

# The Madisonian.

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

MONTANA'S OLDEST PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. ESTABLISHED 1873

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Thursday, January 16, 2020

**PRESERVING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORY  
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## Ennis house fire displaces six

### Flames destroy three homes



BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

At around 4 a.m. Saturday, Robyn Oldham woke to knocking on her window. It was a neighbor, telling Oldham the house was on fire. The fire started from a fifth-wheel residence parked on Oldham's yard. The man living in the fifth-wheel was not there when the fire started. Three trailers, a small camper, two 500-gallon propane tanks, a shed and a minivan were destroyed.

"There was nothing left of the fifth-wheel," Madison Valley Rural Fire Department Chief Shawn Christensen said.

Neighbors reported the fire as Oldham, her oldest son, daughter-in-law and pets got out of the house. Fire crews from Madison Valley Rural Fire Department and Virginia City responded with the Madison County Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Services and Ennis Ambulance.

Strong winds whipped the flames. It took over two hours to reduce the fire to a smoldering pile of charred debris. Firefighters stirred through the wreckage, soaking all possibilities that the wind would ignite a glowing piece.

Six people were displaced but unharmed. According to the GoFundMe page that Oldham's youngest son, Finn Vandenberg, created, Oldham's pet cat was partially burnt from the fire. Her other cat, a large gray cat named Caesar, is missing.

The back of Oldham's house was destroyed, consuming the kitchen.

The residences across the narrow alley between Madison Avenue and Mirza Way had significant damage as well.

The Madison Valley Rural Fire Department rummages through what is left of a fifth-wheel that caught on fire Jan. 11. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE



Ennis town clerk, Ginger Guinn, swears in Ennis' newest town commissioner, Jason Schroeder, at Town Hall Jan. 9. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE.

## Town council swears in Schroeder

### Ennis' new commissioner

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

Jason Schroeder was sworn into the Ennis Town Council Jan. 9. Ennis commissioners appointed Schroeder to Brian Vincent's former seat. Schroeder was the only applicant for the position. "Welcome to local government," Ennis town commissioner Lisa Roberts said.

Schroeder took his seat next to another new addition of the Ennis Town Council, Kristy Ranson.

Ranson was elected to the council in the 2019 municipal general elections. The new town commissioners sat behind blank name plates and abstained from motions on old business.

Vincent resigned after the council's monthly meeting in November. His move to Big Sky disqualified him to be an Ennis town commissioner.

Schroeder has background in public works and an engineering degree from Montana State University. He is set to carry out the remaining two years of Vincent's term on the Ennis Town Council.

## Swirling with concerns

### The Cardwell dumpsite

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

Concerns of contamination, land ownership and illegal dumping surround the Cardwell dumpsite.

A few residents from the county's northern border convinced the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Board on Jan. 9 to do environmental testing at the Cardwell dumpsite. The board will move forward with the testing before deciding the future of the site.

"If there are facts that say it's a contaminate issue, I'll be the first to say close it," Cardwell resident Paul Shaw said.

The Cardwell dumpsite sits about 500 feet from the Jefferson River. It is about the same distance from Jefferson County on Montana Highway 359. Two pieces of private property, which Madison County does not pay to use, host the three containers and access.

"It's an inappropriate place for a dumpsite," MCSWRB chairman Tikker Jones said.

Madison County's waste and recycling operates under an enterprise fund, the MCSWRB. Property owners are charged \$118 a year for the 24/7 dumping service that is available to all Madison County residents. MCSWRB is responsible for the operations of 10 landfill-transfer dumpsites but does not have a system in place to enforce dumping regulations.

People come from neighboring counties to use the loosely regulated dumps of Madison County. According to Jones, the Cardwell dumpsite services around 300 Madison County resi-

DUMPSITE continued on A2

  
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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS .....	1-6	COMICS/GAMES .....	B4
OPINIONS .....	4	CLASSIFIEDS .....	B5
PANORAMA .....	B1	PUBLIC NOTICES .....	B7
HEALTH & WELLNESS .....	B2	OUTPOST .....	B10
COLUMNS .....	B3		



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DUMPSITE continued FROM A1

dences, but its convenience attracts nearby Jefferson County residents. The containers often overflow with trash, especially in the summer when an influx Montana residents and visitors are using the dump. Standing water often puddles in the divots around

the dumpsite. It is unknown if rising ground water or poor drainage causes the water to collect. The board proposed an alternative site at the old gravel pit, outside of Harrison. An arrangement between Madison County and Jefferson County

could allow inconvenienced individuals access to the Jefferson County dump in Whitehall. The Department of Natural Resources owns the land of the proposed site. It is on the other end of Hwy 359, less than 15 miles away, but for some, the additional mileage means

longer trips to the dump. “You know what a dump date is, don’t you,” Madison County resident Kathy Anderson said. “It’s when you take your honey to the dump and get an ice cream on the way back. It’s very big on our end of the county.”

Residents from the county’s northern border convinced the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Board on Jan. 9 to do environmental testing at the Cardwell dumpsite. The river lies just beyond the fence surrounding the site. PHOTO BY CORI KOENIG

The Cardwell dumpsite sits about 500 feet from the Jefferson River. It is about the same distance from Jefferson County on Montana Highway 359. PHOTO BY CORI KOENIG

COURTS

Guilty plea to three misdemeanors

Reagan Danielle Clark from Sheridan entered a guilty plea in Madison County Judicial Court Jan. 6. She was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended, for criminal mischief. She also has to pay \$250 of a \$1,500 fine for the misdemeanor or conviction. Clark will serve another six-month jail sentence, for destruction of a communication device, on probation after completing her sentence for criminal mischief. The court ordered that she pay \$250

of the \$1,000 fine for the second misdemeanor. Clark was fined \$50 for unlawful possession of an open alcoholic beverage, a misdemeanor. She’ll have to wear an alcohol monitoring bracelet for at least six months, according to court documents. The charges that Clark was convicted of originated Sept. 30, 2019. **Gee’s 38 new indictments** Tory Gee of Sheridan pleaded not guilty to 38 new charges regarding an Aug. 15, 2019 domestic dispute.

According to court documents, Gee encouraged a witness to provide false information to his counsel, in their testimony and/or refuse to testify between Sept. 3 and Nov. 18 while being held at the Jefferson County Detention Center. He is charged with a felony of tampering with a witness or informant. Gee is charged with 37 misdemeanors for violating a no contact order with the same witness. Former charges of the case include two felonies, assault with a weapon and aggravated burglary, and three misdemeanors, negligent endangerment,

criminal mischief leading to a loss less than \$1,500 and violation of a no contact order. Gee escaped the Jefferson County Detention Center Oct. 11, 2019. He led law enforcement on a seven-day man hunt, which resulted in another Madison County Judicial Court case. He faces two theft charges – one a felony, the other a misdemeanor – for stealing his methods of transportation while on the run, according to court documents. Gee is being held at the Gallatin Country Detention Center for charges in multiple counties.

CORRECTION

In the Tate’s Upper Canyon Outfitters: These roots run deep feature, in the Dec. 26, 2019 edition, the photo credit for the four-generation family should have read: PHOTO BY SARA GILMAN.



# Help wanted

## Ennis Public Works

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

Two employees are needed for Ennis Public Works.  
Ennis Town Council changed the wages and positions needed in the department. Kelly Elser,

Ennis’ public works director, approaches retirement and will need to prep an assistant to take over in the upcoming years.  
“This is a high priority,” Ennis Town Commissioner Lisa Roberts said.  
The lack of activity on the advertised positions, and West Yellowstone advertising the

same position for nearly double the pay, pressured the Ennis Town Council to raise its public works wages.  
“I think the certifications and wages scare them away,” Elser said.  
Wages for public works labor employees were increased from \$13.50 to \$17 an hour at the

Ennis Town Council meeting Jan. 9. The wage for an assistant director of public works, who is sewer and water certified, was raised to \$25 an hour.  
“We’ve been short [public works employees] for so long, we probably have the money in the budget,” Ennis town clerk Ginger Guinn said.

# Four issues to track as lawmakers gather for Legislative Week

By ERIC DIETRICH  
Montana Free Press

There’s still a year to go before Montana lawmakers gather for their next full-fledged legislative session, in 2021, but the state’s political class is converging on the Capitol this month for a “Legislative Week” event billed, in part, as an opportunity to explore whether annual sessions would help legislators do a better job governing the state.  
Aside from the possibility that attendees call a surprise special session, legislators won’t be doing their biennial business of passing laws or crafting a new state budget. Instead, the week will feature a cluster of informational sessions and hearings by interim committees tasked with studying issues and suggesting legislation for 2021.  
Even so, several of those interim committees have substantial agendas, and with a critical mass of politicians gathered in one place, any-

thing could happen. Here are some issues to keep an eye on:

**ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS?**  
Montana is one of only four states in the nation where the Legislature meets every two years instead of annually, and lawmakers have long discussed whether Montanans would be better served by annual sessions. It isn’t clear that there’s political appetite for switching to annual sessions, which would probably require a constitutional amendment, but lawmakers did pass a study bill in 2019 to solicit public input and examine the option.  
Legislators say they want to do a better job coordinating policy and budget conversations, which can sometimes be disjointed as topic-area legislative committees and appropriations committees work on separate tracks. Among the ideas on the table are alternating annual legislative sessions focused on the state budget with sessions focused on pol-

icy changes. Lawmakers also plan to discuss how a shift to annual sessions would affect the ability of citizen legislators with day jobs to serve in the Legislature.  
A discussion on those topics, including opportunity for public comment, was set for 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14.  
**DEALING WITH COAL CLOSURES**  
With generating units 1 and 2 of the Colstrip coal power plant shut down earlier this month — and NorthWestern Energy saying it wants to double its owned generating capacity in response to regional coal plant closures — it’s a dynamic moment for Montana’s energy sector.  
The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee will puzzle over the policy questions those developments create in an all-day meeting Monday. On its agenda are a discussion of issues raised by Colstrip’s wind-down, including what legislative analysts

estimate as a \$17 million-a-year hit to tax collections with units 1 and 2 offline. NorthWestern officials are also scheduled to discuss the utility’s transmission infrastructure and its proposed acquisition of a greater share in Colstrip’s Unit 4.  
The committee met at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13.  
**PROMOTING BROADBAND INTERNET**  
High-speed internet access is widely seen as key infrastructure for rural Montana communities looking to boost their economic development prospects. But lawmakers haven’t always agreed on the right way for state government to encourage broadband development, with Gov. Steve Bullcock vetoing a Republican bill designed to incentivize rural telecom development last year.  
The Economic Affairs Interim Committee will look at what other states are doing to promote broadband infrastructure, as well as hear

presentations from major Montana internet providers including CenturyLink, Charter Spectrum, and Blackfoot Communications. It will meet at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, in Room 137.  
**CHECKING UP ON MEDICAID EXPANSION**  
Renewal of Montana’s expanded Medicaid program, which provides subsidized health-care coverage to 85,935 people, was the highest-profile action of the 2019 Montana Legislature. As the Department of Public Health and Human Services implements the Legislature’s changes to the program, including new work requirements for some beneficiaries, it’s responsible for reporting back to lawmakers.  
According to briefing materials, the department will tell the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee it’s still waiting for federal Medicaid administrators to give the

revised program a thumbs-up. So though the renewal bill called for implementing the work requirements Jan. 1, the health department says it hasn’t yet begun enforcing them.  
The interim committee will meet for most of the day Thursday, Jan. 16, and Friday, Jan. 17, in Room 137, and will also discuss a study on the state’s child protective services system. The Medicaid expansion update is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday.  
**HOW YOU CAN KEEP TRACK**  
More details on the Legislative Week events, including briefing materials, an official calendar, and a schedule of interest-group-hosted social events, are available at <https://leg.mt.gov/legweek/>. Members of the public who want to follow the proceedings without making it to the capitol can watch online meeting broadcasts via the legislative website.

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OPINION

Reverend Jean Johnson showed deep care and commitment

Dear Editor:


Reverend Jean Johnson who died recently was the Pastor at Madison Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC) for 32 years. In many ways, Reverend Johnson served as an unofficial chaplain for the entire Ennis community. For example, in June, 2003, a shooting occurred on Main Street that left Jamie Roberts dead and wounded six others. Jamie was not affiliated with MVPC yet when the family approached Reverend Johnson to officiate his funeral service, she didn't hesitate to provide for the family and the shocked and grieving community. I saw the same leadership when Reverend Johnson held Christmas Eve candlelight services for the entire community long before these services were commonplace in town. Her care of the community's less fortunate was also witnessed by me when Reverend Johnson would take food to hungry families in Ennis regardless of any religious affiliation. Ennis came together recently to celebrate her life in A Service of Witness to the Resurrection. A fitting memorial of her life might be that we also practice deep care and commitment to those among us who are hungry, grieving and hurting.

Debbie D. Simpler  
Ennis, MT

OBITUARIES

George Swan

October 23, 1931 to January 3, 2020



George left his earthly life Jan. 3, 2020. He is survived by Elizabeth (Betty) Swan, his wife of 63 years, and their sons George Robert Swan, Jr, Steven McCahan Swan and Michael Scott Swan, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. George was born Oct. 23, 1931, in Washington, D.C. to Christopher MacDonald Swan and Jeanette Ure Swan. The family soon moved to Swarthmore, PA where George attended kindergarten and there met, and later married, his wife Betty. He attended Episcopal Academy the last three years of high school graduating in 1950 and then went on to graduate from Colgate University in upstate New York. His love of sports kept him involved in all he could fit into his schedule, and he remained an avid sports fan throughout his life, attending and encouraging all his sons and following all their events through high school and college. George's parents had moved east during depression years, so most of George's relatives were still "out west", where one of his uncles owned and operated a large sheep and cattle ranch in Utah, which George grew to love. From high school on, he traveled every summer to work on the ranch. His love of the west continued to grow, and six months after he and Betty were married, they headed west once again with all their belongings loaded in an old moving van. George's first job in Bear Lake, UT was as a ranch hand, and Betty worked as the local public health nurse. After one year, they moved to Promontory Point on the salt flats of Utah where George managed the Swan Brothers, his cousins' hay ranch. Two months after their arrival, their first son Rory (George Jr.) was born. Two years later they moved to Manila, UT to manage the ranch of an aging Utah legislator. George also took on an additional position with Peter Kiewit, the contractor who was building the Flaming George Dam, which would eventually back up the Green River all the way to Wyoming. Starting first as a carpenter foreman, George was soon put in the position of Assistant Powerhouse Supervisor. Meanwhile, Betty worked at the construction hospital until the birth of their second son, Steven. For the next two years with the funds they were able to save, they purchased cattle and grazing ground in the area. After five years in Manila, they were able to buy an 1880 homesteaded ranch north of Twin Bridges, MT where they wanted to live and raise their family. Their third son, Michael, was born at the hospital in Sheridan, MT. Eventually all three sons graduated from Twin Bridges High School. George became very involved in the community and the school as a creative problem solver and foresighted thinker with a strong will and body, and love of community. He enjoyed being able to contribute and tackle what he perceived to be the foremost issues of the time. As a member of the school board for almost two decades, he promoted the building of the football field, track, weight room and a stage for the speech and drama department. Another great joy was in conservation of land and water as he strove to maintain the beauty and productivity of the Ruby Valley. He was actively involved from the beginning with the Ruby Habitat Foundation, and with the Montana Fish & Game promoting soil and river conservation and stream access. As a leader of the Upper Ruby Stock Association for many years, he worked with the U.S. Forest Service on issues pertaining to grazing rights and permits, and other issues benefiting the forest and permittees. The purchase of the First National Bank of Twin Bridges in 1982 with several other community members, to maintain its leadership locally, was as important to him as it was to those who joined in this endeavor. After retirement, he and Betty moved to the Manhattan area to be closer to kids and grandkids. He leaves this present life with a sense of gratitude to all who enriched his life on earth, and to God who gave him the opportunity and "tools" to be of help to others. Services were held at the Twin Bridges High School Gymnasium on Sunday, January 12, 2020, at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Park Haven Memory Center in Manhattan, Dry Creek Church in Belgrade, or Twin Bridges High School Foundation.

Susan Grace Hochhalter-Pope


May 26, 1949 to January 5th, 2020

Sue was born at home May 26, 1949 near Long Lake, South Dakota. Sue was a beloved mother, sister and friend. A forever cowgirl, she was a free spirit who was called to the mountains of Montana. She influenced the lives of others along her path with her whip smart sense of humor and her big heart. Even in her last days she was smiling and singing. She passed away peacefully on January 5th, 2020.

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Joe C. Kenworthy

June 2, 1930 to January 8, 2020

Joe C. Kenworthy, age 89, of Whitehall passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 at the Tobacco Root Care Center at Sheridan, Montana.

Joe was born on June 2, 1930 in Butte, Montana to Vernon and Catherine Kenworthy. Joe is survived by brother Bill Kenworthy of Whitehall and special friend Evelyn. We would like to thank the Tobacco Root Care Center for their kind and compassionate care for Joe.

There are no services planned at this time. K&L Mortuaries & Crematory of Whitehall assisted with arrangements.

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MADISON COUNTY

DISPATCH

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January 5, 2020

An accident occurred in Cameron.

An accident occurred in Ennis.

A welfare check was performed in Ennis.

January 6, 2020

A traffic complaint was made in Cameron.

Medical aid was administered in Pony.

An accident occurred in Twin Bridges.

A welfare check was performed in Virginia City.

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Norris.

Hazards were on the roadway in Twin Bridges.

January 7, 2020

A citizen was assisted in Twin Bridges.

Abuse or neglect was reported in Alder.

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Sheridan.

January 8, 2020

Wildlife complaints were made in Cameron and Ennis.

A fire call was made in Sheridan.

A warrant service was performed in Ennis.

A scam complaint was made in Virginia City.

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Sheridan.

A welfare check was performed in Cardwell.

January 9, 2020

A traffic complaint was made in Virginia City.

Medical aid was administered in Alder.

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Ennis.

A citizen was assisted in Ennis.

A scam complaint was made in Sheridan.

January 10, 2020

Medical aid was administered in Ennis.

Suspicious circumstances were reported in Cameron.

January 11, 2020

Two fire calls were made in Ennis.

Accidents occurred in Ennis and Twin Bridges.

A dog complaint was made in Ennis.

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PERSONAL FINANCE

M A D E E A S Y

Five New Year's Resolutions You Won't Regret

By Jon C. Goodman

With fifty weeks to go in 2020, it's not too late to jot down a few New Year's Resolutions that could make a big difference to both your pocketbook and peace of mind in the decade to come.

Before we begin, though, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jon C. Goodman. I am the first and only Certified Private Wealth Advisor® Professional in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone/Grand Teton Region and the Principal of JCG Advisory Partners, a Montana registered investment advisor (RIA), this year celebrating our tenth anniversary in business with the majority of the past decade operating from Madison County. Suffice it to say that I am honored to contribute to Montana's longest running newspaper, one near and dear to my heart, The Madisonian. Hopefully, you find a few of the ideas, financial life hacks, and strategies presented here helpful.

But enough about me already!

Here are FIVE financial resolutions for you to consider in 2020:

1. Create a budget you'll stick to. The thought of drafting a written budget understandably causes most people to bristle, perhaps explaining why, according to financial guru, Dave Ramsey, 200 million Americans don't have one. Thanks to modern technology, though, budgeting doesn't have to be so daunting. Rather than recording three month's worth of your everyday spending, then categorizing those transactions by hand in a paper ledger, consider downloading an app like Mint, You Need a Budget (YNAB), or Every Dollar to assist you. Most modern budgeting apps will sync with your primary checking account, if not all your financial accounts, to track and categorize your spending for you. Online banks like Empower will even send push notifications to your smart phone to advise you when you've reached certain percentages of historical budget categories to prevent you from overspending. If married or have a significant other, you might also consider scheduling weekly financial meetings to keep one another within your respective lanes and, if nothing else, in the know.

2. Pay down credit card debt. In April, 2019 Americans eclipsed the \$4 Trillion in non-mortgage consumer debt, divided almost equally between credit card debt, automobile financing, and non-bankruptable student loans. If you have any of the above, begin by listing your debts either smallest to largest along with their corresponding interest rates. From there, consider either the snowball and avalanche strategies. The former approach ignores the interest rate and will have you pay the minimum amounts due on all card balances except the smallest. The idea is to aggressively pay the smallest balance first for a proverbial win, then allocate increasing amounts toward the next smallest balance and so on until you're debt free. The avalanche approach, on the other hand, mandates that you pay the minimums on all but the credit card balance with the highest interest rate, then has you pay as much as possible toward that balance until it's gone and you can allocate even more toward the card with the next highest interest rate until

debt free. A distant third option is a debt consolidation loan. (More on that another time.) Whatever you do, try to avoid settling your debt(s) for less than you owe. As attractive as it sounds, it could haunt you for years making it nearly impossible to borrow money from a financial institution when you might need a loan the most, say, for a home purchase.

3. Start and Emergency Fund. Four out of ten Americans can't afford to pay cash for a \$400 emergency. If you're single, shoot for 2-3 month's worth of expenses in an online high interest rate savings account offered by Marcus, Betterment, Citi, American Express Personal Savings, or Empower. If married, shoot for the equivalent in savings of 3-6 month's worth.

4. Boost your retirement savings. 70% of Americans haven't saved enough for retirement; 50% haven't saved a dime. To maintain your current standard of living in retirement, you'll want 80% per year of your current income, if not more. Don't forget to account for inflation either. At 3% inflation, today's \$10,000 only buys you \$7,440 of the same goods and services in 10 years. If you're an employee, the best way to boost retirement savings is to increase your SIMPLE IRA or 401(k) contributions. If self-employed, consider maxing your SEP IRA, Traditional IRA, or Roth IRA contributions. Dave Ramsey recommends paying off your consumer debt first, then using your free cash flow to put a minimum of 15% of your current income toward your retirement account(s).

5. Look for ways to decrease your spending and/or increase your income. One of the easiest life hacks for saving money is to cook and entertain yourself and others at home. Giving up alcoholic beverages, too, can make a big difference in freeing up cash flow. Growing or raising your own food, making or simply repairing your clothes, and eliminating unnecessary subscriptions can also help. Same for borrowing books from the library rather than paying for them online or at a brick and mortar book store. If that's not sexy enough for you, then consider upping your income. One of the benefits of the gig economy is that it's theoretically easier than ever to make an extra buck. Consider renting a room in you home via Air-B-n-B, becoming a chauffeur with Uber or Lyft, or even offering graphic design services through Dribbble. If that's too overwhelming, there's always more traditional routes. Maybe start a dog-walking service, house sit, tend bar, wait tables, or hire yourself out as a specialist or consultant in your field. Whatever it takes, I say, to accomplish any of the above or simply improve your credit score and/or invest more!

If not the New Year's Resolution type and you've somehow read this far, at the very least you should check and possibly update your will, trust account(s), durable financial and health powers, beneficiaries, and all insurance policies. After all, it's always, always, always better to be safe than sorry.

Happy New Year, everybody!

With questions or suggestions for future topics, please email me at [jcg@joncgoodman.com](mailto:jcg@joncgoodman.com).

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—Theresa, living with Alzheimer's

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# 60th anniversary of the Ennis Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by  
ROBIN WOLCOTT

Twenty birding enthusiasts convened at Yesterday's Soda Fountain on Wednesday, Dec. 18 to participate in the 60th Ennis Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas counts are done by citizen birders who volunteer their services for a day in the field. The Ennis count was started in 1958 by Dr. P.D. Skaar and is now organized by Robin and Richard Wolcott from Bozeman. This year, Skaar's son Don was again one of the bird counters. The other count participants came from Ennis, Bozeman, Deer Lodge, Helena, Livingston, and California! In addition, five local enthusiasts watched their feeders throughout the day adding their observations.

The Christmas Bird Count has a long history in America. The first one was held in 1900 when Frank Chapman, an ornithologist and officer in the relatively young Audubon

Society, proposed a Christmas Bird Census. The modern day Christmas Bird Counts are held between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5 all over North America. Birders count in a 15-mile diameter circle that includes the town of Ennis, Ennis Lake, Norris Hill, Meadow Creek and Jack Creek. The goal of the count is to try and count all the feathered creatures inside the circle.

Sixty-four species were recorded for this year's count – the highest was 73 species in 2011. This year also included two species seen only infrequently in the past – an abundance of Blue Jays and Evening Grosbeaks.

Special thanks should go not only to the counters but to the many local businesses that provide support for the count. Without the delicious meals and libations, comfortable lodging and special access to areas not open to the public, the counters would not be able to complete their task.



Joel Evers prepares for a day in the field. PHOTO BY ROBIN WOLCOTT

# 3RD ANNUAL WINTER COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



Submitted by  
BAILEY GREENWELL

Madison Valley Medical Center's 3rd Annual Winter Coloring Contest was another huge success. MVMC employee Teresa Funke organized the event. Many thanks to Ennis Elementary School secretary, D'awn Ledgerwood, for coordinating with all the teachers and ECCS Director, whose efforts helped to organize the little ones in coloring their pictures and getting the chance to participate this year. Dottie Fossel, and Dawn Conklin served as judges for the contest. Over 70 youngsters participated this year; the judges had their work cut out for them. Each of the winners received an age appropriate Art Set. The judges all agreed that regardless of the chosen winner, Ennis has some great artists!

Winners (L-R): Elsie Chandler age 11, Reid Henning age 10, Kyndall Marsh age 5, Aubrey Pearce age 4. PHOTO COURTESY TERESA FUNKE

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# FWP seeking applicants to Region 3 Citizens Advisory Committee

Submitted by  
MORGAN JACOBSEN, FWP

Region 3 of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking applicants to fill vacancies in its Citizens Advisory Committee.

The committee meets several times per year and operates in an advisory capacity to help FWP be responsive and effective resource managers within the constraints of the law. Citizen advisors help identify emerging trends and resolve conflicts, and they act as FWP ambassadors to various interest groups and geographic communities.

FWP employees benefit from having a deeper understanding of public priorities and expectations with help from citizen advisors, who can function as a trusted sounding board for ideas and initiatives. People who volunteer in this capacity benefit from understanding FWP programs, priorities, administrative processes and limitations in a broader context.

FWP is seeking applicants representing a variety of interests from communities across southwest Montana within Region 3. For more information or to apply, contact FWP at 406-577-7891 or send an email to [Morgan.Jacobsen@mt.gov](mailto:Morgan.Jacobsen@mt.gov). The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

# SHERIDAN GIRL SCOUTS



GIRL (Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk-Takers, & Leaders) Scouts Troop 3535 in Sheridan learning science. PHOTO COURTESY MARIA BIELER

# Sheridan Public Library hosts book discussion for "Being Mortal"

Submitted by  
WILLIAM TALBOTT

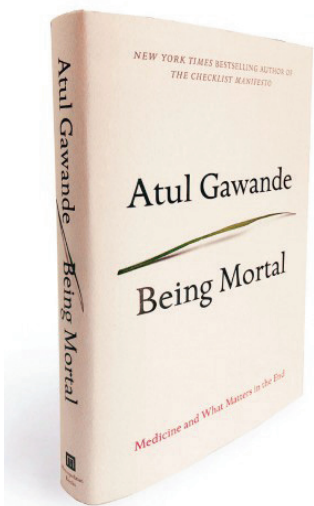
At some point, nearly everyone is faced with illness, frailty or end-of-life choices, either for oneself or for a family member. From Atul Gawande's book, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, we can learn how the delivery of health care affects individuals and their families when facing with these situations. The Ruby Valley community is invited to participate in a Community Read and Book Discussion for *Being Mortal*. The discussion will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m. at the Sheridan Public Library, 107 E. Hamilton St. in Sheridan. Jeanette Prodders, a licensed clinical social worker, will facilitate the discussion.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, baby boomers comprise one-fifth of the U.S. population, and Montana's population comprises a slightly higher proportion of senior citizens. With modern medicine and increasing technological advances, health care providers can always attempt more interventions. But should these interventions be done when positive outcomes decrease or negative side effects increase? It is time to have an honest dialogue about health care, quality of life and ask, "What does the patient want?" This book helps readers think about those tough decisions and what is important to each person.

Atul Gawande is a New York Times best-selling author, a surgeon and this book is written from his perspective as a son facing his father's mortality.

A number of copies will be available to check out at the Sheridan Public Library and The Bookstore in Dillon has ordered several copies of *Being Mortal* for purchase as well. For more information, contact Jeanette at 406-865-0381 or William Talbott at the Sheridan Public Library at 842-5770.

The Sheridan Public Library serves the Town of Sheridan and surrounding areas. Through our membership in the 4-Rivers Partner Sharing group, our users have access to materials in libraries throughout Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead counties. In addition to the normal books, we collect movies based on books, complete series, and a wide variety of foreign mysteries, from Scandinavian to African and Latin American. We provide downloadable e-books and audiobooks, hold movie nights (First and third Thursdays, 7 p.m.), meditation classes (first and third Mondays, 5:15 p.m.), the Historic Newspaper Reading Group (Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.) and book club (second Sunday, 1:30 p.m.). We host the Knitting and Garden Clubs' meetings and support two other book clubs. We also provide 24-7 wifi and public computers, and recently constructed an archive, where we will be able to hold photographs, newspapers and other items of historical interest. We are open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (7 p.m. on Wednesdays) and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, contact William Talbott at the Sheridan Library, 842-5770.



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SPORTS

Lady Trojans shoot down the Lady Falcons

Lost by a lot, won by a little

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

Twin Bridges girls' basketball team lost a home game to the Whitehall Trojans Jan. 10. The Falcons ended the first quarter with a slight lead but went into the second half behind. Whitehall kept Twin Bridges at bay while gaining a significant lead in the third and fourth quarters. Ashleigh Guinnane put up the most points for the Falcons. She accounted for almost half of their points in both games of the weekend. Avery George also contributed to the Falcons' success against the Lone Peak Bighorns. She drained two three-pointers in the third quarter, giving the Falcons the lead for the first time. The Falcons will take on Harrison Jan. 17



Freshman Falcon Callie Kaiser pulls in a rebound in the first half against the Whitehall Trojans Jan. 10  
PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE

<b>Jan. 10</b> <b>LOSS 38-67</b> <b>Twin Bridges Falcons:</b> 13 20 29 <b>Final: 38</b> <b>Whitehall Trojans:</b> 11 27 42 <b>Final: 67</b>	3-POINTERS Team total: 0 Individual leader: Individual total:	Individual leader: Ashleigh Guinnane Individual total: 16
POINTS Team total: 38 Individual leader: Ashleigh Guinnane Individual total: 18	FREE THROWS: 57% success rate	2-POINTERS Team total: 13 Individual leader: Ashleigh Guinnane Individual total: 7
2-POINTERS Team total: 13 Individual leader: Ashleigh Guinnane Individual total: 5	<b>Jan. 11</b> <b>WIN 39-34</b> <b>Twin Bridges Falcons:</b> 6 11 22 <b>Final: 39</b> <b>Lone Peak Bighorns:</b> 7 16 20 <b>Final: 34</b>	3-POINTERS Team total: 3 Individual leader: Avery George Individual total: 2
	POINTS Team total: 39	FREE THROWS: 67% success rate



Eighth-grader Emma Konen for Twin Bridges squares up against Whitehall Jan. 10  
PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE

Mustangs take down the Prospectors

Ennis girls' basketball

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

Ennis defeated Granite on the basketball court Friday night. The Mustangs kept the Prospectors from scoring any points in the second quarter. It was a low scoring first half for both teams. Jenna Snider took over the score board in the second half. The Ennis junior began the third and fourth quarters with three-pointers. Landri Paladichuk was another major contributor in the game. Paladichuk landed nine points for the Mustangs. Both teams allowed nine turnovers and shot from the free throw line at 62 percent. The Mustangs will play on their court against the Harrison Wildcats Jan. 16.

<b>Jan. 10</b> <b>WIN 39-26</b> <b>Ennis Mustangs:</b> 10 13 28 <b>Final: 39</b> <b>Granite Prospectors:</b> 6 6 12 <b>Final: 26</b>	Individual leader: Jenna Snider Individual total: 16	3-POINTERS Team total: 2 Individual leader: Jenna Snider Individual total: 2
POINTS Team total: 39	2-POINTERS Team total: 10 Individual leader: Jenna Snider Individual total: 4	FREE THROWS: 62% suc- cess rate

Check back next week to follow your favorite Madison County team! If there is not a story about them, we did not receive information by press time.



# SPORTS

## Falcon swoop

### Twin Bridges boys' basketball victories

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

The Falcons picked up two more wins over the weekend. Twin Bridges hosted the Friday night game against the Whitehall Trojans. The boys were prepared for the rival game. The Falcons scored 21 points before the Trojans got onto the score board. Twin Bridges ended the first quarter with 30 points. “Our goal has been to win the first five minutes of the game,” Twin Bridges head coach Josh Keller. “The boys did a great job!” Twin Bridges’ defense was strong with 20 defensive rebounds and 15 steals. “Whitehall is a good team and to hold them under 40 was a big feat for us,” Keller said. When Twin Bridges’ junior Charlie Kruer went up for points, he succeeded. He drained five three-pointers throughout the game and joined the 30-point club. Junior, Matt Kaiser put up 13 points, including three three-pointers. Bryce Nye was another contributor in the game, putting up 10 points and making 11 assists. Kruer continued to rack up points against Lone Peak Jan. 11. His shooting rate for the weekend was 76 percent. The Falcons shot at 67% inside the paint and played another strong defensive game. Kaiser had eight defensive rebounds and senior, Nate Konen had six. The Falcons moved the ball better than they shot against the Bighorns. They made 20 assists, Nye accounting for seven of them. Kaiser put up 18 points including six offensive rebounds. “It really tells me that we are playing unselfish basketball and taking good shots,” Keller said.

<b>Jan. 10</b> <b>WIN 79-36</b> <b>Twin Bridges Falcons:</b> <b>30 43 55      Final: 79</b> <b>Whitehall Trojans:</b> <b>6 15 23      Final: 36</b>	Team total: 11 Individual leader: Charlie Kruer Individual total: 5  FREE THROWS: 50% success rate	Individual total: 21  2-POINTERS Team total: 24 Individual leader: Matt Kaiser Individual total: 7
POINTS Team total: 79 Individual leader: Charlie Kruer Individual total: 30	<b>Jan. 11</b> <b>WIN 64-20</b> <b>Twin Bridges Falcons:</b> <b>22 36 57      Final: 64</b> <b>Lone Peak Bighorns:</b> <b>9 13 13      Final: 20</b>	3-POINTERS Team total: 3 Individual leader: Charlie Kruer/ Connor Nye/ Tate Smith Individual total: 1
2-POINTERS Team total: 19 Individual leader: Charlie Kruer Individual total: 7 3-POINTERS	POINTS Team total: 64 Individual leader: Charlie Kruer	FREE THROWS: 58% success rate



Senior Falcon Bryce Nye reaches for a layup in the fourth quarter against Whitehall Jan. 10. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE



Charlie Kruer scores against the Whitehall Trojans in Twin Bridges Jan. 10. PHOTO BY HANNAH KEARSE



## Harrison Lady Wildcats victorious against Lima

Wildcat senior, Aleena Bacon takes a shot in their Friday night victory over the Lima Bears. PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA CHRISTENSEN



# SPORTS

## Wildcats fight on the road Harrison boys' basketball

BY HANNAH KEARSE  
news@madisoniannews.com

The Wildcats started the weekend with a win over the Lima Bears but fell short against West Yellowstone.

The Friday night game against Lima was a swift victory for the Wildcats. Harrison entered the second half with a comfortable 17-point lead. The Bears more than doubled their points in the fourth quarter but could not out

score the Wildcats.

Senior Vern Homner led Harrison against Lima, making a pair of three-pointers in the third quarter. Harrison's success rate at the free throw line was weak, a factor that would play into their loss against West Yellowstone.

The Wildcats missed out on 15 points with a 44% success rate at the free throw line. Harrison junior Luke Cima and freshman Sage Buus carried the Wildcats in the first half and Homner came

out strong for the second half.

Cima was injured in the final play of the third quarter. A Lima player undercut his layup, sending Cima crashing to the floor. He did not return to the court. With a couple of minutes left in the game, Homner fouled out.

"Missed free throws and turn-overs cost the game," Head coach Zach Murphy said.

Murphy was not sure if Cima would be healthy for the game against Ennis Jan. 16.

Jan. 10  
WIN 65-25  
Harrison Wildcats:  
10 27 48      Final: 65  
Lima Bears:  
8 10 12      Final: 25

POINTS  
Team total: 65  
Individual leader: Vern Homner  
Individual total: 20

2-POINTERS  
Team total: 27  
Individual leader: Vern Homner  
Individual total: 7

3-POINTERS  
Team total: 3  
Individual leader: Vern Homner  
Individual total: 2

FREE THROWS: 25% success rate

Jan. 11  
LOSS 63-58  
Harrison Wildcats:  
16 21 43      Final: 58  
West Yellowstone Wolverines:  
11 26 47      Final: 63

POINTS

Team total: 58  
Individual leader: Sage Buus  
Individual total: 15

2-POINTERS  
Team total: 23  
Individual leader: Sage Buus  
Individual total: 6

3-POINTERS  
Team total: 0  
Individual leader:  
Individual total:

FREE THROWS: 44% success rate



Junior Thomas Cromwell takes a clear shot against the Lima Bears in Friday night's game. PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA CHRISTENSEN

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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday  
Mainly cloudy. High around 40F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.

Friday  
Snow showers before noon. Becoming partly cloudy later. High 29F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of snow 60%. Snow accumulations less than one inch.

Saturday  
Mostly cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 29F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday  
Partly cloudy. High 33F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday  
Partly cloudy skies. High 36F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Quote of the Week:  
"Always turn a negative situation into a positive situation."  
- MICHAEL JORDAN

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WORLDSTRIDES TRIP  
45 kids on the books for 2021

By KEELY LARSON  
connect@madisoniannews.com

What do you get when you mix 39 junior high students, 14 chaperones, a few airplanes, multiple theme parks and eight days in Florida in October? If you were thinking madness or chaos that may be, but the correct answer is a WorldStrides trip.

WorldStrides provides a science-based field trip to Orlando, Fla. for Ennis 7th and 8th graders. Junior high students have been attending for 25 plus years. Their 2019 trip began on Oct. 16.

Through the eight-day immersion, students learned how physics is involved in rollercoaster design at Magic Kingdom, how physics played into ride experience at Universal Studios and experienced a space shuttle launch at the Kennedy Space Center.

"I liked learning about how the (Animal Kingdom) animations moved," Addy Oliver, 8th grader, said.

The teacher who originally started this opportunity understood that high school students had more travel opportunities and junior high students would benefit from an experience all their own. It used to be booked through a travel

company, but this got to be expensive. Ms. Kelley Knack, teacher and WorldStrides coordinator and organizer, with a travel agent background, decided to put her skills to the test.

"I started just doing it all on my own," she said.

While she was able to pair the price down, the trip still costs \$2,200 per student. This is a lump sum Ms. Knack compiled, including everything from airfare to meals. Due to the expense, the school goes every two years to give students time to fundraise.

Fundraising activities included the spring caraffle and selling butter braids and Elliott's cookie dough. Before the WorldStrides trip even begins, students are introduced to skills like goal setting, time management, money management, budgeting and setting a deadline.

"It was a really good experience to learn how to go around and ask people questions," Megan Knack, 8th grader, said.

"It's travel etiquette, it's restaurant etiquette, it's time management," Ms. Knack said. These skills round out the experience. Students learn life skills that carry them into high school and beyond.

They are introduced to job options they may have never considered before. The contrast Knack kept emphasizing, though, was how the trip was equal

parts education and fun.

Students experienced a dolphin swim this year, a first for the Ennis crew. In small groups, they spent 45 minutes with their own dolphin, giving it kisses and riding next to its fin. "My favorite part was Discovery Cove. You got to snorkel with all these animals. You could even touch the sting rays in habitat," Knack said.

Traveling back from Kennedy Space Center, the group stopped at Cocoa Beach. For some, this was their first time at the ocean. "We were two hours in the waves, and they laughed non-stop," Ms. Knack said. "The best part was getting trapped under the waves," Caden Lovett, 7th grader, said.

Tropical storm Nester made an appearance and Ms. Knack said it was the most rain she experienced going on this trip. The kids were hardly bothered, though. Lines were short at Hollywood Studios, their destination during the storm, and they grabbed ponchos and took advantage of their good fortune.

Lovett noticed the elevation difference and how much easier it was to run around the theme parks, which was a bonus. The humidity, on the other hand, was shocking. "I wanted AC bad," Kaleb Rice, 8th grader, said.

Perhaps the most lasting effect of the trip was the opportunity to branch out and connect with different classmates. Especially at this age, students can get trapped into a personality box at school. While undesirable, sometimes it just happens. Ms. Knack put in every effort to break this down while away from home.

"I think these kids learn to see other kids in a different light," Ms. Knack said. She felt it boosted their confidence to know they did not exist under one stereotype.

"Most groups, every time they come back from Florida, usually talk about how they made new friends. They talked to people they never really talked to before. That happened to me," Knack said.

The last life lesson learned was showing gratitude to the ones who supported them. "We have tried to work on our kids being appreciative," Ms. Knack said. Thank you notes were written to people who supported the trip in any way once the group returned. Ms. Knack knows how supportive the Ennis community is but feels it cannot be overstated. "They definitely supported it," Rice said.

"It never hurts to say thanks," Ms. Knack said.



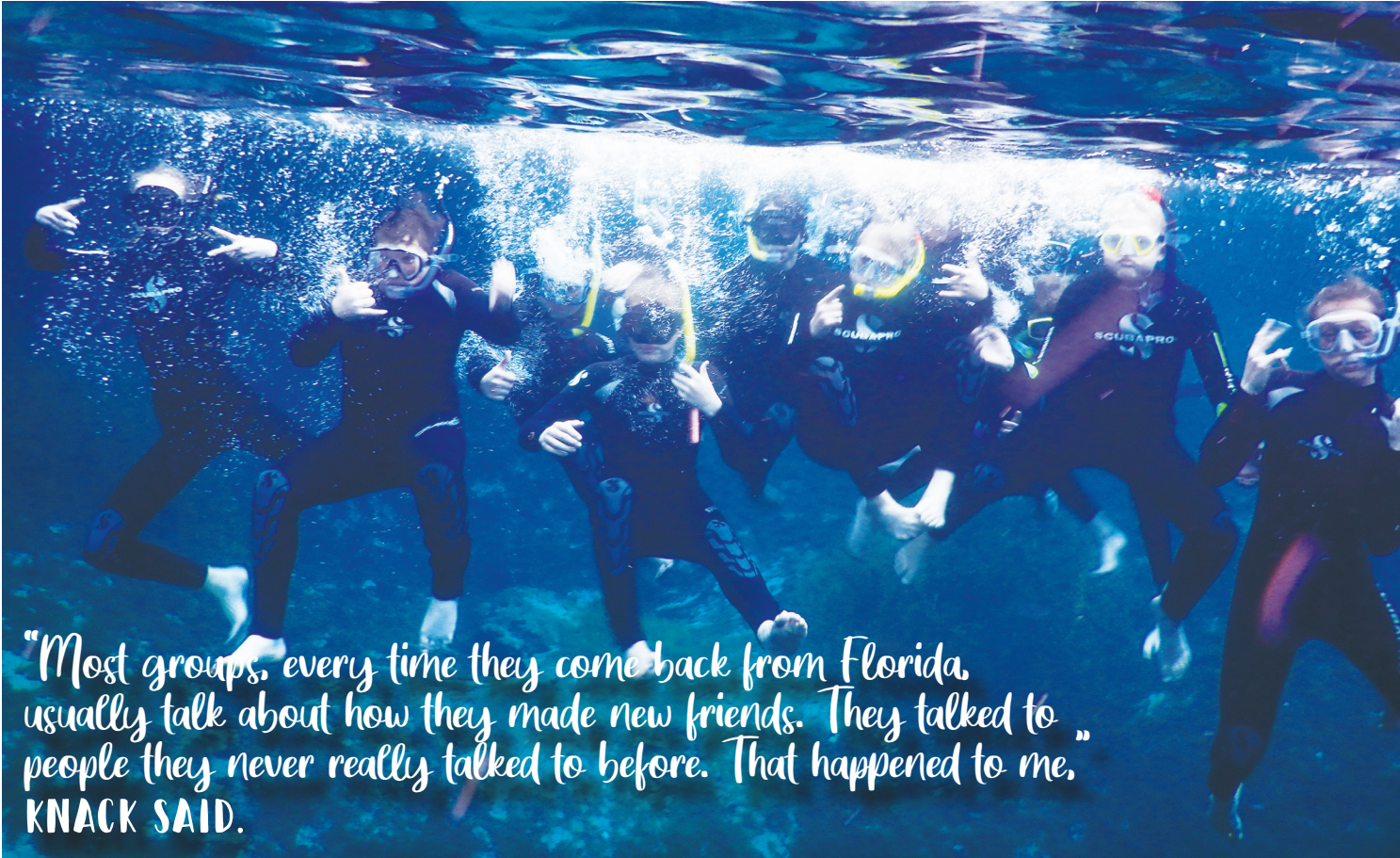
Junior high kids enjoying the massive waves at Cocoa Beach. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY KNACK



"We're all pretty good friends from the start," Addy Oliver said. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY KNACK



Flying a plane via virtual reality goggles at the Orlando Science Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY KNACK



In one snorkeling session, Kaleb Rice got to ride with a dolphin named Luna. The dolphin experience was a resounding success. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLEY KNACK

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# American Lung Association busts top 5 myths about radon, second-leading cause of lung cancer

1 in 15 homes at risk for dangerous levels of radon, which causes lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths

Submitted by  
HOLLY HARVEY, ALA

Hiding in far too many homes is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, radon. This January, during Radon Action Month, the American Lung Association clears up five common myths around this deadly gas.

“Radon is a naturally occurring gas that hides invisibly in homes, yet is the nation’s second-leading cause of lung cancer. Lung cancer remains the nation’s leading cause of cancer deaths, so to save lives people need to be

aware of and take action on radon,” said Carrie Nyssen, senior director of advocacy for the American Lung Association in Montana. “The good news is that testing for and reducing the high radon levels is straightforward and effective. We encourage all families, schools and daycares to test for radon to protect everyone’s health.”

**Myth #1: Radon is not really harmful.**

**Fact: Not only is radon invisible, it’s also radioactive. While you can’t see it, exposure to high levels of radon over time can cause lung**

**cancer, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. In fact, radon ranks as the nation’s second-leading cause of the disease. Radon-related lung cancers are responsible for an estimated 21,000 deaths every year in the United States.**

**Myth #2: Radon is rare and doesn’t impact our community.**

**Fact: The reality is that radon is found at dangerous levels in an estimated 1 in 15 homes nationwide. Your home can have elevated levels of radon while your neighbor’s home does not.**

**It doesn’t matter in what part of the country you live. Radon comes from rock and soil, so it can be found anywhere. It then enters the home or building through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundation and other openings, and can exist at dangerous levels indoors.**

**Myth #3: Testing for radon is expensive.**

**Fact: The only way to detect dangerous levels of radon in your home is to test the air. Various do-it-yourself test kits are simple to use and inexpensive. Some places offer free kits. Schools and**

**daycares should use professional help to do the testing.**

**Myth #4: Even if I test, I couldn’t afford to fix the problem.**

**Fact: Fixing radon problems in most homes costs between \$500 and \$1,500—roughly the price of a new television set or computer.**

**Myth #5: Our schools are safe.**

**Fact: Testing for radon in schools is not required in most states, nor is fixing the problem. Not only children, but teachers and other staff who work in schools can be exposed to dangerous levels**

**of radon. The last nationwide survey of radon levels in schools, completed in 1993, found that nearly one in five schools had at least one classroom with dangerous levels of radon. The American Lung Association leads a coalition of groups working to highlight the importance of testing for radon in both schools and daycares through the National Radon Action Plan.**

To learn more about radon and how to test homes, visit [Lung.org/radon](http://Lung.org/radon) or call the Lung HelpLine at 1-800-LUNG-USA.

# Mental health – fighting the stigma

By JUDY WEITZEL, PMHNP-BC AND DEBRA MCNEILL

Are you suffering from extended periods of emotional pain? Are you reluctant to visit a mental health professional because –

1. You’re anxious about what your family, friends or neighbors may think?
2. You know you should be strong enough to get over your emotional pain?
3. You believe that a mental

health professional can’t make a difference in how you feel?

If you answered “yes” to the first question and any of the last three questions, you have been affected by the stigmas relating to mental illness. It’s time to stop letting these stigmas keep you from obtaining the support you need to alleviate your emotional pain.

**What is a stigma?** A stigma is a judgement upon an individual’s character and, in families

and small communities, these judgements can have powerful and sometimes devastating consequences. When a person is in emotional pain, the related stigmas are that the person is weak, has poor life management skills, always angry, a loner, or lacking self-discipline. Sadly, it is very common for people struggling with depression, anxiety or PTSD to be the target of negative attitudes rather than compassion, tolerance and support. Don’t let the stigma of

mental illness prevent you from seeking help.

**Effects of Mental Health Related Stigmas**

- Social distancing. Depression, anxiety, and other forms of emotional pain often result in avoiding social situations. Social distancing makes the situation much worse. Humans are social animals and need healthy relationships.
- Lack of understanding. Some people choose to accept the easy judgements and conventional opinions about mental illness rather than investing the time to understand it and find out what is happening with you. Lack of understanding can be invalidating and very painful.
- Bullying, harassment and avoidance.
- Health insurance often doesn’t adequately cover the cost of treatment.
- Belief that your situation will never improve.
- Reluctance to seek help. As if the stigmas weren’t bad enough, there are co-conspirators such as negative self-talk, fear of gossip and embarrassment that keep people from getting help.

In American society, one of the most oppressive stigmas about depression is the myth that you have the ability to cure yourself if only you’re strong enough, have self-control or work harder. It’s a “cowboy-up” mentality that implies you should be able to fix yourself and it’s not true! Telling someone to “just stop feeling depressed” makes as much sense as telling someone to stop being a diabetic!

For middle-aged men, the prevalent cultural expectation is that they should muscle-through mental illness. Men are expected to be independent and competent; they shouldn’t need to seek help from others. Vulnerability is believed to be a weakness and often results in men concealing their emotions. Men often suffer from the added stress of identification as the “family breadwinner”. During poor economic periods or industrial transitions, the isolation, anxiety and frustration of financial concerns can lead to substance abuse, intense anger and depression. The muscle-through or cowboy-up myth can lead to destructive behaviors and broken families. Wouldn’t it be healthier to fight the stigmas?

shame and self-doubt. Let your friends, family and mental health professionals help you.


5. If you aren’t comfortable seeking help locally, contact a professional in the next town, the next county or call a help line. (Please see resources below.)
6. When you feel strong enough, speak out against the stigmas regarding mental illness. If you hear someone repeating a myth, please don’t be silent. Be kind, but don’t let it slide. Someone else may be suffering and gain strength from your words. You’ll feel even stronger for speaking out against the stigma.

If you don’t feel strong enough to seek help from a mental health professional, consider looking through the stories of people who are successfully managing their mental illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has hundreds of personal stories on its website at [www.nami.org/](http://www.nami.org/) personal-stories. You might find a story like yours that will give you strength and hope.

The Madison County Mental Health Advisory Council has compiled a list of mental health-care professionals, support groups, emergency hotlines, veterans resources and youth services which can be found at the bottom of any web page on [www.RVMC.org](http://www.RVMC.org). There is also a new mental health group in Ennis at the Madison Valley Medical Center on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (Enter the Medical Center through the ER and the service is free!) To contact the Montana Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call 800-273-TALK (8255) or text “MT” to 741741.

Mental healthcare is really just healthcare. Talk to someone, see a therapist, make a plan, feel better!

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# COLUMNS



## COMMODITY INSITE: A HISTORIC YEAR & DECADE AHEAD

BY JERRY WELCH

The first weekly newspaper column I penned for 2019 was entitled, “Commodities Will Rule and Stocks Drool in 2019.” I stated boldly in the final paragraph, “The New Year, 2019 should present aggressive investors and traders with some low risk, high probability opportunities with a host of commodity markets. I also predict that in 2019, commodities will rule while stocks drool.”

As it turned out, stocks rose approximately 30% in 2019, their best performance since 2013. Commodities per se on the other hand, were woefully weak in most cases until the final month of the year when they finally caught a bid and closed a tad higher. In 2019, stocks ruled and commodities drooled, the opposite of my forecast.

But now, a new year has arrived and a new decade as well. And for kicks and giggles, here

are some startling facts about the single best performing asset in the decade of the, “twenty-tens.” That asset, of course, was bitcoin. From Bloomberg News with a headline that blared, “Bitcoin’s 9,000,000% Rise This Decade Leaves the Skeptics Aghast.” And yes, that is not a misprint. The gain for Bitcoin in the last decade was 9 million percent.

Bloomberg News stated, “Emerging out of the ashes of the financial crisis, Bitcoin was created as a bypass to the banks and government agencies mired in Wall Street’s greatest calamity in decades. At first, it was slow to break through, muddled by a slew of scandals: fraud, thefts and scams that turned away many and brought closer regulatory scrutiny. But once it burst into the mainstream, it proved to be the decade’s best-performing asset.”

Bloomberg News stated, “The largest digital token, trading around \$7,200(each) has posted gains of more than 9,000,000% since July 2010, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.” However, Bitcoin first came into existence on Halloween 2008 by someone named, Satoshi Nakamoto. At the time, I understand that 1 cent ( a penny) could have bought 3 bitcoins. One U.S. dollar could have bought 300 bitcoins.

Bitcoin showed little volatility from 2008 to 2016. In 2010, it never traded over \$.39 ( yes, cents!) but in July 2017 it popped over the \$1000 level. Shortly later, intense volatility was unleashed and roller coaster trading quickly ensued. In late 2017, bitcoin rose to \$19,783 level but in late 2018, was back down to a bit over \$3000. In the summer of ‘19, it was back up to

\$13,800 and now trades around \$8200. A host of forecasts are calling for bitcoin to take off to the upside in 2020, with a possible assault on new all-time historic highs.

Obviously, a 9,000,000% rise is a solid return on any investment. Still, you had to stomach, to sit through the volatility that unfolded over the following years. Also keep in mind that the single hardest question to answer when trading or investing is this: When to get out with a profit? Or, a loss? It is a question that has no clear answer. It all comes down to how much heat you can tolerate when the market position begins to cause pain.

But for a moment, think about a 9 million percent return on your investment. Buying \$100 worth of bitcoin on Halloween, 2008 could have led to a gain of \$90 million before

the end of the decade. If reluctant to risk \$100 because money is hard to come by and instead, plunked \$1 down and that would have returned \$9 million before the end of the decade. And if \$1 was too much to risk and instead, you bought \$.10 worth, a measly dime, that would have led to a \$900,000 gain. As Bloomberg News so aptly stated, such gains leave me, “aghast!”

Few expect commodities per se to do much on the upside here in the New Year. But yours truly is convinced that climate change issues this year will be numerous across the globe supporting food stuff markets. I also believe that a signed trade deal with China will be revolutionary for U.S. agriculture as it will be “new found demand” and underpin grain and livestock prices for the next few years.

In the entire Big Four: stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities, the market with the most extreme cycle is commodities. And that is because sudden changes in weather, fires or natural disasters and so on can lead quickly to much lower supplies and sharply higher prices. All my work suggests loudly that commodities per se are on the cusp of bottoming in 2020/21 and moving higher into 2035.

My lean is for major bull markets for commodities to unfold in the New Year and beyond, allowing U.S. grain and livestock producers to experience the biggest agriculture boom in history. The year and decade ahead will be historic and highlighted by climate change challenges and new found demand from China and emerging economies.

### A WRANGLER'S RECKLESS WRITINGS



By Bryce Angell

## Ol’ Knothead

I’d tied Ol’ Knothead to a post. His mane was full of burs. The old bay was despicable. Should’ve turned his hide to furs.

If you’re wonderin’ how he got the name. I’ll give you one big clue. He was hard to catch, weren’t worth the ride, a lead pill overdue.

And when it came to shoein’ time, you’d have yourself a fight. He’d snort and kick and sometimes strike. Was even known to bite.

That day I looked in Knothead’s eyes. They darned near made me flee. ‘Twas time to slap his shoes on. Wish this wasn’t up to me.

You never really knew when Knothead was about to blow. I grabbed a front foot suddenly he stomped down on my toe. To my despair my cap fell off, then Knothead blew a snort. He stomped down on my brand-new lid, which left me one hat short.

The summer sun was baring down right on my white bald head. ‘Twas sure to get a sunburn. How I wished Ol’ Knothead dead!

Well, Knothead finally settled down. But, left me plumb in awe. ‘Cuz I swear I saw him laughing. How that stuck hard in my craw.

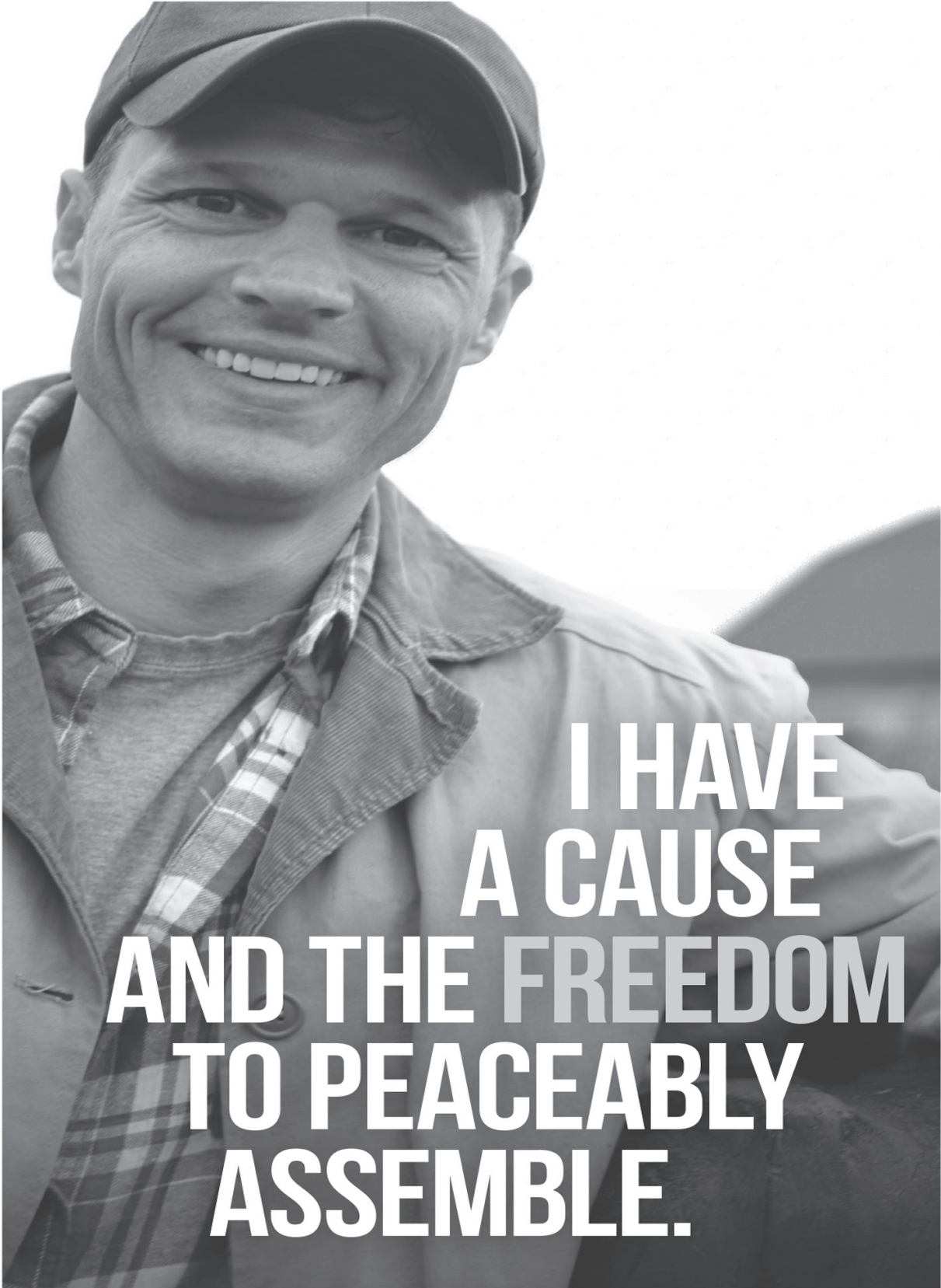
Soon Knothead lifted up a foot. I thought that mighty strange. I tacked a horseshoe on his hoof before his mind would change.

The next three shoes went on so fast it seemed to be a dream. Was Knothead messin’ round with me as part of his grand scheme?

Each time Ol’ Knothead acted up, I guess I’m only statin’. I wondered, “Should we change his name and call that dang horse Satan?”

I guess you’d say Ol’ Knothead was an irritatin’ force. And why do cowboys always have a knothead for a horse?

I swore one day I’d say the words, “You stinkin’ crow bait fool.” As I watched him come a squeezezin’ out a tube of Elmer’s Glue.



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COMICS & PUZZLES

THEME: SUPER BOWL

- ACROSS
1. Wheel stopper
6. “Stinging” Muhammad
9. Greek portico
13. She turned to stone, mythology
14. Loud noise
15. \*Like many football fans
16. At full speed
17. VHS successor
18. Omit
19. \*Miami \_\_\_\_\_
21. \*They won their first two Super Bowl appearances
23. Time division
24. Do like phoenix
25. “Swan Lake” steps
28. It often follows tooth or back
30. What oars do
35. Part of a jousting outfit
37. Dickens!
39. Donkey in Mexico
40. Glazier’s unit
41. \*Like Bud at a party
43. Farm structure
44. Fraternal letter
46. Miso bean
47. Make wet
48. Unmoved
50. Agitate
52. Tasseled hat
53. Colloquial approval
55. Opposite of paleo
57. \*Tonowanda \_\_\_\_\_, shortest-lived team in NFL history
60. \*Hard Rock \_\_\_\_\_
64. In the buff
65. Rapscaillon
67. It’s common?
68. What time does
69. Lawyers’ league
70. Load carrier
71. Extend credit
72. Nonclerical
73. Roommate annoyance
- DOWN
1. Angler’s enemy
2. Type of cotton fiber
3. Sound of pride
4. Do like a good citizen
5. Family subdivisions
6. Contributes
7. \*54
8. Lemur from Madagascar
9. The only one
10. \*Ronde to Tiki or Maurkice to

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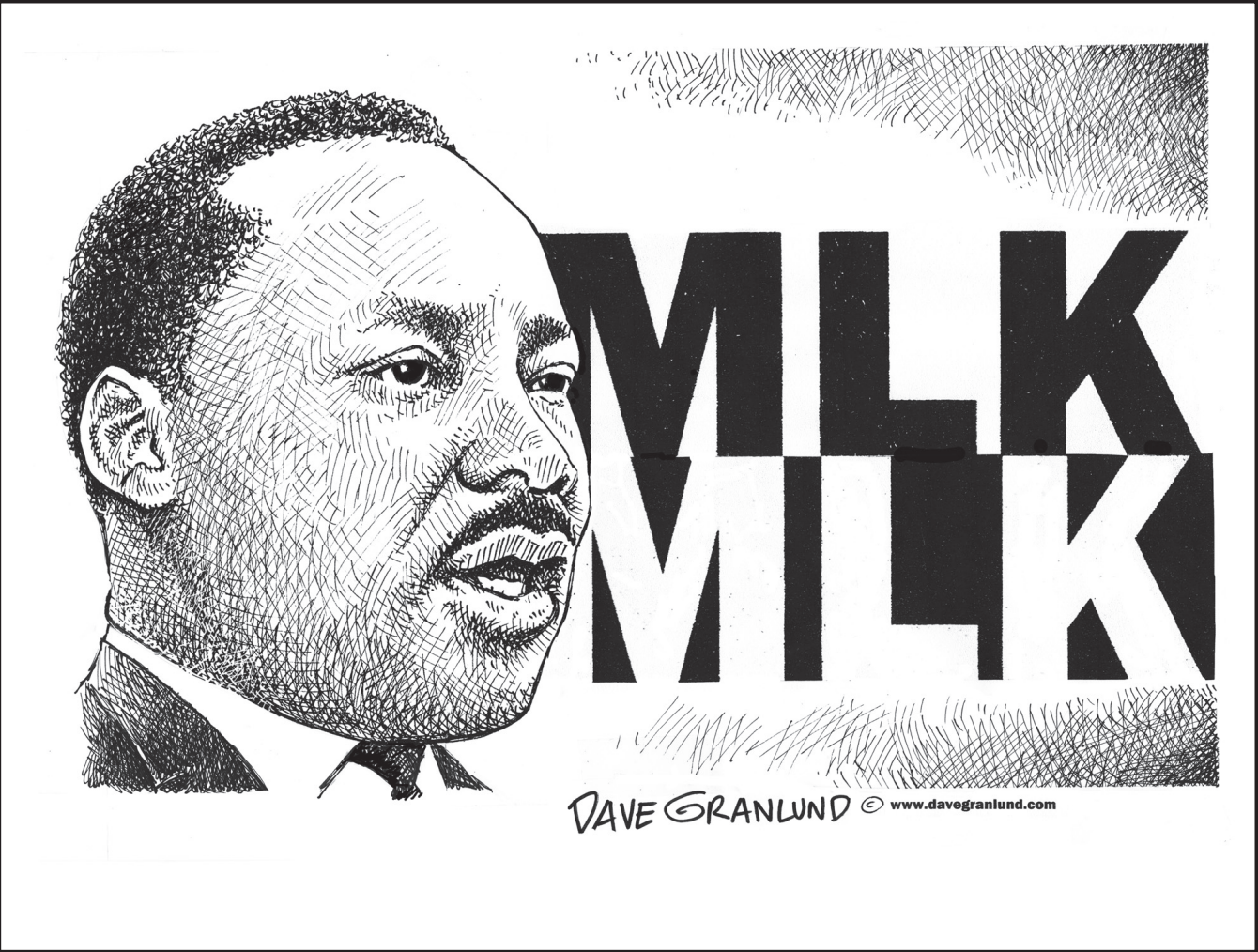
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- Mike
11. \*Gambling \_\_\_\_\_
12. Pirate’s “yes”
15. Echo
20. \*Popular stadium snack
22. Nile reptile
24. Clergy house
25. \*Halftime show sponsor
26. “Encore!”
27. \*What halftime performer does
29. 43 Across residents
31. “That hurts!”
32. Measure of alcohol
33. Jagged, as a leaf’s edge
34. \*Halftime performer
36. Highway hauler
38. Boxer’s last blow
42. House coat
45. Not seeing eye to eye
49. Tiny Tim’s guitar
51. To the lowest degree, pl.
54. Relating to axis
56. Theater to Socrates
57. Leafy green
58. Similar
59. \*Hall of Famers Ed or Andre
60. Neuter
61. Division word
62. \_\_\_\_\_ agreement
63. Bēbē’s mother
64. \*Super Bowl owner
66. Wharton degree



Editor’s Note: Any editorial cartoons printed in our paper do not reflect the opinion of the staff of The Madisonian.

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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.



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	7	4	8	5	1	2	3	6	9
	5	2	1	9	3	7	4	8	6
	8	9	3	6	4	1	5	2	7
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Crossword puzzle answers on B9

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The Ruby Valley Medical Center is accepting applications for a full-time Patient Coordinator. Please visit [www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities](http://www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities) for more information and to apply on-line.



The Ruby Valley Medical Center is accepting applications for a full-time Maintenance Manager. Please visit [www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities](http://www.RVMC.org/career-opportunities) for more information and to apply on-line.



## HEY YOU!

The Madisonian in Ennis, Mont., is currently seeking a **CIRCULATION MANAGER/OFFICE ASSISTANT**. The position is responsible for delivery of our publications and assists with various office duties, as directed. He/she will ensure proper delivery of all of our publications, while growing our subscriptions and newsstand reach. This position also maintains office hours as necessary and assists his/her team members with varying tasks throughout the week. He/she is extremely dependable. The ideal candidate must be energetic and self-motivated with excellent communication, time management and problem solving skills. Must be computer literate, enjoy traveling throughout southwest Montana on varying road conditions, and be willing to assist the team with daily operations and the project(s) we're working on at the time. Must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Bending and frequent heavy lifting is required. PT /FT is negotiable for the right candidate. To apply, contact Erin Leonard at [eleonard@madisoniannews.com](mailto:eleonard@madisoniannews.com) or stop in at 65 N MT HWY 287 in Ennis.

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Sheridan School District No. 5 has an immediate opening for a one-on-one paraprofessional, approx. 34 hrs/week, starting wage DOE. Information and employment applications can be obtained on the Sheridan School website at <https://sheridan.k12.mt.us>, or by contacting Rebecca Larsen, District Clerk at 842-5302.

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## LOST

Lost. Hunting backpack, Dana Design. Lost at Raynold's Pass bridge area. Black and purple camo cover. Please call 406-287-7992

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2006 Kawasaki Ninja ZX-636R Sportbike for free It is in excellent condition 100% mechanically. If interested pls contact: [parololazrus@gmail.com](mailto:parololazrus@gmail.com)

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At the Lewis & Clark Fairgrounds, Helena, MT. January 24-26, 2020. The Montana Boat Show's \$3 admission charge gives you a chance at over \$1,500 in door prizes! Children under 12 enter free. For info call (406) 443-6400 or 266-5700. Mark Your 2020 Calendar!  
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**YELLOWSTONE CLUB**



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## JANUARY 16, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JERALD L. NYHART, Deceased.  
Probate No. DP-19-27  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to John Warren, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 28, Dillon, Montana 59725, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct DATED December 3, 2019.  
/s/ Sandy Nyhart  
Personal Representative Personal Representative's Attorney John Warren P. O. Box 28 Dillon, Montana 59725 (Pub. JAN 9, 16, 23, 2020)  
JOHN WARREN  
MNAXLP

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHARON LEE CASE, Deceased.  
Cause No.: DP-29-2019-31  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to William Innis, Personal Representative, c/o Krueer Law Firm, P.C., P.O. Box 718, Sheridan, MT 59749, return receipt requested or filed with the Clerk of the above Court. Dated this 2 day of JANUARY, 2020. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Montana that the foregoing is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
/S/ STEPHANIE GEHRES KRUEER  
Attorney for Personal Representative (Pub. JAN 9, 16, 23, 2020)  
KRUEER  
MNAXLP

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Madison County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6:15 pm in the Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building, 103 W Wallace, Virginia City, Montana. The 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 January 27, 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](mailto: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. JAN 9, 16, 2020)  
MC PLANNING  
MNAXLP

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**  
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY  
Jim Kleis and Tanya Engle have requested a Conditional Use Permit for a vacation rental, located in the Historic View Shed Residential District, at 1368 Mt Hwy 286, Virginia City, Montana. Public comment will be heard at the February 6, 2020 council meeting. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm at the Rehearsal Hall, 316 W Idaho Street, Virginia City. (Pub. JAN 16, 23, 2020)  
Town of Virginia City  
MNAXLP

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO WATER USERS**  
NOTICE TO WATER USERS (PURSUANT TO SECTION 85-2-307, MCA)  
Jim Kleis and Tanya Engle have requested a 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: MARCH 2, 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: 41F 30122400 Applicant: MT MOONLIGHT BASIN WATER & SEWER LLC PO BOX 160040 BIG SKY, MT 59716 0040 WATER RIGHT NUMBER(S) BEING CHANGED Water Right Type(s): PROVISIONAL PERMIT Water Right Number/Priority Date: 41H 99524-00/ DECEMBER 10, 1996 41H 30005212/ FEBRUARY 14, 2003 41F 30013630/ DECEMBER 7, 2006 PAST USE OF WATER: EACH PERMIT WAS ACQUIRED PIECEMEAL AND REPRESENTED A PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERVICE AREA. USE OF WATER UNDER 41H 99524-00 HAS BEEN PERFECTED AT 400 GPM UP TO 98.3 AF PER ANNUM FOR A MULTIPLE DOMESTIC PURPOSE. THE APPLICANT IS STILL BUILDING OUT USE OF THE FULL AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS UNDER 41H 30005212 AND 41F 30013630. 41H 30005212 WAS ISSUED FOR 130 GPM UP TO 98.3 AF PER ANNUM FOR MULTIPLE DOMESTIC AND LAWN AND GARDEN PURPOSES. 41F 30013630 WAS ISSUED FOR 231 GPM UP TO 163.2 AF PER ANNUM FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, WITH SUB-PURPOSES INCLUDING GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION, DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, LAWN AND GARDEN, AND SNOWMAKING. 41F 30013630 INCLUDES A MITIGATION CONDITION, UNDER WHICH THE APPLICANT MUST LEAVE 0.85 CFS UP TO 65.87 AF OF WATER INSTREAM IN JACK CREEK TO MITIGATE DEPLETIONS TO THAT SOURCE. PROPOSED CHANGE: FLOW RATE: 761.00 GPM VOLUME: 300.10 AC-FT ACRES: 120.85 FOR GROUNDWATER PERMITS 41H 99524-00, 41H 30005212, AND 41F 30013630, THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE PURPOSE, PLACE OF USE, POINT OF DIVERSION, AND PLACE OF STORAGE SO THAT ALL FOUR ELEMENTS ARE THE SAME. EACH PERMIT WAS ACQUIRED PIECEMEAL FOR DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PHASES, BUT THEY ARE PART OF THE SAME WATER SYSTEM. THE PURPOSE WILL BE MUNICIPAL; THE PLACE OF USE WILL BE GENERALLY SECTION 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 26; THE POINTS OF DIVERSION WILL BE SIX WELLS LOCATED IN SECTIONS 14, 23, AND 24; AND THE PLACE OF STORAGE WILL BE TWO RESERVOIRS IN SECTION 14. ALL ELEMENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 2 EAST, MADISON COUNTY. THE MAXIMUM USE UNDER ALL THREE PERMITS WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS THE CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS: 761 GPM UP TO 300.1 AF PER ANNUM, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 120.85 IRRIGABLE ACRES. (Pub. JAN 16, 2020)  
DNRC  
MNAXLP

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Montana SMP is a program coordinated by Missoula Aging Services and partnered with local Area Agencies on Aging. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MP0233, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.



ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!

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# MISSOURI RIVER CORPS OF REDISCOVERY

## PART 31: TASTE OF FREEDOM

*“Set out after a heavy Shower of rain and proceeded on the Same Course of last night passed a large butifull Prarie on the S. S. opposit a large Island, Calld Saukee Prarie, a gentle breese from the S. W. Some butiful high lands on the L. S. passed Som verry Swift water to day, I saw Pelicans to day on a Sand bar, my servant York nearly loseing an eye by a man throwing Sand into it.”*

—William Clark, June 20, 1804

Column and photos by  
THOMAS J. ELP

Lewis and Clark often referred to their crew as “the men” or “a man” without specifying names. Clark didn’t elaborate why a member of their expedition threw sand in York’s eyes near today’s Lexington, Missouri, but it was apparently an intentional act. The Corps of Discovery consisted of white men, many raised in the South within the culture of slavery, who may have tormented York for entertainment or because they resented having an African American on the expedition. Barely a month into the journey, the crew wasn’t wholly disciplined, and hadn’t yet grown together as a team.

Over time, however, York played a role equal or greater than that of the other men. Although slaves were prohibited from using firearms at home, York carried a gun on the expedition and proved a successful hunter. He worked side-by-side with the men and joined them in celebrations and dancing. York played a critical role in diplomacy with the tribes, impressing Indians who had never seen a black man before. Lewis and Clark honored York by naming a group of islands after him near Townsend, Montana. And when the co-captains polled the crew regarding a location to build a fort for the winter of 1805, they counted votes from both York and Sacagawea.

Having enjoyed a taste of freedom and equality, York requested release after the expedition, which William Clark denied. The two men had grown up side-by-side as playmates, albeit with one as slave and the other as master. Their post-expedition relationship soured, and after several bitter years, Clark finally caved to York’s request.

The issue of slavery divided the United States from the

outset, with unresolved issues boiling over into the Civil War of 1861-1865. Lexington, Missouri was the site of one early conflict.

We paddled into Lexington Riverfront Park in our continuing journey of rediscovery. Flood debris provided the aura of disorder, as if entering the aftermath of a minor battle. After setting up camp, Scott and I walked into town to visit the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

In September of 1861, Colonel James A. Mulligan and 3,500 Union soldiers took the high ground, building fortifications around the Masonic College. A natural spring provided water, but inadequate to meet the needs of all the men and horses. They were surrounded by Major General Sterling Price and 15,000 soldiers of the Missouri State Guard, who largely waited while the hot sun and insufficient water wore down Union forces. On the third day the State Guard used wet hemp bales as mobile breastworks, rolling the bales uphill for protection as they advanced on the northern army’s position. Mulligan surrendered, bolstering optimism and support for the Confederate cause.

The Union lost the battle, but ultimately won the war. Traumatized veterans from North and South streamed up the Missouri River to form blended communities in the goldfields of the Montana Territory. The former mining town of Sterling, not far from my home in Pony, was likely named after Major General Sterling Price, while nearby Sheridan was named after the Union’s General Philip Sheridan. My great grandfather Raymond Thomas Beam followed later, moving from Missouri to Montana in 1906.

While the Union victory forcibly held the United States together, the underlying issues and political divisions



Food debris at Lexington Riverfront Park provided an aura of disorder.

remained. A century after the South surrendered, the nation was still clawing inch by inch through desegregation and other civil rights issues. Today’s political divide largely follows 150-year-old fault lines. America remains shrouded in the fog of war as deeply entrenched sides hurl scathing insults at one another across social media.

We awoke to a different kind of fog, dense and heavy on the river, delaying our departure until we could perceive trees silhouetted against the opposite bank. In our longest day of the journey, we paddled fifty-five miles to the small town of Miami, Missouri, greatly aided by the swift river current.

A few miles shy of camp we encountered a heavy barge pushing upriver. Conditions were ideal, with calm waters, no wind, and ample room to steer clear of the behemoth watercraft. The initial wake gently rolled across the river in



Missouri State Guard troops pushed wet hemp bales up the hill for protection as they advanced on the Union position.

MISSOURI CORPS OF REDISCOVERY continued on B9



PET OF THE WEEK

..... Because it's time to meet your match

Gonna take time out for a snack as you haven’t come out yet. Did have a great time with some kids that came out last night to play with us. Loved it, altho I don’t think I got enough attention. I wanted more and they were petting all of my friends too. They’ll have to come back soon, that is unless you come and adopt me soon. Please call Misty and come, Purraying Brandon

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Student of the Week

Anna Kelley is the Ennis Schools Student of the Week! Anna, whose parents are Amy and Scott Kelley, is a 3rd grade student at Ennis Elementary. Anna was nominated for this week’s award for her many exceptional qualities. For instance, she is an exceptional student both in and out of the classroom. She is a very hard worker and strives to do her best on anything she sets her mind to whether it be academics or extracurricular activities. Anna does not shy away from challenges and goes above and beyond to push herself and learn new things. In addition, Anna is kind and respectful to others. Anna, thank you for all the positive attributes you bring to our school and congratulations on earning this week’s Student of the Week!

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MISSOURI CORPS OF REDISCOVERY continued FROM B8

predictable fashion, easily handled by aiming our canoes into the oncoming waves.

A half-mile below the barge, however, we encountered the rear waves. The tow boat pushing the barge dug into the river, creating a massive watery hole followed by a rising, almost fountain-like wave that settled into huge rollers aimed downstream, lifting us several feet on each swell to come crashing back down again.


A mile behind the barge, the rear waves merged with waves echoing off the banks to form turbulence matched only by that of our politically-divided country. We heaved up in the air on gridded, egg-carton-like peaks of nonlinear waves, crashing into pockets that threatened to swamp the canoe at any moment. Two miles behind the barge we were still fighting substantial turbulence. By the time we reached camp, damp and chilled in the last moments of light, the barge was at least five miles upstream, yet the river had not fully regained its glassy calm.

Thomas J. Elpel lives in Pony, Montana. He is the author of *Green Prosperity: Quit Your Job, Live Your Dreams*. Go to [www.Elpel.info](http://www.Elpel.info) to learn more about Tom's books, the Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery, and the expedition fundraiser for the Jefferson River Canoe Trail.

We paddled into heavy fog as soon as we could see the outline of trees across the river.



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March 23 topic: Book of Esther

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Morning Service 11am

Afternoon Service 1:30pm

Tuesday Womens Bible Study 6pm

Wednesday Night Prayer Group 6pm

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May - August ~ 9:30 a.m.

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Pastor Duane B. Deshner

Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Valley Kids- after school to 6:45 p.m.

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

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

**Ruby Valley Baptist Church**

Tony Shaw, Pastor  
842-5602

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening 6 p.m.

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Sunday at 11 am St. Patrick's, Ennis

Sunday 9:30am at St. Mary's, Laurin

Sunday at 8 am Notre Dame, Twin Bridges

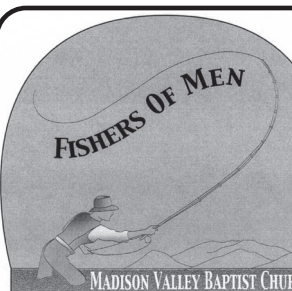
Saturday at 4 pm St. Joseph's, Sheridan

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



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Phil 2:16

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Church of the Valley Twin Bridges

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Worship 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

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Reservations 682-4422. To help us plan, please call at least 24 hours in advance for meal delivery or if you plan to dine in.

Thursday, January 16 – Ham & bean soup, corn muffin, dessert - “Happy Birthday”

Friday, January 17 – Baked fish, rice, veggies, dessert - Pinochle, at 12:30 p.m.

Monday, January 20 – Hot beef & cheddar sandwich, jojos, dessert – Mahjong 1 p.m.

Tuesday, January 21 – Turkey ala king, salad, dessert - “Pan” at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22 - Ham steak, cheesy potatoes, veggies, dessert – Mahjong 1 p.m.

Thursday, January 23 – Chicken piccata, rice, veggies, dessert

Friday, January 24 – Bratwurst & potatoes,veggies, dessert - Pinochle at 12:30 p.m.

**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.

**NEW 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.

Thursday, January 16 - Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic toast, dessert

Tuesday, January 21 - French dip, fries, dessert

**TWIN BRIDGES SENIOR CENTER**

The Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center provides meals for seniors every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon at the Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center. Meals are for seniors 60 years and up (spouses and caregivers are invited). Donations for meals are appreciated.

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.

Wednesday, January 15 - Meat Loaf, mashed potatoes, veggie salad, lemon meringue pie

Friday, January 17 - Hamburgers, hot dogs, 3 bean salad, German potato salad, brownie

Monday, January 20 - Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, carrot cake

**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.





PHOTO BY JANA BOUNDS

# OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

**5:30 p.m.**  
**Jungle Microbes and Ranching in Montana Presentation**  
Dr. Gary Strobel, PhD, Professor Emeritus Montana State University College of Agriculture at the Philanthropy Building in Sheridan.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

**4 p.m.**  
**History Association presents Rollie Hebel**  
A video on the Montana Centennial Train at the Ennis Senior Center. Public invited.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

**9 a.m.**  
**ECE- Infant, Child, Adult CPR, First Aid & AED**  
Become certified in First Aid, Adult CPR/AED, Child CPR/AED and Infant CPR/AED. American Heart instructors will teach the Heart Saver First Aid course in homeroom #1 at Ennis Schools.

**10 a.m. - Noon**  
**ECE - Beginning Budget and Bookkeeping with Sheets**  
At Ennis School Room #10 with Stephanie Hess.

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Chautauqua**  
Open to all seeking entertainment, intellectual or spiritual growth and local culture at the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in Virginia City. To perform, contact Toni James for reservations.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

**10 a.m.**  
**Brunch and Bingo**  
At the Virginia City Elks' Lodge.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Mental Health Support Group**  
At the Madison Valley Medical Center.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

**Noon**  
**Brown Bag Lunch about Anselmo Mine History**  
Butte-Silver Bow Historic Preservation Officer Mary McCormick presentation at the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

**10 a.m. – Noon**  
**ECE- Mindfulness and Meditation Workshop**  
Learn how to practice mindfulness and why practicing meditation provides health benefits such as sleep, stress reduction and emotional regulation.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**ECE – Baking Classics Workshops**  
Join Kelly Starr from Tavern 287 to bake and decorate a classic swiss roll, while learning tips and techniques in homeroom #6 at Ennis Schools.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**ECE- Mapping and Orienteering in the Snow**  
This is a beginner course on using a compass to avoid getting lost while recreating in the wilderness. Use the information learned in the classroom at the Jack Creek Preserve in outdoor orienteering exercises/routes using compasses and snowshoes!

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**  
**ECE- A Guide to Bird Feeding & Bird Feeders**  
Marc Elser will lead the discussion in homeroom #5 at Ennis Schools. The workshop will cover general bird feeding with an emphasis on our over-wintering species.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**ECE – Baking Classics Workshops**  
Join Kelly Starr from Tavern 287 to bake and decorate a classic swiss roll, while learning tips and techniques in homeroom #6 at Ennis Schools.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**ECE- Animal Felting Workshop**  
Join Gail Barndt and Jenn Doney for a fun day of needle felting your favorite animal. Bring a sack lunch and pictures of the animal you would like to make (pictures will also be available to choose from) to Ennis High School's art room.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**ECE- Metro Rings Sewing Workshop**  
This is a confident beginner or intermediate level quilting class with Kathy Olkowski.

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Chautauqua**  
At the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in Virginia City. Open to all seeking entertainment, intellectual or spiritual growth and local culture. To perform, contact Toni James for reservations.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**ECE- Painting with Wool & Needle Felt Workshop**  
Gail Barndt and Jenn Doney will teach a second workshop in the Ennis High School art room. It will be like paint by numbers but with colored wool. Bring a sack lunch and a second picture of your choice to make, now that your technique is learned.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**5 p.m.**  
**Book Discussion for "Being Mortal"**  
At the Sheridan Public Library. Jeanette Prodders will lead the discussion on Atul Gawande's book, Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
7 p.m.  
Harrison School Board Meeting  
Meet at Harrison School.

**SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
7 p.m.  
Twin Bridges School Board Meeting  
Meet at Twin Bridges School

7 p.m.  
Sheridan School Board Meeting  
Meet at Sheridan School.

**SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
5 p.m.  
Ennis School Board Meeting  
Meet at Ennis School  
*\*FOR FEB: Meeting with be on the 10th instead of 12th*

**SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
5 p.m.  
Alder School Board Meeting  
Meet at Alder School

#### 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

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

#### 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.

**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.

**2:30 p.m.**  
**Knitting, Twin Bridges**  
Twin Bridges Library

**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 Auxiliary 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**  
Willie's Distillery hosts live music in the tasting room

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Live Music - Norris**

**SUNDAY**  
**2 p.m.**  
**Live Music, Ennis**  
Willie'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.



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

**NOW PLAYING:**  
**JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-13)**

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

**COMING SOON:**  
LITTLE WOMEN (PG), SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG), KNIVES OUT (PG-13)

Please call to verify for last minute changes 682-4023 | 115 Main St, Ennis  
EnnisMovies.com | Facebook.com/MadisonTheatreEnnis

**NORRIS HOT SPRINGS**  
**LIVE MUSIC IN THE DOME**

**FRI 1/17** **RAVEN ROSHI**  
ROCK/ALTERNATIVE/INDIE

**SAT 1/18** **TOM KIRWAN**  
FOLK/COUNTRY/AMERICANA

**SUN 1/19** **JACOB ROUNTREE**  
AMBIENT INDIE ROCK

**50-MILE GRILL & CAMPGROUND OPEN!**  
**HWY 84 @ HWY 287 • 15 MILES NORTH OF ENNIS**  
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