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Thursday, January 18, 2024

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Southwest Montana braced for cold weather

ICE JAMS TRIGGER FLOOD WATCHES



The Madison River gorged during the recent cold snap. As of Monday morning, January 15, the gorge had made its way up past the Ennis Fishing Access and beyond. PHOTO COURTESY ED COYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Adapted from a press release submitted by CASSIE WANDERSEE, DNRC

Despite the initial warmth experienced earlier this winter, Montana is now

grappling with a prolonged period of sub-zero temperatures and arctic cold fronts. This abrupt shift serves as a timely reminder that weather patterns can change unexpectedly, necessitating vigilance and awareness of potential ice jam flooding.

Ice jam flooding, a phenomenon prevalent along Montana's rivers and streams, occurs when sub-zero temperatures precede sudden warm-ups, typically from now until March. Additionally, spring breakup can trigger ice jams as temperatures

rise. Traci Sears, the Montana National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, emphasizes the importance of remaining observant to rapidly changing conditions

FLOOD WATCHES continued on A2

Ennis Town Hall: After continued discussion, Lions Club Park discussion tabled

COMMISSION SEAT FILLED

By LIZ MANNARINO
reporter@madisoniannews.com

The Ennis Town Commission appointed local resident and business owner, John Way, to fill the available commission seat at last week's Town Hall meeting. Way, the owner of The Tackle Shop on Main Street in Ennis,

has previous parliamentary experience with governance through State legislature and the Board of Outfitters.

Resolution 595-2023 to Approve Camping Permit was passed unanimously by the Commission. Visitors interested in staying overnight in designated areas will need to pick up and file a permit at the Ennis Chamber. The

TOWN HALL continued on A3

Sheridan Town Meeting, Jan. 8, 2024

BUDGET ON TRACK GOING INTO 2024

By KATE JOKI ROSE
news@madisoniannews.com

Sheridan Town Council's first meeting of the new year picked up where it left off with a public hearing for the Growth Plan Policy Modification. The change in language simply allows for other changes needed in the future thus it made for a short hearing. The final reading and vote will occur at the February meeting.

In the regular meeting Mayor Edwards confirmed that the

SHERIDAN continued on A3

Local elections 2024 FILING DATES

By CORI KOENIG
editor@madisoniannews.com

As national conversation hones in on caucuses and primaries, Madison County has also entered a new election year. In 2024 Madison County has only two open positions for the Federal Elections in June and November (both will be polling place Elections). These will be Commission District One and Public Administrator. Filing

opened January 11 and will close at 5 p.m. on March 11, 2024.

Special District filings opened Dec. 14, 2023 and close at 5 p.m. on Feb. 12, 2024 with the mail election to be held May 7, 2024.

School Trustee filings opened December 14, 2023 and close at 5 p.m. on March 28, 2024 with the mail election to be held May 7, 2024, according to Paula McKenzie, Madison County Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator.

Ennis School District adds portable classroom



A new portable classroom is now in use at Ennis Schools. PHOTO COURTESY KYLE STONE

Submitted by KYLE STONE,
Ennis School Board Chair

Following the holiday break, the Ennis School District began using a new portable classroom

located in the parking area East of the Votec Building. The classroom purchase was approved by the Board of Trustees in November and addresses a shortage of classroom space currently in the high school. The new classroom is cur-

PORTABLE CLASSROOM continued on A3

Madison County Board of Commissioners (MCBC) meeting Jan. 9, 2024

SECURITY CAMERAS & APPROVALS

By CORI KOENIG
editor@madisoniannews.com

The brief regular commission meeting began with annual January agenda items to approve resolutions 1-2024, 2-2024, 3-2024, 4-2024, 5-2024 for conducting regular county business. Of note, meetings are once again

being held in the public meeting room of the Administrative Building.

Brett Schriock, IT Director presented options of security camera systems for the landfills as well as the Fairgrounds and other larger locations. Schriock recommended purchasing one and testing it at location and the commissioners agreed. The Sanitarian Depart-

MCBC continued on A2



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FLOOD WATCHES from A1

throughout the winter season. "We urge residents to always be prepared for the possibility of flooding," says Sears.

A sequence of sub-zero temperatures followed by a rapid warm-up can lead to the formation of ice jams, also known as ice dams — clusters of ice obstructing river or stream flow. As melting ice starts to move, it can become lodged at bridges, bends, or narrower reaches, sometimes causing flash floods during sudden breakups downstream.

"The result can cause dangerous conditions for those living adjacent to ice jams when the water has nowhere to go causing rapid flooding with little or no warning," said Sears.

Late last week, the National Weather Service announced flood watches for the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Madison and Jefferson rivers as temperatures plummeted and ice began to build.

"Ice jamming continues to be an ongoing issue on both sides of the mountain. The National Weather Service is going to lift the flood watch for the Big Hole River, but we will have to continue to monitor the Beaverhead, Madison, and Jefferson Rivers for ice jamming and potential flooding. This is a significant area to cover, so if you are out and see an area of concern, please give us a call," wrote Joseph Brummell, Director Disaster and Emergency Services in his weekly situation report on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

In addition to threatening homes and private property,

rising waters can impact fishing access sites, roads, and hiking trails, prompting closures. Sears advises residents living near rivers or streams to develop a flood evacuation plan and consider the following precautions:

- Purchase flood insurance, as it typically needs to be acquired 30 days before a flood event.
- Ensure an adequate supply of drinking water, as flooding may compromise local water systems.
- Clear snow from homes and structures to prevent potential issues.
- Be prepared to transport or elevate valuables where practical.
- Never venture onto a frozen river or ice jam, as thermal currents in rivers are unpredictable and ice stability can change rapidly, leading to injury or drowning.
- Keep a vigilant eye on children and pets when near rivers and streams during winter recreation.

To learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, visit <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>. Additional flood insurance information is available from the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Office Flood Insurance at <https://csimt.gov/your-insurance/flood/>.

For up-to-date information on stream flows and potential flood conditions, visit the Montana All-Hazards Weather Monitor website at https://www.weather.gov/byz/montana_statewide_information.



e Jeerson River at Hells Canyon. PHOTO COURTESY DAN ROSE



At the time of this writing, there is an ice flow flood alert on the Big Hole River between Melrose (top) and Pennington (bottom.) PHOTOS COURTESY DAN ROSE

MCBC from A1

ment digitization project was discussed along with additional uses for the new program countywide.

Lance Bowser from Robert Peccia and Associates presented on an environmental clearance associated with some property acquired for the Ennis Big Sky Airport several years ago. The clearance includes the acquisition and improvements on the ten acre site. MCBC approved the Documented Categorical Exclusion (Catex) (Land/Future Development) for submission to the FAA. Bowser noted that the U.S. Supreme Court recently made a decision regarding wet-

lands that will affect the Madison County airports. "Wetlands are no longer a concern unless they directly connect to [water] bodies of the U.S.," said Bowser. Madison County has previously paid impacts regarding wetlands in regards to the Ennis Big Sky Airport.

The Big Sky Trails, Recreation and Parks District (BSTRP) assessment certification process was briefly discussed again. Montana Code Annotated outlines that whatever taxes are issued have to be collected in the same manner as property taxes, thus making the original idea of sending an

additional letter to collect not an option. The County Attorney's office is looking into further options for collecting. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Approvals included: Resolution: 1-2024 Setting Mileage Rates for Calendar Year 2024; 2-2024 A Resolution Setting Dates for Commission Meetings; 3-2024 A Resolution Setting County Office Hours; 4-2024 A Resolution Establishing Locations for Posting Public Notice; 5-2024 A Resolution Establishing Agenda Items Submission Time Frame; executing the Seyler Bridge

Docusign agreement; an applicant for the Sheridan/Alder Parks recreation board provided the existing board recommends the candidate; road supervisor salary at \$78,000/year in an exempt capacity; and Ennis Big Sky Airport – Documented Catex (Land/Future Development) for Ennis Big Sky Airport for submission to the FAA.

*For any who are interested in any discussion, motions or context, all Madison County Board of Commissioner meetings are recorded and available at <https://www.madisoncountymt.gov/AgendaCenter.1978>

January BSRAD Board meeting in Big Sky

BSRAD RECONVENES FOR 2024

By LIZ MANNARINO
reporter@madisoniannews.com

The Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) held their first monthly meeting since the holidays on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024. With a fresh start to the new year, the board began its meeting to discuss its reserve strategy. Born during the Covid-19 pandemic and the realization of what's needed to support a community proactively, the overall reserve goal is to increase incremental growth of \$1 million annually over three subcommittees. The board approved unanimously to guide funding for fiscal years 2024-26 into its Operation, Emergency, and Capital reserve investments. The latter being dedicated to long term infrastructure goals.

Resolution 2023-02 FY25 is a part of a process the board utilizes to increase clarity to the general public for allocation funding for the next fiscal year. The board discussed the scoring system that will be utilized as buckets of funding in areas such as public works, housing and economic development, among others. "In response to the growing needs of our community and to provide additional clarity, BSRAD has updated District procedures, rules and methodologies for allocations of Government and Nonprofit funding. These updates proactively determine budgets by impact area, balancing current priorities with the use of public funds. Months of budgeting discussions resulted in a resolution outlining these procedures," according to the BSRAD website. More information can be found at <https://resorttax.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FY25-Funding-Priorities.pdf>. Approval of the resolution as presented was

	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget
Operating Reserve Goal	329,017	340,785	352,712
Emergency Reserve Goal	1,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Capital Reserve Goal	3,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000
Reserve Goal	\$4,829,017	\$6,840,785	\$7,852,712

Proposed traffic circle at the intersection of US191/MT64. PHOTO COURTESY BSRAD



PROPOSED TRAFFIC CIRCLE. PHOTO COURTESY BSRAD

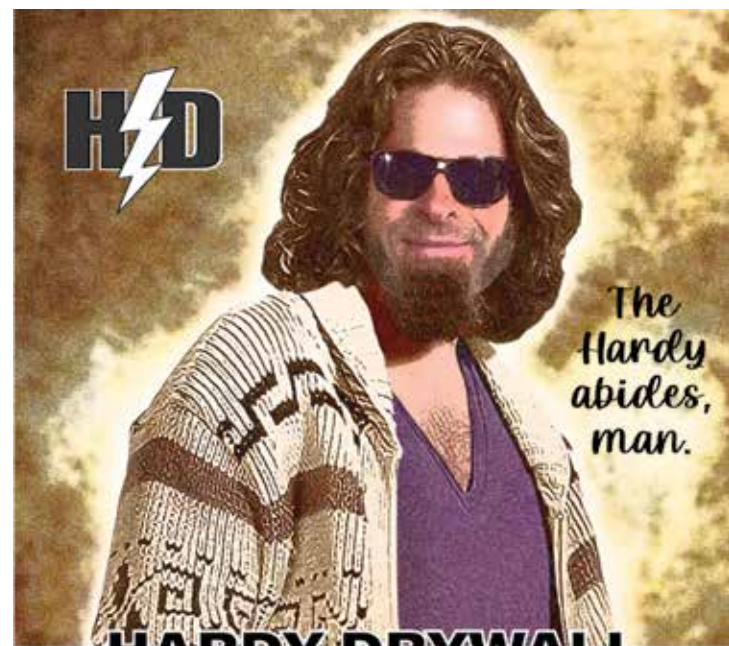
passed unanimously.

The Canyon Water and Sewer District requested an extension from the board for its feasibility study to extend until June 30, 2024 which was approved unanimously. The District has been studying options for the enhancement and expansion to the current wastewater project. This includes a pipeline from the Gallatin River in order to improve its water quality with the intention to pump mediocre effluent from the river area's septic tanks, direct it to the new and more efficient treatment plant, then discharge the higher quality wastewater for re-use and

irrigation. The project is approved by the DEQ, and payment methods including ARPA, grants, EPA funding and tax increment funding are being explored.

US191/MT64 study involves the influx of traffic in recent years along the main route into Big Sky. In recent years, traffic has become a critical issue with requested assistance from Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) for alternatives. "The challenge is there's only so much space," said BSRAD executive director Daniel Bierschwale. After reviewing a few simulations, the preferred solution involves slip lanes north and southbound

on 191 moving into MT64 with a roundabout. Cloverleaf style ramps were deemed unfeasible with the surrounding landscape. The landowners in the area who own the parcels of property where the proposed traffic circle would exist have been engaged in the discussion. While hoping these owners will see the benefit to the community, the board is exploring options to obtain the property through easement or purchase. When asked about the process of eminent domain Bierschwale explained that the collective effort takes roughly 30 years and is not an option worth exploring.



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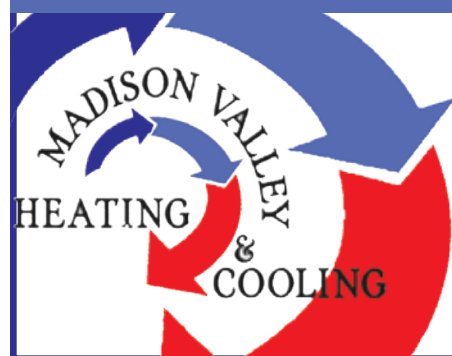
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TOWN HALL from A1



ordinance is written that permit holders will need to vacate the premises between the hours of 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Commission approved a \$200 stipend to be applied for Friends of the Library to cover refreshment expenses and use of the meeting room for the Re-imagining Rural Program.

The discussion regarding the Lions Club Park Lease Agreement has been tabled for a future meeting.

Newly elected commissioner John Way. PHOTO BY LIZ MANNARINO

PORTABLE CLASSROOM from A1

rently planned to be used for our Spanish, Psychology and Health education classes. "This portable classroom will give our students and staff an environment more conducive to learning with fewer

distractions. In addition, it offers a more safe and secure environment compared to being above the library," said Superintendent Casey Klasna.

The portable classroom was

purchased using Building Reserve Funds due to the safety improvement the added classroom creates. The classes were previously held in the open-air loft above the library.

SHERIDAN from A1

evident throughout the remainder of the meeting.

Sheriff Hedges brought good news with the hire of two new officers who are currently at the academy. His monthly update for Sheridan included seven ambulance calls, two welfare checks and one firearms call. The latter was inconclusive and may have been fireworks. The Fire Chief stated that the fenced in hydrant, referenced at the last meeting, had been resolved between the department and the homeowner. The sign on Main Street being

utilized by Philly Saxson continues to be a topic. At the council's request Saxson is getting liability insurance to cover it. There is still however no solution. Permission was given to use the sign by a previous mayor and Saxson owns the properties nearest that corner sign. Legal advice is being sought and the topic will be added to future agenda.

The Ruby Valley swimming pool is seeking funds to purchase a badly needed liner. Grants and other potential funding sources are being looked into. In other fi-

ancial notes, Edwards proposed investing a portion of available funds into a Opportunity Bank CD with returns of \$7-17,000. They would not be investing ARPA or any other allocated funds per Edwards. The council is opting for the shorter four-month CD as an investment.

Sheridan resident Penn Spell, a retired attorney from Atlanta ("I'm no snowbird!") was appointed to the Madison County Planning Board.

RUBY RIVER CONDITIONS

January 17, 2024

Submitted by DAVE DELISI dave@rubyhabitat.org

Dante, meandering toward the bottom of a Guggenheim-shaped version of The Underworld, passing from one concentric ring to the next, each layer containing sinners whose crimes were worse than those committed by the poor sots in the last ring, finally meets the demon himself standing locked in a frozen lake of ice. Meanwhile, in the Ruby Valley this past weekend, the temperatures plummeted to demon-freezing levels, AND

we had wind which was never mentioned in The Inferno, so it's safe to say we were colder than, well, than Hades, and Dante's demon could have had it worse. Reports varied a bit, with -33F in the lower Ruby and some saying colder than -45F in the Upper Ruby. Going outside in this weather, properly attired of course, brings rewards of an extraordinary sort. Standing still, which you won't want to do for long, yields an auditory assault of silence, pure and complete because the snow seems to absorb the sounds you'd otherwise hear. The occasional bird may flutter by and you'll

hear the rhythm of its wings as if piped directly to your ears—even if you are wearing, wisely, multiple hats of the literal sort. Fishing: just fuggettaboutit. The river is anchored in place, clutching the bed and banks with a tenacity that might last till summer. Be aware that water is still flowing somewhere, though, and this can lead to flooding in unexpected places as water finds its way. The air itself is bejeweled with frozen, floating crystals which reflect the sun and bring more delight. The cold is no joke, so be careful, but, even if it's just for 10 minutes, go outside to experience this rare event!



As the temperatures dropped, the river exhaled its residual heat. PHOTO COURTESY RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION



WEEKLY RIVER CONDITIONS AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL WITH MORE BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY, CONTACT:

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First pediatric influenza death for 2023-24 season confirmed in Montana

DPHHS ENCOURAGES MONTANANS TO CONSIDER GETTING VACCINATED AGAINST RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

Submitted by JON EBELT, DPHHS

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is reporting today the untimely death of a Big Horn County resident under the age of 18 years due to influenza.

DPHHS confirms that this is the 11th influenza-related death in Montana, as of Jan. 5, 2024, and the first pediatric death of the 2023-2024 influenza season.

In Montana, the last flu-related pediatric death occurred during the 2022-2023 influenza season when one person under the age of 18 died.

Montana is currently experiencing widespread influenza activity with cases and outbreaks reported in 49 of the 56 counties (88%).

Montana reported 5,759 confirmed cases of influenza and 304 influenza-related hospitalizations between Oct. 1, 2023, and Dec. 30, 2023. Current data for influenza can be found on the new Montana Influenza Dashboard available at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/influenza/index>

COVID-19 is also circulating widely in the state. Between Oct. 1, 2023, and Dec. 30, 2023, 9,094 COVID-19 cases have been reported, including 530 hospitalizations and 55 deaths. Montanans of all age groups have been getting ill due to COVID-19; however, individuals over the age of 60 years have higher rates of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19.

The number of people ill due to respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continues to increase across the state. DPHHS has launched an online dashboard with current data for each condition. Visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/dis->

eases/Pan-RespiratoryDashboard to view the latest information.

Vaccination remains the best form of protection against serious outcomes of these diseases, such as hospitalization or death due to infection. Older adults, infants, and persons with weakened immune systems and other chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease) are at greatest risk for hospitalization and death due to infection, but healthy children and adults can still experience severe disease.

Vaccines are available for COVID-19, influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia, and RSV. To find vaccine locations, visit vaccines.gov, or contact your local health department or health care provider.

- Updated COVID-19 vaccines are available for Montanans ages six months and older.

- Several flu vaccines are available for Montanans ages 6 months and older. One dose offers protection for the full season (October – June).

- Pneumococcal vaccines help protect against a deadly form of bacterial pneumonia, which is the most serious form of pneumococcal disease. Older persons and those with chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, existing lung disease) are at higher risk for contracting this disease and experiencing serious health outcomes.

- Adults 60 years and older are eligible to receive RSV vaccines after discussion with their health care provider.

- Infants and young children under 24 months old may be eligible to receive a monoclonal antibody product that offers protection from severe RSV infection.

Montanans are encouraged to consult with a health care provider to determine their recom-

mended vaccine options heading into this respiratory season.

In addition to vaccination, Montanans can take everyday precautions to help stop the spread of respiratory illness. Those precautions include:

- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness. If you have a fever, stay home for at least 24 hours until after the fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication, unless you need to seek medical care.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol in it.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Cover your mouth with your inner elbow or a disposable tissue anytime you cough or sneeze.

- Avoid contact with people experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu, RSV, and other respiratory illnesses are similar and may include a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, body aches, and low energy. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, consult with your medical provider. Your provider may recommend that you get tested to confirm a diagnosis. Antiviral medications are available for certain individuals with influenza or COVID-19 infections.

Anyone experiencing symptoms such as trouble breathing, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new onset of confusion or disorientation, inability to stay awake, or other severe or concerning symptoms should seek immediate medical evaluation.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KEEPING ONE ANOTHER SAFE

Cold snap brings need of helpers

By THE MADISONIAN STAFF

The extreme weather that settled in late last week had emergency responders and Good Samaritans traveling the road hopping.

Since the last weekly situation report, Madison County staff and volunteers responded to two structure fires, three chimney fires, one earthquake and lots of ice jamming, according to the Department of Disaster and Emergency Services.

Many reports of friendly neighbors layering up to

help feed livestock or start reluctant vehicles were received.

"If you see any firefighters, EMS personnel, dispatchers, or law enforcement personnel, please thank them for all their hard work during this cold spell," wrote Joseph Brummell Director Disaster and Emergency Services in the Tuesday, Jan. 16 Situation Report.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who pitched in one way or another to help the community through the recent cold snap.



Reports of neighbors helping neighbors take care of livestock in the cold snap were received. PHOTO COURTESY DAN ROSE

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CORRECTION:

In last week's story, "Madison Valley Hospital District withdrawal hearing set Big Sky Wellness District initiative", Big Sky Area Resort (BSRAD) executive director Daniel Bierschwale's name was misspelled. The Madisonian apologizes for the confusion.

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OPINION

Big Sky's big plans

Dear Editor,

Big Sky has big plans for themselves. \$777 million worth of capital improvement to be exact. Quietly, an unscrupulous scheme is afoot by wealthy land developers and residents in Big Sky to partially fund this venture and to reduce their tax burdens, by redirecting millions of dollars from Madison County tax districts to Big Sky coffers. This coalition of developers and residents who live within the boundaries of Madison County and Big Sky Resort Area District have petitioned Madison County Commissioners to withdraw from our local hospital district, and have plans to do the same with our local school and library districts.

To put things in perspective,

over 80% of Madison Valley Medical Center's total hospital district revenue is derived from that small sliver of land. Tax dollars legitimately derived within Madison County boundaries. Despite evidence to the contrary, including MVMC regularly traveling to Big Sky to perform health care services, they falsely argue they "do not have reasonable access" to services provided from hospital district funding. If successful in convincing Commissioners to secede from our tax districts, this would represent an existential threat to the health care services offered to patients from Cardwell to Reynolds Pass and likely mean a significant rise in taxes to make up for the loss. School district funding would be next on their hit list. A curious

way to treat a neighboring community whose human infrastructure commutes to Big Sky on a daily basis for work in the service and construction industry.

For over a century, long before the first mansion was built in Big Sky, Madison County boundaries have remained unchanged. Both citizens and businesses alike have established themselves and grown, presumably fully aware of their location and tax responsibilities. Those counties, in turn, have since grown and developed ways and means of providing services to their residents, based largely upon the tax base within those historical boundaries. As they should. To suddenly have those rural services gutted for the benefit of a resort community with its own hospital would be

devastating to local rural health-care services.

Twenty five years before the first chair opened at Big Sky Resort, a dedicated group of citizens campaigned to bring resident medical services to the Madison Valley. Since 1949, MVMC has been a pillar in our community. The efforts of billion dollar land barons in Big Sky threaten the legacy which Doc Losee started. Please let your Commissioners know how dangerous this is to our rural communities who rely on these services. And voice your concerns at the hearing, slated for January 18th.

Justin Edge
Ennis, MT

Wake up people

Dear Editor,

Most of us are "aware" of what's going on with our southern border. But until one actually sees it with their own eyes you really can't understand it from the bubble we live in here in Ennis.

We flew out of San Antonio, Texas on Jan. 3rd and when my wife and I hit TSA there were 90-100 immigrants in a line that

we entered.

Each person had new shoes, new clothes, a cell phone and a gallon sized ziplock with papers and American currency. A TSA agent then announced, "For those of you who have ID or passports, come to this line."

My question was, "If these folks don't have ID or passports, what in the hell are they doing in an

airport?" I was told it was all part of the process.

We flew economy and we were in the last row, 38. By my guess, we were the only two non immigrants in the back 15 rows to Denver.

I'm 65 years old. Have worked since I was 14. I can't afford health care and basically work seven days a week and we are giv-

ing a free pass to immigrants that do nothing to get here free health care, cash and voting rights?

Wake up people. We're losing who we are. Rapidly. Write your elected officials. Make your voice heard. Control our borders.

Dino Fanelli
Ennis, MT

OBITUARIES

Robert Miles Lovejoy
August 26, 1958 - January 5, 2024



Robert Miles Lovejoy of Sheridan, Mont., passed away January 5th. He passed away with his family beside him, after his long hard battle with cancer.

Bob was born on Aug. 26, 1958, to Robert and Doris Lovejoy in Arlington, Wash. Bob lived his first ten years of his life on the family's dairy farm along the Stillaguamish River. This started his lifelong love for fishing and the outdoors. In 1969, the Lovejoy family sold the dairy farm and moved to Twin Bridges, Mont. and bought the Blue Anchor Café & Bar.

Bob attended Twin Bridges High School. Bob remained in the area becoming a well-known fisherman, horseman/team roper and contractor. In his early adult years, he worked on ranches and was a fishing guide.

He knew every good fishing hole in Southwest Montana. Bob started his rodeo career around 1978. He went on to qualify and win the Montana Rodeo Association Finals with Tim Gress in 1982.

Bob met Jody Casey in 1991 and married her in 1996. They raised three wonderful children, Brady, Shelby & Robert.

Bob retired after many years as a well-known general contractor. He spent his retirement fishing, enjoying the outdoors and spending time with family. In 2022, Bob marked off a major bucket list item. He was able to go to Alaska on a fly-fishing trip

with his son Robert and friend, Rick. He spent his last year loving on his granddaughter that he adored more than anything.

Bob is predeceased by his parents, Robert & Doris Lovejoy. He is surviving by his wife, Jody Lovejoy; his sisters, Lynn Love and Marleen Martin; his three children, Brady Lovejoy, Shelby Zupan (Will Zupan) and Robert Lovejoy; and his most precious grandchild, Piper.

There will not be a funeral per Bob's wishes. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. (TBA)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBMITTED BY KARA WICKSTROM

JANUARY 5, 2024: Haven Marie Witt, 6 pounds, 2 ounces, a female born to Stephanie D'Angelo and Brett Witt at the Shane G. Lalani Family Birth Center at Livingston HealthCare.



Sheridan Public Library to host photographer reception

Submitted by WILLIAM TALBOTT

The Friends of the Sheridan Public Library will host a reception for local photographer Dan Rose on Sunday, January 21, from 3-5pm at the Sheridan Library. Rose is the library's Featured Artist for the month of January and his exhibit is the Sheridan Library's first since Covid.

Dan Rose is a local delivery driver and resident of the Ruby Valley, who has turned the many hours he spends on the roads and byways of Madison County

into a series of striking photographs of landscapes, animals and artifacts. His newspaper photographs may be familiar to the reader as may the cover and interior photos of the Winter edition of *The Loop Magazine*.

Rose's photographs will be on exhibit at the Sheridan Public Library in Sheridan through the end of January. His prints and postcards may be viewed or purchased at the reception or any time at the library.

For more information, contact William Talbott at the Sheridan Library at 406-842-5887.



Dan Rose with his photographs in the Sheridan Public Library. PHOTO COURTESY KATE JOKI ROSE

MADISON COUNTY DISPATCH

IN AREAS WITH LOW CELL SERVICE, A TEXT MESSAGE MAY BE SENT TO 911 IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

JANUARY 7

- A disturbance was reported in Big Sky.
- A motor vehicle accident was reported in Ennis.
- A traffic stop was conducted in Ennis.
- A hazard found on the road was reported in Ennis.
- A death investigation was conducted in Twin Bridges.
- A traffic complaint was reported in Norris.

- Domestic violence was reported in Cardwell.
- Fire or smoke was reported in Ennis.
- An attempt to locate was initiated in Whitehall.
- A 911 open line occurred in Twin Bridges.

- Ambulances were dispatched to Sheridan and Twin Bridges.
- Harassment was reported in Sheridan.
- Follow ups were initiated in Sheridan and Ennis.
- A welfare check was conducted in Ennis.

JANUARY 10

- A fire alarm was reported in Alder.
- Suspicious circumstances were reported in Harrison and Ennis.
- 911 hang ups occurred in Ennis and Big Sky.
- A 911 open line occurred in Big Sky.
- An attempt to locate was initiated in Ennis.
- An ambulance was dispatched to Twin Bridges.
- A follow up was initiated in Ennis.
- A traffic complaint was reported in Cameron.

- Ambulance patient transfers were dispatched to Sheridan and Dillon.
- A 911 open line occurred in Big Sky.
- A motor vehicle slide off was reported in McAllister.
- A citizen or motorist assist was performed in McAllister.
- Suspicious circumstances were reported in Sheridan.
- A burglar alarm was reported in Ennis.
- A motor vehicle accident was reported in McAllister.

JANUARY 8

- A death investigation was conducted in Sheridan.
- An ambulance was dispatched in McAllister.
- A motor vehicle slide off was reported in Ennis.
- Welfare checks were conducted in Pony and McAllister.
- Traffic stops were conducted in Norris and Twin Bridges.
- Ambulance patient transfers were dispatched to Ennis and Anaconda.

- 911 hang ups occurred in Ennis and Big Sky.
- An attempt to locate was initiated in Bozeman.
- An ambulance was dispatched to Twin Bridges.
- A follow up was initiated in Ennis.
- A traffic complaint was reported in Cameron.

- Suspicious circumstances were reported in Sheridan.
- A burglar alarm was reported in Ennis.
- A motor vehicle accident was reported in McAllister.

JANUARY 11

- Motor vehicle slide offs were reported in Cameron and Big Sky.
- A motorist or citizen's assist was performed in Harrison.
- A suspicious person was reported in Ennis.
- Traffic stops were conducted in McAllister and Ennis.
- Traffic complaints were reported in Ennis and Cameron.
- A disturbance was reported in Big Sky.
- An ambulance was dispatched to Ennis.
- Follow ups were initiated in Twin Bridges, Cameron and Ennis.
- Threats made were reported in Cameron.
- A disabled vehicle was reported in Ennis.
- A 911 hang occurred in Twin Bridges.
- A welfare check was conducted in Ennis.
- A fire with a downed utility line was reported in Ennis.

- A hazard found on the road was reported in Twin Bridges.
- A civil service was performed in Sheridan.
- An abandoned motor vehicle was reported in Ennis.
- 911 open lines occurred in Big Sky.
- Driving under the influence was reported in McAllister.
- An ambulance was dispatched to Sheridan.
- Fire or smoke was reported in Sheridan.
- A 911 hang up occurred in Big Sky.

JANUARY 9

- A burglar alarm was reported in Cameron.
- Civil services were performed in Ennis, Sheridan and Whitehall.
- A hazard found on the road was reported in Norris.
- 911 hang ups occurred in Ennis and Twin Bridges.
- An ambulance patient transfer was dispatched to Twin Bridges.
- A citizen or motorist assist was performed in Ennis.
- A motor vehicle accident was reported in Norris.
- A welfare check was conducted in Big Sky.
- A fire alarm was reported in McAllister.

- Motor vehicle slide offs were reported in Cameron and Big Sky.
- A motorist or citizen's assist was performed in Harrison.
- A suspicious person was reported in Ennis.
- Traffic stops were conducted in McAllister and Ennis.
- Traffic complaints were reported in Ennis and Cameron.
- A disturbance was reported in Big Sky.
- An ambulance was dispatched to Ennis.
- Follow ups were initiated in Twin Bridges, Cameron and Ennis.
- Threats made were reported in Cameron.
- A disabled vehicle was reported in Ennis.
- A 911 hang occurred in Twin Bridges.
- A welfare check was conducted in Ennis.
- A fire with a downed utility line was reported in Ennis.

JANUARY 12

- Traffic stops were conducted in Harrison and Ennis.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to 137 calls for service between January 7 and January 13. Concealed carry permits and fingerprinting services are available by appointment only. Call 406-843-5301 to schedule.

WANTED

The Montana Heritage Commission is seeking a concessionaire for a food service business in the building formerly known as Nacho Mama's in the heart of Virginia City.

- Approximately 600 sq feet
- Walk in freezer
- 3 compartment commercial sink
- 1/2 bathroom
- Back porch and grassy area behind for additional seating

The season usually runs from May through September each year with a proven track record of tourism success.

We are seeking candidates who are interested to please send their resume and qualifications to: **Elijah Allen, Executive Director**
MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION
406-369-8147 | callen@mt.gov

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4 PAWS RESCUE

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

Hi there. Just wanted to let you know I got adopted right away. Got a great home a couple counties north of here. I am so happy and I will never be abandoned again. I've got an older sister now, that's us playing in the photo, and we are so happy together. My new folks are really happy too. I get lots of cuddle time and it makes me so happy and content. Sure hope my friends at the Rescue get adopted to good homes like I have. Please contact Misty at (406)439-1405 and ask about them. -Bye now, Butters.

You can donate to them also as it helps feed us and take care of us medically. **You can see us on Adopt-A-Pet, PetFinder, RescueMe.org and Facebook**

BUTTERS

JESSICA SPROUT-JACKSON
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406.920.1106
jess.mtproperties@gmail.com

SPORTS

ON THE MAT

WHITEHALL/HARRISON WRESTLING



Senior Ivar Radcliffe wrestles at last week's dual against Townsend held in Harrison. PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA CHRISTENSEN



Sophomore Cassidy Collins wrestles in Tuesday's dual meet against Townsend held in Harrison. PHOTO COURTESY KARI MONTGOMERY



Joe Contreras, senior for the Harrison Wildcats, goes up for a shot in their close game against West Yellowstone. PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA CHRISTENSEN

ON THE HARDWOOD BOYS BASKETBALL SCORES

MANY GAMES POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
WHITEHALL 72, LONE PEAK 43
TWIN BRIDGES 46, LIMA 55**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
HARRISON 48, WEST YELLOWSTONE 50**

ON THE HARDWOOD GIRLS BASKETBALL SCORES

MANY GAMES POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
WHITEHALL/HARRISON 46, LONE PEAK 38**

ATHLETE of the Week



KYLE PANCOST

Twin Bridges Athlete of the Week

Twin Bridges is proud to feature Kyle Pancost as Athlete of the Week. Through eight games, Kyle is averaging 8.6 points per game and 11.3 rebounds per game. Including back to back double doubles against Roberts and Townsend. Against Roberts, she had 14 points and 22 rebounds which pushed her over 500 career rebounds. Against Townsend, she had 10 points and 17 rebounds. Kyle is a great teammate who is always encouraging and celebrating those around her. She has also grown her leadership skills this season and has been a strong vocal leader for our team.



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Ruby Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees Vacancy

Are you interested participating in the planning and stewardship of healthcare services in the Ruby Valley? If so, please consider volunteering to serve our community as a member of the Ruby Valley Medical Center's Board of Trustees.

Trustees must live within the Ruby Valley Medical Center's hospital district. Board meetings are typically held on the last Thursday of the month starting at 7am.

If you are interested in applying for the open board position, please contact Board President, Tony Simonsen via email at tonysimonsen62@aol.com by January 22, 2024.



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Hey Sports Fans!

IF YOU'RE A SPORTS FAN AND YOU ARE AT THE GAME OR ON THE COURSE TO CHEER ON YOUR HOME TEAM WITH CAMERA IN HAND, PLEASE SHARE YOUR GREAT SPORTS PHOTOS WITH US! WE'D LOVE TO SHARE THEM WITH THE REST OF MADISON COUNTY! WE'LL GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE, SO PLEASE SUBMIT WITH A CAPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME TO: EDITOR@MADISONIANNEWS.COM

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Montana's first recycled snowmaking effort launches in Big Sky



Watch: Yellowstone Club turns on snow guns as recycled snowmaking program launches. <https://yellowstoneclub.com/yc-snow-making>. COURTESY YC

TIMELINE OF BIG SKY RECYCLED SNOWMAKING:

- 1997: The Big Sky Water Sewer District conducts initial study on recycled snowmaking.
- 2011: GRTF conducts a pilot study to test the concept of using highly treated recycled water for snowmaking to sustain late season water flow, and subsequently proposes the concept as a community water conservation tool.
- 2012: DEQ adopts additional reuse standards for reclaimed water disposal within their Circular 2 design standards, including snowmaking as one option.
- 2017: GRTF forms the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum, which includes 35 community and agency stakeholders, to become a water conservation model for other western mountain communities. The Forum determines that snowmaking with reclaimed water is a reuse priority for the Big Sky community to extend seasonable snowpack and slow water movement through the watershed to enhance aquifer storage for downstream users.
- 2020: In March, the Yellowstone Club applies for the permit to start a recycled snowmaking program.
- 2021: One year later, following a robust public comment period, DEQ issues an initial draft permit notice.
- 2021: After receiving an "outpouring of support letters for this initiative from environmental groups, individuals and businesses," DEQ issues a final permit to the Yellowstone Club to make base layer snow on Eglise Mountain using reclaimed water from the Town of Big Sky.
- 2023: The Yellowstone Club begins the first year of the recycled snowmaking program for the 2023/2024 ski season.

Submitted by ASHLEE STRONG

After a decade of collaboration, study, and scientific review, an effort to use recycled water from the community of Big Sky to establish a base layer snowpack kicked off the start of the 2023/2024 ski season. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved a permit in 2021 for the Yellowstone Club to use recycled water to increase base layer snowpack on Eglise Mountain, which will recharge the aquifer and increase late season cold water inflows into the Gallatin River during the summer months. The Yellowstone Club is investing over \$12 million in this conservation effort. Under the snowmaking operation, 80% of the recycled water will come from the broader Big Sky community, and 20% from the Yellowstone Club.

Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Gallatin River Task Force, the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators, Big Sky Resort, the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District, and others wrote letters of support to DEQ for the water reuse program.

"The benefits of this project are actually an enhancement to the watershed function," said Pat

Byorth, Montana Water Director for Trout Unlimited. "It's an enhancement to water supply, to water quality in the basin. So everybody from skiers to anglers will benefit from this and downstream agriculture benefits at a time where water supply is uncertain."

Water storage and late season cold water flow have long been problems in the Gallatin

Valley watershed. Snow makes up the majority of the source water within the watershed and the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment predicted even less snowfall as the century progresses, further increasing the late season waterflow problem. Low late season flow harms fish and other habitat by increasing water temperature and decreasing oxygen, and also negatively affects down-stream agriculture and recreational water users. By increasing snowpack with reclaimed water, the valley will see increased in-stream flows later in the season. Studies on the

Yellowstone Club proposal show this method could equate to a 25-million gallon net benefit to the aquifer and watershed.

"Water is a precious resource and instead of using it one time, treating it, and putting it directly into the rivers as most towns and municipalities do, we are reusing this resource and helping recharge the aquifer in the process," said Rich Chandler, the head of the recycled snowmaking program for the Yellowstone Club. "We know increased snowpack helps the river systems in the late season. The current dry winter makes this effort especially timely. I have heard from multiple Montana ski areas seeking more information about the program and I expect it will be replicated elsewhere."

"We are very excited about this snowmaking project," said Dr. Kristin Gardner, a hydrologist, and CEO of the Gallatin River Task Force. "We've been involved for over a decade collecting data and all the data points to this water being very beneficial to the water supply of the Gallatin River and will ensure that our

future generations are able to enjoy the river as we do Today."

Currently, recycled water is re-used to irrigate golf courses in Montana and the mountain west.

Land application of recycled water provides nutrients for vegetative and microbe uptake. The snowmaking program further


expands Big Sky's commitment toward water re-use by being the largest zero direct discharge community in Montana.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency added snowmaking as a viable reclaimed water reuse option in its 2012 Guidelines for Water Reuse. There are currently


at least 12 ski resorts in eight states that use recycled water for snowmaking, as well as operations in Canada, Switzerland, and Australia.

DEQ is the regulatory agency that has oversight of all reclaimed water use in Montana, and its regulations require snow-

making with reclaimed water to utilize the highest standards recognized for public and environmental health. The process of snowmaking with recycled water as a state regulated process carries much higher standards compared to traditional snowmaking practices utilized by most ski areas.



Please Join Us For Dr. Hendrickson's Retirement Party



AFTER

21 years serving the healthcare needs of the Ruby Valley community & 47 years practicing medicine

Dr. Roman Hendrickson is retiring

Please join us to thank Dr. Hendrickson for his many contributions to healthcare in the Ruby Valley and wish him a well-deserved retirement!


Saturday, January 27th from 12-2pm
Sheridan Senior Center
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Ennis Speech & Drama: BILLINGS MEET



Ennis Speech and Debate team in Billings. PHOTO COURTESY MARCI WHITEHURST

Submitted by MARCI WHITEHURST

The Ennis Speech and Drama Team would like to thank the community for braving the snow to attend our Community Night on January 9th. Your support means so much. We enjoyed performing for you!

We also attended our largest meet yet in Billings on January 5 and 6. Our team had some personal bests! Individual results include:

AIDEN KRAMER: Semi-finalist, Impromptu

KLOEY NOACK: Semi-finalist, Humorous Oral Interp

ELIZABETH OLSON: 6th Place, Spontaneous Oral Interp

LEVI WHITEHURST: 1st Place, Humorous Solo

IZZY HAAS: 7th Place, Original Oratory

OLIVIA BENSON: 4th Place, Original Oratory



LEFT: Elizabeth Olson and Ruby Blazer performing. PHOTO COURTESY MARCI WHITEHURST



RIGHT: Kloey Noack performing. PHOTO COURTESY MARCI WHITEHURST

Ennis selected to participate in statewide Reimagine Rural Program

Submitted by KAREN KETCHU, MVPL

Ennis has been selected to participate in the fourth annual Reimagining Rural Virtual Gathering planned for January 29, February 12 and February 26, 2024 at Madison Valley Public Library. Everyone is welcome to this free, community-wide event to hear fresh, new ideas for rural community vitality to inspire and motivate community members to imagine a brighter future for their town.

The Reimagining Rural Virtual

Gathering includes three sessions, broadcast via Zoom to groups of local participants gathered in-person in small towns across the state. Immediately following the speakers, local groups each have facilitated conversations about how the new ideas might work in their community.

Communities that applied and were accepted to the program this year include: Big Timber, Boulder, Choteau, Custer County, Ekalaka, Ennis, Forsyth, Lima/Dell, Glacier County, West Yellowstone and Winnett. In total, 53 communities have participat-

ed in Reimagining Rural since its inception in 2020.

Communities participate in Reimagining Rural as a way to bring their community members together to get inspired and work together for a bright future. Lauren Dillon of Big Timber said that they are "excited to continue [local conversations] under the structure of this program - both to have the dedicated time together and for the inspiration and ideas from the themes of the three sessions." Ekalaka participated in the program previously. Local leader Sabre Moore said

in her application this year that "We are ready to come back and visit with other communities across Montana as it always helps galvanize our own community to share in this forum with others!" Custer County Extension Agent Jackie Beardsley said in her application "Miles City has many fun things happening, and creative leaders working to make it a wonderful place to live. I think Reimagining Rural could be the glue to pull them all together."

Each night of the program features a speaker as well as a story of success from a small

town. Tara Mastel of Montana State University Extension will kick off the first night with some key data that gives context to some of the changes seen in our small towns including Montana's own research on the rural "brain gain". The second night features small-town experts Becky McCray and Deb Brown back by popular demand. McCray and Brown will share their "Idea Friendly Method" for getting things done in small towns without all the typical red tape. The final session will feature Rebecca Udem who is a passionate "dreamer" trying new things in

rural, small town North Dakota. She is a professional speaker and hosts a podcast called Growing Small Towns.

Reimagining Rural is made possible through support from MSU Extension, the Montana Community Foundation, AgWest Farm Credit, Montana Department of Commerce and local hosts in each community.

For more information contact visit <https://msuextension.org/communitydevelopment/reimagine-rural.html> or contact Tara Mastel at MSU Extension at tara.mastel@montana.edu.

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WHY IS THIS VALUABLE TO YOU??

Every year since 1997 we have been looking backwards at the year before and creating the market statistics for that previous year and we send out letters with specific information as to where you own - Virginia City Ranches, Shining Mountains, Sheridan, etc.

EACH LETTER IS GROUPED WITH INFO WE BELIEVE TO BE VALUABLE TO YOU. WHY?

- 1.) INSURANCE** - Looking at general average price per SF may change the value of your home and thus change the amount of insurance you carry.
- 2.) SCAMS** - Owners are receiving letters with offers on their property that are often far below market value. You will at least know the "average" for your area.
- 3.) ESTATE PLANNING** - We are often asked for "averages to help owners determine values of their estates so that they can plan for their future.
- 4.) WHO IS ON YOUR DEED?** Our mailing list comes directly off of how your property is recorded. Is the person receiving the letter supposed to be on your deed?
- 5.) KNOWLEDGE** - knowing statistical information can help you make decisions.

DO YOU WANT TO SELL?? Sure, we do hope if you are considering selling that you will call us to do a Broker's Price Opinion specific to your property. Again - no strings attached and it is **FREE** to anyone that calls. **DON'T WANT TO SELL??** The information that you receive in our letters is still **FREE** - don't need it? Throw it away - it was on our nickels that we provided the information to you in hopes that you would find it valuable or at least interesting. Remember, real estate agents do not create the market...we react to the market created by Sellers and Buyers.

DO YOU WANT TO BUY?? You now have information in your hands that gives you the market averages for the last year. Use it to find good values.

**BE INFORMED TO HELP YOU MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR YOU!
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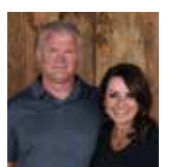
Melinda Merrill
BROKER
406.596.4288
MelindaRealEstateMT@gmail.com

29 YEARS EXPERIENCE
-Keeping stats and market trends since 1997
-Contrary to Ennis rumor... LOL NOT retiring!!



Chad Davis
SALES AGENT
406.579.4270
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17 YEARS EXPERIENCE
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406-439-1486
driears@gmail.com

26 YEARS EXPERIENCE
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FDA detects chromium in recalled applesauce

DPHHS URGES MONTANANS TO CONTINUE TO CHECK THEIR HOMES & DISCARD PRODUCTS

Submitted by JON EBELT

Federal, state, and local health officials continue to urge Montanans to check their homes, childcare facilities, and schools for recalled cinnamon-containing applesauce or apple puree products (listed below) and discard them immediately.

Recent FDA product testing shows high levels of chromium in the recalled apple cinnamon puree pouches, in addition to high levels of lead.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) also urges medical providers to continue to monitor for possible cases of lead poisoning and chromium exposure in children who may have consumed the recalled products. Healthcare providers can refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA Now) announcement for updated clinical guidance.

According to the FDA, people who ate the recalled products, especially if they had elevated blood lead levels, may have also been exposed to chromium. These individuals should talk with their healthcare provider about monitoring for signs and symptoms related to chromium exposure and whether addition-

al testing is warranted.

The following products were recalled by the FDA in November 2023 due to reports of elevated levels of lead found in certain units:

- WanaBana brand apple cinnamon fruit purée pouches
- Schnucks brand cinnamon applesauce pouches
- Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches

According to the FDA and DPHHS, these products were sold at 19 Dollar Tree stores in Montana prior to the recall announcement and have been removed from all of these locations across the state.

These products were also sold and available nationally through multiple retailers, including Amazon and other online outlets. At least one purchase from an online source has been reported in Montana.

Montana is among the 38 states reporting individuals with elevated blood levels after consuming the recalled products. As of January 9, 2024, Montana has identified five individuals residing across Montana with elevated blood lead levels associated with consuming the recalled cinnamon-containing applesauce products.

"New information suggests these recalled applesauce products are contaminated with more than one heavy metal. If you think your child may have consumed recalled fruit pouches, you should talk to your child's health care provider" said Dr. Maggie Cook-Shimanek, Public Health Physician at DPHHS. "These products have a long shelf life, so consumers are advised to check their homes and discard them immediately."

There is no safe level of lead exposure, but the CDC uses a marker of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels higher than most.

In this outbreak, the reported symptoms of children who consumed the contaminated applesauce product may include, but are not limited to, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, a change in activity level and anemia.

Cook-Shimanek said children are more vulnerable to the health effects of heavy metal exposure than adults because they are still developing, making it especially important to avoid exposure. For more information, see the CDC or FDA investigation webpages, current as of Jan. 5, 2024.

Anglers, skaters, others encouraged to practice safety on ice

Submitted by MT FWP

It took a while to get here, but winter finally hit Montana. That means winter enthusiasts will be heading out to recreate. Whether ice fishing, ice skating, hunting, snowmobiling or just taking a walk, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff reminds recreationists that safety should be the number one concern during a day out on (or near) the ice.

HERE ARE SOME SAFETY TIPS:

- Anglers and other recreationists should be familiar with the water body they plan to fish or recreate on. Pay close attention to the changing conditions of the ice.
- If you have even the slightest doubt about the safety of the ice — stay off of it. Nothing is ever worth a fall into frigid water.
- Blue or "clear" ice is usually hard. Watch out for opaque, gray, dark or porous spots in the ice that could be weak, soft areas. Ice also tends to thin more quickly at the shorelines or near structures protruding through the ice such as rocks, stumps and trees.
- Note areas on the ice that look "different" — they usually are. Many times, thinner areas of ice (caused by springs, gas pockets, sunken islands, points, etc.) have a different color or look to them. Use extreme caution or stay away from these areas.
- The following are recommended minimum ice thickness guidelines (for good, clear ice*):
 - Under 4 inches: STAY OFF
 - 4 inches: individual angler ice fishing or other activities on foot
 - 7 inches: snowmobile or ATV
 - 10 inches: small car**
 - 12 inches: truck or SUV**



Ice conditions changed rapidly with plummeting temperatures last week. Practice caution when recreating on ice. PHOTO COURTESY MILES MCLEAN

*for white ice or "snow ice," double the above minimums

**not recommended, but if you must, proceed at your own risk

- Watch for pressure ridges. These are areas of weak or unstable ice where the ice has cracked and heaved due to expansion from freezing.
 - Test the ice ahead of you with an ice spud bar or an auger.
 - Don't leave children unsupervised on the ice.
 - Waterbodies do not freeze at the same thickness everywhere. For example, some ponds have windmills to aerate water for fish survival, and ice may be thin near these areas.
 - Moving water — rivers, streams and springs — weaken ice by wearing it away from underneath. Avoid going on ice on rivers and streams, or where a river or stream enters a lake, pond or reservoir.
 - The least safe ice usually occurs early and late in the season, when the weather is warmer and less predictable.
 - Remember, NO ICE is 100 percent safe.
 - Snowmobiling and ATV use on the ice will reduce steering ability.
- Groups should avoid crossing ice in a single-file group. If the first person breaks through, the rest of the group may not be able to stop or maneuver in time to avoid it.
 - Some other common ice-safety reminders to keep in mind include:
 - Consider changes in the weather (and ice conditions) during the prior 24 hours. Wind, rain and sun can drastically decay ice in a short time.
 - It's a good idea to wear a life jacket (PFD) or carry a throwable flotation device or rope while out on the ice — safe ice anglers and recreationists do it all the time.
 - Dress warm but practical. Many styles of ice fishing jackets and bibs provide extra buoyancy to help keep you afloat if you do fall through.
 - Before you leave the house, tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return.
 - Carry a pair of ice picks (long spikes on a heavy string around your neck). If you break through the ice, you can use the spikes to grip the ice and pull yourself out of the water.

FWP wishes all anglers and recreationists a safe and adventurous winter.

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Student of the Week

CHARLOTTE BELLER Twin Bridges Student of the Week

Twin Bridge's Student of the Week is none other than Charlotte Beller! Charlotte has been a shining star in our classroom, consistently displaying enthusiasm for learning

and a genuine kindness towards her classmates. Her bright smile and positive attitude have created a joyful atmosphere, making everyone feel welcomed and appreciated. Charlotte loves to extend a helping hand to anyone in need.

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Keep up the good work!
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Carroll College names students to Fall 2023 Dean's List

Submitted by SARAH LAWLOR

Carroll College in Helena, Mont. named the Bozeman and surrounding area students listed below to its 2023 fall semester dean's list. To be included on the dean's list, a student

must receive a 3.5 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale and take at least 12 graded credits in a semester.

A complete, sortable list of fall 2023 dean's list recipients can be found at: www.carroll.edu/deanslist.

- ENNIS:**
Wade Luly
SHERIDAN:
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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday
Considerable cloudiness. High 28F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph.

Friday
Overcast. High 41F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday
Considerable cloudiness. High 44F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday
Mainly cloudy. High 42F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.

Monday
Partly cloudy skies. High 42F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.

Quote of the Week:
"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Frosty scenes nally commandeered the landscape as subzero temperature and snowfall set in last week. PHOTO COURTESY DAN ROSE

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS

1 p.m. Seniors Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program at the Ennis Senior Center

2-3 p.m. Strong People Exercise Program at the Sheridan Senior Center

5:15 pm. meditation classes, Sheridan Library, 1st and 3rd Mondays

TUESDAYS

6:30-7:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga at the Alder Community Center
@ the Alder Community Center

Noon-2 p.m. Thread Connection
Second & Fourth Tuesday of each month at the MV Public Library's Community Room (Ennis). Bring your own (thread/yarn) project & supplies to share skills and social time.

6 p.m. Rotary Club of the Ruby Valley meeting

The Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Blue Anchor Café in Twin Bridges

WEDNESDAYS

9 a.m. TOPS, Ennis
Weekly weigh-ins are from 9 to 9:30 a.m., meetings start at 9:30 a.m. Located at the Ennis Senior Center.

10 a.m. - Noon Ruby Valley Veterans with VA issues/questions
Second Wednesday of the Month @ American Legion Post 89 Main Street Sheridan, VA Service Officer at Post Bldg.

10:30 a.m. Story Time at Twin Bridges Public Library

Join us to read, sing, and do crafts every Wednesday at 10:30. Open to children 2-5 years old.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. All Veterans interested in medical assistance
First Wednesday of the month @ American Legion Post 121 1st street, Ennis

11 a.m. Books and Babies At Madison Valley Public Library
Books, songs and play for children 0-3 and their caregivers @ Madison Valley Public Library

1 p.m. Seniors Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program at the Ennis Senior Center

2-3 p.m. Strong People Exercise Program at the Sheridan Senior Center

5:30 p.m. First Wednesday of the month: Ennis Booster Club meeting
Ennis Booster Club invites the community to join in at Sportsmans Lodge.

7 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesdays: Ennis Lions Club meeting at the Ennis Fire Hall
The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

THURSDAYS

6:30-7:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga at the Alder Community Center
@ the Alder Community Center

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Open House with Commissioner Bill Todd
Second Thursday of the month. @ Big Sky Resort Area District, 11 Lone Peak Dr #204, Big Sky

1 p.m. Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary is meeting at Madison Valley Manor
Held the second Thursday of each month

2 pm. Knitting group @ Sheridan Library

5:30 p.m. Madison County DUI Task Force Meeting
Will be held at Sheridan's Search and Rescue Building. 402 Main Street, Sheridan. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Held the third Thursday of each month

6 p.m. Twin Bridges Book Club
Meets every third Thursday of the month at the Blue Anchor.
Dinner at 6 with meeting at 7 p.m. Please email dmmontana@3rivers.net for information

FRIDAYS

11 a.m. Madison Valley Public Library Story Time
Held in person at the library community room.

1 p.m. Seniors Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program at the Ennis Senior Center

2-3 p.m. Strong People Exercise Program at the Sheridan Senior Center

2-3:30 p.m. Chess Club
All ages @ Madison Valley Public Library

6 p.m. Game Night at Virginia City Elks Lodge
Call Tanya at 406-660-1559 with questions.

SATURDAYS

6 p.m. Ennis Senior Center Pinochle

SUNDAYS

1:30 p.m. Book Club @ Sheridan Library; 2nd Sundays

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

6-9 p.m. Real Montana Bluegrass
Well Beaten Path will be playing a live show at the Bokonon located at 106 South Main Street in Twin Bridges. The band hails from Southwest Montana and plays traditional bluegrass/country (e.g., Stanley brothers, Bill Monroe) and originals that will get your toes tapping and your body moving. Admission is free, donations are welcome.

Chautauqua at the Elling House

Meet and greet at 6:30. Performances begin at 7:30
Chautauqua is an evening where all can enjoy the talents of musicians, writers, story tellers, etc. Artists wishing to perform please call 406-843-5454 to reserve a spot. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the performances. @ , 404 East Idaho Street, Virginia City.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

3-5 p.m. The Friends of the Sheridan Public Library will host a reception for local photographer Dan Rose
Rose is the library's Featured Artist for the month of January and his exhibit is the Sheridan Library's first since Covid. @ Sheridan Public Library

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

2:30-5:30 p.m. Headwaters on the Road: Twin Bridges stop
@ the Twin Bridges Senior Center
Members of the Headwaters Team will be visiting 11 communities in Southwest Montana during the month of January. Stop by, meet the team, grab a snack and see if we can support your next adventure.
No Cost. See ad on page A9 for details

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

6 p.m. Virginia City's monthly HPAC meeting
At the Town Office and open to the public. Call: (406)843-5321 or email: townofvc@3rivers.net for more information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

2-4:30 p.m. Sheridan Library Art Group

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

10 a.m., Seed swap, Madison Valley Public Library
(Corrected date) MVPL and the Jeffers Community Garden welcome all gardeners to celebrate National Seed Exchange day. Swap them if you've got them, come anyway if you don't. We'll have lots of Madison Valley gardening knowledge to share.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

6-8 p.m. Rural is Changing, Not Dying
Tara Mastel from MSU extension will present data to debunk the myth that "small towns are dying," and share small town success stories @ Madison Valley Public Library.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6-8 p.m. New Ways to Get Things Done in Small Towns
National speakers Becky McCray & Deb Brown will lead communities through their simple and effective "idea friendly method" of getting things done @ Madison Valley Public Library.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) and over 50 local students present an original musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's epic novel TREASURE ISLAND.
Two performances of Treasured Island are scheduled at the Ennis Schools Elementary Gym. All are invited!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6-8 p.m. Love to the Small Town Doers, Dreamers & Spark Plugs
Rebecca Udem, a North Dakota based small town dreamer, farmer, business owner and national speaker will share her amazing story of small town success and lessons she's learned from being an accidental community development professional.
@ Madison Valley Public Library

Madison Conservation District Strategic Planning Meeting
Tuesday, January 23th
10AM to 2PM
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The Madsonian Archives

JANUARY 19, 1905

EXPLOSION OF CAPS

TWO MINERS INJURED IN THE PACIFIC MINE SATURDAY MORNING

Saturday morning about 3:30 an accident occurred at the Pacific mine in Brown's Gulch nearly seven miles from this city by which William McDonald probably lost his eyesight and E.M. Ream, better known as "Shorty" Ream, was severely bruised and lacerated about the breast and body.