

## Fort Benton's tourism stats dip in 2018

By Connlee Gray

As 2018 draws to a close, several Fort Benton tourist stops reported a decrease in foot traffic from the previous year's tourist season.

The Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center is open from May to early September, located on the river levee in the town's historic firehouse. The center's hours are somewhat limited since it is staffed solely by volunteers, so not everyone has a chance to stop there. Still, it's a popular place to browse tourism brochures and ask locals for recommendations.

This year, 2,490 people signed the guest book at the Visitor's Center, down from last year's total of 2,938. Still, the 2018 count is higher than 2016, which tallied fewer than 2,000.

The number of foreign visitors also dropped this year. In 2017, 437 foreign visitors stopped in at the Visitor Center, while this year 378 travelers from different countries signed in. Canada had the most representation with 305 people, followed by Australia with 12 and 10 each from Germany and New Zealand. Visitors also came from Japan, Norway, Turkey, Israel and

Scotland, to name a few.

A total of 2,112 visitors from the U.S. signed in, representing all but Connecticut, Mississippi and Washington, D.C. Not surprisingly, Montana had the highest count with 1,010, followed by California with 126, Washington with 91, Oregon with 68, Texas with 63 and Colorado with 56.

July was the Visitor's Center's busiest month for both foreign and domestic travelers, with a total of 991 registrations. August was the second busiest month with 657.

The Montana Agricultural Museum complex, operated by the River and Plains Society, also saw a decline in visitation this past season, from approximately 5,000 people in 2017 to 4,700 in 2018.

"We don't know why the visitation is down," said Cindy Baack, Montana Agricultural Museum office manager.

River and Plains Society Executive Director John Turner took a guess on the potential reason for the drop in numbers.

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**SANTA'S MALL** – Children through sixth grade were able to get some of their Christmas shopping done at Santa's North Pole Outlet Mall at the Community Bible Center last Saturday, Dec. 1 during Chouteau County Country Christmas. Max Marceau, left, and Ben Miller of Fort Benton check their Christmas list while shopping. The children's shopping event is sponsored by American Legion Post #26 and the VFW Post #4047 Auxiliary. Connlee Gray photo

## Wish shelter pets a happy "howliday"

The Dedman Foundation Animal Shelter in Fort Benton will host a Howliday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They encourage the community to stop by the shelter for homemade dog treats, candy canes and a doggie ornament-making station. Santa will be on site, ready to pose for pictures with children or pets.

"Well-behaved dogs are allowed to come up, as long as they get along well with humans and other dogs," shelter director Stacia Fuzesy said.

The open house is an opportunity for the public to meet the shelter's new staff, visit the facility, ask questions and see the animals awaiting homes. People can even peek in on the shelter's new litter of puppies, recently rescued from beneath a vacant house. To protect the young pups and avoid stress on the mother, they will be kept in a private room with windows for

viewing during the event, Fuzesy said.

The Dedman Foundation is offering a special "Home for the Holidays" promotion, discounting adoption rates to \$100 for dogs, \$35 for cats and \$25 for kittens. For those who can't adopt, consider sponsoring an animal by paying their adoption fee.

They will also have an Angel Tree for the shelter pets, inviting community members to pick a cat or dog to purchase gifts for this holiday season.

The shelter has a fenced meet-and-greet area outside where families can bring their current pets to meet with a prospective new member of the family.

There is no charge to attend the Howliday Open House, but donations are gladly accepted. Also, there will be some items available for purchase.

## Don't forget: Holiday Food Drive Sunday, Dec. 9

Fort Benton's annual Holiday Food Drive is this Sunday, Dec. 9, starting at noon at the bomb shelter at the north end of Main Street.

Individuals, families, clubs, teams and organizations are encouraged to volunteer. All ages are welcome.

Some volunteers will work at the bomb shelter sorting food, while others will head out in small groups to ring doorbells throughout town, collecting nonperishable food and toiletry items from noon until 3 p.m.

Donations will be used for the Angel Committee's Christmas food baskets, which will be distributed to Chouteau County households in need next week. The Angel Committee also organizes the annual Angel Tree effort, partnering with the community to provide Christmas gifts for local children.

If you will not be home Sunday afternoon, you can leave your food donations on your porch or front step. If it's 3 p.m. and the volunteers have missed your home, call Vickie Reichelt at 231-5575 to arrange for pickup.

The organizers hope to be done sorting food donations by 4 p.m. on Sunday, but they know some volunteers will need to leave early to attend the High Plains Christmas Concert by Phil Aaberg at 3 p.m.

"The more we have up there, the quicker it's going to go," Angel Committee member Vickie Reichelt said. "Even if you can just spare one or two hours, any help is appreciated."



**LUNCH WITH SANTA** – Children flooded the Wake Cup Coffee House on Saturday, Dec. 1 for lunch and pictures with Santa. Noah Auterson of Fort Benton talks with Santa about what he would like for Christmas this year. Connlee Gray photo



**THE NERDS OF NOTES** – From left, baritone Pete Kuhr, tenor Marc Jochim, lead Byron Ophus and bass Bob Cook make up the Nerds of Notes barbershop quartet from Havre and Inverness. The quartet sang Christmas carols at the Grand Union Hotel, the Wake Cup Coffee House, Bridgeport Station and the community tree lighting during Chouteau County Country Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 1. Connlee Gray photo

## Speaker shares insights on cyber safety with students, parents

By Connlee Gray  
Richard Guerry, founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell Phone Communication (IROC2) shed some light on dark areas of the internet and online applications and how parents can prepare children for safe internet and cell phone use at a presentation at the Fort Benton Elementary School auditorium on Monday night, Dec. 3.

Earlier that day, Guerry spoke to Fort Benton, Belt and Highwood students in grades 6-12 about digital consciousness and internet and cell phone usage. Guerry pressed the importance of understanding how to wisely use social media apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and other sources of communication like email and texting. He also touched on gaming and cyber bullying.

While many apps have privacy settings and passwords, it's still important to remember that they are online social networks.

"Digital activity is public and permanent ... and public and permanent is playing with fire," Guerry said. "There's no such thing as social privacy in the digital world."

Guerry used a fire starter as an analogy to describe how social media, cell phones and technology should be used. He noted that we

wouldn't hand someone a lighter if they didn't know what fire is or the damage it can cause if it isn't used with caution. First, we teach safety precautions around fire and what can happen if we aren't careful with it. In that respect, he said that cellphone and internet usage requires the same understanding.

Young people today are part of the first digital generation, and the first generation always pays the price for the next one, Guerry said.

There is a vast supply of newer, faster and innovative technology, but no one has been taught how to use it safely.

"We passed out the 21st century flame already," Guerry said.

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## Winter sports season underway

Fort Benton High School will host their annual Pre-Season Basketball Tournament this Friday and Saturday to kick off their winter.

The action starts at 2 p.m. on both days, with games scheduled simultaneously at the high school and elementary school gyms. In the high school gym, the Fort Benton girls will play Tri-Cities at 3:45 p.m. Friday and the boys will play Tri-Cities at 7:15 p.m. In the elementary gym, the JV teams will play at opposite times – the boys at 3:45 and the girls at 7:15 p.m.

On Saturday, the Fort Benton boys and girls will play back-to-back, with the boys facing

Centerville at 5:30 p.m., followed by the girls battling Centerville at 7:15 p.m. At the elementary school, the JV Fort Benton boys will play Centerville at 2 p.m. and the JV girls will play them at 3:45.

The Geraldine/Highwood Rivals basketball teams, the Fort Benton/Big Sandy wrestling team and the Highwood wrestling team all started competition last weekend. Big Sandy's basketball teams will head to Dutton this Friday and Saturday for their first games.

Check out team photos and each team's upcoming schedules inside this week's Winter Sports Preview.



**SOAP SHOPPING** – JoAnna Smith of Fort Benton browses the soap selection from Madame Mustache's Bathhouse, a new local business venture by Stacia Fuzesy (pictured) and Jayna Romine. They debuted their line of handmade soaps and candles at the Bridgeport Station Craft and vendor fair at the Ag Center on Saturday. Bethany Monroe DeBorde photo

**The River Press**

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Fort Benton, MT 59442  
Phone: (406) 622-3311  
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Published Weekly/Wednesday  
Periodical Postage Paid at  
Fort Benton, Montana  
USPS 466-740

**Subscriptions:**  
Must be paid in advance;  
1 year ... \$32  
In Chouteau County  
1 year ... \$36  
Out of County/in MT  
1 year ... \$40  
Out of Montana  
1 year ... \$28  
Online edition only

**ALL ADVERTISEMENTS,  
CLASSIFIEDS, & ARTICLES  
DUE 6 PM ON MONDAY**

Postmaster send address  
changes to: P.O. Box 69,  
Fort Benton, MT 59442



**CYBER SAFETY** – Richard Guerry, founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell Phone Communication (IROC2) talks about the importance of using social media wisely during a presentation at the Fort Benton Elementary School auditorium on Monday, Dec. 3. Guerry shared precautions for texting, emailing and using online applications like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Connlee Gray photo



**FROM BOOK TO BIG SCREEN** – Kim Zupan and other Montana authors did a meet-and-greet at the Grand Union Hotel on Saturday, Dec. 1 during Chouteau County Country Christmas. Zupan talked about his debut novel, "The Ploughmen," which has been converted into a screenplay scheduled to start filming in Montana next year. Zupan said the film will likely feature a house near the Carter Ferry and an old Great Falls jail.

Connlee Gray photo

**Cyber safety ... from Page 1**

For those who use social media, it's important to be cautious of what information is shared on personal accounts by the administrator, other users and friends. For example, sharing you're on vacation or posting location check-ins indicates that your house is likely vacant, possibly giving someone the opportunity to burglarize your home, Guerry said.

Instead of avoiding sharing about trips altogether, social media users can write their posts in the past tense, even if they're still away, or wait until they return from a trip to share about it.

"When we overshare personal info, we raise our risks of attracting the wrong kinds of people," Guerry said. "We have to reflect what we share and what other people share to our pages."

Both Facebook and Instagram use facial recognition technology to identify people in photos. Users can avoid being tagged in photos by asking before the picture gets taken where the photographer plans to share the image.

The video gaming world is another area where kids and adults can communicate with friends

and strangers online. Fortnite is a popular online video game where gamers can play against and communicate with other online players, including people they may not know. In some cases, adult predators have pretended to be children in games to interact with juveniles and later solicit them for photos or information.

Guerry jokingly asked parents in the audience not to throw away the Xbox, but to caution their kids not to give out personal information such as where they live and what school they go to while they're gaming.

Snapchat is an app that allows users to send a temporary photo for a brief period of time to whomever they choose in their app's contacts. While the Snapchat photo eventually disappears from the device it was sent from, the receiver can take a screenshot of the photo or take a photo of the screen with another camera, creating a permanent image to use as they please.

Guerry added that Snapchat once collected every photo that was sent through the app, but advertised that all of the photos

disappeared after being viewed. Snapchat has since come forward to admit they falsely advertised their app. In addition to Snapchat saving the photos, they are also saved to a device's phone data.

In a case of cyber cruelty, a victim can screenshot conversations with a bully to share with someone who can help. However, screenshots can also be a negative tool if a photo or text gets leaked that wasn't intended for someone else to see. Social media users have lost jobs and opportunities because of poor choices they made using email and social networks, Guerry said.

He shared an example of a professor who accidentally sent a pornographic email to her students rather than the intended recipient. In another example, Yuri Wright, a star cornerback from New Jersey, was expelled from high school during his senior year due to sexually graphic posts he wrote on Twitter. While he did go on to play college football, his choice hurt his college recruitment opportunities.

The bottom line with using social media platforms is to think about the consequences of photos and information if it were made public.

"Encourage adults and kids to post things that make them look amazing. Then tell them to put their name on it," Guerry said. "Use public and permanent to make people look beautiful."

For more information on cyber cruelty and social media safety, visit IROC2.org.

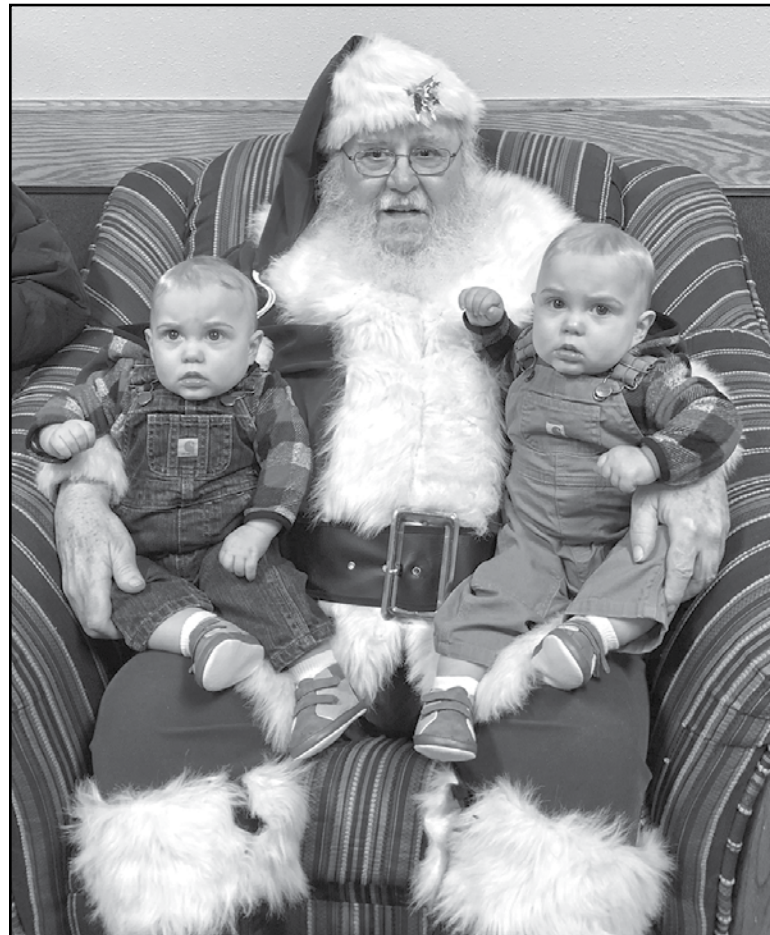
**Write a letter to Santa**

The owners of Rustic Mercantile in Fort Benton invite children to write letters to Santa and drop them off at their store at 1716 Front Street, Suite C no later than Dec. 17.

Rustic Mercantile owner Jean Johnson will deliver the letters to the local post office and they will then be sent off to Santa. Kids who write a letter can expect to receive a letter back from Santa himself.

Letters need to have postage and can be written out to Santa's address at 325 Santa Claus Lane, North Pole, Alaska. Be sure to include a return address.

Rustic Mercantile is located in the former Wake Cup Coffee House building, between Benton Physical Therapy and Studio Salon.



**WHO IS THIS GUY?** – The Fruit twins, Jett and Jack, weren't sure what to think of ol' Saint Nick at Bridgeport Station at the Ag Center on Saturday. They are the sons of Orry and Montana Fruit of Fort Benton. Contributed photo

**SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF IS DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>!**

We are currently looking for cash donations. You can send your Shop with the Sheriff cash donations to P.O. Box 459, Fort Benton, MT 59442 or drop them off at the Sheriff's Office. If you have any questions or would like to make a contribution, you can contact Sheriff Vern Burdick at 622-5451. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

**Golden Age Center**

Meals at the Golden Age Center are served Sunday through Friday. Sunday meals are served at 1 p.m. and weekday meals are served at noon. Menus for Dec. 9 to 14 are:

Sunday – Swiss steak, baked potatoes, rolls, salad, Jell-O, vegetables

Monday – Chicken and dumplings, salad, fruit

Tuesday – Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, vegetables, salad, Jell-O

Wednesday – Hamburger stroganoff over rice, salad, vegetables, Jell-O

Thursday – Beef stew, salad, Jell-O, rolls

Friday – Hot hamburger sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, Jell-O

There is exercising every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. Bingo is on Thursdays at 1 p.m. The bingo winners last week were Barbara Hankins, Carol Larson and Mary Lee Bakker. The monthly board meeting is on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m. Remember to wear some green on Thursday, Dec. 13 when you come to eat!!

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**The Florence Dedman Animal Shelter & Foundation presents the 2019 TRIP OF THE MONTH RAFFLE**

Your chance to be entered into a drawing for 12 trips awarded over 12 months in 2019. Trips will be drawn the first Thursday of every month at our regularly scheduled board meetings. Each month the drawing is for one trip. Ticket is non-transferable and must be booked within three months of the drawing date. One trip per ticket.



**TICKET SALES:**  
Only 300 will be sold!  
\$150 per ticket

**TRIPS - Drawn in 2019:**

- January - Las Vegas, NV
- February - Seattle Mariners Baseball
- March - Whitefish, MT
- April - Dallas Cowboys Football
- May - Honolulu, Hawaii
- June - Park City, UT
- July - Laguna Beach, CA
- August - Sanibel Island, FL
- September - Riviera Maya, Mexico
- October - Universal Studios, FL
- November - Halifax, Nova Scotia
- December - Two Airline Tickets

For more information, drawing rules, or to purchase a ticket, contact any member of the Florence Dedman Board of Directors or the Florence Dedman Animal Shelter & Foundation at (406) 622-5657.

**Florence Dedman Foundation Board of Directors:**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
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| Wayne Loving            | 622-3648     |
| Jean Johnson            | 360-914-1007 |
| Cameron Tuss            | 622-5728     |
| Stacia – Director       | 622-5657     |

**PLAY 2 WIN LOCAL TRIVIA**

This week's trivia brought to you by:

**CLUB HOUSE**  
1411 Main St.  
Fort Benton  
622-3433

**Win a \$10 gift certificate!**

No one submitted a correct answer to last week's local trivia question. Denise Naeseth is the current Chouteau County Food Bank volunteer who received, along with Lana Carlstrom, the Department of Public Health and Human Services ACE Award, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance, seven years ago.

**This week's question:**  
The River Press moved into its current location five years ago. The River Press had been in its previous location for almost 20 years. What had previously been in the office building which the River Press moved into in 1994?

Submit your answer by noon Tuesday, December 11, to riverpressnews@gmail.com, or deliver or call in your answer to the River Press office. The winner will be selected in a random drawing from all the correct entries. The answer and winner will be announced in next week's issue.



**EMT TRAINING** – Brian Johnson and Amy Hooper assist Maggie Stoos while she performs CPR on a mannequin during an EMT refresher course on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton. Kevin Box and Amber Olson from Best Practice Medicine in Bozeman taught the two-day course over the weekend. The training was made possible with help from the Benefis Foundation, Triangle Communications and anonymous donors.

Connlee Gray photo

## Local EMTs and first responders take refresher course

By Connlee Gray

First responders and EMTs from around Chouteau County participated in a refresher course directed by Kevin Box and Amber Olson from Best Practice Medicine (BPM) at the Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton last weekend, Dec. 1 and 2.

"The goal of the refresher course is to prepare emergency responders for high risk, low volume incidents that they don't see very often," BPM project manager and education specialist Kevin Box said. "We bring a comfortable experience where people can make mistakes."

About 15 EMTs and first responders from Big Sandy, Geraldine, Highwood and Fort Benton participated in the refresher, completing a series of rotations between hands-on crisis scenarios and classroom discussions and lectures.

In the scenarios, EMTs practiced CPR using high-tech mannequins provided by BPM. The mannequins breathe and have a pulse, giving them human-like characteristics. They also come in adult and child sizes, so responders can practice on both and learn the differences between treating a child and an

adult.

Box and Olson guided individuals performing CPR using an electronic device that links with the mannequin to show the rate and depth of the chest compressions, and how much air is entering the lungs with each compression.

"It's a great tool that gives us good feedback and it measures how efficient your CPR is," first responder and Fort Benton Police Chief Seth Broesder said.

The instructors also taught EMTs and first responders to note prescription drugs when they go on house calls to help them assess a patient and situation. Prescription drugs found in a home or on the scene of an accident likely indicate

what a patient is currently taking, Fort Benton volunteer EMT and Chouteau County Attorney Steve Gannon said.

Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton manager Mike Birkeland organized the refresher course, which was made possible through the Benefis Foundation, Triangle Communications and anonymous donors.

EMTs are required to take a refresher course every two years. The local ambulance services are run by volunteers and more help is needed. Those interested in becoming an EMT or a first responder can talk to a local EMT if they know one, or call Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton at 622-3400.

## Fort Benton tourism ... from Page 1

"Fuel and almost every commodity went up," Turner said. "That might have affected people's income and spending."

Bob Milford owns McGraw Antiques on Front Street and said he noticed about a 10 percent

decrease in foot traffic at his store this year. McGraw Antiques had 2,377 visitors from November 2017 to November 2018, but the previous year he counted around 2,600.

He said the Canadian economy could be one reason for the decline, since the Canadian dollar doesn't stretch far in the U.S. with the current exchange rate. Currently, the Canadian dollar equals about 75 cents in the U.S.

The owners of Benton RV Park noticed a substantial decline in campers during the 2018 tourism season. LaRae and Tim Roberts have owned Benton RV Park since 2016. This year, LaRae said they had at least one-fourth to one-third fewer campers than the previous two years.

During later summer months, Benton RV Park can depend on harvest crews to fill camping spots, but this year brought fewer crews than the past. LaRae noted that more people use their campground when there are seasonal jobs or construction jobs going on locally. "This year there just weren't any jobs going on," she said.

Meanwhile, the Grand Union Hotel seems to have bucked the trend. The historic hotel saw an 8 percent increase in occupancy from 2017 to 2018. The hotel is completely booked during Fort Benton's annual Summer Celebration in June, but this year they kept rooms filled more consistently throughout the duration of the warmer months.

622-3621.

On Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:45 p.m., the Compassionate Friends of North Central Montana invite the community to join them for the 22nd annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, remembering sons, daughters, siblings and grandchildren whose lives were cut short, whether as children or adults.

The Community Bible Church at 1600 Main St. in Fort Benton will host the service. Please bring a photo or memento of your child.

The candle lighting will feature special music, readings and poems as parents, siblings and grandparents remember family members lost too soon. The memorial candles will be lit promptly at 7 p.m., joining in the worldwide memorial. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

Everyone is invited to attend and the event is open to communities throughout the Golden Triangle. To contact The Compassionate Friends of North Central Montana, call Gail Allen at 406-781-4354 or email NCMcompassionatefriends@gmail.com.

## Carter Weather

| Day:    | High: | Low: | Precip.: |
|---------|-------|------|----------|
| Nov. 26 | 48    | 24   |          |
| Nov. 27 | 50    | 39   |          |
| Nov. 28 | 49    | 32   |          |
| Nov. 29 | 47    | 28   |          |
| Nov. 30 | 39    | 18   |          |
| Dec. 1  | 30    | 24   | 0.06     |
| Dec. 2  | 30    | 16   |          |

## Come Worship With Us



Sunday worship service, 11 a.m.; Fellowship and coffee, 10 a.m.; Christmas Tea Party on Friday, Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m.; Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 23 during worship at 11 a.m.

**HIGHWOOD COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Ginny Bettendorf. Church phone: 733-5441. Sunday morning worship, 11 a.m. and Children's Sunday School; Good News Club Tuesdays after school, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Women's Bible Study Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. at the church; Middle and high school youth groups on Wednesday.

**FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HIGHWOOD**  
1055 Broadway Ave. W., 733-2234; Sunday School time 9:30

a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

**CARTER COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

213 2nd Street, Carter; Pastor Evelyn Kunkel, 264-5221. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.; Bible Study, Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.

**RESTORATION UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

Corner of 2nd & Main in Loma (at Loma Full Gospel Church), Pastor James Garrett, 621-0304. Sunday services at 10 a.m.

**BIG SANDY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

182 1st Ave., Big Sandy; Pastor Sharon Robertson, 732-574-5528; Sundays, Worship Service, 11:30 a.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
1201 Main, Kit Miller, Minister, 622-3387, fortbentonfcc.com. Sunday schedule – Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m., B.L.A.S.T (Jr church, 3 years old to sixth grade) at 10:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

**FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
906 Chouteau, An Independent Bible Church. Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; Fort Benton Home Bible Study, Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; Loma/Big Sandy Home Bible Study, Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Call 453-9225 (Dave) or 622-5383 (Jeff) for more information.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1223 16th St; Father Mohan Raj Arockia, Pastor, 622-3726, www.iccfb.org. Mass Schedule: Sundays, 9 a.m., with the exception of the first Sunday of each month, which will be held at 11 a.m. Weekday Masses: 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Thur. and Fri.; Knights of Columbus, 4th Wed. at 7 p.m.

**FORT BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"The Church with the Chimes," Rev. Losaline Tupoumalohi, 1201 Chouteau, Fort Benton; Church Office 406-622-3763; Cell 801-815-4032. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 9 a.m.; Bell Choir Practice, Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m.; United Methodist Women, third Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL**

1110 14th; Rev. Tim Ljunggren. Dec. 9: Holy Eucharist and Homily, 5 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

1600 Main St., An Evangelical Free Church; 622-5171, cbcfb.org; Sunday Prayer, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study at Sunrise Bluffs, 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

13th and Chouteau, Pastor Wade Harr, 952-1790. Worship Service 10 a.m.; Communion is the 1st Sunday; Bible class and Sunday school for all ages will follow the worship services.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**

2201 Saint Charles; Gage Grossman, Branch President, 622-5800; Sunday Sacrament 10 a.m.; Primary Sunday School 11:20 a.m.; Relief Society 12:10 p.m.

**GERALDINE ST. MARGARET'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

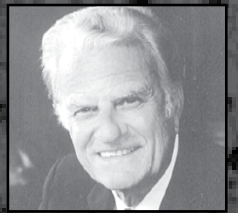
Father Mohan Raj Arockia, Pastor. Standard Mass Schedule: Mass Sundays, 11 a.m., with the exception of the first Sunday of each month, which will be held at 9 a.m.

**GERALDINE COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Losaline Tupoumalohi, 801-815-4032 (cell); Church Office 737-4475, toll free 1-800-290-4934;

## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham  
Courtesy of Community Bible Church of Fort Benton



### Jesus must reign supreme in the battle for our 'inner space'

Q: My professors often refer to "inner space" and seem to apply it to every facet of life, including spiritual life, but what does it really mean? -- C.P.

A: Inner space is defined in many ways, but when it comes to the inner life -- something we all have -- it deals with the dark side of the human spirit. From the vast number of questions on people's minds it is evident that a large proportion of the population is facing deep personal problems. They vary from person to person, but they do exist, and they are all problems of "inner space." Yes, we are the people who have been conquering outer space, but are in danger of losing the battle of the spirit. Thankfully, there is a solution and millions have already found it; that solution is in Jesus Christ. He said, "My peace, my liberty, my freedom, I give to you" (see John 14:27).

There are two natures within every person, both struggling for mastery. Which one will dominate us? It depends on which one we feed. We must acknowledge that there is a defect in human nature caused by sin and it permeates our inner space until we give it up and let Christ come in.

Today, if we will turn on the searchlight of truth, it will reveal the dark side of our human spirits and help us recognize the need for Jesus Christ to become the Master of our lives and a new day will dawn. Submit the "inner space" of your life to Him and you will come to know the inner peace of a loving God that will transform your life.

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**JUEDEMAN & Co.**  
**FEATURE PROPERTY**  
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Beautiful home with newly finished basement. This is an immaculate home close to the school. There are 2 bedrooms on the main floor and 1+ bedroom upstairs. The home has 1 bathroom on the main floor, and a bathroom in the basement. The basement has a wonderful family room, bar area, storage and freezer room, office or non-conforming room. This home comes with a cute little 1 bedroom rental or you can use it as a guesthouse. \$87,500  
**Call Tricia Juedeman, Broker/Owner, REALTOR**  
**(406) 737-4528 or (406) 799-4533**

The Compassionate Friends  
**Worldwide Candle Lighting**  
Join us on December 9, 2018

"... that their light may always shine."

The Compassionate Friends 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. The Worldwide Candle Lighting creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

The Compassionate Friends and allied organizations are joined by local bereavement groups, churches, funeral homes, hospitals, hospices, children's gardens, schools, cemeteries, and community centers. Services have ranged in size from just a few people to nearly a thousand.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their children so that their lights may always shine! Please bring a picture or memento of your child to share with us.

**North Central Montana Compassionate Friends invites you to join us on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. at Community Bible Church, 1600 Main, Fort Benton.**  
Call Gail Allen at 406-781-4354 with questions or email NCMcompassionatefriends@gmail.com

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**DISTRICT CHAMPS** – Fort Benton's 7th and 8th grade girls won the district championship against Box Elder 44-33 in Gildford on Saturday, Dec. 1. From left, KaseyAnn Croft, Gracee Hogan, Lina Vaughn, Ky Nack, Mackenzie Tuss, Casha Corder, Taylor Ball, Emerson Giese, Hailee Wang, Morgan Dotseth, Kaydyn LeFurgey and Sarah Clark. These girls had a very successful season. They had one loss early on and never looked back, finishing 18-1 overall. Great job, girls! Go Longhorns!  
 Jeanna Giese photo

## Op-Ed: Montanans would benefit from simple majority Montana House rules

By Rep. Llew Jones, State House District 18

I never planned on being "Old Man Jones," but time never stops. I am currently the longest serving Republican in the Montana House, having served eight years as senator and six years as representative.

I have served under the Senate simple majority rules and the House super majority rules. I have served in the majority, minority, and leadership. I support changing the Montana House procedural rules (not bonding or veto override) to the Senate's simple majority format.

### Changing the House rules to simple majority is good for the legislature:

The House super majority rules allow the speaker/leadership to ignore legislative members within their own caucus and across the aisle. Rather than engage in the messy reality of true leadership exemplified by honest negotiation, the speaker can bury contentious issues in a 'kill' committee, or worse, simply never schedule bills

for consideration. This has been done by previous speakers of both parties, including last session.

This is the ultimate centralization of power: where a single individual uses "rule processes" to dictate to 99 elected representatives. The expediency of these solutions is 'fool's gold,' as failure to honestly negotiate exacerbates the natural schisms within a caucus and across the legislature. The result: sustained unproductive intra-party and legislative feuding. Public trust is completely eroded.

Real leaders do not require rule gimmicks to address legitimate differences of opinion. They work at building consensus within their own caucus and across the aisle. Operating under the 2017 simple majority Senate rules, President Sales earned the respect of the Senate body by being radically transparent and honest, even when members disagreed with him. The committee work was respected, debate was fair, and bills lived or died on their merit.

### Changing the House rules to simple majority is good for Montana:

A key premise of our U.S. political system is that centralized power reduces accountability and increases potential corruption. The current super-majority House rules place excessive power in the hands of a few legislators, and, at times, in the hands of a single individual (speaker). This amplifies lobbyists' and party bosses' opportunities to dictate legislative outcomes through opaque rules processes, often avoiding transparent debate entirely.

Simple majority rules distribute power to all 100 legislators, ensuring that all ideas can be fairly heard and debated. In the Senate, I had bills both tabled and passed,

but I always was confident my bill would be heard. Montana benefits from decentralized political power.

### Changing the House rules to simple majority is good for Montana constituents:

There are legitimate differences of opinion across the legislature. Many differences are predicated on geography, not party. Urban districts have vastly different problems than rural districts. Issues in Eastern Montana are different from Western Montana.

Effectively addressing these issues is stymied by super-majority rules. The leadership/speaker's agenda becomes the controlling agenda. The loser is every other legislative district. Simple majority rules ensure legislators can serve the constituents that elected them.

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## Longhorn wrestlers compete in Cascade

By Katie Giles, team manager  
 On Friday, Nov. 30, the Fort Benton Longhorn wrestling team went to Cascade for the Cascade Badger Invitational.

Connor Schnabel (138 pounds), Colter Ball (145), Braden Evans (145), Hayden Axtman (182) and Brock Hanford (205) all competed hard, winning and losing tough matches.

Senior Connor Schnabel took three wins and one loss. Connor wrestled tough against Connor Johnson of Whitehall, ending in second place as an individual. Freshman Colter Ball also wrestled hard, beating Braeden Jones of

Jefferson. Junior Braden Evans won two tough matches and lost two tough matches. Sophomore Hayden Axtman took three wins, but lost his next match in the semi-finals to Gaten Wassberg of Whitehall. Hayden came back and won his last match, placing fifth in the tournament. Freshman Brock Hanford took three wins and three losses, placing sixth in the tournament.

Next up, the Longhorns and their Big Sandy Pioneer co-op teammates will compete in Chinook on Friday and in Glasgow on Saturday.

By Bethany Monroe DeBorde  
 Pending approval from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the Fort Benton Police Department plans to start reducing the city's large deer population this month.

Last week, Fort Benton Police Chief Seth Broesder hosted a public meeting to discuss the city's deer management plan.

"Overwhelmingly, the comment was there are way too many deer in town and they would like us to move forward," Broesder told the city council on Monday, Dec. 3.

The council voted in favor of Broesder's recommendation to request a kill permit from FWP. Once approved, local police will start killing and field dressing deer on the edges of the city limits, offering them to the public for butchering so the meat doesn't go to waste.

Anyone who wishes to be added to the waiting list to receive a deer carcass can call the city at 622-5494. The police will also remove each deer's head to submit for lab testing funded by FWP, since they are monitoring the area for chronic wasting disease (CWD), Broesder said. CWD has been detected in a few deer in neighboring hunting districts.

In the unlikely event that one of the harvested deer tests positive for CWD, the recipient of the deer will be contacted. While there is no scientific proof that CWD can be transmitted to humans, Broesder said officials recommend people avoid eating meat from deer with CWD as a precaution.

"I'm hoping to take out close to 100 head before the end of February," Broesder said. "It's going to depend on manpower and weather."

The decision to reduce the deer numbers was based on overpopulation and nuisance concerns, as well as aggressive

behaviors in some city deer.

**POLICE DISPATCH**  
 Chief Broesder said he has continued discussions with Chouteau County Sheriff Vern Burdick on providing full dispatch services for the Fort Benton Police Department. The local 9-1-1 dispatch office has already switched to notifying FBPD officers of emergency calls by radio rather than phone, as requested. The next step will be securing a contract for full dispatch services.

"We're definitely moving forward and I'm feeling fairly positive," Broesder said.

Burdick previously provided a quote of more than \$38,000 annually for the city to contract full dispatch services. However, that number has now been negotiated down to less than \$24,000, Broesder said.

Broesder has been looking for cuts in his own budget to help pay for the service. He hopes to have full dispatch services in place by January and suggested an 18-month contract to allow them to finish the current fiscal year and complete one full fiscal year cycle. After that, they would re-negotiate a new contract. A police committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Fort Benton City Hall to further discuss the negotiations.

Following the police committee meeting, the city's street committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. In addition, the zoning committee will meet Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.

During Monday's meeting, the council approved a franchise agreement with Charter Communications, allowing Charter to use city alleys and streets for their cable lines. The city receives a stipend in exchange. The city's attorneys reviewed the agreement prior to the council's approval.

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## NorthWestern warns of imposter utility scam in Montana

NorthWestern Energy is warning customers about reported incidents in Montana of scams involving imposter callers fraudulently claiming to represent the utility company and threatening to shut off service unless immediate payment is made on utility bills.

More than 80 incidents had been reported to the NorthWestern Energy Customer Care Center in Butte, Montana as of last week.

A government office in Stillwater County received a call from a person claiming there was an emergency and that he was from the utility company. When the caller was told he had reached a government office, he hung up. The Stillwater County official reached out to NorthWestern Energy to warn about the suspected scam.

In Hamilton, a restaurant received a call from a person threatening that utilities would be shut off unless an immediate payment was made. The caller gave the restaurant a phone number to call and restaurant personnel

reached out to a radio journalist in an effort to warn others about the scam. That journalist called the phone number and was hung up on when he asked questions about the calls.

This type of scam activity is not new and has targeted utility customers across Montana and the nation for several years. The scam calls can be very convincing.

"The scammers are telling people their electricity or gas service will be cut off in 30 seconds if payment isn't made," said Terri Lewis, NorthWestern Energy Customer Care Supervisor in Butte. "They are nice at first and then get upset when people ask questions. They are very convincing."

NorthWestern reminds customers to be vigilant when it comes to anyone seeking payment information on utility bills, either in person or via the telephone or internet.

The scammers typically tell customers that their electric or natural gas bill is overdue and service will be shut off if payment is not made quickly. In some cases, they tell potential victims to purchase pre-paid debit or cash cards sold at retail outlets and to call the scammers with the relevant numbers that allow the cards to be redeemed quickly.

"We've also heard reports that the scammers are telling people they need to change their meter and there is a charge," Lewis said. "That is not true."

If you think you have received a scam collection call, it is very helpful if you make note of the phone number and share it with NorthWestern customer service representatives, potentially helping thwart future scam calls.

Customers with questions or concerns about potential scams should contact NorthWestern Energy. Montana customers can call (888) 467-2669.

NorthWestern does not call customers and demand immediate payment of past-due bills. The utility will provide multiple past-due notices before terminating service. If you get a cancellation notification, always verify it by dialing the customer service number on your utility bill. Don't supply any personal information unless you are sure you are indeed working with the utility. NorthWestern never asks customers to use a prepaid debit card for payment.

More tips to avoid the most common imposter utility scams are available from Utilities United Against Scams, www.UtilitiesUnited.org/



**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING** – Braydee Lehman of Fort Benton picks up a Christmas gift at Santa's North Pole Outlet Mall at the Community Bible Center last Saturday, Dec. 1. The mall is a popular Chouteau County Country Christmas event, inviting children to shop for gifts priced with a child-size budget in mind. Connlee Gray photo

## Community Calendar

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- Dec 5 Deadline to drop off Angel gifts at Angel Trees
- Dec 6 Tree of Remembrance Service, Benton Funeral Home, 6:30 pm
- Dec 7-8 FBHS Basketball Tournament @ Home
- Dec 7 FBHS Wrestling @ Chinook, 4:30 pm
- Dec 8 FBHS Wrestling @ Glasgow Tournament
- Dec 8 Christmas Open House, Dedman Foundation, 9 am – 2 pm
- Dec 9 Holiday Food Drive, door to door in Fort Benton, Noon – 3 pm
- Dec 9 Food Drive volunteers collect & sort food, Bomb Shelter, Noon – 4 pm
- Dec 9 CCPA – Philip Aaberg Christmas, Elementary Auditorium, 3 pm
- Dec 9 Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting, Community Bible, 6:45 pm
- Dec 10 Chouteau County Commissioners, Courthouse, 10 am – 5 pm
- Dec 10 Pinochle, Sunrise Bluffs, 1 pm
- Dec 10 Little Kids Wrestling board meeting, FBHS Longhorn Café, 6:30 pm
- Dec 11 Community Van trip to Great Falls, Public Health Office, 8 am
- Dec 11 Golden Age Center board meeting, 9:30 am
- Dec 11 Holiday Open House, First State Bank, 10 am – 2 pm
- Dec 11 Christmas Open House, Stockman Bank, Geraldine, 10 am – 2 pm
- Dec 12 Benton Bookies, Library, Noon
- Dec 12 American Legion meeting, Sunrise Bluffs, 7 pm
- Dec 13 GFWC Fort Benton Women's Club, Library, Noon
- Dec 13 FBHS Wrestling @ Home, 5 pm
- Dec 14-15 FBHS Wrestling @ CMR Classic Tourney
- Dec 14 FBHS Basketball @ Big Sandy, 4:30 pm
- Dec 15 Wreaths Across America, Riverside Cemetery, 10 am
- Dec 15 FBHS Basketball @ Turner, 3 pm
- Dec 16 Christmas in the Highwoods, Highwood Community Hall, 1 – 4 pm
- Dec 17-18 Chouteau County Commissioners, Courthouse, 10 am – 5 pm
- Dec 17 Pinochle, Sunrise Bluffs, 1 pm
- Dec 17 Fort Benton City Council, City Hall, 6:30 pm

## Holiday décor contest winners

Fort Benton's Light Up the Town contest winners have been announced, following the Chouteau County Country Christmas festivities last weekend.

Rustic Mercantile on Front Street won the award for Best Decorated Business, sponsored by the Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce. The owners will receive \$100 in Levee Gold, which can be used for purchases at businesses throughout Fort Benton.

The honors for Best Decorated Home went to Carlos and Jeannine Rodriguez, who will receive \$50 in Levee Gold. Mike and Gayle Lehman took second place (\$30 Levee Gold) and third place went to Edwin and Kristil Segee (\$20 Levee Gold). The Best Decorated Home prizes were sponsored by local realtors.

## Justice Court

### Exceeding Day Limit

Stephen Alan Wistrand, Poulso, WA, Oct. 8, 79/70, \$20.

Heather Michelle Correa, Whitefish, Oct. 12, 80/70, \$20.

Candice Kaye Ballard, Cut Bank, Oct. 14, 80/70, \$20.

Laurence Keith Everly, Havre, Oct. 14, 80/70, \$20.

Marc Robert Taylor, Seattle, WA, Oct. 14, 95/70, \$120.

Tanya Noelle Pallas, Chehalis, WA, Oct. 20, 80/70, \$20.

Terri P. Jake, Harlem, Nov. 11, Harlem, 84/70, \$70.

Justin Blake Jones, Great Falls, Nov. 11, 80/70, \$20.

Gregory Nathan Carlson, Great Falls, Nov. 12, 87/70, \$70.

### Exceeding Night Limit

Rowdy Dewayne Gaskey, Panama, OK, Oct. 8, 84/65, \$70.

Alexander Perrell Jones, Great Falls, Oct. 20, 75/65, \$20.

### Other Tickets

Nathan Anthony Cole, Havre, Oct. 30, Operating vehicle with expired registration – failure to register, \$50.

Garrett Matthew Gollahon, Eureka, Nov. 17, seat belt violation, \$20.

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**LIGHTING THE WAY** – Chouteau County Cancer Support Group’s annual River Torch Luminaries light the river levee trail near the walking bridge on Saturday evening, honoring family members and friends who have fought cancer.  
Bethany Monroe DeBorde photo

## Carter Neighborhood Club

The Carter Neighborhood Club met Nov. 1 at Anne Baack’s. Anne served a delicious chocolate zucchini cake with ice cream. The meeting was called to order by President Anne Baack. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Doris Reichelt brought all the old minutes to the club for Edna Myers to keep. April Laubach made a motion for the club to give \$25 to the Angel Fund.

Anne Baack received the high score for the day and Eunice Kelly received low.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 13 at Anne Baack’s with a luncheon at noon. Please bring a new or slightly used unwrapped gift valued at around \$5.

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## Fort Benton Women’s Club to meet Dec. 13

The Christmas meeting of the GFWC Fort Benton Women’s Club will take place on Thursday, Dec. 13, at noon in the McLeish Room in the lower level of the Chouteau County Library.

The noon meal will be catered by Ma’s Loma Café. If you are planning on joining us for lunch and have not already given your RSVP, please contact Jane Gorder at 622-3641 or Val Schnackenberg at 622-4204 by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 11 for reservations.

The GFWC Fort Benton Woman’s Club and the Angel Committee would like to thank our local churches, organizations and all community members for their generous contributions to the Thanksgiving food baskets. Your caring hearts provided a hearty Thanksgiving meal for 63 local families.

The Angel Committee again asks for your help with Angel Tree gifts and the upcoming Holiday Food Drive, held at the bomb shelter in Fort Benton on Sunday, Dec. 9 from noon to 4 p.m.

Volunteers will be going door to door in Fort Benton to pick up nonperishable, unexpired food items from noon to 3 p.m. If you will be away from home, please leave donations in a box/bag on

your porch. Personal hygiene items and winter clothing for kids are always needed, as well. Hopefully we can bless many members of the community. Please contact Terri Halko with any questions.

“A Fun Christmas Surprise” will take the place of our usual program at the December meeting. GFWC members should watch their email for further instructions regarding the surprise ... all of the fun surrounding this mysterious program will be revealed at our December meeting – DON’T MISS IT! Karen Lippert and Toni Molinario are in charge of the program and decorations. The hostess is Karyn Giles. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the holiday season!

## Fort Benton Weather

| Day:    | High: | Low: | Precip.: |
|---------|-------|------|----------|
| Nov. 26 | 53    | 19   |          |
| Nov. 27 | 58    | 32   |          |
| Nov. 28 | 64    | 25   |          |
| Nov. 29 | 52    | 15   |          |
| Nov. 30 | 40    | 16   |          |
| Dec. 1  | 35    | 19   | 0.04     |
| Dec. 2  | 35    | 19   |          |



**TREE LIGHTING** – Santa Claus lit Fort Benton’s community Christmas tree at the Front Street traffic circle on Saturday evening, capping off a day filled with Chouteau County Country Christmas festivities.  
Bethany Monroe DeBorde photo

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- Check Fluids

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The holiday season is a time for celebration. However, for those who have lost a loved one, it can be a very painful occasion.

Benton Funeral Home is hosting a *Tree of Remembrance Service* to offer comfort to grieving families and individuals by helping them memorialize their loved ones during this holiday season.

We invite you to bring a Christmas ornament from home, inscribed with the name of your loved one, and place it on our tree in their memory.

You may bring your ornaments to the funeral home to place them on the *Remembrance Tree* any Tuesday or Thursday between 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### Our Tree of Remembrance Service

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Benton Funeral Home Chapel  
1201 Front Street, Fort Benton

*Let's remember together*  
Your ornaments may be picked up after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Over the River in Geraldine

By Robyn Scribner  
"Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go ..." I love this song; one of the many Christmas songs I do love. I named my column after this song, not knowing that being the "grandmother" would be the best name I've ever had! The joyous Christmas season brings love, laughter and family together as no other time in the year can. We are so blessed to be able to come together as a family and spend this time together. With jobs, grownup life takes over and not all the children can come home, but we can always be together through a little creative finagling! It may not be in grandmother's house, but close enough! Let me know what your Christmas plans are!

**ANGEL TREES**  
There are "hope for" lists for children throughout the

communities in a variety of places. If you are able, please make sure you find it in your heart to donate something to someone less fortunate. I know St. Margaret's in Geraldine has a tree and also Benton Pharmacy. Giving is such a rewarding experience! (Editor's note: The deadline has passed for purchasing Angel Tree gifts, but the Angel Committee would appreciate everyone's help at their food drive on Sunday, Dec. 9 at noon at the bomb shelter in Fort Benton.)

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
The Geraldine swimming pool's annual New Year's Eve dance is being planned. "Let's Party Like It's the Roaring '20s!" is the theme, with music by Sarge. Support your local swimming pool, go to the party on New Year's! The doors open at 7:00 and music starts at 8:00. There will be live and silent

auctions, door prizes, food and BYOB and/or cooler. Tickets are \$15 per person at the door. Celebrate the ringing in of the New Year with friends!

**GERALDINE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**  
A meeting to plan the Geraldine Community Celebration was held on Monday evening. There were 10 of us there. We have good ideas about how and what we need to do. BUT we will need help. If you are planning on being here July 5-7, 2019, join in and help us. Contact me (robyscribner@gmail.com) or the Geraldine Centennial Facebook page. We will have a new website up soon. Save the date postcards will be sent to out-of-towners soon. In-town people are all invited, but we will not be sending in-town or local save the dates. Please stay tuned here for more info.

Bazaar was a success! There were a variety of vendors with nice quality products. I thought it was a wonderful event!

**NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH**  
Alysha Coffman is our November Student of the Month. Alysha was chosen because of her attitude. She has decided to have a positive attitude about school, and this has led to stronger friendships, appreciation from teachers and good grades. Alysha chooses to work hard every day and does her best. Alysha has made huge improvements this school year and has matured to become a leader and helper for our younger students. Congratulations, Alysha - Thanks for being a star student!



**CHRISTMAS WISHES** – At the Geraldine Smithsonian Bazaar on Sunday, Santa listens as Bram Jones of Geraldine tells him what he and his baby sister Myer want for Christmas. Bram wants Super Wings Transformers and Myer wants a bigger DockATot to sleep in! (Myer also enjoyed chewing on Santa's beard!) Merry Christmas!  
Robyn Scribner photo

Plans are for the usual activities, which will be announced at a later date. A Geraldine Action Committee sponsored big name concert is in the works!

Can you believe that it's been almost five years since the Geraldine Centennial? I know so much has changed in my life! How about yours? It will be fun to see everyone and catch up.

**SCHOOL NEWS**  
The Geraldine/Highwood Rival basketball teams did very well at the Glasgow tournament this last weekend. They won all their games and played like teams!

The Rivals head to Lewistown for another tournament Thursday and Friday. Thursday games: Varsity girls vs. Harlowton 1:00; varsity boys vs. Harlowton 2:30; junior varsity girls 2:30; junior varsity boys 4:00. Friday games: VG vs. Broadus; VB vs. Broadus 7:30; JVG vs. DGS 3:00; JVB vs. DGS 4:30.

Smithsonian fruit is here. Your fruit should be delivered soon! FFA is selling meat and cheeses; call the school if you are interested.

The kindergarten through eight grade students are attending the CCPA concert Friday afternoon. Buses will run after they return.

The Smithsonian Christmas

Make sure you let me know any news you may have! robyscribner@gmail.com or call 737-4526 and leave a message.

In a world where you can be anything ... choose kind. Have a great week!



## Wennerberg graduates from boot camp

Makayla Wennerberg graduated from boot camp in Fort Jackson, South Carolina on Nov. 15. She is going to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas for Advanced Individual Training.

Makayla is the daughter of Mike Wennerberg of Great Falls and Carla Wennerberg of Geraldine and the granddaughter of Joyce Wennerberg of Great Falls.

### Geraldine school lunch

**Dec. 10:** Beef stroganoff or chicken stir fry over rice, carrots, pears, rolls, milk.  
**Dec. 11:** Macaroni and cheese, smokies, peas, apple wedges, homemade bread, milk.  
**Dec. 12:** Hamburgers, fries, coleslaw, mixed fruit, grandma's sugar cookies, milk.  
**Dec. 13:** Beef tacos with lettuce and cheese in a corn shell, oranges, refried beans, carrot cake, milk.  
**Dec. 14:** Hamburger nachos, lettuce salad, refried beans, peaches, caramel rolls, milk.



**STUDENT OF THE MONTH** – Geraldine School Superintendent Sheryl McGinnis presents 6th grader Alysha Coffman with the Geraldine Elementary November Student of the Month award.  
Robyn Scribner photo

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# CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH FRIENDS AND GOOD CHEER!

Join us for our Christmas Open House! Enjoy coffee, cookies, mulled cider and giveaways!

**When:** Tuesday, December 11  
**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**Place:** Stockman Bank in Geraldine

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## Extracurricular committee weighs co-op possibility

By Bethany Monroe DeBorde  
The Fort Benton School Board's extracurricular committee met Tuesday evening to discuss the possibility of allowing Geraldine School to join them in a sports co-op.

After the Highwood School Board voted against renewing their sports co-op with Geraldine earlier this year, the Geraldine School Board has been searching for options to keep sports opportunities available for their small student body. Highwood has since revised their decision and agreed to re-enter a sports co-op on the condition that Geraldine accepts a list of compromises, such as traveling to Highwood for all practices.

The Geraldine School Board held a special meeting last Wednesday, expecting to make a decision, board member Justin Roudebush said. However, after hearing mixed views from the community, they decided to hold off and continue exploring options, like forming a co-op with Fort Benton or Denton/Geyser/Stamford.

"There is still quite a varying opinion of what should happen," Geraldine Superintendent Sheryl McGinnis said. "The Geraldine community wholeheartedly supported the Rivals co-op, but because of Highwood's change of position, the community is reacting to that differently."

During Tuesday's meeting, Fort Benton Superintendent Jory Thompson said a co-op would create extra work for the activities director without obvious benefits to Fort Benton's current student body, which is large enough to field sports teams on its own. FBHS currently has 21 boys out for basketball and eight out for

wrestling. "It's a lot more work for us and we don't necessarily need it," Thompson said.

Fort Benton board member Darin Arganbright said he is concerned the extra workload for the activities director could take away from his other duties as a math teacher.

"Any time I'm forced to choose between sports and academics, I'm always going to choose academics," Arganbright said.

Fort Benton board member Greg McGinnis said he would like to continue the co-op conversation with Geraldine and explore how it might work. Board members Joellyn Clark and Angel Johnson both said they were torn on the issue, but would be more inclined to accept a co-op if Geraldine didn't have another offer on the table from Highwood. The committee decided they are not ready to make a recommendation to the school board yet.

If they agree to a co-op with Geraldine, Thompson suggested they forgo organizing a co-op board and instead allow Fort Benton administrators to make coaching hires and other decisions. Roudebush said that compromise may be difficult for Geraldine residents to accept.

The Geraldine School Board will weigh their options at a board meeting next week.

"Our kids and our community, everyone just feels really lost right now and wants to know where they belong," Roudebush said.

Yet despite the uncertainty, he said the community has held together well and they are determined to do whatever it takes to keep Geraldine School viable.



**COURTEOUS KID** – Jaxson Owen, son of Jon and Cari Owen of Geraldine, was chosen as November's Courteous Kid by Geraldine School cooks Adrienne McOmber and Elaine Clark. Jaxson's manners and outstanding show of appreciation and consideration with the school's hot lunch program helped him win this award. Congratulations, Jaxson!

Robyn Scribner photo

## Bowling highlights

**Monday Night Mixed League, Nov. 19** – Series: Kelly Olson 594, Trampus Corder 520, Owen Stone 515, Ronnie Lehman 460, Sandy Jones 448, Carol Bahnmiller 443; Game: Trampus Corder 230, Kelly Olson 215, Owen Stone 211, Ronnie Lehman 171, Sandy Jones 166, Nancy Grossman 164; Team game: Stone Grossman 892; Team series: Benton Pharmacy 2462; Split conversions: Dale Stone 5-7, Nancy Grossman 4-6.

**Dust Bowlers, Nov. 26** – Series: Ron Jensen 586, Larry Cline 523, Randy Kerbs 521, Linda Willson 461, Maggie Stoops 457, Mavis Engellant 454; Game: Ron Jensen 228, Randy Kerbs 222, Larry Cline 182, Maggie Stoops 192, Marci Rowland 184, Mavis Engellant 176; Team game: Pioneer Lodge 881; Team series: Rettig's Ranch 2508.

**Triple L, Nov. 28** – Series: Mavis Engellant 464, Sandy Jones 448, Janet Jordan 444; High game: Amanda Reeves 191, Mavis Engellant 182, Janet Jordan 169; Team game & series: The Governor's

Keep 983 & 2571.

**Thursday Nite Men's League, Nov. 29** – Series: Tom Willson 625, Kelly Olson 624, Fred Granger 605; Game: Ernie Fultz 245, Dave Scott 232, Kelly Olson 230; Team game: Spring Coulee, Palace Bar, Jim Taylor Motors 916; Team series: Fisher Metal 2614; Split conversion: Chad Buck 2-4-10.

## Geraldine Senior Citizens

Monday, Dec. 10 at noon: Ham and bean soup, grilled cheese sandwich, carrot salad, sliced peaches, sugar cookies

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, broccoli salad, pineapple, cake

Friday, Dec. 14 at noon: Mac and cheese, hot dogs, veggie tray, diced pears, brownies

## Extension Corner

Targeted livestock grazing to suppress cheatgrass

Tyler Lane, Chouteau County Extension Office

Cheatgrass, or downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*), is an annual, invasive grass reproducing solely by seed. Cheatgrass is a prolific seed producer, forming dense monocultures and decreasing biological diversity. Cheatgrass also promotes soil erosion and more frequent wildfires. Increasing fire frequency may remove and exclude all perennial shrubs, forbs, and grasses from a landscape. A targeted grazing prescription is listed below:

**Grazing objective:** To suppress cheatgrass, plant biomass and seed production for two to three consecutive years.

**Grazing intensity:** If targeted grazing is applied in spring, cheatgrass plants should be grazed until seed heads have been removed. Be sure to monitor the residual height of desirable plant species. If targeted grazing occurs during the growing season, most desirable plants need three inches or greater of residual stubble to remain healthy.

**Timing and frequency of grazing:** Targeted grazing in spring should begin when winter rosettes of cheatgrass are accessible and palatable. If livestock are allowed access to a site too early in the spring, they may selectively graze desirable grasses instead of cheatgrass. Grazing desirable grasses too early initiates spring growth before the cheatgrass. Cheatgrass seeds are viable before they reach seed maturity. Therefore, it is important that targeted grazing in spring occur

before cheatgrass plants turn purple in color. The seed must be prevented from reaching the dough stage. At least two defoliations are needed in spring each year because cheatgrass can regrow and produce new seed heads about three to four weeks after the first defoliation. Graze an area for one to three weeks and then re-graze the area one to three weeks later. New seed heads may form after the second grazing period but usually do not produce viable seeds.

**Duration of Grazing:** Dramatic decreases in cheatgrass abundance can occur when targeted grazing is applied for two or more consecutive years.

**Livestock Considerations:** Sheep, goats, cattle, and horses will readily consume cheatgrass-dominated diets, provided cheatgrass is plentiful and palatable. All four of these livestock species can be used to suppress cheatgrass.

**Other Considerations:** If targeted grazing occurs after cheatgrass plants have turned purple in color, viable cheatgrass seeds will remain in livestock feces. Consequently, livestock should be held in a corral for five to seven days before moving livestock to uninfested areas. Most cheatgrass seeds pass within five days.

Information for this article was taken from a professional paper written by Jeff Mosley (MSU Extension range management specialist). The complete document is available at the Chouteau County Extension office. The office is located in the green building next to the Chouteau County Courthouse.

## Highwood News

By Kirsten Brady

Last week I mentioned that the annual Christmas in the Highwoods would be Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Highwood Community Hall. They will have various activities for kids and adults such as a Santa visit, face painting, games and crafts, caroling, and hayrides. Come with an empty stomach as there will be lunch by the juniors and seniors, raising money for their Smithsonian trip, along with a cookie sale and hot drinks. There will also be vendors there for anyone wishing to do last minute Christmas shopping.

One of the vendors will be Wheelchair Angels, a nonprofit organization raising funds to send a ship container of specialized children's wheelchairs, hospital beds, gait trainers, and walkers

to the ministry in the West Bank of Israel. The children receiving these devices are often the poorest of the poor; their parents are delighted when their children gain independence of movement.

Ann Pasha, one of the WCA founders, will be at the booth selling these raffle tickets. The raffle items include a hand-carved olive wood nativity set made by handicapped artisans in Bethlehem, and a quilted wall-hanging designed and made by Leslie Vaskey McNeil of Marvel Art Studio. Buy one ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be Dec. 21 and the first ticket drawn gets first choice.

The day before that, on Saturday, Dec. 15, head over to the Highwood gym for some basketball. This is for 5th and 6th grade boys and 5th, 6th, and 7th grade girls. The entry fee is \$75 and there will be no more entries after Monday, Dec. 10. T-shirts are awarded to the top team in each division. This is a fundraiser for Ryder Zanto and Wyatt Mortensen, who are on a traveling basketball team out of Great Falls.

Nicole Gray just took a new job in Wyoming. She moved to Gillette and is a trainee for First Northern Bank. She said it's been going very well and people have been very welcoming. It's also been a similar culture to Montana, so not too many changes for her. We wish her well on her new venture.

## Highwood school lunch

Dec. 10: Tater tot casserole, green beans, apple crisp, milk.

Dec. 11: Calzone, tossed salad, pineapple, orange, milk.

Dec. 12: Christmas dinner, pork roast, roll, mashed potatoes and gravy, Malibu blend, peaches, Christmas Jell-O, milk.

Dec. 13: Ham and cheese melt, Veggie Straws, grapes, peppers, milk.

Dec. 14: Barbecued chicken flatbread, cowboy beans, fresh pineapple, milk.

## THE HOLIDAY SHOPPE

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622-3284 or 788-6742.



**TWINS!** – Proud Grandpa and Grandma Russell and Brigette Clark of Geraldine welcomed twins to their family on Nov. 7, 2018. Ruby Annette weighed in at 5 lbs., 1 oz. and Arlington Gyne weighed 4 lbs., 11 oz. The sweet babies are settling in at home with Mom & Dad – Rachel and Edward Taylor in Great Falls, Montana. Contributed photo

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# Weekly Crossword Puzzle

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## King Crossword

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 |    |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |    | 13 |
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| 20 |    | 21 |    | 22 |    |    | 23 |    |    |
| 24 |    |    | 25 |    | 26 |    | 27 |    |    |
| 28 |    |    | 29 |    | 30 |    |    |    |    |
| 31 | 32 | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 39 |    |    |    | 40 |    | 41 | 42 |    |    |
| 43 |    |    | 44 |    |    | 45 | 46 |    |    |
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| 53 |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    |    |

**ACROSS**  
1 Yard activities  
6 Measuring device  
11 Wig  
12 Show up  
14 Hang around  
15 Vocalist  
16 Big bother  
17 Formal pronouncements  
19 Yoko of music  
20 Spill the beans  
22 Bear hair  
23 Coaster  
24 Black-and-white movie, e.g.  
26 90210, for one  
28 Always, in verse  
30 Mongrel  
31 Sways from side to side  
35 "Gone With the Wind" star  
39 Look lasciviously  
40 Three-man vessel?  
42 Intend  
43 Grazing area  
44 Filleted  
46 Suitable  
47 Identify  
49 Sarcastic remark  
51 Stag's lack

**DOWN**  
1 Large beer glass  
2 Golfer Palmer  
3 Schlep  
4 — out (supplemented)  
5 Helvetica lack  
6 Stomach-related  
7 Met melody  
8 Grecian container  
9 51-Across of a sort  
10 Tied  
11 "The Republic" man  
13 Wear away  
18 Since, slangily  
21 Belgian city  
23 "Get lost!"  
25 Conger or moray  
27 Boxer  
29 Cutting responses  
31 "Look Homeward,  
tainer  
Angel" author  
32 Anti-elderly bias  
33 Quick look  
34 Baltimore newspaper  
36 Snoopy, e.g.  
37 Boutonnieres' sites  
38 Access  
41 Watch-crystal holder  
44 Ernie's pal  
45 Prima donna  
48 — long way (last)  
50 Diarist Anais

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**CHRISTMAS CRAFTING** – Missouri River Lumber Co. owner Jamie Lindsay assists Kenna Smith, right, and Avonea Riddle of Great Falls as they make Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Christmas ornaments at the lumberyard last Saturday, Dec. 1. Missouri River Lumber Co. was among the many businesses around town who offered special activities or refreshments as part of Chouteau County Country Christmas. Connlee Gray photo

## New book at your local library

The Chouteau County Library recently added "November Road" by Lou Berney to its collection.

Set against the assassination of JFK, "November Road" is a poignant and evocative crime novel that centers on a desperate cat-and-mouse chase across 1960s America—a story of unexpected connections, daring possibilities, and the hope of second chances from the Edgar Award-winning author of "The Long and Faraway Gone."

Frank Guidry's luck has finally run out. A loyal street lieutenant to New Orleans' mob boss Carlos Marcello, Guidry has learned that everybody is expendable. But now it's his turn—he knows too much about the crime of the century: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Within hours of JFK's murder, everyone with ties to Marcello is turning up dead, and Guidry suspects he's next: he was in Dallas on an errand for the boss less than two weeks before the president was shot.

With few good options, Guidry hits the road to Las Vegas to see an old associate—a dangerous man who hates Marcello enough to help Guidry vanish. Guidry knows that the first rule of running is "don't stop," but when he sees a beautiful housewife on the side of the road with a broken-down car, two little daughters and a dog in the back seat, he sees the perfect disguise to cover his tracks from the hit men on his tail.

Posing as an insurance man, Guidry offers to help Charlotte reach her destination: California. If she accompanies him to Vegas, he can help her get a new car. For her, it's more than a car—it's an escape. She's on the run too, from a stifling existence in small-town Oklahoma and a kindly husband who's a hopeless drunk. It's an American story: two strangers meet to share the open road west, a dream, a hope—and find each other on the way.

Charlotte sees that he's strong and kind; Guidry discovers that she's smart and funny. He learns that she determined to give herself and her kids a new life; she can't know that he's desperate to leave his old one behind.

Another rule—fugitives shouldn't fall in love, especially with each other. A road isn't just a road, it's a trail, and Guidry's ruthless and relentless hunters are closing in on him. But now Guidry doesn't want to just survive, he wants to really live, maybe for the first time.

Everyone's expendable, or they should be, but now Guidry just can't throw away the woman he's come to love. And it might get them both killed.

## SDD team competes in Shelby

Fort Benton High School's speech, drama and debate team traveled to Shelby on Saturday, Dec. 1 with nine of their 12 team members.

"It was kind of a rough day and we had some stiff competition, but we still managed to do alright," coach Amy Hanson said.

Results:  
Logan Ball: 6th in Impromptu Speaking  
Kacelyn Christensen: 6th in Dramatic Solo

Pierce Marin: 6th in Spontaneous Oral Interpretation  
Dani McKelvy: 3rd in Original Oratory  
Jasmine Wilson and Hannah Fowles: 2nd in Dramatic Duo  
Josie Arganbright: 3rd in Humorous Oral Interpretation

Aedan Hanson: 6th in Humorous Oral Interpretation  
Trinity Deck: Competed in Dramatic Oral Interpretation, did not place in top

The team is headed to Chinook this weekend for their next competition.

## Living Once Well

Save on state income taxes by opening Montana Medical Savings Account

Contact – Janell Barber, Chouteau County Extension Office, janellb@montana.edu, 406-622-3036



(This week's article is by Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist)

Have you had any medical expenses so far this year that weren't covered by your health insurance policy, a flexible spending account (FSA) or your Federal Health Care Savings Account (HSA)? If so, you can still open a Montana Medical Care Savings Account (MSA) by Dec. 31 and cover those expenses. If you deposit up to \$3,500 (the maximum in 2018), you can reduce your Montana adjusted gross income by that amount.

Doing so will result in a tax savings of about \$242 – that is, if you have taxable income above \$17,900.

This is really a good deal for Montanans! Thank your legislators. Yet, in past years only 1.4 percent of Montanans have taken advantage of this opportunity. When I ask why, many explain that they were told they were ineligible because they don't have a high deductible health insurance policy. WRONG. You do not have to be in a high deductible health insurance plan

to be eligible for an MSA. And, unlike an HSA, you can be age 65 and over and still be eligible for an MSA. Others say they have never heard of a Montana MSA. Believe it or not, these accounts have been around since 1997.

This income tax advantage using a Montana MSA does not apply to your federal income taxes and should not be confused with the Federal Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) or Federal Flexible Spending Plans (FSAs).

If you do not use any money deposited in your MSA during the year it was deposited, it remains in the account and earns interest that is free from Montana income taxation. The money in the MSA then can be used for eligible medical care expenses in future years.

If you have already paid your 2018 medical bills either by check, cash, or credit/debit card, you could add up those eligible expenses, make a deposit by Dec. 31 and reimburse yourself from the MSA account on the same day for eligible expenses paid January through December.

The key word is "paid." You can reimburse yourself for paid eligible medical expenses by the end of 2018. But if you haven't yet paid those bills because your

health insurance company hasn't sorted out what it will pay and what you still owe, you still can reimburse yourself for those unpaid eligible expenses during 2019 when you pay them.

The amount you can use to reduce your Montana income is the total deposited, not the amount used for medical expenses during the tax year. For example, if you deposited \$3,500 in an MSA but only used \$500 for eligible medical expenses during 2018, you still get to reduce your income by \$3,500. The remaining \$3,000 is available for paying medical expenses in future years.

You can use your MSA funds to pay medical expenses not only for yourself, but also your spouse, parents, dependents and anyone else. Let me repeat that last part ... you can use your MSA fund to pay for eligible medical expenses of ANYONE...your best friend, a colleague who needs the money, anyone except your dog. Again, thank your legislators for this provision passed in 2017.

Your MSA can also be used as a legacy. Some Montanans have put money in their MSAs every year, but not used it because they are saving the funds for long term care expenses. Others plan to use their MSA as a legacy for their children and grandchildren. You can place a payable on death (POD) designation on your MSA, identifying who you want to receive the money after your death. Your spouse, parents and kids can then use the money for their own eligible medical expenses without Montana income tax consequences.

During this season of giving, parents and grandparents may want to gift money to their adult children and adult grandchildren for an MSA. Whatever amount is gifted and deposited in an MSA can be taken off the adult children and grandchildren's income. The adult grandkids get the tax break, but not the grandparents.

An MSU Extension MontGuide will help you decide if you would benefit from a Montana medical care savings account. The publication (MontGuide 199817 HR) can be downloaded free at <http://msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT199817HR.pdf>

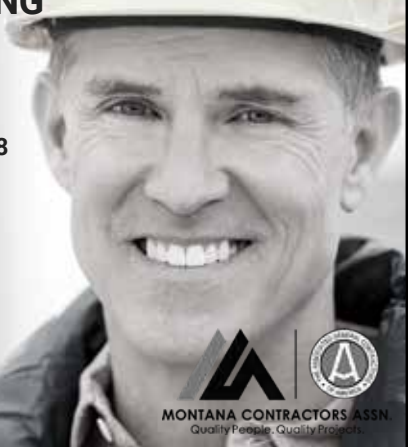
A copy can also be obtained by contacting Janell at the Chouteau County Extension Office at 622-3036, janellb@montana.edu or in the Chouteau County Courthouse at 1308 Franklin St in Fort Benton or by emailing goetting@montana.edu.

Marsha A. Goetting is the MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist in Bozeman. She deposited \$3,500 for her MSA in November and will withdraw over \$1,000 for eligible medical expenses that weren't covered by her FSA or health insurance policy.

## STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN CERTIFICATION (SWPPP) TRAINING

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GREAT FALLS - JAN. 17-18  
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**HOLIDAY FUN** – Aubree Vischer displays a snowman ornament she made at Benton Pharmacy during their Chouteau County Christmas open house on Saturday. Brenda Lee photo

## Thank You

The Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton would like to thank Best Practice Medicine for the EMT refresher over the weekend. We would also like to thank the Benefis Foundation, Triangle Communications and anonymous donors.

If you would like to join this elite EMT team, contact Mike at 622-3400.

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# View from the Bridge

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By Muncie Morger  
CCCC

I am adjusting my life to never make plans again. I promised you readers that I would not mention the weather again, but ... On December 1st, the big day for Chouteau County Country Christmas, the weather ruined half my plans for a wonderful day with my daughter, Jennifer. It snowed more in Great Falls and when she got up on Hwy 87 she almost turned around and went back home. The road became more drivable as the snow had not yet reached further north.

She arrived later than planned and we went immediately to the Ag Center because I wanted lunch and to hear the barbershop quartet. We were able to check out more than half the vendors before lunch and continued looking at the rest after lunch. The variety of Christmas items was fantastic and endless. I talked with several vendors who had homemade items. Yes, they work all year to prepare for the shows they participate in. Wow! That amounts to a whole lot of hours.

I sat with Randy and Connie at their table while Jennifer went to try on something called "leggings." (What are leggings? In my day they were heavy pants that you wore in the winter when you were outside.) (Do today's leggings take the place of pantyhose?)

Randy was selling raffle tickets for the Lions' "Cash for Christmas." The winner will be announced at the Christmas Concert next Sunday. (You do not have to be present to win and if you are there and win, you get your cash immediately. It doesn't get any better than that.)

Randy only had about 12 or 13 tickets when I sat down, and when I departed about a half an hour later he had only two tickets left. I am really looking forward to next Sunday when the four winners are announced.

Jennifer did drive me to Front Street where I visited with a couple of businesses. It was very cold, and I wanted her to be on her way before it started getting dark. So, my day was literally cut in half.

It was a fun day, though, and thank you to the many friends who came up to me to say hello and Merry Christmas.

I am looking forward to reading "Over the River" by Robyn Scribner to see how their CCCC went. Merry Christmas to all our readers in the communities around Chouteau County.

## TREE LIGHTING

Didn't make it to the tree lighting on Saturday evening. I am feeling old when I don't want to go out at night. I am looking forward to the 22nd of this month when the days begin getting longer.

## FRONT STREET DECORATIONS

So many people participated in the home and business decorating contests. I am sure that Bethany, our editor, will write about who were the winners. I really hope we have a warm spell so I can walk the streets. What I have seen so far is delightful. I know it is a whole lot of work. I want to see all the businesses face to face as it is difficult to see all the details while riding in a vehicle.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Philip Aaberg is a pianist who is known all over the world. He is a professional artist. My wish is that the auditorium is filled to capacity in his honor. He is a Montanan from Chester. Read all about him in the CCPA ad or if you have kept your CCPA program booklet. You cannot be any-

thing but impressed by his talent. See you there this Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Fort Benton Elementary School at 3 p.m.

## FBHS JOURNALISM CLASS

This news was music to my ears. I have been trying for several years to get students to write what is going on at the high school. The students at the high school are so fortunate to have this kind of program.

May I suggest that a name for your articles be found, perhaps with a contest? I am sure you can come up with a name that is clever and eye-catching. I will look forward to that. (Perhaps something like "View from the School." JUST KIDDING!)

How I would have enjoyed activities and classes such as journalism, yearbook, and speech and drama. I loved my late husband's stories about speech and drama classes way back in 1940 and 1941. Only seniors were allowed to take those classes. Wally was allowed in as a junior. The Julius Caesar play was in the planning stage and Wally memorized the Julius part overnight. The teacher then let him take the class and he was the only junior to do that. (Even to the day he passed in 2014, he could recite that speech.) How I would love to have that kind of retentive memory.

Another wish of mine is that a Fort Benton High School student will someday take over "View from the Bridge." It will be 20

years next year that I began writing it. It is getting time for someone young to take over.

## ACCIDENTS

As I read the River Press about accidents that have happened to local residents, I am feeling better about my Scooter accident. Yes, that is what they are ... accidents. They happen so fast there is no stopping them. I read about Miriam Bramlette getting hit by a car that was in such a hurry it went around the car that stopped for Miriam and Bruce to cross the street. I have often noticed that people get impatient waiting for traffic to move ahead. What is their hurry? How does one feel when they have caused an accident and someone is injured? I would not like to experience that.

Patty Paulson broke her leg, and not knowing it for several days, she continued to walk on it. Only my pride was hurt in my accident, along with a few layers of skin off my elbow. It was an accident and I cannot replay the thoughts of "what if?"

If you hear about someone who has an accident, would you please let me know? I would like to check it out. Most people do not want anyone to know, and if that is their desire, I would keep my lip zipped.

## MY GOGO

I am renaming my GoGo. I am now going to call it "Scooter" because when I talk about my GoGo no one seems to understand. I just hope that it understands my commands with the new name. Scooter may not understand when I say GoGo ahead. It just may understand "scoot ahead now" when I reach a corner. Oh well, so much for technology.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check the River Press Community Calendar so you do not miss anything in the coming weeks.



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"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding."  
~Ralph Waldo Emerson



**SANTA VISIT** – Colter Benjamin of Fort Benton thinks about what he would like for Christmas while sitting on Santa's lap at the Wake Cup Coffee House on Saturday, Dec. 1 during Chouteau County Country Christmas. Connlee Gray photo

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**CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S FEATURED PROPERTIES:**

**ALL THIS HOME NEEDS IS YOU!** Completely updated! 5-Bd, 2-1/2 Bath, open feel living area, family room, office, bonus room, laundry/utility room. New furnace & CA. Newer siding, roof, and windows throughout. New underground sprinklers & privacy fence, nicely landscaped, gorgeous stamped & stained concrete patio and walks, sand point well. Large detached 2-car garage. AND much more!! **1210 Main St. \$198K.** Call Pade to schedule a showing. 899-9378.

**GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION!** This updated, 25' x 88' commercial building has an incredible location—right on Front St. and across from the Shep statue with a gorgeous view of the Missouri River. Please schedule a showing to see how this space would accommodate YOUR ideal/vision/dream! **NOW AT \$98,000!** 1408 Front Street. Call Valerie @ 750-2866 for an appointment.

**Check out more about these listings at fbrealty.com!**

**BUILDING LOTS/LOTS**

**MISSOURI RIVER GARDENS:** 5 oversized bldg. lots w/all utilities. These lots are one of a kind in the newly developing North end of Fort Benton. 1 block to the Missouri River. Between 23rd and 24th Streets! Each lot is 17,500 sq. ft. **\$55,000 per lot.** Call Valerie Morger at 750-2866 or Mark Pyrak at 788-9280.

**LARGE BUILDING LOT:** (33,600 sq/ft) located on the NE side of Fort Benton (28th and River St.) with views of the City. \$40,000. Call Roger @ 899-4098 for details.

**PRIME LOCATION:** 4 corner lots already have a great location by new construction and development. Established trees and water/sewer! Serene building site makes these lots the perfect place for you to live, garden and create! **\$46,000!** 2214 Front Street. Call Valerie @ 750-2866 today!

**BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL:**

**SPECTACULAR BUSINESS BUILDING!** For sale or lease. This one has it ALL!!! One level, ADA accessible, 5 separate office areas, spacious office areas, spacious reception and entry, coffee bar/break room, storage room, restroom, and LOTS of paved parking! The office building is +/- 1344 sq. ft., the detached storage garage/building, visibility from US 283 and Fort Benton industrial sector. All nicely landscaped w/underground sprinkler system. **\$282,000** Call Valerie today @ 750-2866!

**RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

**TWO FOR ONE!!!** Live in one and rent the other with this sweet deal in Loma. Both homes have 2-bd, 1-ba, and are on a HUGE lot, 30,535 sq. ft. One home has been completely remodeled and updated. Both homes currently rented. **101 and 103 3rd Ave. \$125,000.** Call Pade at 899-9378 to schedule. **Seller Financing Possible.**

**A GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME:** 5BD (2 non conforming), 2-BA, Family Room w/hardwood under new carpet, new hot water heat furnace, wood stove, partially finished bsmt, vaulted ceilings, all appliances. HUGE shop w/wheat, plumbed for future rental. New deck, partially fenced yard on corner lot. **1107 10th St. \$165K.** Call Pade 899-9378 to see.

**A MUST SEE!** Older house has nice sized living area w/ 1bd., 1 bath on the main and a guest bd. on the second story. 2 corner lots w/ storage shed and mature trees makes this a good "starter" home or a great rental investment. **620 Main!** Please call Pade Peterson @ 899-9378 or Valerie Morger @ 750-2866. **REDUCED! NOW JUST \$50,000!**

**RENTALS NEEDED!--INVESTOR WANTED!!** This duplex has a 2 bd. unit...AND a 3 bd. unit with a partially finished basement! Definitely needs attention and updates but the return could well be worth it! Corner lot with mature landscape and spacious backyard. Located at **2119 Main St.**—Just listed at **\$92,000.** Please call Roger Axtman @899-4098 to view this opportunity!

**LOTS OF UPDATES INSIDE AND OUT!** One level, approx. 1480 sq. ft, 3bd., 2 ba. ranch on over sized lot 125' x 200'. Features rock fireplace, gorgeous patio area, attached double car garage and underground sprinklers! Make an appointment to view this home now, call Debbie "Pade" Peterson 899-9378 or Valerie Morger 750-2866—Price to sell...**\$198,500.** 1218 St. Charles

**A WHOLE LOT TO OFFER:** 823 Washington St. This pristine home offers 4BD, 2BA, ceramic tile, recessed lights, family rm, office, laundry, all appliances. Nicely landscaped on 12,600 sq. ft. lot, fenced backyard, water feature, raised deck, & 2-car garage. **MUST SEE!** Call Pade to schedule.

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