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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, August 28, 2025

STEP BACK IN TIME – Volunteer for the Nevada City Living History Program!

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PICKLEBALL GROUNDBREAKING

Shovels dug dirt and pickleballs popped into the air as the Ennis Pickleball Club broke ground on their future Ennis courts on August 25 th . The new facility, located on Hot Springs Loop Road, will have six courts for year-round outdoor play for members and the public. Completion of the project will be in Spring, 2026.



Members of the Ennis Pickleball Club celebrate the beginning of construction for the new pickleball courts. PHOTO COURTESY ENNIS PICKLEBALL CLUB

The Madison River Foundation is installing and improving river gauges

THE FOUNDATION IS WORKING TO ADD HISTORICAL DATA THAT IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE SO FUTURE RESEARCHERS WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE FORCES THAT IMPACT THE HEALTH OF THE RIVER



The Ennis Bridge along the Madison River. PHOTO BY MATI BISHOP

By MATI BISHOP
news@madisoniannews.com

The Madison River Foundation (MRF) has partnered with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to install and upgrade monitoring stations on the Madison River to provide additional data about the river that will be available for government and conservation groups and the general public.

This year, we partnered with USGS to install a new gauging station at the Ennis Bridge," said MRF conservation programs manager Mia Cignoni. "The gauge tracks real-time discharge, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, three key pieces of information for understanding the health of the Madison River. Having continuous, reliable data allows researchers, managers, and anglers to better understand how conditions are changing throughout the year. In particular, water temperature

RIVER GAUGES continued on A2

ALERT FROM TOWN OF SHERIDAN: Water System Do Not Consume Advisory

POTENTIAL ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS DUE TO UNKNOWN CONDITION OF THE DRINKING WATER

Submitted by TOWN OF SHERIDAN

On Aug. 25, 2025, the Town of Sheridan suffered a catastrophic main break that dewatered the storage tank. The distribution system was depressurized, and the storage tank emptied. This situation may have led to the introduction of multiple contaminants in the drinking water; these contaminants may include total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria and various chemicals. **Do not consume the water.**

What does this mean?

• The use of bottled water is recommended at this time. **Do not** use the water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing

dishes, making baby formula or food preparation. Bottled water should be used for all of the above necessities until further notice.

• People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly may be at increased risk when exposed to contaminated water. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's website: <https://epa.gov/safewater-hotline> [epa.gov]

Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, head-

TOWN OF SHERIDAN continued on A2

FIRE UPDATE

BY MATI BISHOP | NEWS@MADISONIANNEWS.COM

Oregon firefighter dies while working to contain Bivens Creek Fire



Smoke rolls off the Tobacco Roots on Sunday afternoon. PHOTO COURTESY DAVE DIXON

On Aug. 24, 2025 Ruben Gonzales-Romero of Keizer, Ore. suffered sudden cardiac arrest while he was actively involved in fire suppression on the ground at the Bivens Creek Fire in the Tobacco Root Mountains. Rapid medical assistance was rendered from a line paramedic; however, resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful.

Romero had 20 years of wildfire fighting experience and was working primarily as a sawyer with TJ Contracting LLC.

According to a release from the Madison County Sheriff's Office, Gonzales-Romero's family is en route to Montana and an honor guard made up of incident and local firefighters will remain with Ruben until his body is carried back home.

FIRE UPDATE continued on A2

Make sure you are in the know this fire season

A collection of resources that you can use to make sure you have the most up to date information about fires in Madison County.

Madison County Sheriff's Office Notifications through Smart911.com

Smart911.com is the official emergency notifications channel for the Madison County Sheriff's Department. You can subscribe to receive relevant notifications with your street address at www.smart911.com.

Watch Duty App

Watch Duty provides up to date information on fires and can send push notifications to

your phone for fires that you have viewed and are following. More information about how to download the app is available at app.watchduty.org.

Inciweb.wildfire.gov

Inciweb includes relevant releases and information about active fires nationwide. It has a map feature that allows the viewer to find fires in their area and view information about those fires. It is available at www.inciweb.wildfire.gov.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS1-6
OBITUARIES4
COMMUNITYB1
HEALTH & WELLNESSB2
COLUMNB3

COMICS/GAMESB4
CLASSIFIEDSB5
PUBLIC NOTICESB7
CALENDARB10

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PICKLEBALL from A1

From left to right: President, Cindy Gockel with board members Lorraine Ravis, Kay Caldwell, Kris Hauck, John Hauck (construction coordinator) and Marilyn West. PHOTO COURTESY ENNIS PICKLEBALL CLUB

FIRE UPDATE from A1

Crews take advantage of winds from the North to shore up firelines on the Bivens Creek Fire

The Bivens Creek Fire has grown to more than 2,200 acres and is expected to continue growing with high pressure pushing winds from the North that will dictate fire growth. On Saturday, Aug. 23 crews were able to reinforce retardant lines on the East side of the fire with bulldozers. Crews also worked to finalize structure protection plans for impacted areas.

As of Aug. 26 there are over 700 personnel listed as working on the fire and it is considered 34% contained. Madison County Emergency Management services has stated that large fires burning in thick forest like the Bivens Creek and Cloudrest fires usually take a season ending event such as snow to extinguish them completely.

Evacuation warning issued for Upper Wisconsin, Noble and Indian Creek areas as Cloudrest Fire Continues to grow

As of Aug. 25 there have been no evacuation orders resulting from the growth of the Cloudrest Fire, but the Madison County Sheriff's Office has issued an evacuation warning for the Upper Wisconsin, Noble and Indian Creek areas. Individuals living in those areas are asked to be prepared for evacuation if conditions change.

The fire is being pushed down south facing slopes full of

downed dry timber by winds originating from the North. There is a structure protection group working on a plan to protect the structures in the at-risk areas. Unmanned aircraft are being used to find hot spots

and identify natural features that could aid in suppression efforts.

The fire has consumed over 2,500 acres as of Aug. 25 and is considered 12% contained as of the Tuesday morning update.

Flames visible from the Ruby Valley near Laurin on Monday night. PHOTO COURTESY KATE JOKI ROSE

RIVER GAUGES from A1

McAllister fire perimeters are cool, interior hot spots are still being discovered

The McAllister Fire has burned over 3,500 acres and is listed as 65% contained according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Hot spots in the interior of the

fire are still popping up, but evacuation warnings for Bradley Creek Road and the Shining Mountains West subdivision have been lifted.

West Fork Fire grows to more than 750 acres with 33% containment

The West Fork fire is burning 23 miles Northwest of West Yellowstone along the Gallatin and Madison County line.

On Aug. 23 crews made good progress on containment of the East side of the fire during a period of northerly winds. The

fire does not pose a threat to Big Sky. The fire is burning in steep terrain with no road access and a heavy fuel load.

Current information about the fires in the area can be found at www.inciweb.wildfire.gov.

and oxygen levels are critical not only for trout, but also for aquatic insects like salmonflies that are sensitive to environmental shifts. These data points will help us make more informed decisions to protect the river moving forward.”

The additional data collection efforts will help to create historical data that has been minimally available for the Upper Madison River.

“We don't actually have historical data for a lot of places, so it's hard to know if things are going wrong, if you don't know what they were before,” said Dr. Lindsey Albertson who has been studying salmon fly populations on the Madison River since 2015.

Albertson's research dug back to a master's thesis by biologist John Fraley completed in the late 1970s for information that led to her conclusion that salmon flies were functionally extinct on the Lower Madison River.

“They're (the MRF) leading the charge on that data collection efforts and water quality data, and then they've provided funding for my research group to work on aquatic insects,” continued Albertson whose studies hypothesize that salmon flies could face functional extinction on the Upper Madison River by 2050.

The MRF is working to add more measuring locations and increase the number of measurements taken at each site. One of the data

points the foundation is looking to collect is a measurement of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in the water which is essential for the survival of both fish and invertebrates who breath using gills.

The discharge of the river, which is measured in cubic feet per second, impacts water quality, temperature, microbial activity, nutrient cycling, and the life history of aquatic species such as fish and macroinvertebrates. The discharge levels of the Madison River are impacted by releases from the dams at Hebgen and Ennis Lake, precipitation, changes in the slope of the river, groundwater supplies, water diversions, development and agriculture. Better monitoring will result in better understanding of

how those factors affect the flow of the river and the creatures that call it home.

The MRF is also working towards the goal of collecting data regarding the turbidity levels in the river which is the amount of particulate matter suspended in the water. Turbidity can impact visibility and prevent light penetration into the river. The result of too much turbidity is degraded habitat for fish and other species that call the river home.

More information about how to access the current data being collected and efforts to improve future data collection along the Madison River can be found at www.madisonriverfoundation.org/river-data-collection.

TOWN OF SHERIDAN from A1

What is being done?

aches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special risk for infants, young children and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience

any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Steps are being taken to immediately restore water as quickly as possible. The main break is being repaired. Once the storage tank is filled and pressure in the

distribution system has been restored, disinfection, flushing and sampling of the system will occur. You will be notified once the Do Not Consume Advisory has been lifted.

BRIEFS

BY MATI BISHOP | NEWS@MADISONIANNEWS.COM

Jefferson and Bighorn rivers completely closed to fishing until further notice

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has closed fishing on the entire Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers due to low stream flows. The closure took effect at midnight Aug. 23.

The closures are in accordance with drought management plans on both rivers. On the Jefferson River, the drought plan allows for a river-wide angling closure when stream flows fall below 280 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Twin Bridges. On the Big Hole,

the drought plan allows for a river-wide angling closure when flows fall below certain thresholds. Streamflows fell below 100 cfs at Wise River and 150 cfs at Melrose, prompting the closure.

“With no precipitation forecasted for either river, angling closures are a necessary step to protect the fisheries in both rivers,” said Adam Strainer, Fisheries Division Administrator for FWP.

The closure on the Jefferson River is in place from the confluence of the Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers to where it hits the Missouri River. The Big Hole River closure is in place from Saginaw Bridge in its headwaters region to where it meets the Beaverhead River to form the Jefferson River.

The closures will be in place until further notice.

Ringling Rocks Road closed while improvements are made to the popular site

The Bureau of Land Management’s Butte Field Office has temporarily closed Ringling Rocks Road in Jefferson County to protect public safety while active construction occurs on the road.

The road will be closed to all public access between Aug. 25 to Sept. 25, 2025, from milepost 1.48 to milepost 4.32. Contractors will realign two segments of the road to reduce its grade,

while the other segments will get improved road surface, shoulders, and drainage.

The road construction and associated closure are part of the BLM’s project to enhance safety and public access at the popular site this summer. In addition to road upgrades, the project includes expanded parking, trail construction, and new signage, all designed to improve the

visitor experience while protecting the area’s unique natural features. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2025.

The project area lies within the Pipestone Special Recreation Management Area and the Ringling Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

For more information, contact the BLM Butte Field Office at (406) 533-7600.

Montana FWP amends wolf hunting and trapping regulations

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission finalized wolf hunting and trapping regulations during a lengthy meeting Thursday where commissioners heard passionate comments from people around the country.

The Commission debated several amendments to the 2025/2026 Furbearer and Wolf Hunting and Trapping Regulations proposal that FWP released in early July. Though the regulations cover all furbearer trapping and wolf hunting and trapping, the central focus of the discussion was crafting a new set of wolf regulations.

For the 2025/2026 wolf hunting and trapping season the Commission approved a 452 statewide wolf quota, which includes a sub-quota of 60 wolves in Region 3, and separate quotas of three wolves each in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316.

The Commission established that a person may harvest 15 wolves via trapping and 15 wolves via hunting, provided that five wolves from each method of take are harvested in FWP Region 1 or Region 2. Hunters must purchase a wolf license for each wolf they harvest via hunting, but they may purchase up to 15 licenses before going afield.

The Commission approved a regulation allowing a trapper to gain prior authorization from FWP to temporarily leave the live wolf in the trap for the purpose of radio collaring by FWP. In this circumstance the wolf would not be harvested, but the trapper would immediately notify FWP, per the prior authorization arrangement, and a FWP official would radio collar the wolf and release it from the trap.

The Commission approved regulation changes to require that all harvested wolves must be presented to FWP for inspection within 10 days of harvest for pelt tagging, tissue sampling, and tooth extraction. A trapper must present the hide and skull for tagging and sampling within 10 days of harvest. It is now illegal to leave a wolf hide and skull in the field after harvest, even if the hunter or trapper doesn’t want to keep the animal.

The Commission removed trapping setbacks on roads closed to motor vehicle and OHV traffic (except snowmobiles and unless in a designated no trapping area) in Mineral County and on the Spotted Bear Ranger District in northwest Montana.

FWP staff will finalize the regulations and release them online in the coming days. Printed regulations will be available later this summer.

Archery wolf season opens Sept. 6. Trapping season will open Dec. 1, except within the geographic area identified by federal court order. Just like last season, trapping within the geographic area will be limited to Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. The geographic area is all of FWP regions 1, 2 and 3, and portions of regions 4 and 5. This area, with limited trapping dates, is the same as last year, according to the FWP proposal.

Outside this geographic area, wolf trapping closes March 15, 2026, or when a quota is met.

Madison County declared contiguous disaster zone and eligible for USDA emergency loans

Silver Bow County was declared a PRIMARY and Jefferson and Madison CONTIGUOUS disaster due to drought and heat using the Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, if farmers or ranchers have operations in any primary or contiguous county, they are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help farmers and ranchers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Farmers and ranchers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the

extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. A farm or ranch can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, contact the Lake County USDA Service Center at 406-676-2811 ext 105 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Montana unemployment rate at 2.8%

Governor Greg Gianforte announced Montana’s unemployment rate remained at 2.8% in July, marking the tenth straight month under 3% and over four consecutive years of unemployment at or below 3.4%, a new record.

“For another consecutive month, Montana ranks in the top five states in the nation with the lowest unemployment rates – a testament to our historic job growth over the last four years,” Gov. Gianforte said. “We’ll continue to welcome historic business investment to the Treasure State and innovate through workforce development initiatives like 406 JOBS for

Montanans to seek meaningful employment.”

Montana’s unemployment rate was 1.4% lower than the national unemployment rate, which was 4.2% in July. Montana ranked in the top five states in the nation with the lowest unemployment rates.

Total employment (which includes payroll, agricultural, and self-employed workers) increased slightly in July. The construction and retail trade industries added the most jobs over the month, each adding 500 or more jobs. Payroll jobs increased by 500 jobs over the month with losses in government employment.

BRIEFS continued on A2

RUBY RIVER CONDITIONS

August 27, 2025

Submitted by SUNNI HEIKES BODØGAARD
sunni@rubyhabitat.org

It has been nearly two months since I first settled in at the Ruby Habitat Foundation’s Woodson Ranch. I am noticing a consistent theme of gratitude here that has made me see this property for more than just a bordered place on a map.

A simple stroll along the Ruby River can provide a range of small gifts to appreciate. Pause to notice a flock of cedar waxwings- stunning in their tails tipped with lemon-yellow and their dramatic black eye masks lined with precise white

lines. Take note of the perfectly camouflaged western toad that holds tight with slender fingers to the stones along the banks, waiting in stillness for its next meal. Cast a nymph into the deep pools to feel the gentle tug and impressive power of a silvery whitefish as they run against the tension of the line.

But more than in these instances, I see gratitude created in the hearts of the people who come here.

They bring with them cherished memories with their fathers or mothers here on the Woodson Ranch, reliving those moments when their loved ones pointed out their favorite fishing

spots or the soaring raptors above.

They bring their own sons and daughters to spend a quiet day before adulthood occupies the bulk of the space of their lives.

They bring their partners to experience shared joys and to write another page of the story of their lives together.

They bring their friends to forge strong bonds and to share in the gratitude of this place.

“It’s a little slice of heaven,” described one visitor. “Something rare and beautiful in this world today”. We couldn’t agree more.



Ruby Habitat Foundation’s Woodson Ranch allows special moments for the people who visit. PHOTO COURTESY RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION



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

SUNNI HEIKES BODØGAARD, Program Director
(406) 570-4529 | www.rubyhabitat.org

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

FUR-Ever Yours Gala

Join us for a heartwarming evening in support of the Beaverhead Animal Shelter, filled with great food, community, and giving back!

Submitted by SAMI NOVICH

featuring community donated treasures.

September 6, 2025 at the Round Barn in Twin Bridges the Resolute Roots Realty is hosting the FUR-Ever Yours Gala to help raise funding for the Beaverhead Animal Shelter. A prime rib dinner catered by The Blue Anchor, drinks for the Stockman Bar and silent auction and live auction

Tickets are ONLY available at Resolute Roots Realty, RW Outdoors or the Beaverhead Animal Shelter – don’t miss your chance to join this special event!

All proceeds directly benefit the Beaverhead Animal Shelter, helping to provide care and support for animals in need.



Staff and pets at the Beaverhead Animal Shelter. PHOTO COURTESY GABRIELLE THORESON

“It’s easy to make a buck.
It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” ~Tom Brokaw

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•Content must not contain advertising language (such as "Thank you," "Congratulations," "call now," "to buy tickets for," "now showing,") or include pricing.

•Items of a general business interest are appropriate for advertising—see advertising policy and current rates.

•Content must not be derogatory to competing companies or organizations.

•Content may only be submitted and published once.

•There are no guarantees that press releases will be published.

•*The Madisonian* may edit submissions for grammar and content.

•*The Madisonian* reserves the right to make all determinations relative to the above policy.

- Letters to the Editor/Readers Speak Policy -

The Madisonian encourages the opinions of readers on public issues and matters of local concern. Letters must be close to 350 words, and author may only submit twice monthly. Please include the writer's name, address and phone number. *The Madisonian* reserves the right to edit content for grammar, good taste and libel. We also reserve the right to reject or delay publications.

We will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous.

Announcements, thank yous and letters of a commercial nature will not appear in this column.

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The Madisonian accepts most advertising, but may turn away any advertisement for any reason. It is up to us to decide on placement and content acceptability.

The advertisements in this publication are not necessarily the opinion of or supported by *The Madisonian*.

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5 p.m. - Friday

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OBITUARIES

Teri Ann Larsen

August 15, 1948 – August 16, 2025



Teri Ann Larsen of Sheridan, Montana, passed peacefully on Aug. 16, 2025, a day after her 77th birthday. She was born in Butte, Mont., on Aug. 15, 1948, to Herbert and Luella Maichel. Teri attended school in Butte and

Whitehall before stepping into the role that defined her life—caring for others. She became known as a talented ranch cook and baker, a gift that not only brought people together but also led her to meet the love of her life, Kristen “Kris” Larsen, while cooking at the Cal Creek Ranch. After marrying, she continued cooking for the ranch and later joined Kris on the road hauling cattle across the country. She cherished their adventures together, from crisscrossing the U.S. in their semi to visiting Denmark. Teri loved to stay busy. She enjoyed camping, fishing, baking, sewing, dancing, and most of all, time with family. Her grandchildren, Bailey and Cole, were the joy of her life, and she never missed their school, 4-H, FFA, rodeo, or sporting

events. Her passion for flowers and gardening was unmatched. Her home became known as “the house with all the pretty flowers,” and her touch also brought beauty to the Madison County Fairgrounds. Always giving back, she served for years on the Sheridan Booster Club. Her pride in her community and family was matched by her patriotism—Teri never missed a chance to fly her flags. A visit to her home always meant smiles, laughter, and a full belly. Spoiling was simply in her nature, and anyone blessed to know her felt her love.

Teri was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert Maichel and Luella (Roy) Smith; her brother, Jim Maichel; and her husband, Kristen “Kris” Larsen. She is survived by her children, Dana

(Shane) Escott and Joe (Lynn) Forcella and family; grandchildren Bailey and Cole Escott; extended family including Mandi (Mike) Cyr, grandson Austin (Chelsea) Cheff and grea grandson Colt Cheff; Dick (Bev) Smith; Toni, RD, and Dusty Case; her brother Bill (Leila) Michael and family; and many dear friends. The family extends heartfelt thanks to Home Park Assisted Living and Honeybee Hospice for their compassionate care in her final months. Teri is now tending heaven's most beautiful garden, casting a line in her favorite creek, and finding children to spoil—just as she always did. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Raaen Rydeen

March 23, 1967 - July 19, 2025



Raaen Rydeen, born March 23, 1967, passed away suddenly on July 19, 2025, due to ongoing heart issues.

He was the beloved son of Clarence and Geraldine Rydeen and the eldest of four children. Raaen is survived by his mother, Geraldine; his brothers, Raab and Rhyan; his sister, Karena; and his cherished nieces. He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence.

Born in Tallahassee, Fla., Raaen lived in many places throughout his life before settling in Mon-

tana, where he devoted himself to caring for his parents as their primary caregiver. Some of his most treasured memories were backpacking in the Mission Mountains with family and close friends.

Raaen was a dedicated member of the Sheridan, Mont., community, where he volunteered generously. He also served as an IT specialist, supporting individuals and businesses throughout the Ruby Valley with skill and care.

A memorial service will be held on Aug. 29, 2025, from 11 a.m. to

12 p.m., followed by a reception from 12 to 2 p.m., at Ruby Valley Bible Church, 97 Duncan District Road, Sheridan, MT 59749.

Raaen will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”—Numbers 6:24-26

OPINION

Federal cuts will cost more down the line—won't work for Montana families

Dear Editor,

Chances are, you or someone you know needed help when life took an unexpected turn. So many hard-working families struggle when they face a medical emergency, job loss, a sudden move, or need to care for a family member. Every year, about 1 in 10 Montanans access some form of temporary assistance to help cover food, utilities, healthcare, or housing.

For six decades, community action agencies, like Action Inc., have been trusted organizations that people turn to in every corner of Montana. Citizens in Butte and communities in Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Granite, Madison, and Powell counties turn to Action Inc. when life takes a turn. Last year, 6,700 citizens turned to

Action Inc. for help.

Despite ongoing need, proposed federal funding cuts would put our neighbors at risk and threaten the services provided by Action Inc. and its partners across the state. The Community Services Block Grant that funds these critical programs has had longstanding support from lawmakers across the political spectrum. We are shocked by the proposed cuts and fear that it will burden Montana taxpayers down the road.

Take rental assistance, for example. Many Montanans who benefit from rental assistance are elderly or have a disability and most would be left with no other housing options. In some areas of the state, the number of unhoused individuals could

triple. Local research shows that emergency medical care, public safety response, shelter costs, and lost workforce costs amount to \$56,000 per person annually. Keeping people in their homes reduces that cost by over \$13,000 and is a more responsible use of taxpayer dollars than cutting programs now only to deal with the downstream costs of homelessness later.

Community action agencies are lean and efficient, operating with low administrative costs. For every dollar from the federal Community Services Block Grant program, Action Inc. leverages thirty dollars of state, local, and private contributions. Some say local governments should just step up to raise the money, but let's be honest: city and county

budgets are already stretched, and diverting funding from local infrastructure and public safety to replace millions in federal support is unrealistic.

At the end of the day, prevention is cheaper than crisis. Community action agencies keep our workforce strong and our communities stable without wasteful spending. We urge congress to continue funding community services so that Montanans can keep doing what we've always done — taking care of our own.

Margie Seccomb, Action Inc. CEO and board officers Ivy Fredrickson, Chair; Leo Prigge, Vice Chair; Tara Callaghan, Treasurer; Charity Fechter, Secretary

Why Montanans need the Transparent Election Initiative

Dear Editor,

Neighbors, it's time we face a hard truth: too many decisions that shape our daily lives are tilted by corporate money in politics. We feel it in our power bills, in the fight over our public lands, and in policies that seem to serve donors more than citizens. That's why the Transparent Election Initiative (TEI) matters for Montana.

Look at NorthWestern Energy. The company gave campaign money to Senator Daines, Senator Sheehy, and Congressman Zinke. Soon after, those same politicians asked Washington to give North-Western's Colstrip coal plant a special exemption from federal

pollution rules. The company gets relief, but our households see higher electric bills—up more than 20 percent in just two years.

Or take the Keystone XL pipeline. TC Energy, the developer, sent money to a PAC tied to Senator Daines. Year after year, he pushed the project across Montana's public and tribal lands. A foreign corporation stood to gain, while Montanans faced the risk.

Then there's Congressman Zinke. The Interior Department's Inspector General found he broke ethics rules in a Whitefish development backed by Halliburton's chairman. At the same time, Halliburton's PAC was a donor to

his campaign. Even if no law was broken, the appearance of favoritism is clear.

And Senator Sheehy, who built a wildfire aviation business, is now pushing bills to reshape that very industry. He says his assets are in a blind trust—and maybe that's true. But it shows how easily business interests and political power overlap.

Montana has been here before. A century ago, we threw off the grip of the Copper Kings. In 2012, voters passed I-166, declaring corporations aren't people and money isn't speech. The Transparent Election Initiative follows that tradition. It uses our

constitutional power to simply say: corporations created here—or doing business here—don't get the power to spend in our elections. No power, no right.

This isn't about left or right. It's about fairness. If you pay a power bill, if you hunt and fish on public lands, if you believe our government should serve people—not corporate donors—this is your fight.

The Transparent Election Initiative is a Montana-made answer. Let's put our elections back where they belong—with the people.

Mark Jacobs
Virginia City, MT

Gianforte's rush to push 31,000 Montanans off Medicaid

Dear Editor,

Montanans are once again at risk of losing their health care—this time because of Gov. Gianforte's rushed decisions in response to a federal Republican budget that hasn't even been fully implemented yet.

The GOP's federal bill includes harsh new Medicaid requirements, but they don't go into effect until December 2026. The

federal government won't even issue guidance regarding the restructuring until June 2026. So why is Montana's Republican-led DPHHS pushing a waiver now that could unnecessarily strip 31,000 more Montanans of their healthcare?

We've already seen the damage a rush to judgment can cause. During the 2023 redetermination process, over 115,000 Montanans

lost coverage. Many folks lost their insurance due to paperwork/administrative issues, as simple as missing a form. Now the state wants to immediately implement round 2 – but with more paperwork, less rules. Are we really going to make the same mistake again, but on purpose?

Thank you to the Montana Democrats for stepping up. Legislators and leaders are urging

DPHHS to do the responsible thing: wait for federal guidance and keep people insured in the interim. That's not partisan politics, that's called doing the right and fair thing.

People's health should not be a political football. It's time Governor Gianforte and his administration stopped treating it like one.

Mary Sedwick
Ennis, MT

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NINJA 2

MADISON COUNTY DISPATCH

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

AUG 17

- Ambulance calls originated in Sheridan and Big Sky.
- Targeted patrols were conducted in McAllister.
- Traffic stops were conducted in McAllister, Norris, Twin Bridges, Virginia City and Ennis.
- Fire or smoke was investigated in McAllister, Ennis and Cameron.
- An open 911 line was reported in Alder.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in Sheridan.
- A welfare check was conducted in Ennis.
- Traffic complaints were made in McAllister and Twin Bridges.
- Deputies responded to a burglar alarm in Cameron.
- A livestock complaint was made in McAllister.
- Deputies responded to a neighbor dispute in Ennis.
- A noise complaint was made in Pony.

AUG 20

- An ambulance call originated in Ennis.
- Traffic stops were conducted in Ennis, Virginia City, McAllister, Norris and Cameron.
- Targeted patrols were conducted in Twin Bridges, Virginia City and Ennis.
- Fire or smoke was investigated in Norris, Cardwell, McAllister, Ennis and Big Sky.
- Open 911 lines were reported in Twin Bridges and Ennis.
- 911 hangups originated in Big Sky, Alder, Ennis and Cameron.
- Deputies cleared a roadway hazard in Twin Bridges.
- Traffic complaints were made in Townsend and Ennis.
- Suspicious circumstances were investigated in Sheridan.
- Livestock complaints were made in Cameron, Sheridan and Twin Bridges.
- Lost property was reported in Ennis.
- A suspicious person was reported in Virginia City.
- A scam crime was investigated in Ennis.
- An abandoned vehicle was investigated in Alder.

AUG 19

- Ambulance calls originated in McAllister, Dillon and Sheridan.
- Traffic stops were Reported in Ennis.

- A targeted patrol was conducted in Ennis
- Fire or smoke was investigated in Alder , Big Sky and Cameron.
- 911 hangups originated in Virginia City and Ennis.
- A disturbance was reported in Cameron.
- Campground patrols were conducted in Cameron.
- Deputies investigated a burglary in Melrose.
- Deputies responded to a fire caused by a downed utility line in Ennis.
- A livestock complaint was made in Norris.
- An abandoned vehicle was investigated in Ennis.
- Traffic complaints were made in McAllister and Norris.
- A motor vehicle accident was investigated in Ennis.
- Deputies helped test a CAD system in Virginia City.

AUG 22

- Traffic stops were conducted in Ennis.
- Fire or smoke was investigated in Ennis.
- 911 hangups originated in McAllister and Ennis.
- Deputies cleared a roadway hazard in Sheridan.
- Livestock complaints were made in Twin Bridges and Virginia City.
- A scam crime was investigated in Ennis.
- A campground patrol was conducted in Cameron.
- An abandoned vehicle was investigated in Sheridan.
- A nuisance complaint was filed in Pony.
- A motor vehicle accident was investigated in Big Sky.
- A traffic complaint was made in Virginia City.
- An animal bite was investigated in Sheridan.

AUG 23

- An ambulance call originated in Virginia City.
- Traffic stops were conducted in Ennis, McAllister and Sheridan.
- A targeted patrol was conducted in Twin Bridges.
- An open 911 line was reported in Twin Bridges.
- A welfare check was conducted in Big Sky.
- Motor vehicle accidents were investigated in Sheridan, Silver Star and Twin Bridges.
- Deputies responded to a fire alarm in Ennis.
- Deputies served a warrant in Virginia City.
- Traffic and parking complaints were made in McAllister.
- Lost property was reported in Twin Bridges.
- Stolen property was reported in Gallatin Gateway.
- A wildlife complaint was made in Big Sky.

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SPORTS

High school sports start this week

HERE'S A LIST OF OPENING WEEK MATCHES, GAMES AND MEETS AS FALL SPORTS GET UNDERWAY FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

By MATI BISHOP
news@madisoniannews.com

School is back in session and that means that high school sports are back in Madison County. Football, cross country and volleyball are all scheduled to begin their competitive seasons over Labor Day Weekend and the following week. Here is a quick peak at the upcoming action.

SHERIDAN FOOTBALL

The Panthers will kick off their 2025 campaign on the road this year with a road trip to Park City for their home opener on Aug. 29. The team will open their home schedule on Sept. 5 against Harlowtown where they will experience competition on their newly leveled field.

WHITEHALL/HARRISON FOOTBALL

The Trojans kick off their 2025 season at Deer Lodge on Aug. 29. Their home opener is September 5 when they host Thompson Falls.

TWIN BRIDGES FOOTBALL

The Falcons make the long trip to Harlowtown for their season opener of Aug. 30. They will open their home schedule with a matchup against Manhattan Christian on Sept. 5.

TWIN BRIDGES CROSS COUNTRY

Runners from the Falcons will kick off their season in Boulder on Aug. 29 at the Jefferson Season opener.

TWIN BRIDGES FALL GOLF

Several Falcons will be participating in Fall Golf with the Dillon Beavers team.

ENNIS FOOTBALL

Ennis has their bye week on the first week of the season this year. They will kick-off their campaign on Sept. 5 with a home game against Lone Peak.

LONE PEAK FOOTBALL

The Big Horns head to Manhattan Christian on Aug. 30 to get their season underway. They travel to Ennis to battle the Mustangs on Sept. 5.

LONE PEAK SOCCER

The boys and girls Lone Peak soccer teams kick off their seasons on Aug. 30 with a home game against Thompson Falls. They travel to Livingston for a matchup against Park High School on Sept. 4.

ENNIS VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Mustangs head to Choteau to start their season with tournament play on Aug. They travel to Boulder on Sept. 2 and have their home opener against Whitehall on Sept. 4.

SHERIDAN VOLLEYBALL

The Panthers are taking a year off from varsity volleyball play to focus on developing a viable program for the future. A team that includes 10 eighth graders will compete in a JV schedule and participate in the district tournament.

LONE PEAK VOLLEYBALL

Lone Peak starts their season with a pair of road matches. They travel to Whitehall on Sept. 2 and Three Forks on Sept. 5.

WHITEHALL/HARRISON VOLLEYBALL

The Trojans open their season at home against Lone Peak on Sept. 2 before traveling to Ennis on Sept. 4.

TWIN BRIDGES VOLLEYBALL

The Falcons host Deer Lodge on Aug. 28 to start their season. They travel to Manhattan Christian on Sept. 6.

HARRISON CROSS COUNTRY

On Sept. 6 the Wildcats are running in the Manhattan Invitational. Thursday Sept. 11 they co-host the Pony Meet with Townsend.

We are looking forward to providing more in-depth coverage as the season unfolds.

MMLGA update

GAMBLING ON THE GREENS



Ready to Play, (L to R) Tanya Moen and Susan Haskins. PHOTO COURTESY SHAY BURNETT



An evening on the putting green, (L to R) Waiting for correct names from Mary. PHOTO COURTESY SHAY BURNETT

Submitted by MARY SNYDER

The comeback of the MMLGA Women's Best Ball tournament, Gambling on the Greens, was a huge success. Thanks to Tournament Chairman, Susan Haskins, her committee, the many women and men who volunteered to help with the event and the Madison Meadows Maintenance and Pro Shop staff for playing an instrumental role in the success of this event.

Gambling on the Greens started with a social gathering on Wednesday evening. A creative putting contest, signature drinks,

and charcuterie cups highlighted the evening.

The two-woman best-ball tournament kicked off the next morning and women from across the state competed for the 3 best scores in each of the flights. Many thanks to our local sponsors for stepping up and providing fabulous gift items for the raffle drawing. So many clever extras like drawing cards throughout the day to create the best poker hand, roulette wheels, a Yahtzee table and a beverage cart were cleverly placed around the course to make the day a unique and fun experience for all.

So many compliments from our many out-of-town guests, but my favorite was, "We can't wait to sign up for the event next year."

Congratulations to our MMLGA teams, who earned a top 3 finish in each of the flights

FLIGHT 1
Alde Feskanin
Julie Thompson

FLIGHT 2
Val Klaber
Snaque Rolla
Susie Downs
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HELLO NEIGHBOR!...
WHAT'S NEW(S) WITH THE MRF?

BY WENDY GUSTIN BRAUNEIS

As summer gives way to fall, the Madison Valley shifts in rhythm. The long days on the river start to shorten, the mornings carry a little more crispness, and we find ourselves at the edge of a new season. August was a full month for the Madison River Foundation, with projects, events, and partnerships that reflect both the work behind the scenes and the joy of coming together as a community.

Progress on Our Projects and Programs

The Madison River Foundation kept busy this month, continuing work with local landowners to improve riparian habitat along the Madison River. We also met with Geum Environmental Consulting to plan the initial construction for the rehabilitation of two side channels. Meanwhile, Mia joined the Madison Conservation District Stream Team to support ongoing water quality monitoring efforts, ensuring we stay on top of the river's health.

The Water Quality Monitoring gauge installed on the Ennis Bridge in July continues to be the gift that keeps on giving, providing valuable data April through November. If you'd like to follow the results for yourself, the information is available on the USGS website or on the Madison River Foundation website under the Projects tab.

Education remains a top priority for the MRF. With local school districts back in session, we've been planning and refining our Trout in the Classroom program, with a plan to launch in early 2026 and hope to expand to additional schools throughout the watershed.

Events

This month, we were delighted to host an MRF Wildlife Speaker Series event at the Madison Theatre in Ennis, presented in partnership with the Ruby Habitat Foundation. Mia Cignoni shared a captivating presentation on migratory birds of the Madison Valley. It was a

full house, and everyone enjoyed the sights and sounds of her presentation. Many thanks to Burnt Tree Brewing for providing beer and pizza.

We also had a blast at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce Fly Fishing Festival. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our speakers: Dan Delekta, Beth Brennan, Collin Peterson, Ron Sorensen, and Bruce Richards, for sharing their time and expertise. A special note of appreciation also goes to Nicole Bailey, who had been scheduled to present but was called to assist with firefighting efforts in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

Looking Ahead

We're excited to be part of the upcoming Wretched Mess Fest on September 5 and 6 in West Yellowstone. This festival, which started in 2023, is quickly becoming known as a must-attend event for fly fishing, art, and music enthusiasts. Be sure to stop by the MRF booth to say hello.

Later in the month, the Wildlife Speaker Series continues with "Raptors" featuring Steve Hoffman, co-founder of HawkWatch International and coordinator of the Bridger fall migration raptor count. The event will take place Tuesday, September 16, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Madison Theatre in Ennis. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., with pizza and beer compliments of Burnt Tree Brewing.

As we make the transition into Fall, our focus remains on protecting the Madison River and building partnerships that strengthen the watershed and the communities that depend on it. Be sure you follow our social media and receive our newsletters. Other events will be popping up through the fall, and these channels are the best way to stay informed about all that we are doing to support the river and our community.

SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH!

Jackson's Garden Concert Series

WINNIE BRAVE PLAYS THURSDAY



Janet Marsh smiles as she dishes up pie at the Jackson's Garden Concert Series this summer. Many volunteers pitch in to create this special place and these community events. PHOTO COURTESY LINDA DIXON



Old Man Ben and the Grownass Men, bluegrass, country inspired music, a local favorite band out of Phillipsburg, played to a crowd at Jackson's Garden on August 14. PHOTO COURTESY LINDA DIXON

The Jackson's Garden Concert Series has provided entertainment and community gatherings during July and August this summer.

Thursday, August 28 offers one more opportunity to enjoy live music in the garden as Winnie Brave returns to Jackson's Garden in Sheridan from 6:30-8:30 p.m. An Americana/Roots duo touring the US and Canada, Winnie Brave is warmly welcomed to The Garden, don't miss this show!

Mad Mask, Fun and Games in Commedia dell'arte



Mace Perlman performs as the Harlequin in Baroque Music Montana's presentation of "Mad Mask, Fun and Games in Commedia dell'arte" at the historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers. PHOTO COURTESY JOHN WHITE

MADISON COUNTY SANITARIAN'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 278 • 103 W. Wallace Street

Virginia City, MT 59755

(406) 843-4275 • sanitarian@madisoncountymt.gov

SERVSAFE TRAINING

The Madison County Sanitarian's Office will be holding a ServSafe training. A successful passing grade will satisfy the Montana Food Code. The date and location is listed below:

DATE: Friday September 5, 2025, 9:30am-5:00pm

Public Meeting Room, Madison County Annex, Virginia City

FEE: \$75.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: One week prior to the class

Registration forms can be found on the Sanitarian's page of the Madison County website at madisoncountymt.gov or the Sanitarian's Office, located at 7 Placer Loop in Virginia City.

Textbooks will be available for pick at the Madison County Sanitarian's Office. Applicants must be registered and fee paid in advance of receiving your textbook and exam materials. Lunch will be provided at no cost. Please call the Sanitarian's Office at 406-843-4275 if you have questions.

Seating is limited, so please register early.



Extra appreciation and thanks to HAMILTON RANCH for supporting the 4H program and especially for purchasing my 2025 Market Hog. Additional thanks to ROCK SOLID EXCAVATION for purchasing my buddy pig.

I am also grateful to all of the 4H volunteers and leaders for allowing these programs to exist so I can participate, just to name a few that have impacted me this year:

Lacey Clark, Bill & Chris Stender, Matt Greemore!

Sincerely, Colter Raben

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Montana FWP releases Southwest Montana hunting season forecast

Submitted by MT FWP

Hunting opportunities for a variety of wildlife are plentiful in southwestern Montana. Hunters should remember that crowding will occur on easily accessible public lands, and wildlife may be visibly concentrated on private lands where access is limited. Hunters should acquire landowner permission well before hunting on private land and remember that continued access opportunities depend upon hunter behavior, ethics and safe hunting practices. Please treat all lands – public and private – with respect, abide by land-use rules from the landowner or land management agency and be courteous with other hunters and landowners sharing the landscape.

ELK

Hunters should remember that many of the elk are on private land and landowner permission is required. Hunters should also expect to encounter robust hunter activity on public lands during both the archery and rifle seasons.

Elk populations in the Livingston area are robust. Elk populations were within objective for HDs 314 and 393 and above objective for HDs 313, 315 and 317. Access to some areas of elk habitat on private land is challenging; hunters should expect to find a significant proportion of elk populations distributed on private lands not enrolled in the Block Management Program.

In the Sheridan area, within HDs 320, 322, 323 and 324, elk populations remained within management objective following the 2024 hunting season and preliminary summer surveys indicate strong calf production this year. Although elk populations remain robust, hunters should expect to find a large proportion of those elk distributed on private lands not enrolled in the Block Management Program during

the fall hunting seasons.

In the Dillon area, elk numbers in the Pioneer and Tendoy elk management units (EMUs) remain strong. Calf recruitment in both units has been robust over the past two years, and hunting mortality has been low to moderate over the past two seasons. In the Pioneer EMU, numbers were particularly high in HD 329 this winter; however, this was in part due to a large number of elk from HD 331 moving into the district for the winter. These elk are expected to be distributed out into both HD 329 and HD 331 during the hunting season. In the Tendoy EMU, numbers were especially high in HD 302. However, this was likely due to elk from HD 303 moving into the area and a large contribution of elk from Idaho. A number of these elk are expected to use the Montana/Idaho border or summer in Idaho. Elk distribution will likely be shaped by forage growth, but it is hard to predict how this will manifest. Snow levels were very low this winter in many areas, which may have limited moisture and forage growth. However, regular amounts of summer precipitation may ameliorate the poor snowpack to some extent and allow elk to find forage more widely on the landscape. As in all years, snowfall during the hunting season will play an important role in hunter success.

In HDs 319, 321, 340, 350 and 370 in the Butte area, elk numbers are stable and strong, with a good calf crop this year. Thanks to decent growing conditions earlier this summer, elk appear to be in great shape.

In the Townsend area, elk in HDs 390 and 391 are found mostly on private land during hunting season, and numbers continue to be well above management goals. The ability to obtain access to private lands that have elk during the hunting season is always a

key consideration when elk hunting in HDs 390 and 391. Overall elk numbers in HD 380, where hunting for brow-tined bulls is by limited-permit only, continue to be below the management goal. While elk numbers on national forest land in HD 380 are down, especially on the east side of HD 380, some private land areas in the hunting district may still have higher-than-desired numbers. Hunters are reminded that the general antlerless opportunity for youth and Permit-to-Hunt-from-Vehicle (PTHFV) hunters in HD 380 was reduced to the first three weeks of the general rifle season starting in 2024. Winter elk numbers in HD 392 continue to be well below the management goal, although there are believed to be more elk present in the HD during the hunting season than are observed during winter surveys.

Elk populations across the Helena area are generally robust and increasing yet remain within population goal ranges.

Bozeman-area elk numbers continue to be strong, with all herds within or above population goal ranges. Elk are at the lowest end of population goal range in HD 310, and hunters are reminded there is no legal way to harvest an antlerless elk in this district (not during archery, not with PTHFV, and not youth). The limitation on cow harvest in HD 310 is to encourage the population to grow. Crowding and access challenges (even in archery season) continue to be a source of complaint from hunters in most Bozeman districts, particularly where public land access is limited.

MULE DEER

Mule deer numbers in the Livingston area remain below long-term averages. However, fawn:adult ratios observed in the two Livingston area mule deer trend areas (Gardiner and Brackett Creek) showed im-



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.FREEPIK.COM

provement during this year's spring green-up surveys. Hunters should expect similar conditions to recent prior hunting seasons, with a concerted effort required for hunters that are seeking older age animals.

Mule deer populations across hunting districts near Sheridan were mostly within management objective ranges as of spring 2025. Populations increased slightly relative to spring 2024, which was preceded by a 20 percent increase during the prior year. Following a relatively pro-

ductive growing season in 2024 and mild conditions last winter, fawn production is expected to be at or above long-term average for the third consecutive year. CWD has been detected, at low prevalence, among adjacent populations of mule deer along the eastern portions of the Ruby and Highland mountains and adjacent populations of elk along the eastern Ruby Mountains and western Greenhorn mountains.

Mule deer population counts in the Butte area continue to be at the low end of what's been count-

ed over the past 20 years. Hunters should expect to have to make a focused effort to find bucks with four points or more.

Mule deer numbers continue to be down on national forest lands in the Townsend district, particularly in HD 380. Mule deer numbers on private land vary by hunting district but are still generally good in some localized areas, particularly in HDs 390 and 391, in areas near irrigated alfalfa. Hunters are reminded that antlered mule deer hunting is by limited permit only in HDs

HUNTING continued on A9

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Intermediate Pickleball | Saturdays 9-11am | \$30

MADISON COUNTY CATTLEWOMEN

Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 4th
6:30 PM | Madison Valley Public Library

Come meet the women involved in the MCCW and see what we stand for! Learn about our association and how we are working to benefit agriculture and our communities. Join us for our membership meeting, where we discuss our future plans. During our meetings, you can expect to hear updates and learn about outreach opportunities.

If you have a passion or an interest in agriculture, come join us! You don't have to have cows to be a part of our association. We'd love to have you!

You won't want to miss this one—we're serving up samples of the menu for Cowbelles & Cowboy Boots!

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HUNTING from A8

380 and 392, and that antlerless mule deer B licenses are not valid on national forest lands in HDs 380, 390 or 391.

Mule deer north of Helena have shown good recruitment in recent years, with some population growth but remain well below long-term average. South of Helena, mule deer populations appear to at or above long-term average, based on harvest data. Mule deer in the urban HD 388 that surrounds Helena appear to be increasing and above long-term average.

Bozeman mule deer numbers are also generally within or above average, although some local areas could see higher or lower deer abundance. Hunter crowding and access challenges continue to be a source of concern and complaint in most Bozeman districts, particularly where public land access is limited.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

In the Sheridan area, chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to be prevalent in white-tailed deer populations near the confluence of the Ruby and Beaverhead rivers. Within that area, white-tail abundance has diminished approximately 90 percent since spring 2020. That reduction was influenced by a combination of aggressive hunter harvest in an attempt to reduce deer abundance and disease-related mortality.

White-tailed deer continue to expand in hunting districts in the Dillon area, but harvest opportunity will remain almost exclusively on private lands. Hunters are encouraged to submit CWD samples from whitetails taken in this area, especially west of Interstate 15.

The Townsend district's white-tailed deer trend area was not flown this past spring. While some white-tailed deer can be found on national forest lands in the Townsend area, most of the white-tailed deer in the

Townsend area are to be found on private land where access for hunting can be quite variable.

In the Helena area, white-tailed deer populations appear to be stable or increasing based on previous years' harvest.

PRONGHORN

After multiple years of reduced recruitment and total pronghorn numbers, initial results from 2025 aerial surveys indicate that pronghorn populations are improving in the Livingston area. Rifle season quota reductions from prior years will remain in place for the 2025 season, but hunters who draw licenses may notice a moderate increase in pronghorn numbers compared to recent prior years.

In the Sheridan area, preliminary results of ongoing pronghorn surveys across HDs 320 and 322 indicate that populations remain stable relative to 2024 and near long-term averages. Like mule deer, fawn production among pronghorn appears to be near long-term average for the first time in several years. Well-below-average to record-low fawn production was observed during 2019-23. Low fawn production was likely influenced by harsh winter conditions during early 2019, an extended period of drought during 2020 and 2021, and harsh conditions during winter 2022-23. Relatively low rifle season license quotas will remain in place for the 2025 hunting season for those districts.

In the Dillon area, pronghorn numbers in HDs 300, 301, 310 and 329 have experienced declines in recent years. These have followed difficult drought conditions and a hard winter. These populations have experienced three to four years of very poor fawn production/recruitment. The difficult conditions experienced between 2020 and 2023 may have also had longer-term consequences on doe reproduction. Surveys conducted this summer show indications of

improved fawn production, however, total numbers remain low and will likely take some time to recover. Therefore, the number of permits offered this year will be at the bottom of the quota range. Hunters in HD 300 should be aware that last year numbers were dramatically below average. While this was due partially to declines in the population, it also appeared that many animals failed to migrate into the district from Idaho. Preliminary information suggests numbers in HD 300 have improved over last year, however, hunting may still be challenging.

In the Butte area, pronghorn numbers are down in HDs 318 and 319 due to harsh winter conditions in 2023 that impacted that year's fawn production and likely left a proportion of the doe population barren. This trend will likely continue for several more years until those does die out and are replaced with viable does. In HDs 340, 350 and 370, numbers are strong. Those districts did not get the harsh weather in 2023. Hunters successful in drawing an either-sex license in these districts are encouraged to get the additional opportunity doe/fawn licenses that are available to them.

Pronghorn distribution in the Townsend area is often clumpy, so some localized areas can have lots of pronghorn while other areas are largely devoid of them. Securing access to private lands (which may include block management areas) that have pronghorn on them during the hunting season will provide the best opportunity for success.

In the Helena area, pronghorn populations in HDs 388 and 381 are well above the long-term average, with average fawn:doe ratios, but below-average buck:doe ratios.

Bozeman-area pronghorn numbers are low but showing signs of recovering from recent severe winters.

Montana Red Devons Field Day

VIRTUAL FENCING

Submitted by JENNY KAHRL

Several brands of virtual fencing will be discussed, with demonstrations using the Red Devon cattle herd at 303 Pony Road in Harrison, Mont. on Sept. 13, 2025 at 9 a.m. A free lunch will be provided.

If you are a livestock producer, you will understand the frustration at finding your physical electric fence in disarray. Those errant moose, deer, antelope or herd of elk don't care that it took you hours to erect that fence and move your cattle for responsible intensive grazing. They don't care that it will take you hours more to replace the flung-away plastic insulators, re-pound all the fallen fiberglass posts, recharge the bat-

tery, replace the broken leads, and put your cattle BACK into that concentrated field.

For all the cattle producers who use physical electric fence this FIELD DAY is for you!

VIRTUAL FENCING means that livestock carry their "zapper" around their necks, and the producer sets up the virtual fence on their phone. Virtual fence keeps livestock in place, and allows wildlife to pass through harmlessly. The Montana Red Devons free FIELD DAY on Sept. 13 9:00am-1:00pm with free lunch, will be bringing together producers, researchers, MSU Extension, and NRCS representatives (YES, there is funding available!) to discuss and demonstrate several different

brands of virtual fencing.

Jenny Kahrl, owner and breeder at Montana Red Devons, will also share information about Red Devon cattle, a heritage breed which has been in the US for 400 years, and techniques for increasing soil water retention with livestock.

Please join producers, researchers, MSU Extension and NRCS for a morning of learning and demonstrations with the Red Devon cattle herd, discussing the merits of this exciting new technology. Please RSVP using the QR CODE to reserve your free lunch.

Jenny Kahrl can be reached at 406-451-6900, jmkahrl1@gmail.com

YARD ORNAMENT



This great horned owl landed in a reader's yard last week. PHOTO COURTESY ASHLEY KOENIG

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Help for parents of children who stutter is as close as your computer or to view at the library

Submitted by GREG WILSON

The Stuttering Foundation's film, entitled *Help! My Child is Stuttering* is available at this link <https://www.stutteringhelp.org/content/help-my-child-stuttering>.

In this 16-minute film, parents and speech-language experts talk about how to promote easier talking as they interact with their children. The professionals offer simple tips that parents can follow easily.

The film features some of the world's leading therapists with

children who stutter: Lisa A Scott, Ph.D. of the Florida State University's School of Communication Science and Disorders; Ellen Kelly, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; speech-language consultants Frances Cook, MBE, MSc, Willie Botterill, MSc, and Elaine Kelman, MSc., from the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London.

"This is an important tool for families and teachers of children who stutter," added Jane Fraser, president of the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation. "This film is designed to give parents and

teachers the tools they need to play a vital role in the process of helping children who stutter."

For more information about stuttering, write the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749, call 800-992-9392, or visit www.stutteringhelp.org.

Since 1947, the nonprofit Foundation has provided free materials to public libraries nationwide. A library that will shelve the current offer can download a request form at <http://www.stutteringhelp.org/libraries-information> or e-mail info@stutteringhelp.org.

New funding available for community - led bear conflict prevention

Submitted by DIANA PRICE, Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Montanans learning to live and work around grizzly bears are invited to apply for funding to help their communities adopt bear-resistant infrastructure and public education initiatives aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflicts.

The second round of the Montana Community-Bear Conflict Prevention Efforts Fund will award an additional \$750,000 to support community-led, non-lethal carnivore conflict prevention tools through the geographic range of grizzly bears in Montana. The application window is currently open for this round of funding, and it will close on Oct. 3, 2025. Communities and organizations interested in applying can find more details and project guidelines at <https://heart-of-rockies.org/ccr/grants/application-materials/>.

Nearly \$500,000 awarded during the first round of funding in March is currently supporting nine projects, including local Bear Aware and Bear Smart programs in Alberton, Gardiner, and Choteau, bear-resistant garbage cans and dumpsters in communities like Anaconda and Seeley Lake, educational signage and outreach events in Troy and Whitefish, and a perimeter electric fence around the Powell County landfill.

"Reducing conflicts starts with simple, local actions — from using bear-resistant dumpsters to securing livestock feed and teaching kids how to be safe outdoors," said Steve Primm, Conflict Reduction Manager at Heart of the Rockies Initiative. "As grizzlies expand into new areas, communities are finding that these straightforward steps make daily life safer for both people and wildlife. This program is here to help support and strengthen those community-led efforts on the ground."

Grant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include Tribal, county, and municipal governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations. These grants operate on a reimbursement basis, covering costs incurred by recipients for the following community investments:

- Bear-resistant waste solutions – Purchase and distribution of bear-resistant garbage cans, dumpsters, grease traps, and food storage lockers.
- Infrastructure improvements – Establishing or upgrading rural transfer stations to better secure attractants.
- Public outreach and education – Developing educational materials and programs to increase public awareness about bear safety.
- Electric fencing – Installing

portable or permanent electric fencing and electric drive-over mats to protect orchards, compost piles, garbage, livestock, and grain storage.

- Program support – Funding staff time dedicated to community-led conflict reduction and education efforts.

Applicants may request a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$150,000.

Funding source The Montana Community-Bear Conflict Prevention Efforts Fund is part of a broader public-private partnership that is expanding the use of non-lethal wildlife conflict prevention tools in both communities and agricultural settings.

Funding is provided through the America the Beautiful Challenge grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and awarded to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The grant funding program is being administered by Heart of the Rockies Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation and land stewardship in the Rocky Mountain region.

In addition to supporting community-led projects, these resources are being deployed to assist agricultural producers and landowner-led groups adopt and expand conflict prevention strategies such as carcass removal programs, electric fencing, and range rider initiatives.

Kid Country Daycare benefits from Jaycee Park Project

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 6

Submitted by KAMILLE BERGQUIST

On Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, Friends of Jaycee Park are calling on southwest Montana residents to help remove the woodchips at Dillon's Jaycee Park to make way for new ForeverLawn grass.

This project is more than a park upgrade; it's a boost for Kid Country Daycare in Twin Bridges. Some woodchips will refresh the daycare's outdoor play space, saving time and money for our small nonprofit working to maintain affordable, long-lasting childcare services.

The daycare board thanks the Friends of Jaycee Park, Rick Schwandt with RE Miller, and

MYCA cadets—past, present, and future—whose service continues to ripple across Madison and Beaverhead Counties. Back in 2018, cadets helped spread these same woodchips, and now another generation will help relocate them. Schwandt, already helping with the woodchip project, is coordinating trucking to get the woodchips from Dillon to Twin Bridges.

Kid Country relies on financial and in-kind support to stay open and maintain affordable rates. From supplies and playground upgrades to volunteer time and fundraising, every contribution makes a difference. As our team and board have evolved in recent years, our community's support has been invaluable, and we

deeply appreciate it. This woodchip partnership is an inspiring example of neighbors helping neighbors.

Organizers in Dillon hope to see 150 volunteers at the September 6 cleanup, making it a true community effort with lasting benefits.

If you'd like to get involved or learn how to support:

Volunteering at Jaycee Park: erin.hughes@justserve.org

Financial or in-kind support of Kid Country Daycare: Director, April Huss (406) 684-5353

Request MYCA cadet volunteers: seth.gillis@mycacademy.org | (406) 960-4213



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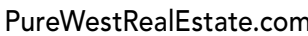
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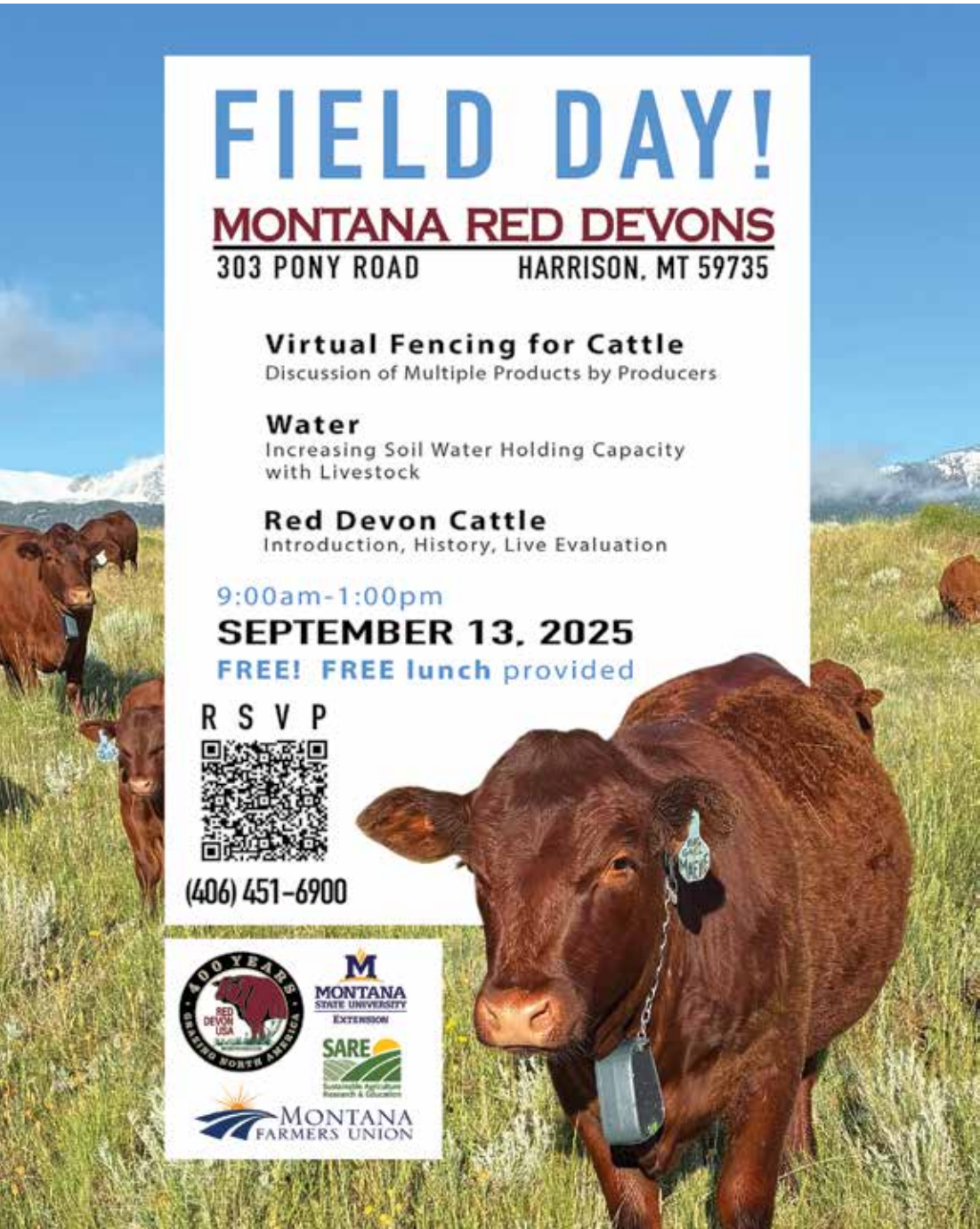
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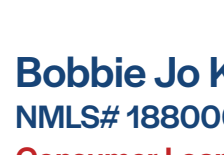
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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

Thursday



Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then mainly cloudy during the afternoon with thunderstorms likely. High 71F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70%.

Friday



Cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 73F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday



A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 77F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday



Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 81F. SSW winds shifting to WNW at 10 to 15 mph.

Monday



Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High near 80F. SSW winds shifting to NNW at 10 to 15 mph.

Quote of the
Week:

"ALL MEN DREAM, BUT
NOT EQUALLY. THOSE
WHO DREAM BY NIGHT
IN THE DUSTY RECESSES
OF THEIR MINDS, WAKE
IN THE DAY TO FIND THAT
IT WAS VANITY: BUT THE
DREAMERS OF THE DAY
ARE DANGEROUS MEN, FOR
THEY MAY ACT ON THEIR
DREAMS WITH OPEN EYES,
TO MAKE THEM POSSIBLE."

T. E. LAWRENCE



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2025 Blooms and Brushes Tour

SUBMITTED BY ENNIS ARTS ASSOCIATION (EAA)



Clementine Mahsman at the Japanese Garden. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



Caren Walker represented the Piecemakers of the Madison Valley quilters. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



Mary Dussel speaks about her Japanese themed garden and the Torii gate created by Shay Falkenstein. A torii is a traditional Japanese gate found at the entrance of Shinto shrines, symbolizing a transition from the mundane to the sacred, and a place where kami (gods) are welcomed. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



EAA artist, Jess Restrepo and Gardener Extraordinaire, Kaye Suzuki, at the Harvest Garden. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



The Harvest Garden is a hummingbird sanctuary. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



The artist, Jess, at play in the Harvest Garden. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



Quilt of Valor. PHOTO COURTESY EAA

Those attending the Ennis Arts Association's 2nd Annual "Blooms and Brushes" Garden Tour were treated to Gardens in Ennis and Jeffers that were enhanced by amazing local Artists and also by the beautiful quilt creations of the PieceMakers of the Madison. The Gardens- large and small— all had us want to go home and try harder. The Artists provided a "Welcome Respite" from any turmoil we are experiencing. The Trinity Episcopal Church provided refreshments, restrooms and reflections with the display of 30 antique quilts, in the century old stained-glass sanctuary.

Many thanks to all the participants who allowed visitors to their gardens, the artists who did their art in each garden and the Piece-Makers of the Madison Quilters for providing beautiful quilts for each garden and representatives who spoke about the quilts and their organization. And of course, a BIG thank you to the attendees. See you next year! For more details and photos visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/EnnisArtsAssociation>



Piecemakers of the Madison quilt. PHOTO COURTESY EAA



The Torii Gate in the Japanese Garden. Kent Porterfield, glass artist, preparing for guests to arrive. PHOTO COURTESY EAA

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Health & Wellness



Breastfeeding Month

WHAT IS COLOSTRUM AND IS IT SAFE TO EXPRESS IT BEFORE THE BABY IS BORN?



Submitted by JESSICA WALSH, Lactation Consultant-Intermountain Health

If you're pregnant and planning to breastfeed, you may have heard of colostrum—often called “liquid gold.” It's typically thicker and more yellow in color, and it's packed with protein and immune-boosting properties.

Colostrum provides all the nutrients and fluids your newborn needs in the early days and plays a vital role in supporting their developing immune system.

During pregnancy at around 16 weeks, the breasts naturally begin producing small amounts of colostrum. Some people may notice it leaking onto their bra or clothing, while others may not see any visible signs. Both are completely normal.

Antenatal expression: preparing ahead

There's a growing trend among expectant parents to express and freeze colostrum before delivery. It's a way to prepare—so if your

baby needs supplementation after birth, you can offer your own milk instead of formula or donor milk. It's a beautiful idea, but it's important to do it safely.

Most babies don't need extra colostrum, but for those with certain medical conditions, early supplementation can be helpful. Babies who may benefit include:

- Infants born to mothers with any kind of Diabetes
- Babies with high bilirubin levels (jaundice)
- Small or large for gestational age infants
- Premature babies or those in the neonatal ICU
- Babies with weight loss greater than 10% in the first few days – often due to difficulty with latching and feeding in the first few days of life
- Multiples (twins, triplets, etc.)

Can expressing colostrum trigger labor?

Expressing breast milk or colostrum before labor can stimulate the release of oxytocin, a hormone involved in both milk letdown and uterine contractions. Because of this, there's a small possibility it could trigger labor—especially if your body is already close to being ready.

That's why it's important to follow safe guidelines.

Tips for safe colostrum expression

- In general, wait until at least 37 weeks of pregnancy before expressing (this can vary depending on your pregnancy and health history) and do not



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.FREEPIK.COM

start expressing until you have discussed this with your OB provider first

- Use hand expression, which is the most common method
- Meet with a lactation consultant for one-on-one advice on when to start and instructions on becoming proficient with the hand expression technique
- Stop immediately if you experience

cramping or abdominal pain

Expressing before birth can also boost your chances of exclusively breastfeeding during those important first three months. Your newborn's stomach is tiny—just 1/2 to 2 teaspoons of colostrum per feeding is all they need in the first day or two of life.

How to store and use colostrum safely

- Keep colostrum frozen until delivery
- Store in a syringe with a cap or colostrum collection vial, leaving space for expansion
- Label each container with the date and time of expression
- Bring it to the hospital in a cooler with blue ice
- Let staff know you have frozen colostrum when you arrive

- Once thawed, colostrum must be used within 24 hours

Support for your breastfeeding journey

Intermountain Health hospitals and clinics offer both in-person and telehealth lactation consultations. Visit the breastfeeding support page for tips, videos, and resources. If you need one-on-one assistance, please contact me at 406-723-2711.



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COLUMNS



MONTANA CLIMATE MATTERS: Climate change and your local fishing hole

Submitted by BOB GRESSWELL

This 12th column of the Montana Climate Matters series discusses how climate change impacts fishing in Montana.

So, you like to fish? You're not alone. In 2024 (the most recent year with complete records), over 487,000 fishing licenses were sold in the state of Montana, including about 165,000 non-resident, 1-day licenses. This seems like a big number, especially when hoot-owl regulations close streams to fishing from 2 p.m. to sunrise daily and together with outright stream closures limit the number of places and hours you can fish in a day. This summer, 21 rivers in western Montana were under restrictions that limit fishing, and in Yellowstone National Park, the Madison, Firehole and Gibbon rivers and their tributaries were

completely closed to fishing by mid-July.

Hoot-owl restrictions and closures were first enforced in the early 2000s by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, but they have become more frequent and on a greater number of rivers in Montana ever since. Why? Because the climate is getting warmer as a result of increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (largely from the combustion of fossil fuels). According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, average annual temperatures in Montana rose 2.5-3.0 degrees Fahrenheit between 1950 and 2024. At the same time, precipitation has decreased in winter and increased in spring. With warmer

temperatures, there is less snow and more rain, the snow melts faster, spring runoff comes earlier, and summers are relatively dry.

When stream temperatures reach 73 degrees Fahrenheit for three consecutive days, hoot-owl restrictions are imposed. When angler pressure, warm water, and diminished stream flow act together, complete closures occur, as happened for much of the Big Hole River this summer. At these higher stream temperatures, native trout become more vulnerable to disease, decreased levels of dissolved oxygen, and competition from nonnative species. Water temperature also directly affects fish growth. Generally, the rate at which fish grow increases with temperature up to a maximum, but once that

temperature threshold is crossed, growth rates slow. Cold water in some small headwater streams is currently below the optimum temperature, and warming from climate change can spur fish growth. Unfortunately, in mainstem river habitats, summer water temperatures exceed the threshold, slowing fish growth and increasing stress. It's these mainstem rivers, such as the Big Hole, Madison, and Jefferson rivers, where most fishing occurs and where competition from nonnative fish is greatest.

Declining streamflow during summer further complicates the problem. Shallow water reduces the number of stream pools and riffles where fish live and thus their abundance. An earlier and shorter spring runoff results in a

longer period in summer when low stream flows are unfavorable for trout.

In contrast, large deep lakes in Montana are somewhat buffered from increasing air temperatures, and the area of a lake with optimal water temperatures for fish growth may actually increase as the climate warms. However, native Cutthroat and introduced Rainbow trout are spring spawners that reproduce in tributary streams. These spawning migrations are closely linked to the timing of snowmelt and runoff, and as the climate continues to warm, these trout will have to adapt to earlier peak flow, followed soon thereafter by lower flows and warmer stream temperatures. Studies have shown that average peak runoff

in Yellowstone rivers is now 8 days earlier than in the 1950s, and summer stream flows have declined by 28 percent.

So, the bottom line is that rising air temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are currently reducing our opportunities to fish for prized trout. It seems to me that we need to act now to slow climate change so that in the decades ahead, our grandchildren can still enjoy some of the great fishing holes that we've known.

Bob Gresswell is a retired fish biologist from the US Geological Survey Northern Rocky Mountain Research Center. He has studied the ecology and management of Cutthroat trout in Yellowstone and the West for over 50 years.

MONTANA NIGHT SKY: HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER

By RICHARD STOUFFER

The highlights of the Montana night sky in September are provided mainly at dawn with Venus and Jupiter shining brightly in the eastern part of the sky and Saturn shining in the western part of the sky. They are joined briefly by Mercury as the month begins. In the evening sky, Mars continues to fade until it is lost in the solar glare late in the month. The evening sky is not without any visible planets though as Saturn rises shortly after sunset early in the month and before sunset by the end of

the month. A particular highlight is the close conjunction of the Moon, Venus and Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo, in the morning sky on September 19.

As the month begins, look for the lineup of the giant planet, Jupiter, the brightest planet, Venus, and the tiny innermost planet, Mercury, spread across the eastern sky. To see this array of planets, you have to wait for Mercury to rise, when it rises at about 5:45 a.m. or about an hour

before sunrise on September 1. On that date, Venus rises at about 4:05 a.m. and Jupiter rises about 2:20 a.m. Saturn graces the sky almost all night as the month begins, when it rises about 8:50 p.m. or about 45 minutes after sunset and doesn't set until well after sunrise on September 1. Saturn is joined in the evening sky for the first part of the month by Mars. Mars is found in the western sky as the month begins when Mars sets about 9:20 p.m. By September 4, Mercury is lost in the solar glare

in the morning sky. Mars passes just above Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo, on the evening of September 13. A highlight of the month then occurs on September 19 when the Moon, Venus, and Regulus form a very tight grouping in the early morning sky. A few days later, around September 24, Mars becomes lost in the solar glare in the evening sky. By the end of the month, Saturn becomes the only planet visible in the evening sky when it rises shortly before sunset and doesn't set until about 6:35

a.m. in the early morning sky. By the end of the month, Venus rises about 5:15 a.m. and Jupiter rises about 12:50 a.m. to provide the rest of the planetary action as September comes to a close.

As for the Moon, the Moon is full on September 7. The Moon passes near Saturn on September 8. The Moon then passes near Jupiter on September 16. On September 19, the Moon is part of a tight grouping with Venus and Regulus as noted above.

The Sun arrives at the autumnal equinox at 12:19 p.m. on September 22, when the Sun heads south across the celestial equator and autumn begins in the Northern Hemisphere.

For meteor shower watchers, there are no major meteor showers this month. However, a sporadic meteor can flash across the sky at any time. From a dark site, meteors typically can be seen at a rate of about 5 meteors per hour.

THIS, OUR VALLEY: *When you're thirsty, go for the gusto*

By KEITH AXBERG

"He turned the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into flowing springs." Psalm 107:35

I am not a water drinker. I drink water if it has first been heated up and dribbled through coffee grounds and a filter. Sometimes I'll change things up and drink boiling water that has been colored by a bag of Red Rose or Lipton. I am not a connoisseur of teas or coffees, but if I am to hydrate this carcass in which I reside and with which I perambulate, then that water had best be flavored with something more than hydrogen and oxygen!

That's the rule of thumb by which I live and move and have my being, but I must admit that (if no one is looking) I will

sneak a few sips of ice water at a restaurant when we go out to eat. I always do so feeling a bit like a fraud, because I don't really like the taste of water. The problem is it has no taste, and that's what I find so tasteless about it.

But as I've gotten older, I've discovered the benefits of drinking water and the need for staying hydrated. The water where we live is clean, fresh, and soft. It is still tasteless and odorless, but it can be made palatable. I discovered an outfit that sells little squirt bottles of fruit flavors. They have no artificial flavors or sugars or sugar substitutes. Just fruit concentrate in a bottle from which a quick spurt of juice is enough to both flavor and color the water, and that's all I need. A

hint of substance!

Interestingly, water has been growing on me. My wife and I traveled back to Indiana last month to visit our daughter, family, and grandkids. We boarded the train and I came down with either a summer cold or allergies, making for a miserable trip (schnozoza-wise, anyway). I had no interest in coffee (an experience unparalleled in my lifetime), but I was parched. It was as if we were stumbling through the desert sands of Beau Geste with Gary Cooper.

What I craved, during the trip, was water (evidence that I was beyond delirium). Fortunately, we were in a sleeper unit, the price of which included all the bottled water we could drink – for free. I

am not one to ever take advantage of free stuff just because it is free, but I threw caution to the wind and enjoyed guzzling down water throughout our trips East and West. I don't know if the air in the railroad coaches was just dry, or if it was my allergies and/or cold that were making me so thirsty, but I was thankful to the nth degree for the water onboard, and having permission to draw from the well as freely as I was able.

I thought about that this week as I observed the continuing disintegration of the world around us. I see a world struggling in many ways and in many areas. What I notice mostly is a world where people are thirsty for something they just

haven't been getting – waters of justice, mercy, and grace.

The world is out of balance, and as we age, doctors tell us we need to drink more water; losing one's balance and falling down is often a sign of dehydration. I joke about my love of coffee, which is no joke, but I do recognize and appreciate the value of water, and its contribution to our health and well-being (no pun intended).

I also appreciate justice and freedom, which brings to mind another portion of Psalm 107, "(The Lord) pours contempt on nobles and makes them lose their way in trackless deserts; but lifts the needy out of their affliction" (v. 34ff).

It's important to not only drink

plenty of fluids, but to also find oases where one can rest one's soul, replenish one's spirits, and heal one's wounds. There are places where the grass is green, the air quiet, the waters still; we will find there One holding a stout staff, standing their watch. Find that spot, lay out your blanket, and be at peace, for pain is inevitable, but misery optional. So, drink up here in this, our valley, and stay balanced, my friends.

Keith Axberg writes on matters concerning life and faith. Author of: Who the Blazes is Jesus? Good News for a Vulgar World (available through Amazon in Print and e-book)

♥ Hope for the Caregiver: A COLUMN FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The hidden trauma of caregivers

By PETER ROSENBERGER

Noise wears us down. City folks know the fatigue of traffic and sirens. Caregivers know another kind of noise—the alarms, corridors, and midnight phone calls that come with hospitals and emergencies.

Earlier this year, I spent nearly five months in Aurora, Colorado, while Gracie underwent

11 surgeries. My hotel window faced the ER, and sirens wailed through the night. It was a far cry from home here in the Madison Valley, where elk bugle and the wind sweeps the ridge. Montana restores to me what silence sounds like. Yet even in the quiet, rest is hard to find after forty years of caregiving.

Gracie has faced 98 operations, 77 since I've been at her side. I have stood watch through

amputations, infections, and complications. Doctors rotate. Specialists retire. But caregivers remain—and that changes a soul. Researchers now confirm what many of us live: long-term caregiving can bring post-traumatic stress, just like combat veterans or first responders.

Sleep may surprise us, but rest must be chosen—again and again. Sometimes it takes doctors, counselors, pastors, and

neighbors to help us respect the trauma.

Here in Montana, I see many quietly carrying their own stories. Mine may be extreme, but the truth stretches across our county and far beyond: caregivers bear trauma. Fire damage doesn't vanish when the flames die out; the scars remain. Caregiving is much the same.

We know that many of these

fires will continue until the first heavy snowfall. Grace is a lot like that snow we eagerly wait for—it covers and heals. So it is with caregivers: the scars remain, but grace extended to one another falls quietly like a soothing balm. And as the old hymn reminds us, "...it makes the wounded whole."

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" - George Eliot

Peter Rosenberger has cared for his wife with severe disabilities for four decades. His radio show, 'Hope for the Caregiver,' airs weekly on 200+ stations. His latest book is "A Minute for Caregivers - When Every Day Feels Like Monday." www.PeterRosenberger.com

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THEME: MEET ME IN...

ACROSS

1. Manual calculator, pl.

6. Beach Boys: "____ Only Knows"

9. Army beds

13. Pressed ham and cheese sandwich

14. Part of spch

15. Popular Latin dance

16. Influencer's creation

17. Hula dancer's flowers

18. Birdlike

19. *Meet me here, under the arch

21. *Meet me at the Top of the Rock

23. Comic book expression for alarm

24. Press backward arrow key

25. "Hand" with claws

28. Spreadsheet software command

30. Day off, backwards

35. Bug-eyed

37. "Cheers" regular

39. Coupe alternative

40. Be dependent

41. Damage one's reputation

43. Slightly (2 words)

44. Prefix for below

46. Shade of beige

47. Java neighbor

48. War mounts

50. Rope fiber

52. "____ Now or Never"

53. Leave at the altar

55. Flapper's feathers

57. *Meet me at the London Bridge

61. *The Black Eyed Peas: "Meet Me ____"

65. *Meet me in ____ Mara, Kenya

66. Undergarment

68. *Meet me in Australia to see this bear

69. Done to printer cartridge

70. Corn unit

71. Poet W. H. ____ of "Funeral Blues" fame

72. Infamous Nazi villain

73. Strong solution of sodium

74. Like gelled hair

DOWN

1. Parts of a play

2. Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"

3. Cain's victim

4. Paddler's vessel

5. Endows or empowers

6. "Buffalo ____, won't you come out tonight..."

7. Keats' poem

8. Jinn or genie

9. Guinea pig or capybara

10. Mixture

11. Russian monarch

12. What Titanic did

15. Went to bid farewell (2 words)

20. *Meet me in Orthodox church to see these

22. *Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968

24. *Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands

25. *Meet me under the Eiffel Tower

26. Real estate broker, e.g.

27. "The Bonfire of the Vanities"

author Tom ____

29. *Meet me by the Trevi Fountain

31. Adipose tissue

32. *Meet me at the Burj Khalifa

33. Like the Tower of Pisa

34. Bigfoot's cousins

36. Swirling vortex

38. Filly's mother

42. Popular Cuban dance

45. Be next to, as in rooms

49. Fall from grace

51. The Kenosha Kickers' songs

54. Sticker on a jar

56. Run ____ of the law

57. Same as ayah

58. Respiratory rattling

59. Osiris' sister and wife

60. Opposite of zigs

61. Tortoise's opponent

62. Do like fly fishermen

63. Sheltered, nautically

64. Pull

67. Everybody loved him on TV

Crossword puzzle answers on B6

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PHONE: Bozeman (406) 587-3446,

Washington D.C. (202) 224-2651

SENATOR TIM SHEEHY:

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REPRESENTATIVE RYAN ZINKE:

PHONE: (202) 225-5628, Washington, DC 20515

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HELP WANTED
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Maintenance/Grounds: \$20.73-\$27.59/hr DOE, plus \$670/mo in benefits. FT/year round position. Successful applicant will have skills to address and fix general plumbing, electrical, and carpentry issues. Tasks may include painting, repair of windows and doors, assembling furniture and making recommendations to the overall health of the facilities. Position will also be responsible for snow removal, mowing, weed control and irrigation. All school employees earn sick and vacation leave and paid holidays.

Harrison school is an equal opportunity employer.

Call the school for more information 406-685-3428, or email District Clerk Lisa Morgan at lmorgan@harrison.k12.mt.us to apply.

HELP WANTED
MYCA (Dillon, MT) is hiring FT Cadre Instructors \$23.74/hr start, PT on-call substitute teachers \$24.88/hr start, and PT Med Passers \$22.31/hr start. Support youth in a structured, disciplined, team-based environment while they work to complete high school. Review details and apply at https://mtstatejobs.taleo.net/careersection. Call (406)960-4424 with questions about the positions.

HELP WANTED

EVENTS COORDINATOR
The Elling House is seeking an Events Coordinator to assist with our community outreach, arts, and humanities events. This role is instrumental in ensuring the venue, artists, guests, and presenters are set up and have an enjoyable opportunity connecting with our community.

This position is flexible and part-time in nature, approximately 15-20 hours/month but may vary depending on schedule and programming.

If interested, please connect with Chelsie Oehler, chelsieleigh2@gmail.com

For more information about the position, go to https://tinyurl.com/bdejej5m

LOST

LOST FLY ROD & REEL
I lost my Sage Fly Rod and Sage Reel on Sunday, August 3 at Madison River fishing access site at Valley Garden. Reward for return. Call Terry at (949) 556-0196.

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PUBLIC NOTICES | AUGUST 28, 2025

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
This is a public notice from B & D Keylock to the Lessee Of Unit #155 located at 3538 Hwy 287 in Sheridan, Mt 59749 to inform you that your Unit is under foreclosure proceedings. I/A: B&D KEYLOCK Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

INVITATION TO BID
Separate sealed bids for the Sheridan Washington Street Water Main Project will be received by Town of Sheridan at 103 East Hamilton Street, Sheridan, MT 59749 until 1:00 PM local time on Thursday, September 11th, 2025. Late bids will not be accepted. This work includes the installation of approximately 1,075 LF of 8" C900 PVC water main and associated valves, fittings, and appurtenances, installation of a new fire hydrant, and gravel road restoration. The project is scheduled for completion by December 19th, 2025. A digital copy of the project manual may be obtained at www.questcdn.com. Interested parties may download the digital copy of the bid documents for \$30 by inputting the Quest Project #9829806 on the website's project search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952)233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Bidders must purchase bid documents through QuestCDN; and must be shown on the plan holder's list to be considered a responsive bidder. Questions related to this project should be directed to Krista Hanson, P.E. at (406) 461-9051, khanson@tripletreem.com. There will be a Pre-Bid Conference at the Sheridan Town Hall, 103 East Hamilton Street, Sheridan MT, 59749 at 1:00 pm local time on September 3rd, 2025 local time to discuss the project. Interested contractors are encouraged to attend. I/A: CLERK TOWN OF SHERIDAN Published Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
There will be a public hearing on September 2 at the Sheridan Senior Center (210 Crofoot St.) at 6:00 pm. The hearing is for the proposed draft zoning and is the an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Zoning Commission. Copies of the draft zoning ordinance will be available at the library, town hall, the senior center, and on the Town's website. If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Rossiter at 406-842-5851. I/A: CLERK TOWN OF SHERIDAN Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The Town of Twin Bridges is soliciting proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit the Town of Twin Bridge's financial statements. Copies of the detailed request for proposals (RFP) including a description of the services to be provided by respondents, the minimum content of responses, and the factors to be used to evaluate the responses, can be obtained by contacting Patrick Otterbeck, City Clerk-Treasurer, 104 East 6th Street, Twin Bridges, MT 59754, (406)406-684-5243, or by email Townoftb@3rivers.net, reference in the subject line: RFP Auditing Services. All responses to the detailed RFP must be submitted by Monday September 8th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to Patrick Otterbeck, City Clerk-Treasurer, 104 East 6th Street, Twin Bridges, MT 59754. I/A: CLERK TOWN OF TWIN BRIDGES Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Water right claimant PCH Diamond J, LLC ("Diamond J") filed an amendment for water right 41F 136438-00 through their counsel to the Montana Water Court on June 6 th , 2025. The right was consolidated into Case 41F-6001-A-2025. The amendment elements include a point of diversion modification, which is some 600ft downstream of the location on the historical documentation on Jack Creek. The proposed modification is entirely on Diamond J's Property and there are no intervening points of diversion that could be adversely affected. Also proposed is the clarification of acreage within the claimed place of use, again, solely on the Diamond J's property. Importantly, the proposed acreage clarification is not an increase in acres irrigated. Diamond J is located at 755 Jack Creek RD, Ennis, Montana. Diamond J was ORDERED on Monday, July 28 th , 2025, to file public notice in two publications pursuant to § 85-3-233(6), MCA. The entities of PCH Diamond J, LLC's motion may be viewed on the Montana Water Court webpage at: https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/Notices- Info/PublicNotices. I/A: DOWNSTREAM RESEARCH Published Aug. 28, Sept. 4 & 11, 2025

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Madison County, Montana (MADCO) is seeking bids for the procurement of a new Ford Transit upfitted wheelchair accessible van for the Madison Valley Manor. All bids should be submitted to the Madison County Commissioner's office in person, via U.S. Mail at PO Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755, or via email to madco@madsisoncountymt.gov by 9/8/25 at 10 AM. MADCO reserves the right to refuse all bids at their discretion. I/A: MCC Published Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Madison County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the First Floor Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, a public meeting will be held to receive comments on a petition requesting the closure of a section of street located in Section 18, T02 S, R02 W, Block 21, between Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as well as Section 18, T02 S, R02 W, Block 22, between Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, of the Original Townsite of Pony, MT. Copies of the petition are available for public review and comment at the Madison County Commissioners' Office. Comments on the proposal are welcome. Written public comments may be submitted or delivered to the Madison County Commissioners Office, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755; or emailed to madco@madsisoncountymt.gov. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 2025. I/A: MCC Published Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, 2025

NOTICE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING
The Madison County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. during their regularly scheduled meeting at the First Floor Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building, 103 West Wallace Street, in Virginia City, Montana, to review the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and adopt the final County Budget and Mill Levy Requirements for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The Preliminary Budget is on file and available for inspection at the Madison County Commission Office at the address above. Any tax payer may appear at the hearing and be heard for or against any part of the proposed budget. I/A: MCC Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

TOWN OF TWIN BRIDGES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Town of Twin Bridges will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall, 104 E. 6 th Avenue. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments regarding a proposed application to the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to construct affordable housing rental units at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Madison Street in Twin Bridges, Montana. At the public hearing, the proposed project will be explained, including the purpose, location, scope of work, budget, possible funding sources, and any costs that may result for Twin Bridges residents. All interested persons can ask questions and express their opinions regarding this proposed project. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing before 5:00 PM, September 9, 2025. Anyone who wants more information or wants to submit questions or comments should contact Patrick

Otterbeck, Clerk/Treasurer, at (406) 684-5243 or townoftb@3rivers.net. You may also contact Housing Coordinator, Jim Jarvis, (406) 865-0299 or jarvisjim6@gmail.com for additional information. I/A: MADISON COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD Published August 28 & September 4, 2025

TOWN OF TWIN BRIDGES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Town of Twin Bridges will hold a public hearing on September 2, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Twin Bridges School at 216 W. 6 th Avenue. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments regarding the Town's overall community development needs (public infrastructure & facilities, economic development, and housing), including the needs of low and moderate-income persons. The Town of Twin Bridges will also seek the views of citizens on the activities that should be undertaken to meet the identified needs and their relative priority. The Town may apply for funding from the Montana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program (federal funding administered by the Montana Department of Commerce) and other state and federal funding sources to address housing, public facilities, or other community needs. The Town wants its residents to comment and offer suggestions for projects to address the most urgent needs. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing before 5:00 PM, September 2, 2025, by contacting Twin Bridges Clerk/Treasurer Patrick Otterbeck at (406) 684-5243 or townoftb@3rivers.net. I/A: MADISON COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD - NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
The Madison County Planning Board will conduct a public meeting on Monday, September 29, 2025, 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 following agenda item/proposal and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, who will take final action. A request by MK Engineering LLC on behalf of Johnathon Storter for Preliminary Plat approval of Storter First Minor Subdivision, a minor subdivision that proposes to divide a ~20-acre property into four residential lots has been submitted to the Madison County Planning Board for review. Accessed from McDeed Creek Road, the subdivision is located in Ennis in the Mustang Ranches area. The four lots are proposed for single-family residential development and will be served via individual well and septic systems. The subject property is legally described as MUSTANG RANCHES, S29, T06 S, R01 E, Lot 86, ACRES 20.487, PLAT 4/72, Madison County, Montana. Written comments regarding this proposal should be received by 5:00 p.m.

on September 29, 2025, and may be sent to the Madison County Planning Board by Mail to P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755; E-mail to planning@madsisoncountymt.gov; or verbal comments may be given at the public meeting. Additionally, the public meeting will be live-streamed via Webex video conferencing platform: Join from the meeting link: https://madsisoncounty.my.webex.com/madsisoncounty.my/j.php?MTID=maac26726d8032c2c4a16d7d6e657b0ad Join by meeting number: Meeting number: 2553 853 5817 Meeting password: VCMadison Join by Phone: 1-650-479-3208 Password: 82623476 The preliminary plat and supplemental information pertaining to this proposal are available for review at: • https://madsisoncountymt.gov/307/Planning • Madison County Planning Department, 103 W. Wallace, Virginia City • Madison Valley Library, 210 West Main Street, Ennis • For assistance concerning materials, please call the Planning Department at (406) 843-5250 I/A: MCPB Published Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, 2025

MADISON COUNTY HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES:
All county Home Schools must notify the Madison County Superintendent of Schools of intent to home school at the beginning of each and every new school year. Home School Requirements: MCA Section 20-5-109 states: "To qualify its student for the exemption from compulsory enrollment under 20-5-102, a homeschool shall: (1) Maintain records on pupil attendance and make the records available to the county superintendent of schools on request; (2) provide at least the minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction in accordance with 20-1-301 and 20-1-302 (Half-time Kindergarten 360 hrs., Full-time K through grade 3 720 hrs., and grades 4-12 1080 hrs.); (3) provide an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as basic instructional program pursuant to 20-7-111; and (4) notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the home school is located in each school fiscal year of the student's attendance at school." Montana Code Annotated 20-5-109 (2011). Notify the County Superintendent of the intent to home school for 2025-2026, immunization or religious exemption form if you are new to homeschooling by September 15, 2025. Please return an instructional hour report at the end of the 2025-2026 schoolyear by June 30, 2026. Please contact Pam Birkeland to request a home school packet via mail at PO Box 247 Virginia City, MT 59755, call (406) 843-4280, by fax (406) 843-5388 or e-mail at pbirkeland@madsisoncountymt.gov . Packet and forms are also available on the county website, http://madsisoncountymt.gov/289/ Home-School Thank you for your cooperation. Pam Birkeland, Madison County Superintendent of Schools I/A: MADISON COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Published Aug. 21 and 28, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MADISON COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PETER MACGREGOR RUGHEIMER, Deceased. DP – 29-2025-000020 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 (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to Lynn A. Rugheimer, Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Moore Gaertner Law Firm, 1276 North 15 th Avenue, Suite 201, Bozeman, Montana 59715, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct. DATED this 5 th day of August, 2025. /s/ Lynn A. Rugheimer, Personal Representative of the Estate of Peter MacGregor Rugheimer I/A: MOORE GAERTNER LAW FIRM, PLLC Published Aug. 28, Sept. 4 & 11, 2025

INVITATION TO BID
Twin Bridges Public Library is looking for bids for FRAMING, ELECTRICAL & INSULATION for our Discovery Hall remodel project. Must be licensed and insured. For further details and architectural plans, please contact Library's General Contractor at baldymtnconstruction@gmail.com (phone 406-596-0364) or silviatlibrary@gmail.com. You can also visit the Twin Bridges Public Library during business hours. Please send bids directly to Twin Bridges Public Library, PO Box 246, 206 S Main Street, Twin Bridges, MT 59754, no later than September 15th 2025. I/A: TWIN BRIDGES PUBLIC LIBRARY Published Aug. 14, 21, 28 and Sept. 4 and 11, 2025

FIND FELLOWSHIP WITH US



Christian Science Services

Sunday Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

ALL WELCOME

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

4983 US Hwy 287 N. • Ennis, Montana

www.ChristianScience.com

YOU are welcome here.

MADISON VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP @ 9:00 AM ON SUNDAY

308 W. Hugel St

full communion with ELCA, UCC, RCA, UMC

Brian Conklin, Interim Pastor

682-4355
pastor.madisonvalleypresby@gmail.com
madisonvalleypresbyterian.com

Madison Valley Baptist Church

5050 Hwy 287 N
Ennis MT 59729
406-682-4244

madisonvalleybaptistchurch.com

Colt Hudson
Pastor

Worship Service 10 AM

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Love God, Love People, Be Transformed

Worship Service 10:30 AM
In Person or Online
@Facebook.com/EnnisAG

Wednesday Ministries:
Kids Club (K-5) 3:30-5:35 Sept - May
7:00 PM Youth Group
and Adult Bible Study

Pastor Greg Ledgerwood
Assoc. Pastor Josh Barnhart

402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
(406) 682-4197

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church
Pastor Nate Holt

970-210-5307

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

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

Ruby Valley Baptist Church

Chris LaRue, Pastor

842-5602

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Wednesday Eve 7 p.m.

One block behind IGA, Sheridan

Valley Assembly
Love Jesus • Love People • Reach the Valley

114 N. Main, Sheridan
406-842-5845

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30 a.m.

VALLEY KIDS:
Wednesdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm
ages pre-k to 6th grade

VALLEY YOUTH GROUP:
Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Pastor Terry Sgrignoli & Youth Pastor, Matt Lindgren

Our mission is to Love Jesus, Love People & Reach the Valley

Ruby Valley United Methodist Parish
Invites You To Worship With Us

Pastor Karin Lovgren

Office: 406-404-6152

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

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

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

The Church of Word and Sacrament

Visitors Welcome

Pastor Ken Stensrud

- Sunday Service - 9:00 am
- Pastor's Office Hours - Monday 10:30 am - 3:00 pm
- Bible Study - Monday 3:15 pm - Thursday 6:30 pm
- Women's Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday 5:30 pm

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

Madison County Episcopal Churches

Join us for **Sunday Worship** at one of three historic locations

Ennis/Jeffers (est. 1902) Trinity Church 93 Jeffers Rd. 11 AM	Sheridan (est. 1896) Christ Church 304 S. Main St. 10 AM	Virginia City (est. 1867) St. Paul's 102 E. Idaho St. 9 AM
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Where history, faith and fellowship strengthen community

Lighthouse Fellowship
Ennis, MT

SUNDAYS 10 AM
Address: 101 First St, #A

Pastor Josh Pummel
lighthousefellowshipmt@gmail.com

Lighthouse Fellowship is a church that is passionate about seeing God glorified, the Word studied, and disciples made.

RUBY VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

10:00 Sunday Service

10:00 Wednesday Women's Bible Study

406-842-7762

97 Duncan District Rd.
Sheridan, MT

Madison County Senior Citizen's Shuttle Schedule

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
1st Week Month	Ennis/Virginia City to Bozeman Departs 8:00 a.m.	Ruby Valley to Butte Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Pony/Harrison to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.
2nd Week Month	Ennis/Virginia City to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Ruby Valley to Dillon Departs @ 9:00 a.m.	Pony/Harrison to Bozeman or Butte Departs @ 8:00 a.m.
3rd Week Month	Ennis/Virginia City to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Ruby Valley to Butte Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Pony/Harrison to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.
4th Week Month	Ennis/Virginia City to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Ruby Valley Bozeman or Butte Departs @ 8:00 a.m.	Pony/Harrison to Bozeman Departs @ 8:00 a.m.

CONTACT BUS DRIVER DAVE BLANK: 406-596-1179 to make reservations or additional information
Please make doctor appointments between 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. \$4.00 donation is appreciated.
SERVICES AVAILABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHED ROUTES.

ABACI GOD COTS
CUBAN ADJ Salsa
TREND LEI AVIAN
STLOUIS NEWYORK
EEK UNDO
PAW SORT OFFDAY
AGOG NORM FLUTE
RELY SMEAR ABIT
INFRA ECRU BALLI
STEEDS HEMP TITS
JILT BOA
ARIZONA HALFWAY
MASAI BRA KOALA
ALIGN EAR AUDEN
HESS LYE SLEEK

— **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

Sheridan Al-Anon Family Group Meeting
Monday night at 7 pm in Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
All are welcome.

ALANON
Twin Bridges
Church of the Valley
Thursdays, 8 pm

"Keep it Simple."
A.A. MEETING
(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., Library in Virginia City

MON. - Open, 7:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church-Ennis

TUES. Open - 9 a.m. Presbyterian Church -Ennis
Wed - 7:30p.m. Trinity Church in Jeffers

FRI. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Presbyterian Church-Ennis

406-596-5000 Ennis
406-925-0371 Virginia City

DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?

CONTACT A.A. - WE'RE ALCOHOLICS HELPING OTHER ALCOHOLICS STAY SOBER.

CALL 1-833-800-8553 TO TALK TO AN A.A. MEMBER

OR

GET THE MEETING GUIDE APP

OR

GO TO AA-MONTANA.ORG

FR VIRTUAL AND FACE-TO-FACE MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

ENNIS SENIOR CENTER
315 W Main Street

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE PICK-UP 11:45 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. M-F

MEALS DELIVERY AVAILABLE M-F

CALL: AHEAD AT LEAST 24 HOURS 406-682-4422 or

Meal Reservation on Home Page www.EnnisSeniorCenter.Org

OPEN FOR ACTIVITIES TOO – CALL TO SCHEDULE – OR DROP

Substitutions may be made be made without notice

Thursday, August 28 – Baked Pork Roast, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert - MAHJONG @ 1:00

Friday, Aug 29 – Sloppy Jo's Macaroni Salad, Fruit, Dessert - EXERCISE @ 1:30

Monday, September 1 – CLOSED LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 2 - Chicken Caesar Wrap, Chips, Fruit, Dessert

Wednesday, September 3 – Reuben Sandwich, Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Dessert - EXERCISE @ 1:30 - MAHJONG @ 1:00

Thursday, September 4 – Meatloaf, Mashers, Veggies, Dessert - MAHJONG @ 1:00

Friday, September 5 – Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Fruit, Dessert - EXERCISE @ 1:30

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, or have their meals delivered within the city limits (Meals on Wheels). Cost of meals is \$5.00. Orders should be called in by 10 A.M. Contact Shaleena Walter at 406-842-5966. The Senior Center is located at 210 East Crofoot Street (the former Ruby Valley Medical Clinic). Senior exercise every Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 2 PM to 3 PM ***menu subject to change without notice***

Wednesday, August 27 - cole slaw, sloppy joes, french fries, peas & carrots, pears & cookies, Aerobics 2-3pm

Thursday, August 28 - pasta salad, sausage & potatoes, fruit cocktail, baked broccoli, banana pudding

Friday, August 29 - salad selection, ranch baked chicken, noodles, green beans, apple crisp

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. Take Out lunch as well as Home Delivery is ready at 11:30 In house meals begin at 12:00 noon. Activities for the month include Bingo played once a month and cards every Wednesday 1:00 P.M.

All meals are served with a fresh baked bread and your choice of a soft beverage.

**** the menu is subject to change depending on product availability ****

Wednesday, August 27 - Baked Ham, Potato Casserole, Green Salad, Dessert

Friday, August 29 - Breakfast for Lunch; Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Cinnamon Rolls, Fruit

Monday, September 1 - CLOSED - Labor Day

Wednesday, September 3 - Hungarian Chicken Noodles, Veggie, Coleslaw, Carrot Cake

Friday, September 5 - Tuna Casserole, pea salad, fruit salad, dessert

Monday, September 8 - Pork roll, roasted fall veggies, salad, dessert

Wednesday, September 10 - Cheeseburger soup, angel hash salad, pumpkin bar

Friday, September 12 - Ham, cheesy hashbrowns, zucchini casserole, salad, dessert

Monday, September 15 - Fishwich, Fries, tomato salad, cookie

Wednesday, September 17 - Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, gravy, veggie, salad, dessert

Friday, September 19 - Chicken Pot Pie, salad, Chocolate-cherry cake

Monday, September 22 - Taco salad, dessert

Wednesday, September 24 - Hamburger Stroganoff, veggie, salad apple pie

Friday, September 26 - Polish sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potato, salad, dessert

Monday, September 29 - Breakfast - Blueberry Turnovers, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit

HOLLOW TOP SENIOR CITIZENS
Pony, Harrison and Norris.

The Hollowtop Senior Center is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays serving meals at 12 noon. Call: 406-685-3323 for reservations or more information.

Wednesday, August 27 - Swiss Mushroom Steak

Friday, August 29 - Chili & Corn Bread

Monday, Sept. 1 - No Meal (Labor Day)

Wednesday, Sept. 3 - Zatoni

Friday, Sept. 5 - Chicken Zucchini Casserole

Monday, Sept. 8 - Beef Barley Soup

Wednesday, Sept. 10 - Biscuits & Gravy

Friday, Sept. 12 - Meat Loaf

Monday, Sept. 15 - Fish & Chips

Wednesday, Sept. 17 - Chicken Enchiladas

Friday, Sept. 19 - No Meal

Monday, Sept. 22 - Hamburgers

Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Roast Pork

Friday, Sept. 26 - Pizza

Monday, Sept. 29 - Spaghetti

Did you know

406-682-7755

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

• We offer 20% off non-profit advertising

• Lost and Found classifieds are FREE!



Tech support scams exploit your reliance on the experts

Submitted by STATEPOINT

Ever received an unexpected alert by text or email claiming there is a problem with your computer that the sender needs your help to fix? That could very well have been a tech support scam.

The scammer impersonates an expert that may have more technical knowledge than you and pretends there is a problem with your system or device that you can't see.

They want your personal information, passwords and access to your systems, and the easiest way to get it is to ask you for it. These things give scammers the keys to install programs that steal personal and financial information saved on your computer or phone and do tremendous damage.

Tech support scams can be delivered in a variety of ways. Sometimes they cause a pop-up on your screen that looks like a legitimate message from your software provider. Sometimes they create lookalike websites or web ads that list fraudulent phone numbers. If you call, the scammer will ask for personal information and in some cases, payment for services needed to "fix" the problem.

No matter how the scammer approaches you or what story they tell, the aim is to cause you to panic that something is broken or compromised and may lead to loss of access to your valuable records, photos, etc. This is especially upsetting to those who may be less tech-savvy, especially when scammers are able to convincingly impersonate trusted brands.

There are ways to protect yourself, your information and your devices, though.

The most important thing to remember is not to panic! Scammers want you to react out of fear and respond without



PHOTO COURTESY (c) Carlos Pascual / iStock via Getty Images Plus

thinking. Pause, breathe and take time to verify. Contact trusted brands through their official websites and exercise a zero-trust approach, particularly when someone unknown contacts you with unsolicited advice.

Tech companies will not call you directly and won't ask you to call them. They also won't ask for your passwords, one-time passcodes or remote access to your computer. Other red flags to watch for include:

- Someone claiming to want to help applying undue pressure, claiming time sensitivity
- Demands for payment – particularly in an irretrievable form (cryptocurrency, gold, cash, wire transfer, gift card, money order, etc.)
- Requests for your personal information, passwords or account numbers
- Calls from phone numbers that are legitimate but unexpected, unknown, private or a phone number that can't be found on

the company's website

Actions you can take to protect yourself from this type of scam include:

- Restarting your computer if a pop-up appears and freezes your screen.
- Keeping your systems and antivirus up to date and running scans regularly.
- Not clicking links if you receive a message or alert and instead, typing in the official website address and making contact to verify whether there was a

legitimate request.

- Disconnecting and independently locating a customer service number for the brand in question, then calling to verify the IT support contact was legitimate.
 - Blocking unknown numbers and email addresses.
 - Never giving anyone your password or verification code, and making sure passwords are not the same for multiple places.
- If you are scammed, it's critical to take immediate action

to minimize the damage the fraudsters can do. Contact your bank, financial services providers and credit bureaus to alert them and institute a freeze. And file a report with the Finance Trade Corporation.

To learn more about scam prevention, consult PNC Bank's Security and Privacy Center (pnc.com).

Tech support scams can be expensive. Be extra cautious when someone claims to be IT support.

EVOLUTION

metals

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(406) 581 - 2811

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ALL PRODUCTS DELIVERED

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Good News!

www.madisoniannews.com

The local news of the Madison Valley,
Ruby Valley and surrounding areas



A heartfelt thank you expressed at Buyans’ Ranch in the Ruby Valley. PHOTO COURTESY DAN ROSE

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS

10 - 11 a.m. I Sign You Sign

Introduction to ASL
@ Madison Valley Public Library - Ennis

1:30 p.m. Seniors–Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program at the Ennis Senior Center

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

5:15 p.m. Meditation classes, Sheridan Library, 1st and 3rd Mondays

6:30 p.m. Pickleball in Sheridan.

Call Art Hall (406) 596-0427.

TUESDAYS

10 a.m. Madison County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

@ First Floor Public Meeting Room, Administrative Office Building, Virginia City.
WebEx Login: <https://madisoncounty.my.webex.com/madisoncounty.my/j.php?MTID=m41ec260e52fb051a5b5abad7194ef5ac>
Meeting Number: 2557 256 7614 Password: VCMadison
Join by Phone: 1-650-479-3208 Password: 82623476
Press *6 to mute or unmute

Noon-2 p.m. Thread Connection

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

4:30 p.m. - Madison County Democrats Association

Social Get Together. Please email madisoncomtdems@gmail.com for more information.

5 p.m. Twin Bridges Community Association

Meets every second Tuesday of the month at Opportunity Bank. Come be a part of cherished local events and improvement projects.

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

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

6 p.m. Twin Bridges Book Club

Meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Blue Anchor.
Dinner at 6 p.m. with a meeting at 7 p.m.

5:30 - 7 p.m. Tuesday Market

@ Valley Collective (337 E Main St.) - Ennis.

WEDNESDAYS

9 a.m. TOPS, Ennis

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

10 a.m. - Noon Ruby Valley Veterans with VA issues/questions

Second Wednesday of the Month @ American Legion Post 89, Main Street, Sheridan, VA Service Officer at Post Bldg.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. All Veterans interested in medical assistance

First Wednesday of the month @ American Legion Post 121, 1st Street, Ennis

11 a.m. Books and Babies at Madison Valley Public Library

Books, songs and play for children 0-3 and their caregivers @ Madison Valley Public Library

11 a.m. Storytime for children 18 mos.-5yrs

@ the Twin Bridges Public Library. Beginning Sept 10th

1:30 p.m. Seniors–Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program at the Ennis Senior Center

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

5:30 p.m. First Wednesday of the month: Ennis Booster Club meeting

Ennis Booster Club invites the community to join in at Sportsman's Lodge.

6-8 p.m. Trivia Night

Come join the fun every Wednesday night. Laughs are guaranteed, so bring your friends, grab a cold one and enjoy some friendly competition. @ Ruby Valley Brew in Sheridan.

6 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesdays: Ennis Lions Club meeting at the Ennis Fire Hall

Fellowship at 6 p.m. with the official meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

THURSDAYS

Alder Gentle Yoga is taking a Summer Break and will be back Sept. 2

Please consider the Water Aerobics at the Sheridan Swimming Pool! See you there!!!

9:30 Madison Meadows Ladies Golf Association (starting June 5)

@ Madison Meadows Golf Course - Ennis, Mont.

10 a.m. Caregiver Support Group

Led by Peter Rosenberger @ Madison Valley Baptist

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Open House with Commissioner Bill Todd

First Thursday of the month @ Ennis Library, 210 E. Main Street, Ennis, MT 59729

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Open House with Commissioner Bill Todd

Second Thursday of the month @ Big Sky Water & Sewer Conference Room, 561 Little Coyote Road, Big Sky

1 p.m. Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary is meeting at Madison Valley Manor

Held on the second Thursday of each month

2 p.m. Knitting group @ Sheridan Library

3:30-4:45 p.m. Chess Club

All ages @ Madison Valley Public Library

5:30 p.m. Madison County DUI Task Force Meeting

Will be held at Sheridan's Search and Rescue Building. 402 Main Street, Sheridan. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Held the third Thursday of each month

6 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Group

@ Ennis Assembly of God

7-9 p.m. Trivia Night @ the Gravel Bar

Main Street, Ennis

FRIDAYS

10:30 a.m.-noon: The Madison Valley Writers Group will meet twice monthly

First and third Fridays in the Fireside Room at Madison Valley Bank. All persons who enjoy writing are encouraged to attend.

11 a.m. Madison Valley Public Library Story Time

Held in person at the library community room.

1:30 p.m. Seniors–Strong Body Strong Mind exercise program @ the Ennis Senior Center

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

6 p.m. Game Night at Virginia City Elks Lodge

Call Tanya at (406) 660-1559 with questions.

SATURDAYS

Ennis Farmers Market/Flea Market

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. May 24 to Sept. 27
@ Lions Club Park

1 p.m. Pony VFW meets are held at 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month at the Pony Bar in Pony.

6 p.m. Ennis Senior Center Pinochle

@ Ennis Senior Center

SUNDAYS

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

2 p.m. Sunday Bingo @ the Sportsman Lodge, Ennis

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

6:30-8:30 p.m. Winnie Brave returns to Jackson's Garden

An Americana/Roots duo touring the US and Canada, Winnie Brave is warmly welcomed to the Garden, don't miss this show!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

7-9 p.m. Dusk at Disco featuring The Bo Show

Free music!
@ Discovery Park - Virginia City

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Storage Sale

@ Madison Valley Storage #215 - Ennis

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

HAPPY LABOR DAY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 p.m. Madison County Cattlewomen meeting

@ Madison Valley Public Library - Ennis

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 -

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Annual Gallatin River cleanup

@ several locations in Big Sky

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

FUR-Ever Yours Gala

To help raise funding for the Beaverhead Animal Shelter. @ the Round Barn in Twin Bridges

Kid Country Daycare benefits from Jaycee Park

Volunteers needed to remove woodchips at Dillon's Jaycee Park
@ Jaycee Park - Dillon

5 p.m. Montana Shakespeare in the Parks - "As You Like It"

@ Pony Park - Pony

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

5 p.m. Montana Shakespeare in the Parks - "Henry V"

@ Main Street Green (next to Star Theatre) - Whitehall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

5 p.m. Mediterranean Summer Book Tasting

Sample new books while snacking on food from the Mediterranean. Please call 406-682-7244 to reserve your spot!
@Madison Valley Public Library-Ennis

5:30 p.m. Montana Shakespeare in the Parks - "As You Like It"

@ Riverside Park (soccer field by the fairgrounds) - Twin Bridges

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Montana Red Devons Field Day

Come learn about virtual fencing, increasing soil water holding capacity with livestock and Red Devon introduction. Free lunch provided. RSVP
@303 Pony Road, Harrison