

# MONTANA PRESS

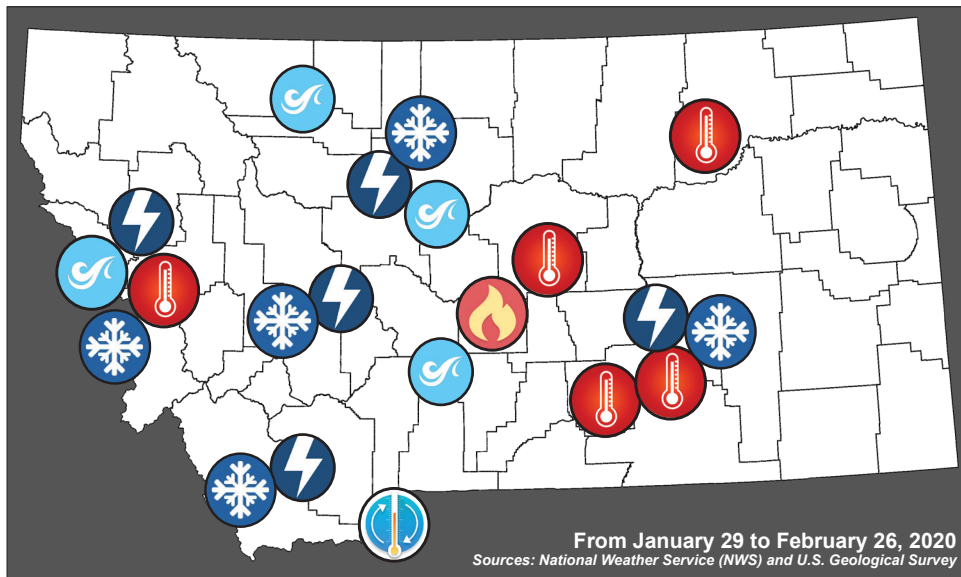
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*Good Spirits*  
FIELD GUIDE TO  
MONTANA MICRODISTILLERIES



# MONTANA ALMANAC



## Temperatures Across the State



Daily high temperatures were generally recorded in the 40 to 60 degree range across the state. Three locales tied for highest temperature for the recording period: 70 degrees in Billings one Feb. 1 (breaking record of 62 degrees in 1935), 70 degrees in Lewistown Airport on Feb. 2 and 70 degrees in Huntley on Feb. 2. Missoula broke a high temp record on Feb. 1 at 60 degrees (50 degrees in 2000). Great Falls finished January 2020 about 1.6 degrees above normal. Helena experienced a record number of days at 32 degrees or warmer (67 days) since Dec. 1 (besting the record of 66 days in 1993). Glasgow's January average temperature was 18.2 degrees which was 4.4 degrees above normal. Temperatures across the state starting falling on Feb. 3 with Benchmark recording a low of -4 degrees. The lowest temperature for the recording period was -33 degrees at West Yellowstone on Feb. 3. On Feb. 22, above normal temperatures were abundant again throughout Montana including 64 degrees at Garrison, 61 degrees at Perma and 60 degrees at Slate Creek and Pittsburg Landing.

## Peak Wind Gusts



On Jan. 31, wind gusts of near 50 mph were recorded around Great Falls, St. Mary, Browning and Cut Bank. Peak winds measured 93 mph in Browning and 65 mph in St. Mary. On Feb. 1, a peak wind gust of 106 mph was observed at Deep Creek station and 99 mph peak winds were observed near Missoula, 75 mph near Stevensville and 70 mph near Florence. Gusts in excess of 70 mph to 90 mph continued during this time along the I-15 corridor from Great Falls to Sweet Grass and created blowing dust storms that reduced visibility for travel. By Feb. 1, US Hwy 87 was closed from Great Falls to Loma due to high winds and blowing dust and smoke. By 4 p.m. that day, all major highway routes out of Great Falls were closed. On Feb. 1, wind gusts of 79 mph were also recorded in Livingston and 77 mph in Big Timber and peak gusts of 74 mph were recorded at Choteau and Geyser and downed trees and power lines were reported across western and central Montana. High winds continued to precede a number of winter storms during the recording period. On Feb. 20, peak wind gusts were measured at 79 mph in East Glacier and on Feb. 23, gusts of 76 mph were recorded at Point 6 Mountain and 70 mph at Lolo Pass.

## Precipitation and Snowfall



On Feb. 6, heavy snowfall of up to two feet in the backcountry led to the issuance of an avalanche warning near Bozeman, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Snowfall totals were recorded at 20" at Lemhi Ridge and 14" at Darkhorse Lake. On Feb. 8, 1" of snowfall was reported falling in Bozeman in just 15 minutes and 3" fell in three hours near Essex. Snow squall warnings were issued across the state on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 as storms moved across western Montana to Great Falls and Lewiston, creating severe weather driving conditions with high winds and blowing snow and leading to renewed avalanche warnings across the state. Missoula reported a record 3.2" of snow on Feb. 17 (2.5" in 2018), with up to 9" recorded in Pattee Canyon. Snow squall warnings were issued Feb. 23 for western Montana and the Helena area and lightning and thundersnow were reported near Great Falls, Missoula, Dillon, Helena and northeastern Yellowstone County. Precipitation was recorded across the state as snow, graupel, drizzle, snow pellets and hail.

## Winter Wildfire Danger



Grass fires were reported on Feb. 1 near Grass Range, Geyser, Harlowton and Judith Gap, even leading to a closure on Hwy 191. Extreme grassland fire danger was observed from Jan. 29 for areas around the state as a combination of high winds, near-record high temperatures and low relative humidity (below 25%) created a high potential for rapidly spreading grass fires where snow was absent. Renewed grassland fire danger was reported Feb. 18 in western and central Montana as humidity again dropped and wind gusts increased.

## The Science Behind the Silence of Snow



Have you ever noticed that things outside seem to sound quieter during and after a snowfall? Sound waves get trapped in the spaces in a snowflake, dampening their sound. However, old, melted snow will not have the same effect.

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**ON THE COVER** A selection of Montana-distilled spirits at the Sage Lodge in Paradise Valley. Montana-made whiskey, gin and other spirits are popular with locals and visitors alike. *Photo by Lindsay Wells.*

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### Contributors

Rob Brezny, Brian D'Ambrosio,  
Mazana Boerboom, Jen Eames,  
Jessica Flammang, Chad Harder,  
Breeana Laughlin, Jason McNeil,  
Jay MacDonald, Nikoleta Morales,  
George Ochenski and Geneva Zoltek.

### Copy Editors

Kenneth Neill, Brad Snow

### Staff Photographer

Lindsay Wells  
photo@montanapress.net

### Distribution

Courtney Lehman, Tim Weavers

### Publisher/Editor

Reilly Neill  
info@montanapress.net



@MontanaPress

### PHONE

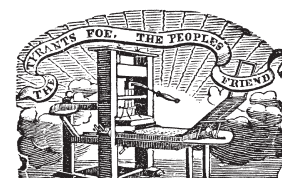
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# BYGONE DAYS

*Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1896, 1935 and 1961. For daily Bygone Days, follow online at: @MontanaPress on Facebook.*

## **The Big Timber Pioneer March 3, 1896**

“Had a Bad Case of ‘Wheels.’ A. Mes-sieur, is the name of a sheepherder who has been herding at the ‘Mountain ranch’ of W.D. Ellis on the West Boulder for some time. Monday evening Monsieur went into the depot at Springdale and remained a short time when he disappeared, turning up again the next morning with both feet badly frozen and stating that he had been out all night hunting sheep, which, how-ever, had their existence in Monsieur’s head. Seeing the condition Monsieur was in, both mentally and physically, he was placed on board the east-bound passenger and sent to this place. He was met on his arrival here by Under Sheriff Jackson, who had been notified by wire. Monsieur was taken to the jail and prompt medical atten-tion given him. Judge Henry being notified arrived here yesterday and an examination was held resulting in a verdict of insane, whereupon Monsieur was ordered confined in the asylum at Warm Springs, and for which place, in the custody of the sheriff, he departed this morning.”

## **The Big Timber Pioneer March 3, 1896**

“The Tunnel On Fire Again...A large cave-in occurred at an early hour this morning in the Muer bore, better known as the Bozeman tunnel, which has caused the delay of all trains running either way on the Northern Pacific. The cave was caused by the fire which has again broken out in the tunnel and is burning fiercely, and rapidly eating up the new timbers recently put in by the crews at work repairing the bore. When the flames broke out they had not burned many hours before portions of the roof of the tunnel, where the large caves of last summer occurred, commenced to fall down. This continual falling down was kept up until an early hour Tuesday morn-ing, when the roof became so very weak from the lack of support that hundreds of tons of rock, dirt and charred timber came down with a crash, burying the track be-neath many feet deep. The many caves had so eaten up through the mountain that when the roof fell in this morning, it carried down with it a large portion of the mountain, and many feet of the overhead or skyline track. The hole is too large to attempt to bridge,

even if the crumbling edge would allow of it, and the result of it is that trains can neither go east or west until a temporary track is constructed around the hole. The breaking out of the flames again was a most complete surprise, for it was generally sup-posed that they were entirely extinguished months ago. For some time past the heat in the tunnel has been severe, necessitat-ing the wearing of the scantiest attire by the working men. Smoke and gas have been accumulating of late, but nothing was thought of it until Monday morning when the flames broke out with a roar, and are now eating everything within reach. There is no telling when the flames will or can be extinguished. An effort was made to put them out when they first broke out, but the efforts of the men were unsuccessful.”

## **The Dillon Examiner March 4, 1896**

“Brief cullings of News Matter From All Parts of the State which will Interest Mon-tana Readers... The Saloon men and liquor dealers of Butte have organized a protec-tive association... The Anaconda Standard arrived in Bozeman, Monday, the same day it was printed. It is said that it will come hereafter on a freight. If so Bozeman will feel grateful... The \$17,000 of Miles City bonds have been sold to Aaron Hershfield at a premium of 15 cents on the \$100. The bonds are for the purchase of the electric light plant, which, during the time it has been in the hands of a receiver, has made money... The state board of education is planning to classify the high schools of the state and commission those of a suffi-ciently high grade, so as to allow graduates to enter any state university or any educa-tional institution without examination...”

## **The Dillon Examiner March 4, 1896**

“Hecla, Mont...M. Flaherty, an old pros-pector, went over on Canyon creek last October to work his claims. As he had not been heard from since, it was feared some accident might have befallen him. The boys ‘chipped in’ and sent a man over. The incorrigible Mickey was found fat and saucy and resembling Rip Van Winkle. As he had no calendar he was unable to keep track of the time but judged it to be April. Having found out his mistake and ‘seen his shadow’ we believe he will hole up for a couple of more months like the ground hog.”

## **The Helena Independent March 8, 1896**

“Pepper On The Floor. Practical Jokers Break Up a Leap-Year Dance at White Sul-phur Springs. One of the most contempt-ible tricks ever imposed upon a people was enacted at the Auditorium last Friday eve-ning, says the White Sulphur Springs Hus-bandman. Arrangements had been made for one of the most brilliant leap year par-ties ever held at the Springs, and, barring this mischief-making, it was a success. At some time after the house had been put in order some person entered the building and scattered the dust of red pepper upon the floor. This was not noticed until dancing was commenced, when the participants be-

gan to sneeze and cough, and the ingredient was so strong that a number left for their homes... The persons in charge made a se-rious mistake in not keeping the doors of the building locked... and it rather remark-able that the intruder, whoever he was, did not carry away the good things prepared for supper...”

## **Thompson Falls Weekly Montanian March 14, 1896**

“Nearly every week the Montanian re-ceives some editorial from some politi-cal agency with blue pencil marks around it booming some aspirant for political honor. In most instances a printed slip of paper kindly requesting us to make favor-able comment and send marked copy of paper... In some of the most remote coun-try papers this sort of stuff finds space by editors who hope to gain the good will of these aspirants. We are paddling our own canoe, so to speak, and while we are wil-ing to listen to all sides and judge for our-selves the merits of the same such harangue is not even found a welcome place in our waste basket... As regards publishing fa-vorable mention by request and throwing in a few copies we herewith append the language of the Louisiana Press. We didn’t do it, We ain’t a going to do it, We ain’t a saying a word, We ain’t a going to say a word. In times past we have given away columns of space and reams of paper and great gobs of ink in a political campaign. And what did we get in return? Nothin’ but the privilege of wading in the mud behind the band wagon in a torchlight procession and spilling coal all on our coat and getting shot in the eye with a Roman candle... We are a democrat, but we ain’t no pack mule to carry candidates into office and get the cold shoulder. And perhaps the cold mutton after the election...”

## **The Ekalaka Eagle March 15, 1935**

“Permits Still Necessary to Buy Hard Liquor. Montanans and others desiring to purchase hard liquors from states stores will have to take out \$2.00 licenses for the next two years, unless a special session of the legislature in the meantime decides to have a change of heart... So folks, just step up to the counter and plank down your two bucks for a yearly permit and ask yourself if another pre-election promise has not been broken.”

## **Havre Daily News March 16, 1935**

“Enthusiastic Gallery Blocks Road To Watch Irate Motorists Engage In Scrap Af-ter Automobile Mishap. Butte; Traffic on the Butte-Missoula highway near Clinton was tied up for half an hour the other night, not because of road conditions but because of a fist fight following a collision, according to reports received by Butte police...”

## **Billings Gazette March 18, 1935**

“Bock beer and the Wandering Jew are two sure signs of spring. Last week bock beer made its appearance here, Sunday night, the Wandering Jew blew into town. The term ‘blew into town’ adequately de-scribes him. He rushed into the office, gave nobody else a chance to talk, and rushed out again. It’s the way he does. The Wandering Jew, lest you do not recall, is none other than his royal highness, Nathan Bergman, native of Cheyenne of some 53 summers, and the alleged ‘last of the tramp printers.’ In fact,



Bergman, who has worked various times in The Billings Gazette composing room, is writing a book which he is going to call ‘The Last of the Tramp Printers.’ The only difficulty, he said Sunday night, is publish-ing it. Not that publishers don’t want it, he assures you. But they want to go ‘whole hog or none.’ So he’s figuring on publishing it himself some day when he finds somebody who’ll lend him the necessary money. He never has very much himself. Bergman was here two years ago. Prior to that time he used to make Billings about once each year. But ‘I can’t take it any more. I’m getting old. I’m 53, and I can’t hit the ball like I used to. I’ve got to take it easy.’ Thirty-five years he’s been a printer, and 35 years he’s been a tramp...”

## **Fort Benton River Press March 20, 1935**

“The legislature recently passed a law regarding the issuance of marriage licenses that will curtail hasty marriages after July 1st and many believe that this will be a good thing. More than half the licenses issued last year in this county were issued to outside parties who came to Fort Benton to secure licenses in the hope that the wedding could and would be kept secret. This was the case in regard to many nurses and teachers who wanted to continue to hold their jobs...”

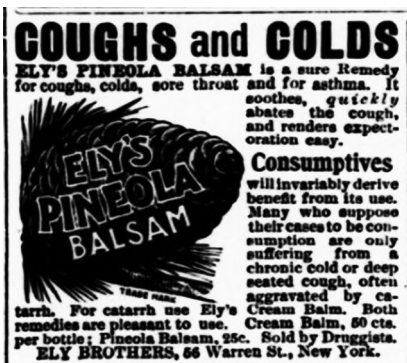
## **The Dillon Daily Tribune March 27, 1961**

“Beef weiners [sic] were introduced at the Harlem Seed Show creating interest among those who sampled them the first time. The North Central Montana CowBelles at their booth gave beef weiners as prizes in a guess-ing game.”

## **Sanders County Ledger March 30, 1961**

“Don’t Abuse Fire Phone Service. A nat-ural curiosity and anxiety is aroused in most individuals when the fire siren sounds, but individuals who succumb to those emotion and phone the Montana Power Co. plant to learn where the fire is are doing a distinct disservice to their fire department and to the power company employees. Fire Chief Charles Applegate urgently requests peo-ple to ‘please not call the power company when the first siren blows.’ The calls tie up lines when firemen are attempting to learn the location of the fire so they can hurry to the scene in their own automobiles and the calls disrupt the work at the power plant. The fire answering service is provided free by the power company to the city and the fire department. In this respect Thompson Falls is extremely fortunate. Columbia Falls currently pays more than \$6000 a year for a 24-hour police and fire answer-ing service which Montana Power provides free here.” ★

*Bygone Days are compiled by Jen Eames.*





# MONTANA VOICE

## *A Wake Up Call for the Republic*

It's been popular in recent years for certain wealthy capitalists to claim they will "run government like a business" when they seek political office. While that may sound good to some, neither the state nor national Constitution ever suggests that governance and business are or should be the same — just the opposite, in fact. The Founding Fathers specifically designed our government structure to ensure life and liberty to benefit the well-being of the governed through the checks and balances of three separate but equal branches of government. It is at our peril — and that of our democracy — should we confuse business with governance.

One needn't search far for current examples of misled wealthy individuals who don't seem to understand the difference between government and business. At the top of the list, of course, is Donald Trump, the current occupant of the White House, who attained that position not through a vote of the people, but through the manipulation of the American electorate by none other than the very nation in which he wants to plant the Moscow Trump Tower.

Yet, what happened when those particular details were revealed to this businessman? He fired the government staffers who were responsible for simply doing their job to ensure foreign governments did not intrude in our elections. Why? Because that's what CEOs do when someone in their "organization" isn't "loyal" to the CEO.

It would be great to say that something has changed in that regard, but let's not kid ourselves. Donald Trump continues to "run government like a business" and one of the worst parts about it is the enormous national debt this guy, who calls himself "the king of debt," is racking up. Remember, he's gone bankrupt six times already, including his casinos in which, as everyone knows, the house always wins.

Those who naively thought impeachment might teach Trump something now get to watch him play "The Apprentice" with our federal agencies, firing people who were doing their jobs, hiring incompetent personal friends or campaign contributors to fill positions for which they are completely unqualified, and putting loyalty to him above service to the populace. They do have a word for when government "leaders" operate like this, but it's not called "business," it's called dictatorship.

Or take Michael Bloomberg and his incredible debate failure in Nevada last week. Bloom-

Those who naively thought impeachment might teach Trump something now get to watch him play "The Apprentice" with our federal agencies, firing people who were doing their jobs, hiring incompetent personal friends or campaign contributors to fill positions for which they are completely unqualified, and putting loyalty to him above service to the populace. They do have a word for when government "leaders" operate like this, but it's not called "business," it's called dictatorship.

berg has amassed over \$65 billion, which means if he spent a million dollars a day, every day, it would take him 200 years to spend his fortune if he didn't earn another penny in interest or profit from his investments. Yet, when asked about some of the simplest functions of government, he was like a deer in the headlights — and like the billionaire he is, he was indignant about being challenged.

Unfortunately, we have our own version in Greg Gianforte — a mega-millionaire who body-slammed a helpless reporter, bought his seat in Congress, achieved little for the people and now wants to buy the Montana governor's seat.

"Oligarchy" is the word for rich people running countries, which is defined as "a government in which a small group exercises control, especially for corrupt and selfish purposes." Democracy, on the other hand, is "a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them."

At this critical juncture in our history, we would do well to note the difference and the mounting evidence that "running government like a business" enriches the oligarchs — but disregards "we, the people" and ignores the nation's very real and pressing needs. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

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# MONTANA BOOKS

## *From the French Countryside to Quake Lake: Suspense Writer Lise McClendon*

Quake Lake suspense writer Lise McClendon starts her days with several cups of strong coffee, then works at whisking her many readers to France and beyond with her addictive nine-book Bennett Sisters Mysteries about five lady lawyers locked in a world of injustice and inequality. Travel, after all, was perhaps the key that helped her unlock that voice in her head that was insistent on making sense of the world.

McClendon's love of sassy heroines, twisty mysteries and juicy secrets began as a child.

"One summer, my mother made us all lie down after lunch, and I'm like, 'I'm not taking a nap!' so I read through the whole library of Nancy Drew that summer," she recalls. "That sort of got me into reading and writing mysteries."

As the daughter of a university professor, the budding author was born in California, lived part of her childhood in Delaware, then moved to Nebraska, where she attended high school and college. A few post-graduate jobs in audiovisual scriptwriting and public relations preceded her decision to try fiction at age 30.

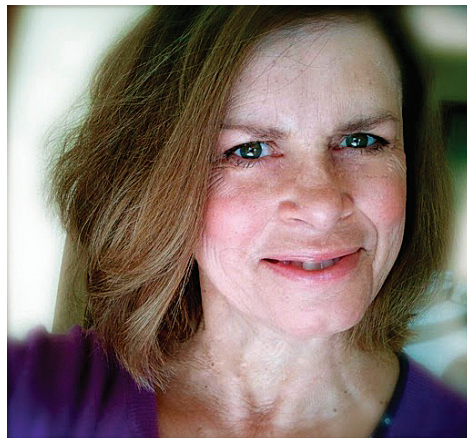
"As I got older, I would narrate my life in my head, and finally I was like, 'I've got to get this out of here,'" she says. "So finally, you have enough life experiences that you feel like you can tell someone else's story, or even your own, but it's the rare writer who jumps full-fledged into writing. It takes a little while."

As the words flowed forth and her books caught on, she partnered with fellow suspense author Katy Munger (the Casey Jones series) to found Thalia Press and to publish their own collective back catalogs. In her spare time, McClendon has served on the national boards of directors for Mystery Writers of America, the International Association of Crime Writers/North America, and the faculty of the Jackson Hole Writers Conference, where she co-presents a novel workshop for writers.

As a busy writer, it's only appropriate that her website tagline reads: "Thank you for visiting. You can now buy me a coffee!"

McClendon's first four-book series, written under the pen name Grier Lake, explores the adventures of art gallery owner and FBI expert Alix Thorssen, and was set in and around Jackson Hole but is not actually based on her own experiences.

"The first book I published, 'The Bluejay



Shaman' (1994), is based around some stories that a Salish Indian friend of mine told me about his experiences dealing with a New Age group out of Missoula. So there's a lot of real people in that story, but I tried to put that aside and just write as fiction. But he dictated a bunch of his stories to me and I typed them up and gave them to him, and that's really what he wanted, to have them documented. And then I asked them if I could use them as the background for a novel. But because those books were written in the first person, it does give people the impression that I did these things, but no!"

Her sophomore duet, dubbed the Swing Town Mysteries – "One O'Clock Jump" (2001) and "Sweet and Lowdown" (2002) – shifts to the Depression-era adventures of Kansas City rookie private eye Dorie Lennox – quite a jump from Jackson Hole.

"I did move back to the Midwest for a couple years and I lived in Kansas City. The reason I wrote the first book in that series was that I had written a book that I never have published, set in Helena, and it was about a girl who was a sleepwalker, and she sees something while she's sleepwalking but she's asleep so she doesn't know she saw it and other people are trying to get her. Anyway, I had this idea that I would write books all set on the Missouri River.

"So I thought OK, I'll set one in Montana and then I'll set one in Kansas City. So when I kind of didn't go anywhere with the sleepwalker book, I ended up writing a couple books in this series set in Kansas City, about a private detective right before World War Two. That was a real interesting time because of the (political boss) T. J. Pendergast's dominance



of Kansas City had just come to a crashing end when he was sent to prison in 1939."

Fast forward a few years and McClendon suddenly transports her readers to France to enjoy the le suspense series debut of the five American Bennett sister lawyers, starting with the book, "Blackbird Fly," (2009) which she describes as a "sprawling, exuberant, generous-spirited cozy mystery."

"I sold the first book to... St. Martin's, and it was kind of one of the things I didn't like to talk about back then, but I sold it and then I wrote it and rewrote it for them a couple times and then they declined to publish it. That does happen more often than you would think. So when independent publishing came about with the Kindle, I decided with my friend Katy Munger to bring back all of our out-of-print books and also do some new ones, and that's how I ended up publishing 'Blackbird Fly.' It wasn't the first independent-published book, but it was in the very beginning of that time period in 2009. That was the start of Thalia Press. A lot of my early books never made it into paperbacks – some of them did but not all – so Katy and I put our heads together and started this little press to do that."

The *Montana Press* goes in-depth with McClendon about her inspiration for her many mystery works.

*How did the Bennett Sisters introduce themselves to you?*

"Well, I'm a huge Jane Austen fan and 'Pride and Prejudice' is one of my favorite books; I reread it almost every year and the five Bennett Sisters are in 'Pride and Prejudice.' Originally, I planned to have five books, each one about a different sister, but that idea didn't really work out, but the first seven books are mostly about this middle sister Merle, who goes to inherit this little cottage in France. The reason it's called 'Blackbird Fly' is that her name Merle means blackbird in French."

*So just between us, how many trips to France did you get out of the Bennett Sisters series?*

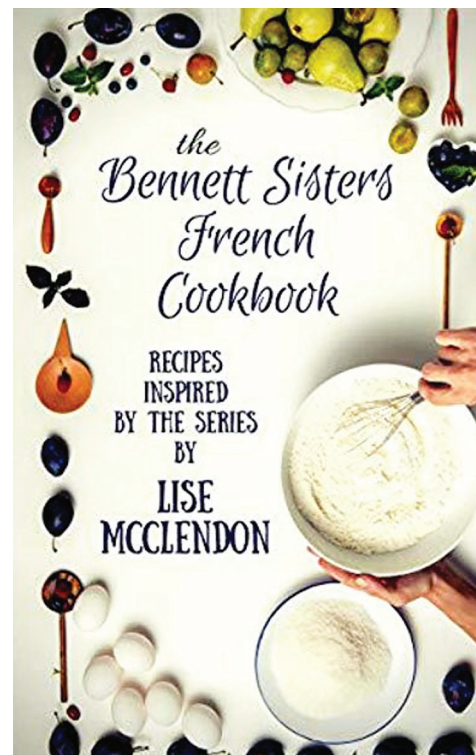
"(Laughs) Well, when I first sold it to St. Martin's, I used that advance money to go to France, because in my contract, I didn't have to pay that advance back unless another publisher picked it up, so I never had to pay that money back. That was the first time I had been to the Dordogne, that particular region of France where it's set, so that was pretty fascinating. But I had also connected on an old-school online expat bulletin board with some Americans who lived in that area, and they had taken pictures and given me some advice, telling me where to go and what it's like being an American there."

*Do you enjoy travel?*

"I love to travel, yes. And I've been to France almost every year since then. I didn't go last year but I try to go and find some new inspirations. It's a tough gig! (laughs) And in the decade since the Bennett Sisters made their debut, Merle's mate, the enchanting wine detective Pascal d'Onscon, now has his own spinoff trilogy entitled 'Dead Flat.'

*How was it writing in a deeper voice?*

"A lot of readers love Pascal; they're like, 'More! More!' And I'm like, well, this isn't a romance series, so I can't make it into something that it's not, but I could write something that's based more on Pascal and his work. That's why I decided to do this little trilogy, three novellas really. I decided to do an experiment by putting it out in three releases, and it's been fun. I have a little Facebook group that anyone can join called Girl Talk with Lise McClendon, and I asked those readers, 'What would you like to know about Pascal? And they were interested in his family. We had already established that he has two sisters and he has a half-brother whom we haven't explored yet, but that's one thing they were interested in. It's been fun to see what kind of a man he is. (laughs) Frenchmen are pretty macho, but he's surrounded by all these women, two sisters plus Merle and all her sisters. In fact, I told one of my girlfriends I was doing this and she said, 'Oh Pascal, what a sweet man!' and I was like, really? I guess that's the way I write him."





"An incredibly sly mystery. Everything you'd want when you bite into a dish: suspense, spice, and a new take on an old classic."  
—Charlaine Harris, New York Times Bestselling Author

THALIA FILBERT

# Beat Slay LOVE

One Chef's Hunger  
for Delicious Revenge

Romances in general, and Montana romances in particular, have stampeded in sales over the last few years. Were you ever tempted to, ahem, saddle up?

"You know, I always think, well yeah, I could make some money doing that but I'm not a romance reader. So I'd feel kind of like a fraud if I suddenly went into romance. There are certain tropes of romance that readers expect. The very first novel that I wrote was set in the 1920s in Wyoming, and it had elements of the Old West like snow storms that wipe out the whole cattle herd and those kind of stories, and it was just a straight novel. I didn't know what I was doing and that's how you learn to write novels – you write a first novel that just won't work. But the thing that I liked about it was, I kind of got excited when I was writing this one section that had a lot of suspense, and it was like, that's what I want to do!"

We have the Bennett Sisters to thank for a delicious side project, "The Bennett Sisters French Cookbook."

"Usually, I don't have any recipes in my books, but eating is a big deal in France and the sisters go to restaurants and they eat at home and Merle cooks for Pascal, so a lot of dishes are mentioned in the books. So I decided to do this blog through the year and I had a lot of other people help me who were wanting to learn to cook and try out recipes, so at the end of the year, I put it all together in the cookbook."

Combining food and suspense hit a new height with the entertaining, albeit tres grisly, "Beat Slay Love," a jaw-dropping reality-chef take on the classic "Eat, Pray, Love," in which you and several writer friends cooked up chapters in sequence, resulting in a suspense pancake au gratin. How would you describe the preparation of this project?

"Dark culinary comedy with a serial killer overtone! 'Beat Slay Love' was a unique project. I don't know that we will ever recreate that, although there have been rumblings by some of the authors who were involved in that

"Killing Byron Peppers had been easy.

"It was as simple as slipping tranquilizers into his bottle of bourbon – he could always be depended on to have a bottle of bourbon nearby – and then waited until the others left. Not long after, the obnoxious, ego-stuffed host had collapsed while trying to drunk-dial some ex-girlfriend. Undressing him was a cinch and seasoning him a simple matter of good taste.

"Rosemary, of course, along with a liberal sprinkling of parsley and thyme plus a few lemons stuffed up an orifice or two. The apple in the mouth was perhaps a cheap shot, but nothing Byron Peppers didn't deserve.

"Moving him afterwards had been more difficult."

—From "Beat, Slay, Love"

who want to do it again. But they didn't have to wrangle everybody like I did. Katy and I were kind of the editors of that project, and we each did two sections; you would write yours and then send it off to the next person, so everybody knew what had happened before. Katy, who is just a dynamo and very imaginative, set it up and wrote the final chapter as well. We tried to at least make it coherent. There was one guy and four women, and his sections were a little bit different; we had to kind of tone his down a little bit. His section had a little too much sex in it. But everybody got edited, so it's not like it was just him. It was a lot of fun."

What's ahead for Lise McClendon?

"There will be a new Bennett Sisters book out in the fall, and the Pascal trilogy will be packaged together so you can buy it as one book. The cool part is, I did set the series up with these five sisters, so the last two books have been more about Francie, who is younger than Merle, and I still have three other sisters I can write about."

Finally, how much coffee do you drink in a writing day?

"(Laughs) I believe I'm on my third cup already and it's 10 a.m. here at Quake Lake. I guess I am a pretty big coffee drinker!" ★

—JAY MACDONALD

# DAVID SEDARIS

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2019 Grand Prize winner (above) Sara Schroeder; Runners-up Eddie Bringenberg (below) and Eric Henderson (at left).

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# UNSOLVED MONTANA

## *Vanished into Thin Air: Shannon LaBau*

In 1999, Shannon LaBau was just getting his life together. Why and how did it unravel so quickly?

Packaged in a hulking 6'3", 240-pound frame, Shannon Clair LaBau's surface impression sometimes intimidated others. Clearly, he was a large, even imposing figure, and now and again he was given to acting the part his size suggested.

To those who knew him, on the other hand, the 23-year-old came across more as an oversized adolescent than a brawny bull of a man. At his core, Shannon LaBau was a mischievous jokester, his size and strength much belying the insecurities of an amiable, fun-loving kid with a perennial "goofy grin," as one family member described him.

Family connections meant a good deal to Shannon. Indeed, before he would venture out to the store to pick up a gallon of milk or run some other simple errand, he'd usually phone a relative, soliciting their company.

Shannon loved being around his mother, Sally LaBau. When he opened his first bank account in his late teens, he insisted that she oversee the transaction. In like fashion, Shannon's best woodworking project was a flower bed holder that he gave Sally one time as a present.

Indeed, Shannon loved and trusted those nearest and dearest to him. According to law enforcement and available police records, such confidence in others might just have led to his ruin.

### BORN A RAMBLING YOUNG MAN

Shannon LaBau was born on October 31, 1975, in Miller, South Dakota. His mother, Sally LaBau, was a California native who had married a man named Jerold Frederick Andersen, with whom she already had five children. On June 7, 1966, Jerold was killed in a construction accident, struck by a piece of heavy equipment when he was just 30.

Sally, widowed at 28 and responsible for five children who ranged in age from six months to 8 years, packed up and resettled on a friend's farm in South Dakota. This new place would provide a new start, a chance to heal, and a time to replace old memories with new ones.



In South Dakota, Sally met Val Clair LaBau, a postal carrier, and with him, she had two more children, Shannon in 1975 and Josh in 1977. Val Labau, nicknamed "Blondie," possessed a Jekyll and Hyde personality; alcohol was the principal cause of his marked duality. Affable when sober but a very mean drunk, Val, a gangly Vietnam veteran, suffered hallucinations and flashbacks, heightened in their intensity when he imbibed, which was all too frequently.

Eventually, Sally, a sorter and dock worker at the United States Postal Service, transferred from South Dakota to another post office in Thousand Oaks, California. Her father was there, dying of cancer, and she wanted to be nearby to take care of him. Now divorced from her second husband, the trip provided Sally with much-needed personal space away from Blondie LaBau.

It would be Sally, Shannon, and Shannon's younger brother Josh who would experience California. The rest of Sally's older brood remained with friends in South Dakota. Sally worked the night shift and on special occasions she would take her two young boys on day trips to the beach or the zoo, or perhaps whale watching under blood-orange sunsets. This period cemented an attachment that would be central to Shannon's life.

Sally again soon filed transfer requests, this time with several post offices in the Pacific Northwest. The first job response came from Helena, Montana; Sally took the job and embraced life in the Rockies. Before long she'd bought a small house at the Ten Mile Creek Estates, providing the foundation of a good quality of life for her two sons.

"Shannon was extremely close with our mother," says Shannon's half-sister Kari Weber. "He had a protective side with people, and he was always at her house, helping her out or talking with her. He'd bring his car over there to work on it. They were very close."

Shannon, however, longed for a bond with his father, and he even once convinced Sally to allow him and younger brother Josh to live with their father in South Dakota. Invariably during those few months, Blondie's sharp tongue was employed against the boys, and Shannon, then a sophomore in high school, resented his father's treatment.

"It was a bad time for Shannon," recalls Pat Andersen, another half-sister. "Shannon was stubborn and he stayed with his dad longer than he wanted. Blondie drank hard. When he was drinking, he was hard on the boys."

### "GOOD, SWEET DUDE" WHO LACKED CONFIDENCE

Unbowed, Shannon returned to Helena with his brother Josh and, despite feelings of displacement, he did his best to re-adjust to Helena High School. Friendly but not extroverted, Shannon didn't crave a whole bunch of friends, preferring to lean on his family for support.

"Unlike a lot of young people, Shannon always came to the family gatherings," says Kari Weber. "He was at every single event."

"Shannon didn't like to go places alone," explains his nephew Jon Andersen. "He was always asking me to go to the store to get milk, because he didn't want to go by himself. He was a mama's boy, always standing up for her, and always wanting to protect her. He was a good, sweet dude, yet people were afraid of him."

"Shannon was only two years older than I was. Shannon, Josh, and I were almost like brothers, because we were all so close in age. But Shannon wanted to be that big brother and that father figure to me."

Shannon loved to rib people, especially his mother, who was a vegetarian.

"He told vegetarian jokes to her," says Kari Weber. "He liked to be funny and to make people laugh. He loved being taller than everyone else, and he'd swing the little kids around, and they loved all of that."

In spite of this, Shannon sorely lacked self-confidence and found Helena harder to acclimate to than the smaller town life in South Dakota or even life on the West Coast. In truth, he was a bit klutzy and uncoordinated, still adjusting to his large form and long limbs. Shooting hoops outside his mother's house was about the extent of his sporting life.

Like most teenage kids, Shannon tried to find a peer group, a pack of friends where things all jibed. He loved heavy metal and hard-rock music – indeed, Guns N' Roses were the emperors of his airwaves – and he grew his thick, blonde locks disobediently.

Ultimately, Shannon found physical and, perhaps even more importantly, psychological validation through lifting weights and bulking up.

"Shannon wanted to appear tall and strong and look like a big, tough guy," remembers Weber. "As big and imposing as he was, he didn't have any confidence. If you were to be tough with him, he was a bit of a softy on the inside, especially if someone really tough came along."

### SHANNON MEETS "NEW FRIEND"

Shannon LaBau and Steve Rummel met while they were students at Helena High School. They both desired to be buff alpha males, spotting each other at The Broadwater, a Helena athletic and health club where they bonded around bench presses, back squats, and very muscular necks.

Born in 1975, Steve Rummel, according to later investigative reports obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, "had a reputation as a bully and angry individual."

"Abusive, aggressive, and deceitful," is how another witness later described Steve to investigators.

"Something about being the tough guy appealed to Shannon, too," recalls Shannon's nephew Jon Andersen. "It might have been Shannon wanting to fit in and to have that connection with a friend. I never remember Shannon lifting his hand toward anybody. I don't know how he got so close to someone so different than him."

From the onset, the 6'8" Steve Rummel was in complete control of the relationship. He was the leader, and Shannon was clearly the follower.

### FATHERHOOD AND TRANSITIONS

Shannon LaBau graduated from high school in 1994 and, a few years later, he met a girl named Leslie. It was a perfect cross of experimentation and impulsivity. Fatherhood arrived unexpectedly. On August 20, 1997, a 10-pound baby girl entered Shannon and Leslie's world.

He and Leslie never married. The pair fought frequently and, at times, their arguments were volatile. For starters, Leslie didn't like Shannon's choice of friends, particularly his association with Steve Rummel. Shannon and Steve would drink at dingy places, and at times an argument would develop between the two, especially if Shannon's generosity came to a halt and he refused to buy Steve additional drinks.

Leslie told Shannon that he needed to grow up, take on more responsibility, and be more serious about accepting his role as a father.

Around that time, Shannon and his own father became further estranged. When Blondie visited his newborn granddaughter, the visit ended as caustically as had Shannon's failed attempt to live with his father years earlier.

Shannon looked to other male members of the family for guidance. He liked to talk about muscle cars, or anything car-related, with his half-sister Kari's husband, Ron Weber. Shannon frequented Ron's garage, parking his Chevy Nova inside and talking with him about all things automotive. It was a healthy outlet for Shannon: plenty of sparks, crossed wires, late nights, and elbow grease. Time spent with Ron imbued him with a sense of purpose and accomplishment – precisely the kind of self-worth that was otherwise so hard to attain in this young man's life.

Working as a chef at a busy sports bar in Helena, Shannon learned a number of on-the-job skills. Despite Shannon's chronic tardiness, once he started with the skillet, underdog pride suffused his work, and he rarely declined an extra shift. When one of the staff would pop behind the line to let him know that there was a table full of his relatives outside, he would allow a few minutes to duck out and goof around before retreating in his lumbering gait back to the kitchen.

When the weather was nice, he went hiking and took his dog Harley, a stray from the Humane Society, on long walks. The two made for an almost comic pair. Big Shannon, and little Harley, a German shepherd mix, with a lousy hip, strange walk, and an exceedingly long tongue.

At age 23, Shannon's life was a relatively ordinary mixture of straightening out and sowing oats. Smoking pot wasn't his pleasure. In fact, he disavowed drugs, and "he hated the fact that we were even pot smokers," according to one friend. His beer drinking wasn't fussy; the cheapest brands satisfied him.

---

*LaBau (center) with young relatives in the 1980s.*



# HAVE YOU SEEN MY DADDY?



## STILL MISSING

Shannon LaBau has been missing since February 23, 1999. He was last seen in Downtown Helena around 11 a.m. Shannon is 23 years old, has blonde hair and blue eyes. He is 6' 3" and 240 lbs.



Shannon enjoyed weightlifting and partying, and he lived alone in a property he had purchased close to the sports bar where he worked. Not one to shy away from a physical quarrel, he made efforts at curbing his temper and becoming a better adult and man than his own father was. In the midst of this, Shannon's ex-girlfriend Leslie indicated that she was considering returning to Helena with their daughter after a period of estrangement.

No doubt he would've grown and matured through the pleasure and punch of experience, learned from his mistakes, and no doubt touched more lives with his "goofy grin."

### FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Shannon Clair LaBau was seen for the final time between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the 900 block of Kessler St. in downtown Helena. Security cameras recorded Shannon at a Helena bank at around 9 a.m., where he withdrew about \$3,000 in cash from the sale of a black Chevy Nova.

According to later investigative reports, Steve Rummel had told Shannon that there was an old farmer who owned a muscle car somewhere close to Townsend, a car that might be of interest to Shannon. Rummel picked up Shannon, and in his initial statement to the police, Rummel testified that they left Helena to scope out the vehicle, and on the way, "shoot a couple of cows."

In Rummel's initial statement, he told police that he and Shannon were together on the Walking Mall area at about 11 a.m. Rummel told Sally LaBau, according to the April 28, 1999 edition of the Helena Independent Record, that after he and Shannon returned from Townsend, he dropped Shannon off in downtown Helena at about 11 a.m.

Rummel also told Sally, according to the same article, that Shannon relayed a message through him to his mother that "she should go lock up his mobile home and pick up his checks from work."

Clearly, Shannon intended to go to Townsend with Rummel and either view or purchase a vehicle from an acquaintance of Steve's.

According to witness depositions, Rummel told several people that the seller of the automobile had raised his price "so Shannon had not bought the vehicle."

According to multiple deposed witnesses, LaBau had been "very excited" about buying the vehicle.

Two days before Shannon's disappearance on February 21, 1999, Steve Rummel had asked a friend whether they had a pistol that he could borrow, "as he needed to help a rancher kill a cow."

According to investigative reports, Rummel told one group of people that he dropped Shannon off at the Placer Building in

downtown Helena, told another that he had let Shannon off at the Atlas Building, and yet another that he had taken Shannon to the bus station in Butte "because Shannon was afraid of someone" to whom he owed drug money. Another witness stated that Rummel said that he drove "clear to Billings and dumped his friend off there."

A dark pattern emerges while examining the life of recidivism of Steve Rummel. His first felony conviction dates back to August 24, 1994, a theft charge. By the time of Shannon's disappearance in 1999, Rummel had tallied a prolific criminal history, including arrests for obstructing a police officer, unlawful transaction with a minor, domestic abuse, tampering with or fabricating evidence, concealed-weapons violations, and numerous probation violations.

According to investigative police reports obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Steve often made fun of Shannon and his hair, "called him a girl," and "used Shannon's friendship for his own benefit."

More troubling still, Rummel, according to police reports, threatened a woman with death and had stated that his older brother was a "high priest of Satan worshippers" who had previously disposed of bodies. Rummel stated that if he were to kill someone that he would "ground teeth" to avoid the body's identification.

According to witness depositions "immediately following the disappearance," Rummel frequented the sports bar where Shannon worked on a daily basis, inquiring about the investigation and he "had a new tattoo right after the disappearance of Shannon."

Shannon's disappearance has been treated from the beginning as a homicide. He left behind a baby girl; his money remained untouched in his bank account, and paychecks were waiting for him at the sports bar. His ATM card was never used again. Severely near-sighted, he couldn't have made it far without his contacts.

When Shannon missed a day at work, his mother Sally LaBau was overcome with unspeakable dread. From that point forward, his disappearance would be a mystery to his loved ones.

"He was the guy I looked up to the most and who I wanted to be like," says Shannon's nephew Jon Andersen. "He was smart and tough. When I heard that he was gone, it changed my life completely. Here was the strongest person I knew, and he was gone, and it had everything to do with who he thought was probably his best friend. He was

becoming the person he wanted to be – and that was all taken from him."

Shortly after Shannon's disappearance, on March 1, 1999, Steve Rummel purchased "a fairly expensive ring" for a girlfriend, "a 10K channel diamond band, ½ K diamond" that cost \$339, with an additional \$69 for a warranty, for a total of \$408."

An ex-law enforcement official, identified only as "OIC-16," detailed Rummel's "antagonistic" demeanor towards the police investigation, "almost bragging" that he had concealed facts and evidence from the police. According to another "ex-law enforcement official," whose name has been redacted, Steve "almost bragged about the fact that he had not told the police anything."

On June 8, 1999, Rummel showed up at a used-car lot in Helena and traded in the vehicle that he owned at the time of Shannon's disappearance, an orange 1976 Chevrolet K-1500 pickup truck, valued at \$3,200. When the Helena Police confiscated that vehicle for crime-lab analysis, according to investigative reports, the truck "was cleaned and detailed a few days before."

Two days after the police returned the vehicle to the car dealer's lot, it was stolen. There was no broken glass in the lot, according to documents, and "it is assumed that the person who stole the vehicle had an extra set of vehicle keys." It has never been seen since. The VIN number of the stolen vehicle was CK446F479080.

Over almost two decades now, Helena authorities have tracked down a number of tips regarding Shannon's whereabouts. Searches have been conducted by foot, with packs of cadaver dogs, and through overhead aerials. Authorities have searched streams and ditches, mine shafts and dark holes, even the cement plant that once employed Rummel's father.

One year after Shannon's disappearance, Steve Rummel was detained on a rape charge for a crime against a female committed in his pickup truck in Boulder, MT, violating his probation for a series of felony thefts and a possession-of-a-firearm conviction. In a federal court appearance in 2001, Rummel was remanded to custody of the marshals after a detention hearing where Helena police officer Mike Saindon testified that the only real lead in Shannon's case led to Rummel. Officer Saindon, an amateur pilot, told the judge that for some time he frequently flew above Helena and several other surrounding counties searching for any sign of an obvious geographical disturbance that might lead to discovering Shannon's body.

Rummel served his time on the rape charge in Jefferson County, and as a habitual violent offender, he must register his whereabouts with the state of Montana. According to the Montana Department of Justice sexual and violent offender database, Steven Lee Rummel still resides in Helena.

### DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD

In 2007, Sally LaBau had to face down the indignity and pain of declaring her son, Shannon Clair LaBau, legally dead.

"She didn't want to do it," recalls Pat Andersen. "She knew he was dead, even though she always held out that 0.5% hope that he wasn't. Mom declared him dead for [his daughter] and Leslie; so [his child] could collect Social Security. It was one of the hardest days of my life to see that. It was so traumatic and awful for her."

Most unsolved-murder victims are soon forgotten, outside a small circle of family and friends. Even notorious cases like this one fade in time. Many in Helena are far too young to remember Shannon's story as news. Indeed,

**Packaged in a hulking 6"3,**

**240-pound frame, Shannon Clair**

**LaBau's surface impression**

**sometimes intimidated others.**

**Clearly, he was a large, even**

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**fun-loving friend and father with a**

**perennial "goofy grin."**

since Sally LaBau died in 2007, shortly after Shannon was declared legally dead, other family members also have struggled to keep his memory aflame.

Who might Shannon LaBau be today? Would he have furthered his interest in computers? Would he own his own mechanic's shop? Perhaps culinary school would have been followed by a career of cooking the signature prime-rib dishes he loved to marinate and serve.

One thing Shannon LaBau would undoubtedly be today is a grandfather. In 2019, his daughter welcomed a son into the world. Earlier that same year, at her wedding celebration in Idaho, an empty chair was placed at the front row of the main aisle for her father.

"Shannon wasn't perfect but he was a good person," says Kari Weber, his half-sister. "He really had a good heart. He really would have grown into something good, a chef, a mechanic. I think about how he would be now, imagining him as a grandpa."

In the minds of Shannon's loved ones, there exists the hope that someone will eventually answer for his life.

"All these people [who might be holding information] are in their forties and have kids the same age as what Shannon was when he disappeared," says another half-sister, Pat Andersen.

"If that was your child, would you want people to come forward with the information that would bring your child home? All we want is to bring Shannon home. He never had a memorial; he never had a funeral. He deserves so much more." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

*Anyone with information regarding the disappearance of Shannon LaBau, may contact Crimestoppers at (406) 443-2000 or Helena Police Detective Danny David at ddavid@helenamt.gov.*



# SPOTLIGHT: COURTNEY MCKEE

STORIES OF BUTTE: HEADFRAME SPIRITS



Located at an elevation of five thousand feet, the headframe of the Kelley Mine in Butte stands among thirteen others speckled around the town, a remembrance of the copper mining that once took place beneath the ground. The Kelley Mine shut down in the 1970s, but an adjoining warehouse is now home to two Montana businesses: Headframe Spirits and Headframe Spirits Manufacturing. One is a distillery that produces a variety of spirits and the other hand-builds distillation machines that are sold around the world.

Courtney McKee and husband John McKee started working on the concept for a distillation business in Butte in 2010 during a rough time for their family. John's employer Bio-source Fuels shut down for good and John was the last out, taking white boards off the walls and finding new jobs for fellow employees.

"His job was to gather all of that stuff and it's awful, it's sort of like dismembering your dream," McKee remembers. "So, we needed to daydream about what would come next."

Courtney says she and her husband knew their disappointing circumstances were less than a good ending to a story but could be an opportunity for a launch point to a better next chapter.

"It was always about telling better stories," Courtney says.

The couple began to spend their evenings building business plans for something new and exciting, the concept for Headframe Spirits. They began conceptualizing a Butte-based distillery business to open in 2012 with an upgraded distillation technology they reimagined. The idea came from John's previous work experience distilling biofuels.

The vision and their dream would grow to become the reality of the Butte businesses Headframe Spirits and Manufacturing.

## DRAWN TO MONTANA

Courtney McKee says she fell in love with Montana when she attended the University of

Montana in Missoula. After graduation, she returned to her home state of Connecticut and for the next few years, found she would pine for Montana and wish to be back. A few years later in 2001, she was invited to a friend's Missoula wedding. At the wedding, she fell in love with a Butte boy.

"That was it," McKee says. "I called my Mom and said, 'I know this sounds ridiculous, but I just met the man I'm going to marry.'"

McKee returned to Connecticut and planned a move to Butte, giving notice at work and packing her things. Ironically, on her way to the wedding, she says she remembers seeing Butte from the interstate and wondering how anyone could ever live there. The town, however, soon charmed her beyond any doubt.

"I've been here and in love with this town ever since," McKee says. "All of a sudden the town was a different thing than what you see on the interstate. It looks old and worn out, but it's vibrant."

McKee says she now seeks to broadcast Butte's unique story around the state through the family business.

"A lot of the way we think at Headframe – the way we operate and the quality of care we give from a tourism standpoint – is around telling a better story to the people that need to hear it, and I was certainly one of those people. I had it all wrong," McKee explains of her first impressions of the Mining City.

## NEW MONTANA STORIES

Butte's Superfund history has a lot to do with its reputation around the state and the country. The long and arduous cleanup process has taken nearly four decades. On February 12, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency released a consent decree, or final agreement, of terms for the Butte Hill cleanup.

As Butte's mining legacy continues to shift course, Headframe Spirits plans to be a cornerstone for a reinvigorated community spirit and resilience.

One of the ways the business does this is through community partnerships and philanthropy.

"We are working to create a greater return than just financial value," McKee explains. "We are looking at ways to be of service and care about community. This is what we come from and why we are here. This is what we do."

Recently, Headframe Spirits partnered with Butte-Silver Bow County's Parks department to craft a brandy made with apples grown in Foreman's Park. The park was built on the re-mediated ground of the historic Mountain Con mine.

The limited run of brandy was made in conjunction with a Montana Parks conference to be held in Butte in April 2020. McKee said that the community partnership was a win on its own, but then she got a follow-up call from the parks department. The city arborist was



*Courtney McKee with a distillation column internal used in the distilling process at Headframe Spirits.*

planning their next phase of tree planting and wanted to know which apples worked best for Headframe Spirit's brandy.

"I can't even say how much that means. What a big deal, for the community to come back, it's overwhelmingly awesome," McKee says with sincere emotion and gratitude for the response of the community.

McKee says she seeks out community connections from all over the state.

Headframe is also partnering with Glacier National Park to create a new spirit in honor of former U.S. Senator Burton K. Wheeler. A politician from Butte, Wheeler also had a cabin in the park at the head of Lake MacDonald that is now being renovated with efforts from the Park, the Glacier Conservancy and other organizations.

The Wheeler property reverted to the Park Service in 2014 and was subsequently damaged in the Sprague Creek Fire of 2018. The main cabin structure remains intact, however and is a National Historic Preservation landmark where Wheeler met with Tribal leaders, hosted family and dignitaries and was frequently at the center of American policy often when in residence.

Headframe Spirits jumped in to add storytelling to the renovation efforts at the property. Their production manager Reade Huddleston worked with a botanist to create a "Rock and Bourbon" that is sweetened with rock candy and flavored with botanicals that can only be found within 100 yards of the cabin. The still-unnamed product is set to be released in May.

## GIVING BACK TO BUTTE

Beyond community partnership, Headframe also works to give back to the community.

On their Orphan Girl Bourbon Cream Liqueur bottles, the company has printed photos and descriptions of adoptable dogs on the labels. McKee says the idea originated from a community member. A portion of proceeds from each bottle of Orphan Girl is donated to the World Museum of Mining.

Additionally, Headframe chose four non-profit groups to fundraise for during the month of February. Their "Tasting Room," located Uptown, solicited donations for Big Hole River Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of

Butte Silver Bow and Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter and Safe Space, a domestic violence shelter.

Whatever is donated by customers, Headframe matches and then a community partner matches their match, meaning every dollar donated is tripled.

"It all happens because the community is generous," McKee says.

## FUTURE OF HEADFRAME SPIRITS

Distilleries brew spirits neither hoppy nor delicious on their own, according to McKee, and the distillation process separates the alcohol from the water. If the alcohol is clear, like vodka or gin, it goes into a bottle. Otherwise, the booze goes in a barrel and sits for some time. Wood from the barrel reacts with the alcohol to give it character.

Tucked inside the warehouse among rows of aging bourbons, ryes and more, stands one Oloroso Sherry barrel carrying 120 proof of something special: the whiskey the McKee's opened Headframe to make, an Irish-style single malt whiskey called "The Kelley."

"This was the vision," McKee shares. "We named the whiskey before it had even occurred to us that we would be at this site. The world just works like it's supposed to sometimes."

Headframe Spirits has been officially open for eight years. Their 2012 debut day was on a leap day so, on February 29, 2020, the business celebrated its second "official" birthday.

Each birthday, Headframe Spirits distills a whiskey to be debuted for the next. At this year's celebration, the limited edition "Little Darling 248" straight malt whiskey debuted, having aged four years since the last leap year.

As whiskey ages, the alcohol seeps through the wood staves and evaporates over time, giving each whiskey a unique character. The evaporative loss is nicknamed the "Angel's share."

"It just disappears into the ether," McKee explains.

For the next Leap Year's "Little Darling," McKee wants those who enjoy the whiskey to contribute to its production.

"This year, I want people to write their aspirations, hopes and visions for the next four years in sharpie on the barrel," McKee notes. "As whiskey is evaporating and disappearing, maybe some of those for the next four years will get carried away to the heavens. It sure can't hurt."

McKee says there is no right way to drink their distilled beverages, but she encourages drinking in each distilled spirit's story along with the new memories to be made. Will it be the kind of story where the special glasses and ice are pulled out or is it the kind of day to drink the good stuff neat out of a plain tumbler?

"I say drink it the way it makes you happy," McKee says.

Cheers to that! ★

—GENEVA ZOLTEK







# MONTANA CRAFT DISTILLERIES

## A FIELD GUIDE TO SPIRITS ACROSS THE STATE

**ASYLUM DISTILLERY**  
2223 MONTANA AVE  
BILLINGS, MONTANA  
(406) 200-7022

Owners Robert Ochsner and Ted Reichert launched Asylum Distillery in downtown Billings in March 2018. The distillery features a tasting room and produces vodka, gin, rum, and whiskey from locally-sourced ingredients. Reichert also produces specialty spirits of flavored moonshine.

**TRAILHEAD SPIRITS**  
1400 S 24TH ST. WEST  
BILLINGS, MONTANA  
WWW.TRAILHEADSPIRITS.COM  
(406) 969-1627

In 2013, Casey and Steffanie McGowan opened Trailhead Spirits in a brick building in the Billings Depot complex. The distillery and tasting room relocated to the West End of Billings in January 2019 where it continues producing award-winning vodka, gin and a rye, wheat and chocolate-flavored whiskey.

Spirits are manufactured in a 300-liter hand hammered copper still with a towering 16 plate column which was designed by Arnold Holstein of Markdorf, Germany

Spanning four generations and over 125 years, the McGowens are part of a family history of farming, distilling and marketing spirits to Montanans. In 1889, Casey's great-grandfather Frank McGowan was one of the original homesteaders in the "Golden Triangle" of north-central Montana. Although oats and hay were the predominant crops before the turn of the century, wheat and barley began to take hold as the grains of choice as equipment and techniques improved. Wheat from the original farmland of the McGowan family is the primary source of grains for Trailhead's distilled products.

Casey's other great-grandfather Michael Healy arrived from Ireland to Butte in the early 1900s. He owned several liquor establishments in Montana and during Prohibition, he used the establishments to sell tobacco, coffee, and candy in the front of the house while successfully running speakeasies behind closed walls. Healy was well-known as a moon-shining bootlegger but was also positioned well politically within his circle

of friends including law enforcement, attorneys and

judges. Upon retirement he sold the iconic back bar from his most famous establishment, the "Radio Bar," as a gesture to a friend for \$1. The oak masterpiece made its way up the Missouri River on steam boat to Fort Benton, was moved by horse and cart to Butte and can be seen today in use at the historic Pioneer Bar in Virginia City.

**CRAWFORD DISTILLERY**  
115 FOURTH AVENUE  
HAVRE, MONTANA  
(406) 262-0461

In July 2018, Neil and Alyssa Crawford opened the Crawford Distillery in Havre after working on the project for nearly five years. Crawford took classes in Kentucky at Moonshine University in the basics of distilling and now vodka, whiskey and bourbon are distilled at the facility, in addition to rum and moonshine.

The tasting room at the distillery has a menu of mixed drinks including Sweetgrass Sweet Tea and the Apple Pie Moscow Mule, a mixed drink made with Milk River Moonshine. The names of the drinks offered at the tasting room are tied to the local area and each bulk bottle has an anecdote about Havre on the label.



*A Cinnamon Dolce Latte featuring Crawford Distillery's signature Great Northern Rum.*

**BOZEMAN SPIRITS DISTILLERY**  
121 W MAIN ST  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
WWW.BOZEMANSPIRITS.COM  
(406) 577-2155

Mary Pat and Jim Harris founded and own Bozeman Spirits Distillery and since 2014, their distillery has been producing Bourbon whiskeys, three vodkas, gin, mescal/tequila and aged rum using "as many Montana grains as possible."

The Montana 1889 whiskey, created with a blend of malted barley, rye and corn and aged a minimum of 12 months, is named for the first year of Montana statehood. With their bourbon now in the five year range, the Distillery offers some of the oldest Montana-made bourbon in the state. Bozeman Spirits recently opened Union Hall Brewery next door to the distillery and have begun using the brewery equipment to make a traditional Single Malt Whiskey.

All the malted barley and rye used in the distilling process is Montana-sourced including the "pure Rocky Mountain water."

**WILDRYE DISTILLING**  
111 E OAK ST #1E  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
WWW.WILDRYEDISTILLING.COM  
(406) 577-2288

Wildrye founder and owner Phil Sullivan has a PhD in organic chemistry and still teaches the occasional course at Montana State University. Sullivan hails from Tennessee moonshiner stock; his grandfather ran a still outside of Gatlinburg during Prohibition.

"It was a time when banks were few and often distrusted, and rural people commonly used hooch as currency," Sullivan says.

Sullivan's brother-in-law, Matt Moeller is partner in the venture. Moeller grew up on a farm in the Bitterroot Valley that his father still owns and runs. The idea for the distillery grew partly out of the annual problem of what to do with bushels of unsold sweet corn on the Moeller farm at the end of every summer. Wildrye has since launched Sweetcorn Bourbon Whiskey made from this unsold corn.

Wildrye's spiced rum is made from Montana sugar beets. Their signature delicacy—Wildrye Apple Pie—is made from a blend of Montana apple cider (with apples from Moeller's dad's neighbors), bourbon, and apple pie spices.

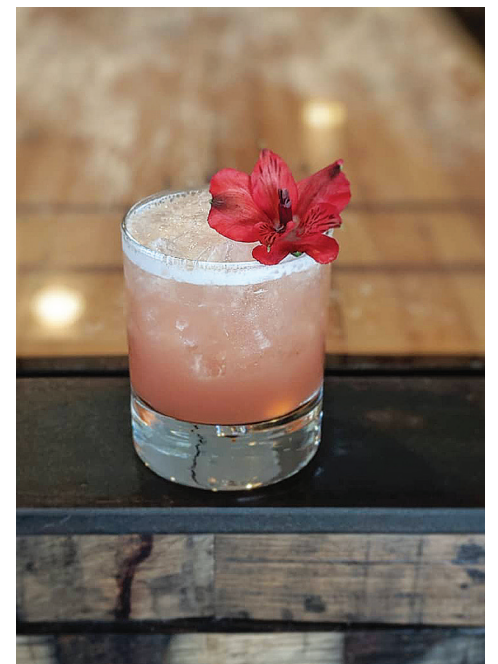
**DRY HILLS DISTILLERY**  
106 VILLAGE CENTER LANE  
FOUR CORNERS, MONTANA  
WWW.DRYHILLSDISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 624-6713

Dry Hills Distillery and tasting room opened in the spring of 2016 in Four Corners. Jeff and Erica Droge are the managing members of the distillery. Both attended Moonshine University and developed a business plan for a Montana distillery utilizing his 19 years of farming experience and her decade of work in the marketing industry.

All the products created at Dry Hills Distillery are sourced from the Droge family farms in Montana.

The Droge family operates a fifth-generation farm in the Manhattan area known as the Dry Hills and another family operation known as London Hills Farm in the Harrison area. Between the two family farms, several hundred acres of certified seed potatoes and several thousand acres of mixed cereal grains are raised. The idea for a distillery emerged after realizing that about five to eight percent of their seed potato harvest was being thrown away every year for cosmetic reasons.

Currently, the distillery is producing two vodkas, a gin made from potatoes and a wheat whiskey in production.



*The Hibiskey Sour: Made with Dry Hills Distillery Bin 7 Wheat Whiskey, hibiscus simple syrup, lemon juice and lime juice*



# MONTANA CRAFT DISTILLERIES



**WILLIE'S DISTILLERY**  
312 MAIN STREET  
ENNIS, MONTANA  
WWW.WILLIESDISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 682-4117

Willie's Distillery was established in 2010 by founders Willie and Robin Blazer to showcase local, Montana ingredients.

Willie Blazer, originally from Appalachian moonshine country in western North Carolina, is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and U.S. Forest Service and his wife Robin is currently president of the Montana Distiller's Guild.

Spirits distilled at Willie's include a Montana Moonshine and a Honey Moonshine that have won gold medals at the Los Angeles Crafts Spirits Awards. Their Snowcrest Vodka, Bighorn Bourbon (*pictured above*), Canadian Whiskey, Coffee Liqueur and Huckleberry Cream Liqueur have also won awards around the country and their Chokecherry Liqueur won first place at the Chokecherry Festival in Lewiston, Montana in 2014.

The distillery uses a copper pot made specifically for their company by Bavarian Holstein Stills in Germany. Using Montana-grown produce and corn, barley and oats, they distill spirits and bottle, label, cork and pack all of their spirits by hand. Their tasting room is located at the distillery on Main Street in Ennis.

**HEADFRAME SPIRITS**  
21 SOUTH MONTANA STREET  
BUTTE, MONTANA  
WWW.HEADFRAMESPIRITS.COM  
(406) 299-2886

In 2010, John and Courtney McKee founded Headframe Spirits "in celebration of Butte's spirit."

Named one of the *U.S.A. Today* top ten best craft specialty spirits distilleries in the country, Headframe Spirits takes their name from the headframes that lowered miners hundreds of feet into the earth beneath the streets of Butte and, in particular, the historic building at 21 South Montana Street where the distillery and tasting room is located.

Each spirit produced pays tribute to the mines of Butte, Montana, noting the history of a specific mine and those who worked there on the label. Spirits are produced using grain from Montana fields: winter wheat, rye, corn and barley. (*See sidebar on page 10.*)

**GULCH DISTILLERS**  
790 FRONT STREET  
HELENA, MONTANA  
WWW.GULCHDISTILLERS.COM  
(406) 449-2393

Helena's only microdistillery is located in the former Montana Distillery and Bottling Warehouse at the north end of Helena's historic Last Chance Gulch. Launched in 2016 as a partnership project between by Tyrrell Hibbard and Steffen Rasile, the distillery uses as many Montana grains and herbs as possible in the process of crafting spirits. In crafting their recent Gulch's Neighborhood Apple Brandy, they even asked the community for apples in exchange for free drinks.

They distill gin, rum, fernet, and vodka and continue to distill and age whiskey. Gulch Distillers Amari, a bittersweet liquor, was recently highlighted on liquor.com, noting a "beautifully balanced blend of saffron, chamomile, mint, myrrh, rhubarb and other local botanicals macerated in a Montana-sourced grain base."

Gulch Distiller's Purple Prairie Barley Whiskey is an entire local grain economy in a bottle. It's made in Helena out of malted barley from a maltster in Great Falls, wheat from Townsend and barley from Timeless Seeds in Ulm.

Gulch Distillers won Gold, Best in Class and Best in Show for its Burrone Fernet, a specialty spirit made with a variety of botanicals, at the American Craft Sprits Competition in February 2019. Best of Show is the ultimate honor bestowed at the event which is hosted by America's only national registered nonprofit trade association for U.S. craft spirits.

**STONEHOUSE DISTILLERY**  
37 MUFFLEY LANE  
WINSTON, MONTANA  
WWW.STONEHOUSE-DISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 465-2816

In 2014, John and Snezhi Grahler founded Stonehouse Distillery in Winston, Montana to handcraft small-batch rum and whiskey.

Snezhi's family recipes were perfected over years in Bulgaria where the art of handcrafting spirits was traditionally passed down from one generation to another. John came to Montana from Germany where his family was involved in developing various clear grain spirits, typically called "Korn," the German word for grain.

Stonehouse Distillery crafts a variety of spirits including Montana white and dark rum, cream liqueurs, sweet corn whiskey, and rye and wheat whiskey. The Winston Wheat Whiskey is made from wheat grown within a few miles from the Winston distillery by farming neighbors.

All the spirits are created in-house by grinding grain, mashing with water naturally filtered through local limestone deposits, fermenting in single-batches and then using a copper pot still handmade in Portugal specifically for use in the Stonehouse Distillery to extract the finished product.

**STEEL TOE DISTILLERY**  
23545 MONTANA HIGHWAY 200  
POTOMAC, MONTANA  
WWW.STEELTOEDISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 244-4567

Owned and operated by Carl and Christina Bock, Steel Toe was established in 2013. All of their current recipes are sugar-based liquors or "good whiskey" as Carl Bock refers to it. All Steel Toe Distillery products are distilled and bottled on site. No coloring, additives, or artificial flavorings are added in the distilling process.

Specialty spirits include Uncle Carl's Prohibition Whiskey, crafted using selective moonshine techniques and flavored and colored in five-gallon charred oak casks from the Gibbs Brothers Cooperedge in Arkansas. Show Pony Gin, a tasting gin infused with Juniper berries and traditional botanicals is also available along with Settler's Tea, a black tea-infused liqueur infused with mint and rose hips.

A tasting room at the distillery, located on Highway 200 across from the Johnsrud Fishing Access, is open daily and bottles are available for purchase.

**RATTLESNAKE CREEK DISTILLERS**  
MISSOULA, MONTANA  
RATTLESNAKECREEKDISTILLERS.COM  
(406) 239-5050

Having grown up in the Rattlesnake, Missoula's northern neighborhood bisected by Rattlesnake Creek, brothers Sean and Dan Hogan named the craft distillery they opened in 2014 Rattlesnake Creek Distillers after their childhood stomping grounds.

"Distilling Montana grains in small batches and controlling every aspect of the process from grain to glass," the Hogan brothers create 200 to 250 bottles of each product, which are hand-labeled and marked with batch and bottle numbers.

The distillery features a Crystal Springs Gin with water from the Crystal Springs south of Havre, a Circle Square Vodka named after Missoula's historic downtown, and light, malt and bourbon whiskeys crafted from Montana grains. A new tasting room is under construction in Missoula.

**MONTGOMERY DISTILLERY**  
129 W FRONT STREET  
MISSOULA, MONTANA  
WWW.MONTGOMERYDISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 926-1725

Owners Ryan and Jenny Montgomery attended apprenticeships and courses in herbology and distilling around the world before opening the Montgomery Distillery in 2014.

Following five generations of family agriculture, the owners of Montgomery Distillery produce small-batch vodka, gin and whiskey. Visitors to the tasting room bar in Missoula can sample the popular Go Gingerly cocktail made with Whyte Laydie gin, muddled ginger, basil and grapefruit.

Montgomery Distillery crafts spirits exclusively from Montana-grown grain, wheat and rye, using grains from the Montgomery family ranch near Lewistown, Montana.

**WESTSLOPE DISTILLERY**  
172 S 2ND STREET  
HAMILTON, MONTANA  
WWW.WESTSLOPEDIST.COM  
(406) 375-5590

Will and Suzan Young opened Westslope Distillery in 2018 and started making spirits distilled in small batches using ingredients sourced from farms and fields throughout Montana. They also utilize locally-sourced ingredients in their Hamilton tasting room.



*Mojo Magic: Westslope Distillery Sweet Sting Honey Spirit, House of Ferments kombucha, lemon, lavender honey and lemon zest.*

The Westslope Distillery's Sweet Sting Honey Spirit is handcrafted in small batches using dark mead made from local Montana honey. The mead is sourced from Hidden Legend Winery in Victor, Montana. Another product, Lost Trail Rye Vodka is made with 100% Montana-grown Rye. It was the first rye vodka to be commercially distilled in the state of Montana.

A rum, gin, barrel-aged apple brandy, barrel-aged honey spirit & single malt American whiskey are also in production.

**THE MONTANA DISTILLERY**  
631 WOODY STREET  
MISSOULA, MONTANA  
WWW.THEMTDISTILLERY.COM  
(406) 541-1889

The Montana Distillery is owned by Mark Hlebichuk and Sharie McDonald. All spirits are distilled on-site using Montana ingredients. The distillery originated in the Flathead area as Flathead Distillers before moving to Missoula. After renovating a building built in the early 1900s, The Montana Distillery opened a distilled spirits plant and tasting room in 2014 in the historic railroad district of Missoula.

A variety of award-winning spirits are distilled from Montana sugar beets. The Woody Street Premium Vodka is named for the street where the vodka is distilled and Fallen Dove Gin is made with six botanicals including a touch of juniper.



**FIREROOT DISTILLERY**  
5066 HOBLITT LANE  
FLORENCE, MONTANA  
WWW.FIREROOTSPIRITS.COM  
(406) 792-5270

Jesse Spaulding and Hannah Weinert, owners of FireRoot Spirits, distill and distribute brandy and spirits with a focus on produce available near Florence. They planted their own apple orchard with cider and brandy variety apples to use in creating award-winning brandies.

All products at FireRoot Spirits are distilled from apples. An average of 25 pounds of apples goes into every bottle of FireRoot Gin. Another product of the distillery, Apple Jill, is an apple brandy blended with fresh cider and aged in new American oak.

They also produce a vodka, Apple Jack, and a coffee liquor in collaboration with Hunter Bay Coffee in Lolo.

**LOLO CREEK DISTILLERY**  
6610 US HIGHWAY 12  
LOLO, MONTANA  
(406) 926-2803

Matt and Kasie Grunow are the latest in three generations of Lolo business owners to serve spirits to the small community of residents and tourists at Lolo Pass.

Matt's grandfather started with the Road Runner Bar, and his own parents Mike and Judy opened a grocery store, laundromat, liquor store, and the Lolo Creek Steak House.

Grunow opened the Lolo Creek distillery in 2017 just above the Lolo Creek Steak House.

The distillery and tasting room is situated on family property with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

The craft distilling philosophy at Lolo Creek is "grain-to-bottle, utilizing Golden Triangle grains and local botanicals in the distilling process."

Spirits include Honey Huckleberry Vodka, other varieties of plain and infused gin and vodka and a whiskey released in 2019. Local ingredients are used whenever possible in the distilling process and in the tasting room.



*A Hot Toddy made with Glacier Distilling Company Single-malt whiskey.*

**VILYA SPIRITS**  
101 EAST CENTER STREET, SUITE 104  
KALISPELL, MONTANA  
WWW.VILYASPIRITS.COM  
(406) 314-6544

Vilya Spirits specializes in small batch, artisan beverages with an emphasis on quality, cultivated rare alpine herbs. Originally opened in 2009 as Ridge Distillery in Northwest Montana, Ridge's first product, Silver-tip American Dry Gin, became available in August of 2010, and soon both of the Ridge Distillery Absinthe offerings joined their gin.

Vilya now operates a distillery and cocktail lounge/tasting room in Kalispell.

Vilya Spirits Absinthe Verte and Absinthe Blanche have both won a variety of awards around the country. Vilya still produces an award-winning Silvertip Dry Gin and a Wild Huckleberry Liqueur in addition to a number of absinthe offerings.

**WHISTLING ANDY DISTILLERY**  
8541 MONTANA HIGHWAY 35  
BIGFORK, MONTANA  
WWW.WHISTLINGANDY.COM  
(406) 837-2620

Whistling Andy Distillery opened New Year's Eve, 2010 in Bigfork, Montana and has since created award-winning spirits in an array of styles and flavors using select local grains sourced from two local farms, local cherries, first cut cane sugar and locally-sourced botanicals whenever possible. Whistling Andy spirits have garnered awards from tasting panels across the Pacific Northwest. The Pink Peppercorn & Pear Gin scored 92 Points from *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* and was rated one of the "Top 100 Spirits of 2017." Other spirits include three different types of whiskey, two rums, two gins, vodka and a spirit called Hopshnop, distilled from craft beer.

**GLACIER DISTILLING COMPANY**  
10237 U.S. HIGHWAY 2 E  
CORAM, MONTANA  
WWW.GLACIERDISTILLING.COM  
(406) 387-9887

Nicolas and Victoria Lee opened Glacier Distilling Company in 2010. Taking a cue from Josephine Doody, a moonshiner who operated from her homestead on Harrison Creek in Glacier National Park during the early 1900s, the distillery first released an un-aged rye whiskey that could be produced and sold in a matter of months, instead of years.

Seven years later, Glacier Distilling Company's North Fork whiskey was a Gold Medal winner at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and the company now distills a wide variety of spirits including bourbon and barrel-aged malt and rye whiskey, rum, gin, brandies, grappa, herbal liqueurs, and even absinthe, using local botanicals. Their Daughter of the Sun cherry liqueur features red cherries from Flathead Lake distilled, barrel-aged and blended with cherry juice, equaling over 15 pounds of cherries packed in each bottle.

The distillery and tasting room are located just outside of Glacier Park and West Glacier in Coram, Montana on U.S. Highway 2.

## A HIGH PROOF EDUCATION: MOONSHINE UNIVERSITY

Many Montana distillers have attended Moonshine University in Kentucky as part of their distilling training.

Moonshine University is the educational arm of the Distilled Spirits Epicenter in Louisville, Kentucky, where aspiring distillers or mixologists can take classes on making and mixing spirits.

Long-form professional courses are offered for amateur and professional distillers at Moonshine University, including a six-day whiskey distiller course, marketing workshops, fermentation courses, and continuing education for professional distillers growing their businesses and looking to specialize in whiskey, gin, absinthe and other spirits.

MU features professional stills, a lab, and classrooms for aspiring distillers to learn the art and science of creating spirits.

The structure of the initial distilling education program is based around producing whiskey, including bourbon and rye, but the curriculum is also offered for gin, rum, brandy, and other spirits and includes background education about the history, laws, and stylistic differences within the spirit being studied and crafted.

The whiskey course is the longest and most popular course at MU, beginning with a focus on the primary taste influence. For this reason, all visiting whiskey-makers go through a pre-interview process to assess and narrow their preferences and make sure the proper ingredients are on hand. Instruction includes distilling and sensory



training to choose between the good stuff and the heads and tails, which are high in impurities and are tossed.

Each instruction session is private and can be catered to a specific group or course of study, whether whiskey-making, marketing and sales or crafting spirits from botanicals.

MU also offers a whiskey course for amateurs entitled "My Craft Distillery," designed for private groups of up to four and including two hotel rooms throughout the lessons. The specialty course is an investment at about \$18,000 for four participants but it also includes crafting a signature spirit and two years of storage in aged barrels before being bottled. Participants can expect about 250 bottles of their whiskey to be ready about two years after completing the course.

**For more information about courses for professional and amateur spirit-making, visit:**  
**www.moonshineuniversity.com**

**WHITEFISH HANDCRAFTED SPIRITS**  
2134 U.S. HIGHWAY 2  
KALISPELL, MONTANA  
WWW.WHITEFISHSPIRITS.COM  
(406) 890-2300

Whitefish Handcrafted Spirits offers spirits such as Orange Clove Rum, Montana Wheat Vodka, Botanical Gin, Huckleberry Liquor and Cranberry Moon (a cranberry juice whiskey) along with a Rock Creek Vodka, a Highline Whiskey and a Contraband clear whiskey. They also craft an agave liquor. Whitefish Handcrafted Spirits also serves a full menu in their tasting room in Kalispell.

**SPOTTED BEAR SPIRITS**  
503 RAILWAY STREET  
WHITEFISH, MONTANA  
WWW.SPOTTEDBEARSPIRITS.COM  
(406) 730-2436

Opened in downtown Whitefish in 2016 by Lauren Oscilowski, a former employee at Glacier Distilling Company, Spotted Bear Spirits is named for the Spotted Bear Ranger District, part of the nearby Flathead National Forest Tasting room offerings include cocktails made with local and organic ingredients and bottle sales of small-batch craft spirits.

In addition to vodka, gin and agave, Spotted Bear Spirits produces a coffee liqueur using Montana Coffee Traders fair trade coffee and house cellos, versions of limoncello using sage, yarrow, basil, rosemary, juniper and wormwood among other Montana botanicals



**MONTANA WHISKEY COMPANY**  
MONTANAWHISKEYCO.COM  
(406) 493-0828

Montana Whiskey Co., Montana's newest distillery, released its first two whiskey offerings to Montana liquor stores in December 2019.

Montana Whiskey Co. owns a 600-liter, German-built Kothe still at its warehouse, and continues work to make it operational on top of the work of blending and bottling. A whiskey-oriented "rye vodka," a barrel-aged gin, and whiskey, of course, are in the works.

Montana Whiskey Co. has no tasting room at this time, preferring to focus on high-quality production for now. ★



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

The monthly calendar is a sampling of events and activities across the state. Please send updates to: [info@montanapress.net](mailto:info@montanapress.net).

### Sunday, March 1

**Billings**  
“**Inside Out**,” stage play, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Acoustic Brunch: Juan Soria**, singer/songwriter, 12 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628  
“**Big Fish**,” musical play, 3 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**Scottish Folk Ensemble**, folk music, 5 p.m., Townshend’s Tea, Bozeman, 577-2740  
**Mercedes Carroll**, Americana, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403  
**Chris Cunningham**, folk, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492  
**Helena**  
**Celtic Music Brunch**, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393  
**Missoula**  
**Old Time Fiddle Jam**, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

### Monday, March 2

**Statewide**  
“**Unprotected Wildlands**,” presentation with “Outdoor Life,” editor and photographer Andrew McKean, 6:30 p.m., Sean R. Heavey Photography, Glasgow, 942-0103  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Rome and Duddy**, acoustic rock/rap/reggae, Danny Bee, rock/Americana, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Bluegrass Jam**, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855  
**Improv on the Verge**, comedy show, 7 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737  
**Helena**  
**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

### Tuesday, March 3

**Billings**  
**Writer’s Circle**, open session on first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Second Floor Conference room, Billings Public Library, 243-6022  
**Traditional Irish music session**, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458  
**Wes Urbaniak and Anna Paige**, folk, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Soul Asylum**, indie-rock, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Voluntary Commitment**, harmonies/jazz, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804  
**Helena**  
**The Road Agents**, Americana/bluegrass, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777  
**Butte**  
**The Spongebob Musical**, Broadway show, 7 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602  
**Missoula**  
**Todd Lankton and The Family Band**, comedy, 8 p.m., The Badlander, Missoula, 549-0235



SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL IN BUTTE

### Wednesday, March 4

**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Joe Knapp**, roots/rock, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124  
**Aaron Banfield**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403  
“**The Rise of Wolf**,” reading/signing with Rick McIntyre, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166  
**Pickin’ in the Parks**, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290  
**Bar IX Comedy Open Mic**, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185  
**Missoula**  
“**A Doll’s House: Part Two**,” comedy play, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**Hippie Sabotage**, jam band, 7 p.m., Grace Potter, soul/rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

### Thursday, March 5

**Billings**  
**The ParNicularly ReNicolous Variety Show and Open Mic**, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Lunatic Fringe**, classic rock/country, 7:30 p.m., Levity Bar and Bistro, Billings, 651-5985  
**Projectile Comedy**, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Open Range**, country/swing, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505  
**Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., bluegrass, Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399  
**Acoustic Roll**, classic rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492  
**Larry Hirshberg**, folk/rock, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Blake Brightman**, country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482  
**Helena**  
**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729  
**Goldy Vox**, indie rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960  
**Great Falls**  
**Weekly Irish Seisiun**, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393  
**Missoula**  
**Wolf and the Moons**, Americana, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592  
**Hippie Sabotage**, electronic, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521  
“**A Doll’s House: Part Two**,” comedy play, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**Atari Ferrari**, rock, 9 p.m., The Badlander, Missoula, 549-0235  
**Panther Car**, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749  
**Missoula Homegrown Comedy**, 10 p.m., Union Club, Missoula, 728-7980



### THE ROAD AGENTS

Playing Country & Rock and Roll  
**March 3** - Broadwater - Helena  
**March 15** - MAP Brewing - Bozeman

### Friday, March 6

**Statewide**  
**Dan Dubuque**, rock/folk, 5 p.m., Gally’s Brewing Company, Harlo, 632-5838  
**Fracture**, rock, Snow Creek Saloon, Red Lodge, 9 p.m., (888) 281-0625  
**Billings**  
“**Inside Out**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535  
**Amanda Shires**, country/rock, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Sanctuary**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111  
**Ken Patterson Tribute**, rock, 9 p.m., Ten at the Northern Hotel, 867-6767  
**Art of Comedy with Charlie Mulluk**, 10 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Open Mic Night**, 6 p.m., Wild Joe’s Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212  
**Bozeman Symphony presents “Enigma,”** classical, 6:30 p.m., Willson Auditorium, 585-9774  
**Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs**, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628  
**Jazz night with Alex Robilotta**, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399  
“**Big Fish**,” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**Arterial Drive**, rhythm/rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**Randy McAllister**, roadhouse soul, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106  
**Bubba Fett**, space cowboys, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Helena**  
**Whitey Morgan**, acoustic, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Public Library, Helena, 447-1690  
**KneeJurk**, rock, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980  
**Great Falls**  
**Soulshine**, rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388  
**Butte**  
**Seamus Egan Project**, celtic/folk, 6 p.m., Covellite Theatre, Butte, 498-6869  
**Missoula**  
“**A Doll’s House: Part Two**,” comedy play, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**Cold Sweat**, hip-hop, 9 p.m., Monk’s Bar, Missoula, [info@monksbarmt.com](mailto:info@monksbarmt.com)  
**Stick and String**, folk, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



### AMANDA SHIRES

**March 6** - Pub Station - Billings  
**March 7** - Top Hat - Missoula  
Texas-born road warrior, new mom, and recently minted MFA in creative writing Amanda Shires has mined a range of musical influences to reveal a new phase of her singer/songwriter/violinist career. Winner of the Americana Association’s 2017 Emerging Artist award, Shires’ influences include Leonard Cohen and John Prine, the latter of whom has been her mentor.

### Saturday, March 7

**Billings**  
“**Inside Out**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535  
**The Return of the Buddha**, acoustic/eclectic, 7:30 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Sanctuary**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111  
**Livingston/Bozeman**  
**Bo DePena**, Americana, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505  
**Dave Provost**, singer/songwriter, 6 p.m., Wild Joe’s Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212  
**Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs**, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628 SOLD OUT  
**Fuuls, Bull Market and Panther Car**, rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776  
“**Big Fish**,” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**Arterial Drive**, rhythm/rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**SunsAh406**, rock/folk, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482  
**The Fossils**, hippie rock, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106  
**Squirrel Gravy**, country/jam, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Helena**  
**Yarn**, Americana, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960  
**Great Falls**  
**Trent Brooks Band**, country, 8 p.m., Beacon Icehouse, Great Falls, 727-1477  
**Liquor Down**, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388  
**Whiskey Revival**, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471  
**50 Watt Sun**, grunge rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388  
**90 Proof Sin**, rock, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471  
**Missoula**  
**Sundogs**, folkgrass, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592  
“**A Doll’s House: Part Two**,” comedy play, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**Amanda Shires**, alt-country, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980  
**Drew Danbury**, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749



### JOHN FLORIDIS

This Missoula-based guitarist, singer-songwriter and composer has released seven recordings mixing bluesy, folk-rock vocal tunes with adventurous solo acoustic guitar compositions. His most recent recording is *Live From 11th and Grant*, the soundtrack from his Northwest Emmy Award-winning performance for the Montana PBS program of the same name. Floridis plays a number of dates across the state, including: March 12 at Bozeman Hot Springs, March 21 at Draught Works in Missoula and April 1 at Outlaw Brewing in Bozeman



## BEYOND BILLINGS: JESSICA EVE SPREADS HER MUSICAL WINGS

Jessica Eve's first big tour furnished her with a sense of well-rounded and hard-earned experience. With a mind chock-full of vivid memories, she's prepared to embark on a new excursion.

"Early in 2019, we had a CD release party for Next Train Home, and then took off to Texas and Nashville, and it was a test," says Billings singer-songwriter Eve.

Though grateful for the enduring support and solid backing in Billings, Eve wanted her most recent material to be shared and heard outside the confines of her home city and state. The slog east required much effort, but even trying felt like real progress.

"It went fantastic, and we played wonderful venues. I plan to leave again come March, and get back out on the road. The music scene around here is fantastic. You could call and ask to play places and there is enough to keep me very busy – and that's great. Branching out takes more work. We sold a bunch of CDs on the first tour, and it felt successful to me."

Raised in Pompeys Pillar in Yellowstone County, Eve's first guitar was presented to her at age 17, a gift from her parents, who, as it happened, delivered the instrument with a touch of suspense.

"I had hinted, not very discreetly, that I really wanted a guitar. Christmas Eve is when we open our presents. I was done opening presents, and there was no guitar. There I am pretending to be happy with everything that I had. Mom and Dad had hidden the guitar and pulled it out very last. It was the coolest and most amazing gift that I've ever gotten."

Around that time, the thought of crooning as a career shimmied itself into her mind.

"As an irrational career goal, I also wanted to be in the rodeo. I wanted to be like Chris LeDoux, a singer and in the rodeo. But I had no horses, no idea of the rodeo. As I got older, singing just stuck with me."

### FIRST GIG AT MACKENZIE RIVER

At age 18, Eve worked at the MacKenzie River Pizza grill and pub in Billings Heights. She asked her boss if she could reorganize her schedule to play at a monthly event called Full Moon Music Night.

"He was hesitant," Eve recalls with a laugh. "Now he says that he wasn't. A friend of mine, Trevor Krieger, played fiddle with me. It was kind of a magical, wonderful full moon there at MacKenzie River. And from there I did open mics at Yellowstone Valley Brewing a lot. I played at local churches around town, eventu-



ally met Becky Sappinton, and we started the Jaded Ladies. I learned so much from Trevor and Becky, mentoring me, and their helping to navigate for me what it's like to be a musician in Billings."

### PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE

For over a decade now Jessica has cornered the local market, singing for whoever will listen, finding new things to muse about along the way and writing about them. She even added a new instrument to her repertoire, made especially for solo gigs, "a red-neck drum kit," as she calls it.

"I took a stool and connected a tambourine to it, and I use an old Samsonite suitcase as the bass drum, and I play some percussion. I see the reaction from people when I do that, and it makes a big difference... You can't just sing the song and have a reaction. You have to believe in what you are singing, and need to put yourself into that mindset, and that's the only way that you reach people."

While the city might not be as commonly correlated with the arts as Missoula or Bozeman, Billings is definitely an up-and-coming place in that regard, one that meets almost all of Jessica's genuine needs as a musician.

"The scene in Billings is growing and growing, and what's happening at The Pub Station is providing Billings with so much more music through town than ever. There are people who now stop in Billings who never before had a place to play here.

"That opens up opportunities for people like me, and local talent to open for these people. People come out to see bigger names and find out about local musicians who they never knew existed. If you are looking for live music in Billings, you can find a place to play – wineries, breweries – just about every night of the week."

While perhaps still best-known as a soloist, Eve increasingly enlists another musician or

even a full band to complement her act on stage.

"It's harder to be hired as a soloist because everyone is looking for a band. We need at least a duo, is what they say. The thinking often is that one person just can't get a crowd going. Which is not true. I have to argue my point at a lot of places, even here in Montana. I have to promise that I will do the same thing that a two-piece or three-piece could do – and get the same reaction. I tell them if they'd give me a chance, I would not disappoint."

### NEEDING TO BE HEARD

At 32, Eve has no purist attitudes about her style of artistic expression or about the state of today's commercial music. Won over by the popular country hits of the 1990s, she's also been heavily influenced by a number of her parents' favorite recordings, including the works of Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, and Montana's own Mission Mountain Wood Band. "I really enjoyed what Rob Quist did. I think that he got me wanting to perform and wanting to do this."

Whether you hear country, new country, or folk, or something else in her voice and variety, that doesn't concern her; she is growing as an artist by the day, aware that it's the claps and whistles from the folks in the seats that ultimately signal the response of greatest import.

"I look to get out there to connect with people," says Eve. "Live music is at the heart and soul of the music scene now. People might not want to buy the CD, but they might come to see you play, or follow you online, or see where it is you are playing next. That people want to take them home [your own original songs] – it's pretty incredible. I'm grateful that there is the need for live music and singer-songwriters. And that something that means so much to me, and could still mean so much to them."



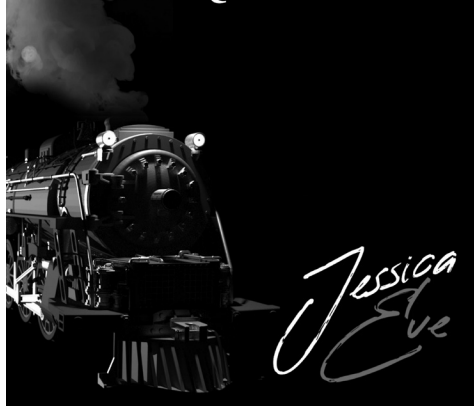
The artist in Jessica Eve is wholly aware that she has long since crossed the Rubicon, to turn back, while not inconceivable, would be too heartrending, a cruel depravation of sorts. "If I decided to be done with music, I could do it, but I'd never be as happy as I am now. This is the way that my life is going to be. I'm going to continue to build on what I've built so far."

Where Eve's train is bound not even she could prophesize, but it's patently obvious that she's her own conductor, engineering her own locomotive. Clearly there will be future opportunities for Jessica to consistently eke out a living as an opening act or small folk room headliner. Buoyed by such prospects, it's hard for her to not get caught up in the galloping excitement of it all.

"It makes me feel successful when I'm out there playing and when people are into it," says Eve. "When they tell me that they love a certain song, or when I feel as if I'm being in the middle of it, it's pretty incredible." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

### NEXT TRAIN HOME





## TINSLEY ELLIS: BLUES ROCK MAGIC

**“H**e Sings Like a Man Possessed, and Wields a Mean Lead Guitar.”

The quote above comes from a *Billboard* review, fitting tribute to Atlanta-born bluesman Tinsley Ellis. Ellis has been a fixture on the blues circuit (“A musician never got famous by staying home,” he says) for over three decades, and now he’s on the road again, showcasing his new studio album, *Ice Cream In Hell* (Alligator Records). Finished almost a year ago, Ellis believes his latest blues-rock effort is worth the wait for fans.

*Montana Press* spoke with him regarding the new album, of trying to avoid disco growing up as a teenager and having a blues legend cover one of his songs.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Did you have a vision for *Ice Cream in Hell* before going into it?

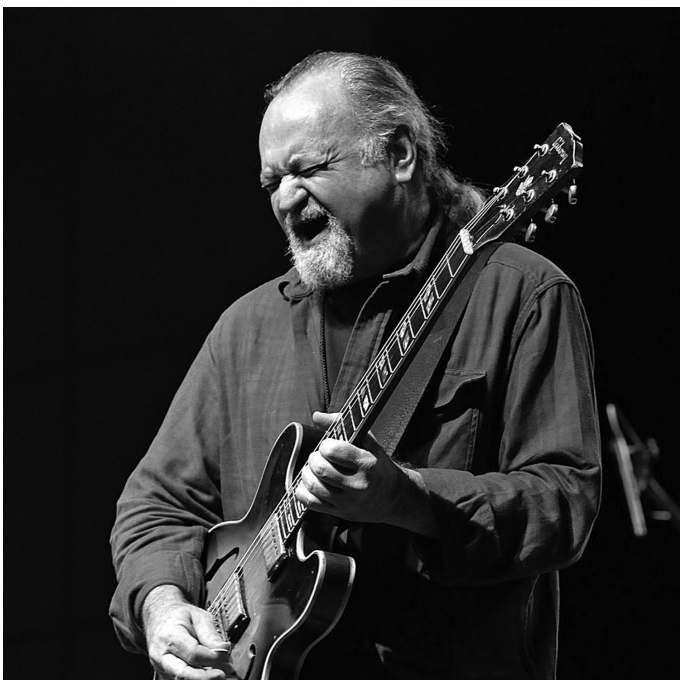
**TINSLEY ELLIS:** Yes I wanted to make this the most guitar-driven, rocking blues rock album that I’ve ever made. Not rocking in terms of hard rock but rocking in terms of tempos and having an uptempo vibe to it. I think we’ve succeeded.

**MP:** How did the title track come together?

**TE:** I believe I wrote that song eight or nine years ago. When (Alligator Records founder) Bruce Iglauer and Alligator Records and I were going over which songs would make the cut, I sent him that song and he said, “Yes!”

It comes from an old expression like a snowball’s chance in hell or people in hell want ice water. The idea that ice cream and hell, they don’t go together very well. It would definitely melt down there.

**MP:** What was the music scene like growing up in Hollywood, Florida as a teenager?



**TE:** Well, because it’s the American South, it initially started off with the Allman Brothers and stuff like that, then Lynyrd Skynyrd. Then it took a nasty turn in the mid to late Seventies towards disco. We had people in South Florida; KC and the Sunshine Band was based out of there as well as the Bee Gees. I didn’t want to be any part of that, so I went back to Atlanta where I was born.

Southern rock fizzled and disco followed me up here. I could run but I could not hide. Now I listen back to the Bee Gees and KC and the Sunshine Band, and it sounds just fine.

**MP:** How have you evolved as an artist from when you first started to where you are today?

**TE:** That’s a great question. I think the difference between now and when I started off is, when I started off, I was doing other people’s songs, and now I write all my material. When you write your own material you have to find your own voice. That was advice I was given early on, but I did not take that advice. When Jonny Lang hit it big with my song “Quitter Never Wins” I thought maybe I should look into this song writing thing a little more seriously.

**MP:** What can fans expect from the shows in Bozeman and Missoula?

**TE:** We’ll be doing a lot of songs off the brand-new album *Ice Cream In Hell*, and we’ll be doing a lot of songs from the live album I did years back. We’ll also be doing some surprises as a part of this show.

We also want to give people some of the songs that I’m known for like “A Quitter Never Wins.” We just found out that John Mayall has recorded “A Quitter Never Wins” for his new album. John Mayall got me into the blues and blues rock to begin with in the Sixties and here he is doing my song. So that is one of those artistic victories that keep me going.

**MP:** Do you have any fond memories or funny anecdotes about performing in Montana or traveling through the state?

**TE:** I’ve been playing there for 30 years now and when we first came up there to play we played in Missoula at the venue I’m playing at now, but I believe it has a different location or a different owner. I have fond memories of playing the past thirty years all over Montana. I just love it. It’s a wonderful place. We have good friends there and a long-standing fan base there, some of whom bring their kids to the shows to see me.

**MP:** What do you think makes for a great blues song?

**TE:** Well, you can never go wrong with a cliché. My biggest song “A Quitter Never Wins” is something of a cliché. So if you write a song around something that triggers something in someone’s past it’s a good thing. I think a

good blues song should have a certain level or ability to raise the left eyebrow. “Oh really.” Whether it’s an expression that’s been used before or whether it’s a silly twist on words like *Ice Cream In Hell*. ★

—JASON MACNEIL

*Tinsley Ellis plays in Missoula at Top Hat Lounge on March 23 and in Bozeman at the Rialto on March 24.*

## AMAZING GRACE IN MONTANA



probably a lot of people who would hear these songs and feel the truth in them and identify their own story within it.

**MP:** What was the music scene like growing up in Waitsfield, Vermont?

**GP:** It was just a tiny scene. I went to Phish concerts as a kid, that was the thing to do. From when I was about nine or 10 all the cool kids would have an older friend who would have a car, and everybody would drive or hike into the woods and camp and try to sneak in or jump the fence.

So there definitely is a music scene (in Vermont). You just wouldn’t necessarily know it. Everybody hides; musicians and actors and artists who live in Vermont tend to hide in plain sight. Maggie Gyllenhaal recently bought a house in my town. I have probably walked by her in my local grocery store 10 times, but I wouldn’t know it. That’s how Vermont is.

**MP:** How have you evolved as an artist from when you first started to where you are today?

**GP:** I really do process through music, and when I write a song or a lyric about someone or an experience I’ve had, it’s because I want it to be a fixture in my memory.

In the same way, when I’m not ready to feel a feeling, when I’m not ready to go through an emotional journey with something that has happened or someone that I loved, I just don’t write songs about it. I just leave it alone because once it’s a song then it’s real for me. So it’s just interesting how my musicality has never changed; it is what it is.

**MP:** What can fans expect from the Missoula show?

**GP:** I think from the fan reactions and what I’ve been hearing from people who’ve been at the shows it’s more rocking than ever. People are like, “You are insane, it’s crazy! It’s a crazy rock and roll show.” I can’t really expect to tell you exactly what’s going to happen because the set list is never the same twice.

**MP:** Do you have any fond memories or funny anecdotes about performing in Montana or traveling through the state?

**GP:** Well yeah! It’s my favorite state to play in! I love Montana so much. The last time we were there last year when we played Big Sky that whole experience turned into real memories for a lifetime for us. I called my booking agent right after and said, “I never want to do a tour where we don’t go through Montana!”

We always take days off around Missoula if there’s a tour where we can take a few days and stop. I always make sure those dates are around Montana shows. We’re explorers, we like to get up into the mountains. Every time we go through Missoula it’s a blast and I’m sure this time it’ll be no different. Or maybe it will be different and even more wonderful! ★

—JASON MACNEIL

*Grace Potter plays in Missoula at The Wilma Theatre on March 24.*

**S**ince 2015, Vermont-born musician Grace Potter (founder of Grace Potter and the Nocturnals in 2002) has kept under the radar. But she’s back now, with a stellar new solo album *Daylight* (Fantasy Records).

While her toddler Sagan asked her to read him a story on the tour bus, *Montana Press* spoke with Potter about the special guests on the record, the concepts of art and commerce, Maggie Gyllenhaal and her deep love of Montana:

**MONTANA PRESS:** Were you eager to get back into the studio to make this album?

**GRACE POTTER:** I was not eager at all. In fact, my husband (Eric Valentine) is a very thoughtful and creative producer. He was aware we were making a record before I was. He was just very slowly gathering songs he heard me playing that were really not to be shared with the world. At the time we started discussing making an album I was like, “I don’t know if I even want to make music again let alone sign a record deal and go back out on tour.”

But ultimately getting to the studio, once you find out (Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers keyboardist) Benmont Tench wants to play on the album and (LA-based indie-pop band) Lucius are going to sing, then things start to get super-duper exciting.

**MP:** What might have been the biggest challenge about making the album?

**GP:** The biggest challenge was the emotional precipice that I had been standing on, and then taking that leap. It’s not that I wanted it to stay in the darkness and in the shadows and be a secret forever that I had fallen in love, and my entire life had taken this massive u-turn. But it was something that I didn’t want to make money off of, if that makes any sense.

I was really uncomfortable with the idea I’m cashing in on really tragic, crazy, dramatic, romantic and beautiful things that happened to me in my real life. I had to separate myself from it at that point and recognize there are



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More



### JACKSON HOLTE AND THE HIGHWAY PATROL

March 13 - Lewis and Clark Brewery - Helena

This Montana rock and roll band has shared stages with local favorites like Quinlan Conley & the I-90 Blues, Laney Lou & the Bird Dogs, and The Hasslers, as well as national acts like Quaker City Night Hawks, Hellbound Glory, Ward Davis, Lost Dog Street Band, and Reckless Kelly.

### Sunday, March 8

#### Billings

“**Inside Out**,” stage play, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Acoustic Brunch: Bo DePena**, Americana, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Left for Dead**, old-time country, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

**Open Mic Night**, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

**Honey and Rye**, folk, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

**Bob McArthur**, Elvis Impersonator, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

#### Great Falls

**Celtic Music Brunch**, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

#### Missoula

**Old Time Fiddle Jam**, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

### Monday, March 9

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Sioux City Kid**, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Bluegrass Jam**, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855

#### Helena

**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

#### Missoula

**Colin Hay**, rock, 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



### MAMA MIA!

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father in the musical stage play, “Mama Mia.” This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years earlier. Playing at the Montana Actor's Theatre in Havre **March 13 to 28**.

### Tuesday, March 10

#### Billings

**Curtis Thompson and Ty Herman**, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Tommy Castro and the Painkillers**, blues/rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Gina and the Wildfire**, Americana, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

#### Helena

**New Road Duo**, folk, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

#### Missoula

“**Eden Mine**,” reading/signing with author S.M. Hulse, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

**Colin Hay**, rock/soul, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

### Wednesday, March 11

#### Billings

**Reverend Doctor**, classic soul, 9 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Hollerin' Pine**, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

“**Eden Mine**,” reading/signing with author S.M. Hulse, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

**Josh Moore**, folk/country, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

**Twiddle**, rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Pickin' in the Parks**, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290

**Bar IX Comedy Open Mic**, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185

### Thursday, March 12

#### Billings

**Projectile Comedy**, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Open Range**, country/swing, Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

**Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., bluegrass, Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

**John Floridis**, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

**Jess Atkins**, songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Blake Brightman**, country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

#### Helena

“**Eden Mine**,” reading/signing with author S.M. Hulse, 6 p.m., Montana Book Company, Helena, 443-0260

**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

Dan Henry, one man band, 6 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

**Jay Statham**, Southern rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

#### Great Falls

**Weekly Irish Seisiun**, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

#### Butte Area

**The Wardens**, folk music and stories, 7 p.m., Rialto Theatre, Deer Lodge, 846-7900

#### Missoula

**Pinegrass**, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

**Twiddle**, rock, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



EL WENCHO PLAYS MARCH 13 AT IN LEWISTOWN



### MISSOULA WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Find local produce year-round every Saturday, Nov. 9 thru Apr. 18 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Missoula Senior Center. Featuring local, gourmet mushrooms, cheese, honey, eggs, beef cuts, lamb cuts, hot sauce, baked goods, fruit preserves, brick-oven sourdough bread, coffee, tea, kombucha, fermented foods, authentic Indian food, authentic Hmong food, plant starts, succulents, seeds, photography prints, handcrafted jewelry, handmade apparel, books, wood furniture, pine-needle baskets, quilts, paintings, children's toys, dried flower arrangements, lotions & soaps, herbal salves & hydrosols, and more.

### Friday, March 13

#### Statewide

“**Mama Mia**,” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

**The Lucky Valentines**, Americana, 6 p.m., Vizsla Brewing, Havre, 879-8867

**TJ Overcast**, rock/country, 6 p.m., Old Station Brewing, Havre, 265-3329

**Boulder Creek Bluegrass Band**, 7 p.m., Libby Memorial Events Center, 293-9643

**El Wencho**, country/rock, 7 p.m., Central Feed Grilling Co., Lewistown, 535-2337

#### Billings

**In Rapture, Deathwish, No Cigar**, instrumental/metal, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

**Abbey Lee**, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**36 International Band**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Matt Miller**, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

**Magic Beans**, jam band, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

“**Everyone in Harmony**,” choral performance, 7 p.m. The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797

“**Big Fish**,” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420

**Ten Years Gone**, Led Zeppelin tribute, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Bluebelly Junction**, rock/blues/country, 9:30 p.m., The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

#### Helena

**Jackson Holte and The Highway Patrol**, rock/roll, Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

**Dan Henry**, one man band, 6 p.m., Rialto Bar, Helena 442-1890

“**Flight of Writers**,” readings/performance, 6 p.m., Holter Museum, Helena, 442-6400

**Acoustic Roll**, rock, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

#### Great Falls

“**Independent Spirits**,” with the Chinook Winds, 7 p.m., Great Falls Symphony, First Congregational Church, 453-4102

**90 Proof Sin**, rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

#### Butte

**Gilbert Gottfried**, comedian, 7 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602

#### Missoula

**Missoula Homegrown Comedy Competition**, 7 p.m., Roxy Theater, Missoula, 728-9380

### Saturday, March 14

#### Statewide

“**Mama Mia**,” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

#### Billings

“**West Side Story**,” with Billings Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Lincoln Center, 252-3610

**Grant Jones**, indie rock, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

**36 International Band**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**BoZambique**, latin/fusion, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

**Ten Years Gone**, Led Zeppelin tribute, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

“**Big Fish**,” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420

**Paul Lee Kupfer**, country/folk, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

**Sweet Sage**, Americana, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

#### Helena

**Bo DePena**, Americana, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

#### Great Falls

“**Montana Pioneers: Creating a Community**,” lecture/reading with Suzanne Waring, 3 p.m., The History Museum, Great Falls, 452-3462

**Trent Brooks Band**, country, 8 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

**Liquor Down**, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

**Whiskey Revival**, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

**Voodoo Cadillac**, rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

#### Butte

**3 Miles to Clyde**, country/rock, 8 p.m., Mac's Tavern, Butte, 299-2989

#### Missoula

**Magic Beans**, jam band, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980





# OUT & ABOUT

## OF MONTREAL: INDIE-ROCK DARLINGS

**K**evin Barnes has made a career of crafting polished ear-candy as the creative genius behind the indie-rock band of Montreal, an Athens, Georgia-based group that derives its name from a failed romance between Barnes and a woman “of Montreal.”

Now Barnes is back with another batch of stellar material, with the band’s latest *UR FUN* (Polyvinyl Record Co.).

*Montana Press* spoke with Barnes about the group’s new album, Cyndi Lauper and his nephew’s leading role in an of Montreal music video.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Did you have a vision for this album before going into making it?

**KEVIN BARNES:** I had a vague idea. I knew I wanted to make a collection of infectious pop songs. And I had a rough idea of influences I wanted there to be in there. So I had some idea but it just evolved organically during the process.

**MP:** You said Cyndi Lauper’s *She’s So Unusual* (Portrait Records) and Janet Jackson’s *Control* (A&M Records) inspired you. How so?

**KB:** I love that those albums are full of hits. Every song could be a single, and every song is different, yet there’s something that connects them all together. It’s harder than it might seem to have every song have its own individuality and own personality and its own thing that makes it special, but also to have it connect to the other songs.

**MP:** How did the opening track “Peace To All Freaks” come about?

**KB:** That was the first song I wrote for the record. I had a dream; the melody line came to me in a dream and at the time I was also listening to Culture Club and thinking about what made “Karma Chameleon” such a cool song. So in a lot of ways that was a reference point for that song.

**MP:** What was the music scene like in South Florida growing up as a teenager?

**KB:** I was really into hair metal like Motley Crue, Poison, and Ratt. Then when I got a bit older, I got deeper into Sixties music like The Kinks, The Beatles, and The Beach Boys. That took me in the direction I’m at now. I feel those bands are more of my roots, the Sixties pop stuff.

**MP:** How have you evolved as an artist from when you first started to where you are today?

**KB:** I feel it’s inevitable that you’ll get better at your craft the longer you work on it. But I feel the spirit is the same; the thing that drives me to put on the headphones and lose myself in the creative process is the same as when I was living with my parents or in high school.

I don’t feel anything has really changed on that level. It’s always been there. So I feel like if I’ve evolved; I hope that I feel less self-conscious about the subject matter that I sing about.

**MP:** Was the music video for “Get God’s Attention By Being An Atheist” a lot of fun to make?

**KB:** It was a blast. It’s hard when you’re working with children just because they’re the ultimate rebels. They’ll just wander off or throw a fit or just don’t want to cooperate. But that’s also what makes kids fun. It’s that unpredictability. It was chaotic but a lot of fun to make.

**MP:** Was your nephew coaxed into starring in the video?

**KB:** No, he’s a natural performer. He was amazing. He was super excited when the day came around and he was a total natural. He loved every minute of it. We showed him the final edit of the video and he wanted to watch it over and over again.

**MP:** What can fans expect from the Missoula show?

**KB:** It’s going to be very theatrical, visually immersive, psychedelic, fun and dynamic. We’re going to be playing a lot of songs from all the records, not just focusing on the new record necessarily. We’ll be throwing in a lot of stuff from older records and songs we haven’t played in a while. So it should be a fun experience for everybody.

**MP:** Do you have any fond memories about performing in Montana?

**KB:** We always have a good time in Missoula. There’s some really good vintage-clothing stores that I’ve hit up every time I come through. I always look forward to that because it’s one of those cities like Athens, Georgia, where I live. It’s a college town and I feel Missoula has a similar vibe. It feels homey but also eclectic and artsy. There’s lots of good restaurants and bars and vintage-clothing stores. It’s cool. It feels like being in the Old West, but a more progressive version of the Old West. ★

—JASON MACNEIL

*of Montreal plays in Missoula at Top Hat Lounge on March 31.*



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

[Billings](#) [Bozeman](#) [Helena](#) [Great Falls](#) [Butte](#) [Missoula](#) & More

### Sunday, March 15

#### Statewide

**“Gonzo Road Show Diary,”** reading/signing with author John Driscoll, 1 p.m., Camp Sula, Sula, 821-3364

**“Mama Mia,”** musical play, 2 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Acoustic Brunch: Tom Kiran,** Americana, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**“Big Fish,”** musical play, 3 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420

**The Road Agents,** rock/country, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

**The Two Dot Two,** folk/country, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

**Jacob Rountree,** indie folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

#### Great Falls

**Celtic Music Brunch,** 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

**“Independent Spirits,”** with the Chinook Winds, 2 p.m., Great Falls Symphony, First Congregational Church, 453-4102

#### Missoula

**Old Time Fiddle Jam,** 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

**Moe,** rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

**Boy Named Banjo,** rock/Americana, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

### Monday, March 16

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Aaron Banfield,** songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Bluegrass Jam,** Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855

**Improv on the Verge,** comedy show, 7 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

#### Helena

**Open Mic,** 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

#### Butte Area

**Norman Baker,** country/rock, 8 p.m., Finlen Hotel, Butte, 723-5461

**“Gonzo Road Show Diary,”** reading/signing with author John Driscoll, 6:30 p.m., Phillipsburg City Library, Phillipsburg, 859-5030

**The Anaconda AOH Pipes and Drum Corp,** Thornton Building, 6 p.m., Butte, 782-7367

### Tuesday, March 17

#### Billings

**Kenneth Clark and David Banuelos,** rock/soul, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Norman Baker,** alt-country, 7 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**El Wencho,** rock/country, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

#### Helena

**SunsAh406,** rock/folk, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

#### Butte

**Rocket,** rock/soul, 3 p.m., Silver Dollar Saloon, Butte, 782-7367

#### Missoula

**Celtic Dragon Pipe Band,** 5 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

**Malarkey,** folk, 6 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

### Wednesday, March 18

#### Billings

**Boy Named Banjo,** folk/bluegrass, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Jess Atkins and Joe Knapp,** roots/rock, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

**Winnie Brave,** roots/Americana, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

**Pickin’ in the Parks,** acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290

### Thursday, March 19

#### Statewide

**“Mama Mia,”** musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

#### Billings

**Poetry Jam,** 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Projectile Comedy,** live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**“Gonzo Road Show Diary,”** reading/signing with author John Driscoll, 1:30 p.m., Montana State University Bookstore, 994-2811

**Open Range,** country/swing, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

**“Cyran de Bergerac,”** stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 6:30 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303

**Bridger Creek Boys,** bluegrass, 7 p.m., bluegrass, Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

**Travis Yost,** Americana, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

**Jeff Crosby,** songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Blake Brightman,** country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

#### Helena

**Open Mic,** 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

**Dan Henry,** one man band, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

**Envy Alo,** funk/rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

**Dervish,** Irish/folk, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

#### Great Falls

**Weekly Irish Seisium,** 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

**Poetry Open Mic Night,** 6:30 p.m., Paris Gibson Museum, Great Falls, 727-8255

#### Missoula

**“The Ghost Town Preservation Society,”** reading/signing with author Julie Clark Simon, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

**Sons of the Pioneers,** folk/country, 7:30 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602

**Conan Neutron,** rock, 8 p.m., The Badlander, Missoula, 549-0235



### ST. PATRICK’S DAY IN BUTTE

The most Irish place in the U.S. per capita is Butte, Montana. About 25 percent of Butte’s residents have Irish heritage and for that, St Patrick’s Day is a true annual holiday in the city. When gold was discovered in Montana in 1862, Irish immigrants headed west to the new frontier. Among them was Thomas Francis Meagher, Montana’s first governor, a full-blooded Irishman. His spirit is strong in Butte, where every March 17 live music and libation-lifted souls fill the streets, pubs and clubs enjoying Irish music, an annual parade, dancing and plenty of good spirits.





Comedy Across Montana

Need a good laugh? With homegrown Montana comedy in Missoula to improv at the Verge Theater there are plenty of opportunities to laugh out loud across the state:

Every Wednesday  
BAR IX COMEDY OPEN MIC,  
Bar IX, **BOZEMAN**

Every Thursday  
PROJECTILE COMEDY  
The Loft, **BILLINGS**



March 27 - Bozeman  
VERGE AFTER DARK IMPROV  
Verge Theater

March 2, 16 & 30 - Bozeman  
Improv on the Verge - Verge Theater

March 3 - Badlander - Missoula  
Todd Lankton and The Family Band

March 13 - Mother Lode - Butte  
GILBERT GOTTFRIED  
Featuring Kevin Shannon

March 13 - The Roxy - Missoula  
Missoula's Homegrown  
Comedy Competition

March 20 & 21 - Bozeman  
Random Acts of Improv - Bozeman



March 27 - Wilma - Missoula  
The Pump and Dump Show

April 1 - Dillon  
THE BREWERY COMEDY TOUR  
Beaverhead Brewing Company

*Laughs are on tap for this nationwide tour that has already hit 1,500 breweries across the U.S. More than a dozen New York and L.A. stand-ups are currently on the road, sampling the local fare, local brews and providing the finest and funniest in comedy entertainment.*



Friday, March 20

Statewide  
“**Mama Mia,**” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings  
**Bitter Road**, country/rock/soul, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs**, Americana, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Spur of the Moment**, Americana, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Stafford**, jam band/rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776  
**Jazz night with Alex Robilotta**, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac,**” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303  
**Random Acts of Improv**, comedy, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737  
“**Big Fish,**” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**The Catskills**, Appalachian folk, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**Letter B**, roots/rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena  
**Solid 15**, singer/songwriter event, 7:30 p.m., Lewis and Clark Public Library, Helena, 447-1690  
**Midnight Ride**, rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Missoula  
**Liquid Stranger**, electronic, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521  
“**Unexpected Wish,**” musical play, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555

Saturday, March 21

Statewide  
“**Mama Mia,**” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272  
**Chautauqua 2020 Winter Series**, conversation/performances, 6:30 p.m., Elling House, Virginia City, 843-5454

Billings  
**Calvin and the Coal Cars**, country, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
“**National Geographic Live: Ocean Soul with Brian Skerry,**” Petro Theater, 256-6052  
**Spur of the Moment**, Americana, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Dan Dubuque**, folk/country, 5 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403  
**Open Mic Night**, 6 p.m., Wild Joe’s Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac,**” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303  
**Ryan Acker**, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505  
**Random Acts of Improv**, comedy, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737  
**The Catskills**, Appalachian folk, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
“**Big Fish,**” musical play, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**Joe Knapp and Kevin Toll**, rock/country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482  
**Bo DePena**, Americana, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena  
**Grandstreet Theatre Gala**, music with Ten Years Gone, rock/country, 5 p.m., Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds, Helena, 442-7270  
**The Waiting**, Tom Petty tribute, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960  
**3 Miles to Clyde**, rock/soul, 9 p.m., Grub Stake, Helena, 458-9816

Great Falls  
**Liquor Down**, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388  
**Whiskey Revival**, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Missoula  
“**The Coincidence Makers,**” reading/signing with author Meradeth Houston, 12 p.m., Barnes and Noble, Missoula, 721-0009  
“**Unexpected Wish,**” musical play, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**John Floridis**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592  
**Aaron Watson**, country, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521  
**Stafford**, rock/funk, 9 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Sunday, March 22

Statewide  
“**Mama Mia,**” musical play, 2 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Acoustic Brunch: Joe Knapp**, indie rock, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac,**” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 2 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303  
“**Big Fish,**” musical play, 3 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**Peter King and Jesse Butler**, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492  
**Jeff Crosby**, rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Helena  
**Andrew Gromiller and the Organically Grown**, acoustic rock/folk, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

Great Falls  
**Celtic Music Brunch**, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Missoula  
“**Unexpected Wish,**” musical play, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555  
**Old Time Fiddle Jam**, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Monday, March 23

Billings  
**Diamond Rio**, country, 6:30 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman  
**The Mutineers**, rock, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Bluegrass Jam**, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855

Helena  
**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Missoula  
**Tinsley Ellis**, rock/blues, 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Tuesday, March 24

Billings  
**The Mutineers**, country/rock, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Traditional Irish music session**, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Livingston/Bozeman  
“**Baby Shark Live,**” stage performance, 6 p.m., Brick Breeden Feildhouse, Bozeman, 994-2287  
**Tiny Paycheck**, blues/rock, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804  
**Tinsley Ellis**, rock/blues, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Helena  
**Acoustic Roll**, rock, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Butte  
**Foreigner**, rock, 7 p.m., Butte Civic Center, 497-6400

Missoula  
“**The Girl on a Boat,**” reading/signing with author Danielle Lincoln Hanna, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881  
**Grace Potter**, rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: OCEAN SOUL WITH BRIAN SKERRY

Presented by The Alberta Bair - March 21 - Billings - Petro Theater

For more than 20 years, wildlife photographer Brian Skerry has captured “the soul of the sea” for National Geographic. His images celebrate the mystery of the depths and offer portraits of creatures so intimate they sometimes appear to have been shot in a studio. Skerry dives eight months of the year, often in extreme conditions beneath Arctic ice or in predator-infested waters, and has even lived at the bottom of the sea to get close to his subjects.



FIND THE BOZEMAN WINTER FARMER’S MARKET AT THE EMERSON CENTER EVERY OTHER SATURDAY.

Wednesday, March 25

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Luke Flansburg**, folk/rock, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124  
**Ryan Acker**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403  
“**American Zion,**” reading/signing with Betsy Gaines Quammen, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166  
**Aqueous**, indie rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776  
**Pickin’ in the Parks**, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290  
**Bar IX Comedy Open Mic**, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185

Great Falls  
**The Mutineers**, rock, 8 p.m., Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300

Missoula  
**Tell Us Something Storytelling Event**, “Lost and Found,” 6 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



LANEY LOU AND THE BIRD DOGS

**March 6/7** - Pine Creek/Paradise Valley  
**March 20** - Billings - Pub Station  
**April 4** - Rialto - Bozeman

Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs are an energetic Americana-Folk band that infuses four-part harmonies, engaging songwriting, and rock-n-roll drive into a modern approach to traditional folk music.



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

### Thursday, March 26

Statewide  
“Mama Mia,” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings  
**Projectile Comedy**, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Open Range**, country/swing, 5:30 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505  
**G. Love and Special Sauce**, blues/hip-hop, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776  
**Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., bluegrass, Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399  
**Symphony at The Shane**, Bozeman Symphony, 7:30 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420  
**The Road Agents**, rock and roll, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Blake Brightman**, country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Helena  
**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729  
“**Premiere Off Broadway**,” stage performance, 7 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287  
**The Mutineers**, rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls  
**Weekly Irish Seisium**, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Missoula  
**One Trick Pony**, Paul Simon tribute, 6 p.m., Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468  
“**Roadside Geology of Montana: Second Edition**” with authors Donald W. Hyndman and Robert C. Thomas, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881



**TELL US SOMETHING**

TELL US SOMETHING brings live storytelling back to The Wilma in Missoula on **March 25, 2020**. Eight storytellers will share their true personal story without notes on the theme “Lost & Found.”

### Friday, March 27

Statewide  
“Mama Mia,” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings  
**Slapstick Improv Comedy**, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Escape: The Music of Journey**, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Jonah Morsette**, blues/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Paul Durham**, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628  
**Jazz night with Alex Robilotta**, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac**,” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303  
**Doublewide Dreams**, country, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**Free Spirit**, rock/soul, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Verge After Dark Improv**, 9 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena  
**John Dendy and the Delta T**, jazz/Americana, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980  
“**Premiere Off Broadway**,” stage performance, 7 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Butte  
**The Mutineers**, country/rock, 7 p.m., Silver Dollar Saloon, Butte, 782-7367

Missoula  
**G. Love and Special Sauce**, blues/hip-hop, 9 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

### Saturday, March 28

Statewide  
**Sam Platts and the Great Plainsmen**, Hi-Line Winter Brew fest, Holiday Village Mall, 4 p.m., Red Lodge, 446-4607  
**Wes Urbaniak and The Mountain Folk**, folk/country, 5:30 p.m., Gally’s Brewing Company, Harlo, 632-5838  
“Mama Mia,” musical play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272  
**El Wencho**, rock/country, 9 p.m., Montana Bar, Miles City, 234-5809

Billings  
**Ghost Show**, hard rock, 7 p.m., Cameron Records, Billings, 534-3423  
**Otherwise**, rock, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
**Jonah Morsette**, blues/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac**,” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303



**ONE TRICK PONY**

Montana’s only Paul Simon Tribute  
**March 26** - Bitter Root Brewery



**THE MUTINEERS: ROCK DUO WITH COUNTRY LEANINGS**

**March 23** - Murray Bar - Livingston **March 24** - Kirk’s Grocery - Billings  
**March 25** - Back Alley Pub - Great Falls  
**March 26** - Lewis & Clark Tavern - Helena **March 27** - Silver Dollar - Butte

### Saturday, March 28

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505  
**www.Twang**, country, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**Amanda Stewart**, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482  
**Doublewide Dreams**, Americana, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena  
**Triggers and Slips**, folk/soul, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960  
**UpRoots**, rock/reggae, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Great Falls  
“**Jubilee**,” Great Falls Symphonic Choir, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102  
**Liquor Down**, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388  
**Whiskey Revival**, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

### Sunday, March 29

Livingston/Bozeman  
“**Cyrano de Bergerac**,” stage play by Shakespeare in the Parks, 2 p.m., Ellen Theater, 994-3303  
**Pacific People**, surf rock, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804  
**Devious Gents**, acoustic folk, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Great Falls  
**Celtic Music Brunch**, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393



**G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE**

A three member alternative, blues, hip hop band from Philadelphia on tour from coast to coast known for their unique, “sloppy”, and “laid back” blues sound that encompasses classic R&B.

**March 26** - Rialto - Bozeman  
**March 27** - Top Hat - Missoula

### Monday, March 30

Billings  
**C.W. Stoneking**, roots/blues, Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Jarod Smokey Yerkles**, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**Bluegrass Jam**, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855  
**Improv on the Verge**, comedy show, 7 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena  
**Open Mic**, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

### Tuesday, March 31

Billings  
**David Banuelos and Shane de Leon**, folk/rock, 8 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Traditional Irish music session**, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Thunderpussy**, rock/blues, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776  
**Brice Ash**, country/rock, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

Missoula  
“**Friends, Family and other Tragedies**,” reading/ signing with author Dillon Walker, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881  
**Of Montreal**, indie rock, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

### Wednesday, April 1

Statewide  
**The Brewery Comedy Tour**, 6 p.m., Beaverhead Brewing Company, Dillon, 988-0011

Billings  
**Michigan Rattlers**, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman  
**John Floridis**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403  
**Pickin’ in the Parks**, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290  
**Bar IX Comedy Open Mic**, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185

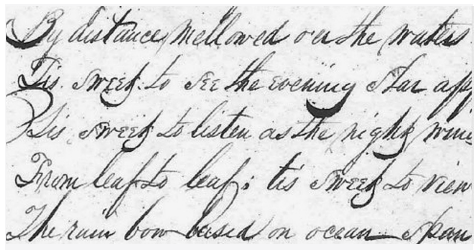
Missoula  
**Dan Henry**, one man band, 6 p.m., Great Burn Brewery, Missoula, 317-1557

### Thursday, April 2

Billings  
**The Particularly ReNicolous Variety Show and Open Mic**, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394  
**Adelitas Way**, hard rock, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020  
“**Finding Neverland**,” Broadway musical, 7:30 p.m., MetraPark, Billings, 256-6052  
**Lunatic Fringe**, classic rock/country, 7:30 p.m., Levity Bar and Bistro, Billings, 651-5985  
**Projectile Comedy**, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman  
**Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., bluegrass, Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399





**BOOK/AUTHOR EVENTS**



**“UNPROTECTED WILDLANDS”  
ANDREW MCKEAN**

March 2 - Sean R. Heavey  
Photography - Glasgow

The editor of “Outdoor Life” is an avid backcountry hunter and will share stories and photos of public lands as well as his experiences living in eastern Montana – the people, the communities, and the challenges of conservation.



**“FLIGHT OF WRITERS”  
READINGS/PERFORMANCES**

March 13 - Holter Museum - Helena

**“MONTANA PIONEERS:  
CREATING A COMMUNITY”  
SUZANNE WARING**

March 14 - The History Museum - Great Falls  
From her research of historical documents & descendant interviews, Waring tells 33 stories about the early arrivals to the new city of Great Falls. These early influencers came to the West with a variety of backgrounds, skills, and ambitions, and created communities along the way. Waring is the author of several historical articles for regional periodicals and has authored the creative nonfiction work “Searching for a Special Place” and the novel “Preacher Lady.”

**Montana Pioneers  
Creating a Community**



By Suzanne Mundell Waring



**MONTANA  
HORSE RACING**

**READINGS/SIGNINGS**

**“MONTANA HORSE RACING:  
A HISTORY”  
BRENDA WAHLER**

March 2 - This House of Books - Billings  
Horsewoman and historian Wahler highlights the Big Sky's patrons of the turf and courageous equine champions, including Kentucky Derby winner Spokane.

**“GONZO ROAD SHOW DIARY”  
JOHN DRISCOLL**

March 15 - Camp Sula  
March 16 - Phillipsburg Library  
March 19 - Montana State Bookstore  
Driscoll holds advanced degrees from Columbia School of International Affairs, Harvard, University of Montana and U.S. Army War College. He is a former U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper, Speaker of the Montana State House of Representatives, former Montana Public Service Commissioner and retired Col. of the Montana Army National Guard. Driscoll chronicles a road trip with fellow military veteran Randall LaCocq to Montana libraries exploring the story of of “The Battle of the Buldge.”



**THE  
Rise of  
Wolf 8**

**“THE RISE OF WOLF 8”  
RICK MCINTYRE**

March 4 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman  
A true story of one of the first wolves to roam Yellowstone in more than 60 years following reintroduction efforts in 1995, efforts which will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on March 21.

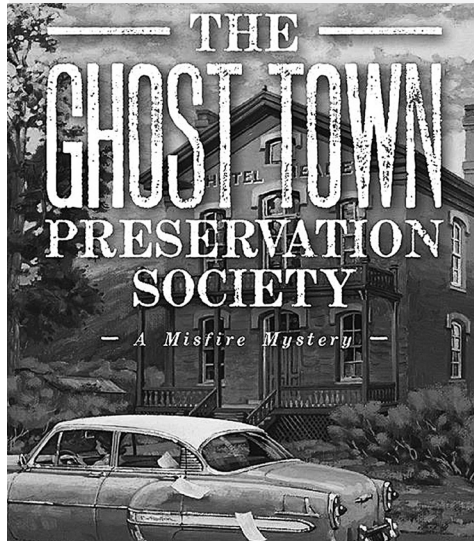
**“EDEN MINE”  
S.M. HULSE**

March 10 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula  
March 11 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman  
March 12 - Montana Book Company - Helena  
The aftershocks of an act of domestic terrorism rooted in a small Montana town on the brink of abandonment tears apart a family, tests the faith of a pastor, and the loyalty of a sister, and mines the deep rifts that come when the reach of the government clashes with individual freedom.



**“MOSTLY CLOUDY”  
MARK GIBBONS**

March 18 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula  
Gibbons wasn't, and isn't, just letting things be. He's watching; he's listening which means he's seeing and he's hearing and he is trying to make a difference in the only way he knows: through his poet's voice.

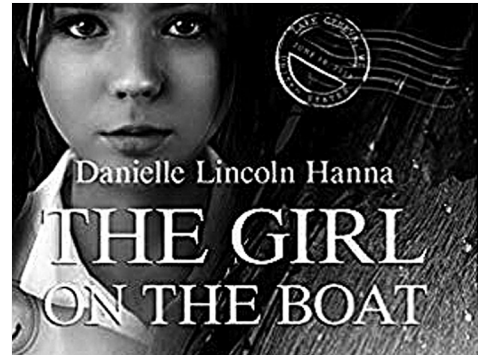
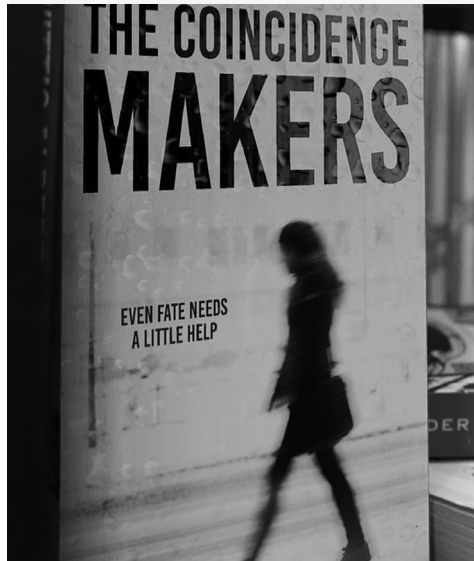


**“THE GHOST TOWN  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY”  
JULIE CLARK SIMON**

March 19 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula  
Winner of the prestigious Utah Original Writing Competition, this novel conveys a sense of small-town Montana life as lived in the shadow of the mountains and reveals its story with sharp humor, distinctive characters, and a satisfying ending. The author is a “Big Sky Country” native who spent her early career as a newspaper reporter for Southwest Montana newspapers before settling down to teaching and directing the Writing Center at Southern Utah University.

**“THE COINCIDENCE MAKERS”  
MERADETH HOUSTON**

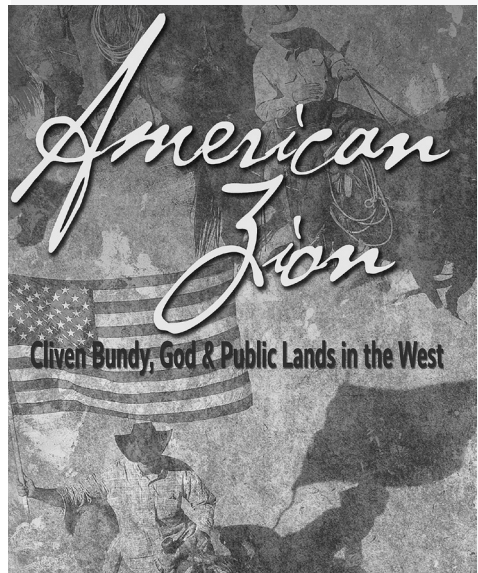
March 21 - Barnes and Noble - Missoula  
For Ami and her partner, Luke, becoming invisible is part of their job. Their mysterious employer assigns them to make “coincidences” happen, from reuniting long lost lovers to toppling empires. Author Houston lives in Montana where she's an anthropology professor and scientist.



**“THE GIRL ON A BOAT”  
DANIELLE LINCOLN HANNA**  
March 24 - Fact and Fiction Books - Missoula

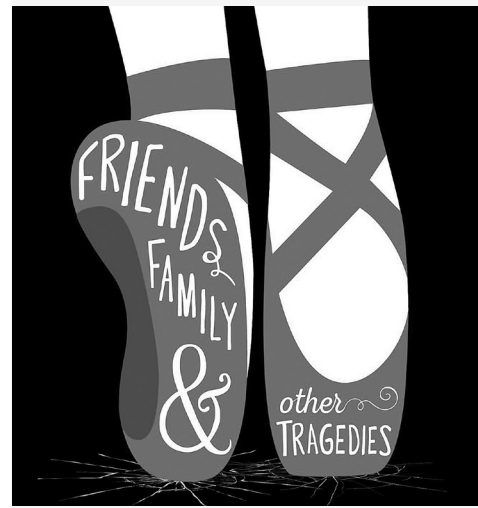
**“AMERICAN ZION: CLIVEN BUNDY, GOD,  
AND PUBLIC LANDS IN THE WEST”  
BETSY GAINES QUAMMEN**  
March 25 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Dr. Quammen, who holds a PhD in environmental history from Montana State University, presents the story of the Bundy family, famous for their armed conflicts over public lands in the West. The book explores how the family connects the history of their antagonism back to the very first Mormons who fled the Midwest for the Great Basin. Today, their cowboy confrontations are a dramatic example of the rift between competing ideas of public lands ownership, wildlife stewardship and personal freedom.



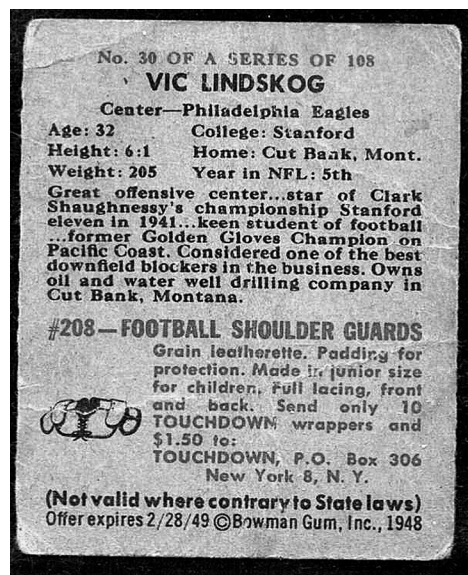
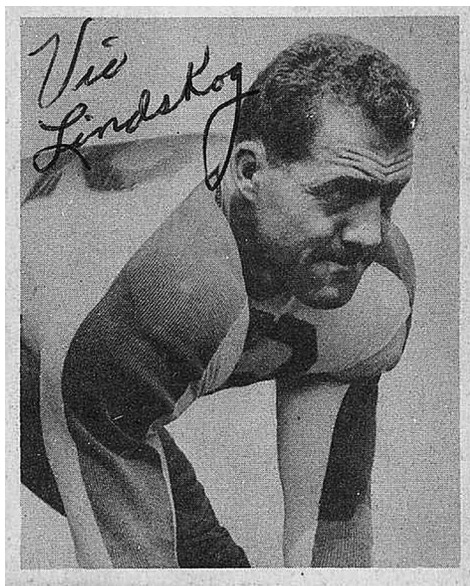
**“ROADSIDE GEOLOGY OF MONTANA:  
SECOND EDITION”  
WITH AUTHORS DONALD W. HYNDMAN  
AND ROBERT C. THOMAS**  
March 26 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

**“FRIENDS, FAMILY AND  
OTHER TRAGEDIES”  
DILLON WALKER**  
March 31 - Fact and Fiction Books - Missoula





## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: FOOTBALL LEGEND VIC LINDSKOG



*According to the Philadelphia Eagles media guide, Coach Earle “Greasy” Neale considered Lindskog “the greatest offensive center ever to play pro football.”*

An overlooked NFL pioneer, Vic Lindskog is among nine new inductees this month into the Montana Football Hall of Fame.

Victor L. Lindskog was born in Roundup, on December 3, 1914. After he graduated from Roundup High School in 1932, he labored in the nearby coal mines. Shortly after that, he moved to Cut Bank, approximately 300 miles northwest, where he found employment in the oil fields in the Hi-Line area, and met and married Doris Fee.

The only thing in the way of sports that Victor had ever done regularly was box. After he became involved with AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) tournament boxing, Ken Pardue, a local oilman, sponsored him to go to Santa Anna, California, to box under the tutelage of noted trainer George Blake, manager and “discover” of pugilists in Los Angeles.

By the look of things, Blake felt that Lindskog had the power and stamina to develop into a heavyweight contender: a swift, hard-hitting, brick-and-mortar of a man with a mighty hook and a promising future. Not surprisingly, Lindskog almost chose a career in professional boxing.

“It came down to a matter of preference,” Lindskog told the Philadelphia Herald in 1967, “and I preferred football.” With that, he became a

true craftsman in his field.

Lindskog had never played football before he showed up on the Santa Ana College campus in the fall of 1938, “a refugee from the little town of Cut Bank, which had a district high school but no athletic teams.” That’s how the Santa Ana media guide depicted him. So unfamiliar with football was Lindskog that he had to be shown how to pull into his uniform and told the rules and codes of the game.

He was truly discovered after he caught the eye of a visiting Stanford Cardinal coach. An assistant told the Stanford Daily that Lindskog dispersed punishment equally to foe and teammate: “He hasn’t any finesse but, man alive, I had to get him out of our defensive platoon. He was murdering the regulars. Every guy he tackled was shook up like he had been hit by Bronko Nagurski. Vic was decimating our ranks.”

Lindskog found his niche as a blocking center when he transferred to Stanford. A little older than most of his teammates, Lindskog was married; he and his wife “never had it easy while I pursued my studies,” Lindskog later said. He went to class in the mornings while his wife tended to their baby. At noon, Vic went home to look after Sonny while Doris worked in a store downtown the rest of the day. That continued until he graduated.

Lindskog played center on the undefeated Stanford Rose Bowl team of 1940 and again in 1941. After beating Nebraska in the Rose Bowl in 1941, Victor stayed at Stanford as an assistant coach in boxing and football. A Class of 1943 graduate, he worked in the shipyards in San Francisco at night during World War II until he joined the Philadelphia Eagles in 1944.

Thereafter he became “the best center in professional football,” according to UPI. He played center and linebacker until 1947 – these were the days when players played both offense and defense -- at which time he was moved solely to center. He inter-

cepted four passes and returned one 65 yards for a touchdown in 1944. He was the starting center when the Eagles won world championships in 1948 and 1949.

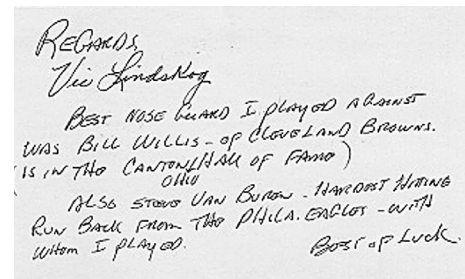
According to the Philadelphia Eagles media guide, Coach Earle “Greasy” Neale considered Lindskog “the greatest offensive center ever to play pro football.”

“Vic has a lot of power,” halfback Bosh Pritchard once said. “He is not the biggest guy, but he knows how to deliver a blow. I can see where he must have been a pretty tough man in the ring.”

In 1949, when the Eagles drafted future NFL Hall of Famer Chuck Bednarik from Penn State, Neale put the rookie together with Lindskog on the practice field. The coach told Bednarik, “Here is the fellow who will teach you more about playing center than you ever dreamed was possible.” Lindskog, ostensibly contemplating retirement, told the rookie, “I’ll give it to you as fast as you can absorb it. You, Charlie, are my ‘out’ of pro football.”

Coach Neale once told a Philadelphia newspaper that it irritated him that Lindskog was named All-Pro only once (1951), while Clyde “Bulldog” Turner of Chicago was an All-Pro six times. “If Turner is considered the leading center, it must be due to his defensive ability. He can’t hold a candle to Lindskog on the offense. He’s the only center I’ve ever seen who can block the halfback out of bounds on an end run.”

When he retired in 1952, Lindskog became an assistant coach with the Eagles, where he stayed until 1954. He became a head coach for the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League and finished his master’s degree at Stan-



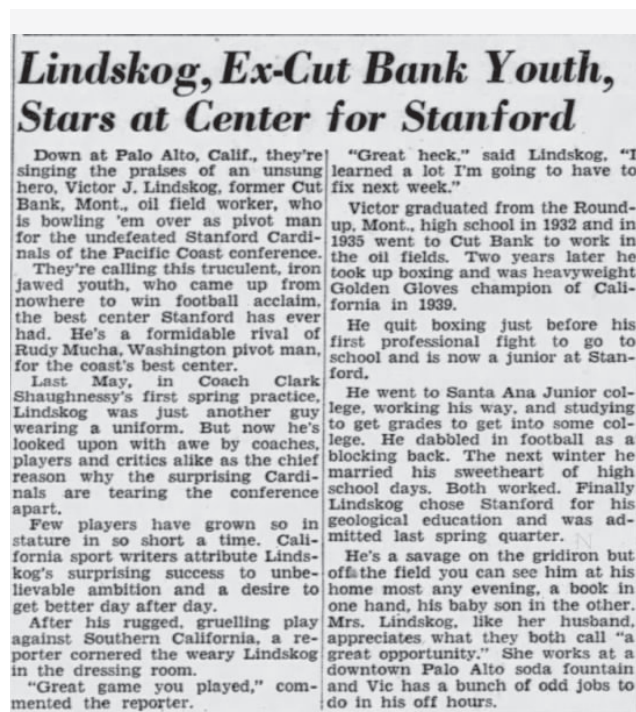
ford in physical education with a minor in history.

He subsequently worked for the Los Angeles Rams as line coach under Bob Waterfield and became a scout in the NFL for Quadra, a consortium for which he scouted college football players for four NFL teams. While working there, Lindskog moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area and scouted 127 schools in Texas and Oklahoma.

When Quadra disbanded, he scouted specifically for the Seattle Seahawks (1977–79). From the Seahawks, he went on to scout for the San Francisco 49ers, still living in the Dallas area. While employed by that team (1979–85), he was awarded Super Bowl rings in 1981 and 1984.

Lindskog retired as an NFL scout in 1985 and died on February 28, 2003, in Fort Worth, Texas. Vic Lindskog will be inducted into the Montana Football Hall of Fame in Billings on March 28 at 6 pm. Among the other eight inductees that night is legendary NFL broadcaster Brent Musburger, a Billings native, now 80 years young. ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO





# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More



### CLINTON FEARON

Reggae legend Fearon plays **April 3** at the Covellite in Butte and **April 4** at the Filling Station in Bozeman.

### Friday, April 3

#### Statewide

**“Ticked Off Dinner Theatre,”** stage performance by Montana Actor’s Theatre, 6 p.m., Chinook Eagles, Havre, 945-0272

**Project Constellation**, country/rock, 8 p.m., Montana Bar, Miles City, 234-5809

#### Billings

**John Adams**, fingerstyle guitarist, 5 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Righteous Vendetta**, metalcore, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

**Groovewax**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

**Art of Comedy with Charlie Mulluk**, 10 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Jessica Lynne**, country, 6 p.m., Wild Joe’s Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

**Jazz night with Alex Robilotta**, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

**Fruition**, folk/Americana, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Ian Thomas and the Band of Drifters**, Americana, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

#### Helena

**The Road Agents**, country/rock, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

#### Butte

**Clinton Fearon**, reggae/roots, 8 p.m., Covellite Theatre, Butte, 498-6869

### Saturday, April 4

#### Statewide

**“Ticked Off Dinner Theatre,”** stage performance by Montana Actor’s Theatre, 6 p.m., Chinook Eagles, Havre, 945-0272

**Project Constellation**, country/rock, 8 p.m., Montana Bar, Miles City, 234-5809

#### Billings

**John Adams**, fingerstyle guitarist, 5 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Groovewax**, country/rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Clinton Fearon**, reggae/roots, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

**Ian Thomas and the Band of Drifters**, Americana, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs**, Americana, 8:30 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Madonna Road**, country/folk/rock, 9:30 p.m., American Legion, Bozeman, 586-8400

#### Missoula

**The Road Agents**, rock/country, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

Submit calendar listings to:  
[info@montanapress.net](mailto:info@montanapress.net)

## CUBAN MODERN DANCE INTENSIVE WITH BRUNO AUGUSTO

Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20, 2020

### WEST SIDE THEATER MISSOULA, MT

Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

TUITION: \$150/WEEK, \$30/DAY

TO REGISTER: [team@artsandabove.org](mailto:team@artsandabove.org)  
or (406) 880-7968

*Description: This Intensive introduces dancers to the basics of the Cuban Modern Technique, beginning each day with a warm-up, moving to partial space and then full space and concluding with repertory by Bruno. Ideal for those with previous dance/movement training looking to be challenged.*

DAILY DROP-INS ARE WELCOME!

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**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You may sometimes reach a point where you worry that conditions are not exactly right to pursue your dreams or fulfill your holy quest. Does that describe your current situation? If so, I invite you to draw inspiration from Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616), who’s regarded as one of history’s foremost novelists. Here’s how one observer described Cervantes during the time he was working on his masterpiece, the novel titled Don Quixote: “shabby, obscure, disreputable, pursued by debts, with only a noisy tenement room to work in.” Cervantes dealt with imperfect conditions just fine.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): “True success is figuring out your life and career so you never have to be around jerks,” says Taurus filmmaker, actor, and author John Waters. I trust that you have been intensely cultivating that kind of success in the last few weeks, Taurus—and that you will climax this wondrous accomplishment with a flourish during the next few weeks. You’re on the verge of achieving a new level of mastery in the art of immersing yourself in environments that bring out the best in you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): I would love for you to become more powerful, Gemini—not necessarily in the sense of influencing the lives of others, but rather in the sense of managing your own affairs with relaxed confidence and crisp competence. What comes to mind when I urge you to expand your self-command and embolden your ambition? Is there an adventure you could initiate that would bring out more of the swashbuckler in you?

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): For my Cancerian readers in the Southern Hemisphere, this oracle will be in righteous alignment with the natural flow of the seasons. That’s because February is the hottest, laziest, most spacious time of year in that part of the world—a logical moment to take a lavish break from the daily rhythm and escape on a vacation or pilgrimage designed to provide relaxation and renewal. Which is exactly what I’m advising for all of the earth’s Cancerians, including those in the Northern Hemisphere. So for those of you above the equator, I urge you to consider thinking like those below the equator. If you can’t get away, make a blanket fort in your home and pretend. Or read a book that takes you on an imaginary journey. Or hang out at an exotic sanctuary in your hometown.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo author Walter Scott (1771–1832) was a pioneer in the genre of the historical novel. His stories were set in various eras of the Scottish past. In those pre-telephone and pre-Internet days, research was a demanding task. Scott traveled widely to gather tales from keepers of the oral tradition. In accordance with current astrological omens, Leo, I recommend that you draw inspiration from Scott’s old-fashioned approach. Seek out direct contact with the past. Put yourself in the physical presence of storytellers and elders. Get first-hand knowledge about historical events that will inspire your thoughts about the future of your life story.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Over a period of 40 years, the artist Rembrandt (1606–1663) gazed into a mirror as he created more than ninety self-portraits—about ten percent of his total work. Why? Art scholars don’t have a definitive answer. Some think he did self-portraits because they sold well. Others say that because he worked so slowly, he himself was the only person he could get to model for long periods. Still others believe this was his way of cultivating self-knowledge, equivalent to an author writing an autobiography. In the coming weeks, I highly recommend that you engage in your personal equivalent of extended mirror-gazing. It’s a favorable time to understand yourself better.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): From author Don DeLillo’s many literary works, I’ve gathered five quotes to serve as your guideposts in the coming weeks. These observations are all in synchronistic alignment with your current needs. 1. Sometimes a thing that’s hard is hard because you’re doing it wrong. 2. You have to break through the structure of your own stonework habit just to make yourself listen. 3. Something is always happening, even on the quietest days and

deep into the night, if you stand a while and look. 4. The world is full of abandoned meanings. In the commonplace, I find unexpected themes and intensities. 5. What we are reluctant to touch often seems the very fabric of our salvation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “I remember a time when a cabbage could sell itself just by being a cabbage,” wrote Scorpio author Jean Giraudoux (1882–1944). “Nowadays it’s no good being a cabbage—unless you have an agent and pay him a commission.” He was making the point that for us humans, it’s not enough to simply become good at a skill and express that skill; we need to hire a publicist or marketing wizard or distributor to make sure the world knows about our offerings. Generally, I agree with Giraudoux’s assessment. But I think that right now it applies to you only minimally. The coming weeks will be one of those rare times when your interestingness will shine so brightly, it will naturally attract its deserved attention. Your motto, from industrialist Henry J. Kaiser: “When your work speaks for itself, don’t interrupt.”

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When he was 29 years old, Sagittarian composer Ludwig Beethoven published his String Quartet, Op. 18, No. 4. Most scholars believe that the piece was an assemblage of older material he had created as a young man. A similar approach might work well for you in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. I invite you to consider the possibility of repurposing tricks and ideas that weren’t quite ripe when you first used them. Recycling yourself makes good sense.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Are there parts of your life that seem to undermine other parts of your life? Do you wish there was greater harmony between your heart and your head, between your giving and your taking, between your past and your future? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if you could infuse your cautiousness with the wildness of your secret self? I bring these questions to your attention, Capricorn, because I suspect you’re primed to address them with a surge of innovative energy. Here’s my prediction: Healing will come as you juxtapose apparent opposites and unite elements that have previously been unconnected.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When he was 19, the young poet Robert Graves joined the British army to fight in World War I. Two years later, the Times of London newspaper reported that he had been killed at the Battle of the Somme in France. But it wasn’t true. Graves was very much alive, and continued to be for another 69 years. During that time, he wrote 55 books of poetry, 18 novels, and 55 other books. I’m going to be bold and predict that this story can serve as an apt metaphor for your destiny in the coming weeks and months. Some dream or situation or influence that you believed to be gone will in fact have a very long second life filled with interesting developments.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): If you’re like most of us, you harbor desires for experiences that might be gratifying in some ways but draining in others. If you’re like most of us, you may on occasion get attached to situations that are mildly interesting, but divert you from situations that could be amazingly interesting and enriching. The good news, Pisces, is that you are now in a phase when you have maximum power to wean yourself from these wasteful tendencies. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to identify your two or three most important and exciting longings—and take a sacred oath to devote yourself to them above all other wishes and hopes.

### THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK:

Try to identify which aspect of your life needs healing more than any other aspect.  
Testify at [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com)

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# WE BELIEVE IN:

## **The Value of Rural Communities**

because in small towns we need each other and we maintain the personal connection

## **Supporting Women in Leadership Roles**

in our communities, in our work places, and in our homes

## **Preserving Family Farms and Ranches**

because the lifestyle, the work ethic, and the end product are worth preserving


## **Maintaining Traditional Work Skills**

because a strong back, calloused hands, and good craftsmanship should not be a thing of the past

## **The Power of Music**

because it brings people together and moves us in ways we need to be moved



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