

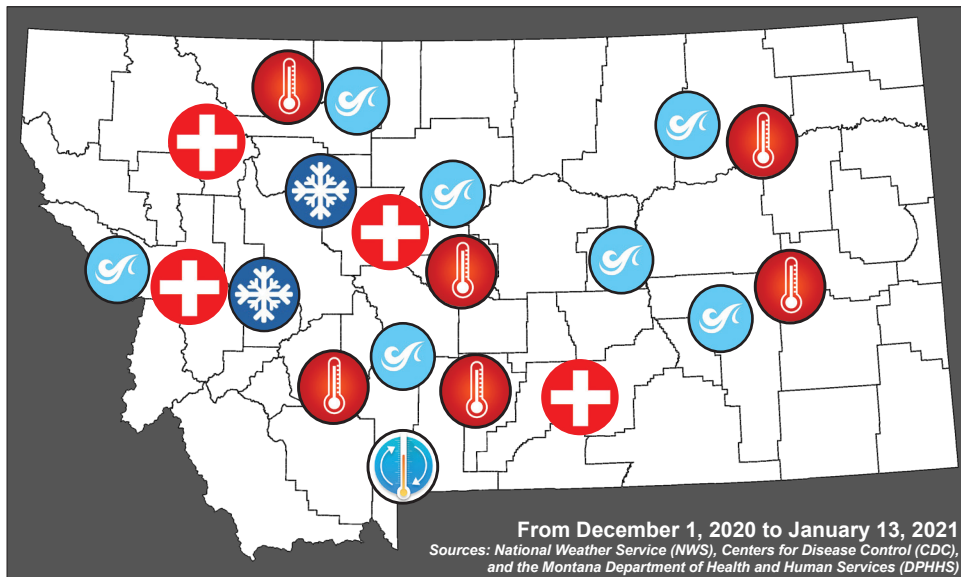
Free Monthly News, Arts & Entertainment

Vol. 4, Issue 1 • January 2021

MONTANA PRESS



MONTANA ALMANAC



Highs and Lows Across the State



According to the NWS, temperatures in 2020 were .6 degrees above normal, on average, and it was the warmest year since 2016. The highest temperature reported during the recording period was 70 at Hardin on Dec. 8. Record high temperatures were recorded on Dec. 8 in Great Falls at 63 degrees (61 in 1940), Cut Bank at 59 degrees (58 degrees in 2006), Dillon at 55 degrees (54 degrees in 1939), Butte at 58 degrees (52 in 1990) and Seeley Lake at 58 mph (53 in 1940). Butte set a record high on Dec. 22 at 51 degrees (50 degrees in 1940). A record high temp was also recorded Jan. 13 at Glasgow at 57 degrees (54 degrees in 1944). The lowest temperature recorded during the period was -19 degrees at West Yellowstone on Dec. 29.

Windy Weather



For the fall season, wind gusts of more than 60 mph were reported on 42 days through November in the area, a recent record exceeding that of 37 days set in 2011. The average is 27 days. Cut Bank, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, and Lewistown all recorded their windiest seasons on record. A wind event on Dec. 8 brought gusts of 72 mph to East Glacier, 68 mph to Judith in Fergus County and 61 mph to Great Falls. Another event on Dec. 15 brought gusts of 63 mph to Big Timber. On Dec. 18 gusts of 79 mph were recorded in East Glacier and 67 mph gusts were recorded in Waterton Gate Park and on Dec. 19, East Glacier reported 88 mph gusts while 76 mph gusts were recorded in Big Timber, 74 mph gusts were recorded 10 miles NNE of Bozeman and 72 mph gusts recorded in Livingston. On Dec. 20, 96 mph gusts were recorded at Deep Creek in Glacier County, 84 mph gusts were recorded at Derby Mountain in Sweet Grass County and 79 mph gusts in Big Timber. Wind gusts of upwards of 50, 60 and 70 mph were also recorded in dozens of locations including Choteau, Lewistown, Ringling, Bozeman, and Fort Belknap and 76 mph gusts were measured in Cooke City. High winds continued to batter central Montana on Dec. 22 with a peak gust of 70 mph south of Gallatin Gateway. In 2020, Bozeman broke a record 20 days with gusts of 45 mph (18 days in 2012). High winds returned after the new year on Jan. 2 at Deep Creek (94 mph), East Glacier (86 mph) and Bynum (75 mph). On Jan. 3, Great Falls reported gusts of 67 mph, Emigrant reported peak gusts of 69 mph, and Judith Basin, Blaine and Fergus counties saw gusts from 55 to 74 mph and winds gusted again up to 94 mph at Deep Creek and 86 mph at East Glacier. On January 12 and 13, a record-setting wind event pummeled most of Montana, causing multiple, statewide power outages, downed trees and overturned vehicles. A grass fire was reported Jan. 13 near Great Falls as winds picked up to 60, 70 and even 80 mph and higher across the state. Great Falls (76 mph), Helena (80 mph), and Havre (78 mph) broke wind speed records, as did a peak gust for the reporting period of 125 mph at Mount Sentinel. A wind gust of 101 mph was reported at Mount Aeneas in the Swan Mountains, while gusts of 96 mph were reported at Hornet Mountain, 90 mph recorded at Judith Peak in Fergus County and wind speeds from 70 to 90 mph were recorded across the state. Gusts up to 68 mph in Billings broke the January record from Jan. 13, 2014 on the exact day seven years apart and a peak gust in Glasgow of 79 mph nearly broke the record of 82 mph set July 2, 2000.

Continuing COVID-19 Health Emergency



The governor's office, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and public health departments across the state, requires all residents to wear non-medical masks when visiting any public establishment. As the virus continues to spread, The U.S. reported 23.4 million cases and 390,000 deaths, up from 14.1 million cases and 277,000 related deaths in the last reporting period. Over 139,000 are currently hospitalized. Montana reported 356 additional deaths for a total of 1,069 COVID fatalities, with a significant number of infected cases in Yellowstone County/Billings (up from 11,290 to 14,582 with 1,080 cases active at press time), Flathead (up from 6,986 to 9,366 total with 367 active), Missoula (up from 4,848 to 6,996 total with 410 active), Gallatin (up from 7,587 to 10,381 total and 572 active). Cascade (up from 5,237 to 7,044 total and 525 active) and Lewis and Clark (5,372 cases total with 535 active), with both counties seeing significant rises in cases over the month. The total number of reported cases is 87,653 (up from 35,955 cases last reporting period) in the state. Hospitalizations (199) and active cases (4,908) were stable at press time. Approximately 855,000 individuals in the state have been tested for the virus. Visit dphhs.mt.gov for up-to-date information.

Precipitation Totals



The first significant snowfalls of the reporting period were recorded on Dec. 22 at Brackett Creek in Gallatin County (8") and Badger Pass in Pondera County (8") with 1-6" at various locations in central Montana, including 8" recorded in Arlee. On Dec. 23, Meagher County saw 10" of new precipitation and 1-8" fell in areas from Lewis and Clark and Madison County to Gallatin and Glacier counties. By Dec. 23, Havre was on track to see the second-least snowy December on record with .2" while by Dec. 26, Cooke City had seen 2" of new snow in less than a week and Lookout and Lolo passes saw significant snowfall through the end of the year. Missoula only saw 4.8" for the month of December, which is 6" below normal. Despite prolonged dry and warm weather, mountains were reported to be actually close to normal snowpack for the time of year.



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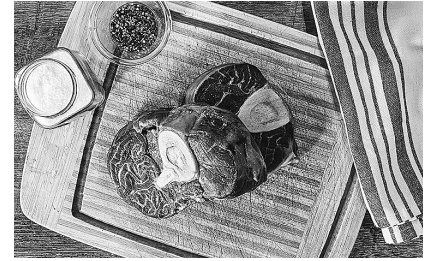
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ON THE COVER

Radd Icenoggle and his partner Vida talk about the Taste of Montana and give a traditional Italian dish a Montana Makeover.

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SPOTLIGHT

The all-American roots of Montana's new governor, Greg Gianforte, and his early career in politics

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ON THE COVER Taste of Montana's "Boiling River 3-2-1 Spare Ribs" during the six-hour smoking process. The recipe for this slow food sensation can be found on page 12.

Photo courtesy of Radd Icenoggle

MONTANA PRESS MONTHLY

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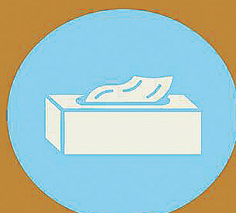
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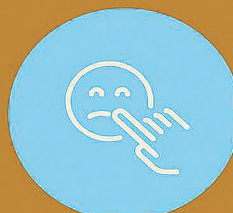
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Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Still don't use slower friends as bear bait.

From NPS.GOV

BYGONE DAYS

Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1897, 1937 and 1962. For daily Bygone Days, follow @MontanaPress on Facebook.

The Virginia City Madisonian
January 2, 1897

“The spinster of the past was depicted as thin and scraggy, sour of temper and disgruntled with the world. Heaven knows she had just cause to be. She was foredoomed to live with some relative, no matter how uncongenial, because she was supposed to have perpetual need of a protector, though her age and ugliness might have been a sufficient chaperon anywhere on earth. She was expected to have no opinions or tastes, to prefer to ride backward and eat the drumsticks of the chicken and to have an insatiable passion for teaching children the catechism. That was under the happiest conditions. When the old maid was poor and dependent, then, indeed, her bread was bitter and her drink was tears. Happily, modern progress has changed this. The old maid is no longer scrawny and sour. She has discarded the meek and self-abnegating black alpaca for frills and frivols. She has a thousand interests. She teaches, she type-writes, she paints, she does a hundred things that are money-earning. She travels where she pleases and sees the sunny side of life, and the last thing she dreams of needing is the sympathy of preachers and laymen.”

The Columbia Falls Columbian
January 7, 1897

“Missoula clergymen are leading a crusade against the dives of that town. The case of the state vs. the proprietors of the Peoples’ theatre, with Prof. Reitz as the prosecuting witness, which was tried before Judge Logan resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff and the defendants were fined \$50 and costs. Virtue thus scores the first touchdown but the end is not yet.”

The Dillon Tribune
January 15, 1897

“Wool Men Meet. Proceedings of the Beaverhead County Wool Growers’ Association. This organization met in Dillon Saturday last, Jan. 9th, and was largely attended... The bounty question coming up for consideration, it was unanimously resolved that the members of this association are decidedly opposed to any legislation having for its object the repeal of the bounty law on coyotes, now in effect. Believing that said repeal would work a hardship on the flockmasters throughout the state. The records of Beaverhead county show that there have been from April 1st, 1895 to January 2nd, 1897, 1540 coyotes and one wolf destroyed in this county. Who can estimate the number of sheep saved through the destruction of these pests? If this law is repealed at the present time the money already paid for bounty will be practically lost; whereas if it continues in effect for a few years longer, the wolf and the coyote will be a thing of the past; and the money paid as bounties on them will be as nothing compared with what it is today. The coyote is generally conceded

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to be the most prolific of animals. The wolf is the foe of the cattle men of the northern part of the state; the coyote is the foe of the sheepmen throughout the state. In view of these facts, our delegates both in the house and senate are respectfully requested to work for the protection of both branches of industry alike.”

The Virginia City Madisonian
January 16, 1897

“The advocates of female suffrage propose to make a strong fight for what they consider their rights. They have selected a number of liquid-eyed, dimple-cheeked lobbyists to win the law makers over to their way of thinking, and we tremble when we think of the dangers to which the Hon. Alex. Metzel and the Hon. W.A. Clark—the unmarried of Madison’s delegation—are exposed.”

The Butte Montana Standard
January 19, 1937

“Anaconda is Prepared for Ski Carnival. With the weatherman painting a perfect setting, Anaconda this week-end will offer Montanans a great winter sports drama on stages on Oimoen hill, the beautifully lighted city common rink, and on ice sheets at the Athletic field. Snow continued to fall yesterday in the Smelter city, bringing with it an enthusiastic winter carnival atmosphere. Opening Friday night with ice events and various indoor sports, the third annual Montana show festival this year is built around

the Western United states ski jumping tournament. This outstanding winter sports event will attract to the Treasure state the nation’s best ski riders, who will compete for Montana trophies Saturday and for western United States titles Sunday. Entering the week of the largest winter sports show in this section of the country indications are that weather conditions will be ideal for the carnival. Mild winter weather will mean comfort to the thousands of spectators at the huge slide and at the ice rinks. The heavy snow fall practically eliminates the trucking of snow to the slide for the jumps, a costly operation. Work of packing the snow on the hill will begin this week. Casper Oimoen, ace of ski jumpers, will return from Chicago by Thursday to supervise final touches on the hill. Interest in the ski tournament took a quick rise yesterday when it was generally learned that Casper Oimoen won the Norge club event in Chicago Sunday and would bring the national champion back to Anaconda with him... Built around the ski jumping is a program of various ice events, bowling, basketball, wrestling and carnival dances. The bowling tournament opened last night. Ninety-six teams from western Montana will compete... Speed and figure skating by outstanding Montana talent, hockey games, a masquerade carnival ball and several comic ice features are included... The great attraction Saturday night will be the Montana open speed skating event, also on the city common. Montana medals will be awarded winners...”

The Fort Benton River Press
January 20, 1937

“Has Found Smart Coyote. Geraldine. It seems that one coyote that roams the wilds of this vicinity is too much for James Bishop, a trapper in the Highwood mountains. At least, he is becoming more and more troublesome. Bishop set a trap on a trail 11 times and each time it was sprung without yielding any game. Once the coyote left a toe in the trap in making good his escape. Investigation by Bishop revealed that the animal has no front feet. Other traps in the area remain undisturbed, but one set on the path of the crippled coyote continues to snap shut without any success.”

The Big Timber Pioneer
January 21, 1937

“Many Tourists Saw Park By Air. Flights Over Yellowstone and Grand Teton Featured NPA’s Summer Service. Tourist travel to Yellowstone park featured National Parks Airways most successful year of operations: 1936! Hundreds of passengers from practically every state in the country, from Europe, South Africa and India took advantage of direct air service to Yellowstone park. As an added attraction, National Parks Airways operated a scenic air tour of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. The trip provided Yellowstone tourists with a one and one-half hour flight over Old Faithful, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone lake and Norris Geyser basin. A huge tri-motored Boeing airplane was employed for this special flight. During the first quarter of 1936, National Parks spent more than \$50,000 in improving its Boeing 247 airplanes by installation of automatic carburetors and by super insulation and redecoration of the plane cabins... On August 1, National Parks Airways commenced its 8th year of successful airline operation between Salt Lake City, Ogden, Pocatello, Butte, Helena and Great



Falls... In July 1935, West Yellowstone, most popular entrance to Yellowstone park, was added as an NPA city for summer operations. During 1936, the line carried more passengers than during any previous year and showed an increase of 70 percent in passenger revenue over 1935.”

The Helena Independent Record
January 25, 1962

“Rewrite of ‘Bartenders Guide’ Offered as Lure for Tourists. A multitude of suggestions for increasing Montana tourist travel, including a virtual rewrite of that literary classic, ‘The Bartenders Guide,’ was offered today at a state-wide conference in the UCC Building... State Advertising Director Jack Hollowell told the group that popular alcoholic concoctions served in bars that cater to out-of-state visitors should be renamed—the new names to reflect the ‘spirit’ of Montana. ‘Everybody knows that “ditch” is a dyed-in-the-wool Montana drink,’ Hollowell told his startled audience. ‘We should have other typical Montana drinks on the menus of lounges such as “General Custer Battle Cry,” “Buffalo Wing Ding,” “Sleeping Giant Fizz” and “Big Mountain Sleigh Ride.”’ It is Hollowell’s contention that tourists will remember these drinks and prescribe them for friends back home...”

Butte Montana Standard
January 26, 1962

“GOV. NUTTER KILLED. 5 Others Perish In Plane Crash... Montana Gov. Donald G. Nutter and five others died Thursday when a Montana Air National Guard plane smashed into a deep timbered mountain-side five miles west of here. State Highway Patrol Supervisor Alex B. Stephenson returned from the crash scene and said, ‘There couldn’t be any survivors.’ Stephenson said the twin-engine C47 transport was ‘splattered all over the hill.’ The plane, carrying Nutter to a speaking engagement at Cut Bank, near the Canadian border 140 miles north of Helena, apparently hit the mountain about 4:30 p.m. (MST). The crash scene was a rugged, snow-covered area about 25 miles north of Helena... Col. Richard Kendall, assistant adjutant of the Montana National Guard and a close personal friend of the governor, said a sheriff’s deputy who had viewed the wreckage said the plane apparently ‘just flew into the side of the mountain...’” ★

MONTANA VOICES

Insanity on a Rampage: Hopefully, the End is in Sight

History is being made as the first issue of this year's Montana Press Monthly hits the stands. The U.S. House of Representatives is, for the first time in the nation's 230 year history, impeaching a president, the odious Donald J. Trump, for the second time... and this time for "incitement of insurrection" against the United States government. In the meantime the Montana Legislature is meeting under the fatal cloud of a raging pandemic and still clinging to the myth that "personal responsibility" is preferable to requiring masks and social distancing while they crank out disastrous right-wing legislation. Buckle up, fellow Montanans, and hang in there for what promises to be a ride like none we've experienced before.

HISTORIC SECOND IMPEACHMENT OF DONALD J. TRUMP

The ship of state was rocked to its core on January 6, 2021 when thousands of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in a failed attempt to prevent Congress from counting the electoral votes to confirm Joe Biden as the next president of the United States.

Americans watched in horror as the historic building, which has never been attacked since British troops burned it down in 1812, was desecrated by a mob fueled to a fever pitch by Trump's totally false claims, repeated over and over for the last two months, that he won the election "in a landslide" and it was being "stolen" from him by nefarious Democrats.

As members of Congress hid under desks and scrambled for safe rooms, Trump's raging mob smashed windows, kicked in doors, beat police officers, and chanted "Hang Pence" because Vice President Mike Pence refused Trump's demand to disrupt the electoral vote count, something he had exactly no legal authority to do.

As more stunning details emerged the Justice Department instituted a "strike force" to identify, investigate and prosecute those involved for "sedition and conspiracy." In the meantime, an estimated 20,000 National Guard troops have been stationed in and around the Capitol – this time armed and ready for more violent events as Biden is sworn in on January 20.

While Montana's Congressional Republicans, Senator Daines and Rep. Rosendale remain on the wrong side of history in embracing Trump's phony rants, other Republicans,

including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, are saying "enough is enough."

As Liz Cheney, the Wyoming Republican who is third in House leadership, wrote in her announcement that she was going to vote to impeach Trump: "The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack. Everything that followed was his doing. None of this would have happened without the President. The President could have immediately and forcefully intervened to stop the violence. He did not there has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution."

MEANWHILE IN MONTANA

Closer to home, the Montana Legislature – dominated by Republican majorities in both chambers and Greg Gianforte as the first Republican in 16 years in the Governor's Office – continues to roll out bills that former Governor Brian Schweitzer once described as "batshit crazy."

Somehow one might think that Montanans, with the most gun ownership per capita in the nation, probably have more important things to deal with than making it legal to carry concealed weapons virtually everywhere without a permit – including on college campuses. Or how about this bit of revenge legislation (SB85) by Republican Senator Duane Ankney? Angered that the public won't somehow bail out the outdated, uneconomical, and environmentally destructive Colstrip coal-fired generators, Ankney decides to instead increase the tax on renewable energy – like the state's largest wind generation facility slated to go in near Colstrip. How dumb is that since it won't help Colstrip, but may stymie the growing wind and solar energy industry in Montana.

Unfortunately, due to the insanity consuming Washington, D.C., there's not enough room in this column to go through the insanity emanating from Montana's 2021 legislative session. But hang in there with me, dear readers. Let us hope that once the rightful president of the United States takes his place in the newly-fumigated White House – and the Democrat majorities in the House and Senate can deal with the terrifying and complex exigencies assailing the nation instead of the threats to our democracy from delusional Trump mobs — we can get back to some semblance of sanity and restore America's standing in the world. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

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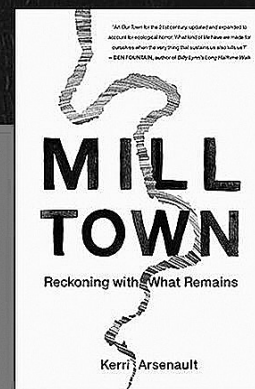
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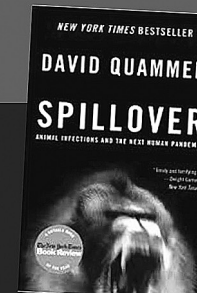
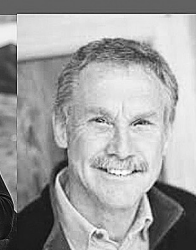
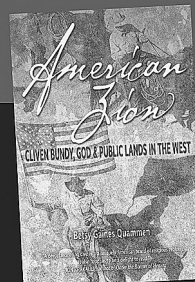
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Insurrection, Mutation, and the Winding Road out of this Mess
with Betsy Gaines Quammen and David Quammen



Tuesday, January 26
at 7 PM MST on Facebook Live

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MONTANA SPOTLIGHT

Capitol Watch: All-American Roots of New Governor Greg Gianforte

WIn the coming months, the Montana State Legislature will convene under a Republican Administration for the first time in 16 years. Governor Greg Gianforte will sit at the leadership helm of the new administration where he will take charge of making public policy for the 1,069,000 people happy to call Montana's rows of cobalt mountains and wide sky home.

Before Gianforte became a political leader in Montana, holding a seat in Congress after building a number of prosperous high-tech businesses, he was an all-American boy in the outer suburbs of the city of Philadelphia.

NEW GOVERNOR'S PENNSYLVANIA ROOTS

Born in San Diego, California to Frank Gianforte and Dale Douglass Gianforte on April 17, 1961, Greg Gianforte spent most of his childhood in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, one of many strands of suburbs laced around Philadelphia. A community sprung from colonial America, King of Prussia is now home to one of the largest shopping malls in the country.

Gianforte left quite a legacy in sports and school government at Upper Merion Area High School (UMAHS) before moving on to Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. In New Jersey, he was involved in successful software company start-ups until 1995 when he brought his family to Montana, a place Gianforte says he grew to love after visiting Big Sky Country on a school trip as a young man.

While many Montanans have heard the story of the Bozeman tech entrepreneur-turned-politician before, the deeper story of his life and its fine details have usually been lacking.

Just who is Governor Greg Gianforte?

In Gianforte's young adulthood, he was the pride of UMAHS, leading his peers in school government, academic achievement and on the football field.

"He was the type of person who had a path," John McCormick, a classmate and sports teammate says. "He was already on it."

McCormick and Gianforte became friends at UMAHS through football, lacrosse and classes. They both took the first computer-science class available at UMAHS when they were sophomores, getting an early

introduction to what would be the tech entrepreneur's first career.

Students were taught basic software on TRS 80s, desktop computers born in the late 1970s. The class came easy to both McCormick and Gianforte. The summer after their sophomore year, Gianforte already was able to create a computer payment program for his father's business.

McCormick says he likes to tell his children that while he was mowing lawns for his summer job, Greg Gianforte was getting ahead of the curve. "He already saw the future and had already jumped on it," McCormick recalls.

Besides getting his first taste of software development as a teenager, Gianforte found another passion as an offensive lineman for the UMAHS Vikings.

Rich Como, former UMAHS football coach, remembers Gianforte as a motivated and intelligent student and also as a talented football player. As multiple peers also note, Gianforte was a leader throughout high school and in sports. Gianforte played a big role in the 1978 championship game the team won in his senior year, according to Coach Como.

"He was a kid who stepped up and talked to the team and made speeches at halftime and was motivational for the rest of the players," Como remembers.

Como became close with the Gianforte family and even visited them on the Jersey Shore, where the family vacationed during the summer. Como, new to UMAHS at the time, was excited to take his young boys to the Shore but the trip wouldn't have been feasible due to expenses. He recalls the Gianforte brothers Greg, Douglass and Michael and his own kids playing at the beach and spending an evening at the amusement park. Como recalls Gianforte's mother, Dale, as having a kind nature and adoring Coach Como's boys.

"They afforded me an opportunity that I would not have been able to have," Como recalls. "And so my kids got to see the beach and participate in that at a very young age, and I was grateful for that."

The football coach recalls that, much like his son Greg, the elder Mr. Gianforte was very smart and driven. Como saw Greg Gianforte's ambition manifested on and off the field and later in his parenting as a

father, noting, "His dad's influence was great in Greg's life," Como says. "Same kind of person, very motivated and very focused."

Before Frank Gianforte passed away, in 2015, he owned and managed properties on New Jersey's coast after retiring from numerous engineering jobs, including with the Aerospace Division of General Electric. Gianforte's mother, Dale, who passed away in 2008, was a typical 1960s-'70s stay-at-home mother who took care of her three children.

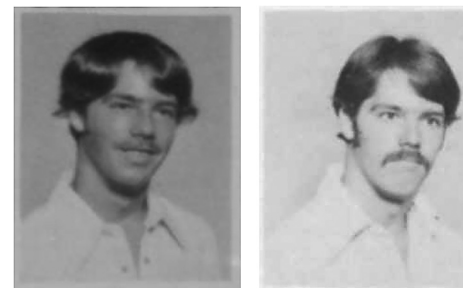
Prior to Gianforte's time as Montana's lone House Representative from 2017-2021 and his election as Montana's governor in 2020, he first held political office as class president at UMAHS in his junior year. Joe Havlick, a classmate and church friend, says Gianforte held the title through his senior year.

"It's kind of unfortunate that I had to be in high school with a future governor," Havlick says with a chuckle. Havlick wasn't a bit surprised to see someone as well-liked, popular and driven go on to bigger and better things in national politics.

Gianforte and Havlick also grew up together in the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church. They were both active in youth groups and Sunday School starting from an early age.

The minister at Valley Forge Presbyterian, Reverend Joseph Jensen, Jr., was a civil-rights activist both within the community and around the country. In the 1960s, Rev. Jensen marched on Washington to protest against the Vietnam War and went to Selma to register voters in Alabama. Jensen also worked to fight against discrimination in the community by acting as a "straw-buyer" for Black community members who were misled about whether a house they wanted to purchase was on or off the market.

Havlick says that when he learned of Gianforte's current religious views, including his denial of Darwinian evolution and discrimination towards LGBTQ+ and disabled persons, he was puzzled. He never expected Gianforte would grow to hold such beliefs as they were not evident when Gianforte was a teenager.



Greg Gianforte in his sophomore (above, left) and junior year class photos from Upper Merion Area High School (UMAHS) in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Gianforte (at right) as Junior Class President at UMAHS. He held the office through his senior year. A career in government started in his sophomore year as a representative of student council (below, right).

"He's gone very far-right, and he's very religious," Havlick says. "When I first heard that that was the case, that never would have occurred to me."

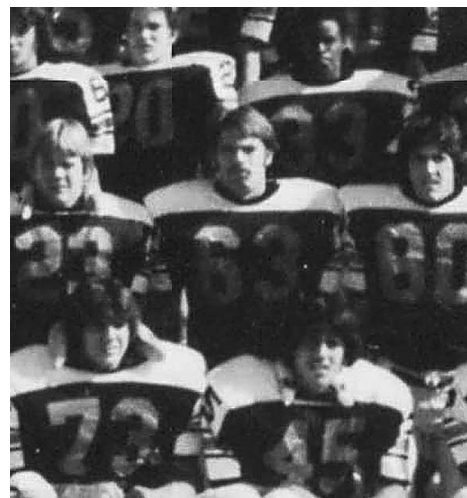
The new Montana governor has made his somewhat controversial religious beliefs a cornerstone of his life and philanthropy. Gianforte has donated to organizations that discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals and to the Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum, which teaches that humans and dinosaurs coexisted and is operated by a non-profit called Advancing Creation Truth. Gianforte has funded expansions and served on the Board of Trustees of Petra Academy, a Classical Christian School that his children have attended in Bozeman. Petra Academy has caused controversy in the Bozeman area over the school's reluctance to extend services to students with learning and mental disabilities.

"I think he's really religiously made quite a journey," says Marwan Kreidie, another classmate and former church peer.

Kreidie also attended Valley Forge Presbyterian and UMAHS with Gianforte. He shares stories similar to Havlick's about Rev. Jensen, describing attending an anti-nuclear rally with Jensen and other church parishioners. Learning about the incoming governor's religious views surprised him, Kreidie explains, because Gianforte's current ideology seems at odds with the actions and beliefs of the young man he knew growing up.

Kreidie, a professor in the political science department at West Chester University who considers himself left of the Democratic Party, offered to meet privately with his old friend in Washington, D.C., after Gianforte's 2018 re-election to Congress, to discuss Middle East topics. Kreidie, however, never received a response from his former classmate.

An issue that surprised both Kreidie and Havlick concerned an individual who took to social media to publicly accuse Gianforte of bullying them throughout high school during Gianforte's 2020 campaign for Governor.



Gianforte played football as an offensive lineman throughout high school. Pictured above at center, number 63, and as a cheerleader for the Upper Merion Area High School "powderpuff" football team in his junior year, 1978. Pictured second from left on top row.



The Upper Merion Powderpuff Football team broke Norristown's three year winning streak this year with a score of 18-6. The squad was coached by five senior guys, with head coach Bill Easton. Sweat pants, long johns, and mittens. . .Defense doesn't just talk about last night's party in the huddle. . . "What's the word? Beat the BIRD!" . . . "Let's get Arthur in the mud!" . . . "Football?" . . . YOU BET!! . . .



both were members of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. “Right from the start, he was a classmate I respected and always looked up to,” Panicucci explains in an email.

Gianforte also was active in the Stevens Entrepreneurs Club, where he shed light on different career opportunities engineers like Panicucci could take. Instead of being stuck working for a large corporation, Gianforte dared his peers to push through the status quo of engineering

and start their own ventures. “I quickly learned that engineers can also be business owners and pursue paths of leadership, something I can say was initially inspired by Greg,” Panicucci said via email.

Jeff Smith, another classmate at Stevens, describes Gianforte as one of the smartest people he’s ever met and says Gianforte is well thought of amongst his peers. The two shared a friendly competition between their fraternities, Gianforte’s Delta Tau Delta and Smith’s Sigma Nu.

Smith and Panicucci also describe how generous Gianforte has been in his donations to Stevens. In 2016, Gianforte gave the remaining \$10 million of a \$20-million donation, so the school could construct and name a building and academic center after the Gianforte family. But according to “The Stute,” Stevens’ student newspaper, students have protested and demanded that the university decline the funding, because of Gianforte’s financial support of anti-LGBTQ+ organizations and the creationist museum in Glendive.

In October of 2017, students and alumni started a GoFundMe account called “Stevens Name Your Price” in an effort to fund the academic center without relying on donations from Gianforte.

Eventually the university decided to call the building The Gateway Academic Center and to name the northern half of the center The Gianforte Family Hall. Student protests over use of the Gianforte name, however, have continued.

INTO THE FUTURE

Greg Gianforte has taken on many leadership roles throughout his very successful life to date, from the early days of holding the presidencies of his junior and senior classes, to inspiring college peers to re-imagine their career options. As the decades have passed, however, some of Gianforte’s early peers have seen him develop into a very different person than the one they knew as young people.

As the *Montana Press* chronicles the biography of the state’s new governor, Gianforte’s roads from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to Montana, from computer science student to tech millionaire, and from mainstream Presbyterian to Creationist will all be examined for citizens across the state.

As Governor Gianforte takes office in early January, the *Montana Press* will chronicle his past and present. This ongoing series will continue to present a biographical profile of the new governor and follow his leadership of state government during the upcoming state Legislative session. ★

—MACKENZIE DEXTER
dexter.mackenzie20@gmail.com



The person declined an interview, stating they currently had no desire to talk about Gianforte and are now “far above him in every way.”

For many of Gianforte’s fellow classmates at UMAHS, the murder of Susan Reinert, their high school English teacher, just weeks after graduation in 1979 made the world a darker place.

The impact of the horrific incident has been impossible to shake for many members of the Class of 1979. The principal of Gianforte’s high school, as well as another teacher, were implicated in the crime, and some of the students who attended the school noted later that the mentors they had looked up to and trusted became evil figures in their lives overnight, making their worlds a little darker and more uncertain.

Just weeks after Gianforte’s senior-class graduation, Susan Reinert was found dead. Her children’s remains have never been discovered. In 1986, former UMAHS principal Jay C. Smith was convicted for the murders. His conviction was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1992. William Bradfield, another English teacher at UMAHS and Reinert’s romantic partner, was convicted of conspiracy to commit the murders of Reinert and her children.

Gianforte’s classmate John McCormick shares that he lost trust in humanity when he saw his leaders commit such horrific actions. “Greg was right there, you know, as a student in class office dealing with these administrators that were all involved,” McCormick recalls of the senior class president.

SUCCESS AT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The summer after his graduation, Gianforte followed in his father’s footsteps and attended Stevens Institute of Technology, in Hoboken, New Jersey. While at Stevens, Gianforte was part of Delta Tau Delta, Tau Beta Pi and the Stevens Entrepreneurs Club. He graduated in 1983 with a B.E. in Electrical Engineering and an M.S. in Computer Science.

Ronald Panicucci, a Stevens classmate, met Gianforte in a large lecture class freshman year. While they pursued different majors,



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MONTANA BOOKS

Women Changing the World: Stephanie Schriock

Over the past decade, Butte-born EMILY's List president Stephanie Schriock has redefined American politics by igniting the campaigns of Democratic women candidates with her no-nonsense, sexism-be-damned strategy: Run to win.

Little wonder that her first book, "Run to Win: Lessons in Leadership for Women Changing the World," is prefaced by our first female Vice-President, Kamala Harris, and peppered with praise from Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Georgia State Legislator Stacey Abrams and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. *ELLE Magazine* concurs, naming Schriock to its "10 Most Powerful Women in Washington" list.

Who's Emily, you ask?

Women's activist Ellen Malcolm founded EMILY's List in 1985, naming it after the acronym "Early Money Is Like Yeast" (as in, it makes the dough rise), as early donations have proven key to funding successful candidates. In 2010, Malcolm named Schriock as her EMILY's next-gen successor, based on Schriock's success as finance director for Howard Dean's unsuccessful presidential bid in 2004, campaign manager and chief of staff for Montana Senator Jon Tester and chief of staff for SNL comic-turned-Minnesota Senator Al Franken that included running his successful eight-month election recount.

Under Schriock's reign, EMILY's List now has more than five million members and \$600 million in funds to help elect the thousands of pro-choice Democratic women it has recruited and trained to run for office.

Schriock admits that while she toyed with following her father into medical technology, even majoring in pre-med at Minnesota State University in Mankato, her passionate pastime in public service ultimately pointed her in a political direction.

MONTANA PRESS MONTHLY: As a kid growing up in Butte, did you sense that politics somehow would figure into your future?

STEPHANIE SCHRIOCK: I was definitely a striver. I wanted to do everything, everything I could do. I was a straight-A student, and probably to my classmates I was the annoying one who just kept running for class president and never won. I talk about that in the book; you have to get over your losses, it's just a step in the process, you've got to keep going. But I did decide to run for student-body president going into my senior year because I recognized that the electorate was different, though probably not in that term at the time, so I could just get the freshmen and sophomores engaged and forget about the seniors. (laughs) And I won!

MPM: Did you translate that into politics at the time?

SCHRIOCK: No. I was raised in the church; we went to St. John's Episcopal Church, and between the church and Girl Scouts and my parents, it was very clear that public service and helping in the community

and helping your neighbor was a critical piece of who you were. My dad was a medical technologist and ended up being the lab director at St. James (Hospital) and my mom was one of the librarians at that beautiful library in Butte, so I would spend time in the library and time in the lab and I was torn between this love of politics – which at the time, my parents would think, where does this kid get this? I was a volunteer for Pat Williams, who was running for Congress, and the student-appointed member of the committee to get the bond issue through for the high school. When I say I wanted to do everything, I just was that kid. I was the super-volunteer.

MPM: It's remarkable that you've been able to so greatly increase the number of women political candidates in your first decade heading up EMILY's List. What's the secret?

SCHRIOCK: Well, what was so great for me, coming in as the second-ever president of EMILY's List following the founder, Ellen Malcolm...

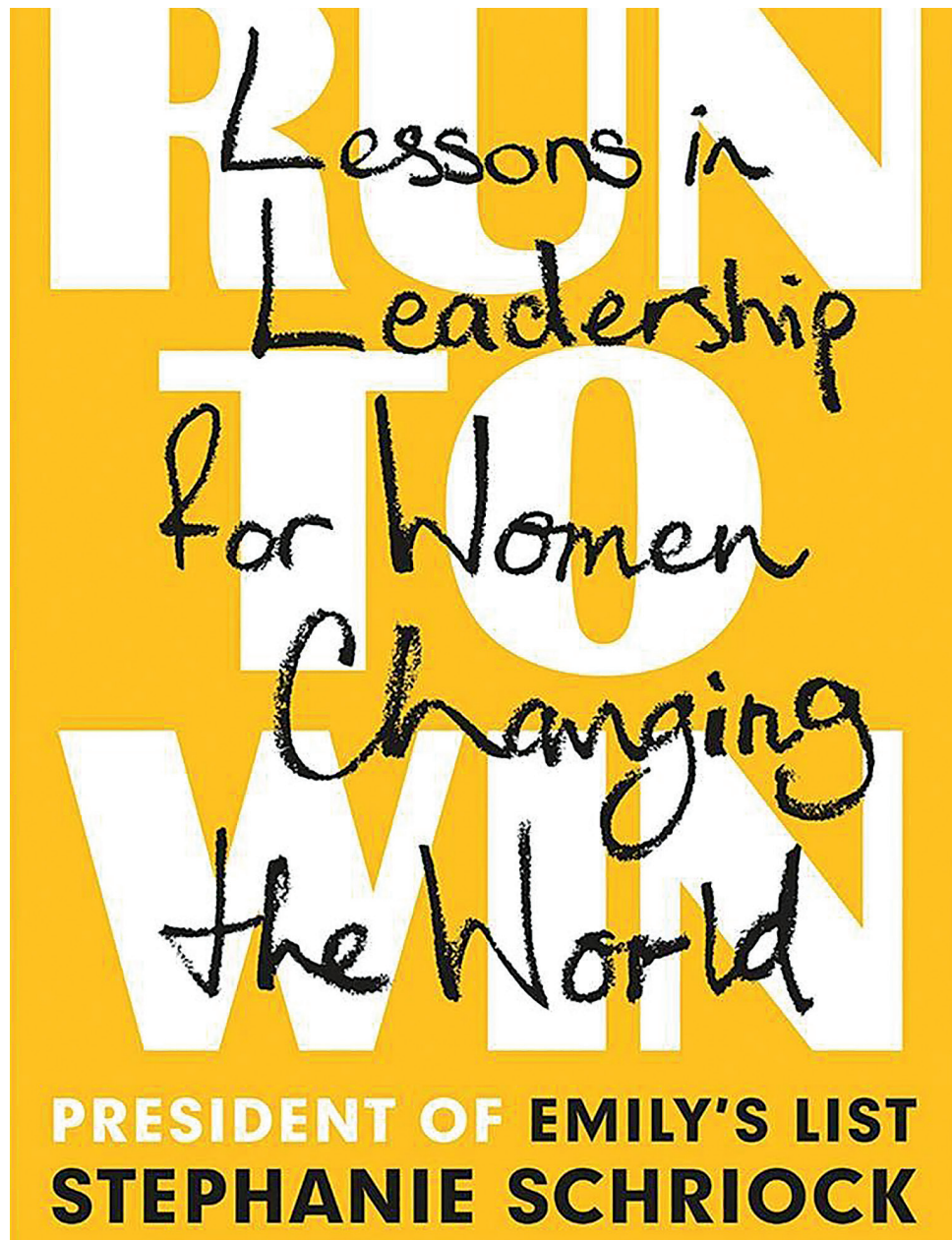
MPM: Did she recruit you?

SCHRIOCK: That's a very funny story. At the time, I had just gotten back to Senator Tester's office as his Chief of Staff. He was super generous in lending me out to manage Al Franken's Senate race in 2008. Initially, I went out to Minnesota in May for an election in November, so it seemed manageable for Senator Tester, but then of course we were in a recount and then there's a trial and I'm on the phone with Senator Tester saying like, "Well, this is going to take a whole year!" and it literally did. It was almost exactly a year when I came back, and I was very loyal to him.

I think of Jon as family and I had just gotten back to start laying out his re-election, which was coming up the next cycle, and starting to lay that groundwork when I was called by the search committee of EMILY's List.

I had heard that Ellen Malcolm was stepping down, and, for someone like me, a younger woman who came up in Democratic politics, Ellen Malcolm is an icon so her stepping down from EMILY's List, certainly the earth shook for Democratic women, because what were they going to do? So I didn't even pause. I got this call from the search committee and I just assumed that they were calling to see if I had any suggestions of maybe elected officials or former elected officials. I talk about this in the book, women not thinking that they're ready or they're not the ones. I literally went through that process because "Oh, you want to talk to me about this?!? You're kidding!!!" It took me like five to 10 minutes on the call to go, "Oh, you're actually asking if I'm interested in it?!"

MPM: What did it take to adapt your campaign skills to a NASA launch like EMILY's List?



SCHRIOCK: Well, I walked in realizing that I had some of the skills, many of the skills, that they needed to be successful, but there were also skills that I didn't have, and I knew that walking in. In fact, it was a moment where I was like, can I do this job when I have very little media experience at all?

When I was a campaign manager, most campaign managers will hire a finance director first, because they're usually not money people and they want to have somebody to raise the money. I know how to raise money because I was a finance director for years. But I hired the comms (communications) person first because I didn't want to talk to the press, because I was so scared! It was just not a comfortable place for me. And part of it is, we tell fundraisers, "Oh, don't talk to the press!"

So coming in, I knew that one of the things I had to do was to step in from being the person behind the scene, handling the talking points and doing the quick pep talk to the person who was going up to the podium or standing up in front of the lights, to becoming the principal. The lessons that we lay out in the book are lessons that I myself had to go through in a lot of ways, for stuff like what are my skills and then what do I need to learn?

One of the most important things about any of these leadership jobs or anything is, are you willing to learn?

We hired media consultants and media trainers; one of them, Christine Reynolds, actually is the co-author of my book. She came in the first month as a consultant to help me do this process of figuring out how

do I do these things? I can raise money; I don't know how to go on television and not make a squishy face.

MPM: You clearly had the experience to know how to build a working team.

SCHRIOCK: Yes, I could put together the right team. When I came onboard, it was really on the backend of the recession, we weren't out of it yet, and we had this running sad joke that everybody's portfolios went down by a third but their contributions were cut in half. So we were really struggling to just get back on our feet as an organization. Plus we had had a couple hard election cycles prior to me getting there because things happen, so we were in a critical moment to kind of figure out the new path forward. I think about sometimes you have to just do things differently and you have to break out of the box and you can't keep doing the same thing over and over again because it's not going to work. And part of that is, so many folks were saying, "Well, how are you going to fill Ellen Malcolm's shoes?" and I finally got to the point of saying, "Well, I'm not."

MPM: I think that's what Ellen Malcolm recognized in you. You were the new generation that EMILY's List needed.

SCHRIOCK: Well, thank you. I'd like to think that that's what she saw. I think that's true. I always tease her like, like, this isn't going to work. I'm going to bring my cowboy boots instead and we're going to wade through this a different way."



MPM: Did working with Al Franken help you appreciate the humor of campaign management?

SCHRIOCK: Well, he would tell you that I'm not funny. He says that I have a good laugh but I can't tell jokes. Which is actually legit true; I can't. (laughs)

MPM: Any thoughts of running for office yourself one day?

SCHRIOCK: I never let anybody say no to that question when I ask them. You can say "Not now," but you've got to leave it open. So at this moment in my life, I would say "Not now, I've got other work to do," but I would never rule it out, nor should anybody. No one should rule it out. It means a lot of different things; it could be the school board, county commissioner, parks commissioner. It's not just Congress and Senate and the Presidency. The jobs that actually affect our lives more than anything else are those local offices, and that's where we're seeing so much change happening. Particularly under the (former) Trump administration because we couldn't get anything done.

MPM: How was the experience of writing the book for you?

SCHRIOCK: I was so blessed to have Christine as a partner in this endeavor. I can't imagine doing something like this on my own; I don't consider myself a writer by any means. She was able to guide us through these stories, because we wanted to lay out at its core some fundamental lessons that anybody could take in their lives to engage in change.

Yes, we want everybody to think about running for office, but we also wanted to give some lessons that could help in any way. Like how do you make the ask, because we have to ask for things all the time. We also really felt strongly about sharing the stories about the incredible women that we've worked with over the years, the (Illinois Congresswoman) Lauren Underwoods and (Wisconsin Senator) Tammy Baldwin and (Illinois Senator) Tammy Duckworth and the list just goes on and on and on.

The hardest for me was, I too had to tell parts of my story. And after being with EMILY's List for a decade, I've gotten

used to telling my story in speeches and other ways because that's what you do. I always tell all of our potential candidates, "I'm telling you, you can learn how to do this. I had to learn how to do this." But it was interesting to think about some of the moments I personally had that may have helped me get to where I am and may help others find their own journey.

MPM: What's your two-minute summary for those who don't understand the goal of EMILY's List?

SCHRIOCK: Just that missing half the population's perspective is a mistake. It just doesn't make any sense. One African American or one Latina or one Israeli woman cannot represent the entire community of their race or gender, it's just impossible, particularly with the intersectionality of all of that. We need these perspectives across the board, so we need more women; we need more Black women, we need more Latinas, we need more Asian-American women.

In Montana, we think about it all the time. Indigenous women, with what's going on particularly with women in our Native American communities.

I have lots and lots of proud moments but I just broke down in tears when I saw (New Mexico Congresswoman) Deb Haaland and (Kansas Congresswoman) Sharice Davids get sworn in as the first two Native American women to serve in the United States House of Representatives, and I thought, I'm done now; I don't need to do anything else! (laughs) I feel great! It's just this incredible moment.

It is about perspective and it needs to happen rapidly and here's the good news: just EMILY's List alone, there are over 60,000 women who have said, "I want to run. I may not run today but I'm going to do it, I'm going to figure it out." And that is definitely a sea change, and it's our way forward, not just in the United States but all around the world.

MPM: I'm going to call that Dr. Stephanie's prescription.

SCHRIOCK: (laughs) Finally! *Finally* I'm getting that Dr.! ★

—JAY MACDONALD

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TASTE OF MONTANA

Many in Montana are missing their favorite products as crafts fairs and other events are postponed and made-in-Montana businesses struggle to promote their products in the same manner they did before the global pandemic struck in 2020.

Radd Icenoggle and Vida Rasoolzaeegan (*pictured at right*) are co-owners of Taste of Montana in Lolo, Montana, an innovative business model for a unique time in made-in-Montana history. They sat down with the *Montana Press* recently to talk about how their love for Montana, food and brews all came together in a project to elevate Montana brands.

MONTANA PRESS: What was the inspiration for your business model and how did you first get it started?

VIDA: We noticed a need for a website that introduces made-in-Montana products and presents them in a better way to people who may not have access to made-in-Montana products. We have a lot of friends who were producers and what they would do all day long is spend their time with their craft or refining their craft. At the end of the day, they would have little time to market their product and sell it. And that's where we decided to step in and take care of the other end, the social aspect, the marketing aspect of things.

MP: What are your backgrounds? Did either of you have backgrounds in sales and/or marketing?

VIDA: I have a Bachelor's in Biology and I moved to Montana from Canada. I'm actually Iranian. I grew up in Iran. My family immigrated to Canada and then my dad was a university professor at MSU. That enticed me to move to Montana and that's where I met Radd. Radd's a sixth generation Montana. And I'm a first generation.

RADD: I'm a Wildlife Biologist by education and I worked as a Bird Biologist for a while, and then I worked in the environmental nonprofit sector. I actually ended up working for RightNow Technologies in Bozeman, where I was employee number 18. It was very early on. I got involved in marketing a little bit through the software sales end of things. I started off with small and medium-sized business and then graduated to divisions of Fortune 1000 and Federal Government accounts. I was a Sales Engineer, which is basically a two-person sales team, one with the gift of gab, and the other guy, which was me, I always said my job was either to make the salesman's lies true or keep him or her from lying.

The first gist of it was providing knowledge to customers so they weren't calling your call center. So they go online and then ask the question like how do I fix widget A? It's going to give me the answer, which is part B. So I'm not calling and tying up a real person for that. It was that kind of ongoing communications. Then the idea after that is as soon as you're answering people's knowledge base, well, then why aren't you presenting the knowledge base to your customer service reps? So then once you're in the call center, the next phase is actually doing marketing to those customers. So you kind of develop a customer lifecycle which is one thing and then we tacked on sales. So we were what was called a "Customer Relationship Management Suite."

MP: So now you're doing that for made-in-Montana Goods, in a way.

RADD: Yes. And then after that gig, both Vida and I actually worked in the beer industry. I worked for a brewery as their marketing and media person and then we had a radio show, a syndicated radio show for a few years, "The Last Best Beer Show."

MP: What was the real genesis for you guys to jump off into starting Taste of Montana?

RADD: We were looking for an opportunity to do something. I had started another business and that was kind of up and going, self replicating and we're like, well, what's the next thing we could do? So Taste of Montana came from just a brainstorming session that Vida and I had.

VIDA: I had cancer for a very long time, so I was really sick. I was getting over all my treatments and I was feeling much better. I had actually time to think about what I wanted to do with my life. And the idea sort of popped in my head. I think it was pooling our resources together and putting that to good use.

MP: What have been some of the challenges of running the business and what do you count as great successes?

VIDA: Actually, the social media aspect has proven to be a challenge. That's something I hadn't accounted for. To be honest, I thought it'd be super easy and it proved itself to be completely the opposite. But other than that, our producers are solid, our website's running fine, and we have the social skills to interact with customers and have them interested. What we're working on right now is figuring out Facebook and Twitter and Pinterest and all these different platforms, how they operate and what they actually really want from us as a third business partner. It's becoming a little hectic, a little more expensive and a little frustrating all at the same time.

MP: So, Taste of Montana basically now works to promote premium Montana-made products by featuring them on an aggregate website and on social media?

VIDA: Yes. We test all the products ourselves, mostly because we are fans of our friend's work. It's just kind of natural. We were friends with Bitterroot Bison, for example, with Troy and Candy Westre. They contacted us out of the blue. Candy must have seen us on Facebook or on social media. And she actually sent us her samples and that's how the ball got rolling. People either contact us or see our work here and there.

RADD: After a producer contacts us, then what we do is we do the sampling. And then we just talk about the product or we do a Facebook Live. From there, we actually started doing re-development, which is an interesting piece of content. It's a no-cost piece of content, but also gets that product out there as part of something larger.

VIDA: We don't just work with the people who have expressed interest in us. We try to promote all local producers. If we go have a beer over at the Kettlehouse or at the Draught Works, we definitely do a little video or photography with chocolate and beer pairings and all that. So we try to spread the love.



MP: So you two test drive all the recipes. What were some of the first products you promoted? Some of your favorites?

VIDA: The first one was Bitterroot Bison. The second one was Vi's Mustard Sauce, a dipping mustard sauce from Dell, outside Helena, Montana. They are in a town of 35 people max.

MP: So you're really helping to elevate her exposure.

VIDA: Yes. For someone who doesn't have access to internet, she actually does a very good job. She's very prompt, she's very responsive. We love working with her.

RADD: Also, Headwaters BBQ Sauces and Rubs from Bozeman.

VIDA: And Doggy Style Gourmet Treats from Billings. They're sisters, Jo and Jen. They came up with the idea. One's the producer, the others one's the marketer. So they have a team of two.

MP: When people go to your website to look at some of the products that you feature, can they order them directly from you or do you send them to the producer?

RADD: They order through us and then we process the order. We handle all the credit card and we also handle all the shipping. Once the producer receives an order, they get an email with three pieces of information. They get a copy of the invoice, a pick list for what they need to pull out for the shipment and then the shipping label. So for them, they don't have to handle a lot. They just pick up the product, put it in the box, put the preprinted shipping label on it, and off it goes. As soon as that tracking number hits the system, they receive their payment.

So it's relatively a one-off and ad hoc, which is great for the producers. It's kind of a modified drop shipping. I think it's really important with our producers that they set their price, what they need to sell it for. We do the marketing. We're not trying to negotiate with the producer, trying to get them down to the lowest price possible.

VIDA: And we don't charge them any upfront fees or any marketing fees. So basically even if we don't sell anything and neither of us makes money, they still get a lot of marketing from us.

MP: Tell us about your cook and your photographer.

VIDA: That would be Radd. He's the talent; he's a photographer and he's also the foodie.





RADD: I'd rather be the good looking one (laughs). I helped to formulate and come up with the initial menu for Lolo Peak Brewing and the beer concepts as well. We helped them get off the ground when it was still a patch of bare ground.

VIDA: Yeah. He has a lot of experience so he takes charge of that aspect, the menus and productions. He also pairs dishes with local beers. So a couple of our recipes have craft beer in them, included in the form of sauces and whatnot. And then at the end we also pair them with another local craft brew.

MP: How can more Montana made businesses get involved with what you guys are doing?

RADD: What we do is really simple. They can contact us. The only thing we ever ask a producer is we have to be able to sample your product before we take you on or not. Luckily for us, almost everybody has been obsessed with quality.

VIDA: We have to try the products before we sell them. It's better for their marketing because we can be more descriptive on our page when we're trying to describe it to the potential customer. The more product they give us, the more we can include them in our recipes and more recipes will contain their footprint.

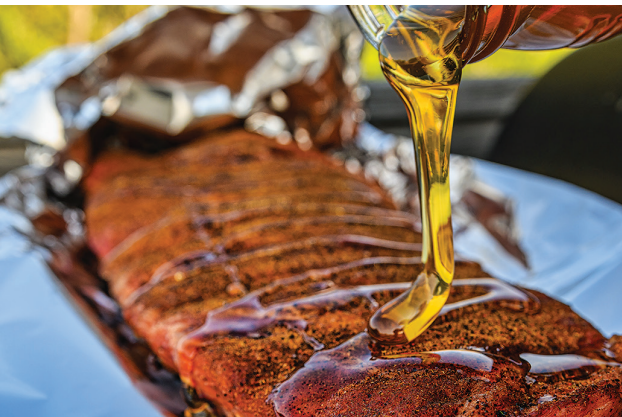
Find Montana products and more information at TasteofMontana.com.

Photos courtesy of Radd Icenoggle



"An exquisite meal is so much more than just tossing random ingredients together," says Radd Icenoggle. "It takes patience, imagination, and tried-and-true ingredients."

Icenoggle's spareribs are dry rubbed, marinated in Kettlehouse Brewing Cold Smoke Scotch Ale mixed with Headwater's BBQ Sauce, smoked for hours and paired with Montana's Hand Rolled Hazy IPA from Draught Works Brewery and a Vi's Dippin Mustard Sauce potato salad.



Boiling River 3-2-1 Spare Ribs

Prep Time: 10 Minutes - Smoke Time: 6 Hours

The spare ribs are brought to life with the 3-2-1 method: Three hours of smoking rubbed ribs, two hours of smoking the ribs inside of foil and one hour of smoking the ribs after they are covered with sauce.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 rack pork spare ribs
- Headwaters BBQ Ringing Rock Rib Rub
- 1/3 cup wild honey
- 1 cup Headwaters BBQ Boiling River Spicy Sauce
- 1/4 cup Kettlehouse Cold Smoke Scotch Ale

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. First things first, get rid of the silverskin membrane from the bone-side of the ribs by working a knife underneath the membrane over a middle bone. Get a firm grip, then tear the membrane off.
2. Season the entire rib rack surface with Headwaters BBQ Ringing Rock Rib Rub.
3. Heat smoker, a Trager this time, 180°F.
4. Smoke the ribs, meat-side up for 3 hours. Remove the ribs, slather with honey, and wrap with foil.
5. Increase the smoker temperature to 225°F.
6. Return the foiled ribs to the smoker, meat side down. Smoke for more two hours.
7. Whisk together the Headwaters BBQ Boiling River Spicy Sauce and Cold Smoke
8. Remove the foil from the ribs and brush the ribs with Cold Smoke-Boiling River BBQ Sauce.
9. Return the ribs to the smoker, bone side down, and continue to smoke until the sauce tightens, about 45 minutes more.
10. Let the ribs rest for a few minutes before serving.

BISON OSSO BUCO



Ossobuco is known as a specialty of Lombard cuisine in Italy. Lombardy is the region of Milan in Northern Italy. This traditional dish emigrated from Italy with migrants but the recipe, at least in the 19th century and thereafter, has become well-known and is made all over Italy and in variations around the world.

The dish, known for its low cost and the relative ease of preparation, is often referred to as peasant food. But rather than a dish for the poor, it was simply ideal for families. Originally a seasonal item, it was cooked during winter months on charcoal or wood stoves which, in the past and to the present day in many Montana homes, also have the function of warming the household.

Ossobuco or osso buco is Italian for “bone with a hole” (osso “bone,” buco “hole”), a reference to the marrow hole at the centre of the cross-cut shank. While traditionally made with a veal shank, modern versions include a cracked turkey leg, lamb fore shank and beef or pork shank, which impart a stronger flavor.

The dish’s rich sauce comes from the marrow in the bones. For many, the bone marrow inside the shank bones is the highlight of the dish. In Milan, there’s even a special fork to get the marrow out of the bones. The Milanese call this spoon “Agent di tass”, meaning literally “tax collector” — as in, get everything.

There are two types of ossobuco: a modern version with tomatoes and an original without. The older version, “ossobuco in bianco,” is flavored with cinnamon, bay leaf, and gremolata, which is a tangy relish of parsley, garlic and lemon zest. In the traditional version, no tomato or tomato paste are used (tomatoes being a “recent” New World vegetable), and a few anchovies replace the salt.

Modern versions of ossobuco use tomato or tomato paste and retain the classic seasonings of cinnamon, allspice, bay leaf and even the gremolata. Onion, carrot and celery have been added to make a “soffritto,” the base for many modern Italian dishes. Some variations toss in kalamata olives, too.

Risotto alla Milanese (with saffron and Parmesan) is the traditional accompaniment to ossobuco, making for a one-dish meal. Some speculate this may be the only dish in Italy where risotto is served with something else rather than a standalone course. Ossobuco, especially the tomato-based version, is also eaten with polenta or mashed potatoes. It’s even sometimes served with pasta.

The gremolata garnish, in its basic and traditional version, is prepared out of parsley, garlic and lemon zest finely chopped together. Sometimes it contains rosemary and sage too, or even anchovy. Gremolata comes from the Milanese word “gremolà,” or “reduce to grains.” The garnish is also used to season scaloppine and dishes made with rabbit. It’s added to ossobuco only at the end, before serving it, and the gremolata releases its aromas when placed on the hot dish.

The following recipe, crafted by Radd Icenoggle at Taste of Montana, uses bison shanks from Bitterroot Bison to give the Italian dish a Montana makeover.



Bison Osso Buco

Prep Time: 15 Minutes - Cook Time: 3 Hours
Total Time: 3 Hours & 15 Minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 lbs. bison bone-in shanks
- Flour, for dusting
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 2 medium carrots, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- ½ cup red wine
- 6 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1½ cups beef stock
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 bay leaf
- Crushed red pepper, to taste
- ¼ cup parsley, chopped
- Parmesan cheese
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Pat the bison shanks dry and season both sides with kosher salt and black pepper. Then, dust with the flour.
3. Place a Dutch oven on the stovetop over medium-high heat and add the olive oil. Add the bison shanks and brown all sides, about 3 minutes per side. Remove the browned shanks and set aside.
4. Add the onions, carrots, and celery to the Dutch oven. Sauté until slightly tender, about 4–5 minutes. Add the red wine and deglaze the pan, scraping the bits from the bottom of the pan.
5. Add the garlic, tomatoes, beef stock, thyme, oregano, basil, bay leaf, and crush red pepper. Bring it to a simmer.
6. Return the shanks to the pan. If needed, add more beef stock to fully cover the shanks. Cover with a lid and place in the oven. Baste the bison shanks every 30 minutes, and turn the shanks halfway through (about 1.5 hours).
7. Braise until the meat is tender and falling off the bone.
8. To serve, remove the bison shanks and place them on plates. Spoon the pan sauce from the Dutch oven over the shanks and garnish with the parsley, Parmesan cheese, and a wedge of lemon.



GREMOLATA

Add extra bite to the dish with homemade gremolata. Mince two tablespoons of flat-leaf parsley leaves, grate or microplane one tablespoon fresh lemon zest and crush/mince two cloves of garlic. Toss all together in a small bowl with a fork. Just as the diner is easing into a savory, meaty bite, the slightly bitter tang of the gremolata will wake up the senses.

Photos courtesy of Radd Icenoggle

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 in order to promote specific events.

All events listed are subject to change.
Send updates to: info@montanapress.net.

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



A VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP

A VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP WITH OPERA AMERICA

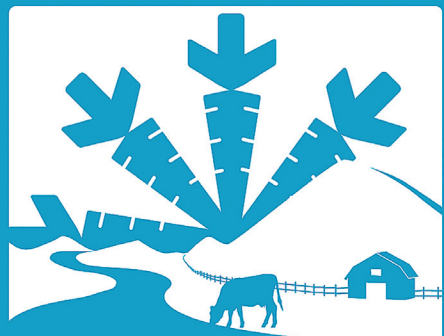
OPERA America is crisscrossing the country on a virtual road trip to its member companies. President/CEO Marc A. Scorca will visit Intermountain Opera Bozeman to lead a presentation about the progress of opera in the country. He will highlight the achievements of Intermountain Opera and how they enrich the national opera landscape. FREE TO ATTEND.

RSVP by Jan. 27 at go.operaamerica.org/Jan28.



"WHO SPEAKS TO YOU?"

The Montana Historical Society's newest exhibit features portraits from the Permanent Collection including an eclectic mix of paintings, juxtaposed to encourage visitors to look at portraits in a new way. Also, Montana's complicated yet longtime love affair with beer is the subject of the exhibit "Good Beer Here: Montana's Brewing History." Open Mon. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit MHS.mt.gov for more info.



BOZEMAN WINTER
**FARMERS
MARKET**

FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

Saturday Markets on Jan. 23, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building.

BozemanWinterMarket.com



SEAN DEVINE

Country/Americana musician Sean Devine hosts regular live streaming concerts at [@seandevinemusic](https://www.facebook.com/seandevinemusic). Find live shows, uploaded recordings, albums and swag at www.seandevine.com.



LANEY LOU AND THE BIRD DOGS

An energetic Americana-folk band that infuses four-part harmonies, engaging songwriting, and rock-n-roll drive into a modern approach to traditional folk music. Check out concerts on Facebook at the handle [@thebirddogs](https://www.facebook.com/thebirddogs).

Find albums, music to download and Bird Dogs merch and swag at



SOCIAL DISTANCE SESSIONS AT ZACC - MISSOULA

Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. - Crypticollider - A self-described surrealist rock group from Missoula. Formed in 2017 but sounding like they hung out quite a bit with Syd Barrett back in the late-60s, Crypticollider's January 23rd Social Distance Session at ZACC promises to be a "psychedelic journey to the center of your mind's eye."



Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. - Chris Sand (AKA "Sandman The Rappin' Cowboy") performs a unique blend of folk, punk, hip hop, and cowboy music.

Visit ZootownArts.org or [@TheZACC](https://www.facebook.com/TheZACC) for details.



Jan. 30- 7:30 p.m. Arrowleaf presents their long-awaited single EP release party. Indie rock with guitar, bass, drums, keys, trumpet, and "luscious lady harmonies."

GOING FOR THE MUSIC: BOZEMAN ARTIST AMANDA STEWART

Singer-songwriter Amanda Stewart says that she has found her foothold. As the 29-year-old climbs and reaps self-confidence as a legitimate artist, her hometown functions as one of her biggest inspirations.

“Bozeman is where I became an adult,” says Stewart, who was born in Port Townsend, Washington, and graduated high school from Thompson Falls, Montana. “It’s the site of my first big heartbreak. It’s where I bought my first house. I’ve experienced a lot here. After graduating high school (in Thompson Falls), I found out that my grandfather (who died in Port Townsend) had cancer. Most of the songs I wrote about that time, I wrote while I was in Bozeman, completely alone, with no furniture and only my dogs... It’s definitely cool to see how many creative people there are around Bozeman and all of the opportunities there are to share that (creativity).”

For the last ten years Stewart has been cutting her teeth primarily as a soloist and she spent much of 2020 writing songs in the forced isolation of the pandemic as well as the preferential separation of the artist.

“It’s hard for me to be creative when I’m around other people. My thoughts have to be completely alone, or I need to feel like I’m alone, even if I’m in the room with the door shut. Here I am a musician who is baring her soul to people, yet I can’t get there without working through it alone first.”

The past two years have been crucial in Amanda’s development, her poetical writing and startlingly immense and sure singing paving a bridge to the land of bona fide rock-country-folk performer. Perseverance is her source of pride.

“Since so many breweries and distilleries and restaurants don’t feel like they could afford to pay their musicians, it’s hard to make it just playing in Bozeman. We are lucky that we have supportive places surrounding Bozeman, like Livingston, Emigrant and Paradise Valley, where the support from the owners is outstanding and where the owners care about live music... Right now, at places such as the Lone Mountain Ranch in Big Sky, which only allow a small amount of people, everyone appreciating live music when they get a chance to hear it. People are grateful to have live music. With constant music at places such as Pine Creek Lodge and the Murray Bar, there is enough opportunity that you don’t have to compete with other musicians to get good gigs.”

Indeed, it’s been a slow ride to steady (and paying) gigs for Amanda, who grew up in Port Townsend, Washington, harmonizing in the local choir and for fun belting out the lines of her favorite 80s and 90s female country artists on the karaoke machine beside her mother, Casandra.

Her father Josh bought Amanda a guitar when she was 13; a quiet, understated awakening ensued. After Amanda and her family moved to Thompson Falls to be near to her grandparents’ cattle ranch in Trout Creek, she discovered that strumming chords could act as a healthy emotional outlet.

“A lot of people in school knew one another their whole life. I was an outsider, and there was inspiration to be drawn from the fact that I didn’t quite belong. The



“Invariably, after each show, someone will tell me that my sound reminds them of a certain kind of sound. The biggest compliment to me is that it’s never been the same musician twice,” says singer-songwriter Amanda Stewart.

inspiration was in being forced to look inward and being forced to choose who you wanted to be.”

When her dad passed away in 2005, Amanda says that she put music “on the backburner for a while.”

“My dad taught me how to take risks and to be willing to get over those barriers standing in your way... I have the incredible music tastes of my father. He taught me how to live light-heartedly and let things roll off of your back. He always said that I could do anything that I wanted to do.”

Always attaching importance to the advice of her father and encouraged by the full support of her mother, the artist inside Amanda surfaced in earnest after she moved to Bozeman to attend Montana State University in 2010. Once again, she relied on the security of the guitar all the way through the rocky periods.

“I was overwhelmed by school and by the deaths of family members and dealing with lost relationships,” says Amanda.

Amanda started playing locally at distilleries, tap rooms and breweries, places like Bozeman Spirits. People reacted to her presence. Her confidence and visibility have been building ever since. While there have been lost chances and pangs of financial and emotional insecurity, she has managed to create openings and keep her state of mind stable through writing and exploring songs.

“It’s been a reality check (the pandemic), where I’ve decided that I’m going to do

music. There are so many songs that I want to record for my first full-length album (scheduled to be released in June 2021).”

Indeed, Amanda is answering all of the basic questions that a singer-songwriter needs to address in order to harvest benefits of attention and respect. How to craft a melody that will make people pause and take notice? How to decipher what a crowd truly desires? Is the audience interested in the quiet intimacy of the singer-songwriter experience or are they keen to explode in dance and revelry?

“When everyone falls silent there is a sense of validation. I have a song called ‘Odyssey,’ and it’s my favorite song that I’ve written so far. I was at Lewis & Clark Brewery (in Helena) recently and someone had showed up late and requested it after I’d already played it. So I played it again.

“After another show a guy said that ‘Odyssey’ reminded him about a time in his life when his dad left when he was young, and it resonated. It was not exactly what I had written it about but I like that the song was universal. It was not just about a breakup. He took something out of it. It’s the sharing, the being vulnerable. I am not alone in my feelings. You are not alone in yours. It’s cool that someone could take my song and take comfort in it or relate it to their feelings.”

Undoubtedly, Amanda’s strongest assets – and the ones that will keep on eliciting the greatest response – are the reach and luxury of her vocals.

“I think that I am at my best when I let my voice ring true,” says Amanda. “I think that I can capture people the most when I’m not paying attention, just losing myself in the song. It’s really important for me to be able to play by myself. Solo shows let my voice ring.”

In this, Amanda is channeling her self-confidence while shunning the impulse to too closely emulate her top influences or to walk too directly in the shadows of their talents.

“Invariably, after each show, someone will tell me that my sound reminds them of a certain kind of sound. The biggest compliment to me is that it’s never been the same musician twice. People never consistently tell me that I sound like the same person. Sometimes it’ll be a musician who I’ve never even heard before, maybe an obscure random lady from the 1970s. The message is don’t try to be anyone but yourself.”

With a keen gaze at a better, brighter year, Amanda hopes to consume the bulk of it playing music, traveling, establishing new connections with other likeminded artists, and, above all, always working at the very limit of her zone of comfort.

“It makes me physically ill to think about not playing music full time. So much is not fun already – deaths in the family, paying bills or taxes, going through separations, having hard times in relationships – and if you can use your brain, and follow your art, and make it all work, that’s great.

“I’m going for the music... In the past two years especially, people have started to recognize my name as a musician, and it’s finally started to happen. It’s weird, and it’s also very exciting.” ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO

JONESIN' CROSSWORDS

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“Goodbye, Mr. Trebek”
A Retrospective

ACROSS

- 1 Make like a cricket’s legs
- 4 Talk like Cindy Brady
- 8 Georgia senator-elect Jon
- 14 H in Greek
- 15 Peruvian ancestor
- 16 Flat, geometrically
- 17 Canadian equivalent of “American Bandstand” hosted by Alex Trebek in 1963-64
- 19 ____-weensie
- 20 Biblical boats
- 21 1976 trivia show (not the Nickelodeon kids’ show) hosted by Trebek
- 23 Bent down
- 25 Place to order a round
- 26 Kilmer of “MacGruber”
- 27 Aromatic compounds
- 29 Reykjavik’s country
- 33 Aloe vera yield
- 34 Had some haggis
- 35 Some Spanish titles, for short
- 36 Dallas cager, informally
- 39 1981 game show (not the classic Atari game) hosted by Trebek
- 42 Armani competitor, briefly
- 43 “’Tis a shame”
- 45 Part of TGIF

- 46 Meme response
- 48 Harden, in a way
- 50 “Battleship Potemkin” locale
- 54 “Star Wars” character Solo
- 55 Honey Graham ____ (cereal brand)
- 58 Go in
- 59 Canadian series hosted by Trebek from 1976-1980, featuring professional skaters alongside B-list celebs
- 63 “Aw, heck!”
- 64 Roll in mud
- 65 Emmy-winning game show hosted by Trebek starting in 1984
- 67 Genetic variant
- 68 Tennis player Kournikova
- 69 Abbr. on remotes
- 70 Prepped for serving
- 71 “It’s for the ____”
- 72 Ethyl or methyl ending

DOWN

- 1 New version of an old film
- 2 Reversals on the road
- 3 Vessel for thematic gifts
- 4 Permit to drive (abbr.)
- 5 How most TV is broadcast these days
- 6 2020 CGI movie that featured the origin story of a cartoon canine
- 7 ____ New Guinea
- 8 German car name

- 9 Something a vest lacks
- 10 Casual footwear
- 11 Not paid by the hour
- 12 Not rainy
- 13 Duty-____ shop
- 18 “Survivor” locales
- 22 Water filter brand
- 24 Golfing hazard
- 28 Smarten (up)
- 30 String quartet instrument
- 31 “Cherry Wine” rapper
- 32 High-speed internet initials
- 34 “Sing the Sorrow” band
- 36 ____ and cheese
- 37 Start for carte or king
- 38 Wagnerian opera setting
- 40 Test the fit of
- 41 Major vein
- 44 Blood-red
- 47 ____ hand (give help)
- 49 Shoe padding
- 51 “Feed a cold, ____ a fever”
- 52 Forward, as mail
- 53 Sock pattern
- 56 Burqini headpiece
- 57 Segment of a play
- 59 Trade
- 60 Like some tales
- 61 Due
- 62 Seemingly forever
- 66 Butter square

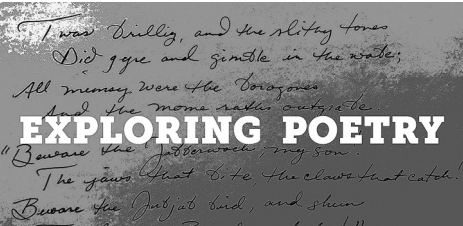
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by Matt Jones



WILLIAM KITTREDGE:
IN HIS MEMORY

Thurs., Jan. 21 - 6 p.m.

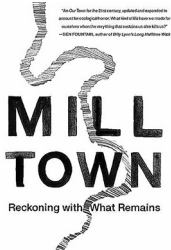
Kittredge, beloved author and a dearly-missed friend and staple of Western writing around Missoula and the region, will be celebrated by authors David Quammen, Gretel Ehrlich, Neil McMahon, Robert Stubblefield, and more. streaming online via the Montana Book Festival. Details: MontanaBookFestival.com.



POEMS ARE EVERYWHERE

Sat, Jan. 23 - 10 a.m.

Adult poetry classes held via Zoom every Saturday morning for five weeks. Take one, a few, or all five. **Travis Mateer** guides attendees through the world of poetry using multiple structures and methods. Registration required at ZootownArts.org.

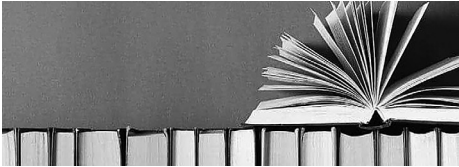


“MILL TOWN”

Thurs., Jan. 28 - 6 p.m.

A Conversation with **Kerri Arsenault**, **Chris LaTray**, and **Leif Fredrickson**. Arsenault sifts through historical archives and scientific reports, talks to family and neighbors, and examines her own childhood to illuminate the rise and collapse of the working-class, the hazards of loving and leaving home, and the ambiguous nature of toxins and disease. streaming online via the [Montana Book Festival.com](http://MontanaBookFestival.com).

MONTANA
BOOK EVENTS



LITERARY IMAGINATION
AND TRANSLATION

Wed., Feb. 10 - 2 p.m.

Humanities Montana presents a panel focused on literature featuring three UM faculty members whose work is supported through Humanities Institute grants:

Quan Manh Ha: “Vietnamese Short Stories about the Vietnam War: A Translation and Anthology”
Erin Saldin: (pictured below) “The Caterwaul”

Ruth Vanita “Urdu Poetry of Sa’adat Yar Khan and Insha Allah Khan: A Translation and Scholarly Edition.”



SENSE OF PLACE: READINGS IN
NATURAL HISTORY

Thurs., Feb. 11 - March 11 - 11 a.m.

Join nature lovers from across the country as they discuss sense of place. Each week a partner nature center will offer natural history readings centered in their region and engage participants in a discussion. Take a virtual tour of the nation through natural history writings this winter. Course meets Visit Montana Audubon Center at MTAudubon.org/center for more information.



NEED A HINT? SEE PAGE 21



THE HELENA SYMPHONY RETURNS FOR SEASON 66

By “glancing back to more simple times.” Copland’s Appalachian Spring captures the pioneering spirit of America, and more importantly, the sound and soul of a younger, more naive country with a sense of a hopeful tomorrow. The concert concludes with Stravinsky’s Pulcinella and his “discovery of the past.” Live streamed concert on Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For details: HelenaSymphony.org.

Virtuoso

online concert

FARRENC
ROSSINI
BEETHOVEN

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY ONLINE PERFORMANCES

Now on multiple platforms, the Great Falls Symphony premieres “Virtuoso” on Sun., Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. with guest artist Dorian Antipa on the Rossini Bassoon Concerto plus Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2. On Sat., Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., Great Falls Symphony presents “Romantic Music for Chamber Orchestra” with guest artists Luis Angel Salazar and Alyssa Roggow on Max Bruch’s Double Concerto in E minor for Violin and Viola
For more details, visit GFSymphony.org.

Strings

Romantic Music

JONESIN'?

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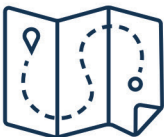
MISSOULA VALLEY WINTER MARKET
EVERY SATURDAY AT 9 A.M.
AT THE SOUTHGATE MALL.
MASKS ARE REQUIRED. DETAILS:
[@MSLAVALLEYWINTERMARKET](https://www.facebook.com/MSLAVALLEYWINTERMARKET) ON FB.

ADVENTURE ON.

Just play it safe.

REMEMBER TO EXPLORE RESPONSIBLY.

As you enjoy our state, be Montana Aware and take these steps to be a responsible, respectful traveler.



Plan Ahead



Wear a Mask



Keep Space



Be Respectful



Protect the
Outdoors

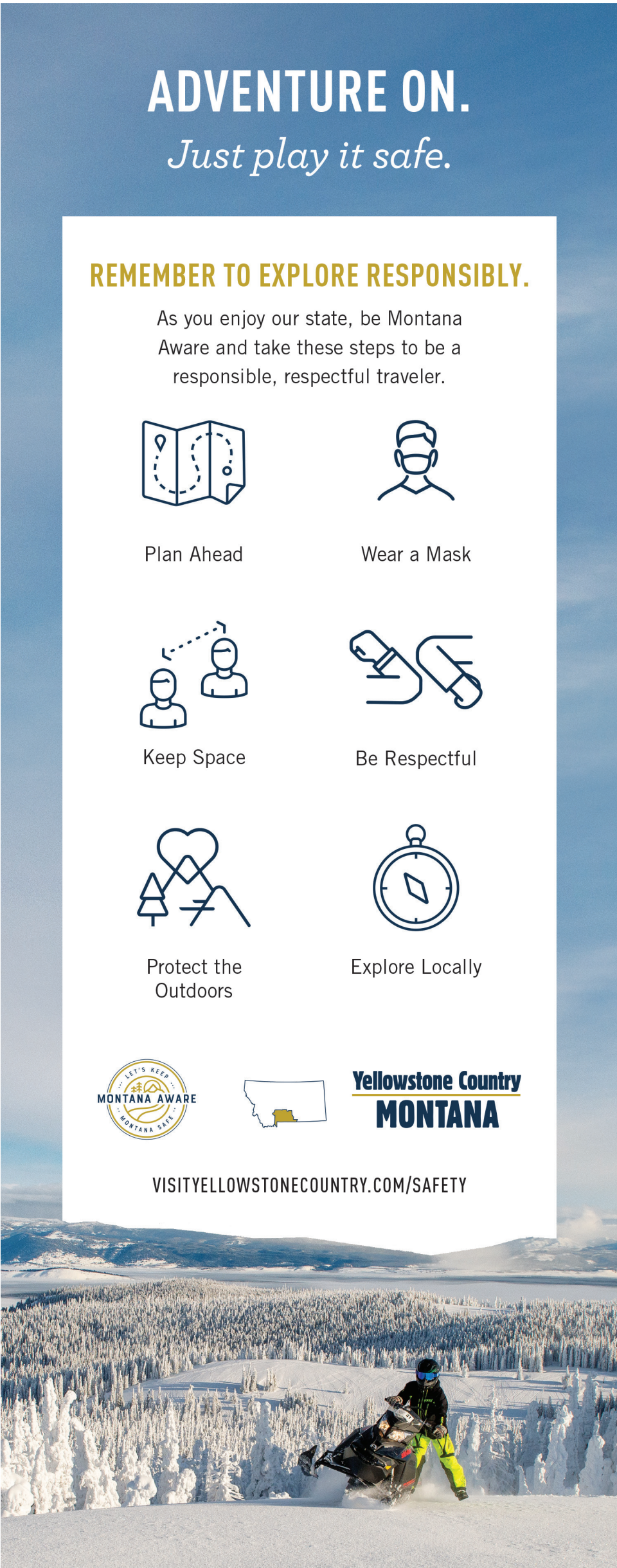


Explore Locally



Yellowstone Country
MONTANA

VISITYELLOWSTONECOUNTRY.COM/SAFETY



FAMOUS AND NOT FORGOTTEN: ARTIST-SHEEPHERDER BILL STOCKTON



Bill Stockton used to say regularly, “People think I am crazy.” A sign painter and commercial artist-illustrator who developed creative standards that would be “beyond the pulling taste,” Stockton always stayed true to his greatest and some considered his craziest personal loves: ranching and abstract art.

The son of Fergus County homesteaders, Bill was born in 1921 and raised in Winnett and Grass Range; the Grass Range High School graduate left Central Montana to join the armed forces and later become a commercial artist, studying at the Minneapolis School of Art, and then at the Ecole de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris.

At a time when he was reaping the fulfillment of a viable career, he said that he had “a change of heart,” and he and his wife (whom he met in France) removed to a ranch a few miles west of Grass Range.

In the midst of the wrinkled hills of the Grass Range country, Stockton built “a modern home,” a structure that was “itself a work of modern art,” according to one account. He spent most of his summer months ranching to support himself and his family of four while the winter was reserved for his other profession as an artist. “That’s why you see so much white

in my paintings,” he told a newspaper in July 1958.

From the stony, edgy silence of the plains, he dedicated himself to the avant-garde movement of painting, an abstract expressionism born out of eminent Pablo Picasso’s Cubism.

He restricted his skill to a tiny space, a small room so filled to capacity with paints, easels, drawings and sketches that it was once written that no two persons could comfortably coexist in the studio at the same time.

Stockton once said that his goal as an artist was “to organize nature” and transcribe it into “the abstract, into pure geometrical form.” Deviating from Picasso’s Cubism, which was enamored of the creation and use of a third-dimension illusion, Stockton ignored that dimension and transferred its multifaceted designs into only two dimensions. A typical Montana scene of Stockton’s sacrificed details and nuances for an emphasis on the typical marks of this isolated country.

He had “no heart or desire,” said Stockton, to produce the conventionally familiar type of painting that the average viewer would understand, he called such paintings “potboilers,” though he sometimes grudgingly produced them to generate sales. His passion, however, wasn’t in the familiar, or in the generation of art that most people instinctively would call pretty and clamor to hang in their living rooms. Such paintings would’ve been too exacting, too imitative. If the viewer wanted the precise copying of nature, believed Stockton, they would be better off purchasing a cheap copy of a photograph. Indeed, Stockton excelled in the abstract blending of supreme colors and harmonious forms.

“Most people think of an artist as a craftsman who can imitate something to their taste... But this is not the purpose of an artist... an artist takes the ordinary and makes something interesting out of it... He can’t cling to the subject. Nature is disorganized order... It is the task of the painter to organize it just like the musician organizes noise to compose a melody and the writer organizes disorganized life to create literature.”

What looked insignificant to the average viewer could fascinate Bill Stockton. It could



(At left) “From Where the Sun Now Stands, I Will Fight No More Forever,” a Stockton sculpture from the 1950s also known as “Chief Joseph.” Thieves broke in an art retailer in Billings in the 50s and stole the sculpture. A year later, a young Indian man allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a bridge into the Yellowstone River. As County officials dragged the river looking for him, they not only recovered the young man’s body, but they also discovered Stockton’s sculpture of Chief Joseph which had been in the river for a year. The sculpture now resides at the Montana Historical Society.

Stockton’s quirky juggling of occupations and unique skill set reinforced the view that he was a man of distinction. Medium-hopping at his leisure, his art spanned a range from abstract-expressionist paintings and metal sculptures to light fixtures and furniture.

There was no shortage of acknowledgment among artists and art lovers for Stockton’s work. Many ranchers felt a responsive nerve when they viewed Stockton’s sheep renditions; one exhibit of his sheep paintings was described by an art guide “as explicit and down-to-earth as the woolgrower-artist who created them.”

Stockton’s paintings were accepted for entry in various national exhibitions and his work was represented, according to one estimate, in about 200 private collections in New York, Tulsa, Billings, Bozeman, San Francisco and even in France.

One Montana newspaper editor heralded Stockton as “perhaps the finest artist Montana has produced since Charlie Russell,” and portrayed the shrewd individualist as equally committed to sheep ranching, which Stockton proudly pointed out on one occasion, produced food and clothing for people.

“I really have more respect for a good sheepherder than an artist,” said Stockton in 1973. “The sheepherder functions in society. I produce food and clothing for 90 people here.”

He died at his Grass Range home in 2002. ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO



(At left) Bill Stockton; *Reeds*, 2002; *Cattle marker on board*, 49.5 x 29.5 in. Loaned by the Stockton family to the Yellowstone Art Museum for a 2019 exhibition. (Above) one of Stockton’s many iconic drawings of sheep, some of which were featured in Stockton’s 1983 book, “Today I Baled Some Hay to Feed the Sheep the Coyotes Eat” about, in Stockton’s words, “the problems of being a sheep and a few of the problems of the people who care for them.”

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your capacity for pioneering feats and impressive accomplishments will be at a peak in 2021. So you could become the best human ever at balancing a ladder on your chin or typing with your nose or running long-distance while holding an egg on a spoon with your mouth. But I'd prefer it if you channeled your triumphal energy into more useful innovations and victories. How about making dramatic strides in fulfilling your most important goal? Or ascending to an unprecedented new level of inspiring people with your passionate idealism? Or setting a record for most illusions shed?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ark Encounter is a fundamentalist Christian theme park in Kentucky. Its main attraction is a giant replica of Noah's Ark. Constructed mostly from spruce and pine trees, it's one of the world's largest wooden structures. Even though I don't believe that there was in fact such a boat in ancient times, I do admire how its builder, Ken Ham, has been so fiercely devoted to making his fantasies real. I encourage you to cultivate an equally zealous commitment to manifesting your own visions and dreams in 2021.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): From 1961 until 1989, a concrete barrier divided the city of Berlin. Communist East Berlin lay on the east side of the Berlin Wall, and capitalist West Berlin on the west. It was an iconic symbol of the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union. More than 100,000 people tried to escape from east to west, but just 5,000 succeeded. The standoff ended in 1989, during the peaceful revolutions that swept through Eastern Europe. In subsequent months, the Berlin Wall was slowly demolished. Today, tiny fragments of the wall are marketed as medicines for asthma, headaches, narcolepsy, and ulcers. Now I will propose that in 2021, you adopt the demolished Berlin Wall as your metaphor of power. May it inspire you to be gleeful and forceful as you dismantle psychological obstacles and impediments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The year 2021 will contain 525,600 minutes. But I suspect you might enjoy the subjective sensation of having far more than 525,600 minutes at your disposal. That's because I think you'll be living a fuller life than usual, with greater intensity and more focus. It may sometimes seem to you as if you are drawing greater riches out of the daily rhythm—accomplishing more, seeing further, diving down deeper to capitalize on the privilege of being here on planet earth. Be grateful for this blessing—which is also a big responsibility!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Our lives are filled with puzzles and enigmas and riddles. We all harbor aspects of ourselves that we don't understand. I hope that in 2021, you will be on a mission to learn more about these parts of yourself. One of your superpowers will be a capacity to uncover secrets and solve mysteries. Bonus: I suspect you'll be able to make exceptional progress in getting to the root of confusing quandaries that have undermined you—and then fixing the problems so they no longer undermine you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When actor Gene Wilder was eight years old, his mother began to have heart-related health issues. The doctor that treated her suggested he could help her out if he would try to make her laugh. From then on, Wilder cultivated an ability to tell jokes and got interested in becoming an actor. Ultimately he appeared in 22 films and was nominated for two Oscars and two Golden Globe Awards. I foresee a comparable development in your life in 2021: A challenging situation will inspire you in ways that generate a major blessing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In my astrological opinion, love won't be predictable in 2021. It won't be easily definable or comparable to what you're experienced before. But I also suspect that love will be delightfully enigmatic. It will be unexpectedly educational and fervently fertile and oddly comfortable. Your assignment, as I understand it, will be to shed your certainties about what love is and is not so that the wild, fresh challenges and opportunities of love can stream into your life in their wildest, freshest state.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Until 1893, Hawaii was a sovereign nation. In January of that year, a group of wealthy foreigners, mostly Americans, overthrew the existing government with the help of the US military. They established a fake temporary "republic" that excluded native Hawaiians from positions of power. Their goal, which was to be annexed by the United States, was fulfilled in July 1898. I propose that you use this sad series of events as a motivational story in 2021. Make it your goal to resist all efforts to be colonized and occupied. Commit yourself passionately to preserving your sovereignty and independence. Be a tower of power that can't be owned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 2021, you may be smarter than you have ever been. Not necessarily wiser, too, although I have reason to hope that you will leverage your smartness to also deepen your wisdom. But as I was saying, your intelligence could very well soar beyond its previous heights. Your ability to speak articulately, stir up original thoughts, and solve knotty riddles should be at a peak. Is there any potential downside to this outbreak of brilliance? Only one that I can imagine: It's possible that your brain will be working with such dominant efficiency that it will drown out messages from your heart. And that would be a shame. In order to do what I referred to earlier—leverage your smartness to deepen your wisdom—you'll need to be receptive to your heart's messages.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The birds known as red knots breed every year in the Arctic regions. Then they fly south—way south—down to the southern edge of South America, more than 9,000 miles away. A few months later they make the return trip to the far north. In 1995, ornithologists managed to put a monitoring band on one red knot's leg, making it possible to periodically get a read on his adventures over the subsequent years. The bird's nickname is Moonbird, because he has traveled so many miles in the course of his life that it's equivalent to a jaunt to the moon. He's known as "the toughest four ounces on the planet." I nominate him to be your magical creature in 2021. I suspect you will have stamina, hardiness, persistence, and determination like his.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An Aquarian park ranger named Roy Sullivan was struck by lightning seven times in the course of his 71 years on the planet. (That's a world record.) None of the electrostatic surges killed him, although they did leave a few burns. After studying your astrological potentials for 2021, I've concluded that you may be the recipient, on a regular basis, of a much more pleasurable and rewarding kind of lightning strike: the metaphorical kind. I advise you to prepare yourself to be alert for more epiphanies than usual: exciting insights, inspiring revelations, and useful ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Coral reefs are in danger all over the world. These "rainforests of the sea" are being decimated by ocean acidification, toxic runoff from rivers, rising temperatures, and careless tourists. Why should we care? Because they're beautiful! And also because they're hotbeds of biodiversity, providing homes for 25 percent of all marine species. They also furnish protection for shorelines from erosion and storm damage, and are prime spots to harvest seafood. So I'm pleased people are finding ways to help reefs survive and recover. For example, a group in Thailand is having success using superglue to re-attach broken-off pieces to the main reefs. I hope this vignette inspires you to engage in metaphorically similar restorative and rejuvenating activities, Pisces. In 2021, you will have an enhanced power to heal.

THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

Make a bold positive prediction for your life in 2021.

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