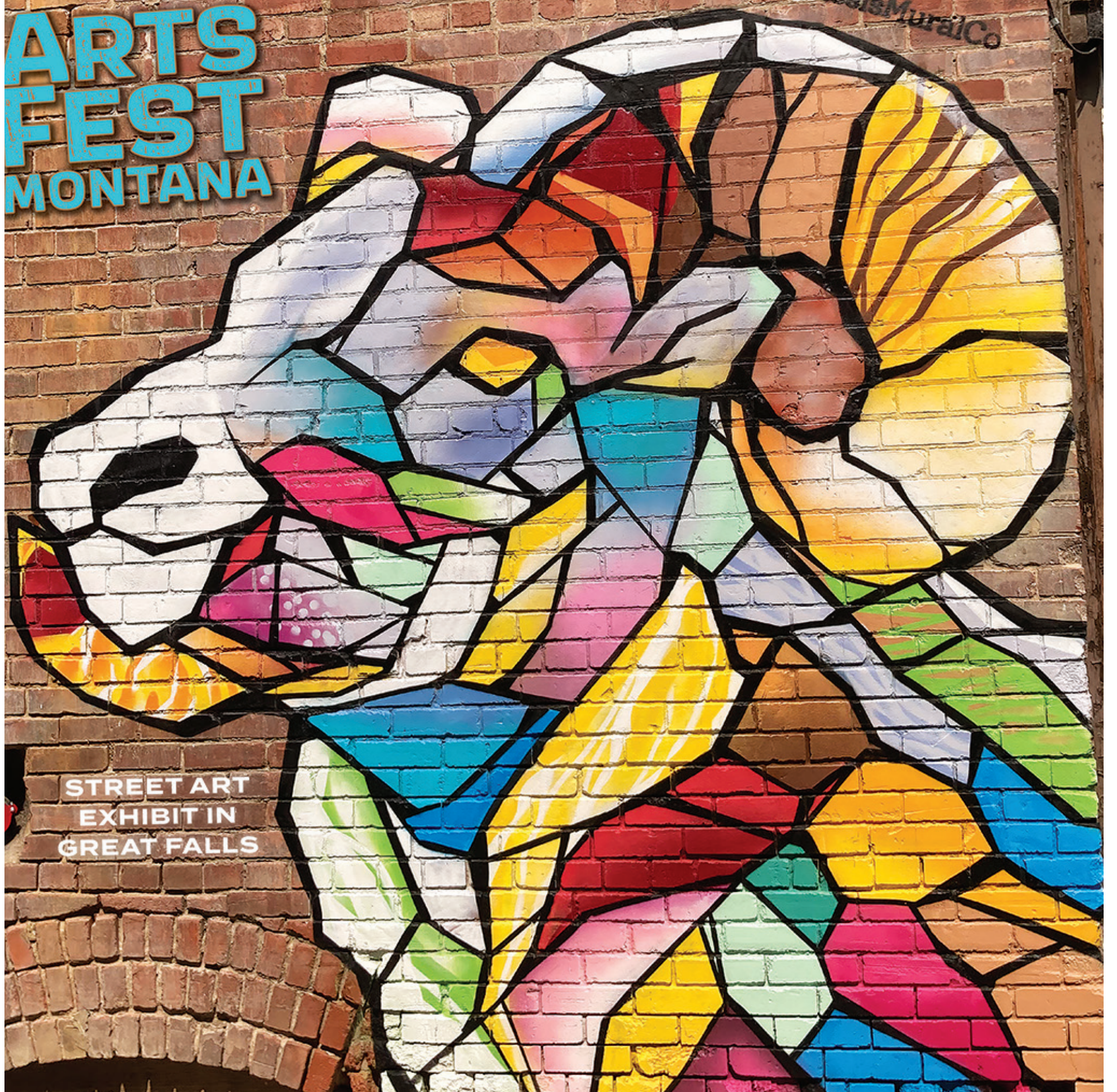


# MONTANA PRESS

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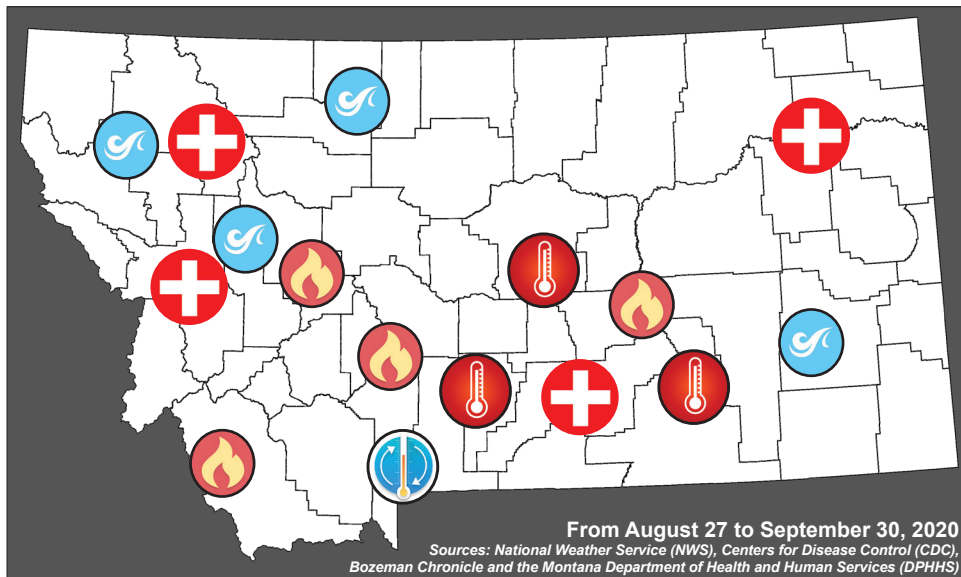


STREET ART  
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THE Q & A ISSUE • CANDIDATES & CLIMATE CHANGE • PAOLINI'S NEW WORLD • & MORE



# MONTANA ALMANAC



## Highs and Lows Across the State

The highest temperature reported during the recording period was 106 degrees at Hardin on a record hot day in Montana: Sept. 5 and 102-degree temperatures broke records in both Billings (95 in 2013) and Livingston (95 in 1998). The 100-degree temperatures registered on Sept. 5 at the Bozeman-Yellowstone Airport were not only a record high (95 in 1967) but the first recorded occurrence there of a 100-degree temperature in the month of September. Lewistown also broke a record for a high on the day at 97 degrees (96 in 1967), 99 degrees tied a record high (1967) at Helena Airport, and 93 degrees tied a record (1998) in Butte. Near-record lows were observed in the following days. On Sept. 7, snow was falling along the Continental Divide above 4,000 feet and on Sept. 8, many locations saw the coldest temperatures since late spring. Much of the region recorded the first freeze of the season. The lowest temperatures recorded during the period included 18 degrees at Culbertson on Sept. 8. A low of 23 degrees set a new record in Kalispell (25 in 1962) and 25 degrees in Butte also broke the record (26 in 1960). High temperatures broke records again on Sept. 24 in Billings at 92 degrees (90 in 1938) and Miles City at 94 degrees (93 in 2011). The lowest temperature recorded during the period was 16 degrees at West Yellowstone on September 27.

## Windy Weather

Major damage was reported from a wind event on September 7 at Flathead Lake, with some Finley Point residents saying the event was the worst wind they had ever experienced. Peak gusts from the event were measured at 75 mph (Kalispell), 51 mph (Bellingham), and 48 mph (Lake County). Winds ahead of a cold front in late September brought 55 mph gusts to Big Timber and winds of 52 mph to Miles City. On Sept. 26, Devil's Creek recorded 57 mph gusts and Malta, Jordan and Lewistown recorded winds up to 54 mph.

## Continuing COVID-19 Health Emergency

Businesses and establishments remain under "Phase II" of the Governor's COVID-19 response plan with continued restrictions. The governor's office, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and the public health departments across the state advise all residents to wear non-medical masks when visiting any establishment where six feet or more of personal distancing is not be possible, especially in counties where there is more than four cases and community spread. Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks are open with restrictions. As the virus continues to spread, The U.S. reported 7.3 million cases and 209,000 related deaths. Montana reported 177 deaths by the end of the month, with a significant number of infected cases in Yellowstone County/Billings (up to 3,256 from 1,864 with 832 cases active at press time), Flathead (up to 1,112 from 539 with 455 active), Missoula (up to 794 from 224 with 310 active) and Roosevelt County (up to 384 from 21 with 300 active) and a total number of reported cases of 12,724 (up from 6,785 cases last reporting period) in the state. Hospitalizations and active case rates were at record high numbers at press time. Approximately 339,000 individuals in the state have been tested for the virus. Visit [dphhs.mt.gov](https://dphhs.mt.gov) for up-to-date information.

## Drought and Fire Season

August precipitation was well below average for much of Montana. Several locations were on track to finish the month within the top 10 driest on record, including Great Falls, Havre, Helena and Bozeman. High winds crossed the state on Aug. 30 and peak gusts of 51 mph were recorded at Judith Gap in Fergus County and at Bozeman Pass. East Glacier also saw wind speeds of 60 mph. Two fires broke out on Sept. 2, one in Garfield County near Jordan (which led to the town's evacuation) and another in the Helena Valley. The Bridger Foothills Fire, a lightning-caused fire the result of a storm several days prior, was detected on Friday, Sept. 4. On Sept. 9, the Bobcat fire was reported in the Bull Mountains and it joined others reported the same day in Montana. Fires in Montana burned private, federal and tribal lands, resulting in more than 150,000 acres burned. Evacuations were ordered in Musselshell, Gallatin, Garfield and Rosebud counties and more. The Bridger Foothills fire destroyed 28 homes near Bozeman and burned an area of 8,224 acres. Red Flag warnings continued across the state as historic fires burned in Northern California, Washington and Oregon (burning approx. 1.47 million acres in Oregon and Washington alone), creating air quality issues for many in Montana. Snowfall and precipitation fell Sept. 7, with some central Montana regions receiving up to 5" in (Meagher County) by Sept. 8. Elevated fire conditions returned on Sept. 11 due to strong winds, rising temperatures (10 and 20 degrees above normal) and low humidity. By Sept. 14, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality reported air quality as "Unhealthy" in areas across much of Southwest and Western Montana. By Sept. 20, storms moved through Montana, bringing up to 1.5" of precipitation across the region and winds of up to 70 mph were recorded at East Glacier on Sept. 24. Through Sept. 26, some areas of low humidity still precipitated fire watches and warnings but by Sept. 26, the majority of the Northern Rockies had received a decent amount of rain over the previous 72 hours and most fires were contained. However, fire danger remained high across Montana as of press time.

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Still don't use slower friends as bear bait.



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**ON THE COVER** A completed mural at 508 Central Ave. in Great Falls by Wes Abarca (@Wes77 on Instagram) completed during the ArtsFest MONTANA 2020 street art festival.

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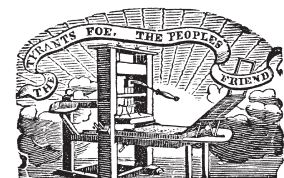
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# BYGONE DAYS

*Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1896, 1936 and 1961. For daily Bygone Days, follow online at [montanapress.net](http://montanapress.net) or @MontanaPress on Facebook.*

## **Great Falls Tribune October 2, 1896**

“Unknown Rancher Dragged About Twenty Feet—Is not Seriously Injured. A very peculiar accident occurred at 7:14 o’clock Monday evening, on the street railway on Fifth avenue north... and an unknown man thereby had a very narrow escape from death. It was very dark that hour, when a car, in charge of Conductor Ellis, with Jack Schutz as motoneer, approached Ninth street from the east, running at a moderate rate of speed. Those on the car saw Schutz suddenly set the brake, but they saw nothing on the track, and an instant later the car struck the hind wheel of a wagon and Ran about 20 feet further, dragging something under the car. When the car stopped investigation showed that there was a man beneath the lifeguard, lying up on his back. He was unconscious and so helpless that it was about 20 minutes before he was extricated. Dr. Adams and an ambulance were at once summoned and the injured man was taken to Columbus hospital, where it was found that his only injuries were numerous bruises and some painful cuts about the face in head. In one of his pockets was a broken bottle, while his coat was saturated with whisky. When he recovered consciousness he was interrogated, but refused to make any statement, even declining to give his name. His wagon was drawn by two black horses and was loaded with oats. He was dressed in black clothes. How the accident a curd [sic] is a mystery. If the man had been on the wagon when it was struck, he would not have fallen beneath the car; if he was walking, he must have been behind the wagon. The wagon when struck was standing at right angles to the track, with the hind wheels on the rail. It is possible that the man lay down on the track while drunk and the team stood still. All passengers agree about the car men are blameless, all saying that they saw nothing on the track prior to the collision.”

## **The Dillon Tribune October 2, 1896**

“The Female Minstrels... The third entertainment by Mrs. W. H. Cochran and her elocution class was given in the Dillon opera house last Friday evening to a full house. The speaking and singing were unusually good and the tableaux enacted by the class were beautiful. The young ladies were dressed in loose gowns of white and their hair hung in waves around their shoulders. Four sets of tableaux were given and each was heartily applauded. At the conclusion of the program was given a minstrel performance and much to the astonishment of the audience the curtain rose on a dusky group on the stage, instead of the pure white angels which appeared at the beginning. The young ladies had actually blackened their faces and where the loose, soft curls had been there was now a mass of black, wooly hair, out of which protruded all sorts of bright-colored flowers and ribbons; and their dresses! Well the like has never been

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seen before and we hope never to see again. The two end ladies had banjos and played accompaniment to the darkey melodies which were sung by the other members of the troupe. A few jokes were gotten off on the candidates for office and business men of Dillon which were enjoyed by the audience.”

## **Thompson Falls Weekly Montanian October 3, 1896**

“In writing to the *Missoulian* here is what a good Christian says about Judge Woody: ‘Answering the question asked you in your paper last night I wish to say that Judge Woody is an advocate of the whipping post. I was present when he read his paper before the Bar Association. It was brutal in the extreme and showed the inhuman nature of the man. For an enlightened person of the present day to advocate such a cruel punishment only shows the tyrannical nature of the man. Think of a judge of a court in this community having such ideas. It is a disgrace to our modern civilization. It is to be hoped that an advocate of the whipping post will not be called upon to administer justice in Missoula county. I say down with such tyrants.’”

## **The Anaconda Standard October 5, 1896**

“Buck Buchanan was arrested at 2:30 o’clock this morning for taking a shot at Amelia Richman, a woman living at 65 East Galena street. He called on the female and they had some trouble, and her story is to the effect that he hit her on the head. He threatened to kill her, she says, if she blew a police whistle, but she blew it just the same and he picked up a revolver from a shelf and fired at her, but the bullet did not hit her. He then ran out of the back door and was arrested by Officer Crawford. He attempted to give the officers the slip in the jail office, but did not succeed. He was charged with attempting to commit murder.”

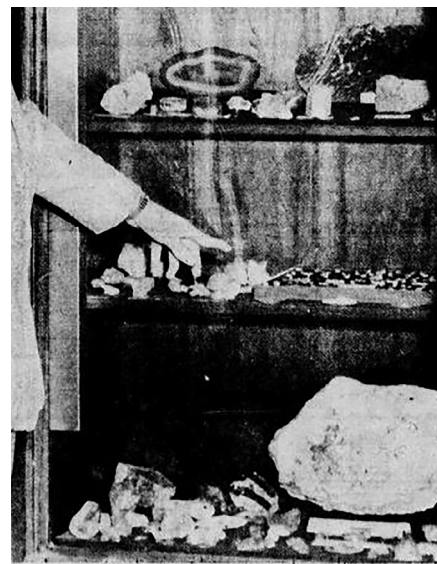
## **The Big Timber Pioneer October 22, 1936**

“Six Montana Counties Are Forced To Reprint Their Election Ballots. *Billings Gazette*: Attorney General Raymond T. Nagle Wednesday night, only 12 days before the

general election, ruled that Yellowstone, Big Horn and other counties that printed their general election ballots with the column for independent candidates somewhere except in last place ‘must print them over’ or risk ‘danger of having their votes thrown out.’ The ruling was answered by Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder George G. Osten who said: ‘It will probably be impossible to reprint ballots in the short length of time. If the attorney general would have issued his ruling at the proper time, county clerks over the state would not have fallen victim to an ambiguous interpretation of state statute.’ The main reason for the ruling was the interpretation of ‘independent’ as a party. Nagle ruled that ‘independent candidates are not candidates upon a party ticket... and it is not legal to separate the party tickets and to insert between such party tickets the names of independent candidates.’”

## **The Big Timber Pioneer October 22, 1936**

“Sudden Anger at Small Puppy Ends Life of Employee [sic] at Rock Quarry. *Livingston Enterprise*: Sudden anger at a small puppy that ate a sandwich he was preparing for himself caused the death Wednesday about 5:20 p.m. of John Rodgers, 62, caretaker for the Addison-Miller company at the Emigrant rock quarry of the Northern Pacific... Rodgers, long-time employee of the Addison-Miller company, prepared himself a sandwich about 2:30 o’clock, he related to M.B. Angle, Northern Pacific station agent at Emigrant, before he died. The puppy, about two months old, in some manner stole the sandwich from the table in Rodgers’ house at the rock quarry. Becoming suddenly angry, Rodgers grabbed a .22-calibre rifle from its resting place on the wall, intending to shoot the dog. Changing his mind, he decided to whip the animal—reversing the gun, the barrel pointing toward his body. The gun discharged, the bullet entering Rodgers’ abdomen. Knowing he was seriously hurt, Rodgers managed to walk or crawl to a telephone in his home, calling Angle at the Emigrant station. He collapsed before completing his message. Angle and a companion rushed the three miles to the cabin and found the fatally injured man lying on the floor. Rodgers was taken to Emigrant, an emergency call for a physician being sent to Livingston. Mr. and Mrs. Angle and other Emigrant residents made Rodgers as comfortable as possible during the wait vainly attempting to stop the flow of blood from the wound... The man died about 12 miles out of the city... The wife and four children survive in Spokane.”



**Before \$5,000 Mines Burglary**

## **The River Press, Fort Benton October 25, 1961**

“Sen. Charles Bovey, Cascade, last week received a certificate designating Virginia City as a national registered historic landmark. Presentation was made on behalf of the secretary of interior in the governor’s office. Bovey, whose work in restoration of Virginia City has attracted nationwide attention, received the certificate in recognition of his efforts. The designation is intended to call attention of tourists and others interested to the significance of the point, and at present doesn’t involve further federal participation. Virginia City was the first site in Montana to be recognized.”

## **The Billings Gazette October 29, 1961**

“Family Plans Shelter Stay. A young Billings couple and their two children will leave civilization and its conveniences Monday—moving into a sparsely furnished fallout shelter and living as if their world had been darkened by a cloud of radioactive fallout. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Wahl, their son Jeffery, 4, and 9-month-old daughter, Jan Marie, plan to live in the shelter for five days. Their only contact with the outside world will be a battery-operated radio and something they probably would not have if it were ‘for real’—a telephone. Wahl said the phone is for contacting the radio station where he is employed, KURL, and for telling people on the outside ‘just what it’s like.’ It is believed the Wahls are the first family in Montana to attempt life in a fallout shelter for any length of time. The 8’ by 12’ fallout shelter is stocked with the bare essentials necessary for life underground. The shelter will be located in the parking lot of Buttreys Shopping Center. ‘We have been told the psychological effects and not the physical will be most severe. We’re anxious to see how it comes out,’ Wahl said.”

## **The Butte Montana Standard October 31, 1961**

“\$5,000 in Gold Nuggets Taken From Butte Safe. By Frank Bartel. Some \$5,000 in gold nuggets—the precious metal for which pioneers lived and died to forge the old west—was stolen from the Montana School of Mines Museum in a theft discovered Monday. Strangely reminiscent of the days when hijackers waylaid prospectors or pried open stagecoach strong boxes was the technique employed by the thief who took the gold from an old fashioned safe. He literally ‘peeled’ it open. The gold was part of a display of mineral belonging to the school... the nuggets are worth far more than their cash value in that they are irreplaceable. Precious metals and stones worth many times the amount of the lost gold were left behind, police said. The collection was on display in a large old Mosler safe with an eight-inch thick steel door. Asst. Police Chief John O’Leary said the peel job was done by someone ‘who knows professional techniques.’ He said the job apparently was the work of one person. Dials were knocked off the door and rivets around the edge sheared off so the safe-cracker could pry off the surface panel and manipulate the dial mechanisms. The collection was displayed behind an inch-thick glass window, weighing 285 pounds and attached to the safe with iron bars and screws. The window was removed and used as a ramp into the safe, the assistant chief said. O’Leary said entry into the school was gained by forcing a library window on the northwest ground floor of the building, not visible from most of the campus grounds...” ★



# MONTANA VOICES

## *Light at the End of Trump's Dark Tunnel? Having Hope for a Better Future*

It has been a grueling four years of watching Donald Trump and his minions dismantle the basic foundations of American government, sow division and hatred, and kick open the doors of the Treasury to his pack of corrupt grifters. But take heart, our national nightmare looks like it's coming to an end and Montanans can once again hold hope for a better future.

### TRUMP IS GOING DOWN

Despite Trump's blowhard propaganda about how he's our "favorite president" and deserves to be on Mt. Rushmore, his national polling against Democratic challenger Joe Biden is deeply and likely irreversibly in the hole. The average of polls bounces around, but it's safe to say Biden is leading Trump by about 10 percentage points among likely voters. That's a huge deficit at any time in a campaign, but especially during the last month prior to Election Day when early voting has already started in a number of states.

Of course many strategists and pundits have pointed out for most of the last year that Trump's approach to campaigning is basically preaching to the choir that only includes about 40 percent of voters. He has, however, refused advice that he reach out to a larger group than his "base." In fact, he has done just the opposite and continues to insult and denigrate nearly two out of every three Americans.

In the meantime, his historic and on-going attacks against the free press as "fake news" have become considerably less effective, particularly so after the New York Times released a blockbuster article exposing the very real facts that while claiming to be a billionaire he has paid zero taxes in 10 of the last 15 years prior to assuming the presidency and paid a whopping \$750 in the last couple years. That's about what an honest single taxpayer making \$18,000 a year pays.

You can wrap yourself in the flag, but true patriots do not avoid their civil tax responsibilities and let everyone else pay for the free ride of which they've taken such grotesque advantage. The good news is that if the tax lawyers are right, Trump and his entire crime family may be headed to prison. But hey, at

least they'll get to hang out with their former staffers, advisers and the other assorted scum they unleashed on the nation.

A huge win for Bullock and the environment Montanans who cherish our state's incredible "last best" environment owe Governor Bullock a huge debt of gratitude right now. Why? Because Bullock won his lawsuit to invalidate Trump's appointment of William Perry Pendley to head the Bureau of Land Management – the agency that oversees millions of acres of federal public lands.

In a stunning ruling, federal judge Brian Morris found Pendley, who has never been confirmed by the Senate as required by law, has served illegally for his entire 424 days in office. What that means is that every one of the actions performed and "secretarial orders" issued while he was illegally in his position are likely to be invalidated and overturned — including hundreds of thousands of acres of oil and gas leases, clearcuts, and other environmentally destructive actions on federal public lands.

In Bullock's own words: "Today's ruling is a win for the Constitution, the rule of law, and our public lands. Montanans can rest easy knowing that National Public Lands Day will begin with William Perry Pendley packing his desk and vacating the Director's Office at the Bureau of Land Management."

The government is not broken -- our Constitutional checks and balances are working

Despite all the efforts of the most ill-suited president in memory, the bottom line is that the Constitutional checks and balances upon which our nation was founded are working. The courts move glacially, but they do move – and they have moved to invalidate, eviscerate, and overturn the

actions of the Trump administration at record levels.

Make no mistake, it will take years to crawl out of the very deep hole into which Trump's horrific 'reign of error' has left the nation, the environment, and our people. But we can do that, however difficult it may be, if we reject those who seek to turn us against each other, restore respect for our differences of opinion, and remember "united we stand – divided we fall." ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

## *Anti-Racism Organizations Maintain Focus*

Race conversations continued in America during September and Montana equity organizations reported an increased demand to bring change locally.

Nationwide protests against police brutality erupted after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May of this year.

On September 23, outrage again was felt by many when a Kentucky grand jury decided not to bring charges against police in one of the catalyzing racial justice cases of the year, the killing of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor.

Taylor was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment on March 13 when three police officers entered her home during a narcotics raid and returned fire after being shot at by Taylor's boyfriend. Crowds have marched now for over 120 days in the Kentucky city seeking justice for Taylor's death, but the recent announcement caused increased social unrest involving riots, dozens of arrests, and shootings.

The day before the Breonna Taylor announcement, President Donald Trump signed an executive order banning federal contractors from conducting racial sensitivity training, following a letter instructing federal agencies to end similar trainings earlier in the month. The order states, "It shall be the policy of the United States not to promote race or sex stereotyping or scapegoating."

In a tweet, the President announced the ban, writing, "Americans should be taught to take PRIDE in our Great Country, and if you don't, there's nothing in it for you!"

While the tension surrounding race relations perseveres, individuals and organizations in Montana are continuing work to address systematic racism and equity issues.

Tobin Shearer, Director of African-American Studies at the University of Montana taught a non-credit online course for both students and the public to learn research-based and field-tested terms, concepts and principles to dismantle institutional racism. Shearer said over 70 people participated in the course.

"There are sets of ideas that in the class we equip students to think and talk about racism in a more sophisticated and nuanced way than they're used to," Shearer says.

His recent course, "Dismantling Rac-

ism: From Theory to Practice," lasted five weeks and ended mid-September. All funds from offering the class went to support the African-American Studies Program at UM. Shearer says he's in the midst of planning another course with the University.

"There's a big educational movement, Shearer says. "I think it's exciting to see members of the community step up."

Shearer says he's seen a spike in requests for anti-racism lectures and consulting due to the social movement surrounding the death of George Floyd.

With very little advertising, Shearer says he's given online presentations to dozens of groups, ranging from librarians to medical workers. According to Shearer, many organiza-

tions have yet to develop a framework for understanding racism in their workspace.

"We are focused on helping predominantly white groups develop anti-racism plans in their own setting," Shearer says. "We do audits to as-

sess where they are and where they need to go."

EmpowerMT, a non-profit based in Missoula, is doing work similar to Shearer's but with a focus on leadership. According to their website, the organization works with communities, schools, businesses and other organizations in Montana to end mistreatment, correct systematic inequalities and strengthen communities across Montana.

Executive Director Heidi Wallace says EmpowerMT has been educating the community about anti-racism since its inception in 1998 but Black Lives Matter activity has surged engagement.

"We've definitely had an increase in requests in consulting, which has been really exciting and really important," Wallace says.

Wallace says EmpowerMT will be hosting an online seminar in the Spring for people to deconstruct their own individual racism and act as allies. Check the website for details at EmpowerMT.org.

In response to federal changes surrounding anti-racism policy, Wallace says, "It is critical for all Americans to understand the impact of systematic racism on individuals and institutions." ★

—GENEVA ZOLTEK



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# MONTANA VOICES

## Statewide Candidates on Climate Change

In spite of a history of political divisiveness over the issue, a growing public outcry is calling for leaders to address climate change on a local, national and global scale. In Montana, the issue of climate change has been looming in the background for decades – but it’s becoming harder to ignore.

“We are at a turning point, especially with an administration that has rolled back so many of our environmental protections already. We need our elected folks at the Federal and State level to protect the interest of Montanans and our strong outdoor heritage. That is what drives Montanans,” says Whitney Tawney, deputy director for the group Montana Conservation Voters.

“As Montanans, we have a history of wanting better from our elected officials when it comes to the environment because we all really care,” Tawney says. “We are the crown jewel of America in terms of the accessibility of our land and water, and the cleanness of our air.”

In Montana, climate change is already a threat to our agricultural and outdoor economy, says Montana Environmental Information Center’s clean energy program director Brian Fadie.

“There are tens of thousands of jobs at stake and hundreds of millions of dollars that the state sees from those sectors – and they are at great risk because of climate change,” Fadie says.

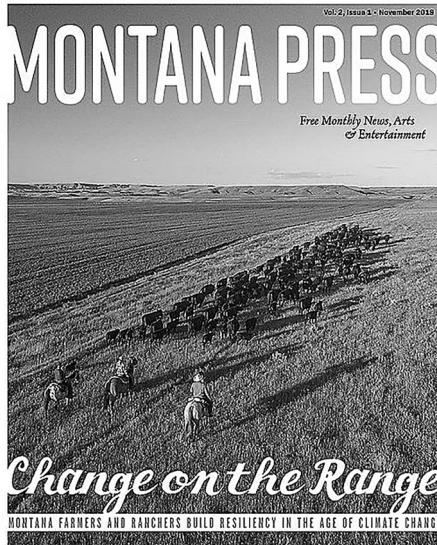
“With that in mind, the question for politicians is, ‘What are you going to do to put us on the right track?’”

While some politicians continue to ignore or deny the mounting evidence of a warming climate, others say they are ready to take action. In the following interviews, Montana gubernatorial candidate Mike Cooney; U.S. House candidate Kathleen Williams and U.S. Senate candidate Steve Bullock weigh in on climate issues and outline their plans to move Montana toward a more sustainable future.

While both Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate and U.S. House were contacted and given time to respond with verbatim answers or an interview, only the Democratic candidates consented to interviews on the subject.

The interviews are part of a *Montana Press Monthly* series that first explored climate change in Glacier National Park in the July 2019 issue. “The End of the Glaciers: Climate Change and Glacier Park,” traced the stories of rangers, ecologists, biologists, Park managers and policy-makers to reveal the effects of climate change in the current era of Park management.

The full article is available at: [montanapress.net/post/spotlight-national-parks](http://montanapress.net/post/spotlight-national-parks).



The series continued in November 2019 with “Change on the Range: Montana Farmers and Ranchers Build Resiliency in the age of Climate Change,” a look at how farmers and ranchers are seeking solutions in the light of changing climate conditions and increasing climate variability.

The issue is available for download at [montanapress.net/big-sky-news-1](http://montanapress.net/big-sky-news-1).

The January 2020 issue features, “Sustaining the Slopes: Efforts by Montana Ski Areas to Combat Climate Change,” which examines the effects of climate variability on Montana’s ski industry. The story includes interviews and perspectives from various ski areas that are preparing for changing climate to impact their future operations.

The issue is available for download at [montanapress.net/big-sky-news-1](http://montanapress.net/big-sky-news-1).



In the current installment of the series, *Montana Press* posed questions to statewide candidates about issues at the forefront of Montanans’ concerns about climate change and variability. The same questions were asked of all the candidates. They address conservation, public land use and wilderness preservation and the effects of climate change on economic sectors in Montana.

The *Montana Press* has reached out to other newspapers and news outlets across the state to encourage their editors and reporters to obtain answers to the following questions from the candidates who declined to be interviewed for this series. ★

—BREEANA LAUGHLIN

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates for U.S. House are Kathleen Williams, three-term Montana State Representative, and Matt Rosendale, Montana State Auditor.

**Montana Press:** How would you use your time in office as governor to address the impacts of climate change, and what conservation or sustainability issues will be your priorities if you are elected?

**Kathleen Williams:** My career has been almost four decades in natural resources problem solving – bringing people together to find win-win-win solutions to really thorny issues, with a specialty in water.

I’ve been on the front lines of climate change. I’ve seen earlier runoff and hotter, drier, longer summers and a more intense fire season, just like other Montanans – especially farmers who are seeing the differences over their generation and previous generations.

So, we need to address this issue. We need to find ways to capitalize on the way that we address it. I think we need to make sure that we are ahead of the energy consumers of the future. We are an energy-exporting state and we’ve already been affected by changing markets and changing demands from energy consumers that we sell to. They want cleaner, more renewable, affordable energy. We need to get ahead of that curve and make sure that we have the workforce and the renewable energy stream that are going to be demanded in the future as they are starting to be now.

One recent newspaper story that concerned me was that one of the investors pulling out of Colstrip; a West Coast Company is instead investing in wind in Wyoming. I saw that and I thought, ‘Why, did we lose them to Wyoming?’ We should be ensuring that investment not only stays here, but that new investment comes here. I want to be ahead of that curve.

I think another part of being ahead of that curve is working to electrify our transportation sector. That would involve all kinds of new infrastructure jobs. The transportation sector is actually the highest greenhouse-gas emitting. So, by doing that, we’re creating that new economy for the future and energy uses of the future while also benefiting our economy.

One other aspect of my strategy is to work with agricultural producers on soil health. If we can increase soil health, we actually can capture more carbon than the transportation sector emits, and we can help farmers and ranchers diversify their income. So, again, I always look for win-win-win solutions.

**MP:** Do you have plans to safeguard Montana’s industries that contribute significantly to Montana’s economy and also rely on clean air and water, like agriculture and tourism?

**Williams:** I’ve been doing that my entire career in Montana. I’ve been working to balance the needs of water users with the health of our streams. It takes an absolute personal commitment and a professional commitment, as well as the skills and knowledge to be able to make those balances.

My opponent, part of his economic plan, is to industrialize our public lands and to roll back regulations that don’t directly involve safety. Those are the regulations that protect our clean air and water, and so I think there’s a real stark contrast between myself and my opponent in that regard.



**MP:** During your career, has there been a particular piece of legislation or issue that you supported? And on the other side, have you opposed any environmental legislation and why?

**Williams:** I’ve supported legislation that contributes to an even playing field with business, that ensures that we keep things clean rather than the more expensive option of having to clean things up later.

I’m trying to think of environmental legislation that I opposed. Well, you know the Green New Deal is not something that I have supported in full.

**MP:** Is that because you don’t feel like it’s in a good spot or you want to work on something different?

**Williams:** Well, it’s a top-down approach. I want to do what Montanans are most interested in, and that’s healthcare and fostering opportunity and protecting our outdoor heritage. I’m not really interested in top-down federal regulatory or federally-driven set of policies. I really enjoy working with Montanans to craft things that are unique to Montana and really respond to those issues.

**MP:** How will you set up Montana to be able to take advantage of the transition occurring in the renewable energy sector as fossil fuels become less economically viable?

**Williams:** We need to look forward. I’m very solution-oriented rather than political talking points or dogma-oriented. When we see trends, we need to get ahead of them and capitalize on them. And one of those trends is the demand for cleaner, more renewable energy. So we can create the workforce and the economy that protects the resource-dependent communities and also capitalizes on those new opportunities.

**MP:** How would you support access to public lands in Montana? And would you safeguard against land transfers that could lead to selling off of public lands? Under what circumstance?

**Williams:** Absolutely. I mean, my opponent has advocated for transferring public lands and that just shows how out of step he is with an issue that is incredibly cross partisan here. Montanans love their outdoor heritage. I do. I’m a hunter, I’m an angler. I go outdoors to get my renewal and to hone my skills and learn the way of nature, and build family and friendship.

I think anyone who has suggested at any time to transfer our public lands is incredibly out of touch with Montana values. So, not only will I keep them from being transferred, but I also disagree with my opponent who wants to industrialize them and basically prioritize short-term profits over long-term health. Certainly, we need to have very frank and important discussions about public land management and to ensure that the agencies have the resources they need in a changing climate. And then, as I look out the window at the smoky skies, we need to be talking about what does the future of public land management look like?

It’s not about transferring, it’s not about industrializing, and I know what Montanans want. They want those lands protected, accessible, and healthy.

Matt Rosendale did not respond to requests for an interview.





## U.S. SENATE

*Candidates for U.S. Senate include Steve Bullock, the current Governor of Montana, and incumbent Senator Steve Daines.*

**Montana Press: How would you use your time as senator to address the impacts of climate change? What conservation or sustainability issues will be priorities for you if elected?**

**Steve Bullock:** Montanans are outdoors folks. Our fire seasons are 40 days longer now than they were 30 years ago, and our farmers are seeing changes in their planting seasons. From our way of life to our economy, we're already experiencing the effects of climate change. That's why I took real steps towards renewable energy. I doubled Montana's wind power and quadrupled our solar power generation while in office. We can address climate while creating good jobs and not leaving our communities behind.

In the Senate, some of my other conservation priorities include supporting made-in-Montana conservation legislation like the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act and the Badger Two-Medicine Protection Act, so our kids and grandkids have the same opportunities to go out and enjoy the public lands that we grew up on.

**MP: Do you have plans to safeguard Montana's industries that contribute significantly to Montana's economy and also rely on clean air and water, like agriculture and tourism?**

**Bullock:** There's no doubt about it — public lands are some of our state's biggest economic drivers. It's important that we give businesses and other industries that rely on our public lands the tools they need to be successful. That's why I created the Office of Outdoor Recreation to help our state best use and support the \$7.1 billion that's brought in through tourism and recreation and the more than 71,000 jobs created through Montana's outdoor economy.

For our farmers and ranchers, I'll fight to make sure that they get a fair price for their goods and a market to sell them. But when four companies control 80% of processing, they don't get that fair price. That's why it's high-time we take on market consolidation at the federal level. In the Senate, I'll continue to stand up for Montana's agricultural producers and support our outdoor economy, just like I have as your Governor.

**MP: During your career, has there been a particular piece of environmental/conservation legislation or issue that you supported, sponsored or spearheaded? Which environmental legislation or issue have you opposed? Why?**

**Bullock:** You know, I started out my career in public service as a lawyer in the office of Montana Attorney General Joe Mazurek taking on special interests who wanted to

limit our access to our rivers and streams — and I won. We've been able to bring Democrats and Republicans together to get real things done for Montanans, but I'm really glad that we were able to restore funding to the Habitat Montana program, which protects wildlife habitats across the state and supports conservation-minded ranchers, farmers, and private landowners. It was a great step forward in conserving important wildlife areas and supporting our outdoor economy.

I stood up to the Obama Administration on things like Waters of the US and the Clean Power Plan when their policies went too far and weren't in the best interests of all Montanans. I've always said that I'll work with anyone and stand up to anyone if it's what's right for our state. Throughout my time in office, I've worked hard to protect and expand access to our public lands for all Montanans. I'll keep doing the same when I get to the Senate.

**MP: How will you set up Montana to be able to take advantage of the transition occurring in the renewable energy sector as fossil fuels become less economically viable?**

**Bullock:** While I was in office, I created an Energy Blueprint that laid a path for the state to expand clean energy solutions, quadrupling the state's installed solar capacity and doubling wind generation — with more clean energy projects in the works.

At the same time, I stood up to Washington Democrats who have tried to dictate Montana's energy future and have demanded fair treatment for Montana's coal industry and workers. That is why I led an effort with 17 other states and worked directly with the Dept. of Energy to find innovative ways to continue to use coal as a cleaner energy source.

In the Senate, I will never turn my back on hardworking Montanans and their families. I'll explore new ways to use coal as an energy source while limiting our impact on the environment through carbon capture and sequestration. And I will make sure that those who have powered our nation for decades are first in line for new energy jobs. We owe it to them.

I'll keep fighting for policies that support both Montana's workers and environment in the Senate, while creating good-paying jobs.

**MP: How would you support access to public lands in Montana? Would you safeguard against land transfers that could lead to selling off of public lands? Under what circumstance?**

**Bullock:** Public lands are one of our great equalizers. We need to make sure our public lands have the protections and resources they need so that future generations can enjoy these lands as well. I'll push for real action at the federal level to expand access to our public lands and make sure that they have the support that they need.

In the Senate, I'll oppose any and all attempts to transfer or sell off our public lands, and stand up to public officials and corporate interests who try to threaten them. It's what I've done my entire career, and that won't change once I get to Washington.

*Senator Steve Daines declined any form of interview.*



## GOVERNOR OF MONTANA

*Candidates for Governor include Mike Cooney, current Lt. Governor of Montana and the incumbent U.S. Congressman from Montana, Greg Gianforte.*

**Montana Press: How would you use your time in office as governor to address the impacts of climate change, and what conservation or sustainability issues will be your priorities if you are elected?**

**Mike Cooney:** First of all, I think it's important to understand that Montanans know that our climate is changing because they frankly can see it in front of their own eyes. How glaciers are melting, crop seasons are becoming more unpredictable and we've seen fire seasons growing longer and more expensive and the destruction is only increasing.

So across the state, I think there's a great deal of agreement from folks — including farmers, ranchers, outdoors women and men, students — that Montana needs to take action to protect what we have for future generations. I do think that it is an incredibly important issue. It's essential that we do rely on the science behind climate change while making the decisions to reflect Montana values.

**MP: Do you have plans to safeguard Montana's industries that contribute significantly to the economy and also rely on clean air and water like agriculture and tourism?**

**Cooney:** We need to remember that our outdoor economy continues to be incredibly important and it grows. The last number I saw, our outdoor economy brings in over \$7 billion — and about 70,000 new jobs are attached to that. That's big. Anything we do that upsets that has additional negative impact on our economy. We need to continue to grow our outdoor economy and do everything we can to make sure that we're building on our success and not doing things that will harm it.

I've also had a chance to talk with a number of folks in agriculture, and I know they're concerned about a changing climate. I've been involved as the Chairman of the Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee. We've worked very hard with local communities on how they can be more resilient. These discussions and these plans need to be developed locally.

We need to do more to work with communities to help build resiliency throughout the state so that we're not addressing these issues too late and we're prepared for it. We can have a plan that when the drought occurs, we know how to use those very precious resources that we have so we can sustain our community needs.

**MP: During your career, has there been a particular piece of legislation or an issue that you supported, sponsored or spearheaded? And on the other side, have there been any environmental legislation that you have opposed and why?**

**Cooney:** When I was in the House early on, we were dealing with a lot of information, a lot of environmental legislation in the '70s — everything from the Major Facility Siting Act to water quality. One of the issues that I was very involved in, and I actually drafted a resolution was when the federal government



talked a lot about what to do with nuclear waste. There was talk about looking for a state or a location in the country where it was fairly rural, not heavily populated, where they might be able to look at building a nuclear waste repository.

There was a lot of word out there on the street that Montana may be right for that and I wrote legislation that said that Montana would deal with any nuclear waste that we produced. We did not want the federal government to continue to look at Montana as a site for a national repository. And again, working with Republicans and Democrats, we were able to pass that piece of legislation and at least get Montana's position out there, front and center.

If there was anything that I voted against environmental, I think there may have been bills to change some of the Major Facility Siting Act or the MEPA, Montana Environmental Protection Act, over the course of the years that I did vote against. But I voted against them because I thought they were moving Montana in the wrong direction and it wasn't where we wanted to go. I wanted to defend Montana's position. They were bills that would weaken what I thought were very good, strong, well-thought-out pieces of legislation.

**MP: How would you set up Montana to be able to take advantage of the transition occurring in the renewable energy sector as fossil fuels become less economically viable?**

**Cooney:** We have been an energy leader throughout our history, and whether it was starting when Butte was producing copper to electrify the United States and many parts of the world to our oil and gas and coal development that has really been a part of our economy and has really supported a lot of families throughout the years in Montana. But, now we see that market changing and things changing. We can decide now to lead or to follow.

I think Montana should really be the leader in this. And we can do it by supporting policies that encourage efficient use of our energy and to help us reduce some of the most significant costs facing all Montanans. We can provide incentives that encourage the development of our wind and solar resources. There are good paying jobs as we make this transition.

**MP: How would you support access to public lands in Montana? And would you safeguard against land transfers that could lead to selling off of public lands?**

**Cooney:** I do oppose the transfer of federal lands to the state, because quite honestly it would put such a burden on the state to try to properly manage them. I don't know that we would ever have the resources to do it. And I think that sort of an action is just a dir direct attempt for states to sell those lands off.

I can tell you if we were ever put in that position and had to do that, it wouldn't be average Montanans looking at buying those lands. It would be rich out of state interests that would be interested in buying those lands and closing them off. I mean, we're talking like 250,000 acres in Montana. That would be a huge problem for us.

My record on public lands is pretty crystal clear. My opponent came here from New Jersey and sued the people of Montana to prevent Montanans to have access to a very popular public fishing access site near his home. He just didn't want to have to deal with looking at fishermen out the window of his million-dollar mansion. ★

*Congressman Greg Gianforte declined any form of interview.*





# MONTANA BOOKS

*Bestselling Author Crafts New Literary Universe*

**M**ontana publishing phenomenon Christopher Paolini, who at age 18 launched his New York Times #1 best-selling “Eragon” boy-meets-dragon series, is now propelling readers deep into space with his first adult science-fiction adventure, “To Sleep in a Sea of Stars.”

Now, at the ripe old age of 36, the bright and ever-engaging Paolini, a home-schooled book nerd who passed on college to jump into fiction with the help of his parents’ small press, has spent half his life crafting and promoting three additional “Eragon” volumes in what’s now known as “The Inheritance Cycle.”

He’s now taking the inevitable twin giant leaps from young-adult to adult fiction, and from fantasy to sci-fi.

In “To Sleep in a Sea of Stars,” we meet xenobiologist Kira Navarez, as she discovers an alien relic while exploring a distant planet. As war erupts among the cosmos, Kira finds herself on a journey to save the Earth and its colonies from total annihilation.

Due to the pandemic, Paolini conducted his book tour virtually this fall, from his home outside of Livingston. Which, as luck would have it, may save him a good bit of heavy lifting, as the hard-cover of “To Sleep” weighs in at 856 pages.

“To Sleep in a Sea of Stars” was released September 15, 2020 and is available in various formats, from Kindle to an audiobook which includes an afterword read by Christopher Paolini as well as a bonus conversation between Christopher Paolini and narrator Jennifer Hale.

Virtual tour dates and a series of video segments from the “Fractalverse” are available at Paolini.net.

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**“Making a book really is kind of like doing a piece of carpentry or putting up a fence or doing some metalworking; you’re laying out your tools, you’re collecting your materials and you’re actually constructing something. It’s definitely more abstract and it certainly isn’t as hard physically, but conceptually a lot of it is the same.”**

**—CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI**

**Montana Press:** I’ve been using the ARC (advance reading copy) of “To Sleep” as a fitness weight.

**Paolini:** (Laughs) Yeah, it’s a big one, isn’t it? It’s a bit of a brick.

**MP:** Then again, you were always a book nerd, right?

**Paolini:** I was really lucky to have parents (Kenneth and Talita Paolini) who encouraged reading and taught me how to read. My mom is a trained Montessori teacher, which really, really helped, and I had a lot of librarians at local libraries here in Livingston that were always recommending books and doing what they could to encourage reading, not just with me but with anyone who came into the library.

I was also fortunate enough to find books that I was interested in reading, which is always a challenge. So, for all those reasons, I definitely fell in love with reading at an early age. Plus, I didn’t have a lot of distractions; the internet was not what it is now and I also didn’t drive. There weren’t a lot of options for entertainment, so reading was cheap and easy and, of course, amazing.

**MP:** How old were you when you moved to Montana from Southern California?

**Paolini:** I think we moved here in 1986 and I was born in ’83, so I was two and a half or three.

**MP:** Did it feel like home for you early on?

**Paolini:** I do love Montana. I’ve had the privileges and the opportunity to travel and live all across the world and I’ve spent time in New York City and San Diego and Barcelona and Edinburgh and all these other places, but there’s a reason I still live in Paradise Valley, Montana. This is one of the most gorgeous places in the world; the people are nice, and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.

**MP:** Great place to write a book or six, yes?

**Paolini:** I think Montana provides great inspiration for anyone who is a creative person. The landscape, of course, is world class; there really isn’t a whole lot like this. The wildlife is amazing and just having the sheer amount of space available is something that we lose when we’re in a city where everyone gets crammed in cheek to jowl.

That’s not necessarily a bad way of living; plenty of people live wonderful lives in cities. But for me personally, it’s not how I prefer to live. It’s nice to have lots of space around you. That’s one of the reasons I ended up in Edinburgh in Scotland. I found that the further north in Europe you go, the more personal space people like to have, and I appreciate that. If you’re in Italy – and I have family in Italy, I love Italy – people do just like to crowd in all around you.

**MP:** And considering the last eight months...

**Paolini:** (Laughs) Exactly. Indeed.

**MP:** As your reading expanded, did the fantasy mindset keep you indoors or prompt you to explore the outdoors?

**Paolini:** My family didn’t actually get any television reception where we lived when I was growing up because of the way the valley was shaped, so the only popular entertainment we really got was movies on VHS and then books. So outside of reading, I had to find ways to entertain myself, and that involved running around playing games and climbing trees.

It was very much a sort of Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn sort of upbringing. I was always making myself slingshots and learning how to make knives and work metal and carve things. And that, honestly, was a great experience because it taught me that if I wanted something and I didn’t have the money to buy it, which usually I didn’t, there was a good chance that I could figure out how to make it myself. Even if I couldn’t make it to a professional level, I would learn something from the process; even if what I made was a bit wonky, it was still something I had made. There was pride of ownership there.

That actually carried over into the writing. Making a book really is kind of like doing a piece of carpentry or putting up a fence or doing some metalworking; you’re laying out your tools, you’re collecting your materials and you’re actually constructing something. It’s definitely more abstract and it certainly isn’t as hard physically, but conceptually a lot of it is the same. So, having that experience growing up and making things and learning how to do things was very helpful when it came to actually writing a book.

**MP:** “To Sleep” is a huge step out of the young adult world and into a very mature and nuanced adult science-fiction world. Did you have this adult sci-fi whopper done in your head before you put pen to paper?

**Paolini:** Well, I thought I did. But I was mistaken. I got the idea for the book back in 2006-7, but I was busy finishing “The Inheritance Cycle” and that took the bulk of my attention up until the end of 2011, and then a good chunk of 2012 when I was touring for the series. And then once that was finished, I started doing the research. I needed to sort of get my head around the science and technology that a science-fiction story would require, and specifically the sort of story I wanted to tell.

But when I actually started writing “To Sleep,” I don’t want to say I was cocky but I definitely was overconfident, because from my point of view at that time, I had written these four novels that had been quite successful, and I’d been doing it for over a decade at that point, and I think I sort of got the attitude that, well hey, I know what I’m doing, I can sort of wing it as I go and it’s all going to work out.

Well, what I didn’t realize at the time is that my storytelling skills had basically gotten rusty, because while I was working on “The Inheritance Cycle,” I was essentially



working from a story that I’d worked out in great detail when I began the series, and then in the years after that, some of my plotting chops had atrophied a bit.

So, with “To Sleep in a Sea of Stars,” I wrote the first draft and then my family – my first readers and specifically my sister Angela, who has an excellent editorial eye – read the book and kindly informed me that it just wasn’t working. I attempted to salvage what I could, but a couple of rewrites on that version of the book ultimately led me to realize that I was essentially rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic; I needed to fundamentally rethink my approach to the story or I needed to walk away from it and do something completely different.

I’d been working on the book for a long time; it was the end of 2017 when I had this realization, but I hate to give up on stuff. So what I did was this: I took a notebook and a fountain pen that I like writing with, and I wrote 200 pages of notes in a week and a half by hand, and I ripped apart every assumption I had made about the story, the characters, even the universe itself where the story is set. Once I felt as if I had a deeper understanding of what I was trying to accomplish with the story and what the story itself actually was, that’s when I sort of jumped into a massive, massive rewrite.

**MP:** Were you tempted to revert to fantasy at any point?

**Paolini:** (Laughs) Well no; the story itself is inherently science fiction. If I was going to write fantasy, that would have been just saying I’d given up on the story, I’m going to go write fantasy instead. I did do some fantasy while I was working on “To Sleep.” I actually published a collection of short stories (“The Fork, the Witch and the Worm”) set in the world of “Eragon,” and that was a wonderful palate cleanser between rewrites and editing and all of that.

I think what I wanted to do in this book was to tell a complete story in one novel, because I had the experience of writing a story over the course of four very large books.



It was a wonderful experience but as I get older and get more experience as both a writer and a reader, I find myself increasingly appreciating authors who can tell a complete story in one book. That is a talent. You know, it is a huge commitment of time to sit down to read a series from an author where there are five, six, eight books or more just to tell one story. And that can be a wonderful experience;

I love quite a few very long series. But the other thing is, life is short. Once I've read a book or two of an author, a lot of times I want to try reading a new author and see what else is going on in the industry or the genre.

So with "To Sleep," that was my goal: one complete story in one book, even though the universe itself, the 'fractalverse' that was the setting of this story, is going to be the home of many future stories of mine that will tie into "To Sleep." That sort of necessitated a certain size for the book. I want the readers, when they get to the end, to feel like they've gone on this epic, transformative journey

Hopefully when they finish that last page, that last chapter, that last line, that last scene, they're going to get a tingle up their spine and have a sense of awe and wonder and maybe a sense of hope, and hopefully a bittersweet ache that it's finally come to an end.

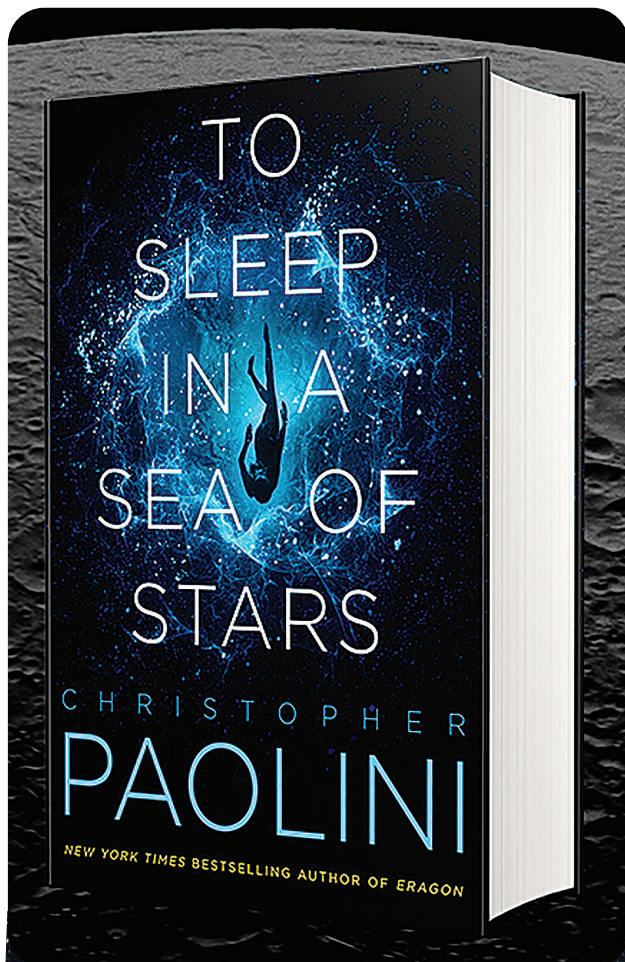
**MP:** How does your publisher feel about the likely page count of your next epic?

**Paolini:** Well, first of all, science fiction and fantasy tend to run long these days, so that was to my benefit. And two, I had the strangest editorial experience with this book, which is that, along with the various edits and changes that I would normally make during the course of editing, my two editors had me add about 30,000 words to the manuscript!

I've never had that happen. Usually, when I go into editing, I drop 10 to 15 percent of the size of the manuscript; you trim out the fluff, you make it run faster, you just clean it up. And I did a lot of that fluff removal and clarification. But then along with that, my editors kept saying, "You know, we want to understand more about this 'fractalverse' universe. We want to know more about the characters. Give us more, give us more!" And that's what ended up happening.

**MP:** I get short of breath just thinking of the challenge facing your audiobook narrator.

—JAY MACDONALD



**Paolini:** Indeed. We got an amazing actress, Jennifer Hale, to read the audiobook for us. It's 32 hours long, and if you listen to audiobooks, you know how long that is. It's really fun. Jennifer Hale holds the Guinness world-record for most prolific voice actress. She has done tons of video games like Overwatch and Mass Effect, all sorts of things like that. She's also done tons of cartoons and animation. She's been the voice of Cinderella for Disney for quite a long time. ★

# LET'S KEEP FIGHTING COVID-19

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①

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②

UNDERSTAND SOME SERVICES & DESTINATIONS MAY BE LIMITED

③

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MONTANA



# ARTSFEST MONTANA

## 2020



### STREET ART EXHIBIT IN GREAT FALLS

**The Great Falls Business Improvement District has encouraged city-wide public arts projects for many years. Last year, the organization sponsored the first annual ArtsFest MONTANA, featuring a week-long program to install street art as murals and installations on public and private buildings across the district.**

**Community Director Joan Redeen talked with Montana Press Monthly about street art, beautifying Great Falls and plans for the future.**

**Montana Press:** Tell us about the Great Falls Business Improvement District (BID) and the work you do in and around the city.

**Joan Redeen:** We are the second oldest BID in the state, behind Helena. We were originally formed in 1989. We've been up for renewal every 10 years and we have renewed, thankfully. We just renewed again in 2019 so we're around until 2029. Property owners within designated boundaries vote to impose a special assessment on themselves

and that assessment comes to the BID for use within those boundaries. We're tasked with beautification efforts in downtown Great Falls, so services that we provide to our property owners include taking care of the trees for them, putting flowers out in the summer and taking care of the holiday decor around the holiday season. We also have a

sound system in downtown Great Falls that we're responsible for. Anything that's involved with the environment and beautification, we do it. Unlike other BIDs, we're the only BID in the state that has had grant programs. I've been the community director since 2009. So I've been around a little while now.

**MP:** What was the inspiration to sponsor public art projects?

**JR:** In 2011, we got the art bug planted and started to do public arts. We copied Missoula's Traffic Signal Box project and we did all of the traffic signal boxes within the BID boundaries until we had no more traffic signal boxes we could do. I was like, 'Okay, so what else can we do?' So we created an art grant program for art in the public eye. We had a couple of muralists who came down from Conrad who installed some images of famous people in Great Falls. Two of those were within the BID. One of those is outside of the BID boundaries. So we have a huge mural of Paris Gibson, a huge mural of Charlie Russell, and a mural of Alma Jacobs who founded our library in Great Falls. That was kind of the beginning of it: a traffic signal box project, and then starting these murals.

**MP:** How did the first ArtsFest come about in Great Falls?

**JP:** Our tourism office actually took a trip to Calgary a couple of years ago, and discovered the Calgary housing mural festival. Calgary's mural festival is called BUMP [Beltline Urban Murals Project]. We cannot even begin to compare ourselves to Calgary's mural festival in scope and size, but that was the inspiration. Tourism came to my office and said, 'Hey, we really want to see this happen in Great Falls.' And I immediately went, 'Yeah!'

**MP:** Who were the first artists who participated in the initial mural installation?



*(At top) The community mural located at 612 1st Ave. South and artwork by Leaf Argotti (@leafargotti) on Speaking Socially (above) at 509 1st Ave. North were installed during ArtsFest MONTANA 2020.*





*The work in progress at 509 1st Ave South by Tommy Knock (@life\_is\_layers) during ArtsFest MONTANA 2020. (Below) Street artist Cameron Moberg (center) with many of the 2020 ArtsFest MONTANA artists at a mural installed in 2018 located at 504 Central Ave on Dragonfly Dry Goods.*



**JR:** In 2018 we invited artist Cameron Moberg, an internationally-known artist from San Francisco, to Great Falls. At that time, ArtsFest was not funded by the BID, it was funded by a grant through NeighborWorks Great Falls or NeighborWorks America. Cameron installed five murals downtown, just super-quick on a weekend and left town just as quickly. That was the start in the planting of a seed which grew to: let's invite artists from all over the place and have them come and work with our local artists and install amazing murals. In 2019 when ArtsFest MONTANA officially launched, it was 100 percent funded by the BID by that time.

In 2019, we had Cameron come back to town and he brought an artist from New York City to run a workshop. We had 21 of our local artists attend the workshop and they learned Cameron's techniques, like how to install a mural and how to do it fast, how to do it really well and what to charge for murals. 21 artists attended that workshop last year.

In 2019, we installed five murals. The BID spent about \$30,000 of our budget last year on ArtsFest and educated 21 artists. We now even have a mural alley where several of those artists in the workshop went out and started to install little tiny works of art, here and there. So there's a huge alley with a lot of variety.

**MP:** What was it like working with street artist Cameron Moberg?

**JR:** Moberg was in a 2014 reality TV show called Street Art where 10 artists competed against each other for 10 weeks and every week someone was eliminated. Cameron was the artist who won that show.

Cameron is very easy to work with. He's a fantastic teacher in the classroom. Next year, we are considering doing another workshop, too, as I have artists in town who have expressed interest. At this point, I'm not going to allow an artist to do a mural unless they work with Cameron and learn his techniques because I don't necessarily know what type of techniques that artist is using and if they can do it as quickly as we need it done.

**MP:** These murals do go up really fast, within a week?

**JR:** Well, actually, some of them are pretty amazing and go up in a matter of days. But that's what Cameron does, and he does it very, very quickly. And that's what he teaches, so folks learn how to do it really fast. Our first artist was Sheree Nelson, who is one of our local artists here in Great Falls, and she was the first one done. She was done in maybe three or four days this year. Then behind her, we had a gal from L.A. who actually had two murals to do, she finished her mural right at the same time Sheree did.

**MP:** How has ArtsFest evolved in 2020?

**JR:** This year, in 2020, we contracted with Cameron again, and more than doubled our budget. We also had funding from AARP.





AARP has an amazing community grant. So although we didn't receive that grant, they called us and said, 'We love your project so much, we still want to give you a little money.' So they sent us some money, and then NeighborWorks Great Falls also gave us some money. With the funding from AARP and NeighborWorks Great Falls, we were able to fund a mural outside of the BID boundaries. So that funding was specifically used for that mural outside of our boundaries. In 2020, we installed 11 new murals. We had artists from all over the place come to town, as well as utilizing a couple of local artists.

Our final mural, what we call our community mural, our collaborative mural, was installed outside of the BID boundaries at Miss Linda's Dance Studio on 1st Avenue South. We installed the mural with funding from AARP and NeighborWorks and we actually invited the community to come down on Saturday of our festival and they were given cans of spray paint and allowed to add to the mural and Cameron was there to offer instruction. Each one of the artists involved this year also has one piece to that mural. It's amazing. It's the one that says, 'Electric City.'

**MP:** What's on tap for 2021?

**JR:** Our goal is to continue to grow ArtsFest. We've already identified buildings for next year. Our property owners are asked to submit an application to participate in this project. They are not required to

pay anything. We do ask that they make generous and willing donations to us, and almost all of them have done that willingly, but it is not required. We have property owners who've actually called and said, 'Hey, how do I get in on this?'

ArtsFest 2021 will officially launch on Friday, August 20, 2021 and will conclude by Saturday, August 28.

**MP:** How can outdoor 'museum-goers' find more information about the pieces on display?

**JR:** We have a website dedicated to ArtsFest. It is [ArtsFestMontana.com](http://ArtsFestMontana.com). We're working on getting a map that is interactive and can guide people to the works of art. In the meantime, they can certainly contact my office at (406) 727-5430, and I'm happy to provide the path to take.

The beautiful thing with all of our murals is they're all within walking distance. So if folks just want to take a nice walk, depending on the weather or take a drive around and through the alleys, there are plenty of paths to take.

*For more information and a full walking list, see next page and visit [ArtsFestMontana.com](http://ArtsFestMontana.com). Photos provided by Joan Redeen and the Great Falls Business Improvement District. For more information on the BID, visit [@downtowngreatfalls](https://www.facebook.com/downtowngreatfalls) on Facebook or [GreatFallsBID.com](http://GreatFallsBID.com). All other @ addresses noted are instagram accounts.*



(Above) A mural in progress at 504 Central Ave by Great Falls artist Sheree Nelson (@sartnelson); and (top) a completed work at 509 1st Ave North on Speaking Socially by artist Daniel Toledo (@Mister\_Toledo).



# ARTSFEST MONTANA 2020



Progress of the mural at 15 5th Street South during the 2020 festival by featured artist Cameron Moberg (@Camer1sf). Moberg (inset above), a self-taught artist, was the winner of a grueling 2014 series on Oxygen TV, "Street Art," and is now world-renowned as an accomplished muralist. While his works span secular festivals and installations, Moberg is also an ordained Christian pastor. "I feel I am called to reach and love artists at this time in my pastoral walk," Moberg says. "It is my mission field. I feel like this is what I was born for, this moment."

## STREET ART EXHIBITS IN GREAT FALLS

### 101 CENTRAL AVE.

Ryan "Pawn" (@pawnpaint) - Installed 2020

### 15 5TH ST. SOUTH

Cameron Moberg (@camer1sf) - Installed 2020

### 509 1ST AVE. SOUTH

Tommy Knock (@life\_is\_layers) - Installed 2020

### 508 CENTRAL AVE.

Wes Abarca (@wes77) - Installed 2020

### 509 1ST AVE. NORTH

Aaron "Fasm" (@fasmcreative)  
Daniel Toledo (@mister\_toledo)  
Leaf Argotti (@leafargotti)  
Installed 2020

### 17 7TH ST. SOUTH

Allison Bamcat (@allisonbamcat)  
Installed 2020



### 504 CENTRAL AVE.

Sheree Nelson (@sartnelson)  
Installed 2020

### 612 1ST AVE. SOUTH

Collaborative/Community Mural  
Installed 2020

### 504 CENTRAL AVE.

Cameron Moberg (@camer1sf)  
Sheree Nelson (@sartnelson)  
Installed 2018

### 608 1ST AVE SOUTH

Cameron Moberg (@camer1sf) - Installed 2018

### 509 1ST AVE. NORTH

Jenna Morello (@jennamorello) - Installed 2019

### 17 7TH ST.

Cameron Moberg (@camer1sf) - Installed 2019

### 504 CENTRAL AVE.

Sheree Nelson (@sartnelson)  
and multiple artists involved in  
Camer1sf workshop  
Installed 2019

For more information on the locations or artists, or to make a donation to ArtsFest MONTANA, contact the Great Falls BID at (406) 727-5430 or visit [ArtsFestMontana.com](http://ArtsFestMontana.com).  
All photos courtesy of Joan Redeen.





# MOR IMPRESSIONS

## Seven Masters

20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints

**October 3 – December 31**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Included with admission**

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a desire to revive the great Japanese tradition of woodblock prints and simultaneously capture the dynamic, modern life of Japan, gave rise to an art movement known as shin hanga, the new print.

*The exhibition was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.*

**Presenting Sponsor:**



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# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online

### CONCERTGOERS, PERFORMERS AND VENUES:

Through many months of decreased capacity restrictions and local health department regulations, the Montana Press hesitates to promote in-person performances and events due to the variable nature of closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to offer recommendations for events across the state and encourage venues and performers to contact us at 370-1492 or [info@montanapress.net](mailto:info@montanapress.net) in order to promote specific events.

All events listed are subject to change.  
Send updates to: [info@montanapress.net](mailto:info@montanapress.net).

PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE VENUE TO CONFIRM SHOW TIMES AND AND CURRENT REGULATIONS.



### "COWBOYS" PREMIERES IN MONTANA

The story of a father (Steve Zahn) trying to liberate his young transgender son (Sasha Knight) by taking him to Canada highlights a child's critical plea to be free and a father's unconditional love. The film, shot with the backdrop of Glacier Park and Flathead National Forest, won best actor honors for Zahn and best screenplay for Director-Screenwriter Anna Kerrigan at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. Samuel Goldwyn Films has bought North American rights to the film. Starting Oct. 8 - Virtual Access - Montana Film Festival - Missoula  
[@MontanaFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/MontanaFilmFestival) on FB or [MontanaFilmFestival.Org](https://www.MontanaFilmFestival.Org)



### JACKSON EMMER

Combining an authentic country spirit with an modern perspective, Jackson Emmer acoustic guitar playing and gently countrified voice. connects with listeners in the time-honored storytelling tradition. His songs range from tender ballads to crispy barnburners, nonsense ramblings, to self-described "wicked feats of English."  
Oct. 10 - 7 p.m.

Broadcast by the Red Lodge Songwriter Festival and streaming live on FB at [@MusicRanchRadio](https://www.facebook.com/MusicRanchRadio).



### FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

The first Winter Farmers' Market of the season in Bozeman is Sat., Oct. 3 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building.

[BozemanWinterMarket.com](https://www.BozemanWinterMarket.com)



### JESSICA EVE

Voted best Female Vocalist in the Magic City Music Awards in Billings two years in a row, Jessica Eve has featured videos uploaded on her Facebook site at the handle [@JessicaEveMTmusic](https://www.facebook.com/JessicaEveMTmusic).



### BREAK FROM THE LINE

"Celebrating the songs of Women and BIPOC Composers"

Performed live outdoors at the Prescott House - UM Campus  
Oct. 3 - Missoula - 6 p.m.

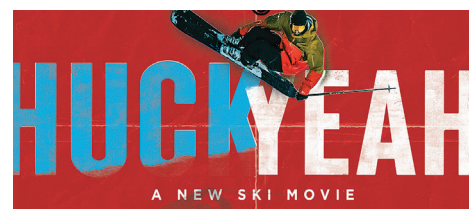
[@ZootownCabaret](https://www.facebook.com/ZootownCabaret)



### STREAMING LIVE FROM BOZEMAN HOT SPRINGS

Bozeman-based guitar/synth/low-freq music of Animoscillator.  
Sat., Oct. 17 - 7 p.m.

[@BozemanHotSprings](https://www.facebook.com/BozemanHotSprings) on FB



### HUCK YEAH! SCREENING

Matchstick Productions 2020 Ski Film packed with the best skiers in the world. Featuring the breakout girl posse The Blondes. Ogren Park at Allegiance Field  
Oct. 17 - Missoula - 6:30 p.m.

[MatchstickPro.com](https://www.MatchstickPro.com)

Saturday - Oct. 24 - 7:30 p.m.

DELIGHTFULLY AWKWARD COMEDY

- Presents -

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## SINGING FOR SANITY: JASON DESHAW'S JOURNEY OF ADVOCACY

Jason DeShaw twitched before the monotone of white walls. Collar askew, pale features pinched, brown hair mussed from his habit of pulling at it when he was deep in thought, he was disheveled, irritable and overly restless.

It was August 2010, and it looked, he would later recall, like the end of the world. In his mirror, DeShaw watched himself process the panic. He entered an almost unconscious state, rapidly processing the tide of information before him and calculating the best escape route.

Except now there wasn't one.

He was a patient at a Billings psychiatric center. Twenty-nine at the time, DeShaw, a musician on the rise, had been on tour in Saskatchewan when he found himself crippled by a nervous, frantic energy, and, without understanding what was happening to him, he tried to extinguish the conflagration inside his body by drinking it into submission.

"It was like a freight train inside of me that was trying to get out," recalls DeShaw. "I used alcohol to slow down the freight train and tame the rapid thoughts. There is a misconception that people with bipolar disorder somehow like to chase the mania. That is not true for myself, and I know that is not true for others. True mania is not peaceful and is not fun. It is very uncomfortable, frantic, and intense. It is a rapid cycling of energy."

The concert promoter notified Jason's family. Within a day Jason and his closest friend were leading a second car driven by Jason's parents, cruising more than 400 miles to the psychiatric ward in Billings. Jason shut his eyes to filter out the summer sun, while his legs and head buzzed in a loud manner for which he had no explanation, no sensible context.

The whole uproar seemed fundamentally bizarre to him. He had always been levelheaded, smart. There was no known family history of mental illness. But he was writhing in pain, his body aching with energy.

"I had my friend stop in Miles City and pull off the road to get a bottle of whiskey," says DeShaw. "I slowly nursed the bottle and passed out. I thought I would die if I didn't slow down the mania."

DeShaw awoke to a line of questions from the psychiatric intake nurse. He was too tired to be embarrassed, too buzzed to cooperate.

"Do you hear voices in your head?" she asked.

"Yes, I do."

"Whose?"

"Johnny Cash."

"What does he say?"

"I hear the train a-comin' and it's rollin' round the bend..."

After admission, DeShaw laughed and cracked jokes with two friendly male orderlies.

"It's hard to get a man down when he is manic," recalls DeShaw. Five days later, the psychosis subsided. The young man then came across as straightforward, affable, sensible — a victim of the event.

"I could act okay enough to get released," says DeShaw today. "I wasn't committed against my will."

As soon as he was released, DeShaw worked a deadly cocktail of mental illness and alcohol. He would be hospitalized three more times over the next several weeks. At his sloppiest, he registered .34 blood alcohol content, more than four times the limit for drunk-driving charges. Soon, he had a diagnosis: Bipolar I disorder. His mania was more than an operational tic; he'd been wired differently since birth.



### FROM FARM BOY TO FAMOUS

Born in Plentywood, Mont. in 1981, Jason DeShaw never felt like an outsider or found it hard to connect with other kids. Raised by two loving parents, Lyle and Bernie, in farm country, he was born the second of five brothers, none of whom have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, though it tends to run in families.

DeShaw says he liked the heavy, greasy victuals of the farmhouse kitchen. He liked country sounds and country smells. He liked getting up early in the morning to the tune of crowing on the hillside.

His father Lyle, a devout Catholic, "spent a lot of time behind the scenes helping people," recalls DeShaw.

"Dad is the kind of guy who'd open doors for others. He is a servant of God. There were always people telling me what a great man and hard worker he was. People thought I automatically had it easy. They thought I'd automatically be a good kid. I tried to prove them wrong a time or two."

His mother Bernie owned an insurance agency specializing in crop coverage and stayed at home raising the average brood of healthy, spirited boys. One of Jason's earliest memories is of the three eldest boys sharing lap space in a family rocking chair while a Siamese cat snuggled behind his mother's neck.

It was at Carroll College, his freshman year, when DeShaw turned to the guitar — his folks gave him one for Christmas — and he found a place where he belonged. Though a few friends gently ribbed him about this new career path, he rose early and worked at least 12 hours a day learning and practicing chords.

"I drove my neighbors nuts," recalls DeShaw. Before long he was making his way, performing in Europe and across North America and recording five albums, starting in 2003.

DeShaw chalked up his curious spurts of adrenaline to normal human nature and blamed his bouts of low self-esteem and withered self-confidence to just bad moods. It amused him as a spectacle, and there were times when he would let that spectacle run on, even help it on. There were other times when he wished he could haul it up and pack it away with a sharp command.

He noticed his episodes becoming more explosive. He drank prodigiously to tone down the inferno. Long periods of hopelessness followed. Then came the frantic episode in Saskatchewan, followed by multiple hospitalizations and the diagnoses.

DeShaw returned to music as a way to come to grips with and share the details of his struggle; putting the face and twang of a self-described "Montana cowboy" on mental illness could be a measure toward reducing stigma and gaining acceptance for the afflicted.

He says he saw the universal language of

music as an effective way to merge mental-health awareness and melody without taking people too far down.

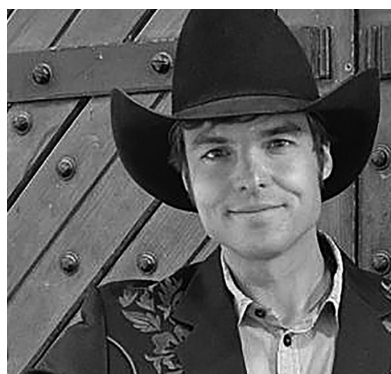
"The music keeps them feeling safe and okay and it elevates them," DeShaw says.

Montana leads the nation in per-capita suicide, and many victims are mentally ill.

"I have an illness that occurs in a different part of the body. The brain is just another organ in the body, like the heart. When someone has a heart attack, people don't turn their back; no one whispers behind their back about them being weak or speaks about them in harsh tones. People probably bring you flowers when you have a heart attack. I ain't ever had anyone bring me a casserole or a balloon for mental illness."

DeShaw's illness spurred a creative rebirth. He started writing songs that captured some of his struggles, attempting to frame the issue as universal. His song, "Crazy Town," expresses the dreamlike moments he's had in his search for meaning:

*I've been called crazy in a world  
that's not quite sane.*



### A BEACON OF LIGHT

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) noted DeShaw's advocacy work and in September 2014, he was honored during the national convention in Washington, D.C. DeShaw was awarded the Lionel Aldridge Champion Award and praised for "exhibiting courage and leadership" as he deals with mental illness.

"Mental illness has made me a better human being," DeShaw told the audience.

Since 2015 DeShaw has partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield for an annual Montana tour. It features DeShaw speaking, performing music, and listening empathetically.

"Jason is a beacon of light in the dark world of mental illness," says John Doran, director of public relations at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana. "Mental illness and suicide are all too real in America, and there is no better message of hope than from Jason."

"It both drains the cup and fills it," says DeShaw. "After one show, I had five people come up to me who had lost someone to suicide. You can't just passively listen to something of that nature. You have to commit your eyes, your attention and your soul. I've been humbled to have been put on this journey of advocacy."

One summer DeShaw performed a free concert in Turner, MT, another small town that lost a teenager to suicide. When the boy's mother called Jason to ask if he would participate in a memorial walk and address the community, he unhesitatingly answered yes.

"There are less than 100 people in Turner," says DeShaw. "But there were 300 people who

walked for 12 hours, from Hogeland to Turner, in 89-degree heat. There was a full gymnasium. I had the chance to speak four words: "It's not your fault."

"To see rural Montana talking about these issues and reaching out to one another with love — that's progress. Sometimes it's just an ounce of hope that saves people."

After DeShaw performed at an eastern Montana high school a few years ago, the school counselor informed him that he had inspired a number of students to request help.

"He said, 'Since you were here, I've seen a flood of students,'" says DeShaw. "He told me that some of kids had said, 'if he can talk about his depression, then I can talk about mine.' And this was from kids we didn't know were suffering. I just provided the connection that allowed them to realize that they are good enough to be saved and that their own beauty is enough to fight for."

Indeed, hope is what weaves together the fabric of DeShaw's existence — collective hope and his own. Self-hope is his doctrine, his cold truth every day.

One evening lately, DeShaw sat firmly in the saddle of a wrought-iron patio chair in the backyard of his Helena home, one of his favorite spaces.

"I've just celebrated two years, two years of sobriety. 732 days." This declaration is tempered by the reality that inexplicable biochemical changes continue to wreak personal havoc.

Just a few weeks earlier, he had been scheduled to take part in a NAMI Walk. Before he even rolled out of bed, he was paralyzed with suicidal feelings. "My first thought I had when I woke up was that I wished I hadn't at all. I didn't feel like living. I had to battle those impulses — lighting bolts that hit here and there — all day."

Bipolar condition is every bit as physical as it is mental — throbbing bones and the accompanying anxiety so disabling "that it feels like you've lost your soul," he says.

"The worse thing about depression is that it can last one day or six months," says DeShaw. "The shitty part is not knowing how long it is going to last. You don't know if winter is coming or if it's just a cold snap."

"It is a dangerous time when the pain starts to exceed hope," he says. "In high school, I had appendicitis. It burst. I had gangrene in my peritoneal cavity, and they hospitalized me for days. That intense pain doesn't even compare to the pain of surviving depression. There is hope, even though sometimes I can't see it."

On a charcoal gray late summer morning at Firetower, a coffee shop in Helena, Jason is recovering from a liver issue that hospitalized him recently. Though he looks paler and more on edge than usual, he opts for the deliberate language of a survivor, filling the blank spaces in his story with affirmations about blessings and opportunities and growth. He uses the word "struggle" more than once, and twice, he cryptically alludes to "being okay, knowing that he can go at any time."

"It was the over-the-counter medication that smoked me," DeShaw recalls. "It has not been a fun ride. But blessings can come out of the struggle. I once had a friend who told me that the gift is in the wound. I am who I am today because of the suffering. Writing is expressing. And it's invigorating and healing to do so." ★

—BRAIN D'AMBROSIO

*Learn more about Jason DeShaw  
at [TheCountryWay.com](http://TheCountryWay.com).*



## ARTISAN HUSBANDRY: THE MONTANA ALPACA EXPERIENCE

Atop the Continental Divide and North of the Walkerville section of Butte, fiber artist Betty Kujawa works with select, raw yields of fleece. Here, on eight hilly acres and three high pastures, she tends to the dozen quirky animals that form Snowdrift Alpacas.

The business name connotes the massive white fields cloaking the property for as much as seven months out of the year. Only a few miles from the haphazard detritus of the Mining City is a noticeably cooler, cleaner, quieter, and greener micro-culture, a magical, almost esoteric, land resembling the wobbly terraces and gallivanting grasses at the high altitudes of Peru.

“The altitude, the climate, the grass, it makes for a natural home for alpacas here where we are,” says Kujawa.

### NOW COMMON IN MONTANA

Alpacas are no strangers to Montana; in fact, folks in agricultural environs no longer even classify them as exotic. Long since domesticated elsewhere over the past twenty years they have become an increasingly more common brand of livestock in the state.

Herd animals through and through, alpacas are outgoing and require the companionship of the party. Friendly and droll to a fault, they are elongated, with bushy bangs and unkempt, eccentric hairdos.

Alpacas are missing their top teeth, and only have a bottom set – a feature that endows them with a lovably pathetic guise. Yet, they are quite intelligent – after all, alpacas poop communally to avoid contamination.

Alpacas are known to be a great deal curious about humans, their surroundings, and other animals.

“Curiosity can often be their downfall,” notes Kujawa. “Alpacas are predator prone.”

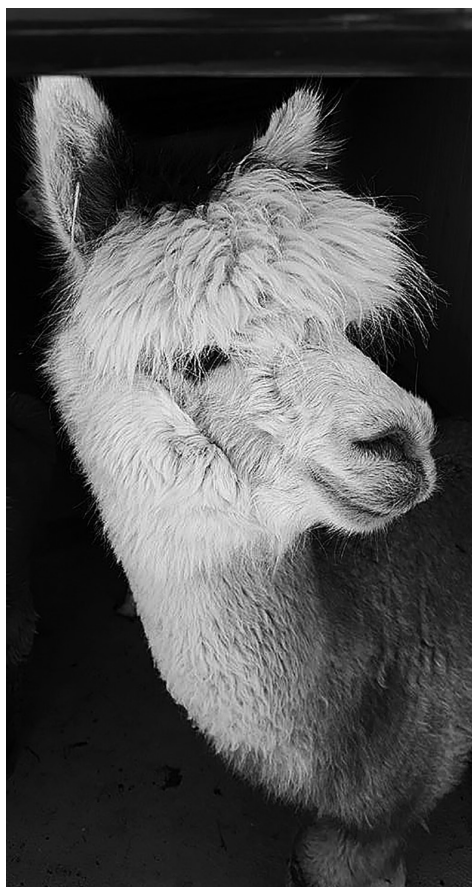
Alpacas do come with risks, most prominently, the emission of spit. Splatter flies when an alpaca feels distressed or threatened, or senses competition for food. At times, they will shoot out saliva at each other as a warning, or to communicate displeasure, or occasionally to establish dominance.

While alpacas and llamas are descendants of the same camel lineage, the two animals have completely different bone structures and even separate personality traits. For starters, llamas are characterized by their banana-shaped ears and a forehead without bangs.

“Alpacas aren’t llamas,” says Kujawa. “That’s probably the biggest mistake that people make, confusing the two animals. Llamas are taller than alpacas, and their ears come in. Alpacas’ ears stick straight up, and they have their own sets of what look to be bangs. Llamas are much bigger, roughly 300 to 400 pounds, where alpacas generally get up to between 150 and 175 pounds. The bone structure of the alpaca is not designed to carry a lot of weight, and thus not as sturdy as what a llama’s would be.”

### SPINNING A STORY

Kujawa’s connection to fiber stretches back to her childhood in Kansas, where her father spent many years as a member of the U.S. Army. She grew up in a pair of military towns, Fort Riley and Junction City, and later attended college at Pittsburg State College in Pittsburg, Kansas.



In the Sunflower State, she was raised among hogs and cattle, and brought up by a mother who looked at quilting and sewing as antidotes to both daily monotony and the frequent dull weather.

“Winters in Kansas, the electricity would go out and school would be cancelled and nobody could get out. So, we’d all put out big quilts and camp out in the living room. I remember these miscellaneous yarns that my mom had hanging around the house, and we learned the different crocheting stitches. I thought it was cool, and I wanted to make my own yarn.”

Betty Kujawa moved to Montana in 1999, settling in Butte. She enrolled in an alpaca spinning class about ten years ago while on vacation in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington and learned to spin alpaca yarn. Everything about alpaca fleece – its strength, its warmth per weight, its squashy and fine feel – sent her heart spiraling.

In due course, the entrepreneur in Kujawa had visions of soft, hypoallergenic, and eco-friendly fleece whirling in her head. In this affinity and awe, she is not alone.

### SUITED FOR THE STATE

Alpacas in the US encounter a strange mixture of mythology and misunderstanding. Some of them have been bred as show animals, which has led to a surplus of babies available for adoption or sale, an overflow of casualties who haven’t met the industry exhibit or breeding standards.

Alpacas can be found throughout the world serving many purposes. They are a common food source and cooking staple in such South American locales as Peru, Bolivia and Chile, countries that also employ them in similar ways that North Americans do with their horses, activities like trail riding or packing trips.

While some alpacas are very good pack animals, to people such as Kujawa it’s what is on the outside that counts most. Naturally water-repellent and fire resistant, alpaca fleece



Betty Kujawa



has sometimes been referred to as the ‘Fiber of the Gods.’

About eight years ago, Betty and her husband Michael began raising alpacas in Montana and started producing their fiber. While most alpaca ranchers raise their livestock for fiber, a select minority raise the animal to harvest their meat. The meat-harvesting portion of the industry in Montana is, in Kujawa’s words, “negligible.”

“Compared to sheep or some other fiber animals, alpacas seem best suited for our area,” says Kujawa. “Alpaca ranching is growing in Montana, specifically here, the land we have is a higher altitude, at about 6,400-feet. While the decomposed granite is not the best for natural grass, it seems like alpacas are ancestrally pre-disposed to this kind of climate, one very much like the high plains of South America.

### FIBER OF THE GODS

There are 22 natural colors of alpaca classified in the US and within that number exists more than 300 shades, from out-and-out white to pure blacks to silvery grays.

Kujawa explains that a lesson in alpaca fiber is a lesson in stubbornness, sacrifice, and subtlety. Alpaca fiber doesn’t have memory, meaning that it is especially difficult to introduce any kind of twist to their fiber. It takes a lot of alpaca yarn to even provide enough material to accent a small hat or scarf.

Costs associated with raising alpaca are somewhat greater than the expenses required for the sheep industry. As herbivores, alpacas only consume vegetation, their food pipeline being a three-chambered stomach that digests the roughage resourcefully.

“Alpaca come with a higher cost than other livestock animals,” says Kujawa. “The quality of the fiber is linked to the protein in the animals’ diets. If an alpaca has been grazing on poor-quality grass, its fiber won’t be as long or fine as it could be if its diet was of a higher grade.”

While alpacas generally achieve a life span between 20 to 25 years, the high quality of the fiber life of a typical animal is significantly less than that, approximately 10 years on average, says Kujawa.

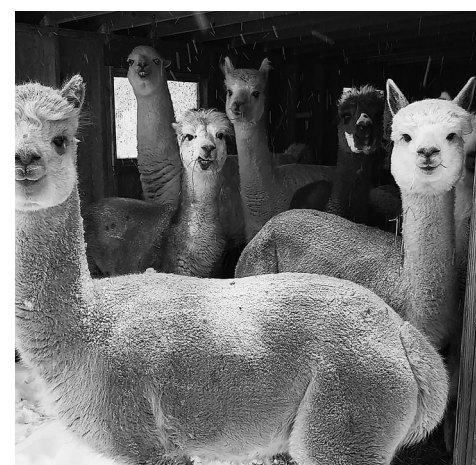
An alpaca produces only enough fiber for a single annual shearing. Once the animal is shorn, the fiber must be carefully processed to remove the rough, hard debris and then spread out and sifted, to select the fiber with the softest feel. Fiber is then sent through a tumbler to do away with dust and hay and other unneeded items.

The finished product is one of the most plush and comfortable fibers in the world. Think of your favorite pillow, or a spongy, touchable cloud from a children’s book or freshly-spun cotton candy. It’s tougher than mohair, suppler than cotton, smoother than silk, and warmer than goose down. The versatility and sustainability of alpaca has convinced Kujawa that her role as a fiber artist is one part expenditure, two parts educational.

“I want people to learn about all of the possibilities that alpacas have to offer,” she says. “There are many people who rescue them, or who want two or three of them as either pets or producers. They need to know what the animals are offering. Right now, I know where I want to go as a fiber-arts farm, and that’s promoting the educational aspects of this great animal, and letting people know what they can give us.” ★

—BRAIN D’AMBROSIO

*Snowdrift Alpacas products may be a common sight at local crafts fairs and farmer’s markets across Montana. As the season draws to a close, they’ve moved their operations online at [snowdriftalpacas.com](http://snowdriftalpacas.com) where they maintain a shop and a blog at [SnowdriftAlpacas.com](http://SnowdriftAlpacas.com)*





# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online



### GHOST STORIES & TOURS - BOZEMAN -

**Ghost Stories** - 9 p.m.

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

**Ghost Hunts** - 4:30 p.m.

Ghost hunting with guides monitoring/answering questions.

Oct. 16, 17 & 18

Sunset Hills Cemetery

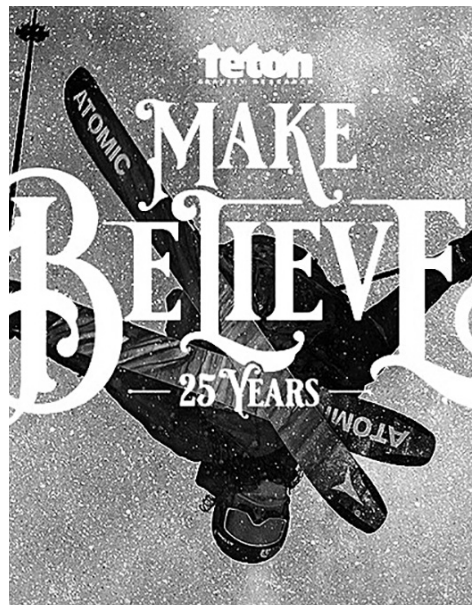
Lindley Park entrance

**Walking Tours**

Fri., Nov. 6 - 8 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 7 - 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

FB page: @BozemanParanormal



### MAKE BELIEVE - MISSOULA

Join Teton Gravity Research, the Missoula Freestyle team and the Missoula PaddleHeads at Ogren Park as they bring their new ski and snowboard film, "Make Believe," to the big-screen on Fri., Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. Visit FB handle @TetonGravityResearch.



### STEPHANIE QUAYLE

All That Glitters fund raiser in Bozeman will feature one of CMT's Next Women of Country, Bozeman's own Stephanie Quayle. Quayle ranks in the Top 10 of Current Female Airplay over the last two years and has shared stages with artists like Willie Nelson, Brett Eldredge, Jon Pardi, Carly Pearce, LoCASH, Billy Currington and more.

Thurs., Oct. 15 - 7 p.m.

@CancerSupportMontana or CancerSupportMontana.org.



COUNTING COUP

LIVE ROCK AND ROLL ON MONTANA  
HAPPY HOUR THURS., OCT. 15 - 5 P.M.

FB PAGE: @MONTANAPRESS.

## MONTANA BOOK EVENTS

### BOOKS IN COMMON

From literary fiction to mystery and science fiction, enjoy world-class authors brought to Montana living rooms. For information, visit [www.countrybookshelf.com](http://www.countrybookshelf.com) or the Facebook handle @CountryBookshelf.

### SMITH HENDERSON & JON MARC SMITH

Tues., Oct. 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The authors discuss their new literary thriller "Make Them Cry" with fellow writer Chad Dundas.

The book is an explosive action thriller about a DEA agent sucked into a dangerous turf war on the US-Mexico border.

JOHANNA GARTON

## EDGE OF THE MAP

THE MOUNTAIN LIFE OF  
CHRISTINE BOSKOFF

### JOHANNA GARTON

Thurs., Oct. 8 - 7:30 p.m.

In her new book, "Edge of the Map," Garton chronicles the life of one of America's greatest high altitude mountaineers, Christine Boskoff, who was at the top of her career when she died in an avalanche in 2006. From her early years as a Lockheed engineer through her successes in the climbing world, Boskoff's life was one of constant achievement mixed with personal tragedy.

### TINA ONTIVEROS

Thurs., Oct. 15 - 7:30 p.m.

A story of growing up in turmoil and a story of generational trauma, Ontiveros' new memoir "Rough House" recounts a childhood divided between a charming, mercurial, abusive father in the forests of the Pacific Northwest and a mother struggling with poverty in The Dalles.

*A Virtual Party*  
PRESENTED BY:  
BARNARD CONSTRUCTION

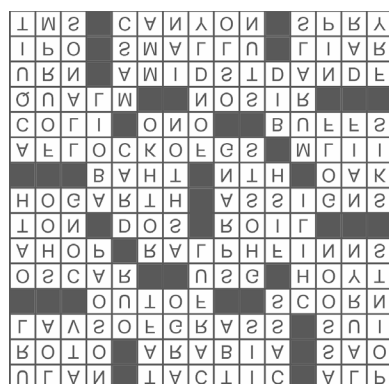
# ALL THAT GLITTERS

THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS  
**ONLINE**  
Register for free at:  
CANCERSUPPORTMONTANA.ORG  
OR  
TEXT: CSCGALA2020  
TO 76278

THURSDAY  
**OCTOBER 15**  
2020

CANCER SUPPORT  
COMMUNITY  
Bozeman  
MONTANA

## JONESIN'?



GoUnite  
Be Social. Live Local.

# Landmark Scavenger Hunt

Billings, MT

Head out on a historic scavenger hunt drive solving riddles, puzzles and exploring the area!

Do at anytime.  
Social Distancing Approved!

[www.GoUniteBillings.com](http://www.GoUniteBillings.com)



JONESIN' CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
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59				60	61	62						63	64	65
66				67							68			
69				70							71			

“Eeeeeevil”

What can I say? It’s puzzle number #666.

ACROSS

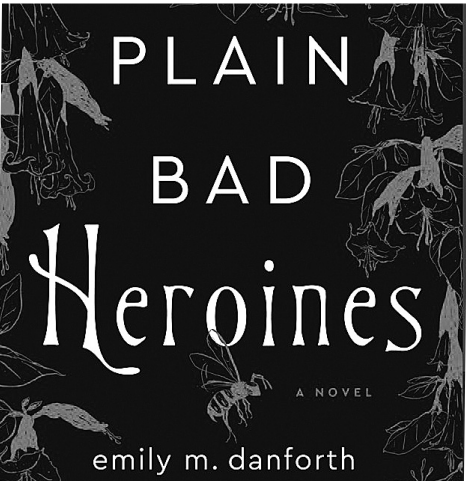
- 1 \_\_\_ Bator (Mongolia’s capital)
- 5 Part of a war plane
- 11 Italian or Swiss summit
- 14 Fantasy sports option
- 15 Qatar’s leaned
- 16 \_\_\_ Paulo (Brazil’s most populous city)
- 17 Bathrooms brimming with lawn clippings?
- 19 Fashion world star Anna
- 20 Words prior to “touche” or “tureen”
- 21 Obvious disdain
- 23 Wheat bread Pitt took in 2020
- 26 Appomattox initials
- 29 Country musician Axetone
- 30 Just \_\_\_\_, skip and jump away
- 31 Scandinavian fans of Wiggum’s kid (in Simpsons-iana)?
- 34 Quantity of bricks?
- 35 Two from Tijuana
- 36 Stir (up)
- 37 British artist William with a 1745 portrait of him and his pug dog
- 39 Hands out
- 43 Bangkok bankroll
- 44 Utmost ordinal
- 45 Wood that flavors bourbon
- 46 Thousand-dollar bills that fly and roost?
- 50 1052, to Tacitus

- 51 Last half of a tiny food contaminant (first half is, um, you know ...)
- 52 “Two Virgins” musician Yoko
- 53 Folks who Owen Meany films, say
- 54 Pang or misgiving
- 56 Military turndown
- 59 Big poet for java
- 60 Location of what you’ll ditch from all long solutions (and from Across and Down listings) for this all to work
- 66 Yahoo’s was in 1996, for short
- 67 Start to unite?
- 68 Pinocchio, notoriously
- 69 Brand Ides
- 70 “Grande” Arizona attraction
- 71 Vigorous

DOWN

- 1 It usually starts with “wee wee wee”
- 2 Hawaii’s Mauna \_\_\_
- 3 Off-road transport, for short
- 4 “Ixnay” (or a conundrum in a tube?)
- 5 POTUS known for his feat
- 6 Jason’s mythical craft
- 7 Road tripe quorum
- 8 “I dunno,” in day books
- 9 \_\_\_ for “igloo”
- 10 Mama of 1960s pop
- 11 Part of ASAP
- 12 Hill who sang “Doo Wop (That Tee-heeing)”
- 13 Toepieces of discussion
- 18 “\_\_\_ Gang” (film shorts with kid “Rascals”)

- 22 Potful at cook-offs
  - 23 “Right hand on holy book” situation
  - 24 “Buzz off, fly!”
  - 25 Capitol Hill gp.
  - 27 Took a jump
  - 28 Bad guys pursuing peace, man
  - 31 Latvian-born artist Marek
  - 32 Mila’s “That ‘70s Show” costar (now husband)
  - 33 Code and sea-lemon, for two
  - 35 Transylvanian count, informally
  - 38 Bubbling, in a way
  - 40 Pro tour sport
  - 41 Unworldly sort
  - 42 Things worn to go downhill fast
  - 46 Fined without fault
  - 47 Hour for a British cuppa, traditionally
  - 48 Gaucho’s grasslands
  - 49 How you might wax nostalgic
  - 50 Works of art on walls
  - 53 Auction node
  - 55 Meanly, in nouns (abbr.)
  - 57 City full of fjords
  - 58 Prompt jaws to drop
  - 61 UFC fighting classification, for short
  - 62 Holm of filmdom
  - 63 Quick shot of brandy
  - 64 Williams with a “Mortal City” album
  - 65 Cook bacon, in a way
- Copyright 2014, 2020 by Matt Jones



PAM HUSTON AND AMY IRVINE

Wed., Oct. 7 - 7 p.m.

Writers Houston and Irvine, who had never met, began a correspondence based on their shared devotion to the rugged, windswept mountains that surround their homes, one on either side of the Continental Divide while sheltering in place in response to the spread of coronavirus. As the numbers of infected and dead rose and the nation split dangerously over the crisis, Houston and Irvine found their letters to one another “as necessary as breath.” Part tribute to wilderness, part indictment against tyranny and greed, the two writers discuss “Air Mail: Letters of Politics, Pandemics, and Place” and reveal a friendship that galvanizes as it chronicles a strange new world. On FB at @TorreyHousePress.

MONTANA BOOK EVENTS

ANNE HELEN PETERSEN

Thurs., Oct. 22 - 6 p.m

The Montana Book Festival presents the author of “Can’t Even: How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation and the subscription newsletter, “Culture Study,” in conversation with Chris LaTray.

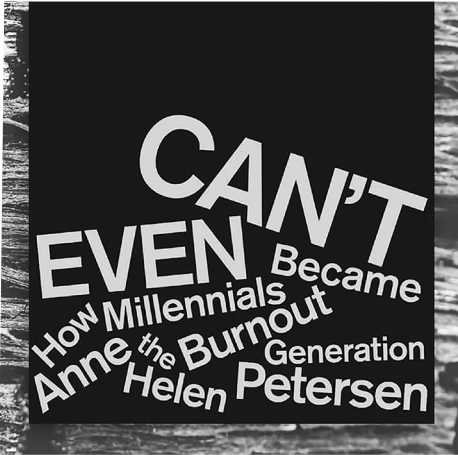
@MontanaBookFestival on FB or MontanaBookFestival.com.

EMILY M. DANFORTH

Thurs., Oct. 29 - 6 p.m.

The Montana Book Festival presents Emily M. Danforth, the author of the new novel, “Plain Bad Heroines” in conversation with Carrie Shippers.

@MontanaBookFestival on FB or MontanaBookFestival.com



Books In Common: A Regional Literary Event Series



www.countrybookshelf.com

Thursday 10/15/20 at 6:30pm PDT/ 7:30pm MDT



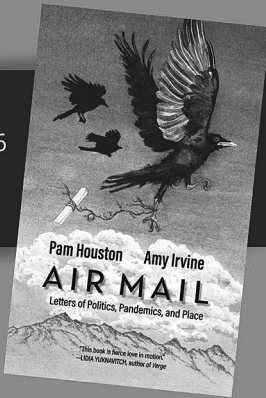
Pam Houston and Amy Irvine discuss

Air Mail: Letters of Politics, Pandemics, and Place



Tuesday, October 6 at 7 PM on Zoom

Visit the site @TorreyHousePress on Facebook to join the event.

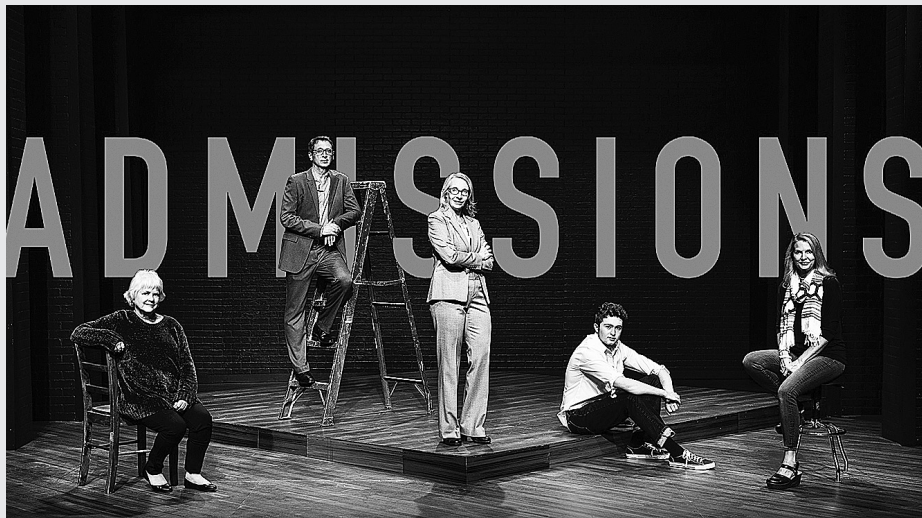




# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online

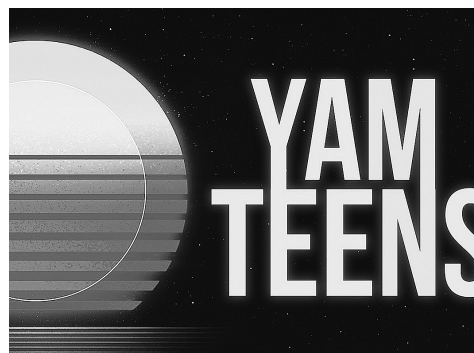


### “ADMISSIONS” - GRANDSTREET THEATRE - HELENA

Winner of the 2018 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, “Admissions” a timely performance that explores privilege, race, and the unbridgeable American cultural divide. Playing Oct. 2 - Oct. 25 at the Grandstreet Theatre with performances Wed. to Sun., with 40 tickets per performance to allow for social distancing. Audience members will be checked in individually, following a temperature check upon arrival. Masks are required. @GSTheatreMT on FB or [GrandStreetTheatre.com](http://GrandStreetTheatre.com)



“A LIFE IN THE WILD” EXHIBIT  
PHOTOS BY THOMAS D. MANGELSEN  
AT THE MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES - BZN  
[MUSEUMOFTHEROCKIES.ORG](http://MUSEUMOFTHEROCKIES.ORG).



**YAM TEENS - BILLINGS**  
Wed., Oct. 14 - 3:30 p.m.  
Free workshops offer chances  
for teen artists to learn new  
techniques and focus on their  
own artistic practice.  
@YellowstoneArtMuseum on  
FB or [ArtMuseum.org](http://ArtMuseum.org).

## STAY HOME & READ A BOOK

# Ball

SAT | OCT 3 | 2020

OUR COZIEST NON-EVENT OF THE YEAR!

BENEFITTING THE BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): “I am, indeed, a king, because I know how to rule myself,” wrote 16th-century author Pietro Aretino. By January 2021, Aries, I would love for you to have earned the right to make a similar statement: “I am, indeed, a royal sovereign, because I know how to rule myself.” Here’s the most important point: The robust power and clout you have the potential to summon has nothing to do with power and clout over other people—only over yourself. Homework: Meditate on what it means to be the imperial boss and supreme monarch of your own fate.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): “The basic principle of spiritual life is that our problems become the very place to discover wisdom and love.” Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield made that brilliant observation. It’s always worth meditating on, but it’s an especially potent message for you during the first three weeks of October 2020. In my view, now is a highly favorable time for you to extract uplifting lessons by dealing forthrightly with your knottiest dilemmas. I suspect that these lessons could prove useful for the rest of your long life.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): “My business is to love,” wrote poet Emily Dickinson. I invite you to adopt this motto for the next three weeks. It’s an excellent time to intensify your commitment to expressing compassion, empathy, and tenderness. To do so will not only bring healing to certain allies who need it; it will also make you smarter. I mean that literally. Your actual intelligence will expand and deepen as you look for and capitalize on opportunities to bestow blessings. (P.S. Dickinson also wrote, “My business is to sing.” I recommend you experiment with that mandate, as well.)

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): “I’m the diamond in the dirt, that ain’t been found,” sings Cancerian rapper Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent. “I’m the underground king and I ain’t been crowned,” he adds. My reading of the astrological omens suggests that a phenomenon like that is going on in your life right now. There’s something unknown about you that deserves and needs to be known. You’re not getting the full credit and acknowledgment you’ve earned through your soulful accomplishments. I hereby authorize you to take action! Address this oversight. Rise up and correct it.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): The author bell hooks (who doesn’t capitalize her name) has spent years as a professor in American universities. Adaptability has been a key strategy in her efforts to educate her students. She writes, “One of the things that we must do as teachers is twirl around and around, and find out what works with the situation that we’re in.” That’s excellent advice for you right now—in whatever field you’re in. Old reliable formulas are irrelevant, in my astrological opinion. Strategies that have guided you in the past may not apply to the current scenarios. Your best bet is to twirl around and around as you experiment to find out what works.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “Your relationship with yourself sets the tone for every other relationship you have,” says motivational speaker Robert Holden. Hallelujah and amen! Ain’t that the truth! Which is why it’s so crucial to periodically take a thorough inventory of your relationship with yourself. And guess what, Virgo: Now would be a perfect time to do so. Even more than that: During your inventory, if you discover ways in which you treat yourself unkindly or carelessly, you can generate tremendous healing energy by working to fix the glitches. The coming weeks could bring pivotal transformations in your bonds with others if you’re brave enough to make pivotal transformations in your bonds with yourself.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In her high school yearbook, Libra-born Sigourney Weaver arranged to have this caption beneath her official photo: “Please, God, please, don’t let me be normal!” Since then, she has had a long and acclaimed career as an actor in movies. ScreenPrism.com calls her a pioneer of female action heroes. Among her many exotic roles: a fierce warrior who defeats monstrous aliens; an exobiologist working with indigenous people on the

moon of a distant planet in the 22nd century; and a naturalist who lives with mountain gorillas in Rwanda. If you have ever had comparable fantasies about transcending normalcy, Libra, now would be a good time to indulge those fantasies—and begin cooking up plans to make them come true.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio-born Prince Charles has been heir to the British throne for 68 years. That’s an eternity to be patiently on hold for his big chance to serve as king. His mother Queen Elizabeth just keeps going on and on, living her very long life, ensuring that Charles remains second-in-command. But I suspect that many Scorpios who have been awaiting their turn will finally graduate to the next step in the coming weeks and months. Will Charles be one of them? Will you? To increase your chances, here’s a tip: Meditate on how to be of even greater devotion to the ideals you love to serve.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Inventor Buckminster Fuller was a visionary who loved to imagine ideas and objects no one had ever dreamed of before. One of his mottoes was, “There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it’s going to be a butterfly.” I recommend that you spend quality time in the coming weeks meditating on butterfly-like things you’d love to have as part of your future—things that may resemble caterpillars in the early going. Your homework is to envision three such innovations that could be in your world by October 1, 2021.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During World War II, Hollywood filmmakers decided it would be a good idea to create stories based on graphic current events: for example, American Marines waging pitched battles against Japanese soldiers on South Pacific islands. But audiences were cool to that approach. They preferred comedies and musicals with “no message, no mission, no misfortune.” In the coming weeks, I advise you to resist any temptation you might have to engage in a similar disregard of current events. In my opinion, your mental health requires you to be extra discerning and well-informed about politics—and so does the future of your personal destiny.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): “Pretending is imagined possibility,” observes actor Meryl Streep. “Pretending is a very valuable life skill and we do it all the time.” In other words, fantasizing about events that may never happen is just one way we use our mind’s eye. We also wield our imaginations to envision scenarios that we actually want to create in our real lives. In fact, that’s the first step in actualizing those scenarios: to play around with picturing them; to pretend they will one day be a literal part of our world. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to supercharge the generative aspect of your imagination. I encourage you to be especially vivid and intense as you visualize in detail the future you want.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): “My own soul must be a bright invisible green,” wrote author and philosopher Henry David Thoreau. Novelist Tom Robbins suggested that we visualize the soul as “a cross between a wolf howl, a photon, and a dribble of dark molasses.” Nobel Prize-winning poet Wislawa Szymborska observed, “Joy and sorrow aren’t two different feelings” for the soul. Poet Emily Dickinson thought that the soul “should always stand ajar”—just in case an ecstatic experience or rousing epiphany might be lurking in the vicinity. In the coming weeks, Pisces, I invite you to enjoy your own lively meditations on the nature of your soul. You’re in a phase when such an exploration can yield interesting results.

### THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK:

*Make up a song that cheers you up and inspires your excitement about the future. It doesn’t have to be perfect.*

TESTIFY AT [FREEWILLASTROLOGY.COM](http://FREEWILLASTROLOGY.COM)

© Copyright 2020 Rob Brezsný





## FAMOUS AND NOT FORGOTTEN: COWBOY POET D.J. O'MALLEY



Sometimes wholly spontaneous, sometimes sung with original lines fused to existing tunes, D.J. O'Malley's songs of light-hearted leisure were something his rough-hewn cowpoke cohorts came to admire and his rhymes provided a much-appreciated entertainment after the hard day's drudgery on the range was complete.

D.J. O'Malley was a legend. Indeed, he was the last survivor of the more than 400 cowboys who attended the first-ever roundup at Miles City, in 1881. In the early 1880s, O'Malley, a boy of 14, had already become "a full-fledged cowboy," as he described himself.

Much later, in 1939, he was the guest of honor at the first annual Reunion of the Range Riders Association, made up of the range riders who rode the trails in those early days, from 1881 to 1890.

### O'Malley's Montana

The son of a Civil War soldier who died years after sustaining a combat wound, O'Malley was born in New York City in 1867.

He spent his early boyhood in Texas but came to Montana in 1877, the place he would call home for more than forty years. Despite later wanderings across the Midwest, where he died in 1943, he specified that his burial site had to be in eastern Montana.

Many of his earliest memories, O'Malley recalled, were of "two frontier outposts, Fort Dodge and Fort Larned, both in Kansas," and later outposts in Wyoming and Montana.

According to O'Malley's journals, his stepfather, Charles White, served in the 19th Infantry in the U.S. Army, completing his enlistment in the infantry at Fort Larned in 1875.

White then went to Fort Sanders in Wyoming where he joined Troop E of the Second Cavalry. In October, 1877 the regiment and the White family moved to Fort Keogh, near Miles City, 130 miles north of the site of the fateful Battle of Little Big Horn; Custer's last stand had taken place in the summer of the previous year.

Sometime in the mid-1880s, Charles A. White's family – his stepfather's own path is murky – D.J., his mother, and his siblings relocated to Miles City.

As a boy of 11, O'Malley recalled his first meeting with General Nelson A. Miles, then a colonel, at Fort Keogh. O'Malley went to school with the General's two children, Sherman and Cecelia, at the fort.

He also met soldier and later showman William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and was acquainted with other famous scouts and adventurers of that pioneer era, including Luther "Yellowstone" Kelley.

O'Malley was also friendly with a number of young army lieutenants at Fort Keogh, many of whom went on to illustrious careers, including West Point graduate Hunter Liggett, who later would serve as second in command to General Pershing in Europe during World War I.

While at Fort Keogh, O'Malley also made the acquaintance of many of the stalwart Indian chiefs who took part in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, when the entire Custer command was annihilated by the Lakota, Cheyenne and other Plains Indians. Among these chiefs were Rain-in-the-Face, American Horse, Spotted Elk, (Sioux) Two Moon, Little Wolf, Fire Crow, High Walking (Cheyenne) along with Chief Gall, Many Horses and others.

### Working as "A Rep"

O'Malley later recalled that for several years Fort Keogh - strategically constructed at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers – was the site of "intermittent Indian warfare," which ostensibly made it "an exciting place for a boy just entering his teens."

Violence and upheaval, stemming from the removal and resettlement of Indian tribes, were core elements of the day. O'Malley lived at the fort until 1881; much that he observed and internalized would later shape his poetry and journalism.

O'Malley rode for the subsequent 19 years as a cowboy, joining the N Bar N outfit as a horse wrangler at age 14, then working for many years as a cowpuncher-at-large, becoming a "rep." A rep worked outside the home front of a ranch, steering the direction of cattle and otherwise "looking after the interests of the outfit he represented."

Here's how O'Malley described the job in his journals: "A rep had to have good character, reliability, good judgment and tact, because his word was law with respect to calves, branded, beef shipped and many other details of the business. He had to be a good mixer, and he had to know (how to distinguish) brands."

He was christened with the nickname "N Bar N Kid" and "Kid White" (his step-father's name was White); and later the "Cowboy Poet," because of his fondness for writing poetry and songs with a wild, Western relish.

### "The Cowboy Poet"

Several country-cowboy music encyclopedias credit O'Malley with a few different compositions that have endured the standard of



*The cowboy on the left, perhaps working as a part-time cook, is D.J. O'Malley. The photo is shown again in a biography of O'Malley where the Black gentleman is only listed as a cook named Dan but it may be a rare capture of D.J. O'Malley and Joe "Proc" Proctor. Cowboy poet Wally McRae commemorated Joseph Proctor's cowboying skills and life in the book, "Cowboy Curmudgeon," with the poem "Ol' Proc" by telling his life in rhyme. Montana Historical Society archivists said the photographer was unknown, but the photo was taken near Forsyth, Montana on the FUF ranch about 1900 and the man might also be a Black cowboy named George Jackson.*

time. At least four of O'Malley's poems are said to be well circulated "wherever there is interest in western range songs," per one source. These are listed as "Sweet By and By Revised," "A Cowboy's Death," "After the Roundup," and the "D 2 Horse Wrangler."

According to a mid-century edition of *True West*, "Sweet By and By Revised" represented one of O'Malley's initial attempts at writing lines. Said the author:

"He [O'Malley] said that it was probably the third or fourth poem of the forty or more that he wrote while cowpunching. These rough-set of verses apparently furnished the foundation for the ballad often called "The Cowboy's Dream," which has been given a place in nearly every collection of American frontier songs." O'Malley told *True West* that he received the inspiration for his verses from one of the N Bar N cowhands.

The magazine reprinted these original three verses as jotted down by O'Malley in the early 1880's.

*Tonight as I lay on the prairie  
Looking up at the stars in the sky,  
I wonder if ever a cowboy  
Will get to that sweet by and by.*

*For the trail to that bright mystic region  
Is both narrow and dim, so they say,  
While the broad one that leads to perdition  
Is posted and blazed all the way.*

*Now I wonder whose fault that so many  
Will be lost at the great final day,  
When they might have been rich and had plenty  
Had they known of the dim narrow way.*

In addition to his penchant for poetry, O'Malley wrote extensively on Western subjects and on incidents in which he was involved.

### Last Trail

The last trail drive O'Malley took part in was in 1891, from Texas to Montana. He recalled three trips taken by himself over the trail, with southern cattle from Texas bound for the northern ranges in Montana.

After the N Bar N sold out in 1896, O'Malley worked for various Montana outfits, among them the Bow and Arrow, M Diamond, Half Circle L and L U Bar. He also worked as deputy stock inspector for the Stock Growers Association under one Billy Smith. In 1904 he served as special deputy sheriff at Rosebud, under John Gibb, sheriff of Custer County. Later he was a guard at the State Penitentiary at Deer Lodge.

In 1909, at age 43, O'Malley went east to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, married, and in his later years made his home there.

He didn't forget Montana, however, and the sentiment was reciprocated. In 1939, O'Malley was the guest of honor at the first annual reunion of the Range Riders Association. In 1941 and 1942, he again was again the guest of honor at the reunions.

At age 70 O'Malley was employed at the tire plant of Gillette Rubber Company, but he was forced to give this up when "his heart began troubling him," according to his obituary in a Wisconsin newspaper. The final few years of his life were spent raising raspberries on a plot of ground on Crescent Avenue, in Eau Claire.

When he passed in 1943 D.J. O'Malley's body was taken to Miles City for burial. Not only was he directly linked to so many of the historic characters of what is often categorized as the Old West, O'Malley left his own distinctive footprint upon Montana's pioneer era. ★

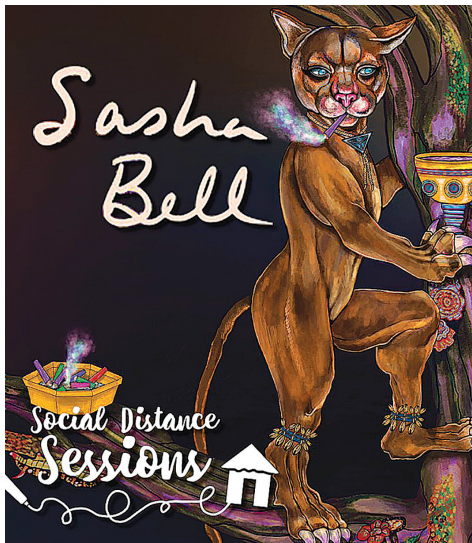
—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online



### ZACC PRESENTS SOCIAL DISTANCE SESSIONS

Streaming Saturdays at  
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Arts in Missoula.  
Oct. 3 - Rock and Roll  
Dance Party with **Cowboy Andy  
& the Salamanders**  
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Oct. 17 - Garage rock  
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[Zootownarts.org](http://Zootownarts.org) or  
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### KIRK'S GROCERY- BILLINGS

Bring a chair, soak in the pure  
Minnesota Ave. air, and listen  
to live music or poetry at Kirk's  
Grocery in Billings where  
poetry jams, comedy shows  
and musical acts will perform  
outdoors. Masks and social  
distancing are encouraged.  
Check out FB handle  
@KirksGrocery for  
event updates.

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

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Anne  
**Helen Petersen**  
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LaTray  
Chris

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Anne the Burnout  
Generation  
Helen Petersen





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