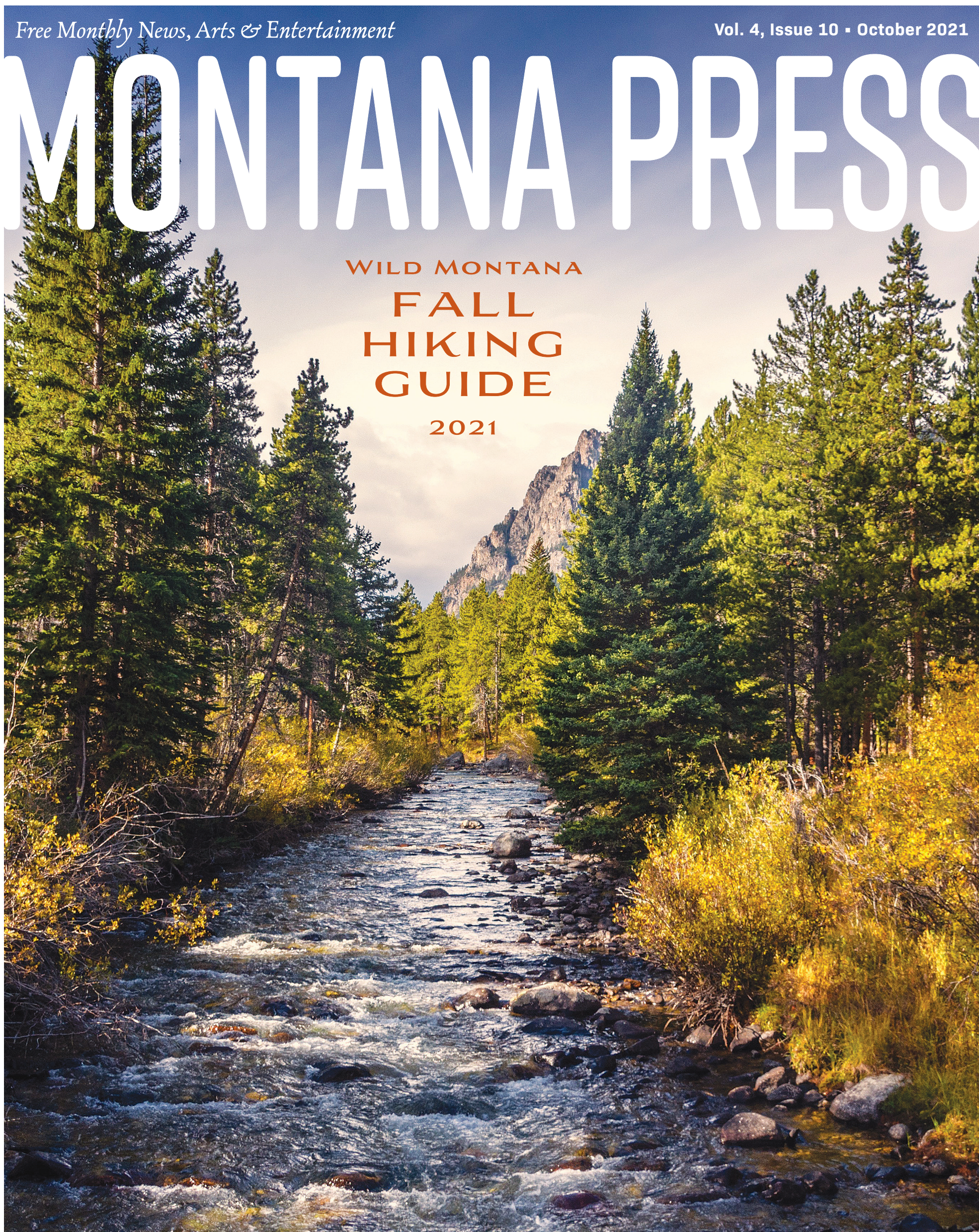


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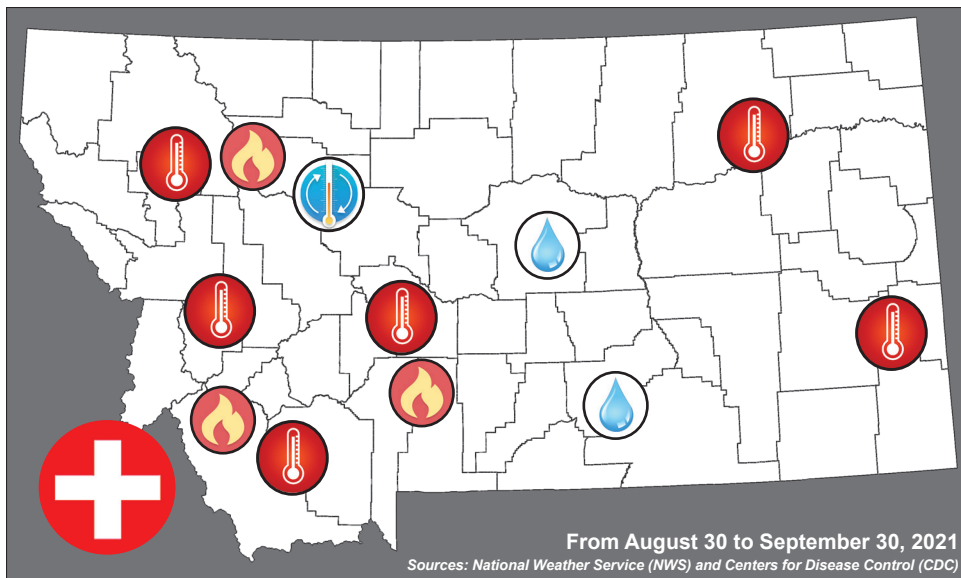
Vol. 4, Issue 10 • October 2021

MONTANA PRESS

WILD MONTANA
FALL
HIKING
GUIDE
2021



MONTANA ALMANAC



Highs and Lows Across the State



Tied with a record high of 99 degrees (1928) in Glasgow on Sept. 18, the high temperature for the reporting period was also 99 at Baker on Sept. 28. In the 23 years since starting record-keeping in Baker, this record high is the hottest temperature ever recorded after September 5.

This summer was the warmest on record for Glasgow, Wolf Point, Jordan, and Sidney. Much of Montana was within the top 20 warmest Septembers ever, including Helena (sixth warmest), Dillon (ninth warmest) and Belgrade (eleventh warmest). Meteorological summer (June 1-Aug. 31) was a hot one for Western Montana: the second warmest on record at Kalispell, third warmest for Missoula and sixth warmest at Butte, with records going back 120+ years. A recorded temperature of 20 degrees recorded 35 miles southwest of Choteau on Sept. 1 was the lowest national temperature on the day; the temperature of 19 the next day in the same spot set the national record on Sept. 2, and a low of 20 degrees in again the same spot on Sept. 3 was again the record low for the nation. The lowest temperature for the period in Montana was 12 degrees at Elk Park on Sept. 17. Low temperatures in the teens, 20s and 30s were recorded along the divide and in Southwest Montana on Sept. 17. On the same day, a temperature of 11 degrees again made the national low record for the day at the location 35 miles west-southwest of Choteau where the record had been set three times previously. On Sept. 18, West Yellowstone made the national low record temperature with 20 degrees and again the next day, Sept. 19, with a low temperature of 26 degrees.

Deluge and Drought



Extreme drought persists across the West, with exceptional drought in Montana. Below normal precipitation values were observed over all areas in spite of areas despite having record-wet August weather in Livingston (second wettest) and Billings (third wettest). For Billings, August precipitation was 2.44" while May-June-July precipitation was only 1.66", making it the first time on record (since 1934) that August was wetter than May through July. Billings Sept. precipitation was only .04". The highest precipitation in the reporting period (total) was recorded as 2" at Black Bear (Gallatin County). Helena had their second driest September with only .03" falling. In North-central and Southwest Montana, much of the area was within the top ten driest Septembers ever recorded including also Dillon (driest since 1952) Havre (second driest since 1990), and Lewistown (third driest since 1990). For the water year (Oct.-Sept.) the area composite of 10.89" was 3.45" below normal and the driest since 2003. Precipitation was scant over the reporting period, but the first trace snowfall was reported in Great Falls on Sept. 16 as sleet and a dusting of snow was reported in the Mission Mountains and other high-altitude areas on Sept. 19. By Sept. 20, measurements of up to 1.6" of precipitation had been recorded in some higher elevations from 24 hours of rainfall.

High Winds and Fire Weather



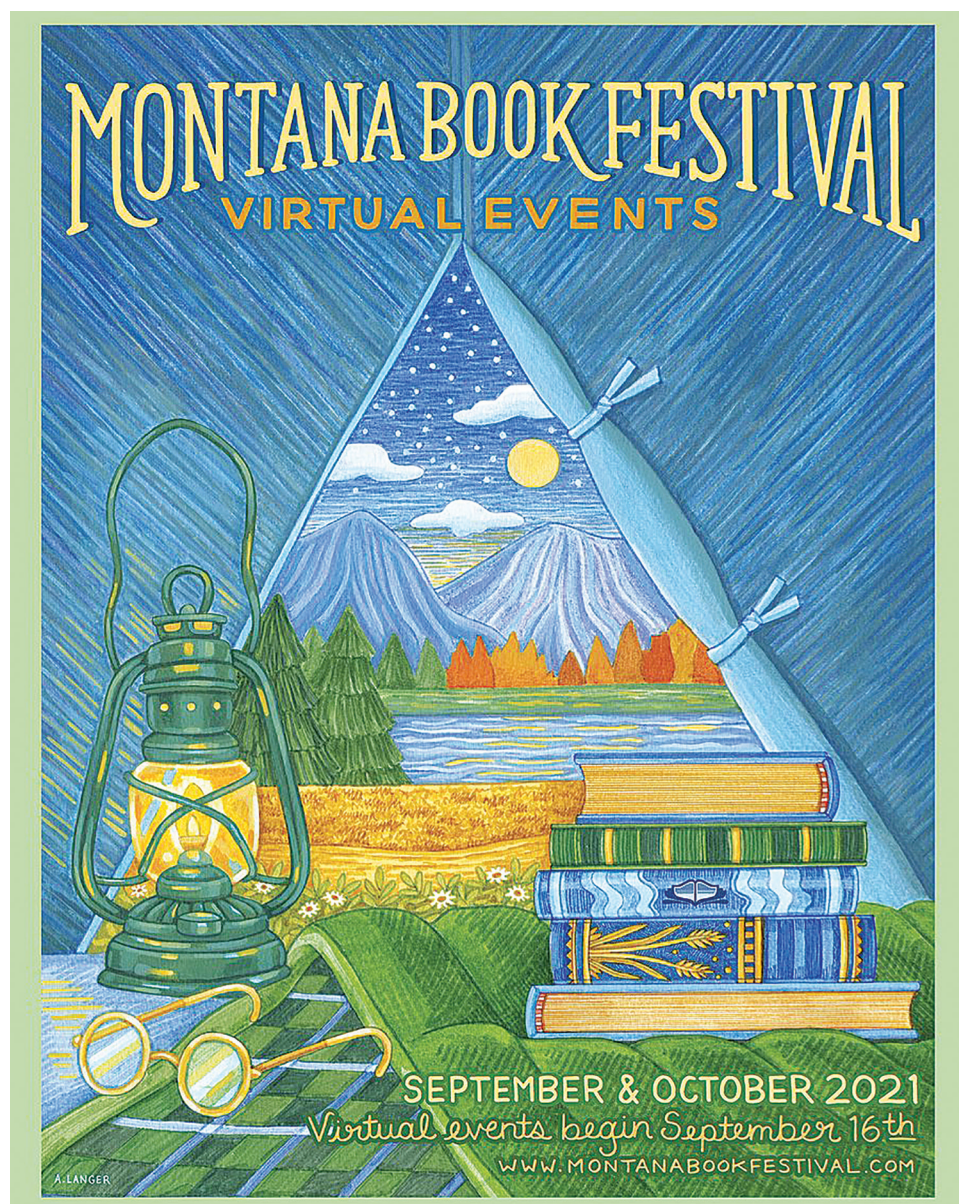
A wind gust of 79 mph occurred at Bozeman Airport Aug. 30 with a dry rain shower (raining aloft but not reaching the ground). The gust was the all-time high gust recorded for Bozeman. The previous all-time high gust was 78 mph set on July 30, 1957. Red Flag fire warnings were in effect at the beginning of the month for much of Montana. Many fires burning within the state and the large Dixie Fire in California continued to send smoke to Montana communities. For scale, the 900,000-acre Dixie fire stretches 75 miles from end to end, the same distance of the entire stretch of Highway 200 from Great Falls to Hobson. On Sept. 8, fire weather conditions were Elevated to Critical across much of the state as record-high temperatures were forecast in Missoula, Seeley Lake, Kalispell, Boulder, Bozeman, Choteau, Dillon, Helena, Glasgow, Malta and West Yellowstone. Some Bozeman residents reported ash on cars and outdoor fixtures. On Sept. 10, a thunderstorm brought gusts of 62 mph to the Dillon and Lima areas and Beaverhead and Madison counties; Belgrade saw gusts of 51 mph, Whitehall experienced gusts of 48 mph and Butte saw gusts of over 54 mph. On Sept. 15, the wind-prone area of Deep Creek (southeast of East Glacier) saw 75 mph gusts, East Glacier observed a wind gust of 67 mph, St. Mary 48 mph, and Cut Bank 44 mph. Red Flag warnings were still in effect for much of the state by mid-September.

Continuing COVID-19 Health Emergency



Montana is currently in the top ten states in the U.S. (no. 2) per one million population facing spiking cases of COVID and hundreds of Montanans have died during the last reporting period. At press time, hospital admissions in Montana were experiencing a severe spike not seen before during the pandemic, especially in the hospitalizations of children and younger individuals. Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Livingston and other hospitals in the state have requested National Guard assistance to handle excess patients and many major hospitals, including Missoula, Billings, and others have been experiencing periods of diversion of patients when facilities are overwhelmed. Montana continues to report high levels of community transmission and low rates of vaccinations, factors which result in high hospitalization and death rates from COVID around the country and around the world. Free vaccines are now available across Montana for anyone over 12 years old through local health departments and national pharmacy chains such as Albertsons, Wallgreens, CVS and Safeway.

Visit vaccines.gov for information.



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MOR FRIGHTENING FOLKLORE



HAUNTED MOUNTAIN THEATER

Unburying Montana's Bone-chilling History

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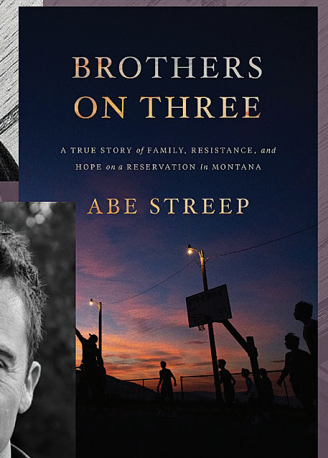
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ON THE COVER Just outside of Red Lodge, Rock Creek Trail is a family-friendly and dog-friendly hike through colorful fall foliage along Highway 212. Wild Montana shares this and other favorite fall hikes in the annual *Montana Press* hiking guide feature. The organization is a wilderness preservation group that has been working to preserve wild spaces in Montana since 1958. **Photo by Edward Wiest.**


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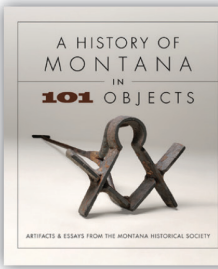


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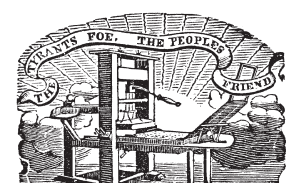
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MONTANA VOICES

Backfiring Disaster of Montana's All-Republican Governance

Here it is October and we're still choking on smoke thanks to our all-Republican public officials who deny the inescapable reality that drought and heat from climate change are driving our wildfires. And as we go to press the New York Times just reported that Montana is #2 in per capita Covid-19 infection rates. Our school children are now being exposed to the more deadly and contagious Delta variant while GOP wingnuts threaten school boards that try to protect our kids with mask requirements. And there's so much, much more in the GOP governance disaster with no escape or excuses since the Republicans took every Montana statewide office in the last election.

If you're a long-time Montanan, the change in our state seems surreal. For decades the pendulum of our governance swung back and forth between Republicans and Democrats. There were checks and balances to ensure neither political party ran wild – not with ideology, not with the budget, and certainly not with laws that actually prohibit Montanans from protecting either themselves, their businesses, or the environment and wildlife with which our magnificent state has been blessed.

But no longer. Other than the provisions in Montana's Constitution, the GOP has exactly zero checks and balances to keep their very destructive policies from seriously impacting the state and its residents.

In the old days, when a governor or other elected official did something that drew negative national attention, people would say they "gave Montana a black eye." Nowadays it's more like our state's national reputation is being clubbed and dragged behind a horse.

The last legislature's draconian wolf elimination laws and the over-the-top anti-wolf regulations from Gianforte's hand-picked landowners and big game outfitters now running the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission may wind up having exactly the opposite effect of what the legislature and governor intended.

The rest of America is gasping in repulsion at the brutality and inhumanity of Montana allowing hunting at night, killing wolves in dens, or the big GOP "prize" – shooting a collared Yellowstone Park wolf like Gov. Gianforte did. Takes a big man to shoot an already trapped wolf now, doesn't it?

While the senseless slaughter of wolves goes on, a number of conservation groups have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-list the wolves for Endangered Species Act protections... and the Service has accepted that petition. So much for Montana's "management."

In the meantime, the Beaverhead River, one of the West's premier trout streams, will be flowing at a trickle of its normal flows this winter.

Fisheries biologists are already predicting that far too many of those highly-prized trout won't make it 'til next Spring. Yet where is the "leadership" to take action and keep water in our rivers and our fisheries intact? Sorry, busy with other important business.

And what business would that be? Oh yeah, launching an investigation into the election results from last November. Were it not so outright ludicrous it would be funny. Only Republicans, who won every statewide seat as well as Trump's electoral votes, would put on such cheap political theater to contend their own Republican Secretary of State had somehow run a crooked election. Then again, spending other people's money is something at which the GOP is very good – so buck up taxpayers and shell out for a useless election "audit"

Then there's Gianforte's and the GOP legislature's guiltless expenditure of billions in federal relief funds that their fellow Republicans in Congress voted against en masse. Without those funds they so heartily denounced – and still do – Montana's budget would be on the rocks.

Yet Gianforte made the decision not to spend money on those most needy by extending their unemployment benefits. Nope, he was going to force them to get back to work – only of course if you talk to any Montana businesses that need employees, it's just another cruel GOP "business friendly" policy

that backfired – and they still can't find people to fill the jobs.

It just might be that Montanans don't find "dying to make a living" worth it since there are no measures to protect their health at their jobs thanks to the legislature's horrific bills prohibiting protecting our citizens' health that the governor supported and signed into law.

Denial is not a river in Egypt – but it has somehow become a guiding principle of the Republican Party and its delusional adherents. You can't simply deny the challenges facing the planet, state and nation and expect great results. That much seems more obvious every day, especially here in Montana.

In short, Montana's all-Republican state leadership is an unmitigated disaster. And we're not even one year into it. So hang in there fellow Montanans, we're in for a rough ride. In fact, if the Montana GOP was a car you'd get it into the shop immediately because it's stuck in reverse and all it does is backfire.

A year from now when we go to the polls again, remember which politicians did what to you, your family, your job, your fish and wildlife, and your once pristine environment. And no, it won't be the Democrats because there are none in the state's top elected offices. The blame will fall right where it inescapably must – on the utter failure of Montana's Republican leadership. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

BYGONE DAYS

Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Years featured: 1897, 1937 and 1962.

The Whole Truth
Castle, Montana, October 2, 1897

“To The Public. I take this method of informing the public that no one is authorized to take up any of my horses on the range for any purpose whatsoever and any man found riding one of my horses will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I will further state that should I come on to a horse thief riding one of my horses I will be pretty apt to take a shot at him. Robert W. Peters”

The Helena Independent
October 10, 1897

“Bicycle’s New Use. Up-to-Date Sheep Herder in Meagher County Who Scorches Behind His Flock.... White Sulphur Springs has come to the front as the most up-to-date agricultural and pastoral community in the world. All other inland towns will have to take a back seat until they can produce evidence of progress and 19th century-ness at least more conclusive than a sheep herder who tends his flocks mounted on a bicycle of the most recent and approved model.... He is well known to the people of Meagher county, but they are so accustomed to it... that the gentle shepherd and his silent steed do not excite comment. Every day he rides the pasture, keeping faithful watch over the charges committed to his care, and every evening he brings them safely home again, scorning bicycle paths and unornamented by a button bearing the legend, ‘Good Roads.’ For there are no roads where the grass is best, and he has no use for them...” The bicycle is the coming factor in the sheep business on the plains,’ said a man who returned from Meagher county recently, after having witnessed the operations of the wheel on the sheep ranges... The next season may see cowboys mounted on wheels, and then the field of usefulness of the poor horse will indeed be limited...” As far as is known but one effort has ever been made to apply the wheel to the kindred industry of sheepherding, the cattle business. It ended in disaster the first time the rider attempted to stop the mad career of a wild steer with a rope. The animal, after receiving the rope over his horns turned suddenly and charged in the opposite direction. Rider and wheel went down in the dust. The lariat had been attached to the handle-bars, as it would have been made fast to the saddle on a horse, and while the owner saved himself further embarrassment and injury by rolling off, the machine went cavorting over the wold, turning impossible somersaults, as the steer charged here and there in his fright... brother cowboys, not quite so fin de cycle, went after the steer and brought him in. The new experience had been too much for him, however, and he was raving mad and had to be killed for the safety of the crew. So ended the attempt to make the wheel a practical adjunct to range riding.”

The Big Timber Pioneer
October 14, 1937

“Montana Cowboy Just Refuses To Be Killed. Portland, Ore... Ralph Stanton, 28, Missoula, Mont. Rodeo rider injured last Thursday when he was gored by a Brahma steer at the Pacific International Livestock show, reappeared as a contestant today. Stanton, who suffered a shoulder injury, was released from a Portland hospital yesterday. A previous statement had reported Stanton died from his injuries.”

The Flathead Courier
October 19, 1937

“Bruin Decides Not To Steal Garbage. Missoula, Mont., October 19—Pilfering garbage cans is a deplorable trait at best, and one black bear who lives in the vicinity of the Priest River Experiment station in northern Idaho has definitely decided to give it up—for the time being at least. For many months this bruin was content to roam the wilderness, gorging himself on fat grubs and huckleberries but one day not long ago his sensitive nose discovered what appeared to be an Elysian field of fodder... wherewith he promptly abandoned the old bill of fare and gave his undivided attention to systematic pillaging of a Forest Service garbage can... Foresters, wishing to discourage their unwelcome guest without doing him serious injury, hooked up the lighting system with the garbage can, and when bruin returned for his regular evening meal, they pushed a little button inside the kitchen. Instead of the usual savory odors, the bear’s nose got a strong electrical jolt; and with a grunt of shocked surprise he turned and ran, leaving claw marks an inch deep in the hard-packed clay road in his hurry to get away. When last seen the self-appointed scavenger was plunging deep into the brush of the Kaniksu National Forest, and to interested observers it was readily apparent that he had no intention of coming back.”

The Butte Montana Standard
October 21, 1937

“Commemorative Coin for Sacajawea Turned Down. Washington, Oct. 20. The Lewis and Clark National association may

have to get along without a commemorative coin to the Indian heroine, Sacajawea, who led the Lewis and Clark expedition across the Lolo trail on their trip to the Pacific. Both the president and members of the house coinage and weights and measures committee at present opposed further issuance of commemorative coins. Investigation, they said shows the practice is an expensive one. More than 100 commemorative coins have been authorized by Congress. None honors a woman. The Memorial association officials thought it was time something was done about it and brought forward the name of Sacajawea.... The Lewis and Clark Memorial association has as its main objective the completion of the Lewis and Clark highway between Lewiston, Idaho and Missoula, Mont. The famed Indian is buried in Wyoming.”

The Sanders County Independent-Ledger
October 20, 1937

“‘It’s a Dull War,’ Charley Chan Says to Friends in Butte. Charlie Chan—not the clever Chinese detective, but a naval officer now employed in the Chinese customs office at Shanghai—and Mrs. Frances Wong, Chinese housewife of Canton, wrote letters to Howard Chinn, Butte, early last August. They were received 40 days later. Chan’s letter says Shanghai is a dull place. Most of the fighting is near the harbor, some distance from most residential districts. He is employed at the harbor. There is no amusement. All public eating places and amusement places are closed. The International settlement is heavily policed by soldiers and marines of many nations. All Chan does for excitement is sit in his office by the sea and watch the Chinese and Japanese planes shoot each other down, drop bombs and set fire to ships. ‘Very dull,’ he says. Mrs. Wong’s letter, 43 days in delivery, contains a stronger note of apprehension. It’s hard to get food, she says, because shipping and overland transportation are so hampered... Neither of Chinn’s friends is greatly alarmed at the roar of the bombing planes and of the big guns. Neither worries about losing the war. ‘It isn’t like 1932,’ Chan says. ‘This time we are sure to give the Japanese a decisive licking.’”

The Butte Montana Standard
October 24, 1937

“Shepherd Dog, Bereft of Her Pups, ‘Kidnaps’ Part Of Friend Tabby’s Family, Livingston, Oct. 23—(Special) The adoption of three of a litter of six kittens who had herself been bereft of a litter of three puppies, was reported from the Corwin Springs district. The mother cat apparently submitted to the kidnaping of half her family without complaint, and the two mothers, dog and tabby cat, are still the best of friends. The three puppies, which were not wanted, were disposed of shortly after birth. The mother instinct of the shepherd dog was too much for that. She climbed into a manger where the mother cats and kittens were just getting adjusted and deliberately picked up a kitten and carried it to the other end of the manger. She repeated this act until she divided the kittens on even terms, when once again, she, too, had a family. There she lays, emulating the cat mother, curled up most of the day with the kittens snuggled closely to her.”

SIGNS:



The Butte Montana Standard
October 27, 1962

“Supreme Court Rules on ‘Fear.’ Helena (UPI). The Montana Supreme Court held Friday it was reasonable to assume a person was afraid when he was forced to look down the barrel of a 45-caliber pistol held by a stranger whose purpose was robbery. The tribunal so ruled in upholding the conviction of Stanley Richard Erickson who was sentenced to a 20-year prison term for the 1961 robbery of a Great Falls service station. The unanimous opinion was written by Chief Justice James T. Harrison. Erickson’s attorney appealed the conviction on grounds the information filed against his client failed to state the nature of fear by which the robbery was accomplished. The Supreme Court said that in view of the circumstances of the robbery the conclusion was ‘inescapable’ that the victim was put in fear.”

The Helena Independent Record
October 30, 1962

“Dillon—Hundreds of out-of-state hunters have flocked into this area but none can provide a sadder story than one unnamed nimrod from Pocatello. He hunted and he hunted. From daylight to dark for four days he climbed mountains and scoured gullies, but nary a deer got within range of his sights. At the end of the fourth day he drove back to Dillon after dark—and he got his deer. The car was a total wreck.”

The Butte Montana Standard
October 31, 1962

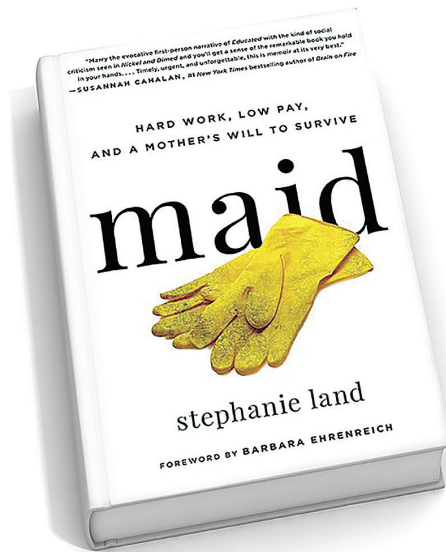
“To Go Steady Or Not To Go Steady. Billings (UPI)—Students at Central Catholic High School here have their choice of not going steady or going somewhere else to school. Rev. Harold Arbanas, superintendent of the school, issued the order, which has been described as ‘a moral thing’ by a member of the student council. Two student couples, apparently with their parents’ backing, withdrew from the Roman Catholic school when Father Arbanas decided to enforce a rule against going steady, according to a student. The student said the rule against going steady had existed for some time but had not been enforced. He said Father Arbanas’ order was directed at about 10 couples. “I’m sure the students and student council are behind Father Arbanas all the way,” the council member said. ‘He’s got the interests of the students at heart. Kids can get into trouble awfully easy when they’re going steady.’” ★

Bygone Days are compiled by Jen Eames. For daily Bygone Days, follow Montana Press Monthly on Facebook.



MONTANA BOOKS

Stephanie Land's Tale Elevating an Invisible Class Finds a Broad Audience across U.S.



The new Netflix limited series “Maid” arrives to audiences embossed with distinctly Missoula components. Indeed, essential elements include a local housekeeper-turned-author, a University of Montana creative writing class, and even a landmark coffee shop.

Before “Maid” was a television series, it was a best-selling book and before that it was a memoir of UM student Stephanie Land’s milieu of hardship and entanglement with poverty. At UM, Professor Debra Magpie Earling, an accomplished short story writer and novelist, detected something in Stephanie’s essay that was unexpected, cathartic, and alive. Sensing the writing would change her student’s life, Earling told the author so over lattes and scones at Break Espresso.

“Debra was an amazing instructor and teacher and a big part of the reason why it made it as a book,” says Land. “At the Break, I handed her my essay and she read it and she got this look on her face. She said, ‘this is going to be a book!’ At the time I had this whole imposter syndrome feeling, like I wasn’t a real writer, a feeling that never left me. But Debra was amazing. She let me take Story [Land’s son] to class, to sit with French fries and a laptop, and watch cartoons, and she never batted an eye... Once, she bent down and told Story, ‘Your mom is a very good writer!’”

Without a doubt, Land earned her mark as a “very good writer” with “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive,” a book that sheds light on the bitter tug of poverty, the tussle of single-motherhood, and the quagmire of the struggles confronted by the working poor. A raw, grinding advocacy for those unseen or unnoticed and deemed unworthy of help, former President Barack Obama called it “an unflinching look at America’s class divide” and “a reminder of the dignity of all work.”

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The personal essay piece that inspired the book and now the television series was something that Stephanie had initially written in a workshop the semester before she self-

deprecatingly shared it with Earling at Break Espresso. Its working title was called “Confessions of the Housekeeper.”

“I was in a David Allan Cates class my junior year, my first non-fiction, upper-graduate level writing class. We were supposed to write an essay about our life. I chose to write about being a single mom, hungry most of the time because I was poor. Nobody knew what to say about it. You were supposed to talk about it like the writer was not there. Most of the essays were about students’ year abroad and here I was a 35-year-old single mom writing about poverty.... Cates read a couple of paragraphs (of “The Sad House” chapter).... and he leaned back and said, “Solid Gold!” That was the first hint that I was on to something.”

Land, who hails from Alaska, said that she first developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at age 16 following a car crash and, weary of the long dark hours and short periods of sunlight, she decided to move to the lower 48, specifically Montana.

“‘Travels with Charley’ [the John Steinbeck book], while a little cliché – I mean, it’s even quoted on the James Bar [in Missoula], but because of that quote and book, I wanted to come to Montana. But I moved from Alaska to Port Townsend, Washington, first, while I tried to figure out where in Montana I wanted to go. I decided on a college, though it took me six years to get here.”

First planning to attend law school at UM, Land eventually graduated with a Bachelor’s in English and Creative Writing; all the while she worked as a house cleaner and maid to support herself and her son, frustratingly dependent on government assistance. Experiencing the sting of low-wage, working class reality, the perpetual lack of money and provisions exacerbated her PTSD.

Pangs of anxiety and discomfort nudged Land to journaling. Her first published article was a small piece in the *Mamalode*, a Montana-based parenting lifestyle magazine, which she discovered while cleaning the Lambros Real Estate office building, usually working from midnight to 3 a.m.

“The magazine was in the waiting room. I submitted a 250-word blurb and it got published and I liked seeing my name in print.



And it saved me from going to law school and got me to thinking that maybe I was on to something. I switched to getting an English degree.”

Land said that she worked on the very same essay she wrote for Cates’ class for the next two years, critiquing, laboring, and revising. The website *Vox* purchased it for \$500, a wild sum of money for someone who had spent the previous eight years on a patchwork of support programs.

“My average hourly wage from freelancing was probably about \$10 per hour,” said Land. “I thought it would absolutely be the most money that I would ever receive for writing.”

She was wholly mistaken: the essay went viral, receiving close to 500,000 hits in a three-day span. Her career ignited and the initial prose stretched out to a book that was accepted for publication by Legacy Lit. The subsequent TV adaptation seemed preordained.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS

Direct, contemplative, and gripping, the story of “Maid” has its heart sowed firmly in the autobiographical reality of Land’s plight.

“The whole book is about moving to Missoula for me, which was a huge dream of mine. I’ve been here for almost ten years. Netflix sent a film crew here and it includes real shots of Missoula. Andie MacDowell [the actress and former Montana resident who once lived along Ninemile Creek near Missoula] and Margaret Qualley, [McDowell’s daughter who was born in Kalispell] are both connected to here, too.

The book ends when I get to Missoula and hike up Mount Sentinel with my kid and it talks about UM. The series uses a different name of the college.”

Suitably elated by the attention of the book and TV series, Land says that she is not losing sight of the range of grating, low-wage poverty at home in Missoula.

“When I first moved here ten years ago, there was a huge population of service industry workers who worked hard to live here. Now you can’t work hard enough. People can’t afford to live here anymore if they are working minimum wage jobs, and they are the same ones that we rely on for tourism... I mean, you can still see the mountains and the beauty is wonderful, but the change has been pretty drastic over the last couple of years. I miss getting a sandwich for a few bucks... I am glad that places like Flipper’s are still there.”

The publicity surrounding the book and TV series has been generous, if not overwhelming. However, there has been a backlash against some of the book’s content, with several critics calling it “endlessly whiny,” “wholly narcissistic,” and “abrasively entitled,” a few of them singling out portions of text such as Stephanie’s tax refund purchase of a diamond ring or “rants” regarding the lofty price of organic milk as “clueless.”

“It’s been a hard change from being an introverted person and invisible writer to being a public figure in a matter of minutes,” Land admits. “Being flown all around the country to about 40 speaking events in 2019... I tell myself that it is okay to take that space, because

it opens up space for people who are way less privileged than I am.”

If there is one thing that experience has shown Land, it is that poverty – and the fear of its gnawing creep and encroachment – has its own self-perpetuating trauma.

“I still have PTSD from anxiety disorders and panic and anxiety attacks, the constant fear that the floor is going to drop out from under me. I don’t know what it will take to not expect that to happen anymore. The pressure of trying to make ends meet, while trying to be the smiling mom, pushing the swing at the park.”

Deflecting criticism for her being “too self-pitying,” Land says she is proud to have constructed an ode to an ignored people, ornamental afterthoughts who scrape together a living by carrying out low-paid manual or service labor, those who labor by rote or even gusto yet perennially grapple with food and housing insecurity.

“I was actually kicked off food stamps my senior year of college because I wasn’t working 20 hours a week,” says Land. “Though I was going to school full-time, there was a reevaluation of benefits because Story had turned six. If your child is over age 6, you have to work 20 hours a week or more. I was only working 15 hours a week so they cut me off and I only had food stamps for.. about \$130 a month, and that’s all we had for food. It was the hungriest time in my life. We lived off of food from WIC checks, cereal, peanut butter and some grape juice.”

SOLEMNITY OF MESSAGE

Casting all of the glitter aside – in the past few days before the interview, she has been featured by *Time Magazine* and the *Wall Street Journal*, among others – Land, 43, said that she is struggling to balance the deluge of such high stakes praise and attention with the insidious solemnity of her message.

“I think that there will be opportunities to speak about poverty and stay connected, like with the homeless population that has been kicked out of the campground on Reserve Street. Quietly, I can do what I can to help the community.”

The essay, the book, the series – Land sees all of these platitudes as issue-raising structures, conduits and connectors to remind us all that each of our fates, no matter what rung we occupy on the societal ladder, are intertwined. If empathy for the struggling underclass is too much to expect, perhaps then at least an awareness of – and baseline respect for – seemingly invisible workers should not be considered extreme.

“There are about 2.5 million domestic



Stephanie Land (above) eventually graduated from UM with a Bachelor’s in English and Creative Writing; all the while she worked as a house cleaner and maid to support herself and her son, frustratingly dependent on government assistance. Experiencing the sting of low-wage, working class reality, the perpetual lack of money and provisions exacerbated her existing PTSD. Pangs of anxiety and discomfort nudged her to journaling. Her first published article was a small piece in the Mamalode, a Montana-based parenting lifestyle magazine, which she discovered while cleaning the Lambros Real Estate office building, usually working from midnight to 3 a.m.

workers in the US, people who are extremely vulnerable who have no protections or benefits,” says Land. “So my story is not unique in that way. It’s unique because I was able to leave my circumstances and able to move to Missoula. That is not easy or possible for most people. Most don’t have the opportunities or funds to move. They are too dependent on a paycheck to survive or are trapped where they are. You don’t get out of that very easily.” ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO

Author Land will discuss “MAID” in a virtual conversation with Molly Smith Metzler, the writer behind the new Netflix series on Thurs., Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at MontanaBookFestival.com.

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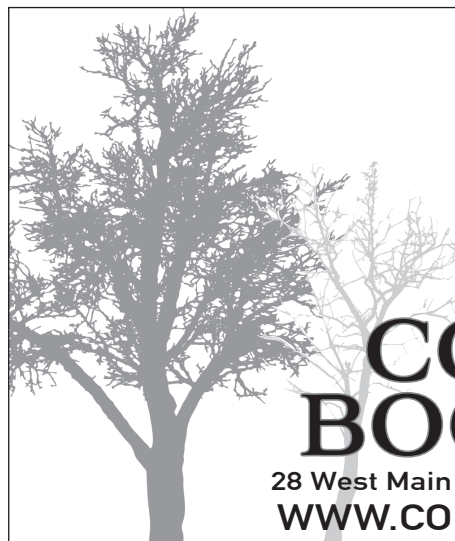

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AUTUMN TREKS WITH WILD MONTANA

Wild Montana (formerly Montana Wilderness Association) was founded in 1958 by a group of Montana outfitters, ranchers, doctors, and friends. The organization is now governed by a board of directors from across Montana, working at the local level through seven chapters in Helena, Bozeman, Missoula, Whitefish, Great Falls, Billings, and Butte.

The group was inspired by similar wilderness-oriented individuals and associations forming at the time. John Muir had founded the Sierra Club and was very active in protecting Yosemite; Aldo Leopold wrote about the ethics involved in conservation and was a co-founder of the Wilderness Society; Bob Marshall wrote several essays about conservation in forestry publications and was also a founder of the Wilderness Society.

The organization was instrumental in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act and in the designation of every Wilderness area in Montana, such as the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Absaroka-Beartooth Wildernesses. It also helped win National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designations for the Missouri and Flathead rivers, and National Monument status for the Upper Missouri River Breaks.

Wild Montana offers “Wilderness Walks” each summer so members and the public can explore new trails and meet new people. Free hikes, field trips, backpacking adventures, and snowshoe outings are led by experienced volunteers. The Volunteer Trail Crew program allows members and the public to assist land management agencies across the state through boots-on-the-ground service. Typical project work includes constructing new trails, signage installations, “logging out” or opening trails for the season, and maintaining existing trails.

In 2018, Wild Montana created the “Public Lands in Public Hands” campaign to keep public lands from being transferred to individual states and sold off to private interests and to build public support for the protection and expansion of “Montana’s outdoor way of life.”

Wild Montana also maintains hikewildmontana.org, an online hiking guide with information about trails around the state, nearby restaurants, and descriptions of hikes.

Fall in Montana provides some of the most stunning landscapes for hiking. For a brief moment, the natural world reflects a rare hue before being blanketed in white. Each fall, members and staff at Wild Montana spend much of their time outdoors, for work and pleasure, and they have put together a list of must-hike trails to explore. For more hike recommendations, visit hikewildmontana.org.



SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Pioneer Falls: South Fork Spanish Creek Trail #407

This trail takes hikers into the the Lee Metcalf Wilderness in a mere half mile as it winds along a creek. After just over 2.5 miles, take a right onto Falls Creek Trail #410 to begin an ascent along a handful of switchbacks and get to the top of the falls. This is an ideal spot for a picnic and to do some “leaf peeping,” or hike just a few yards downhill for a better view of the falls.

Location: Lee Metcalf Wilderness, south of Four Corners
Distance: 6.6 mi.
Elevation gain: 900 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/pioneerfalls

Photo of Pioneer Falls (above) by Cassandra Swiatek and Rock Creek Trail (at right, above) by Edward Wiest.

SOUTHEAST MONTANA

Glacier Lake Trail in
the Beartooth Mountains

Glacier Lake Trail can be stunning during the height of fall colors and the only downside to this hike that straddles the Montana/Wyoming border is the journey to get there. The closest town is Red Lodge (about 20 miles away), but eight of those miles stretch out along very rough road. 4WD, high-clearance vehicles are definitely recommended and this trip is not for drivers who get nervous on rocky roads. However, if a hiker is prepared and experienced on backcountry roads, this can be a rewading hike.

Location: South of Red Lodge
on the Montana/Wyoming border
Distance: 4 miles
Elevation gain: 1,700 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/glacierlake



Rock Creek Trail

Just outside of Red Lodge, Rock Creek Trail can be a rewarding hike. The first few miles are fairly flat and take hikers through a lot of colorful fall foliage. This is a family-friendly, dog-friendly hike. It is right along the 212 highway, making it easier to get to, but also not as quiet as some of the other hikes on this list. If hikers are looking for a more challenging hike in this area, head up the road a bit to the West Fork Trailhead which will take you up to Lost Lake, a 7.2-mile out-and-back hike in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Distance: 4.3 miles
Elevation gain: 472 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/rockcreek

CENTRAL MONTANA

Paine Gulch in the Little Belts

This fall hike will take you on a gradual climb up Paine Gulch through old growth forest and limestone formations. After a mile, the trail breaks into a grassy bottom with scattered conifers and aspen groves. Hikers should prepare for a burst of color and may even spot wildlife while traversing the canyon. After another mile, the canyon narrows and winds through down-fall, which eventually becomes too difficult for easy travel. At this point, turn around and head back for a second dose of beautiful fall views.

Location: Southeast of Great Falls
Distance: 5 miles
Elevation gain: 600 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/littlebelts



Visit “Gus,” the oldest western larch in the world, in Girard Grove at Seeley Lake

WESTERN MONTANA

Stark Mountain in
the Nine Mile Valley

Stark Mountain is a hike that climbs and climbs, and the final push to the summit makes all the effort worth it. From the fire lookout, hikers have 360-degree views, including the snowy peaks of the Proposed Great Burn Wilderness.

Location: Nine Mile Valley,
southeast of Superior
Distance: 9 miles
Elevation gain: 4,000 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/stark

Girard Grove at Seeley Lake

Visit “Gus,” the oldest western larch in the world on a hike that is really more of a leisurely stroll. Visit this 60-acre old growth forest along the Clearwater River, and seek out “Gus,” a 1,000-year-old tree, the oldest western larch in the world. Be sure to visit in October, as Seeley Lake hosts its Tamarack Festival celebrating the annual returning of the tamarack.

Location: Girard Grove at Seeley Lake
Directions: From Seeley Lake, take Boy Scout Road past Pyramid Lumber Mill, cross the Clearwater River outlet of Seeley Lake, past the bridge is a parking area on the left for Girard Grove (3-miles from Hwy 83).

Honorable mentions: Holland Lake Falls, Bear Creek Trail in the Bitterroots, and Blodgett Canyon.



NORTHWEST MONTANA

Vinal Creek Trail to Fish Lakes
in the Upper Yaak

This is one of Wild Montana’s stewardship director’s favorite hikes near Troy. By the second weekend in October, the larch are at their peak fall foliage and considerably stunning. Find some of the largest larch in the Yaak along this trail.

Location: Upper Yaak
Distance: 6.6 miles
Elevation gain: 1,800 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/yaak

Stanton Lake in the
Great Bear Wilderness

This hike starts with a steep climb for about a half a mile but shortly levels out as hikers enter the Great Bear Wilderness. The forest consists mostly of western larch (which make for great fall colors), Douglas fir, spruce, and a mix of birch and subalpine fir as the trail nears the lake. From that point, there is a gradual rise until the trail drops down to the lake, approximately 1.2 miles from the trailhead.

Location: Great Bear Wilderness
Distance: 6 miles
Elevation gain: 250 ft.
More trail details:
wildmontana.org/hike/stanton

Honorable mentions: Thoma-Tuchuck Trail to Tuchuck Mountain and Nasukoin in the Whitefish Range.

BEAR
SAFETY

By being prepared and alert in bear country, hikers can continue to safely enjoy the wild places where these creatures live.

1. KEEP YOUR BEAR SPRAY HANDY

Always carry bear spray, and make sure it’s accessible. Don’t keep it in a backpack as a charging bear won’t wait for you to find it. Make sure that the expiration date has not passed. Bear spray is a more effective bear deterrent than a firearm, so carry it at all times when in bear country.

2. KNOW HOW TO USE IT

If you see a bear, do not run. Most of the time, the bear will run away from a human. In the unlikely event that it does charge, stand your ground but don’t fire bear spray until the bear is within 20 feet of you. Spray toward its feet, moving the can back and forth. The spray will float upward, forming an evil-smelling wall between you and the bear. One whiff of this highly concentrated pepper spray and the bear will be gone.

3. KNOW YOUR BEAR ETIQUETTE

Do not run from a bear. Stay calm, move away slowly and sideways (hikers are more likely to trip if they back up). Speak in low, soothing tones to indicate no threat. Make yourself look as large as possible, but don’t make eye contact, which can be interpreted as aggressive behavior. Playing dead should be your last resort, only to be employed if you cannot avoid an attack. While this technique has worked for some people, being passive while a huge grizzly bear towers over you takes more courage than most of us have. (Note: Don’t play dead if it’s a black bear. Fight back instead.)

4. TRAVEL IN GROUPS

This is probably the simplest and best way to avoid bear attacks, since bears are far less likely to attack a group of three or more. Always make noise when hiking, especially when the visibility is not good, when hiking into the wind, or when natural sounds like water might cover the hiker’s approach. Talking or singing is more effective than bear bells. Remember, bears generally want to avoid you, and will do so if you give them the chance.

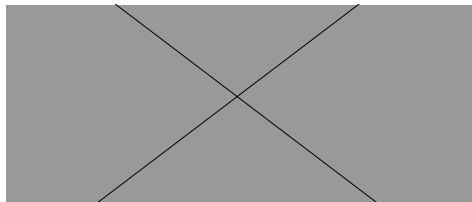
Adapted from 2019 article “Five Tips for Hiking in Grizzly Country” by Debo Powers (2020-2024 Wild Montana president). Read the full article at wildmontana.org/bearsafety

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Across Montana

The monthly calendar is a sampling of events and activities across the state. All events listed are subject to change. Send event updates to: info@montanapress.net for consideration. Contact (406) 370-1492 for details.



IMAGINE IRELAND - MISSOULA

Traditional Irish music circle
Thursdays at 5 p.m. at
Imagine Nation Brewing in
Missoula. For info:
ImagineNationBrewing.com.



SHEN YUN - BILLINGS

Travel back to the world of ancient China and experience a lost culture through the art of classical Chinese dance. See legends come to life through a theatrical experience of costuming, high-tech backdrops, and orchestral accompaniment. At the Alberta Bair on Wed. & Thurs., Oct. 13 & 14. For info: AlbertaBairTheater.org.

**MISSOULA MONTANA
OCTOBER NIGHTS AT TEN SPOON**

TUE 10/5 MEEK (CO) (w/ CHRIS DUFFY, JAYCEE HANNAH, AND ZEEBACKE)

THU 10/7 THE BENEVOLENTS

FRI 10/8 BETH LO & DAVID HORGAN

SAT 10/9 PINEGRASS

THU 10/14 JUDITH GAP

FRI 10/15 SAX APPEAL

SAT 10/16 TRAVIS YOST

SUN 10/17 TEN SPOON ART FAIR!

THU 10/21 CLOSED (RICHIE REINHOLDT)

FRI 10/22 RICHIE REINHOLDT

SAT 10/23 MISSOULA JAZZ COLLECTIVE

THU 10/28 REVIVAL COMEDY

FRI 10/29 ROMANCING THE WEST

SAT 10/30 MARTIN GERSCHWITZ (OF IRON BUTTERFLY)

WINE 4P. MUSIC 6P. \$5. KIDS FREE.



"HAUNTED" MISSOULA

The UM School of Theatre and Dance present an artistic and spooky twist on the traditional haunted house for its 2021-2022 season with "Haunted," a walk-through design exhibition showcasing four distinct environments inspired by scary stories from across the globe. Haunted runs in the Montana Theatre in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at UM from Wed. through Fri., Oct. 13 through 15 from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Info: UMT.edu.



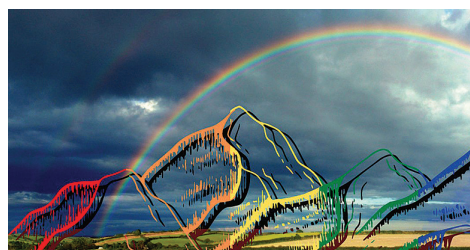
TIME FOR A QUICKIE! - MISSOULA -

Zootown Arts features five short plays by Missoula playwrights Rita Barkey, Cathy Capps, Shaun Gant, and Jay Kettering; they teamed up with director Nathan Adkins once more to shape an evening of original theatre in the ZACC Show Room. The cast includes local favorites Fiona Harris, Maisie Gospodarek, Carrie Collier, Jasmine Sherman, Craig Menteer, and Jim Thomas. In Missoula on Thurs., Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Info: ZootownArts.org.



COUNTING COUP - RED LODGE & BILLINGS -

A Montana-bred western-blues-folk family rock band featuring front man Troy Falcon (bass/guitar/vocals) along with Toby Falcon (guitar/vocals). Playing an Eastern Montana style of Western blues and country-rock at the One Legged Magpie in Red Lodge on Sat., Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. and with Almeda Bradshaw at Thirsty Street Brewing in Billings on Fri., Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. Info: CountingCoup.net.



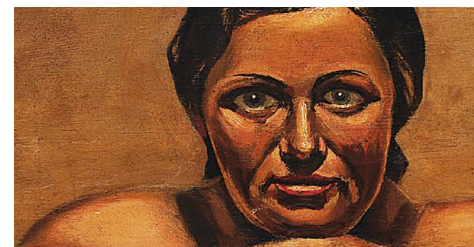
"VERBATIM: CREATING RESILIENCE" - MISSOULA

EmpowerMT hosts playwright, director and lecturer Gregory Hinton as he collaborates with the Social Justice Theater at UM to present a writing workshop and performance, "Verbatim: Celebrating Resilience" to showcase students from the Social Justice Theater class and EmpowerMT's youth leaders. The writers and performers will use archival research from Montana LGBTQ+ history and contemporary narratives surrounding LGBTQ+ issues in Montana to craft their performances. On Sun., Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Zootown Arts Center in Missoula. Info: ZootownArts.org.



LAST BEST COMEDY - BOZEMAN

Brenden Gay performs Fri., Oct. 15 at Last Best Comedy in Bozeman. Gay is a nationally touring comedian and a finalist on TruTV's Comedy Breakout, the Make Me Laugh USA Competition, and semi-finalist in NBC's Stand Up Diversity Showcase. The venue also hosts Andy Gold on Sun., Oct. 17. The club hosts touring comedians and local talent in a variety of improv shows such as the Notorious BOZ every Saturday, open mic nights and more. Info: LastBestComedy.com.



THE ART OF VOLDEMAR PODDER

Voldemar Podder was displaced from Estonia during World War II and spent twelve years in various European refugee camps where he learned to paint. Always continuing his artwork, he immigrated to the United States in 1956, landing first in Warm Springs, then in 1963 relocating to Butte. Join Montana Historical Society curator Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney as she shares the story of this once well-known Mining City artist on Wed., Oct. 20 at 10:45 a.m. at MHS in Helena. Info: MHS.MT.gov.

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WINNIE BRAVE - HELENA

Drawing inspiration from their extensive travels throughout Canada and the USA, the songs of this husband and wife team reflect on small town life and the folks who happen to cross their paths. Armed with two guitars and an old suitcase drum, many say this Americana duo is greater than the sum of their parts. Playing in Helena at Broadwater Hot Springs on Tues., Oct. 12. Info: WinnieBrave.com

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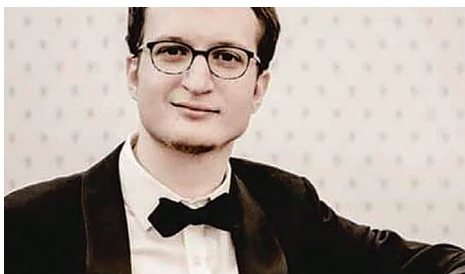
JEFFREY FOUCAULT - TOTAL REQUEST LIVE -

American songwriter and record producer Foucault is dusting off the livestream format for a second, live, all-request show on Thurs., Oct. 28. Foucault's work marries the influence of American country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and folk. Info: JeffreyFoucault.com.



"WINTER STARTS NOW" - HELENA -

Warren Miller is back with their 72nd-annual film "Winter Starts Now," featuring snow-riding from mom and pop ski hills down the street to the highest peak on the horizon. Wed. & Thurs. Oct. 27 & Oct. 28. Info: MyrnaLoy.com.



"SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE" - BOZEMAN -

Celebrate a haunting Halloween weekend with Bozeman Symphony's performances of a rare sonic event, Hector Berlioz's fantastical masterpiece "Symphonie Fantastique" (the last time the Bozeman Symphony presented the piece was May 1, 1977). Sergei Prokofiev's whimsical yet dramatic Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major will open the concert starring Italian-born pianist Rodolfo Leone (above). At the Willson Auditorium in Bozeman on Sat. & Sun. Oct. 30 & 31. Info: BozemanSymphony.org.

OUT & ABOUT

MONTANA TABLE: FRY BREAD



The ubiquitous "Butte's Heritage Cookbook" contains over 20 chapters devoted to cuisines from the many cultures that have called the Mining City region home.

Among the pasties and povitica is a short section on American Indian cooking. It's the first chapter in the book and includes just a handful of entries: recipes for dried berries and meat, along with instructions for making berry soup and pemmican, a hearty conglomerate of dried meat, berries and animal fat that's sure to stick to the bones.

Of course, a chapter on Native cuisine wouldn't be complete without a recipe for fry bread, a food that for many is synonymous with American Indian culture.

My first experience of fry bread comes by way of Santiago's Mexican Restaurant in Colorado. I grew up in the Centennial State, where today Santiago's is a beloved mainstay with multiple locations across the region. But when I was growing up in the 90s, I knew it as a small, drive-up food stand where hungry patrons would line up in their cars for the eatery's Indian taco: a decadent portion of fry bread served with refried beans, cheese, green chile and other fixings.

Fry bread contains just a few ingredients—mostly flour, baking powder, and salt,—which come together to make a dough that's fried in lard in a cast-iron skillet.

The ingredients and methods are simple, but from them comes a satisfying result: a warm flatbread that's fried until golden, featuring a combination of chewy and crunchy textures.

Today, fry bread is a common sight at Montana festivals, and of course at annual powwows across the state.

One of those powwows is the annual Crow Fair, hosted each August by the Apsáalooke people of the Crow Indian reservation.

Virginia Bryan, contributor to the food and culture website The Last Best Plates, says the event attracts throngs of visitors each year.

"In 2017, attendance exceeded 50,000, with over 2,000 tipis in use, scattered along the banks of the Little Bighorn River just outside Crow Agency, Montana," writes Bryan, who notes that visitors come for the traditional clothing, dancing, and more.

Visitors can also be found lining up for fry bread, a staple of the yearly gathering.

For many Indigenous cooks, fry bread is a point of pride—but the dish is also controversial.

Smithsonian Magazine writer Jen Miller says the dish's origins go back nearly 160 years to when the federal government forced the Navajo and other Native people to migrate

300 miles from Arizona to New Mexico during a journey known as the "Long Walk." The new landscape couldn't support the cultivation of their traditional foods, "(so) to prevent the indigenous populations from starving, the government gave them canned goods as well as white flour, processed sugar and lard—the makings of frybread."

Miller notes that fry bread is a beloved dish for some but for others it's a symbol of hardship and scarcity brought about by a colonial past.

"Most of what passes for Native American fare today—fry bread or Indian tacos—is not authentic at all," writes chef Sean Sherman in his cookbook "The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen."

Sherman grew up on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. He is a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux and is an advocate for restoring Indigenous food traditions. His book excludes European ingredients, instead focusing solely on indigenous foods from Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Fry bread is decidedly not a recipe in "The Sioux Chef."

"Fry bread represents perseverance and pain, ingenuity and resilience," writes Sherman.

"(It) is a simple food but also a difficult symbol linking generation with generation, connecting the present to the painful narrative of our history."

So why is fry bread so revered despite its past? Miller says it partly has to do with powwow culture. The United States often banned intertribal gathering throughout the 1800s, she notes, and "today's powwows are partly a reaction against that past suppression."

She adds that they are a celebration of Native American culture: a gathering of spiritual leaders, artists, musicians—and food vendors, putting fry bread at the center of it all.

"Fry bread reminds us of a time when Native Americans, starving and outnumbered, did everything they could to survive aggressive encroachment and persecution," writes Oglala Lakota writer Simon Moya-Smith in his pointed article: "Native American Fry Bread is the Food of our Oppression. It's also Delicious, So We're Reclaiming it."

"It is both delectable and uniquely Native American," he continues. "But it is also important to remember where it came from, the dark history of its birth. All food has a story, and this one is ours." ★

—ANNIE PENTILLA

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Across Montana

MONTANA BOOK EVENTS



ABE STREEP

Sun., Oct. 10 - 5 p.m.

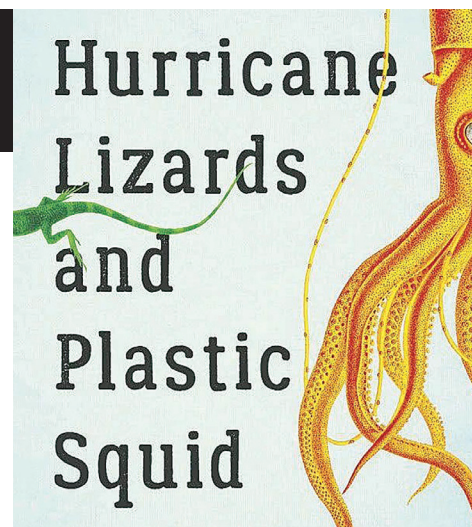
Fact and Fiction - Missoula

A book release event with author Abe Streep and conversation partner Donnie Wetzel Jr., son of Blackfoot Tribal member, educator and co-founder of the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, to discuss Streep's new book, "Brothers on Three," a much-anticipated release about the Arlee Warriors basketball team.
Info: FactandFictionBooks.com.

THEODORE VAN ALST

Thurs., Oct. 14 - 7:30 p.m.

In "Sacred City," a young narrator heads deep in the heart of Chicago accompanied by ancestors and spirits who help him see that the city was, is, and always will be Indian Country. Author Van Alst joins a virtual conversation with best-selling novelist Stephen Graham Jones.
Info: CountryBookshelf.com.



THOR HANSON

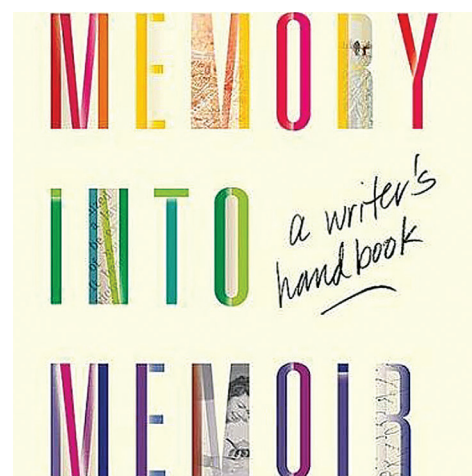
Tues., Oct. 19 - 7:30 p.m.

Join natural historian Thor Hanson online as he explores how climate change is driving evolution in his new book, "Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid: The Fraught and Fascinating Biology of Climate Change."
Info: CountryBookshelf.com.

LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE: KID'S EDITION

Wed., Oct. 20 - 6 p.m.

Featuring six local children's book authors to share new books with in a family-friendly virtual event, including authors Janet Fox, Julie Ann Gandulla, Bruce L. Smith, William C. Pack, Ephie and Calia Risho, and Laura Ojeda Melchor.
Info: CountryBookshelf.com.

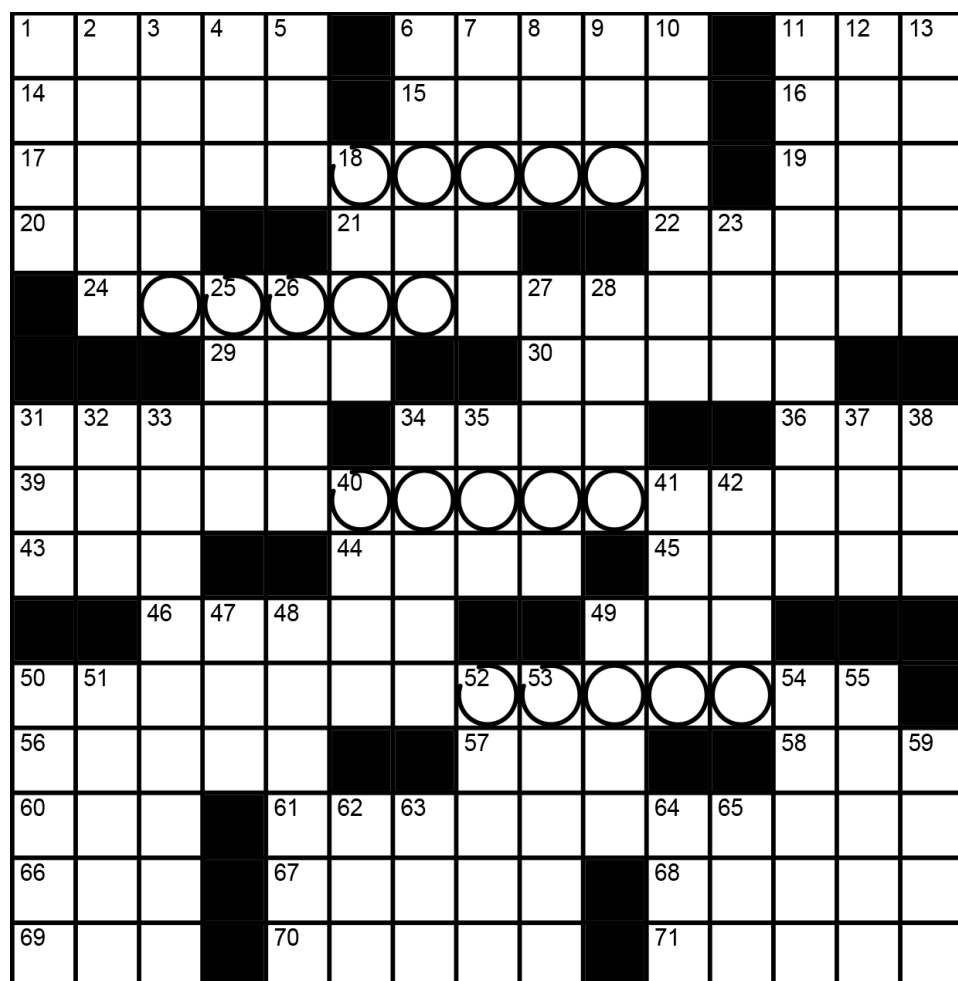


LAURA KALPAKIAN

Thurs., Oct. 28 - 7:30 p.m.

The author shares her newest writing guide "Memory into Memoir" and will be joined by Bozeman-based writing coach Anika Hanisch.
Info: CountryBookshelf.com.

Send Book Event updates to:
infor@montanapress.net



JONESIN' CROSSWORDS

"Home Repairs"

Visiting Some Unusual Places

ACROSS

- 1 Submarine acronym
- 6 Batting game for little kids
- 11 Cousin in 2021's "The Addams Family 2"
- 14 "Fingers crossed"
- 15 Vietnamese capital
- 16 Pasture grazer
- 17 Replaces, as with a charged battery
- 19 Local response to "Want some Irn-Bru?", perhaps
- 20 Android alternative for smart-phones
- 21 Doctor who's a playable character in "Overwatch"
- 22 Choir member
- 24 "Let's get together sometime"
- 29 "That's the one"
- 30 Was on the radio
- 31 Actress Menzel of "Wicked"
- 34 Not well
- 36 Singer Rita
- 39 More than enough at the buffet
- 43 Come-____ (enticements)
- 44 Princess in L. Frank Baum books
- 45 Bug persistently
- 46 Like TV's "Batman"
- 49 Buffoon
- 50 They may involve blue material
- 56 Not fully upright

- 57 Org. for Pelicans and Hawks
- 58 Losing tic-tac-toe line
- 60 Seafood restaurant freebie
- 61 Major book publishing company (or what the circled squares contain)
- 66 Easy "Card Sharks" card to play from
- 67 "The Beverly Hillbillies" star Buddy
- 68 Poe's middle name
- 69 "Totally tubular"
- 70 Causing jumpiness, maybe
- 71 Ibsen heroine Gabler

DOWN

- 1 Emphatic exclamation, in Ecuador
- 2 "Incredible!"
- 3 Static, e.g.
- 4 Fitting
- 5 "Parks and ____"
- 6 What's exited in Brexit, for short
- 7 Herb used in Thai cuisine
- 8 "Can I take that as ____?"
- 9 Grant played by the late Ed Asner
- 10 Roadside rubbish
- 11 Complaint that may prompt words of encouragement
- 12 "Happy Birthday ____"
- 13 Annoying sibling, maybe
- 18 Some insurance groups, for short
- 23 Letters on a wide wedge,

maybe

- 25 "Auld Lang ____"
- 26 Pick up aurally
- 27 Country cottage, in Russia
- 28 M as in NATO?
- 31 "Where did ____ wrong?"
- 32 Home refuge
- 33 Put a message on, as jewelry
- 34 Hostess snack cake
- 35 Philosophy suffix
- 37 "Messenger" material
- 38 Competition hosted by Terry Crews, for short
- 40 Faux pas comment
- 41 Grateful Dead bass guitarist Phil
- 42 El ____, TX
- 47 Word before hours or fours
- 48 Units to measure London's Shard, e.g.
- 49 "____!" ("Same here!")
- 50 Title elephant of children's lit
- 51 City on the Mohawk River
- 52 Preposition with mistletoe?
- 53 John H. Johnson's magazine
- 54 "What ____ it take?"
- 55 "A pity"
- 59 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 62 "Supermarket Sweep" network
- 63 Codebreaking org.
- 64 "Likely story!"
- 65 Stadium chant for Marta, e.g.

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NEED A HINT? SEE PAGE 11



The Montana Book Festival continues to perpetuate a sense of literary community in Montana. **THE FESTIVAL IS ONLINE/VIRTUAL IN 2021.** Find registration for all events below and more at MontanaBookFestival.com.

LOREN STEPHENS

Tues., Oct. 12 - 6 p.m.

Inspired by true events, “All Sorrows Can Be Borne” is the story of a Japanese woman faced with unimaginable circumstances, forcing her to give up her son to save her husband. Join author Stephens in a conversation with Judy Blunt, author of “Breaking Clean,” a collection of linked essays exploring Blunt’s rural upbringing in Montana.

STEPHANIE LAND

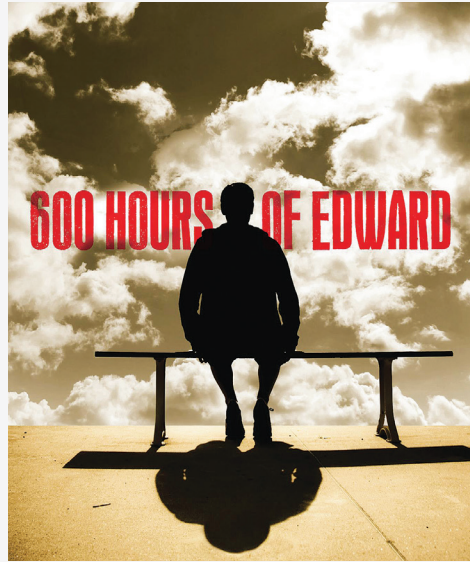
Thurs., Oct. 14 - 6 p.m.

Montana Book Festival presents Montana-based memoirist Stephanie Land, author of “MAID: Hard Work, Low Pay, and Mother’s Will to Survive,” in a virtual conversation with Molly Smith Metzler, the writer behind the new Netflix series inspired by Land’s memoir.

GREG M. PETERS

Sat., Oct. 16 - 10 a.m.

In “Our National Forests,” Greg Peters reveals an inside look at America’s public land and the people committed to protecting forests and ensuring access for all. From the story of how the Forest Service grows millions of seedlings in the West each year to their efforts to save the hellbender salamander in Appalachia, the narrative spans the breadth of the country. Peters will discuss his work at this event with Will KcKay, Timber Press Editor.



JAMIE HARRISON CRAIG LANCASTER

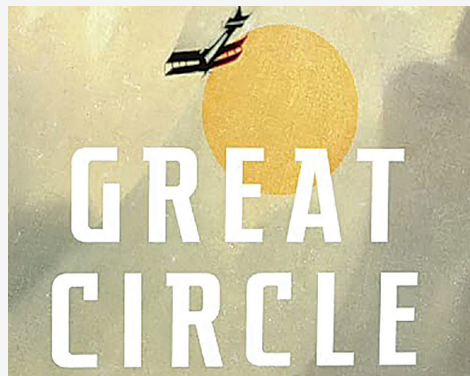
Sat., Oct. 16 - 12 p.m.

Novelists Harrison (“The Center of Everything”) and Lancaster (“600 Hours of Edward,” “Edward Adrift, and “The Summer Son”) will discuss writing family in, and into, their fiction, and about writing the dynamics of fictional families.

MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD

Sat., Oct. 16 - 12 p.m.

Maggie Shipstead discusses a personal love of adventure and travel and how the characters and setting of her newest novel, “Great Circle,” were drawn from personal obsessions with wildlife and wild places. Shipstead will be joined by Missoula-based writer and novelist Erin Saldin (“The Girls of No Return”).



ANNIE CONNOLLE CATHERINE RAVEN KEEMA WATERFIELD

Sat., Oct. 16 - 2 p.m.

Join three authors in a conversation about nature and memoir. Each author has approached the memoir genre in different ways and each explores their very human lives with a unique and careful eye to the “more-than-human lives around them.”

KAREN BULEY EILEEN GARVIN

Sat., Oct. 16 - 2 p.m.

Join novelists Karen Buley (“Perimenopausal Women with Power Tools”) and Eileen Garvin (“The Music of Bees”) in a discussion about their novels and the dynamics of fictional friendships.



DAVID HORGAN

Sat., Oct. 16 - 4 p.m.

The narrative of Horgan’s new book, “Helmi’s Shadow” is also a memoir, told by Helmi’s son, writer David Horgan, of growing up under the wings of two Russian Jewish refugees who survived decades of hardship. Horgan will be joined by Deirdre McNamer, novelist (“Aviary”) and former professor at UM.

IRIS JAMAHL DUNKLE LISA HENDRICKSON

Sat., Oct. 16 - 6 p.m.

Join biographers Dunkle and Hendrickson in a conversation about two women who trailblazed the American West: Charmian Kittredge London, the wife of American author Jack London and a literary trailblazer in her own right; and Montanan Julia Bennett who arrived in New York City in the middle of the Great Depression with no money and an audacious business plan: to identify easterners who could afford to spend their summers at her new dude ranch near Ennis, Montana.

MICHEAL PUNKE MALCOLM BROOKS

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

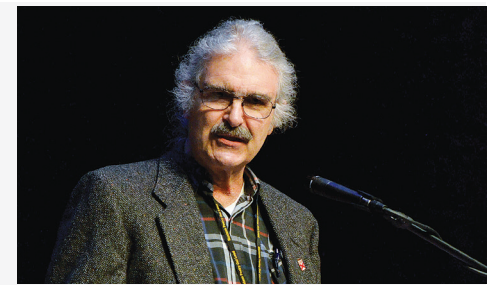
Join authors Michael Punke and Malcolm Brooks in a conversation with author and podcaster Jim Cornelius about their newest novels, “Ridgeline” and “Cloudmaker.”



ANTHONY WOOD TOBIN SHEARER AMELU RUFF

Sat., Oct. 23 - 11 a.m.

Anthony Wood explores the entanglements of race, settler colonialism, and the emergence of state and regional identity in the American West during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in “Black Montana: Settler Colonialism and the Erosion of the Racial Frontier, 1877-1930.” Wood will be joined by Tobin Shearer, Professor of History and the African-American Studies Director at UM and Ruff Garners Doss Scholarship winner Amelu Ruff.



MARK GIBBONS

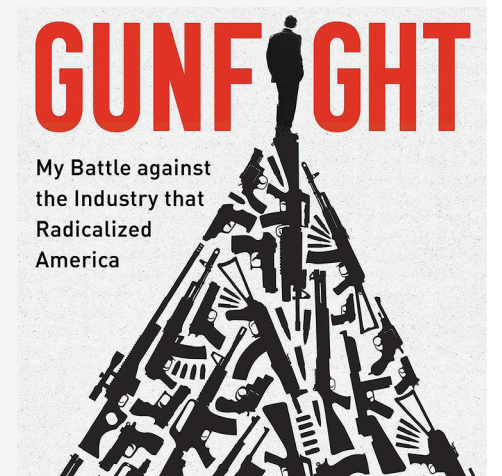
Sat., Oct. 23 - 2 p.m.

Newly appointed Montana Poet Laureate Mark Gibbons will be joined by Butte author Aaron Parrett to talk about “In the Weeds,” his new book of poetry out now from the Drumlummon Institute.

O. ALAN WELTZIEN LIZ BROWN

Sat., Oct. 23 - 4 p.m.

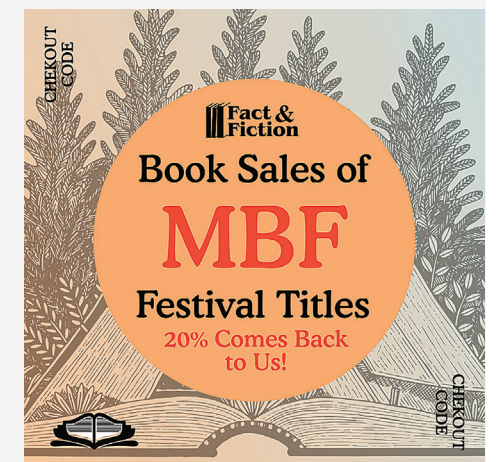
Weltzien, non-fiction writer, editor and Professor Emeritus of English at UM-Western, presents “Forgotten Stories of Queer Love and Legacy in the West” with fellow non-fiction writer Liz Brown, author of “Twilight Man.”



RYAN BUSSE

Sat., Oct. 23 - 6 p.m.

Writer and former gun executive Ryan Busse and former Governor of Montana Steve Bullock will discuss Busse’s new book, “Gunfight: My Battle Against The Industry That Radicalized America,” in a conversation about America’s fascination with guns, power, and radicalization.



This year, Fact & Fiction Books is donating 20% of its sales of Festival titles back to the Montana Book Festival; simply use the code above.

END NOTES

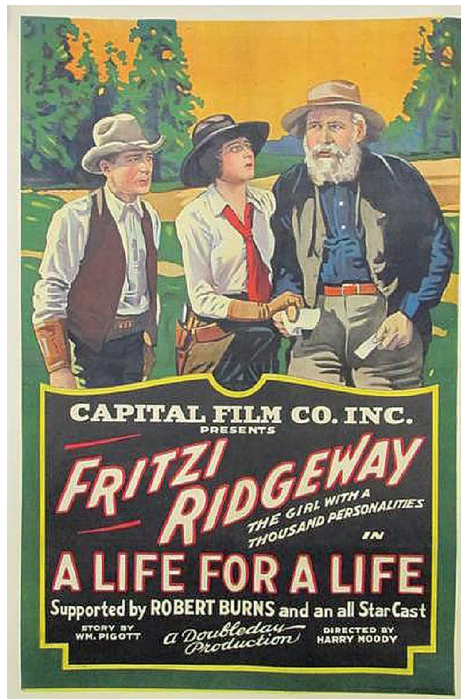
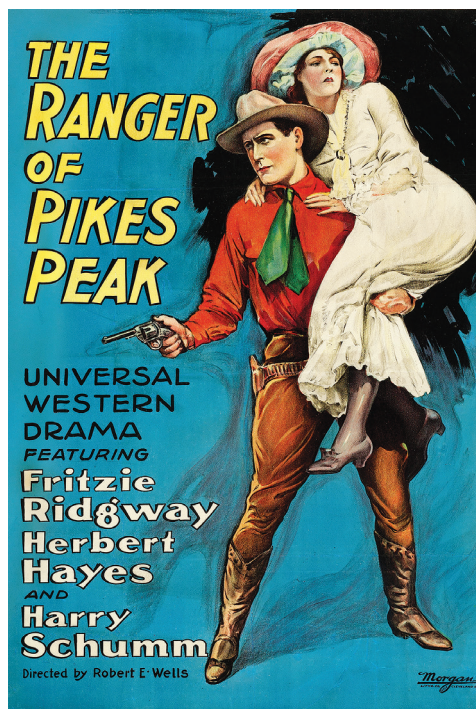
FAMOUS AND NOT FORGOTTEN: SILENT STAR FRITZI RIDGEWAY



A number of Montana progeny have logged a path to cinema achievement in the glow and glitz of California. A partial list includes worthies such as Gary Cooper, Myrna Loy, and blonde, bold, silent film star Kathlyn Williams. The list expands, however, to include more than a few lesser-known talents who were successful in their time: Helen Lynch, Lane Chandler (Cooper's rafting buddy once billed as the "next Gary Cooper"), Barbara Luddy, father and daughter Wallace and Dorothy Coburn, Kay Hammond, Julian Eltinge, Doris Deane Arbuckle, as well as the lovably eccentric Fritzi Ridgeway.

MONTANA ROOTS

Born in Missoula as Fredricke Berneice Hawkes, Fritzi Ridgeway grew up in Butte, where one newspaper writer forecast her success: "Back there at Butte—she was one of the most popular girls in the high school,



vivacious, colorful and attractive then as now, and exceedingly clever. She won state declamation contests."

While Robert Emmet Sherwood, in "The Best Moving Pictures of 1922–23 and Other Film Yearbooks of the American Screen," stated that Ridgeway was born in Butte, the majority of published sources list Ridgeway's birth date as April 8, 1898, in Missoula.

A former trick rider, Fritzi eventually left Montana and ended up in Hollywood as a silent screen actress. There, she starred in two-reel westerns and played second leads in films with Paramount Realart Pictures in the 20s.

The five-foot-five, 120-pound, brown-



haired, blue-eyed, tomboyish "cowgirl star" somehow entered films in 1916. Credited with appearing in fifty-four films between 1916 and 1934, as everything from the "attractive young church organist" to the politician's daughter, half of her film work was done between 1916 and 1919, before the introduction of sound.

She and Bob Burns (also born in Montana, in 1884) made fourteen or fifteen two-reelers for Capital in 1920 and 1921 and Ridgeway's roles were usually supporting parts, mostly on the villainous side.

At least one other actor-entertainer from Missoula arrived in Hollywood even earlier than Fritzi or Burns: Earl H. Howell, who was born in 1883 and acted in several films, including "He Met the Champion" (1910), "The Sheriff's Sacrifice" (1910) and "The Ranger's Bride" (1910). Howell died on July 18, 1918, in Boston, Massachusetts.

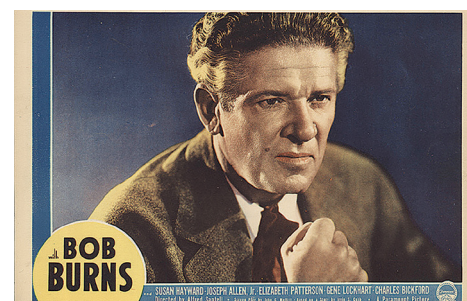
A SHOOTING STAR

One of Fritzi Ridgeway's more notable roles was in "A Woman's Vengeance," a 1920, seventeen-minute Capital short directed by Harry Moody that not only reverses typical gender roles found in western cinema but does so without any sense of camp.

In the film, a hoard of bandits squat on and overtake a mining claim belonging to Fritzi's father and she aggressively "takes the law into her own hands," as the lobby card exclaims. Hell-bent on revenge, Fritzi packs a gun and pursues the escaping gang. In the thick of this strife, she also manages to rescue her lover (played by Bob Burns) from the gang's plot to drown him.



One of Fritzi Ridgeway's more notable roles was in "A Woman's Vengeance," a 1920 seventeen-minute-long Capital short directed by Harry Moody that not only reverses typical gender roles found in western cinema but also does so without any sense of camp (above). Her co-star and fellow Montanan Bob Burns (below) frequently starred with her in silent Westerns.



Fritzi also co-starred in westerns with notables such as Roy Stewart, Harry Carey, Fred Church and Tom Mix. She married and later divorced Russian-born composer Constantin Bakaleinikoff.

Unable to successfully resume her career after the advent of sound pictures in 1928, she paid to have the pueblo-style Hotel del Tahquitz built in Palm Springs, California.

In May 1930, Ridgeway got into trouble with the City of Los Angeles and had to put up an eight-foot fence around her 2836 Beachwood Drive home to stop her "vicious dog, Volk, an Alaskan malamute" from attacking her neighbors.

Fritzi eventually managed the western-themed Del Tahquitz Hotel, where she was replaced for "incompetence" and because "she'd shoot at trespassers with a shotgun." She died of a heart attack in California on March 29, 1969. ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



When unable to successfully resume her career after the advent of sound pictures in 1928, Fritzi Ridgeway paid to have the pueblo-style, 100-room Hotel del Tahquitz (above, right) built in Palm Springs, California. Also known as the Del Tahquitz Hotel, the hotel was well-known for its bar, Saddle Bar X, which was decorated in western style decor complete with bar stools made from saddles and murals painted on the walls and floor. The Del Tahquitz also offered tennis and badminton courts as well as rooftop solariums for "nude sun bathing" according to one of their advertising brochures. She was let go as manager because, among other things, "She'd shoot at trespassers with a shotgun."

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Across Montana



“ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW” - HELENA

The notorious horror parody film, a fast-paced potpourri of camp, sci-fi and rock ‘n’ roll, among other things, tracks the exploits of naive couple after they stumble upon the lair of transvestite Dr. Frank-N-Furter. The movie, a bizarre musical co-starring Meat Loaf and Richard O’Brien, bombed in its initial release but later gained a cult following at midnight showings. Two showings each night at the Helena Civic Center, including a late-night/midnight showing featuring a costume party. **Fri., & Sat., Oct. 29 & 30.** Info: GrandStreetTheatre.com.



THE TECCAS - BILLINGS

From the heart of Montana’s Big Sky Country come Scott and Kayla Tecca, an international award-winning father/daughter duo playing a variety of new and classic country, classic rock and originals. Enjoy their blended family harmonies at the Yellowstone Cellars in Billings on **Fri., Nov. 5.** Info: YellowstoneCellars.com.



COVELLITE THEATRE - BUTTE

Join the headbangers ball in Butte on **Thurs., Oct. 29** when the Covellite Theatre hosts Hemlock with At Home In Hell and Dragged Out. Also, on **Sat., Oct. 16**, the venue hosts “Rock the Pit” benefit for mental health and depression with headliner Twice A Year. Info: CovelliteTheatre.com.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Blogger AnaSophia was asked, “What do you find attractive in a person?” I’ll reproduce her reply because it’s a good time to think about what your answer would be. I’m not implying you should be looking for a new lover. I’m interested in inspiring you to ruminate about what alliances you should cultivate during the coming months. Here’s what AnaSophia finds attractive: “strong desire but not neediness, passionate sensitivity, effortlessness, authenticity, innocence of perception, sense of humor, vulnerability and honesty, embodying one’s subtleties and embracing one’s paradoxes, acting unconditionally and from the heart.”

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus author Roberto Bolaño confessed, “Sometimes I want greatness, sometimes just its shadow.” I appreciate his honesty. I think what he says is true about most of us. Is there anyone who is always ready for the heavy responsibility of pursuing greatness? Doubtful. To be great, we must periodically go through phases when we recharge our energy and take a break from being nobly ambitious. What about you, dear Taurus? If I’m reading the omens correctly, you will benefit from a phase of reinvention and reinvigoration. During the next three weeks, you’ll be wise to hang out in the shadows of greatness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): “Have fun, even if it’s not the same kind of fun everyone else is having,” wrote religious writer C. S. Lewis. That advice is ten times more important right now than it usually is. For the sake of your body’s and soul’s health, you need to indulge in sprees of playful amusement and blithe delight and tension-relieving merriment. And all that good stuff will work its most potent magic if it stimulates pleasures that are unique to you—and not necessarily in line with others’ tastes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): “It is one thing to learn about the past,” wrote Cancerian journalist Kenneth Auchincloss. “It is another to wallow in it.” That’s stellar advice for you to incorporate in the coming weeks. After studying your astrological omens, I’m enthusiastic about you exploring the old days and old ways. I’m hoping that you will discover new clues you’ve overlooked before and that this further information will inspire you to re-envision your life story. But as you conduct your explorations, it’s also crucial to avoid getting bogged down in sludgy emotions like regret or resentment. Be inspired by your history, not demoralized by it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Would you like to deepen and strengthen your capacity to concentrate? Cosmic rhythms will conspire in your favor if you work on this valuable skill in the coming weeks. You’ll be able to make more progress than would normally be possible. Here’s pertinent advice from author Harriet Griffey: “Whenever you feel like quitting, just do five more—five more minutes, five more exercises, five more pages—which will extend your focus.” Here’s another tip: Whenever you feel your concentration flagging, remember what it is you love about the task you’re doing. Ruminant about its benefits for you and others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What’s your favorite feeling? Here’s Virgo poet Mary Szybist’s answer to that question: hunger. She’s not speaking about the longing for food, but rather the longing for everything precious, interesting, and meaningful. She adores the mood of “not yet,” the experience of moving toward the desired thing. What would be your response to the question, Virgo? I’m guessing you may at times share Szybist’s perspective. But given the current astrological omens, your favorite feeling right now may be utter satisfaction—the gratifying sensation of getting what you’ve hungered for. I say, trust that intuition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) In the English language, the words “naked” and “nude” have different connotations. Art critic Kenneth Clark noted that “naked” people depicted in painting and sculpture

are “deprived of clothes,” and embarrassed as a result. Being “nude,” on the other hand, has “no uncomfortable overtone,” but indicates “a balanced, prosperous, and confident body.” I bring this to your attention because I believe you would benefit from experiencing extra nudity and no nakedness in the days ahead. If you choose to take on this assignment, please use it to upgrade your respect and reverence for your beauty. PS: Now is also a favorable time to express your core truths without inhibition or apology. I urge you to be your pure self in all of your glory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Anne Sexton wrote, “One has to get their own animal out of their own cage and not look for either an animal keeper or an unlocker.” That’s always expert advice, but it will be extra vital for you to heed in the coming weeks. The gorgeous semi-wild creature within you needs more room to run, more sights to see, more adventures to seek. For that to happen, it needs to spend more time outside of its cage. And you’re the best person to make sure that happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) could be a marvelous friend. If someone he cared for was depressed or feeling lost, he would invite them to sit in his presence as he improvised music on the piano. There were no words, no advice—only emotionally stirring melodies. “He said everything to me,” one friend said about his gift. “And finally gave me consolation.” I invite you to draw inspiration from his example, Sagittarius. You’re at the peak of your powers to provide solace, comfort, and healing to allies who need such nurturing. Do it in whatever way is also a blessing for you.

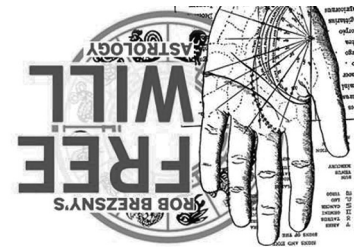
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At age 23, Capricorn-born Jeanne Antoinette Poisson (1721–1764) became French King Louis XV’s favorite mistress. She was not born into aristocracy, but she wielded her Capricornian flair with supreme effectiveness. Ultimately, she achieved a noble title as well as high prestige and status in the French court. As is true for evolved Capricorns, her elevated role was well-deserved, not the result of vulgar social-climbing. She was a patron of architecture, porcelain artwork, and France’s top intellectuals. She ingratiated herself to the King’s wife, the Queen, and served as an honored assistant. I propose we make her your role model for the next four weeks. May she inspire you to seek a boost in your importance and clout that’s accomplished with full integrity?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The bad news is that artist Debbie Wagner was diagnosed with two brain tumors in 2002. The good news is that surgery not only enabled her to survive, but enhanced her visual acuity. The great news is that on most days since 2005, she has painted a new image of the sunrise. I invite you to dream up a ritual to celebrate your own victory over adversity, Aquarius. Is there a generous gesture or creative act you could do on a semi-regular basis to thank life for providing you with the help and power you needed?

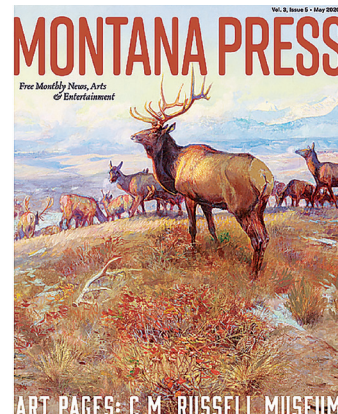
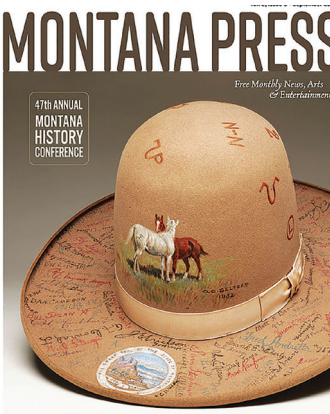
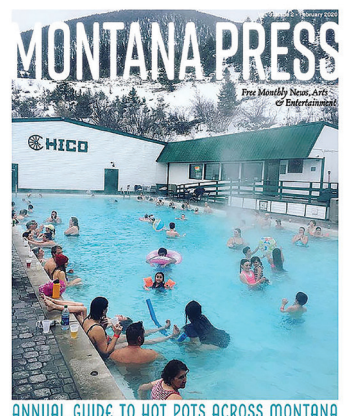
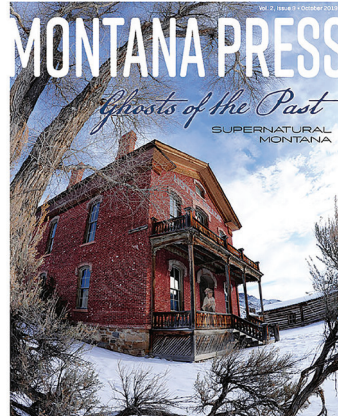
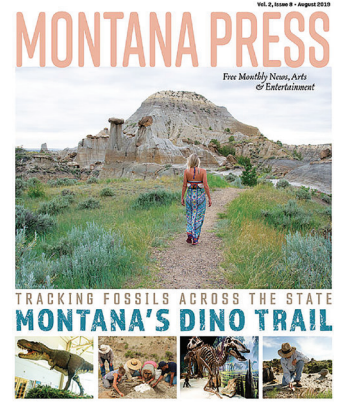
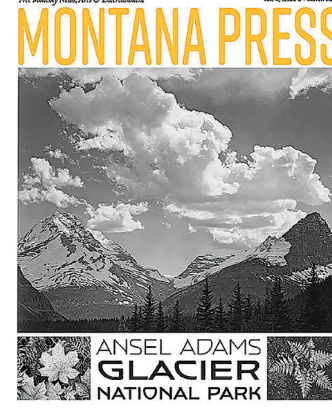
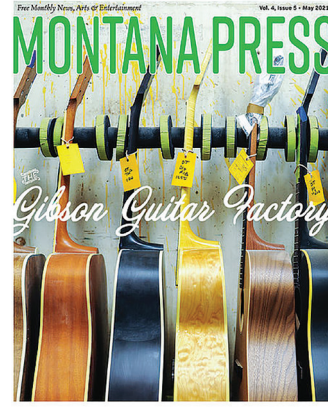
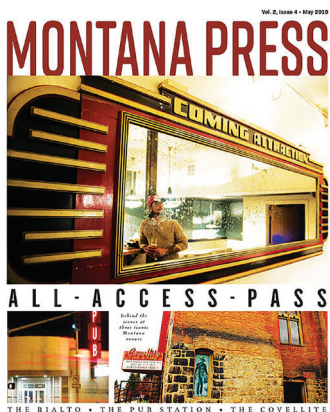
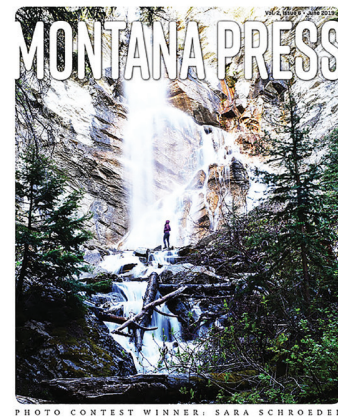
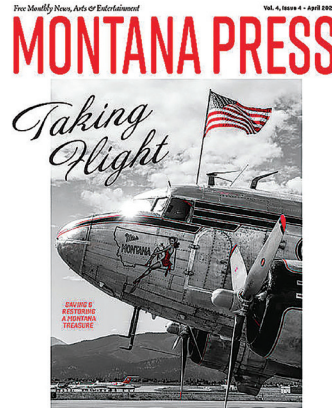
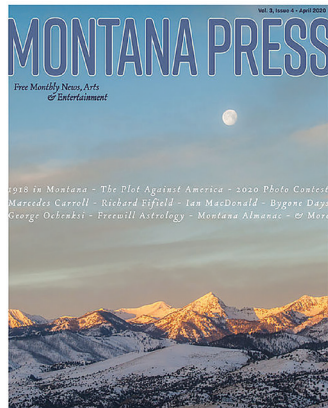
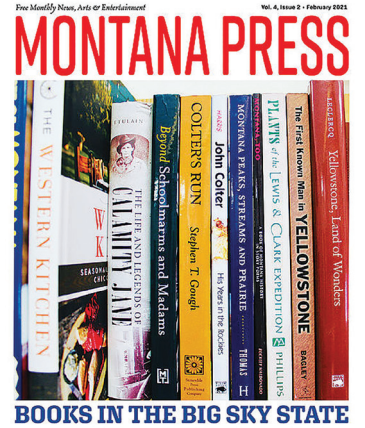
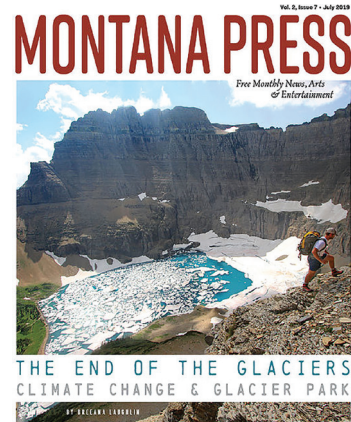
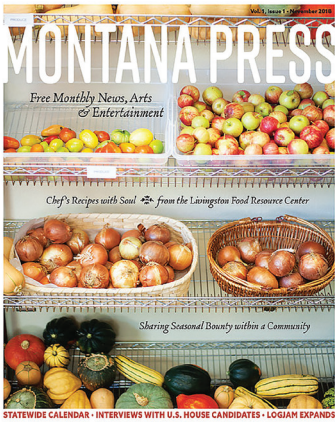
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A self-described “anarchist witch” named Lars writes on his Tumblr blog, “I am a ghost from the 1750s, and my life is currently in the hands of a group of suburban 13-year-olds using a ouija board to ask me if Josh from homeroom has a crush on them.” He’s implying that a powerful supernatural character like himself is being summoned to do tasks that are not worthy of him. He wishes his divinatory talents were better used. Are there any resemblances between you and him, Pisces? Do you ever feel as if you’re not living up to your promise? That your gifts are not being fully employed? If so, I’m pleased to predict that you could fix this problem in the coming weeks and months. You will have extra energy and savvy to activate your full potential.

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK: Describe the status quo situation you’re tired of, and how you’re going to change it. Tesify at newsletter@freewillastrology.com.

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