The Madisonian.

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

MONTANA'S OLDEST PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. ESTABLISHED 1873

75¢ | Volume 148, Issue 15 Thursday, March 19, 2020

TOTAL SHUTDOWN

Coronavirus reporting by Derval Fitzsimons & Hannah Kearse · news@madisoniannews.com

"We are all in this together."

Madison County health officials have ordered the complete shutdown of bars and restaurants in a bid to slow the spread of the virus. Food takeaway and delivery services will still be permitted. The decision means pretty much all nightlife will grind to a halt. It follows similar moves in Bozeman, Butte, Billings, Helena and Missoula. Public health officials say the new rules will remain in effect until March 24, but may be extended if the situation warrants it.

The Madison Theatre, the Bowling Alley and Big Sky's ski slopes are closed, all public events have been canceled and people have been advised not to congregate in groups.

In Ennis, a number of local business had already taken steps to get ahead of the announcement. Scott Kelley, owner of the Gravel Bar in Ennis told his staff on Monday that the doors would be closed for a while.

"I wanted to err on the side of caution," he said. "I think the health of the community, of the state, of the nation is more important right now. Closing seemed like the most common sense approach."

Scott is particularly concerned for his employees.

"I'm doing everything I can to help them and hopefully this will run its course quickly. But its a dynamic situation and we just don't know."

France Kudelski, owner of the Sportsman's Lodge in Ennis says they will introduce "to-go" orders Thursday through Monday. "We want to do what we can to help the community," she said.

Live sports gambling was recently legalized in Montana and the Sportsman's Lodge was one of the first places in the state to get a screen. "There's only one problem", said Bob Kudelski. "All the sports have been canceled!".

John Heckler who owns the Alley Bistro, The Fish Bowl and the Madison Theatre says they are constantly trying to think of ways to help the community.

Others in the county are responding in a similar fashion.

"We are good at doing food. So for example if people are in isolation, we are thinking of introducing a food deliver service. Our chef John Rolfe is going to put together a wholesome take home menu for families. I'll do the deliveries myself if I have to. We are all in this together."

Coronavirus in Madison County?

Madison County is on the brink of confirming its first coronavirus patient. A number of people have contacted the Madison Valley Medical Center with COVID-19-like symptoms. At least one has been tested for the virus and doctors are awaiting results from the state laboratory in Helena.

If you are feeling unwell and fear you have the coronavirus, MVMC says you must not come into the clinic without calling ahead. You should stay home, isolate yourself and call their special hotline: 406-682-6628. A nurse has been dedicated to answer coronavirus calls and will be able to direct your next step.

Chief of Staff, Dr. Maura Davenport, says 80% of people who contract the virus will experience just mild symptoms. Hospitalization will not be necessary in most cases.

"We are starting to see some of the lower respiratory symptoms come into the hospital," she said "The biggest thing is, if you're having mild symptoms - JUST STAY HOME".

Madison County Hospitals have asked all patients to reschedule non-essential appointments to free up doctors to focus fighting COVID-19.

At the Ruby Valley Medical Center they are issuing similar guidelines for patients. They ask people who fear they have the virus not to turn up unannounced. The should phone 406-842-5453. After hours, dial extension 1500.

"We are prepared to handle any COVID-19 case that comes our way," said CEO Landon Dybdal. "Every hospital in the state is working together."

Hardship fears

The coronavirus has dealt a major blow to the economy of southwest Montana. The enforced closure of all bars and restaurants along with the decision by many small businesses to shut up shop, means added pressure on an already struggling workforce. That coupled with the threat of illness is putting added pressure on many low income families.

As people wait to see what official assistance is going to be made available, landlords have been asked to take an understanding approach to struggling renters.

One local man, who asked to remain anonymous said, "We do understand why we are having to close our restaurants but it's a frightening situation for us to be in. We live pay check to pay check and I just don't know how long we can last. My wife and I are praying we will stay healthy."

DIVE INTO MORE INFORMATION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

Madison County Public Health Department: (406) 843-4295 https://madisoncountymt.gov/230/Public-Health

Madison Valley Medical Center Coronavirus Hotline: (406) 682-6628

Ruby Valley Medical Center: (406) 842-5453

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services: https://www.facebook.com/HEALTH406/ COVID19.mt.gov

Colter Cross stands in the doorway of his family home with his older sister, Ashlynn March 17. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE

Lock down for little man

By HANNAH KEARSE
news@madisoniannews.com

Colter Cross, 8, and his older sister, Ashlynn, 11, giggle behind the reflection of Fan Mountain in the window. The siblings squirmed about the living room. Their smiles were big.

His t-shirt covers the scar on his chest from the two open heart surgeries that he had before he was in elementary school. He has also had five cardiac casts. Looking at Colton, it is not obvious that he has a high risk of medical complications if he contracts the coronavirus.

"We get our flu vaccinations," Colter's mother, Bobbie said. "That's our peace of mind during the flu season."

But a vaccination for the novel coronavirus COVID-19 does not exist. The Cross' were ahead of school closures and

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LITTLE MAN continued FROM A1

government orders to quarantine at home. Bobbie, a night shift nurse at the Madison Valley Medical Center, will work from home to avoid returning with the virus. Shortly after Ashlynn and Colter were pulled out of Ennis Schools for precaution, the governor closed all Montana public schools.

Colter was 10 days old when he had his first open heart surgery. He was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease during his first pediatric visit. It is a rare condition called truncus arteriosus, which caused complications and a hole in the bottom of his heart.

"In one day, we found out he would need open heart surgery to survive," Bobbie said.

He spent the next three months of his life hooked up to machines in the hospital. He spent the next three years with a feeding tube down his throat.

"He eats like a horse now," Bobbie said. "You wouldn't know."

A pediatric cardiologist has to treat Colter, and the closest one is in Missoula. Colter represents a population vulnerable to a novel virus outbreak. Adults and children with heart diseases, asthma, diabetes, cancers or other health conditions are at a heightened risk of getting seriously sick from COVID-19 coronavirus.

Susceptive students, like Colter, will complete their course loads indefinitely at home. Colter will throw a football in the living room and play with his dog outside in between assignments.

Altered schedule

Updates during a busy lenten season

At times of crisis many people turn to their church for comfort but here too there is no escape from coronavirus.

The Catholic Diocese of Helena has told worshipers that they do not have to attend Sunday Mass while the country is in the grip of the pandemic. Those who do go, are being advised to keep their distance from other worshipers and use common sense to stop the spread of the virus.

There is a wide range of places of worship in Madison County and the are all taking similar precautions to keep the faithful healthy.

Stephen Hundley is the temporary supply pastor at Madison Valley Presbyterian Church in Ennis. He says people have been very understanding about the new normal and are happy to play their part in keeping the community heathy.

"We are advising people to keep their distance from each other and to not shake hands and to use hand sanitizer," he said. "And obviously we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis."

Across the county most church events and Lenten celebrations have been cancelled. Please check with your priest or pastor for confirmation.

Home work-the new normal

As the virus tightens its grip on the community you can expect growing numbers of businesses to close temporarily and for more and more people to be asked to work from home.

The CDC recommends that employers actively encourage those who are ill to stay away from the workplace and tells business managers to prepare for wide-scale absenteeism. This can be because staff are sick, because they have childcare issues or are caring for a sick relative.

Emergency planning specialists say companies should try to implement flexible structures to enable business to continue even if staffing numbers are depleted. They recommend cross training personnel to perform essential functions so that the workplace is able to operate even if key staff members are absent.

Communications experts are warning that more home working will put a lot of additional pressure on telephone and internet service.

Three Rivers Communications say they're ready for whatever the virus throws at them.

"We have been preparing for weeks," said General Manager David Gibson.

"We have been planning for people working from home and we are confident that we will be able to keep people connected. As things change we will adjust to meet the changing needs."

Gibson says he hopes the community will not panic but instead will keep a level head.

"At times like this, panic is contagious so people need to stay calm and follow the official advice" he says.

The community adapts

Schools and community services are closing their doors with plans to maintain services at some level.

Libraries, schools and senior centers are providing community needs from a distance, hoping to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Gov. Steve Bullock closed K-12 public schools on Sunday.

"I recognize that our schools often serve as a lifeline for families and that this decision is going to have disruption on Montanans over the coming weeks," Bullock said. "I'm committed to working with schools, communities and public health to minimize the impact."

Madison County schools are prepared to provide for their students. Ennis School is distributing free sack lunches outside its front entrance for two weeks. Lunches can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Sheridan Schools is employing their bus drivers and classroom aids to deliver lunches to students' homes.

"We want our people that are used to getting paid getting paid," Superintendent Mike Wetherbee said.

Ennis Mayor Blake Leavitt asked Madison Valley Public Library to close its doors to the public for two weeks on Monday. All adult and child programing has also been canceled for the next two weeks.

"We're shifting our focus to online services we can provide," Madison Valley Public Library board member Karen Ketchu said.

People can sign up online for STEM and art packets and pick up books and movies curbside. All public libraries in Madison County offer members online access to e-books, audiobooks and movies.

Madison County senior centers have closed as well. Four regulars at the Ennis Senior's Mahjong games played their last game in the senior center for at least two weeks on Monday. Bev Claassen, Gale Thomas, Mary Saunders and Lonie Reinhardt play every Monday and Wednesday. According to the women, the game usually brings a good crowd to the senior center. They were not concerned with the virus as much as they were about cabin fever.

"I'll probably just eat all the reserves in my pantry," Saunders said.

Staff at the Ennis Senior Center will be continuing to provide meals for curbside and the Meals on Wheels service will not be affected.

"If someone needs a meal or two meals, they just call us in the usual way," said John Heckler who sits on the board. We will try to make sure that everyone gets what they need."

The Ennis Food Bank said its vital work will continue. It's business as usual, they said.

Four regulars at the Ennis Senior's Mahjong games played their last game in the senior center for at least two weeks on Monday. Bev Claassen, Gale Thomas, Mary Saunders and Lonie Reinhardt play every Monday and Wednesday. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE

Saved by the bell

The excitement was ramping up. The tuxedos were ready, last minute alterations to the dress were underway, and makeup was being prepared. Then just hours before prom was due to start, Ennis High School was forced to make the agonizing decision to postpone the event.

"Obviously we were disappointed," said sophomore Bo Kelley pictured above with his girlfriend Olivia Lohrenz. "But we do understand why they had to do it."

Olivia, who is a junior adds, "We know where the school administration is coming from. This is a new and very dangerous virus for the world. It's better to be on the safe side. But the Juniors were upset as we had been in charge of setting it up. We were really pleased with what we had done and we were looking forward to everyone seeing it," she said.

But all was not lost. Showing commendable community spirit, the owners of the Sportsman's Lodge, Bob and France Kudelski, stepped in and let the kids hold their dance in the basement.

"It was ever so kind of them," said Olivia "and it was super fun."

France Kudelski says they were delighted to be able to help.

"We believe in the community and we have two daughters of our own so we know how important prom is. So, when we heard what happened we wanted to help. It was wonderful, the moms came in to help set it up and some of the dads too. They put up lights and brought music. We brought in lamps to help create atmosphere. The kids were fantastic. I could not believe how polite and grateful they were. It was a very happy event."

Bo Kelley and Olivia Lohrenz all decked out for the alternative prom, which took place in the basement of the Sportsman's Lodge in Ennis. PHOTO COURTESY KADI LOHRENZ

How to talk to your children

Coronavirus is dominating conversation at home, in the workplace, in the stores and in your child's playground. Many parents are worried about how to talk to their kids about the epidemic without adding to their anxiety.

Ke'lah Savage-Willauer is a licensed clinical social worker and a registered play therapist who's been working in the Madison Valley for many years. She has plenty of great advice for worried families and says the children will take their cues from you.

"As adults we first need to ask ourselves how WE feel. If we are panicked and anxious then maybe it's not the right time to talk to our children. When you speak to a child you should be calm and honest in a developmentally appropriate way.

"We need to make the unknown known. Ask them, 'what do you know, why are you curious?' They will know more than you think. Not talking about it can make them worry more.

"Children should know that it's ok to be anxious. It's normal. But we need to empower them to make healthy choices about hand washing, nutrition, exercise and good sleep hygiene all of which will help."

Savage-Willauer says follow the CDC advice which recommends thorough hand hygiene as the primary means of staying healthy. So remind kids that they should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or the time it talks to sing Happy Birthday twice through. Make it fun - maybe find another song they love. "Baby Shark" has become the favorite hand washing song for many children.

Experts also say parents should focus on what they are doing to keep the family safe so that the children know their wellbeing is a top priority.

Parents can also consider limiting their child's access to the news and to social media to prevent them being overwhelmed with information, a lot of which is false, misleading or even malicious.

As the virus takes it course, try to stick to your routine and keep talking to your children letting them know lines of communication are always open.

Empty shelves

Even before the coronavirus was ever confirmed on Montana soil, Madison County was feeling the effects. The grocery stores in Ennis, Twin Bridges and Sheridan have all been experiencing unprecedented demand, particularly for sanitizers and paper products.

Walters in Sheridan is limiting customers to one pack each of toilet paper and paper towels. It's the same story at the Main Street Market in Twin Bridges. There they're also rationing hand sanitizer, bleach, dish soap and over the counter medications.

"Just like every other place we are having trouble keeping things on the shelf,'" said a spokeswoman.

In Ennis, Chris Gentry who owns Madison Foods says their suppliers have reduced their deliveries by 15% to the massive increase in nationwide demand.

"We just cannot predict when we will get stock in," she said.

"We are telling customers and staff to take a common sense approach. If someone is sick, don't come into the store. We can deliver groceries via our website or people can call the store. We will be using Facebook to update people. We have told all our staff that their safety and that of the customers is paramount. If they are sick, they should not come in."

Chris has also created a series of information sheets for customers containing essential instructions like what to do if you think you're sick or if you have come into contact with someone who has already fallen ill.

"We are trying to keep people as informed as we can", she said.

At True Value, Wayne Black who employs a staff of 18 is taking an equally practical approach.

"It's really a case of taking each day as it comes and being able to react to the breaking developments," he said. "We are not panicking but have increased cleaning in the store and we are wiping down inventory as each shipment arrives. "

They too have run out of hand sanitizer and Wayne thinks it could be April before it is back in the store. In the meantime, he says people should consider making their own sanitizer using rubbing alcohol cut with aloe. Like Madison Foods, True Value is also working with customers to make their lives as easy as possible.

"If people are sick and need something, why they can call the store and we will set the item in a box by the curb. That way the customers and employees are kept safe. Overall we are telling people to pay attention to the basics of their own health, handwashing, keeping your distance from people and coughing into a tissue. The common sense approach."

Closures to protect the vulnerable

"We want to make sure our loved ones can still have meaningful conversations with others."

Madison County's nursing homes have been closed to visitors in attempt to protect their patients.

When a coronavirus case was confirmed in Montana, the county closed the doors to its two nursing homes. Staff and service providers will continue to be screened at the door at the facilities.

Anyone who has traveled to areas where there is community spread in the last 14 days, will not be allowed in the building. Personnel showing symptoms, such as coughing and shortness of breath, or with a temperature greater than 100.3 will be turned away.

According to Melissa Brummel, Madison County's Infectious Control Officer, Madison Valley Manor and the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center are keeping their patients updated and families have been contacted. Patients will communicate with the outside world electronically until further notice.

"We want to make sure our loved ones can still have meaningful conversations with others," Brummel said.

The Madisonian.

Established in 1873

(USPS 325-340)
Montana's Oldest Operating Weekly Newspaper

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OBITUARIES

Jerry Bill Braach
January 2, 1940 to March 14, 2020

On Saturday, March 14, Jerry passed on to be with the Lord after a long fought battle with several health issues. He passed peacefully surrounded by his wife Shirley, and his kids, Amy and Andrew at the Ruby Valley Hospital.

Jerry was born in Sheridan, Mont., to Albert "Pat" and Elizabeth Braach. He grew up in Brandon on the family ranch and attended school in Sheridan, graduating high school in 1959. He loved working with his dad, Pat, and started driving the tractor at the age of 6. Dad always said that he was so young when he started working, that you could not even see him behind the wheel of the tractor driving down the road. During the winter, Jerry helped his dad feed cows. When they were done, he could not wait for his father to go to town and buy a newspaper so they could read the comics, including Popeye and Dick Tracy. While living on the family ranch in Brandon, he loved all the outdoors had to offer, including fishing in Mill Creek and hunting right out the back door. Jerry would always miss the first period of school on the first day of hunting season and fill his deer tag every time. His teacher always said, "Anyone that can fill their deer tag on the first day of hunting season and make it to school after the first period gets an excused absence."

While attending Sheridan schools, he participated in basketball, football, track and FFA. After graduating high school, Jerry continued his education in Bozeman at MSU and a short time at Western Montana College in Dillon. He quickly returned home, and started working for local ranchers bailing hay, completing home building projects and concrete work. He initially started construction work for Jacobsen Construction in Sheridan and learned how to operate a backhoe at this time. Jerry helped dig all the sewer lines for the town of Sheridan. In the early 60's Jerry started his own construction business. It eventually grew into a good size business where he owned all sorts of equipment and worked on many jobs all over the state of Montana, including all subdivisions on the old Gary Cooper Ranch in Cascade. Twenty four people were employed by Jerry Braach Construction during the peak of business. Included in the business was spraying weeds for Madison County and pouring redi-mix concrete. Later on, Jerry and Shirley worked in other businesses including hauling scrap metal and selling fresh fruit from Utah for 24 years.

Jerry always enjoyed travel with his beloved wife, Shirley and his kids when they were a young family. Many camping trips were taken to Yellowstone and to one of Dad's favorite places, Devil's Tower. He also enjoyed travel to the Indianapolis 500, Rose Bowl Parade, Minnesota, Moab, Utah and Arizona. We spent much time hunting in the Ruby Valley and harvested many elk and deer in the country we all love. Jerry truly did enjoy teaching his kids how to hunt and fish.

Dad's parents never missed their kid's (Joanne and Jerry) school activities and Dad never missed a school event that either of his own kids participated in. In one of the very last conversations we had, Dad conveyed great pride in being a devoted father that indeed made it to all of our school events. He loved the sporting events his kids competed in. Jerry also enjoyed the holidays, including Halloween and Christmas. We could always count on Dad taking us trick or treating every year. Dad always encouraged us to work and do things for others as if it were for yourself.

Jerry will be greatly missed, but we know he is free from pain and able to reunite with family and friends that have missed him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pat and Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife Shirley Braach, and children Amy (Bret) Hart, and Andrew Braach. He is also survived by his sister Joanne (Ralph) Pehl, and their children Jeff, Dennis, and Greg Pehl. Services will be held at Mountain View Chapel in Twin Bridges, Saturday, March 21, at 2 p.m. A celebration of life will be held after services in the same location.

Lisa Lynn Canter
October 11, 1954 to March 9, 2020

Lisa Lynn Canter was born to Roger E. Canter and Lora M. Canter on Oct. 11, 1954 in Las Cruses, N.M. She died on March 9, 2020 in Midland, Texas at the age of 65 following a brief illness.

Raised in Midland, Lisa graduated from Midland High School in 1972. She attended Texas State University and the University of Wyoming with a degree in psychology.

Lisa lived a full life doing what she loved: Fly Fishing, Arrowhead Hunting, Birdwatching, Wildflowers, Hiking, Golf and Jigsaw Puzzles. She served on the board of the Dora Roberts Foundation since 1976 and she personally contributed to multiple organizations throughout the U.S.

Lisa is remembered by her many friends and family as a strong-willed woman of independent spirit which was also matched with a welcoming and very giving heart.

Survived by sisters, Eloise Canter Taylor of Christoval, Texas and Cathy Canter Jennings of Austin, Texas. She was also survived by her two four pawed loves, Tiger & Soco.

The family is grateful for the love and friendship given by so many of her dear friends, whom Lisa loved dearly and considered them as her second family.

Lisa is preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Frank. She also had a tremendous love for homeless dogs and adopted many in her life. Those who have preceded her in death are Nikka, Raven, Cinnamon, Buster Brown and her 3-legged dog, Gunner.

A special thank you to Dr. Allen Gibson from Midland Memorial Hospital for his care and concern during her brief illness.

A celebration of life will announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations are welcomed to the following: Beaverhead Animal Shelter, Dillon, Mont.; Grand Champions, Fort Davis, Texas and Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, Utah.

Randy (Boxcar) Marr
April 10, 1947 to March 7, 2020

Our beloved Randy Marr rode on ahead March 7 to a greater place. He was one of a kind and he will be so missed by all who knew him.

He was born in Oakland, Ca. on April 10, 1947 to Bud and Mary Ann Marr who preceded him in death. He was an only child but had seven cousins who he grew up with.

He graduated high school in 1965 and immediately started welding at Bethleham Steel. That didn't last long as he was drafted into the Army in the same year, there he became a medic and was stationed in Germany. On discharge from the Army he attended Cal Poly in Obispo, Ca. and started his farrier trade. He had a very active business where he met his best client and lifelong partner, Sandy. They were married in 1971 and had three of the finest sons imaginable. They just celebrated their 48th year of marriage on Dec. 5, 2019

In 1977 Randy went back into welding and became a boilermaker, he stayed in the trade for 28 years until he retired in the Ruby Valley, a place he dearly loved. He started off on the road picking up jobs with the whole family in tow in a 28 ft. travel trailer. We saw many wonderful places but always wanted to see Montana, when we did we took root, first in the beautiful 9 Mile Valley in Huson where Randy built the home of our dreams. We lived there for 22 years and made many wonderful friends whom we dearly love. He then discovered and fell in love with the Ruby Valley where he wanted to spend his retirement years and moved here in 2001 making more wonderful memories and adding to a remarkable list of friends.

Randy loved riding and ranching in his younger years, he rode in a few rodeos in his youth and he and the family lived and worked ranches in California until he left to boom around the country at his welding trade. He also loved his summer job in Alaska as a commercial fisherman during the salmon runs.

He loved hunting and fishing with his two eldest sons and four grandsons and he looked forward to his yearly golf game with his youngest son. He went on a float trip down the Charlie River and that was one of his favorite stories along with his trip two years ago to Australia with his son Cody to hunt Asianic Water Buffalo. Two of the highlights of his life, those were two places he always said he wanted to see.

He was proud of his career and even prouder of his boys. He leaves a hole in all of our hearts. He leaves behind his wife Sandy, Alder, Mont.; three sons Mark and his wife Kim Marr of Lolo, Mont.; Cody Marr of Houston, Texas; Justin and wife Tiffany Marr of Missoula, Mont.; four grandsons, Tyler and his wife Holly Marr of Missoula, Mont.; Jake Marr of Missoula, Mont. And Saxon and Weston Marr of Las Cruces, N.M.

George Parker Mainwaring
June 18, 1925 - November 20, 2019

Memorial service will be held April 1, 2020 at the Pony Bible Church at 11 a.m. Family will scatter ashes after the service.

CARDS OF THANKS

We appreciate you all so much

The family of the late Viola English wish to extend our deep appreciation to all our friends and neighbors for the kindness , support and sympathy during our time of sorrow. Mom and Grandma will never be forgotten.

Ray, Mark Shaw and Family

Thank you for your care

The family of Jerry Braach would like to thank Dr. Hendrickson and all of the staff at Ruby Valley Hospital in Sheridan for your exceptional care and understanding during the last few weeks. You all were very kind and patient during this difficult time. Jerry and his family appreciated all the work you put in to help us and provide care. Many of you took it upon yourselves to offer help outside your official duties, or just simply come and visit. Thank you and we appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Shirley, Amy, and Andrew Braach

A community united

By DERVAL FITZSIMONS
The Madisonian

Sometimes in life it takes a crisis to bring us together. One minute the community is being torn apart by our political differences and mutual distrust, the next we are bound together by our shared anxiety and fear of the unknown.

The coronavirus does not care about your politics or your religion, what color you are or how much money you earn. We are all equally vulnerable when it comes to catching it but not in how it will affect us. That is why we panic. None of us knows how our bodies will react to this invisible threat. We may have few symptoms or we may be hit hard. Most of us will shake it off, others will not pull through. Panic is dangerous and as contagious as any virus.

We at The Madisonian are proud to report that the people of this County are coming together like never before. Your shopkeepers, bar owners, restaurateurs, churches, health care workers, educators and emergency services are working to keep you as safe as they can and they take their responsibilities very seriously.

You should too. You may feel totally fine and able to resume normal activities but remember you have to think about the older or more vulnerable members of our community. Your carelessness could kill them. So keep your distance, follow the advice on hand washing and self-isolate if you're sick. Try to keep calm.

The Madisonian will continue to be your source for solid information. As the situation develops and inevitably worsens we will bring you the facts, not fear. We will shine a light on those who are going above and beyond for our community.

The people of Madison County are here because they are tough and resourceful, strong and passionate. We have a choice. We can pull up the drawbridge or we can extend a helping hand. Remember your neighbors, particularly the elderly who may be frightened and lonely. And if you think someone is doing heroic things in the community, let us know and we will spread the word.

Virginia City's Dark Skies

BY HANNAH KEARSE
news@madisoniannews.com

Virginia City, known for its national preservation, is attempting to preserve its night sky.

Montana's view of the milky way is becoming a rare quality in the world. In many places, light pollution has faded out the starry nights that have blanketed humans for hundreds of years.

The five-member Dark Sky Committee is the historic town's first step in minimalizing light pollution. Their goal is to join the International Dark Sky Community.

"And we can make it period appropriate," Virginia City Dark Sky Committee member David Bacon said.

When Virginia City was a thriving metropolis, oil lamps and candles illuminated the streets and stores. People were not exposed to the kind of artificial light that is used today. A star filled night sky was a guarantee.

Studies have shown that human health is tied to dark nights. Light can be invasive and disruptive to people's sleep cycle. Joining the International Dark Sky Community could benefit health, wildlife and climate change.

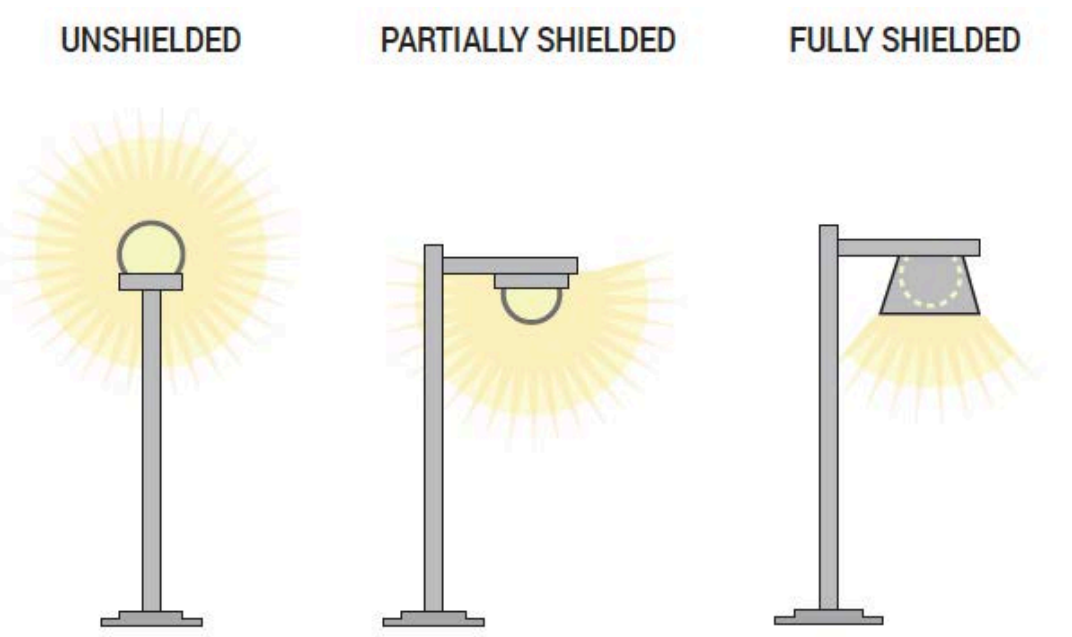
The International Dark Sky Association aims to preserve the night sky and combat light pollution. According to IDA, the source of a lot of light pollution is improper outdoor lighting.

"Streetlights are the biggest preventers of certification," Bacon said.

The Dark Sky Committee in Virginia City will need to hood their outdoor lighting to be dark sky compliance. Warmer tone lighting will also have a positive effect on visibility, transitioning from blue light to tungsten. A hood on the light source directs the light downward instead of bursting outward in every direction.

"Don't see the source, see the effect," Bacon said.

Public outreach is another element of acquiring the dark sky certification. Virginia City summer star parties accommodate that requirement. Astrologists and the community bring their telescopes to the baseball fields and observe a dark sky.



SHERIDAN SCHOOL

Sheridan School Board meets for March

Strategic plan and FCCLA demonstrations

BY KEELY LARSON
connect@madisoniannews.com

The Sheridan School Board met on Tuesday, March 10 to continue work on the strategic plan, listened to two students' advocacy project demonstration and planned an extra meeting for COVID-19 discussion.

Superintendent Mike Wetherbee is pleased with the status of the District's strategic plan. "I feel like we're rolling and it's kind of a document in fluid form at this point," he said. The goal is to use this document to inform decisions and guide resource use.

The timing fits well with budget planning, as this time of year is when the spending plan is compiled. "It's a pretty clear picture of where and how and what we're doing," Superintendent Wetherbee said.

The Board has one contested seat open. Wetherbee mentioned an increase in interest in Board positions. One is open in the Alder District and one contested in Sheridan.

Two students demonstrated their advocacy project to the Board that was presented at Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Their idea was to designate a week of the school year for vape awareness and prevention. "It may become a business item, I wouldn't be surprised," Superintendent Wetherbee said.

The Board called a special meeting on Sunday to address actions regarding COVID 19. Superintendent Wetherbee emphasized the goal of continuing school as long as possible, using information they receive from public health departments and making decisions based on that information. The senior trip was approved with caution.

"We want to make sure we're doing what we need to do without being knee-jerkers," he said.

All tenured teachers were rehired. Next year's calendar was approved as was Principal Stout's contract. The chemistry lab clean-up is still in progress.

TWIN BRIDGES SCHOOL

Twin Bridges School Board meets for March

Activity polices discussed

BY KEELY LARSON
connect@madisoniannews.com

The Twin Bridges School Board met for March to discuss activity policies, committee meetings and looked ahead to a Project Lead the Way Dinner.

Superintendent Thad Kaiser is working on submitting a cost analysis for Type E school buses. Once reviewed and approved, it will be sent to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

The Board is trying a new method. New items will be on the agenda twice before action is taken in order to give the public more time to consider. The possibility of joining with Sheridan School District in a transportation pool was on the agenda again this month, and in April it will be an action item.

Activity policies were reviewed and potential updates were considered, something the Board was planning for before the misconduct investigation. "There's definitely a renewed interest in it [activity policy], but we just wanted to reinforce that it needs to be done," Board Chair Steve Janzen said. The Board plans to get student handbooks out earlier in the summer.

The student performance committee has been working on reviewing policy updates for next year.

A facility meeting was held on March 18 to discuss coronavirus actions.

"We had a lot of really neat things happen in the school district this past weekend," Jensen said. Twin Bridges students performed well in the Montana Business Professionals of America (BPA) state competition.

Jensen noted larger schools may not have athletes competing in activities out of their sports. "They (Twin Bridges students) get to do all of these things being in a school like Twin Bridges," he said.

Those interested in Board positions must send declarations of intent by March 26. Two substitute teachers were hired, and one resignation was declared. Head and assistant track coaches were hired.

SPORTS

Spring sports canceled until further notice

Softball and track and field will see different practice requirements if resumed

By KEELY LARSON
connect@madisoniannews.com

On Monday, March 16 the Montana High School Association (MHSA) suspended spring sports indefinitely in response to growing concern and action by State and Federal government regarding the coronavirus.

"This includes practices, contests, meets and festivals. The Executive Board will reevaluate this situation on April 13 and any additional information regarding spring activities will be provided as it becomes available," a release sent out Monday morning stated.

MHSA fell in line with other major sports organizations that canceled the remainder of their seasons on Wednesday, including the National Basketball Association (NBA). Friday saw the cancelation of the rest of the state basketball tournaments after four cases were identified and confirmed in Montana. Teams unable to play past semifinal games in Billings, Bozeman, Butte and Missoula were crowned co-champion winners.

Track and field, softball and tennis are typically required to complete 10 practices before competing. Golf needs only two practices before the first tournament. If spring sports resume, practice quantities for golf will not change. Other spring sports will only need to complete five practices before meets or tournaments. Postseason formats will be adjusted by MHSA as necessary.

MHSA's decision was informed in part by Gov. Steve Bullock's decision to close Montana public schools until March 26 as a social distancing practice. MHSA will continue to follow guidance from the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

Finalists limbo

2020 State C Boys Basketball Tournament

By HANNAH KEARSE
connect@madisoniannews.com

A second game against Fort Benton in the 2020 State C Boys Basketball Tournament remains in in the way of Twin Bridges placing third.

The tournament in Missoula was halted the night before the final games due to the spread of the coronavirus reaching Montana. It is uncertain if the final games will be rescheduled.

The Falcons and the Long Horns met in the tournament's first round. Twin Bridges dropped to the lower bracket after losing the game March 11 (48-39). The Falcons swooped-up the next two games, taking a similar path in the lower bracket as they did in the Western C Divisional Tournament.

The Falcons defeated Jordan (65-54) and the Western C Divisional Tournament Champions, Manhattan Christian (67-53) Friday. Fort Benton joined Twin Bridges in the lower bracket when they lost to Fairview High School March 12 (44-37). Fairview and Scobey were supposed to play for the championship on Saturday as well.

The games were left undermined and it is not known if the Falcons will have a chance to take Fort Benton by the horns.

March 11

Fort Benton Long Horns:	12	20	31	Final: 39
Twin Bridges Falcons:	8	22	29	Final: 48

FORT BENTON
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 48
TEAM LEADERS: HAYDEN DIEKANS, 21, GARRET DIEKHANS, 14

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 16
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: HAYDEN DIEKANS
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 7

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 2
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: HAYDEN DIEKANS/ LOGAN GILES
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 1

TWIN BRIDGES
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 39
TEAM LEADERS: BRYCE NYE, 15, MATT KAISER, 8

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 8
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: MATT KAISER
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 4

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL:6
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: BRYCE NYE
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 3

March 12

Twin Bridges Falcons:	18	31	43	Final: 65
Jordan Mustangs:	12	28	33	Final: 54

TWIN BRIDGES
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 65
TEAM LEADERS: CHARLIE KRUER, 26, MATT KAISER, 14.

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 14
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: CHARLIE KRUER
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 6

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 8
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: CHARLIE KRUER
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 3

JORDAN
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 54
TEAM LEADERS: KEENAN MURNION, 22, EDWARD MURNION, 21.

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 10
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: KEENAN MURNION
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 4

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 8
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: EDWARD MURNION
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 5

March 12

Twin Bridges Falcons:	21	34	46	Final: 67
Manhattan Christian Eagles:	15	29	38	Final: 53

TWIN BRIDGES
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 67
TEAM LEADERS: CHARLIE KRUER, 21, MATT KAISER, 19

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 15
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: MATT KAISER
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 5

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 5
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: JAKE HUGHES
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 3

MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN
POINTS
TEAM TOTAL: 53
TEAM LEADERS: CAIDIN HILL, 13, CHARLIE KIETH, 9

2-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 11
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: CHARLIE KIETH
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 3

3-POINTERS
TEAM TOTAL: 6
INDIVIDUAL LEADER: MATHEW KENNEY
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL: 2

12C Basketball All-State

Submitted by ED BURKE

Boys

Student	School	Grade
Luke Cima	Harrison-Willow Creek	11
Vern Homner	Harrison-Willow Creek	12
Nate Konen	Twin Bridges	12
Charlie Kruer	Twin Bridges	11
Bryce Nye	Twin Bridges	12
Ian Swanson	Ennis	11

Girls

Student	School	Grade
Landri Paladichuk	Ennis	11

Landri Paladichuck from Ennis. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE

MORE SPORTS

All-Conference basketball honors

2019-20 DISTRICT 12-C

Submitted by ED BURKE

Boys

Student	Grade	School
FIRST TEAM		
1. Bryce Nye	12	Twin Bridges
2. Charlie Kruer	11	Twin Bridges
3. Vern Homner	12	Harrison –Willow Creek
4. Luke Cima	11	Harrison –Willow Creek
5. Nate Konen	12	Twin Bridges
6. Ian Swanson	11	Ennis
7. Jake Hughes	12	Twin Bridges
8. Kade Cutler	11	Granite (Philipsburg)
SECOND TEAM:		
9. Matt Kaiser	11	Twin Bridges
10. Daniel Brabender	12	Granite (Philipsburg)
11. Tate Smith	11	Twin Bridges
12. Brand Ostler	10	Ennis
13. Brian Ward	11	Granite (Philipsburg)
14. Kaiden Batzler	10	Sheridan

Girls

Student	Grade	School
FIRST TEAM:		
1. Landri Paladichuk	11	Ennis
2. Amelia Hill	11	Granite (Philipsburg)
3. Sydnee Phillips	11	Drummond
4. Jenna Snider	11	Ennis
5. Asha Comings	10	Granite (Philipsburg)
6. Hannah Bradshaw	11	Drummond
7. Rylee Hilmo	12	Drummond
SECOND TEAM:		
8. Ashleigh Guinnane	12	Twin Bridges
9. Dana Lerum	9	Harrison – Willow Creek
10. Gracie Bravo	10	Lima
11. Shelby Klein	10	Ennis
12. Reece Pitcher	10	Granite (Philipsburg)
13. Tia Hill	12	Sheridan
14. Holly Hauptman	9	Drummond

MADISON COUNTY DISPATCH

In areas with low cell phone coverage, you can now text 911 in case of emergency.

MARCH 8, 2020

A public safety call came from the Virginia City hill.
Vandalism/criminal mischief was reported in Ennis.
A citizen was assisted in Alder.
A wildlife complaint was made in Ennis.

MARCH 9, 2020

Suspicious circumstances were reported Ennis.
Medical aid was administered in Ennis.
A traffic complaint was made in Norris.

MARCH 10, 2020

A traffic complaint was made in McAllister.
A citizen was assisted in Silver Star.
Suspicious circumstances were reported in Virginia City.

MARCH 11, 2020

Traffic complaints were made in Sheridan and Twin Bridges.
Theft was reported in Ennis.
A trespass complaint was made in Ennis.
An animal complaint was made in Harrison.
A citizen was assisted in Silver Star.

MARCH 12, 2020

Medical aid was administered in Sheridan.
A wildlife complaint was made in Ennis.

MARCH 13, 2020

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Harrison and Ennis.
Sex crimes were reported in Harrison.
An accident occurred in Harrison.
Medical aid was administered in Virginia City.

MARCH 14, 2020

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Twin Bridges.
Traffic complaints were made in Sheridan.
A welfare check was performed in Silver Star.

The Madison County Sheriff's Department responded to 71 calls of service from March 8-14.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office will not be issuing or renewing concealed carry permits and will not be providing fingerprint services temporarily due to concerns with COVID-19. Thank you.

***Please note the new physical address for our office, 5 Placer Loop, Virginia City as of 9/5/19. Thank you!**

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Days Worked: Mon – Thurs
Rate of Pay: $14.71 up to $17.75
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Details: This is a short-term, 90 day, positon working 40 hours per week from approximately May 15, 2020, to on or about September 1, 2020. Position will close on March 31, 2020 at 5:00pm.
Applications & Job descriptions available either at the Weed Board Office
2296 MT Hwy 287, HR office at the courthouse or online at madisoncountymt.gov.

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday
Mostly cloudy. High 32F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 39F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday
Mostly sunny. High 43F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 45F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Monday
Partly cloudy skies. High 44F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Quote of the Week:

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

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'The Water Queen'

Remembering Sarah Gammon Bickford during National Women's History Month

Montana paid tribute to Sarah by inducting her into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans in the Capitol building in Helena in 2012. PHOTO COURTESY OF PIONEER TRAILS AND TRIALS

BY KEELY LARSON
connect@madisoniannews.com

Five women made headlines running for the 2020 democratic nomination for president. Jeannette Rankin, a republican from Montana, was the first women elected to the House of Representatives. Sarah Gammon Bickford was the first woman in Montana, and probably the only female African American, to own a utility company in Virginia City.

Dr. Bill Peterson, Dr. Orlan Svingen and student Laura Arata from Washington State University worked on 'finding Sarah Bickford' during the 2010/2011 academic year. They received a grant from the Partnership in Scholarship through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to research African American involvement in communities that may have been overlooked by history, like Virginia City, Mont.

History of individual slaves can be difficult, almost impossible, to uncover. There are few first-person accounts and many that do exist are from the owner's perspective, a white man. Furthermore, names of slaves changed with ownership and they were often given nicknames by their masters.

Sarah was called Sallie. Her whole name could be written as Sarah Blair Gammon Brown Bickford. Each name came from a different man and shows changes in her life as she rose to becoming a prominent and respected Virginia City woman.

John Blair Sr. was a Justice of the Peace in Washington County, Tenn. Washington County had no formal government protection in the late 1700s and the State of Franklin, encompassing the county, was formed as a way to ameliorate budding concerns. It missed becoming the 14th state of the Union in 1785 by one vote.

John Blair III remained in Washington County for the entirety of his life and was Sarah's master. Her parents were sold at one point and she never saw them again.

Blair Sr. and Nathan Gammon, a steamboat merchant and freight business operator, were both residents of Jonesboro, Tenn, Washington County's seat. Gammon moved to Knoxville and brought his slaves with him, two named Isaac and Nancy married by common-law.

Nancy, by some accounts, was Sarah's aunt. Gammon allowed Isaac to raise hogs, unusual as it was illegal for slaves to own property. After the war, Isaac filed a reparation claim after Union soldiers killed his hogs. After his death, Nancy won $330 in the settlement, approximately $5,000 today.

Sarah was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation and moved to Knoxville to be with Nancy. Another account explains Sarah's arrival with the Gammons due to marriage—Gammon's oldest daughter married the son of Blair III.

In Knoxville she met John Luttrell Murphy, an appointed justice of the Virginia City Territorial Supreme Court. In exchange for nanny services, Sarah was granted a ride to Montana, to unknown territory. "Her resourcefulness and pleasant manner enabled her to adjust to western ways," an excerpt from Pioneer Trails and Trials read.

In Virginia City, Sarah married John Brown, an African American miner, in 1872. They had three children, the two oldest boys died early from diphtheria, and an awful relationship. Sarah sued Brown for abandonment and abuse and filed for divorce, an unbelievably rare thing for a woman to do in the late 1800s.

It was not the first or the last unbelievably rare thing she would do.

She was granted the divorce and full custody of her remaining daughter, seven-year-old Eva. She went on to fill the positions women held in mining camps that kept things running by opening a bakery, restaurant and hotel.

Eva died two years later. Sarah kept a picture of her in her bedroom until she died.

Sarah remarried to Stephen Bickford, a white miner and farmer, in 1863. They had four other children and a happier relationship. Sarah's first family never left her mind—her daughters recounted later how she would tell stories of the family she lost, and of her work for Mrs. Laurin, namesake of Laurin, Mont.

Bickford had a mind for business and the couple bought two thirds of the Virginia City Water Company. After Bickford died in 1900, Sarah bought the remaining third of the water company and was henceforth the owner.

"She took a correspondence course in Business Management from a correspondence school in Scranton, Pennsylvania to become more capable of conducting the affairs of the water business," Pioneer Trails and Trials said.

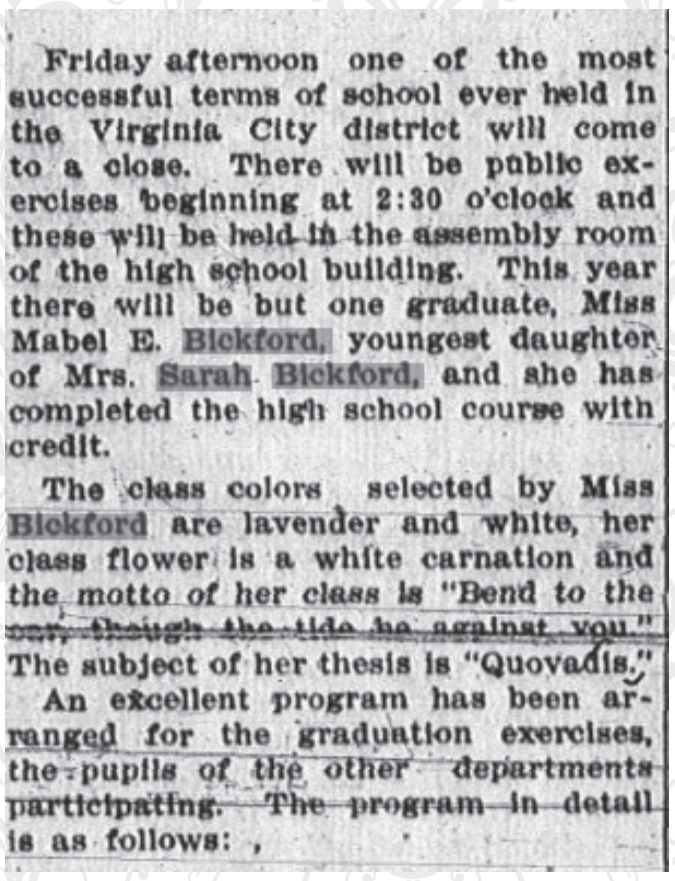
Her knack for understanding people's curiosities was apparent, too. She purchased the Hangman's Building as her office and charged those inclined to look up at the beam that hung five road agents, an expose of early vigilante law. She even constructed a restroom in the facility, catering to affluent women traveling to Yellowstone National Park.

Her name appeared all over The Madisonian while she lived in Virginia City. People owed her money, a daughter graduated high school, she managed estates and she entertained guests. She even was listed as a person eligible to vote in a local election in 1916.

In a couple different instances, she had to defend her ownership of the water company. In 1913, an 'unreliable report' in the paper stated the town of Virginia City was trying to claim ownership of its water. Sarah's composure would not let that slide.

She died July 1931.

Her obituary in *The Madisonian*, in part, read: "the sudden death Sunday of Mrs. Sarah Bickford, owner and proprietress of the Virginia City Water company, cast a distinct gloom over the community, which feels, in her passing, the loss of one of its most loyal pioneer citizens and devoted mothers."

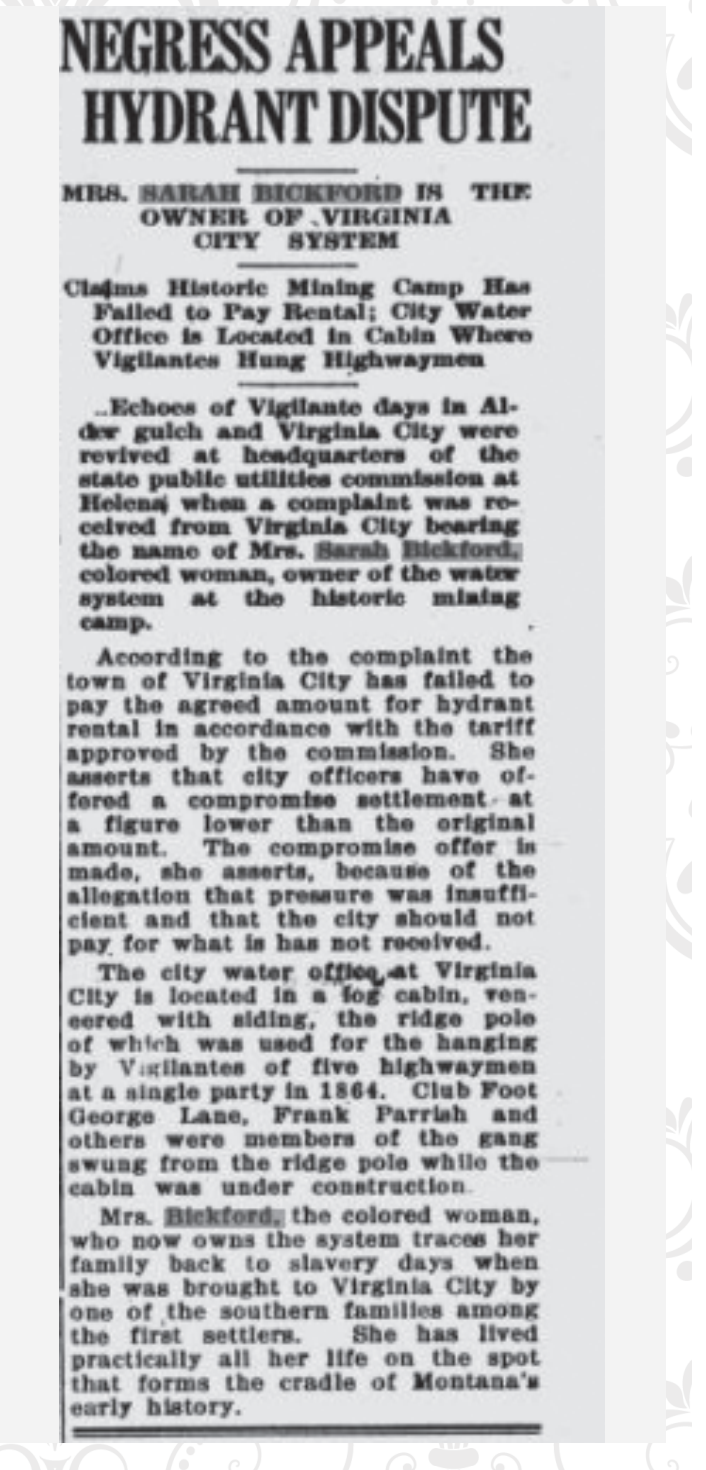


Friday afternoon one of the most successful terms of school ever held in the Virginia City district will come to a close. There will be public exercises beginning at 2:30 o'clock and these will be held in the assembly room of the high school building. This year there will be but one graduate, Miss Mabel E. Bickford, youngest daughter of Mrs. Sarah Bickford, and she has completed the high school course with credit.

The class colors selected by Miss Bickford are lavender and white, her class flower is a white carnation and the motto of her class is "Bend to the oar, though the tide be against you." The subject of her thesis is "Quovadis."

An excellent program has been arranged for the graduation exercises, the pupils of the other departments participating. The program in detail is as follows: ,

Sarah's daughter, Mabel, by accounts in The Madisonian, was an excellent student. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADISONIAN ARCHIVES



NEGRESS APPEALS HYDRANT DISPUTE

MRS. SARAH BICKFORD IS THE OWNER OF VIRGINIA CITY SYSTEM

Claims Historic Mining Camp Has Failed to Pay Rental; City Water Office is Located in Cabin Where Vigilantes Hung Highwaymen

..Echoes of Vigilante days in Alder gulch and Virginia City were revived at headquarters of the state public utilities commission at Helena when a complaint was received from Virginia City bearing the name of Mrs. Sarah Bickford, colored woman, owner of the water system at the historic mining camp.

According to the complaint the town of Virginia City has failed to pay the agreed amount for hydrant rental in accordance with the tariff approved by the commission. She asserts that city officers have offered a compromise settlement at a figure lower than the original amount. The compromise offer is made, she asserts, because of the allegation that pressure was insufficient and that the city should not pay for what is has not received.

The city water office at Virginia City is located in a log cabin, veneered with siding, the ridge pole of which was used for the hanging by Vigilantes of five highwaymen at a single party in 1864. Club Foot George Lane, Frank Parrish and others were members of the gang swung from the ridge pole while the cabin was under construction.

Mrs. Bickford, the colored woman, who now owns the system traces her family back to slavery days when she was brought to Virginia City by one of the southern families among the first settlers. She has lived practically all her life on the spot that forms the cradle of Montana's early history.

An article explaining an instance when the town of Virginia City did not pay the agreed upon amount for hydrant rental, and Sarah had words about it. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADISONIAN ARCHIVES

BE WELL

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare expands visitor restrictions and safety protocols in response to COVID-19

Submitted by
CHRISTIE TRAPP

As novel-coronavirus cases continue to pop up across the country, Barrett Hospital & HealthCare is changing its Hospital visitation policy and upgrading its safety protocols for the disease known as COVID-19 to protect its patients and staff.

Expanded Visitor Restrictions Are in Place. Barrett Hospital & HealthCare patients will now be allowed only one visitor per patient.

Safety Protocols-What You Need to Do If You Are Ill With Symptoms of Respiratory Illness.

If you are experiencing mild symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath call 683-3051 first, to speak with a nurse for COVID-19 risk assessment to determine whether you need to consider medical evaluation. To safeguard other patients and our staff, please do not go to the Clinics.

If are you are experiencing severe symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath, and feel this is an emergency, call 683-3051 to alert staff of your pending arrival, and proceed directly to the Emergency Department. Patients headed to the Emergency Department should use the dedicated Emergency Department entrance and parking lot and follow instructional signage.

What you need to know about COVID-19 and where to find information: To learn more about COVID-19, please refer to the CDC's website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Local COVID-19 resource: Beaverhead County Health Department website: https://beaverheadcounty.org/departments/public-health/

State COVID-19 resource: Governor's Coronavirus Task Force Launched Informational Line for Montanans
Phone line: 1-888-333-0461
Email: covid19info@mt.gov
Website: covid19.mt.gov/
The phone line and email are staffed to address the public's questions.

SUNSHINE WEEK:
Fighting a virus with truth and transparency

By KEN PAULSON

As the scope and threat of the coronavirus pandemic becomes clear, people all over the world hunger for two things: an effective vaccine and truthful information about the disease.

The former may be more than a year away, but the latter is critical to stemming the pandemic in the meantime.

This is Sunshine Week, a time each year when people like me write columns about some legislature's wrong-headed move to limit access to public records, and then try to make the case for greater access to public information and transparency in government.

But we're facing something far more dangerous than any state legislature could conjure up. It's a worldwide crisis worsened by governments whose impulse is to hide, control and censor news and information.

When a Chinese doctor shared with his colleagues his concerns that a mysterious new virus might be emerging, he was reprimanded and silenced. The doctor, Li Wenliang, died last month of coronavirus. After China mishandled and hid the virus from the public, the epidemic dramatically worsened. The Chinese government "is now leading a sweeping campaign to purge the public sphere of dissent, censoring news reports, harassing citizen journalists and shutting down news sites," according to the New York Times.

Similar suppression has appeared in other nations, according to the Committee to Protect journalists. In Thailand, the prime minister has threatened to arrest journalists who publish "fake news" about the virus and Iran detained a journalist for posts critical of the government's response, according to the CPJ.

But even a democracy is going to be tempted to manage the messaging, as the U.S. did by initially channeling the government's comments through a single spokesman – Vice President Mike Pence. That has improved significantly over the past week.

When the public is desperate for information, government needs to maximize authoritative information from scientists and experts on the public payroll. That appropriately gives Americans what they need to know, and counters irresponsible pundits who have sought to minimize the threat to score political or ratings points.

Most encouraging, though, has been the response of state and local governments, schools and the private sector. Governments at every level resist disclosure and scrutiny, but this has been a refreshing change, with leaders saying: "Here's what we need to do, here's why we're doing it and here's how you can find out more."

Sports leagues and private businesses, not known for transparency, have been refreshingly transparent. How many emails have you received this week that began "Out of an abundance of caution…"? There are a lot of institutions making tough decisions these days, but they're largely doing it in partnership with the American people.

More than anything, else, though, this crisis reminds us of how wise the first generation of Americans was in demanding a free press. Despite the inevitable accusations by some that the news media were "hyping" this threat, traditional media have been measured and thorough in their coverage, making the most of their on-air medical and scientific consultants. Closer to home, local newspapers and broadcasters have devoted extensive resources to reporting how the virus will affect the communities they serve.

President Trump told the nation last week that "we are all in this together" and that's exactly what needs to happen: the government sharing what it knows truthfully and without spin or bravado, private and public institutions engaging constructively with America's most pressing challenge and news organizations keeping the public informed in a thorough and even-handed way.

In the end, science will prevail in curbing this virus. Yet the path to that victory can only emerge from true collaboration and collective sacrifice, fueled by a shared understanding of exactly what we're up against. That can only come from the free flow of information.

Ken Paulson is the director of the Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University.

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Ruby Valley Medical Center – COVID 19 (Corona Virus) Information

Ruby Valley Medical Center currently has protocols in place to deal with any contagious respiratory diseases, including the Corona Virus.
The Infection Control Team would like to inform the public of the following:

1. If you feel you may have been exposed to the Corona **Virus DO NOT COME** directly to the hospital or clinic. Please call one of the following numbers to undergo a screening process:
   a. Ruby Valley Medical Center (406) 842-5453
   b. Twin Bridges Clinic (406) 684-5546
   c. Public Health (406) 683-4295
2. The following questions will be asked:
   a. In the **last 14 days,** have you traveled to an area that has been identified as having the Corona Virus?
   b. Have you had **prolonged, direct contact** with a CONFIRMED COVID 19 positive patient?
   c. Have you had a fever of **greater than 100.0 °F within the last 72 hours?**
   d. Do you have a **new cough** and/or **shortness of breath** and/or **body aches?**
3. If we feel you should be tested for Corona Virus, we will give you instructions on how that will be accomplished.
4. Please keep in mind that the majority of people who are infected with COVID 19 will **most likely not need hospitalization.** They will need isolation and supportive treatment such as increased fluid intake, rest and medications to control.
5. **Reasons to come directly to the hospital include:**
   a. Uncontrolled fevers
   b. Shortness of breath
   c. Severe dehydration
   d. Other complicating diseases such as **COPD, emphysema, and/or any other respiratory disorders.**
6. If you are able, **please call ahead** to 406-842-5453 (after hours, dial extension 1500), and alert our staff so we may take proper precautions for your safety, ours and that of our current patients within our facility.
7. **Protect Yourself By**:
   a. **WASH YOUR HANDS –** for at least 20 seconds.
   b. Avoid touching your face
   c. Keep a respectable social distance from other individuals, which is recommended to be **approximately six feet.**
   d. Get plenty of sleep and support your immune system.

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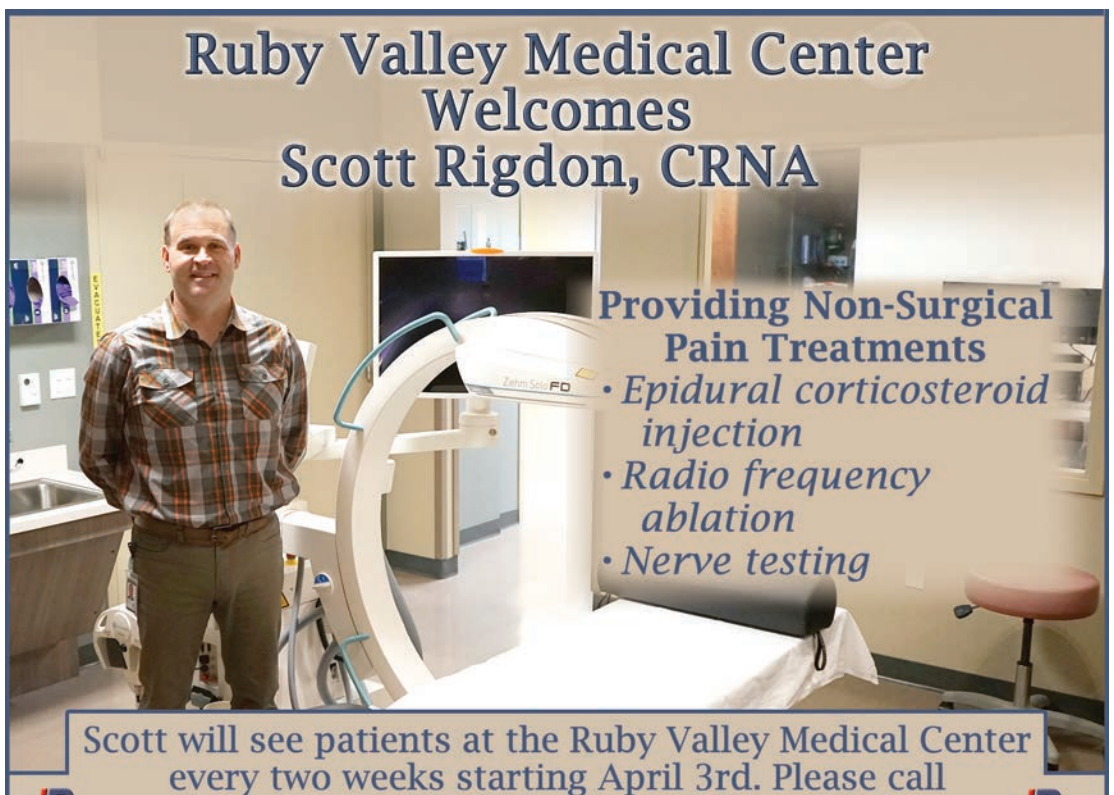

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COLUMNS

COMMODITY INSITE:

OR, A HERD OF PONIES!

BY JERRY WELCH

It was bad and bearish enough to deal with the coronavirus impacting most all markets but then the other shoe, so to speak, was dropped. That shoe being a price war erupting suddenly between Russia and Saudi Arabia. Over the weekend, OPEC negotiations fell through to cut crude oil production in an effort to support prices as suggested by the Saudis. The Russians refused to go along with a production cut and the Saudis quickly decided to escalate the conflict by boosting production to a record 12.3 million barrels a day. Within minutes, Russia retaliated, saying they would increase output by 500,000 barrels per day.

As a result, crude oil prices shed 25% in value in one day, the largest drop since 1991 with futures trading under $28 a barrel. Historically, crude oil is a leading indicator for commodities per se and the stock market. The dramatic drop with crude oil values amid more cases of coronavirus in the U.S. and across the globe, caused stocks and commodities to collapse. The Dow experienced an 8% decline, falling 2014 points, the largest point decline in history. However, the Dow fell deeper yet with a new record one day point decline only three days later. And all due to the price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia and fears of coronavirus.

Every time I see markets collapsing with investors, traders and agriculture producers wringing their collective hands, I am reminded of one of President Ronald Reagan's favorite jokes. From, "How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life" by Peter Robinson. Here it is and hope you enjoy it as much as I have over the years.

"The joke concerns twin boys of five or six. Worried that the boys had developed extreme personalities – one was a total pessimist, the other a total optimist – their parents took them to a psychiatrist."

"First the psychiatrist treated the pessimist. Trying to brighten his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with brand-new toys. But instead of yelping with delight, the little boy burst into tears. 'What's the matter?' the psychiatrist asked, baffled. 'Don't you want to play with any of the toys?' 'Yes,' the little boy bawled, 'but if I did I'd only break them.'"

"Next the psychiatrist treated the optimist. Trying to dampen his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with horse manure. But instead of wrinkling his nose in disgust, the optimist emitted just the yelp of delight the psychiatrist had been hoping to hear from his brother, the pessimist. Then he clambered to the top of the pile, dropped to his knees, and began gleefully digging out scoop after scoop with his bare hands. 'What do you think you're doing?' the psychiatrist asked, just as baffled by the optimist as he had been by the pessimist. 'With all this manure,' the little boy replied, beaming, 'there must be a pony in here somewhere!'"

The largest percentage collapse in history for the stock market took place on Oct., 16, 1987, known as, Black Monday. The Dow dropped 22.6% that day compared to the 1 session decline of 9.98% decline and 2014 point break seen this week. But here is how the U.S. soybean market did that fateful day 33 years ago, in 1987.

Initially, as the Dow collapsed on Black Monday, along with gold prices and a host of other markets, soybeans dropped limit down at $.30. By the close, however, the market was off $.15 to settle at $5.24 a bushel. And 9 months later due to hot and dry conditions surfacing in the Grain Belt, in the spring and summer of '88, soybean prices peaked out at $10.99. Soybean prices more than doubled in value from lows posted on Black Monday. If you doubt me, do as Baseball Hall of Famer Casey Stengel was fond of saying, and, "go look it up!"

In early January, I stated boldly there were three dominant forces lined up to impact the Big Four: stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities. Those three forces were coronavirus, the trade deal with China and climate change issues. The marketplace is still dealing with the coronavirus mess but I fully expect China to honor their pledge to buy copious amounts of U.S. food-stuffs. And as we approach the growing season, I expect climate change issues to begin surfacing as well.

In today's market environment it is difficult to be bullish towards any market. After all, January was the most bearish January in history for stocks and commodities. February was worse yet. And in early March, the bearish madness saw a new and negative market force surface, a price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia over crude oil. By any measure, 2020 is one of the most bearish years witnessed in a long time.

Nonetheless. I argue that somewhere under this week's pile of horse manure is a pony. There was on Black Monday, 1987 and there is likely one now. And yes, to, "fess up," I am kindred spirit to that overly optimistic boy looking for a pony under that huge pile of horse s**t. Believe me, there is at least one pony down here right now. Or, just maybe, a herd of ponies!

A WRANGLER'S RECKLESS WRITINGS

By Bryce Angell

A Humbled Cowboy

I woke up with a mighty thirst that water would not slake. To quench my thirst, a soda pop is just what it would take.

I headed down to Merkle's store. The time was eight o'clock. I said, "Good morning," to the clerk. He turned and what a shock!

He looked entirely out of place. His bull ring was impressive. It pierced his nose, hung to his lip. Would this man be aggressive?

I felt a tiny bit confused. A ring pierced through your nose? I've seen bulls bellow out with pain when their ring snapped to close.

I stood there almost speechless, cowboy hat pulled down my ears. A toothpick hanging out my mouth. He hadn't seen that for years.

I asked the clerk where he came from. He said, "I'm new today. I moved here from the city. I see you don't know what to say."

I opened up my big-shot mouth. "You're really quite a picture. City boy with a bull ring nose. For sure a doggone mixture."

He said, "I'm looking strange to you. I guess I'm out of place. But where I'm from you'd be the one who'd claim stares to his face."

But then he said," Your drink is free. You want a soda pop?" He took my mug and poured some ice, then filled it to the top.

He really got me thinking and it made a lot of sense. Tomorrow when I buy a pop, I won't be so intense.

My father taught me his own rules. I'm reminded of this one. "Treat every person with respect. They're too a father's son."

I said, "I'll make you welcome, from a fool who'd be a friend. Let's shake and start this over. We can get this on the mend."

I left the store quite humbled and a little bit contrite. But feeling warmth all over from an act that turned out right.

THIS, Our Valley

FERRY RAILS AND TINY CARS

By
Keith Axberg

Idealistic as it may sound, altruism should be the driving force in business, not just competition and a desire for wealth. Dalai Lama

I was riding along on one of the local ferries when the handrail I was holding onto collapsed. Fortunately I was atop the landing and called out to one of the crewmen for help. He disappeared below-decks, and I was left holding a dangling rail. Minutes later the boat docked and a lady struggled to move her car, which was stuck between the ferry terminal building and curb. She was driving one of those tiny cars which barely hold two people, and yet forty clowns can clamber aboard with room to spare. All I had to do was find someone to help me pick it up, turn it ninety degrees, and she would be able to drive away safe and sound. I couldn't find anyone to help, and then …

I woke up.

Where's Joseph, the Interpreter of Dreams when I need him? I know everyone dreams, including yours truly, but I am not one to remember what goes on inside my noggin from the time my head hits the pillow until my body rises afresh each morning. What few dreams I do recall having over the years generally have that sense that they were painted by Salvador Dali; they've got a melting clock quality to them.

I am told that, as a rule, dreams are a reflection of what's going on in our lives. We are often so busy that sometimes it requires our subconscious or our unconscious mind to tell us what's happening. Taking that into consideration, perhaps I am being told it's OK to get a grip, but pay attention to who or what you grip! It's OK to ask for help, but don't ask the guy below – look to the One above.

That seems like solid advice, whether from a dream, a counselor, or even (dare I say it): God!

I am and always have been a solitary traveler. I like to dawdle, making my way through museums at a crawl. I don't do well needing to rush places. I would rather leave early to arrive early or on time, than to rush hither, thither, and yon. One may need to jump out of the way of a speeding car while crossing the street, but one doesn't need to BE the speeding car. One may need to quickly beat out a grease fire in the kitchen, but one doesn't have to set the burner so hot and furious as to cause the fire to begin with, right?

Retirement has allowed me to take a fresh look at how I'm living, and I've come to realize the benefits of slowing down and smelling the proverbial roses. I must loosen my grip. As my bishop once explained, when we clench our hands into a fist, our bodies clench with them. Jesus invites us to release our grip on money, power, prestige, or whichever god we may hold most dear – life itself – for by losing one's life, we find it. When we unclench our fists, our bodies unclench as well, and that's healthier for us.

Retirement also challenges me to move my face in another direction. When one keeps one's nose to the grindstone, one can get an extremely calloused nose. One also can't see much beyond the spinning grit. Faith bids us, "Look up!"

"I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? It comes from the Lord!" (Psalm 121)

My Dad always taught us to "Step on your eye," by which he meant, "Watch where you're stepping." I think that is solid advice and has prevented my stumbling on any number of occasions.

But I think the Psalmist is also correct. One needs to look up. We need to learn to ask for help. "Asking for help isn't giving up,' said the horse. 'It's refusing to give up." (Charles Mackesy, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse). I plan to look up more often. I guess that's as good a Lenten discipline as any.

As for the woman stuck with the tiny car?

I think that's just my unconscious clowning around. You can't be dead serious all the time you're asleep, can you?

At least that's what I think here in this, our valley.

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

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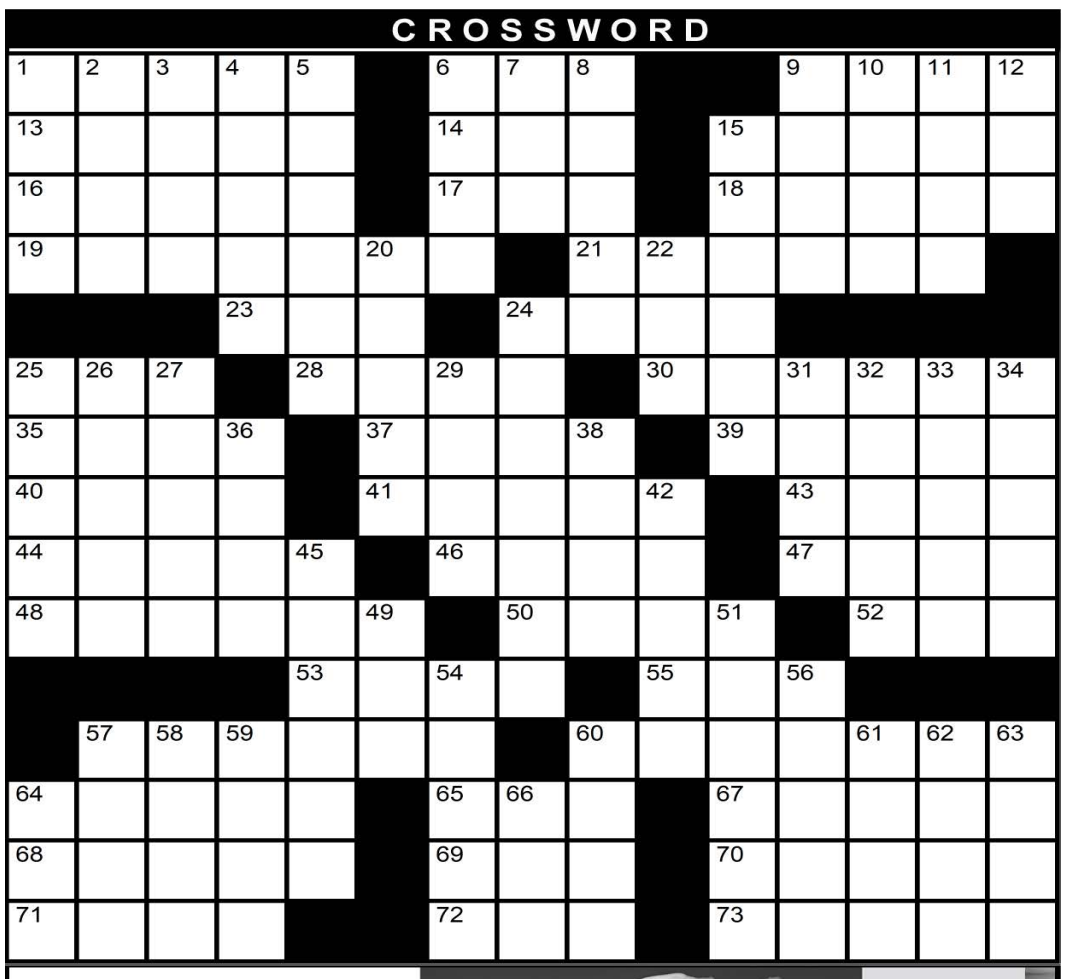
COMICS & PUZZLES

THEME: DRIVER'S ED

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Happen again
6. Promotions
9. Field mouse
13. UV absorber
14. Seek a seat
15. Eagle's nest
16. Jury ____
17. Mad King George's number
18. Bad-tempered one
19. *Two or more people on the road
21. *Fines can do that?
23. Scot's woolen cap
24. Give an impression
25. Last month
28. Willy Wonka mastermind
30. Lay down to rest again
35. Container weight
37. Damaging precipitation
39. One born to Japanese immigrants
40. Windows alternative
41. Clown act
43. London subway
44. What Motion Picture Association of America does
46. Lentil soup
47. Pulitzer winner Bellow
48. Little Women to Aunt March
50. Victorian and Elizabethan ones, e.g.
52. Dropped drug
53. Type of dam
55. Post Malone's genre
57. *Traffic separator
60. *Kind of lane
64. Tiger's and lioness' offspring
65. J. Edgar Hoover's org.
67. Capital of Vietnam
68. Between wash and dry
69. 1985 Kurosawa movie
70. Village V.I.P.
71. Brewer's kiln
72. Play part
73. Young salmon

Down

1. Campus drilling grp.
2. Poet Pound
3. Coconut fiber
4. Not fitting
5. Add a new magazine
6. Seed cover
7. *Punishable driver offense, acr.
8. Like a hurtful remark
9. Action word
10. Like face-to-face exam
11. Don't cross it?
12. Comic cry
15. Keenness in a certain field
20. D-Day beach
22. Old-fashioned over
24. Move like a serpent
25. *Go back the way you came
26. Hawaiian veranda
27. Banal or commonplace
29. *"Raised ____," or "Don't Walk"
31. Small fragments
32. Bar order, with the
33. Puzzle with pictures and letters
34. *Up-side-down triangle sign
36. Biz bigwig
38. Yarn spinner
42. "The Nutcracker" protagonist
45. Crafting with stitches
49. One of Sinbad's seven
51. Miss America's accessory, pl.
54. Prefix for below
56. Church song
57. Actress Sorvino
58. Shining armor
59. Negative contraction
60. Pub order
61. ____-China
62. Christmas season
63. Horizontal wall beam
64. *Keep your hands at ten and ____
66. *Measurement of alcohol in body, acr.

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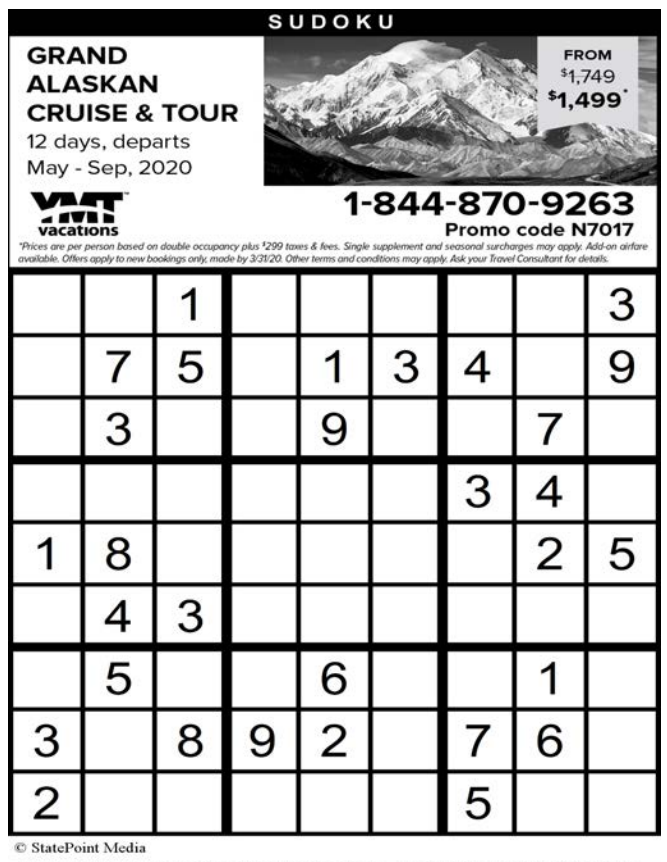

		1						3
	7	5		1	3	4		9
	3			9			7	
						3	4	
1	8						2	5
	4	3						
	5			6			1	
3		8	9	2		7	6	
2						5		

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

"I hate playing shells versus skins."

SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	9	1	7	8	6	2	5	3
6	7	5	2	1	3	4	8	9
8	3	2	5	9	4	1	7	6
9	2	6	8	5	1	3	4	7
1	8	7	4	3	9	6	2	5
5	4	3	6	7	2	8	9	1
7	5	4	3	6	8	9	1	2
3	1	8	9	2	5	7	6	4
2	6	9	1	4	7	5	3	8

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GMA Mining USA in Alder is accepting applications for Full-Time Plant Operators. We offer competitive wages starting at $19.00 per hour, and benefits. Pre-employment Drug screen and Physical Required. Please call HR at (406) 842-7829 or email linda.dixon@gmagarnet.com for details and application.

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GMA Mining USA in Alder is accepting applications for temporary full-time administrative assistant. This position could last up to six months. We offer competitive wages starting at $19.00 per hour. Please call HR at (406) 842-7829 or email linda.dixon@gmagarnet.com for position description and application.

NOW HIRING
GMA Mining USA in Alder is accepting applications for a Maintenance Tech Level 1. Position starts at $21.11 per hour and a Fulltime Warehouse Associate. Position starts at 19.00 per hour. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Pre-employment Drug screen and Physical Required. Please call HR at (406) 842-7829 or email linda.dixon@gmagarnet.com for details and application.

Ruby Valley Medical Center

The Ruby Valley Medical Center is accepting applications for a Seasonal Groundskeeper. We are seeking a self-motivated, industrious candidate to help maintain the outside of our facility and the grounds during the spring, summer, and fall months. Please visit www.RVMC.org/career-opportunites for job requirements and to apply on-line.

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109 N. Gallatin, Harrison, MT
2 BR/1 Bath
1 Car garage, Pets negotiable. $750 per month. Call Baycroft Property Management at 406-560-3274.
www.baycroftproperty.com

BARKER VILLAGE APARTMENTS:
1 bedroom furnished apartments available in Ennis. A/C, washer/dryer equipped, private location. 4 month lease, $750 per month plus security deposit, utilities included, non-smoking, no dogs.
Call Erich Vogeli, Manager at 406-682-5737.

20 x 30 Shop space and 12 x 40 RV Storage. Call 581-7687 for information.

For Rent: professional office space in Lone Elk Mall. 120sf. Includes common area conference room, utilities, and other amenities. $285/mo. 640-1351

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MORE Marketplace on page B6

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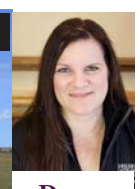
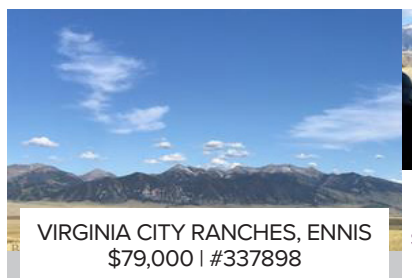


N. LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL, WHITEHALL
$85,000 | #343001

Dawn Dickson
SALES ASSOCIATE
406.600.4802

- Beautiful, level corner lot
- Electricity nearby
- Located in the pristine Jefferson River Ranches sub.



VIRGINIA CITY RANCHES, ENNIS
$79,000 | #337898

Jill Gaar
SALES ASSOCIATE
406.580.5636

- 9.7± acre property in V.C. Ranches Subdivision
- Spectacular views of the mountain ranges
- Great level building sites and unique topography

LOT 170 BENT TRAIL, ENNIS
$85,000 | #342515

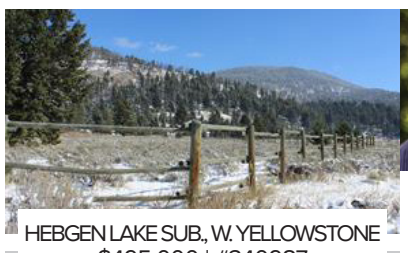
Billie Klasna
SALES ASSOCIATE
406.939.5026

- 9± acre lot w phenomenal views of the Madison Range
- Shining Mountains Subdivision Unit II
- Access to mountain lakes, Forest Service and BLM lands

3 SPANISH PEAKS DRIVE, ENNIS
$118,000 | #321167

Rikki Dilschneider
BROKER
406.581.5155

- Primo 1.2± acre property at Valley Garden Ridge
- Breathtaking views of the Madison Mountain Range
- Walking distance to a golf course & tennis courts



HEBGEN LAKE SUB., W. YELLOWSTONE
$495,000 | #340987

Rob Klatt
BROKER
406.580.2002

- 3 lots being sold as one 2.5± acre property
- A small subdivision close to Hebgen Lake
- Build 3 homes, or vacation home, one on each lot

BOOTH GULCH ROAD, SHERIDAN
$150,000 | #342392

Frank Colwell
BROKER
406.596.1076

- 8.35± acre tract w/many building sites
- Breathtaking views of the Ruby Valley
- No covenants; power & fiber proximate

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Ad #046
MTFWP is hiring seasonal AIS Watercraft Inspectors state-wide. $13.78/hour. High School Diploma or equivalency and Valid Drivers License required. Apply online at statecareers.mt.gov.

Ad #047
7 used mobile homes - 2010 and newer, in great shape. Call now, they won't last long! $44,800 - Price includes delivery within 100 miles, blocked, leveled and central air conditioning. Call Jason at (406) 855-2279

Ad #048
Montana Conservation Corps is not your typical summer adventure! Join us for no cost one to four week summer expeditions working on trails. More information and apply: https://mtcorps.org/join/youth-programs/high-school-expedition/

Ad #049
FSBO 5,000 sq ft combined retail, office, warehouse, 365 ft Hwy frontage, 2 acres, (406) 370-7105, $499,000 Eureka, MT.

Ad #050
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Madison Valley Manor
THE SEAL OF MADISON COUNTY STATE OF MONTANA
Tobacco Root Mountains CARE CENTER

Now Hiring!

Madison Valley Manor, Ennis, MT
- Certified Nurse's Assistant/Aide-Full-time or Part-time **$15.20 to $19.00 hourly**;
- Housekeeping/Laundry Aide-Part-time **$14.45 to $18.16 hourly**;
- Permanent Nursing Home Administrator-Full-time **Salary DOE** open until filled;

Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center, Sheridan, MT
- Certified Nurse's Assistant/Aide-Full-time or Part-time **$15.20 to $19.00 hourly**;
- Director of Nursing-Full-time **$66,400 to $83,000 Salary DOE**;
- Licensed Practical Nurse-Full-time or Part-time **$19.79 to $24.74 hourly**;
- Permanent Nursing Home Administrator-Full-time **Salary DOE** open until filled;
- Registered Nurse-Full-time or Part-time **$24.00 to $30.00 hourly**;

Madison County, Virginia City, MT
- Building Maintenance-Full-time, **$18.61 to $23.26 hourly**;
- Fairgrounds Crew Assistant-Part-time, Short-term **$10.32 to $11.38 hourly**;
- Fairgrounds Groundskeeper-Part-time, Short-term **$9.15 to $9.62 hourly**;
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor or Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Contract position (as needed) **$300.00 per response**;
- Public Health Department Registered Nurse-Full-time, **$24.00 to $30.00 hourly**;
- Safety Intern-Part-time, Short-term**$15.93 to $15.93 hourly**; and
- Weed Program Field Crew Personnel-Full-time, Short-term, **$14.71 to $17.65 hourly**.

Madison County Employee Benefits
- Public Employees Retirement System – 5 Year Vesting
- 457 (b) Deferred Benefit Plan Option Savings
- Paid Employee Health Insurance-BCBS optional dependent coverage
- 3–Weeks Paid Vacation + 12 days Sick Leave (pro-rated PT Employees)
- 10 Paid Holidays Per Year (11 paid holidays in even numbered years)
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- Optional dental & life insurance benefits

Visit our ***Employment*** page online at
www.madisoncountymt.gov
Join Our Team!

Please visit Madison County's online employment page at www.madisoncountymt.gov for additional information or contact the Human Resources Department at 406-843-4201.
Madison County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

(Job Vacancy ad for Madisonian (03.19.20)

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PUBLIC NOTICES
MARCH 19, 2020

MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Madison County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:15 pm in the Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building, 103 W Wallace, Virginia City, Montana. While the public hearing was previously scheduled to occur on January 27, 2020, the applicant requested the item be postponed to address certain review details. The Planning Board will consider the agenda item and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners who will take final action. A request by Lone Mountain Land Company on behalf of MB MT Acquisition LLC for Preliminary Plat approval of Lee's Pool Subdivision and Planned Unit Development (PUD), a 132-unit residential/ commercial development that would divide the 233.78-acre subject property into five Condo lots, one future development lot, and two Open Space lots proposed to be developed as follows: Condo Lot 1 (35.60 acres) - four lodge buildings with 81 units, a spa facility, restaurant, and 13 detached guest cabins; Condo Lot 2 (14.95 acres) - a Ski Lodge, one chairlift terminal, and two detached residential condominiums; Condo Lot 3 (14.08 acres) - 17 detached residential condominiums; Condo Lot 4 (9.19 acres) - 9 detached residential condominiums; Condo Lot 5 (7.57 acres) - 10 detached residential condominiums; Lot R (89.72 acres) - to be re-divided and developed in the future; Open Space A (40.40 acres); Open Space B (9.91 acres). Accessed from Jack Creek Road via Lone Mountain Trail and Moonlight Trail, the subdivision would be served by an extension of existing public water and sewer services operated by Moonlight Basin Water & Sewer LLC. The proposed PUD regards a requested modification to standards outlined in Section IV-B-1(c)(3) of the Madison County Subdivision Regulations, to reduce the applicable construction setback from onsite waterways from 100-ft to 40-ft.. Located within the Moonlight Basin Overall Development Plan area, the subject property is legally described as Tract A1 of Certificate of Survey 2508 in the NE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 & NW1/4 of Section 12, Township 6 South, Range 2 East, P.M.M., Madison County, Montana. Comments should be received by 3:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, and may be sent to the Madison County Planning Board by: Mail to P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755; Fax to (406) 843-5229; or E-mail to planning@madisoncountymt.gov. Verbal or written comments may also be given at the public hearing. The preliminary plat and supplemental information pertaining to this proposed subdivision is available for review at: • Madison County Planning Department, 103 W. Wallace, Virginia City; • Madison Valley Library, 210 West Main Street, Ennis; • Big Sky Fire Department, Station 1, 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky Call (406) 843-5250 for more information. Darlene Tussing, President, Madison County Planning Board

(Pub. MARCH 12, 19, 2020)
MC PLANNING BOARD
MNAXLP

YEAR 2020 HERBICIDE CONTRACT

Year 2020 Herbicide Contract Madison County Weed Board Year 2020 Herbicide Contract Advertisement for Bids Madison County Weed Board is calling for sealed quotes for Noxious Weed Herbicides for the 2020 Madison County Weed Management Season. Quote specification (Type and Amount of Herbicides), and invitation to quote forms are available at the Madison County Weed Board Office, 2296 Hwy. 287, Alder, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755.

Quotes will be accepted until the close of business, 12:00 P.M. Thursday, April 2, 2020. Quotes will be opened and read publicly at the regular Weed Board Meeting at the Weed Board Office, Alder, Montana, at 2:00 P.M. Thursday April 9, 2019.

The contract will be awarded to the bidder whose bid is most beneficial to the County. Consideration will be given to Madison County resident bidders in accordance with MCA 7-5-2309, part 1, which states "If there are no out of state bidders for a contract subject to competitive bid under this part, the contract may be awarded to the lowest and best responsible bidder that is a County Resident and that makes a bid that is no more than $500.00 or 3% higher, whichever is less, than the bid of the lowest responsible bidder that is not a County Resident". Prices are to be guaranteed to September 30, 2020. Madison County Weed Board reserves the right to reject any or all irregularities in Quotes.

Date: February, 13, 2020
/s/ John Armstrong, Chairperson Madison County Weed Board
/s/ Dan Allhands, Chairman Madison County Commissioners
(Pub. MARCH 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2, 2020)
MC WEED BOARD
MNAXLP

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

MONTANA 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY. CAUSE NO.: DV-29-2020-17. In the matter of the name change of TAMMIE TUMSUDEN, Petitioner

This is notice that Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from TAMMIE LYNN TUMSUDEN to TAMMIE LYNN SALSTROM.

The hearing will be on April 13, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.. The hearing will be at the courthouse in Madison County.

Date: March 3, 2020
Karen J. Miller
Clerk of District Court
/S/ Carmin Hill
Deputy Clerk of Court
(Pub. MARCH 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2, 2020)
TUMSUDEN
MNAXLP

NOTICE TO WATER USERS (PURSUANT TO SECTION 85-2-307, MCA)

The following application has been submitted to change a water right in the State of Montana. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION PROPOSES TO GRANT AN APPLICATION TO CHANGE A WATER RIGHT. DESCRIBED BELOW ARE THE PERTINENT FACTS WHICH SUMMARIZE THE APPLICATION. THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION (PD) DOCUMENTING THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE WATER RIGHT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/. OBJECTION DEADLINE: MAY 4, 2020. THE DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY ACCEPT OBJECTIONS FILED ON AN OBJECTION TO APPLICATION, FORM 611. MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM AND THE $25.00 FILING FEE TO THE DNRC, PO BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601 BY THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE. DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION, TO OBTAIN THE PD OR OBJECTION FORM TO THE WATER RESOURCES OFFICE AT 2273 BOOT HILL COURT, SUITE 110, BOZEMAN, MT 59715-7249 FAX: 406-587-9726 PHONE: 406-586-3136. Application Number: 41D 30122404 Applicant: TYLER P COBB PO BOX 685 TWIN BRIDGES, MT 59754 0685 WATER RIGHT NUMBER(S) BEING CHANGED Water Right Type: STATEMENT OF CLAIM Water Right Number: 41D 196337-00 Priority Date: JUNE 7, 1894 Historical Flow Rate: 2.66 CFS PAST USE OF WATER: THE EXISTING POINT OF DIVERSION IS A SHARED DITCH SYSTEM, THE SEYLER-HARVEY DITCH, AND THE CLAIMED FLOW RATE IS 2.66 CFS. THE EXISTING PLACE OF USE IS DESCRIBED AS 56 ACRES. THE SOURCE OF WATER IS THE BIG HOLE RIVER NEAR TWIN BRIDGES, MT. PROPOSED CHANGE: FLOW RATE: 2.66 GPM VOLUME: 175.20 AC-FT ACRES: 25.00 THE APPROPRIATOR IS AUTHORIZED TO ADD THREE POINTS OF DIVERSION AND CLARIFY THE PLACE OF USE OF STATEMENT OF CLAIM 41D 196337-00. THE AMOUNT OF WATER SHALL NOT EXCEED A FLOW RATE OF 2.66 CFS AND DIVERTED VOLUME OF UP TO 175.2 AF PER YEAR. THE PERIOD OF DIVERSION AND USE IS MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 19 ANNUALLY. THE EXISTING HISTORIC POINT OF DIVERSION WILL REMAIN IN THE NENWSE, SECTION 1, T04 S, R07 W, ALL IN MADISON COUNTY. THE AUTHORIZED NEW POINTS OF DIVERSION (THREE, GORMANRUPP 2P5 132 GPM CENTRIGUGAL PUMPS) ARE LOCATED IN THE SWSESW, SENESW, NENWSE, OF SECTION 31, T03 S, R06 W, ALL IN MADISON COUNTY. THE AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE IS 25 ACRES LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTIONS; SESWSW, W2SESW, E2NESW, AND THE NWSE OF SECTION 31, T03 S, R06 W, ALL IN MADISON COUNTY.

Deputy Clerk of Court
(Pub. MARCH 19, 2020)
DNRC WATER
MNAXLP

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

Alanah Griffith Patrick Tillisch Griffith & Cummings, PC P.O. Box 160748 Big Sky, Montana 59716 (406) 624-3585 Alanah@BigSkyMTlaw.com Patrick@BigSkyMTlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY BING FAMILY, LLC, Plaintiff vs. THE ESTATE OF CYNTHIA E. BING, et. al, Cause No. DV-29-2020-16 Bing Family, LLC, Plaintiff, has filed a quiet title action against The Estate of Cynthia E. Bing, Beardsley Stock Ranch, The Estate of Kathryn B. Prebensen, John D. and Sue Brack, Alicia and Ross Lingle, and other unknown claimants requesting that the Court enter an Order quieting title to the following real properties: A tract of land situated in the SW¼ of Section 36, Township 5 South of Range 1 East, P.M.M., Madison County, Montana, described as: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the tract of land hereby described, from which point the South Quarter Corner of Section 36, T5S of R1E, P.M.M., bears N89°58'E 923.4 feet distant; thence S89°58'W 600 feet to the Southwest corner of said Tract, which is identical with Corner No. 2 of Homestead Entry Survey No. 190; thence N15°07'E 834.90 feet to the Northwest corner of said Tract which is identical with Corner No. 3 of Homestead Entry Survey No. 190; thence N89°14'E 370.70 feet, to the Northeast corner of said Tract; thence South 814.50 feet to the Southeast corner of said tract to the place of beginning, as previously described in Book 180, page 530, records of Madison County, Montana. A tract of land situated in the SW¼ of Section 36, Township 5 South of Range 1 East, P.M.M., Madison County, Montana, described as: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the tract of land being hereby described, from which point the South Quarter corner of Section 36, T5S R1E, P.M.M., bears N89°58'E 923.4 feet distant; thence North 449.50 feet to the Northwest corner of said tract; thence S85°46'20"E 541.88 feet, to the Northeast corner of said tract; thence S4°13'40"W 318.8 feet to the Southeast corner of said tract; thence West 193.75 feet to a point which is the Northwest corner of the H. J. Prebensen one-acre tract; thence South 100 feet to the Southwest corner of the H. J. Prebensen one-acre tract; thence S89°58'W 314.80 feet to the Southwest corner of the Bing-Hall Tract, to the place of beginning, as previously described in Book 184, page 422, records of Madison County, Montana. That certain tract of land being a portion of Homestead Entry Survey 190, which lies South of the Center of Jack Creek situated in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 1 East, P.M.M., Madison County, Montana, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast Corner No. 1 of the parcel of land hereby described, from which point the South Quarter corner of Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 1 East, P.M.M., bears S37°50'W 1330.00 feet distance, thence N22°04'E 100.90 feet to Corner No. 2 in the center of Jack Creek; thence N50°46'W 84.90 feet to Corner No. 3, in the center of Jack Creek; thence N65°55'W, 47.50 feet to Corner No. 4 in the center of Jack Creek; thence N79°32'W 148.59 feet to Corner No. 5 in the center of Jack Creek; thence S79°58'W 128.20 feet to Corner No. 6 in the center of Jack Creek; thence N81°45'W 143.17 feet to Corner No. 7 in the center of Jack Creek; thence S33°33'W 125.40 feet to Corner No. 8, thence S86°39'E 331.92 feet to Corner No. 9, thence S79°23'E 226.60 feet, to Corner No. 1, the place of beginning. As previously described in Book 204, page 495, [said tract is labeled as "Bing/Beardsley Bk. 328, pg. 434" tract on Certificate of Survey filed in Book 7 of Surveys, page 1361, records of Madison County, Montana]. No hearing has been set in this matter. Objections may be filed with the Court by any person who can show good reasons why title should not be vested in Plaintiff.

(Pub. MARCH 12, 19, 26, 2020)
GC
MNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Madison Conservation District will revise natural streambed and land preservation act rules governing the administration of the district's stream permitting program. The revision will include changing the time frame for an applicant to appeal a Board's decision from 15 days to 30 days per HB383 that become law during the 2019 legislative session. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30pm at the Ennis Public Library to provide an opportunity to present views and submit written comments on the proposed rules. Copies of the draft rules are available by contacting the district at info@madisoncd.org or 406-682-3181. The monthly meeting will follow the public hearing that evening.

(Pub. MARCH 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 2020)
MCD
MNAXLP

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGULAR VOTER REGISTRATION AND OPTION FOR LATE REGISTRATION

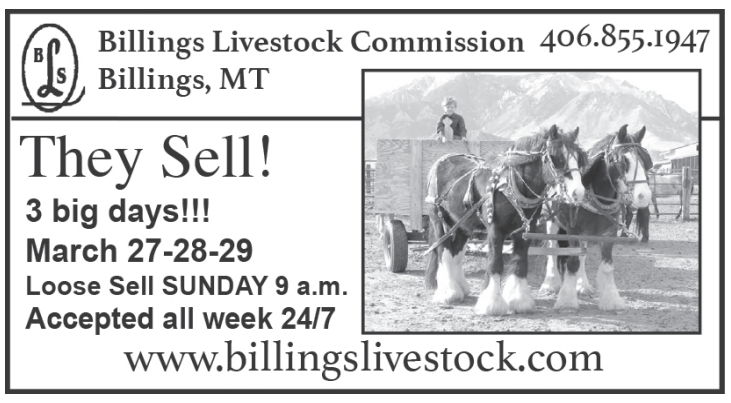
Notice is hereby given that regular* registration for the Madison County School and Special District Elections scheduled for May 5, 2020 will close at 5:00 p.m., April 6, 2020. *NOTE: If you miss this regular registration deadline, you may still register and vote by appearing in person at the county election office at 103 W. Wallace, Virginia City, up to and including on Election Day. You may complete and submit a voter registration card, but you will need to return to the local election office on Election Day to pick up and vote a ballot. If these Elections are held, they will be conducted by MAIL ONLY. No polling places will be available. All active and inactive**electors Madison County, are entitled to vote at said election. However, Inactive voters will not receive a ballot in the mail. ** **Inactive electors may reactivate by appearing at the Election Office in order to vote, by requesting an absentee ballot in any election, or by notifying the County Election Administrator in writing of the elector's current address in the county. Persons who wish to register and who are not presently registered may do so by requesting a form for registration by mail or by appearing at the county election office in Virginia City. If you have moved, please update your registration information by filling out a new voter registration card and submitting it to the county election office.

DATED this 11th of March, 2020
Madison County
/s/ Kathleen D. Mumme,
Election Administrator
(Pub. MARCH 19, 26, APRIL 2, 2020)
MC C&R
MNAXLP

TRUSTEE POSITIONS FOR ENNIS SCHOOLS

Ennis School District 52 is currently seeking one trustee for a three-year term. Anyone qualified for and interested in running for this position may pick up a petition from Ginger Martello at Ennis High School. Petition must be turned in at the Ennis School District Clerk's office prior to 4 p.m. March 26, 2020. No candidate may appear on the ballot unless he or she meets this deadline. If you have any questions about the trustee position, please call Superintendent Casey Klasna at 682-4258.

(Pub. MARCH 19, 26, 2020)
ENNIS SCHOOLS
MNAXLP



Property Assessment Visits

Property valuation staff may be visiting your property during the upcoming tax year to conduct an on-site review for property tax purposes. Notify your local DOR in writing within 30 days of this publication if you wish to be present.

MONTANA Department of REVENUE

For an appointment or further information, contact your local DOR field office. For locations and contact information, visit MTRevenue.gov or call (406) 444-6900.

Madison County Sanitarian's Office
P.O. Box 278 - 103 W. Wallace Street
Virginia City, MT 59755
(O) 406-843-4275 sanitarian@madisoncountymt.gov

SERVSAFE TRAINING

The Madison County Sanitarian's Office will be holding a ServSafe training.
A successful passing grade will satisfy the Montana Food Code, which requires all licensed food establishments to have a Certified Food Manager on staff.
The date and location is listed below:

DATE: MARCH 30, 2020, MONDAY, 8:00AM-5:00PM
MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC MEETING ROOM VIRGINIA CITY
Fee: $75.00
Registration Deadline: One week prior to the class

Registration forms can be found on the Sanitarian's page of the Madison County website at madisoncountymt.gov or the Sanitarian's Office, located at 103 W. Wallace Street in Virginia City.
Textbooks will be available for pick at the Madison County Sanitarian's Office. Applicants must be registered and fee paid in advance of receiving your textbook and exam materials. Lunch will be provided at no cost. Please call the Sanitarian's Office at 843-4275 to register for this training. Seating is limited, so please register early.

ParentingMontana.org
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TOOLS FOR YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

In Montana, parents want what's best for their kids.

ParentingMontana.org has information and tools for parents of children at every age.

TOOLS FOR YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

This product was supported [in part] by CFDA 93.959 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or Health and Human Services.

TRAILHEAD COMMUNITY NEWS BOARD

2020 CELEBRATING Sunshine WEEK
FLORIDA COURT CLERKS & COMPTROLLERS

SUNSHINE WEEK: It's always your right to know

By CNHI Deputy National Editor Jim Zachary

The media is most definitely not your enemy.

Far from being the enemy of the people, day in and day out we take our role as the Fourth Estate seriously and work hard to protect your right to know, making public records requests and attending public meetings to keep you informed.

Why?

Because we believe all the business government does, whether in open public meetings or behind closed doors, is your business.

We believe every last penny government spends is your money.

We believe it is your right to know every transaction, every decision, every expenditure and every deliberation of your government.

Whether talking about the White House, the statehouse or the county courthouse, all the documents held in government halls belong to the people, and all the business conducted by our governors is public business.

We believe our government — your government — can only be of, by and for the people when it is out in front of the people.

Primary to our Republic is the understanding that we are the government and the government is us.

The only powers held by federal, state or local government are the powers we give.

So, whether it is Congress, the state's General Assembly, county commission, city council or the board of education, it is your right to know all of the people's business.

When you attend local city, county or school board meetings, ask questions and hold elected representatives accountable, you are not minding their business, you are minding your own business.

When you make a public records request, you are not asking local records custodians to give you something that just belongs to them or the office where they work. You are simply asking for your own documents.

The Bill of Rights, specifically the First Amendment which guarantees the freedom of speech and the freedom of press, is not intended to protect the media per se. Rather, the founders built a hedge of protection around the media because the media guards and fights for the public's right to know.

According to a Brookings Institution report, more than 2,000 newspapers across the country ceased publication in the last 15 years or so. The shuttering of newspapers presents a very real and present danger to our most basic freedoms. That's why communities should support their local newspapers, through subscriptions and advertising, now more than ever before.

Journalists keep an eye on government, shine the light on its actions, fight the good fight for access to documents and meetings, champion transparency and defend the First Amendment because of a core belief in your basic, fundamental rights — principally, your right to know.

CNHI Deputy National Editor Jim Zachary is the President of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He can be reached a jzachary@cnhi.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Renata's many hats

Photo and story submitted by TERESA MURDOCH

Renata Nichols not only wears her hairnet in Alder School's kitchen as she cooks for her students and staff, but she has donned many different hats throughout the years.

Nichols was born in 1962 on a dairy Farm in Switzerland. Her first degree acquired was a Pharmaceutical Technician degree. After working as a pharmacist for many years, she was in the Interpol Office. From there she joined the police force and donned her police cap for 13 years.

After vacationing in the United States a couple of times, Nichols decided to submit paperwork to become a green card holder, and in 2011 she became a United States citizen.

One of her first jobs here was at the Alder KOA. She donned her cowboy hat as the Manager for the Garden Creek Grazing Association. "That was an awesome job! Sure loved dealing with MY cows," Nichols said.

Later she donned her cook's hat at the Ruby Valley Nursing Home kitchen and learned the ropes of a commercial cooking operation from an awesome mentor, Joanne Galiger.

In 2014, Nichols was hired as the Alder School Cook.

Some Alder School students wrote their feelings about Ms. Renata.

Maggie Baker says that Ms. Renata is a great friend. "She loves kids and she is nice."

James Brook says, "I really like your food. My favorite food is your cheeseburgers. You make the best food ever that I have tasted."

Max Gilman stated that she is nice and strong. "She has the best food I have ever tasted, and I think we are lucky to have her as our cook."

Rowdy Root stated, "She cooks good chicken and her salad bar is also very good, plus she's very nice."

"Absolutely love, love, love feeding and interacting with those kiddos!" Nichols said.

Since 2016, Nichols has been heavily involved in the Montana School Nutrition Association Board and with the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF). Nichols recently won a School State Ambassador competition award from SNF. As a SNF State Ambassador, she helps us support our members and spread our mission to all the members in Montana.

With this award, she won a trip to the SNR convention in Nashville, but since she is unable to attend, she is graciously transferring the award to another local school cook.

Whenever someone is in need, Nichols is one of the first people to provide comfort and support.

IMERYS Talc
YELLOWSTONE MINE

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

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.
PROUD VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR

We are Open for the Winter Season!
JOIN US FOR
Dinner
Thursday- Saturday 5pm to 9pm
Brunch
Sunday 9am to 2pm
Reservations are Recommended
Weekly Dinner Menus Available on Our Website!
Call Us at 684.5959 for More Information
THE OLD HOTEL
Rustic Charm, Brilliant Cuisine in Twin Bridges...
101 E. 5th Avenue • Twin Bridges, MT
www.theoldhotel.com
406-684-5959

Virginia City Volunteer Fire Department's
Cake Walk
CANCELED
28th | 6pm
Please send donations to:
VCRFD Auxilliary, P.O. Box 164,
Virginia City, Mt 59755
Info? Call 843-5454

Pet of the Week
Because it's time to meet your match

Can you believe someone would just abandoned me? I couldn't believe it either. I was running around trying to find them, but no one but nice young man who pulled into the store took any interest in helping me. He rescued me and brought me to the lady. I get lots of attention, but not enough, I'm almost 9 months old now, tested negative for FIV/FeLV, vaccinated for this year and am now spayed. I'm all ready for you to adopt me so I will get to play with you and give you lots of loving. Purrease call Misty at 439-1405 and come soon. Hayley

McLeod Mercantile
2 convenience store locations
Norris & Sheridan
Bulk fuel delivery in Madison & Jefferson counties
(406)685-3379
24 Hour fueling **snacks**
fishing licenses, bait & tackle

FIND FELLOWSHIP WITH US

Contact your place of worship for current guidelines.

LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

BREAKFAST SERVED EACH WEDNESDAY AT 7 A.M.

MARCH 4:
M.V. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 11:
M.V. BAPTIST CHURCE

MARCH 18:
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 25:
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 1:
ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Monthly Open Bible Study & Discussion
Families, kids & everyone welcomed!
4th Saturday each month 2-5pm
Twin Bridges
Senior & Community Center
March 23 topic: Book of Esther
Info (406) 684-5181 Scott or Dawn

Christian Science Services

Sunday Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

ALL WELCOME

Each week a Bible lesson full of healing Christian concepts is read aloud in our Sunday service.

4983 US Hwy 287 N. • Ennis, Montana

www.ChristianScience.com

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church

Will Stevens, Pastor
682-4949

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

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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

Bishop Shaw 684-5255

HARRISON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Harrison, Montana
Adult Bible Study ~ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Church Services ~ 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Joe Miller
Come Worship & Sing Praises To Our God. Spread the Word!

Madison Valley Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP
September - April ~ 11 a.m.
May - August ~ 9:30 a.m.
Everyone Welcome, Fully Accessible
In communion with ELCA, UCC, RCA
Rev. STEVE HUNDLEY
682-4355 ~ Ennis
Corner of S. Charles & W. Hugel

MADISON COUNTY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4pm at
St. Joseph's, Sheridan
Sunday at 11 am
St.Patrick's, Ennis
Sunday 9:30am at
St. Mary's, Laurin
Sunday at 8 am
Notre Dame, Twin Bridges
Saturday at 4 pm
St. Joseph's, Sheridan
Weekday Mass:
Tuesday and Thursday 7:30am at St. Joseph's
Wednesday 9am at St. Patrick's

Please call the Rectory for the daily Mass schedule at 842-5588
Father John Crutchfield, Pastor

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

The Church of Word and Sacrament
Visitors Welcome

Pastor Ken Stensrud
- Sunday Service 9:00 am
- Bible Study 10:15 am
- Sunday School 10:15 am

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

THE BAHA'I FAITH

The Great Being saith: O ye children of men! The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. Suffer it not to become a source of dissension and discord, of hate and enmity. This is the straight Path, the fixed and immovable foundation.

www.bahai.org | 406-451-3923
Bahá'ís of Madison County

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Loving God, Loving People

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Ministries
Kids Club Submerge (K-6) 3:15 PM
Family Dinner 5:30 PM
Youth and Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM

Pastor Greg Ledgerwood

402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
682-4197

Valley Assembly

Love Jesus • Love People • Reach the Valley

114 N. Main, Sheridan
842-5845
Pastor Duane B. Deshner
Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Valley Kids- after school to 6:45 p.m.

Ruby Valley Food Pantry- Saturdays 10 a.m.-Noon

Our mission is to Love Jesus, Love People, and Reach the Valley.

Madison County Episcopal Churches

In full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

Trinity
Jeffers/Ennis
10 *a.m.* **adult forum**
11:00 *a.m.*

St. Paul's
Virginia City
Sunday
9:00 *a.m.*

Christ Church
Sheridan
Sunday
10:00 *a.m.*
Bible Study
9:00 *a.m.*

www.rvec.org

Prayer requests:
682-4199 843-5296 842-7713

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

Phil 2:16
Holding forth the word of life:
Dr. Ray Teston
Pastor
Peter Rosenberger
Minister of Music

Sunday School ~ 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.
Weds. Nights ~ prayer meeting 6 p.m.

5050 Hwy 287, *PO Box 668, Ennis, MT*
Phone 682-4244 SBC
MADISON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Aides for the hearing impaired

Ruby Valley United Methodist Parish

Invites You To Worship With Us

Reverend Tonya Whaley
Office: (406) 842-5934

Church of the Valley
Twin Bridges
Worship & Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Bethel UMC
Sheridan
Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Ready Set Grow Preschool
Contact Donna Gilman 596-0456

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

GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

WEARING SHARING

The Full Armour of God

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00AM at the Alder School
ALDER, MT
Sunday School 9AM

Christ-Centered • Bible Based Teaching
Open Question Forum

(406) 842-5915
Pastor Tom Luksha

AREA SENIOR MEALS

Contact for current updates.

ENNIS SENIOR CENTER

315 W Main Street

The Ennis Senior Center has suspended congregate dining (dine-in) & activities until further notice. Our Meals-on-Wheels delivery will continue to operate; and we will have the published menu meals available to pick-up (take-out) between noon-1:00. We will expand our Meals on Wheels delivery for those that are shut-in and have no means to pick-up. Please call 682-4422 in advance to request a take out or be set up for Meals on Wheels. Orders can be placed through our website: www.ennisseniorcenter.org. We request a donation of $5.00. We apologize for this inconvenience and to those who enjoy the socialization that comes with dining in and staying for activities after lunch.

We may also need additional volunteers to deliver meals, call the senior center or send email to ennis.seniorcenter@gmail.com.

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.

SENIOR CENTER, SHERIDAN

The Sheridan Senior Center offers meals for seniors 60 years and older. Seniors may choose to eat at the Senior Center, family style for $4 or have their meals delivered for $4.50 (Meals on Wheels). Meals on Wheels are within the city limits of Sheridan and should be called in by 10 a.m. Contact Shirley Sand at 842-5966. 201 Crofoot Street (the former Ruby Valley Medical Clinic).

VIRGINIA CITY CAFÉ

Senior meals for Madison County Seniors 60 and over will be served at the Virginia City Cafe on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for $4.00.

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. Fresh home baked bread served with each meal. Activities: Monday is Bingo with Gayle; Wednesday is cards, games and puzzles;
Blood pressure clinic (with county health nurse) - Each last Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

HOLLOW TOP SENIOR CITIZENS

Pony, Harrison and Norris. The Hollow Top Seniors meet at the Senior Citizen Center in Pony every Monday and Wednesday at noon. Call 685-3323 for more information.

— 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

– LIFERING –

A Life Ring group is starting in Ennis. Lifering is an abstinence-based, worldwide network of people seeking to live in recovery from addiction to alcohol or non-medically indicated drugs.

In Lifering, we offer each other peer-to-peer support to encourage personal growth and empowerment. Those interested in participating, can call 682-4463.

Did you know

682-7755

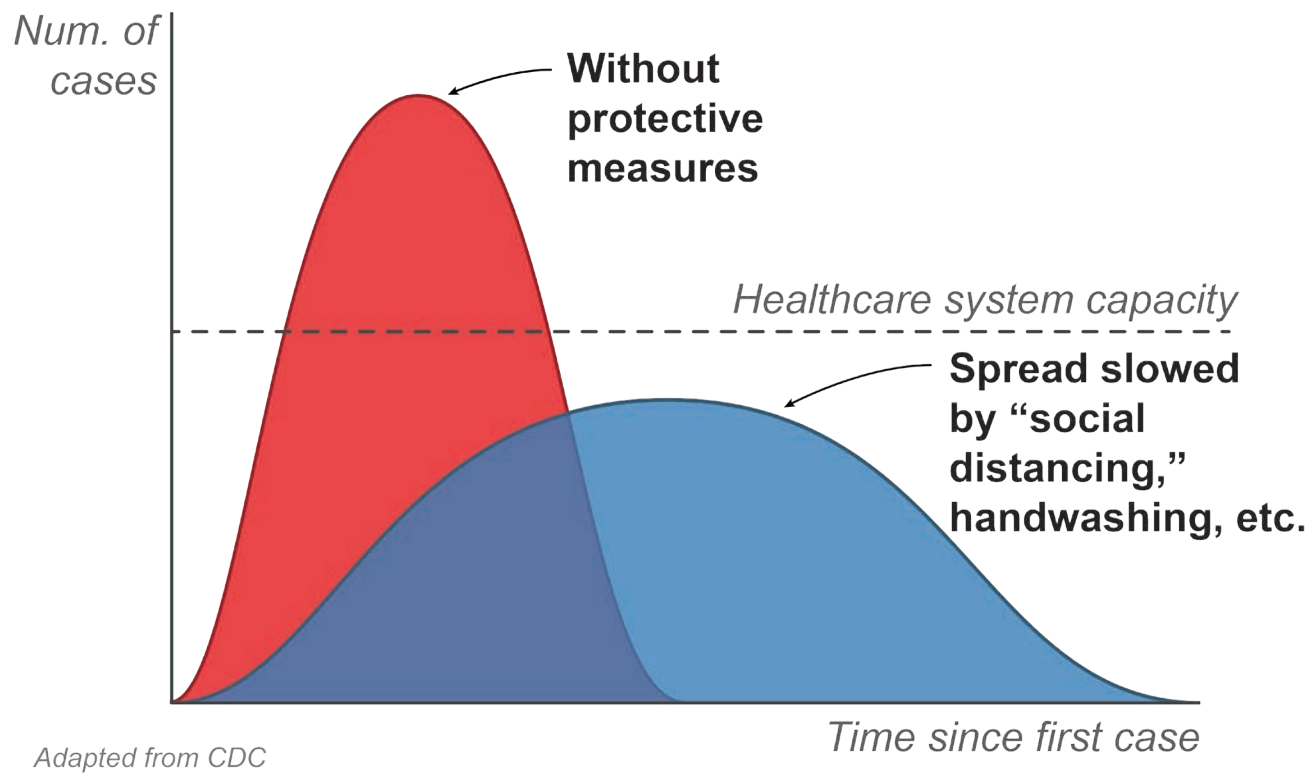
· Our obituaries are FREE up to 450 words. (25¢ for each word after 450)

· We offer 20% off non-profit advertising

· Lost and Found classifieds are FREE!

In the face of the rapidly changing environment, Madison County is taking preliminary precautions for coronovirus. Please call any county office, business or organization prior to planning on attending any activity.

Flattening the COVID-19 curve



Adapted from CDC

Do your part to "flatten the curve." Practice social distancing.

By Montana Free Press staff

You've probably heard the phrase "flatten the curve" used to describe the reasoning behind the need for social distancing, which is believed to be the nation's best bet to slow the spread of COVID-19.

What does that mean?

Health authorities around the world have been unable to completely prevent COVID-19's spread. If cases double every six days, then hospitals, and intensive care units (ICUs) in particular, will be quickly overwhelmed, leaving patients with coronavirus and other ailments without necessary care.

But the growth rate can be slowed by reducing the average number of cases that a single case gives rise to.

In doing so, the same number of people will probably be infected, and the epidemic will last longer, but the number of severe cases will be spread out. This means that if you plot a graph of the number of cases over time, the rising and falling curve is longer but its peak is lower. By "flattening the curve" in this way, ICUs will be less likely to run out of capacity.

Read more about flattening the curve:

http://theconversation.com/how-to-flatten-the-curve-of-coronavirus-a-mathematician-explains-133514?utm_source=News+Editors&utm_campaign=a969c71a04-RSS_EDITOR_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_24f52bde52-a969c71a04-201037489&mc_cid=a969c71a04&mc_eid=d2a41c44cc

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

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

2 p.m.
Crafters Unite, Twin Bridges
Twin Bridges Library

5:15 P.M.
First and Third Monday of Every Month. Free Meditation Classes at Sheridan Public Library.

6 p.m.
Dementia Caregiver Support Group
This support group provides emotional, educational and social support for family and friend of individuals with dementia. Join the group at the Sheridan Senior Center.

TUESDAYS

9 a.m.
Historic Newspaper Reading Group
At the Sheridan Public Library.

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

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

6 p.m.
First and Third Tuesday of Every Month
Dementia Care Giver Support Group
Join us at the Tobacco Root Care Center Conference Room. The third Tuesday is a training session.

6:30 p.m.
Second and fourth Tuesday of every month
Mental Health Support Group
Join us at the Madison Valley Medical Center (emergency room entrance)

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

Open Table Tennis, Pony 7 - 9 p.m.
For all ages and skill levels - Two Tables at the Pony School.

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

WEDNESDAYS

8:30 a.m.
TOPS, Ennis
Weekly weigh-ins are at 9 a.m.
Meetings at 9:30 a.m.
MVMC in downstairs conference room.

9:30 a.m.
Yoga with Emily
Join us for yoga with Emily at the Thompson- Hickman Madison County Library community room.

10:30 a.m.
Story Hour, Twin Bridges
Twin Bridges Library

10:30 a.m.
Books and Babies, Ennis
Madison Valley Public Library.
First Wednesday of Every Month
Bugs and Bourbon
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Have a drink and tie some flies at Willie's Distillery. This is a free fly-tying workshop for everyone. Beartooth Fly Fishing provides the materials and Tavern 287 provides snacks.

6 – 7:30 p.m.
Open Mic Night
Grab the mic at Willie's Distillery. Musicians, poets, comedians and story tellers are all welcome.

THURSDAYS

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

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

2 p.m.
Knitting Club
At the Sheridan Public Library. On the second Thursday of the month, meet at the Ruby Valley Brewery.

7 p.m.
Movie at Sheridan Public Library
First and Third Thursday of Every Month

FRIDAYS

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

5:30 p.m.
Live Music, Ennis
Buzz in Friday night with live music and a drink.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

7 p.m.
Live Music - Norris

SATURDAYS

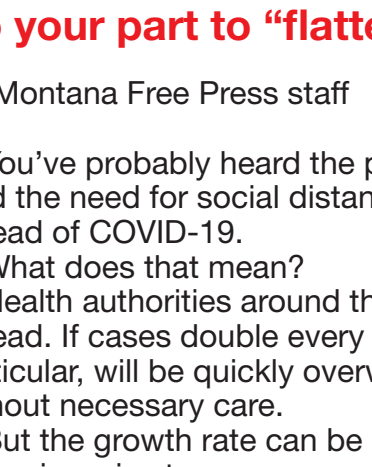
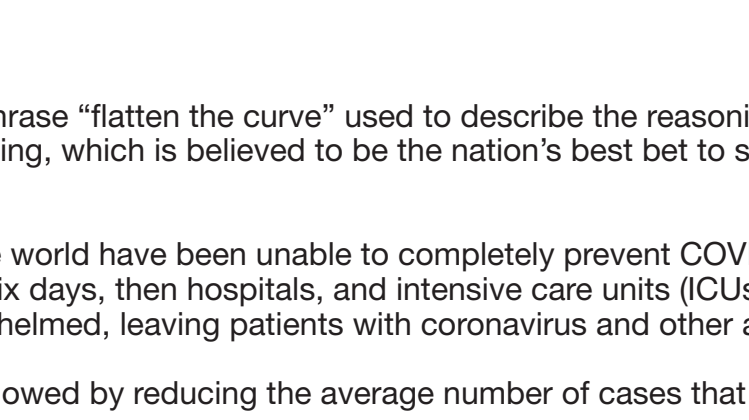
11 A.M.
First and Third Saturday of Every Month. Romp & Rhythm Story Time at Madison Valley Library.

SUNDAYS

2 p.m.
Live Music, Ennis
Willlie's Distillery hosts live music in the tasting room

1:30 p.m.
Second Sunday of Every Month
Sheridan Book Club
At the Sheridan Public Library.

SUNDAYS
JAN. 19- MARCH 29

10 a.m.
Elks Lodge Brunch and Bingo
Come over to Virginia City for brunch and bingo at the Elks Lodge.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO POST AN EVENT ON OUR EVENTS WEBSITE, OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET