unfolding with the commodity markets as well. Palladium prices for example, rose to a new all-time historic high this week hitting \$1,400 an ounce. The price relationship to gold is now the tightest and lowest in nearly 16 years. Fundamentally, palladium has the most bullish data in the metal complex. However, palladium tends to be a leading indicator for other precious metals as well. Thus, with palladium at a record high, an argument can be made that other hard asset markets also poised to head higher.

With the yield curve flattening and inverting and the stock market on the cusp of a world of hurt, the Fed may not be so quick to hike interest rates. If so, that means the odds are increasing greatly that the US dollar that rose to an 18 month high a few weeks ago should soon roll over and head south.

If the dollar succumbs to weakness as stocks are now experiencing, a host of commodity markets are on the verge of improving in value similar to palladium. Historically, there is a near perfect inverse relationship between the ol' greenback and inflation: When the dollar heads south, inflation tends to rise.

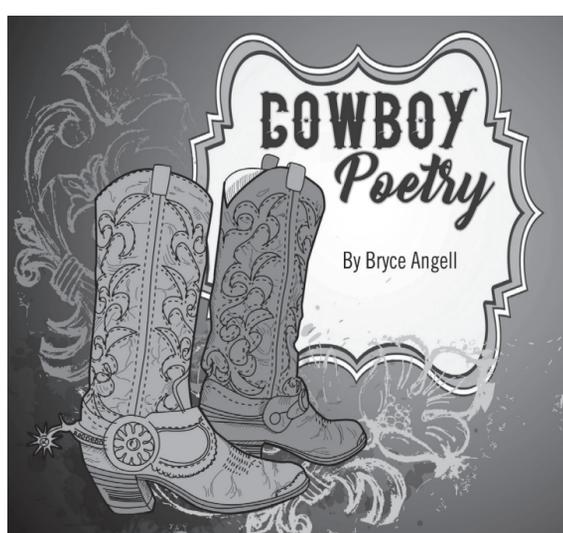
For US grain and livestock producers that have been suffering greatly over the past 10 years, a lower greenback will help them greatly. And the dollar closed this week at a new three-week low. Hooray to that!

According to the US Department of Agriculture, farm income will drop 7 percent from last year, hitting a 12-year low. To help U.S. farmers and ranchers in the New Year and beyond, the dollar needs to head further south.

After this discombobulating week, the timing for a much lower dollar seems to be at hand.

A demand bull market for commodities should unfold in the New Year. The big money funds that have been heavily loaded up with stocks will be looking closely at hard assets for investment purposes if the dollar has indeed topped out. Money always goes to where it is treated best and for the past nine years that place has been the stock market. But those days are likely over.

This week has been quite discombobulating. I expect more of the same going into the New Year. But I also expect to see demand-led bull markets for commodities in 2019 making for an, “Annus Mirabilis.”



## The Roan

I shifted down into low gear, then hopped back on the hay and let the tractor pull the sled that frozen winter day.

The horses milled around behind and tried to reach the feed. I kicked the hay bales off each side and gave them what they'd need.

Our horses all looked plenty sound, especially one big roan. I'd seen too many horses in the winter, skin and bone.

I wondered why the roan had put on so much extra

weight. He was no easy keeper. Looking fat was not his trait.

So I finished up the feeding and sat down to watch them eat. And I saw that roan do something, the likes of which you couldn't beat.

The crazy roan let out a snort and scared off Dad's old bay. Then he straddled the alfalfa and peed right on the hay.

Had I really just discovered why the roan was overweight? That he'd learned how he could

get more food? Just had to urinate?

I watched the other horses then, to see what they would do. They passed up all the peed-on hay, but the big roan ate that, too.

I've heard of spitting in your drink so no one takes a gulp. But if I stole some cowboy's food, he'd beat me to a pulp.

I wondered how the horse alone could figure it all out. He was smarter than I thought,

because he'd done it. There's no doubt.

Well, we couldn't let one greedy horse eat all the horses' hay, so we penned him up in the corral, and there he'd have to stay.

We fed the roan his hay and straw, kept track of what he ate. We kept him on a diet, and soon he was losing weight.

I tried to be observant when I fed him every day. And I never once, from then on, saw him peeing on his hay.

# COMICS & PUZZLES

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Leno's network
- 4 Plant bristle
- 7 Outdoor garment
- 11 Cupid's alias
- 13 Luau dish
- 14 "Do — others ..."
- 15 Hindu wrap
- 16 Type measures
- 17 Adolescent
- 18 Gear parts
- 20 Tempo
- 22 Gratuity
- 24 In the same place (Lat.)
- 28 Swiss Guards' site
- 32 Japanese cartoon art
- 33 Verve
- 34 Fix the soundtrack
- 36 Smile
- 37 Harsh
- 39 Pavlova performances
- 41 Improved
- 43 Sticky stuff
- 44 Aware of
- 46 16 ounces
- 50 Overly proper person
- 53 Witty one
- 55 — gin fizz
- 56 Apiece

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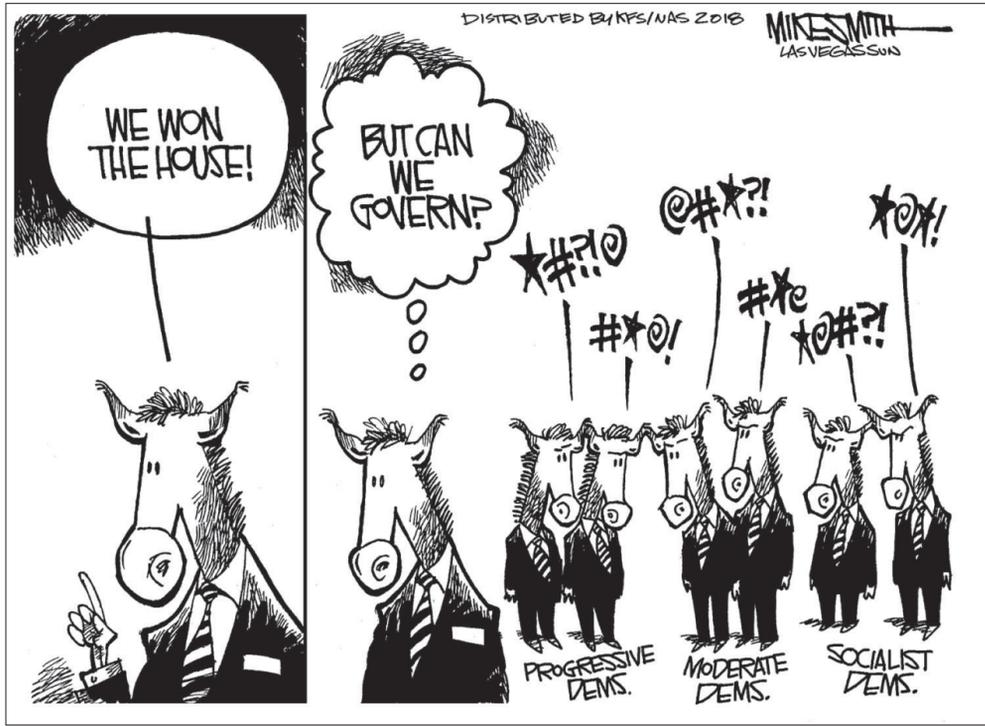
- 57 Ostrich's cousin
- 58 Tackles' teammates
- 59 Sharpen
- 60 Actress Susan
- 61 Request
- ese-Americans
- 7 Acting without restraint
- 8 Individual
- 9 Devoured
- 10 Heavy weight
- 12 Not budging
- 19 Toper's interruption
- 21 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
- 23 Cushion
- 25 Tragic
- 26 Send out
- 27 Clothing store section
- 28 Part of speech
- 29 Lotion additive
- 30 Without slack
- 31 Gist
- 35 Satchel
- 38 Coop dweller
- 40 Prune
- 42 Plied the oars
- 45 Appellation
- 47 Arm bone
- 48 Agrees silently
- 49 Dilbert's furniture
- 50 Church seat
- 51 Cheery remark?
- 52 "Rocks"
- 54 Fellow

**DOWN**

- 1 Bird's home
- 2 Scottish hillside
- 3 Heart of an apple
- 4 Gorilla
- 5 Sonogram area
- 6 Some Japan-

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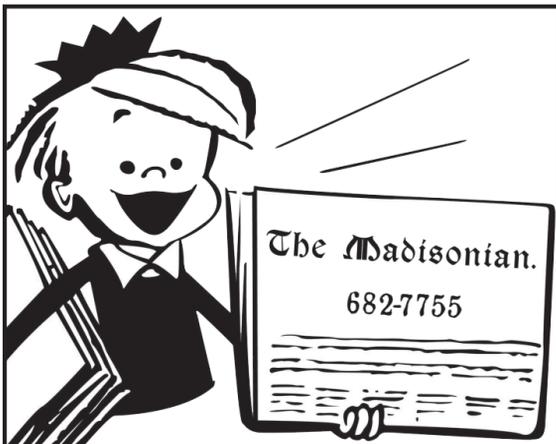
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All puzzle answers on B7

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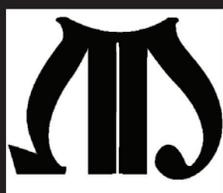
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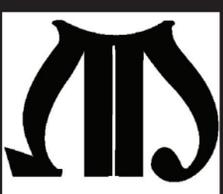
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- Madison County Employee Benefits**
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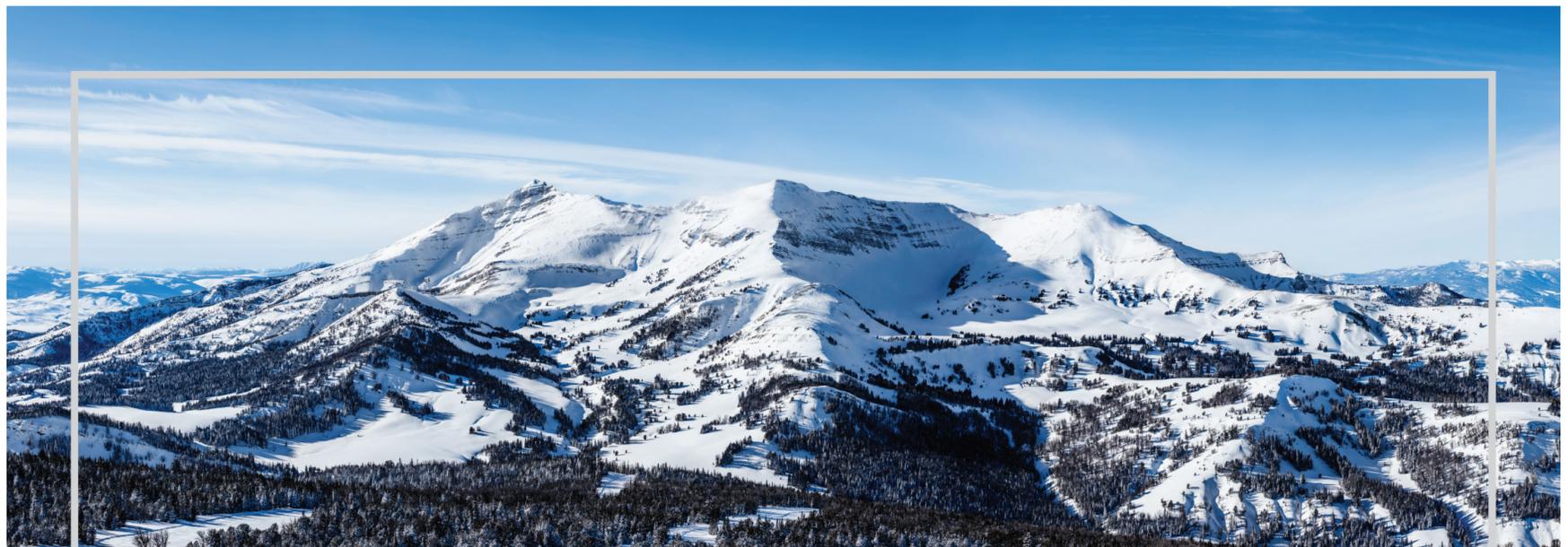
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YELLOWSTONE CLUB

# PUBLIC NOTICES DECEMBER 13, 2018

**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

ney 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

**REQUEST FOR CATERING BIDS**

Request for Catering Service bids for Madison and Ruby Valley Conservation District 2019 Banquet The MCD & RVCD banquet planning committee will be accepting bid proposals from catering contractors to prepare and serve the featured meal for the 2019 Annual Banquet for a guaranteed 250 people. The event will be held at the Round Barn in Twin Bridges, Montana, on Saturday April 27th, 2019 with cocktails beginning at 5:30 pm, dinner to be served at 6:30 pm. Caterer will be required to set up, tear down and clean kitchen after. The menu shall include: table snacks, a beef entrée, a vegetarian entrée, at least one side dish, a salad, bread, dessert, and service of water, non-alcoholic beverage and coffee. Service must include all higher quality plates, cutlery, napkins, and beverage cups. Selection criteria will include price, quality of menu, in kind donation amount, reputation, and source of menu products. Please include in the bid prices for serving family style and buffet style. Package bids will be considered, with costs for each clearly explained. Bids Due by 4:00pm on January 2, 2019 in PDF format to rvcd@3nivers.net. Selection will be made by January 8, 2019. Selected caterer will receive ample advertising on promotional posters, print and electronic advertising. Please contact Shirley at 406-842-5741 x101 or at rvcd@3nivers.net with any questions. (Pub. Dec. 13, 20, 2018) MCD MNAXLP

include all lots in Town east of the Beaverhead River and west of the railroad tracks as the proposed Special Improvement District. For a detailed description of the boundaries of, and the lots included in, Storm Water Special Improvement District # 1 (the "District") and the storm water improvements thereto, which are generally described as construction and installing storm drain inlets and grates and infiltration structures with grading and fills in various areas of the Town (the "Improvements"), and the estimated special assessment amounts, refer to the aforesaid resolution on file with the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, Twin Bridges, Montana. The estimated cost of the Improvements, including incidental expenditures as defined in Section 7-12-4222 MCA, and a deposit to an SID Revolving Fund (to also be created by the Town) is \$600,000, which is anticipated to be paid from a District Storm Water Special Improvement District No. 1 bond (the "Bond"). In order to pledge the SID Revolving Fund to secure the prompt payment of special improvement

district bonds the Town is required to provide, in the Notice of Passage of the Resolution of Intention to Create a Special Improvement District, a statement that, subject to the limitations in Section 7-12-4222, MCA, (i) the general fund of the Town may be used to provide loans to the SID Revolving Fund; or (ii) a general tax levy may be imposed on all taxable property in the Town to meet the financial requirements of the SID Revolving Fund. This is notice of the Town's intention to pledge the soon to be created SID Revolving Fund as security for the payment of the Storm Water SID No. 1 Bond. Each lot or parcel of land in the District will be assessed an equal amount based upon the total cost of the Improvements as authorized in Section 7-12-4162(3)(a) Montana Code Annotated. The estimated annual assessment for each parcel of land for the Improvements is \$155, payable over 20 years, which includes estimated average interest on the Bond plus 1/2 of 1%, as required by Section 7-12-4189(1) (a) Montana Code Annotated. The estimated

total principal assessment per parcel in the District is \$2,310. As provided in Section 7-12-4162(3)(b), MCA, if an increase occurs in the number of benefited lots or parcels within the boundaries of the District during the term of bonded indebtedness that is payable from the assessments, the Town Council shall recalculate the amount assessable to each lot or parcel. The Town Council shall base the recalculation on the amount of the District's outstanding bonded indebtedness for the current fiscal year and shall spread the assessments across the District based on the number of benefited lots or parcels within the boundaries of the District as of July 1 following the action that resulted in the increase in the number of benefited lots or parcels. At any time within seventeen (17) days from and after the date of the first publication of the notice of the passage and approval of Resolution No. 2018-13 by the Town, any owner of real property within the District subject to assessment for the cost and expense of making the Improvements may

make and file a written protest against the proposed Improvements, or against creation of the District or both. Such protest must: be in writing; identify the property owned by the protestor; be signed by all property owners; and be filed with the Town Clerk by 5PM on December 31, 2018. The Town Council will, at its next regular meeting, January 8, 2019, at the Town Hall, at 6 PM, proceed to hear all such written protests so made and filed. For more information, or to review a copy of Resolution No. 2018-13, contact the Town Clerk/Treasurer at the address and phone number below. Dated this 10th day of December, 2018. /s/ Kristi Millhouse T o w n Clerk/Treasurer 104 E. 6th Avenue Twin Bridges, Montana 59754 (406) 684-5243 (Pub. Dec. 13, 20, 2018) tob 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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will not be holding their regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 25, 2018 or on January 1, 2019. However, they will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. The next regular meeting following these dates will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. (Pub. Dec. 13, 20, 2018) MCD MNAXLP

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CREATE STORM WATER SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CREATE STORM WATER SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT # 1, TOWN OF TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on December 10, 2018, the Town of Twin Bridges, Montana, passed Resolution No. 2018-13, which is a resolution of intention to create Town of Twin Bridges Storm Water Special Improvement District No. 1. The Town proposes to create Storm Water Special Improvement District No. 1, which will generally

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# Opportunity Bank OF MONTANA

## RUBY VALLEY GIVING TREES



The Ruby Valley Giving Trees provides gifts for children and elderly in need. Tags are placed on the Christmas trees at Opportunity Bank of Montana in Sheridan and Twin Bridges

Please call:  
Billie @ 406-842-5044  
For the **Sheridan Tree**  
or  
Jody @ 406-684-5656  
for the **Twin Bridges Tree**

Monetary donations welcomed at Sheridan or Twin Bridges branches or send a check made out to

**The Ruby Valley Giving Tree,**  
c/o Opportunity Bank  
PO Box 587, Sheridan, MT 59749  
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**DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING NAMES DECEMBER 3, 2018**

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The Ennis Lions Club completed the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest with the Ennis Middle School 6th and 7th grade classes. The theme was "Kindness Matters" and is meant to give kids around the world of the same age group an opportunity to express their ideas, in the form of art, of what peace means to them. More than 300,000 kids participate each year, with the winning posters real works of art. (They can be viewed at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).) The local winners this year are: 1st place - 7th grade - Gracie Leavitt; 1st place - 6th grade, Sky Keller; Runners up were: Addison Oliver and Ruby Blazer, 7th grade; and Mikendra Ledgerwood and Jaden Hutchins, 6th grade. Some 60 kids participated and their works of art are on display at the Ennis Post Office.

## Avoid legal hangovers from your holiday party

### NFIB offers advice on two problem areas

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Keep celebrations safe this holiday season by watching out for two problem areas – drunk driving and harassment – advises NFIB's Small Business Legal Center.

#### Drunk Driving

An increasing number of states require employers to exercise reasonable care to prevent injuries by intoxicated employees leaving holiday parties. To minimize the risk of liability an employer should do the following:

- Keep attendance at parties voluntary and host the celebration off-site and outside of normal business hours.
- Use professional bartenders and instruct them not to serve anyone who appears intoxicated.
- Distribute drink tickets to limit the number of free drinks or limit the time for open bar.
- Serve lots of free food to soak up the alcohol.
- Ask trusted managers and supervisors to be on the look-out for people who have had too much to drink and unable to drive or need assistance getting home.
- Pay for cabs or Uber to take impaired employees and guests home or offer designated drivers.

#### Harassment

Socializing, alcohol, and mistletoe combine to create an environment that can lead to sexual harassment or fighting. Just because it's a holiday party doesn't mean you can't be liable for what happens as an employer. Employee lawsuits can result from voluntary events held outside the office and outside normal work hours.

- Remind employees about company anti-harassment policies before the party.
- If your business does not have an anti-harassment policy, get one! Check out the free sample policy developed by NFIB. Have an attorney review it.
- Don't hang mistletoe.
- Ask trusted managers and supervisors to intervene and stop any fighting or inappropriate conduct witnesses or reported.
- Finally, make sure that all employees understand that a holiday party is a work-related activity and that rules for appropriate work behavior still apply.

For more than 75 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit [nfib.com](http://nfib.com).



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# With 2019 Montana Legislature fast approaching, a rules fight is brewing in the House

By Leia Larsen,  
Montana Free Press

HELENA — A proposed change to the way the House considers bills has been tabled, for now.

In November, Democrats and some Republicans on the Legislative Council proposed rule changes that would allow lawmakers to move bills to the House floor with a simple majority vote, instead of the supermajority currently required.

In the past, some hot-button bills floundered and died in “kill committees” without enough votes to push them through. In the case of some bills, the House Speaker never assigned the bill to a committee for a hearing, effectively killing it.

In an effort to limit the ability of the leadership to hamstring bills through such parliamentary tactics, a handful of Republicans sided with House Democrats to support the rule changes.

Typically, an interim House Rules Committee debates and votes on proposed rule changes prior to the start of the Legislative session, which begins Jan. 7. But Republicans voted along party lines Tuesday to adjourn the interim committee without debate, and without taking action on the proposed rule changes.

According to committee chairman Rep. Der-

ek Skees, R-Kalispell, lawmakers will take up the issue again on Jan. 8, the second day of the 2019 session.

House Minority Leader Casey Schreiner, D-Great Falls, addressed the committee during Tuesday’s interim House Rules Committee hearing and urged its members to give the rules serious consideration. Schreiner said majority rule is at the heart of the democratic process, and the House should operate by the same rules as the Senate, which does not require a supermajority to “blast” stalled bills out of committee or bring measures to the floor for debate.

“It was pure obstructionism for [the Republicans] to shut down a committee in the middle of business,” Schreiner said after the hearing.

Schreiner is not a member of the rules committee but did testify during public comment on the proposed rule change.

The Legislative Council proposed eight changes to House rules — changes Schreiner said Democrats have sought for years. Democrats have been in the minority in all but two sessions dating back to 1993. In 2005 and in 2009 the House was tied 50-50.

The most dramatic changes would model certain House voting procedures after Senate proto-



Rep. Derek Skees, chairman of the interim House Rules Committee, addresses members of the committee during a hearing to consider proposed rule changes. (MFP)

cols — specifically those for appointing House standing committees, adopting rules, and referral or withdrawal of bills.

In the past, the House has required a three-fifths majority on those measures. By following the Senate’s lead, the 100-member House would need only a simple majority — 51 votes — to move bills to the floor for debate.

Skees said he needed more time to consider the rule-change proposals and their consequences.

“This is a process that would dramatically

change the way the House does business. It’s the way we’ve done business for 30 years,” Skees said.

Skees also called the changes “horrible” and said they would sap the majority party’s power and undermine what he views as a mandate from Montana voters to follow the Republican platform. Republicans currently hold a 58-42 majority in the House. A small group of GOP lawmakers occasionally work with Democrats on certain issues, including the rule-change proposals.

Skees called the group an “oligarchy” trying to manipulate the system.

“Why [do] members of the majority caucus want to pass rules that weaken majority caucus?” Skees said. “That’s my question. That takes an insight into the motives and minds of the individuals doing it, and I can’t go there yet.”

Schreiner argued the proposed changes make House processes more democratic.

“I think we need to take political parties out of this and talk about the number of votes,” he said. “Every person represents a certain number of people in Montana, [and] 51 [votes] represents the majority. It doesn’t matter whose side you’re on, that’s the way you pass legislation.”

John S. Adams contributed to this report.

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Wednesday Night Prayer Group 6pm

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**R S & Priesthood**  
12:10 p.m.  
**Mutual (Youth Group)**  
Wed. 7:00p.m.

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## 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 13 - Meat and veggie fritata, potatoes and fruit, dessert, Red Hat ladies
- Friday December 14 - Chicken enchilda, salad, dessert, pinochle at 12:45 p.m.
- Thursday, December 13 - Meat and veggie fritata, potatoes and fruit, dessert, Red Hat Ladies.
- Friday, December 14 - Chicken enchilda, salad, dessert pinochle, at 12:45 p.m.
- Monday, December 17 - Pork tenderloin, rice pilaf and veggies, dessert mahjong at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 18 - Grilled ham and cheese, broccoli salad, dessert play pan at 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 19 - Chicken caprese, veggies and roll, dessert, mahjong at 1 p.m.
- Thursday, December 20 - Pot roast and veggies, mashers and gravy, dessert happy birthday

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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:  
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Morning Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Nights:**  
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Kids Club (K-6): 5:30-7:30pm  
Youth Group (7-12): 6-8pm

5050 Hwy 287, PO Box 668, Ennis, MT  
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Ennis Branch

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10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School**  
11:20 a.m.  
**R S & Priesthood**  
12:10 p.m.

**Family History Center**  
682-4911, 682-7415, 682-3614  
President Chandler  
682-3020

### Christian Science Services

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Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Valley Kids - after school to 6:45 p.m.

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Worship Service 10:30 AM  
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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

### 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  
Alder, Montana  
Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Christ Centered  
Bible Based

Tel. 406-842-5915  
Pastor Tom Luksha

### 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 Café on Tuesday & Thursdays from 11 am to 3 pm for \$4.00.

- Thursday, December 13 – Ham & potatoes au gratin, veggie, roll, dessert.
- Tuesday, December 18 – Homemade chili with cornbread, dessert
- Thursday, December 20 – Hot beef sandwich with mashed potatoes, 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.

### Madison County Episcopal Churches

In full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Join Us for Sunday Worship!**

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

## GET RESULTS.

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

N	B	C	A	W	N	C	O	A	T
E	R	O	S	P	O	I	U	N	T
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W	H	E	T	D	E	Y	A	S	K

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

**ENNIS FAMILY and FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP**  
100 Prairie Way, Ennis (599-3659)

For those who have a loved one struggling with any type of addiction

**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](http://outpostevents.net) for a complete listing of events

**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-together. Social at noon followed by lunch at 12:30. RSVP by December 10 and bring a gift to exchange!  
 Elementary Christmas Concert, Sheridan  
 Sheridan Elementary's annual Christmas music celebration. Recorder players, ukulele players, band and singing and a very special

guest! 6 p.m. at the Sheridan high School gym.  
**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.

**Sunday December 16**  
 Ruby Valley Chorale Christmas Cantata, Sheridan and Twin Bridges  
 The Chorale will be singing "Sing Joy to All the World!" a Christmas celebration written by Lloyd Larsen. Performances at Bethel United Methodist Church in Sheridan at 2:30 p.m. and Church of the Valley in Twin Bridges at 7 p.m., with refreshments served after each performance.

ioned potluck supper followed by Christmas carols and a visit from Santa. Bring your favorite dish and a wrapped gift for the kids to put in Santa's bag in the foyer. Call Jan at 682-4636 for information.  
 Ennis Community Blood Drive  
 11:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. call Judi Stonebreaker at 209-5706, or 877-258-4825, or visit vitalant.org for an appointment.

**Monday December 24**  
 Christmas Eve Services, Virginia City  
 Christmas Eve Services will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Special music, special vocalists and a children's presentation. Everyone welcome!

Comet Watch, Twin Bridges  
 Comet 46P will be passing within our view in December! Cottontail Observatory will host three viewing sessions, weather permitting. December 15, 6:30 p.m. at Madison County Fairgrounds and December 16 and 29 at Cottontail Observatory at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public!

**Tuesday December 18**  
 It's a Wonderful Life, Ennis  
 The last movie in Madison Theatre's free Christmas movie series is It's a Wonderful Life! Doors open at 5:30 at the movie starts at 6:15, 115 Main Street. Merry Christmas!

High School Dinner and Concert, Sheridan  
 Sheridan High School's third annual Christmas dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Sheridan Elementary Gym followed by a Christmas concert. Tickets \$15 for both, concert alone is free.

**Wednesday December 19**  
 Cameron Schoolhouse Christmas Party  
 The historic Bear Creek Schoolhouse will host an old-fashion

### FWP to surveys anglers on Upper Missouri Reservoir plan

HELENA - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is reaching out to the public for information critical for an update to the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan.  
 A public survey released this week will ask anglers a wide variety of questions about their uses and preferences for the reservoir system and the adjacent stretches of Missouri River. The survey will be accompanied by a series of public meetings and open houses.  
 The Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan guides FWP's management of Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter Reservoirs, the Missouri River from Toston to Canyon Ferry and the river below Hauser dam. This will be the third revision of the plan. The previous two iterations were in place for 10 years each. The current plan is in place through 2019.  
 FWP held public meetings this past summer to collect input on management of these waterbodies. This survey and next round of public meetings are an extension of that effort.  
 The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and can be found online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov).

## 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.

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

### TUESDAYS

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

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

**Ennis Arts Association, Ennis**  
 Meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. [ennisartsassociation.org](http://ennisartsassociation.org)

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

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

**MV Manor Auxiliary Meeting, Ennis SECOND THURS OF EA. MONTH**  
 1 p.m., Madison Valley Manor Sun-Room

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

**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.

**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.

**Story Time, Ennis**  
 Pre-K to Grade 2, 11 a.m. Madison Valley Public Library. 682-7244.

**TOPS, Ennis**  
 Weekly weigh-ins are at 9 a.m. Meetings at 9:30 a.m. MVMC in downstairs conference room. Jeanne, 682-3299

**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.

**Books and Babies, Ennis**  
 Madison Valley Public Library, 10:30 a.m. 682-7244

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

**Live Music - Norris**  
 7 p.m.

**Farmers' Market, Twin Bridges**  
 9 a.m. every day.

**Baby Bistro, Ennis**

EVENINGS: ADULTS \$8 • SENIORS \$6.50 • CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) \$6 SHOW TIME AT 7:15 PM. BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 6:30 PM

**NOW PLAYING:**  
**DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH (PG)**

Let's Go to the Movies this Weekend!  
 Friday 7:15 • Saturday 7:15 pm • Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm

**COMING SOON:**  
 Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (PG-13), Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG)

Please call to verify for last minute changes 682-4023 | 115 Main St, Ennis  
[EnnisMovies.com](http://EnnisMovies.com) | [Facebook.com/MadisonTheatreEnnis](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonTheatreEnnis)

**BLUE MOON SALOON**  
 Cameron, Montana

**NEW HOURS!**

**WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY**  
 4PM- CLOSE

**WE WILL CLOSE ON**  
 DECEMBER 23RD  
 UNTIL JAN 2019.

**3793 US Hwy 287 N**  
 Cameron, MT | 682-4555

**WILLIE'S DISTILLERY**  
 ENNIS, MONTANA

**WILLIE'S DISTILLERY UPCOMING EVENTS:**  
 312 E MAIN STREET, ENNIS 406-682-4117  
[WWW.WILLIESDISTILLERY.COM](http://WWW.WILLIESDISTILLERY.COM)

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

COME JOIN THE FUN, LISTEN TO SOME GREAT MUSIC AND ENJOY SPIRITS WITH A WESTERN FLAVOR!!

FROM NOW TIL DEC 24TH, RECEIVE A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR EVERY \$100 YOU SPEND IN OUR TASTING ROOM

FRIDAY, DEC 14TH: ROAD AGENTS  
 FRIDAY, DEC 28TH: FAN MOUNTAIN FROG DOGS  
 FRIDAY, JAN 4TH: LOGAN DUDGING  
 FRIDAY, JAN 11TH: ED COYLE

ASK ABOUT OUR WEEKLY BOTTLING PARTIES

**Madison Conservation District Meeting**  
 Held the 3rd Monday of every month.  
 (except December)  
 Call 682-7289 for time and location

**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

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 Pack Equipment ~ 200 Saddles ~ In Stock, New & Used,  
 along with all the Matching Tack

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 Mon-Sat 10-5 • Closed Sundays

**406-586-8225 (TACK)**  
[bzmsaddleoutlet@gwestoffice.net](mailto:bzmsaddleoutlet@gwestoffice.net)  
 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 12/14 DAVE PROVOST  
 Original Americana  
 SAT 12/15 MICHAEL HOFFMAN  
 Acoustic Country/Originals  
 SUN 12/16 WOLF AND THE MOONS  
 Americana/Bluegrass

hwy 287 & route 84 - 15 miles north of ennis  
[norrishotsprings.com](http://norrishotsprings.com)  
 406.685.3303