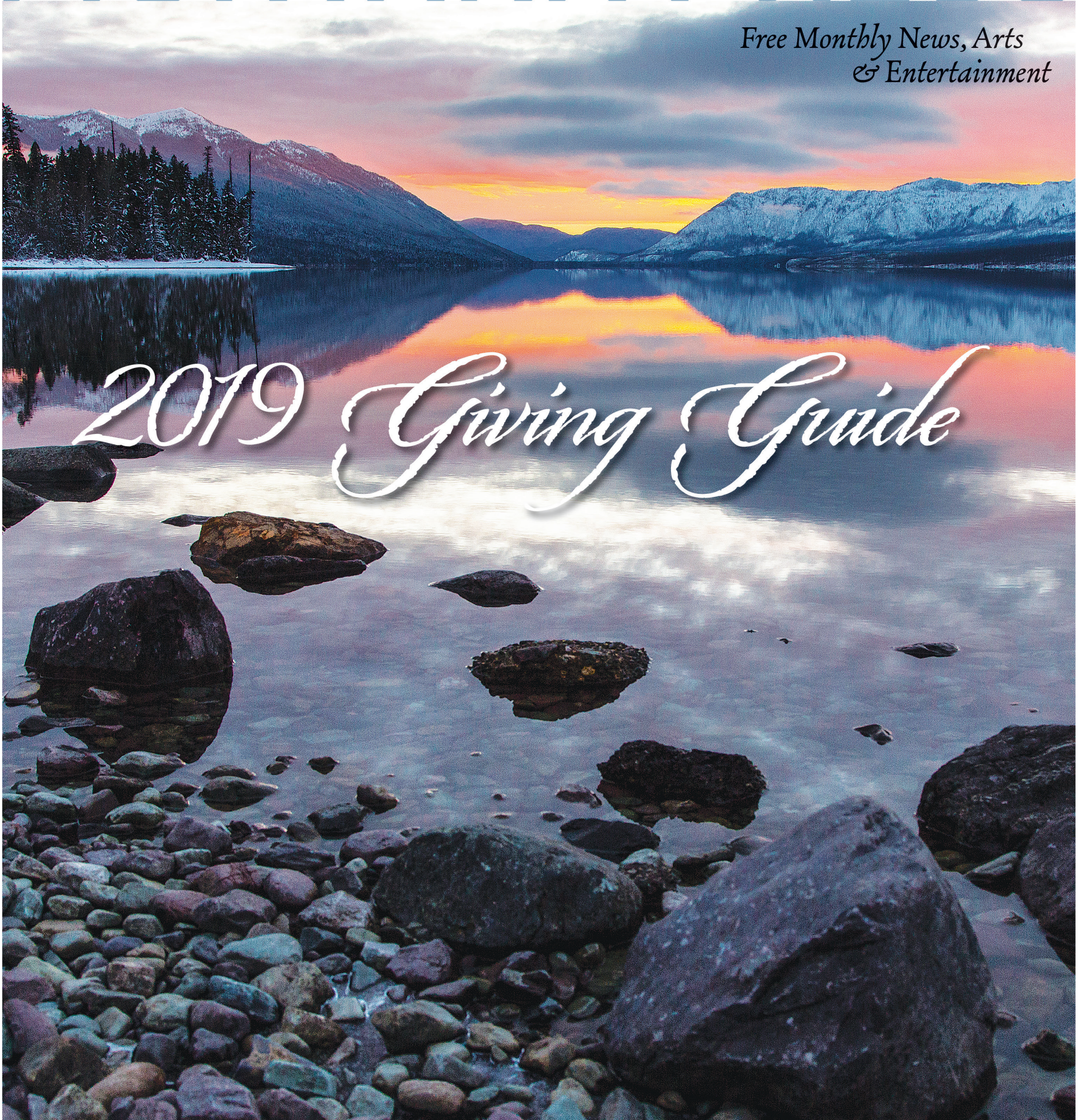


Vol. 2, Issue 12 • December 2019

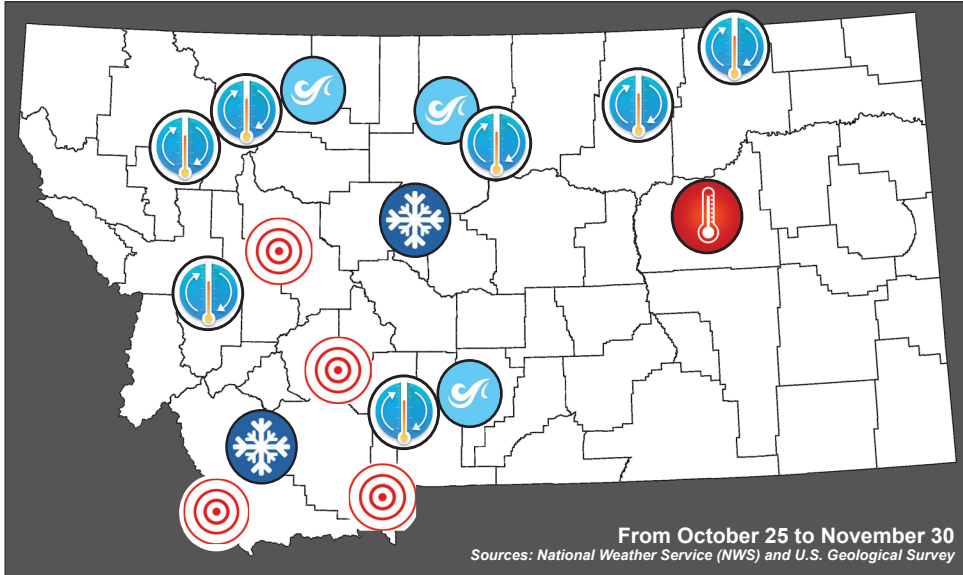
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MONTANA ALMANAC



Montana Smashes Low Temperature Records as Arctic Warms

On October 27, cold air from the arctic spilled south into Montana and brought low temperatures for Bozeman, breaking records two days in a row and besting records in Livingston, Billings, Dillon, Missoula, Butte, Kalispell, Heron, Thompson Falls, Hungry Horse and other communities across the state. -12 degrees in Livingston was the lowest October temperature on record for the station (-11 degrees on Oct. 30 in 1991) and Billings saw its coldest year since 1978. On Oct. 29, the temperature Gallatin Field in Belgrade reached -6 degrees, breaking the record of -2 set in 1971. The next day, Gallatin Field broke another record at -14 degrees (-10 degrees in 1991). Great Falls finished October 8.4 degrees below normal, one of the coldest locations in North America relative to normal. Glasgow averaged 40.1 degrees in October which was 4.6 degrees below normal, making it the coldest October there since 2009. Montana set a record for national low temperature on Nov. 1 at -9 degrees in West Yellowstone and on Nov. 7 with a temperature -12 degrees 19 miles south of Rudyard. By Nov. 9, areas of Montana has warmed to the high 60s even though temperatures dropped by 30 degrees in the course of a day in Great Falls. Warm weather persisted across the state and Hardin and other areas noted highs in the high 60s through Nov. 10, a day when the high temperature in Dillon hit 54 degrees. By 5 p.m., after a cold front passed through the area and enveloped the state. Dillon was down to 19 degrees, or 35 degrees colder, and most areas of the state saw lows in the teens to even 20s below zero. By Nov. 18, temperatures in Livingston, Miles City and Billings were again in the 50s and 60s. Over the reporting period, the highest temperature at 76 degrees was recorded at Jordan Airport on Oct. 26 and the lowest at -24 degrees was recorded at Malta on Nov. 11.

Wind Gusts Across the State

Winds of over 55 mph were reported near East Glacier Park on Oct. 30. On Nov. 8, wind gusts of over 70 mph were recorded south of East Glacier Park. On Nov. 10, Flathead Lake recorded gusts over 40 mph. Wind gusts of over 50 mph were recorded in Havre on Nov. 11, when another arctic cold front moved through the state. On Nov. 17, wind gusts near 60 mph were reported near Cascade and northwest of Denton. Gusts of 45 to 60 mph were also reported in Fort Benton. Strong winds were also reported up to 60 mph on the Rocky Mountain Front on Nov. 22. On Nov. 23, peak wind gusts of 92 mph were measured at Deep Creek near East Glacier and a gust of 73 mph was measured at Dupuyer. Strong wind advisories were issued for the Browning area which experienced sustained 70 mph winds and residents were advised to stay indoors. Winds of 50 to 70 mph were also recorded in Teton County on the same dates. On Nov. 24, wind speeds of 77 mph were recorded in Greycliff and 71 mph in Livingston.

Let it Snow!

For the period beginning July 1 through Oct. 26, 2019, NWS Great Falls has received 31.6 inches of snow, which is the highest snow-to-date for this period on record. In a "normal" season Great Falls has this amount on Feb. 1. Coming in at second place is 1984 with only 18.1 inches snowfall. By Nov. 30, Great Falls finished Meteorological Fall (Sept. 1-Nov. 30) with 60.4" of snow. The next highest years are 1985 (29.1") and 1984 (26.8"). Normal snowfall during Meteorological Fall at Great Falls is 13.4". Other areas of Montana also saw significant snowfall records and some community, like Choteau and Cut Bank, received nearly their entire normal seasonal snowfall by Oct. 28. Heavy snowfall on Nov. 27 prompted the closure of Interstate 15 north of Shelby to the Canadian border. Snowfall reports from the late November storm included 16" in Beayerhead County, 20" in Ulm, 15" in Marysville, 10" in Albrow Lake, 14" in Dupuyer Creek, 12" in Dutton and 14" in Choteau. With 7.7", Great Falls set snowfall record for Nov. 28 (5.2" set in 2010).

Arctic Blast Affects North America

An arctic blast shattered hundreds of November cold records across the central and eastern U.S. during Veterans Day week. Culling National Weather Service statements for over 400 daily mid-November cold records, including record lows and record-cold high temperatures, were tied or set across the nation from Veterans Day through Nov. 14. Among daily record lows set included -21 degrees in Turner, Montana on Nov. 11.

Earth Movements

Earth Movements around the state during the reporting period include a 2.8 magnitude earthquake at 5 km depth on Nov. 1 east of Lima, a 3.0 magnitude quake at 5 km depth on Nov. 10 just west of West Yellowstone along with a smaller 2.8 magnitude quake with 5.8 depth on Nov. 28. Also reported were a 2.8 magnitude quake at 5 km depth north of Scobey on Nov. 12, a 2.8 magnitude quake with a depth of 32.3 km on Nov. 15 north of Lincoln and a 2.8 magnitude quake at 5.1 km depth east of Townsend on Nov. 26. Smaller earth movements were recorded in Eureka, Manhattan, Seeley Lake and Three Forks.

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ON THE COVER A sunset on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park. Donations to Glacier National Park Conservancy help fund programs to keep the park and its heritage areas maintained and improved. *Photo: Montana Dept. of Tourism (www.visitmt.com).*

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BYGONE DAYS

Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1895, 1934 and 1960. For daily Bygone Days, follow online at: @MontanaPress on Facebook.

Helena Independent
December 1, 1895

“Opening Mardi Gras - The Happy Hour Social Club Opens the Season of 1896. As usual the Happy Hour social club is again to the front with amusements in the wintry months, announcing the first grand prize masquerade ball of the season, to be given at the Auditorium, Thursday, Dec. 5. With banners flying Prinz Carnival will make his appearance, followed by a procession of his subjects, which will in splendor and magnificence present a beautiful appearance. Prof. Gilhooley’s Ballyschloggan band will play the opening march, and there will be an unusually large number of ‘getups’ and characters of all denominations present. The prizes to be awarded are unique and attractive, for which there undoubtedly will be many contests. Judging from talk around town, this will be a great event and a greater success than anything before attempted by this club.”

Dillon Examiner
December 4, 1895

“Hecla Mine - A Newsy Letter from that Thriving Mining Camp. Since I last wrote very little has occurred to mar the monotony of the camp. The usual number of men are employed in the mines and the present output is about the same as it has been for the past summer. From present indications Hecla will be a live camp for some time to come. Dr. Lewis fills a long felt want to the camp. He says he is a doctor and your correspondent calls him one through courtesy. It is freely admitted however, that if unadulterated gall added anything to medical skill the gentleman would rank high in the honored profession. The doctor has a small pocket edition of a drug store from which he fills his prescriptions on the shortest notice. No ailment is too complicated for him



to tackle. Formerly Dr. Jones, of Glendale, treated the sick of the camp, but of late home talent seems to be in demand. The Hecla doctor takes his medicine regularly at one of the saloon bars, and by so doing demonstrates that even poison can be taken in small doses. Our professional gentleman claims to have practiced at a Sioux Indian agency, in Dakota, but of late it seems he has risen to the dignity of a Hecla ‘medicine man.’”

The Columbia Falls Columbian
December 5, 1895

“Mrs. A.W. Elder, through her attorney, George Haldorn, brought suit against the Great Northern Railway company for \$5000 damages. Mrs. Elder alleges in her complaint that she bought a ticket at the company’s office in Butte on July 6, 1895, for St Paul, and on the way to the latter place was put off the train by the conductor at Glasgow, Montana. Mrs Elder says she is seventy years old and a delicate woman and was confined to her bed for three weeks after the affair.”

The Anaconda Standard
December 8, 1895

“A murderous assault was made yesterday morning at the Deer Lodge county jail upon Jailer Pat Brennan, by the notorious convict Robert Caruthers alias ‘Cyclone Bob.’ The prisoner used a pair of scissors and stabbed Brennan five times, three times driving at his heart, once on top of his head and once in his eye...his condition is critical...‘Cyclone Bob’ is a pal of ‘Mormon Kid’ another convict released from the penitentiary about the same time as Bob...Thursday afternoon he called on Bob at the county jail and took to him a flask of whiskey. Jailer Brennan’s watchful eye discovered the bottle and he refused to let ‘Bob’ have it...early yesterday morning about 4 o’clock he began making a disturbance. Jailer Brennan went into the corridor to quell the disturbance and this was just what ‘Cyclone Bob’ wanted. He immediately attacked Brennan with a pair of scissors which he had been permitted to use in cutting hair for his fellow prisoners, for Bob is a barber by trade...The officer had a billy which he used on the prisoner, but it broke over a hard head. ...‘Scotty,’... assisted ‘Cyclone Bob’ and they knocked Brennan down and would have killed him had not Pat Durham, also a corridor prisoner, come to the officer’s assistance. Durham is a powerful fellow and stood off the assailants until other help came. An effort was made yesterday to reward Durham by having the information against him nulled, but the matter has not yet been decided by the county attorney.”

The Anaconda Standard
December 12, 1895

“A novel state of affairs interested the patrons of Joe Corao’s Mint saloon last night. Madame Fraiser, a vocalist, appeared on the stage where the nightly concert is given and sang several popular songs. An immense crowd gathered, for such an occurrence is rare in Anaconda. In fact, the city ordinance expressly forbids women

singing in saloons, dance halls, etc. The programme had only got well underway when Chief White heard of it and he promptly notified the proprietor that it must stop at once. ‘I have not hired her,’ said Joe. ‘She is one of my patrons.’ ‘Can’t help that,’ replied the chief. ‘The city attorney says it’s against the law and I’ll have to arrest you if she sings in the house again.’... ‘All right; I promise you she sings no more in the saloon. I’ll open the back door; madam will sing in the alley.’ So she did, to the delight of a big house, who were tickled to death to see the law outwitted and by the rendering of the song just outside the back door, most appropriate to the occasion, ‘Sally in Our Alley.’”

Butte Montana Standard
December 20, 1934

“Aldermen Pass Ordinance Aimed to Squelch Marathon Dance Exhibitions In City...Levying a daily tax of \$125 upon endurance contests in or near the city and prohibiting them from accepting public patronage between the hours of midnight and 8 o’clock the following morning, aldermen concluded their year’s activities last night by directing their double-barreled death-dealing instrument at any plans for organization of a walkathon or marathon in Butte...This, they believe, definitely will keep such enterprises, which draw their largest crowds between midnight and dawn, from the frowning purlieus of Butte.”

Butte Montana Standard
December 23, 1934

“She’s 71, stooped and tiny. She’s going to spend Christmas and New Year’s in jail, and she’s glad the world’s been that good to her. She concealed her real name, and the police have booked her as Mary Doe. Once, they say, she had a home and children, and enough money for food and shelter. Things went wrong—the home broke up, the children left, and she started doing housework for a married couple. The man lost his job, and last week they had to let her go. Yesterday she stopped Officer Bart Riley. ‘I’m hungry,’ she said. ‘I’m cold and I haven’t any place to go. Christmas is coming on, too. I haven’t done anything wrong but do you suppose you could put me in jail? For a few weeks, maybe till I can find something to do?’ Securing permission from Chief of Police Jere Murphy, Riley placed the little old lady in jail on a state vagrancy charge...next Monday she probably will get a 90-day sentence. ‘It’ll be getting a little warmer about the last of next March,’ the kind-hearted cops explained.”

Helena Independent Record
December 25, 1960

“Everything seemed to be warming up to the Christmas spirit in Montana. Everything. Weather included. The weather, not cooperating with those wishing a white Christmas, was balmy on the eve of the joyous occasion celebrating the birth of Christ. Mercury climbed to the 50s in the Treasure State. And in one sort of a Christmas message the Montana Chamber of Commerce chided Jacksonville, Florida. It dropped below freezing at the Gator bowl in Florida... ‘Folks around Montana are unhappy. Here it is Christmas and no snow for the kids. Will appreciate any help you can give us.’”



The River Press, Fort Benton
December 28, 1960

“Several folks have indicated an interest in grain branding confetti since a recent grain theft was reported. Order for the confetti may be placed at the county extension office. The cost is \$9.00 for about 5 pounds, which would be around 600,000 pieces. The confetti would ideally be placed with the grain when it was unloaded in the bin during harvest. However, it can be placed at this time of the year at the auger door and also on top. A few thousand pieces scattered in a few hundred bushels of grain would be easy to spot, and difficult to remove....Grain branding has no legal status, it’s merely a good idea that apparently originated in Roosevelt county.”

The Madisonian, Virginia City
December 30 1960

“When Old Mom Nature rares up on her hind legs and starts huffing and puffing, she can sure be a windy wench. Anyone who has lived in this overgrown wind tunnel the past couple of weeks can vouch for that. And every time her breathing apparatus starts working that way our dryland fields—and some of the irrigated ones too—give birth to clouds of dust. The winds and dust are cursed and darned by multitudes of wailing voices. The wind is no account white trash because it messes hair, plays hob with skirts turns ducks and pheasants into jet propelled targets and generally interferes with calm and peaceful living. The dust is reviled because it messes up the little woman’s house, turns eyeballs red and reduces visibility for the traveler barreling along the highway.”

The Dillon Daily Tribune
December 30, 1960

“Nineteen sixty-one will be a topsyturvy year, in its numerical designation, but it will still come up with its fair share of long weekends, including the first one. If you don’t believe that numerical business, write the year, 1961 and turn it upside down. It reads the same. It’s the first time that has happened in 80 years, since 1881. And, if this bundle of arithmetic is correct, it won’t happen again for 4,048 years, until the year AD 6009. Maybe you can figure out something earlier, considering that only the numbers 0, 1, 6, 8 and 9 are capsizable.” ★

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MONTANA VOICE

Stormy December in the Political World

Buckle up for a rough ride in the month ahead, saddle pals! From absolute turmoil in Washington, D.C. to looming public utility and Superfund crises in Montana, the waves are high, the wind is howling and there are plenty of top-level politicos who will be taking on water in December. The impeachment of President Donald Trump continues unabated, despite the howling from the White House that it's "game over." The truth, a rare commodity these days, is that the evidence of Trump's impeachable crimes continues to pour forth from more and more witnesses with first-hand knowledge of phone calls, meetings, memos and more.

The House Intelligence Committee primarily focused on Trump's illegal withholding of Congressionally-approved military aid to the Ukraine in return for an announcement that investigations would be launched into Joe Biden's son Hunter and his involvement in Burisma, a natural gas company. But now the House Judiciary Committee is opening hearings that may go well beyond the Ukrainian scandals to investigate Trump's disregard for the law, Constitution, obstruction of justice, witness intimidation and separation of powers. Already legal experts are saying Trump's refusal to provide Congress with the materials it has requested is itself an impeachable offense.

Moreover, Trump is running out of excuses for obstructing the investigations. First it was a "witch hunt" based on hearsay, then it "lacked transparency" because some of the witnesses were interviewed in closed hearings despite the fact that the Republican committee members were present. Then it was "unfair" because Trump wasn't allowed to defend himself. But when the Judiciary Committee expressly invited the president or his attorneys to testify and provide whatever proof of innocence they had they decided not to do so. Finally, in early December the House Intelligence Committee released its report that concluded Trump "engaged in an unprecedented campaign of obstruction of this impeachment inquiry."

That leaves the public wondering: "If Trump's so innocent, why is he going through so much trouble to hide information from Congressional investigators?" And the public is right.

Just to keep the tempest howling through the holidays, Congress faces imminent deadlines for a dozen critical bills to fund the federal government. And what's the biggest obstacle? Yep, once again, it's Trump and his demand for billions for his border wall – a wall that is already being easily penetrated through the use of common and cheap reciprocating saws.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN MONTANA

Governor Steve Bullock just announced that he is "suspending" his presidential campaign, which kicked off a fire-storm of calls for him to run for the Senate against Re-

So here we go, Montanans.

Ending a year on a
turbulent note with what
appears to be an equally
turbulent election
year on the way.

publican incumbent Steve Daines. While Bullock would certainly be a formidable opponent and is likely the best candidate to challenge Daines and help return the Senate to Democrat majority, he has said repeatedly that he doesn't want to be in the legislative branch of government and prefers the executive.

Luckily, there's plenty of work for him to do in his current position as the chief executive of Montana. Citizens in Opportunity are now challenging what they believe is a less-than-acceptable cleanup of their community under the Superfund law in the U.S. Supreme Court. Given that Bullock admirably defended Montana's campaign contributions laws against the threat of Dark Money in the Supreme Court, he could certainly provide support for the citizens of his state in their battle to defend their right to a "clean and healthful environment," as guaranteed by the Montana Constitution, before the Supreme Court.

The citizens of Butte are likewise agonizing over a final consent decree on their Superfund cleanup which they find less-than-acceptable for many of the same reasons as their compatriots in Opportunity. They would certainly welcome Bullock stepping in on their side in the fight with ARCO-BP and the EPA.

Montana's utility consumers are about to be severely impacted by the earlier-than-expected closure of the Colstrip coal-fired power plants and the associated hundreds of millions of dollars in cleanup costs. The Public Service Commission, which is supposed to be guarding consumer's interests in utility costs, is instead embroiled in internal warfare with its members openly fighting with Chair Brad Johnson over travel expenditure abuses, lack of transparency, back-room dealmaking and more. Bullock could and should provide some leadership on the Colstrip situation now that he's back in the state.

So here we go, Montanans. Ending a year on a turbulent note with what appears to be an equally turbulent election year on the way. Hang on, buckle up, and hold tight... we're in for a rough ride. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

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MONTANA BOOKS

A Look Inside Russell Rowland's Latest Novel

How can one truly appreciate what it means to be Montanan? Fourth-generation Big Sky guy Russell Rowland tackles that question in his new novel, aptly titled “Cold Country.”

The engaging Bozeman-born author of numerous novels is also a literary coach and host of “Fifty-Six Counties,” a new literary chat fest on Yellowstone Public Radio named after his state tour book of the same name.

In his latest novel, Rowland takes the reader back to Paradise Valley circa 1968, where the ranching community is totally thrown from saddle when popular bachelor ranch owner Tom Butcher is found beaten to death by a baseball bat.

While the tight-knit locals immediately suspect newcomer Carl Logan, who had just relocated with his family and troubled son Roger, the author's clever unfolding of the truth reveals just how many of Butcher's buds could have gone all MLB on their BFF.

But the way that Rowland came to psychoanalyze his own upbringing in fiction is every bit as fascinating as this new book itself.

Were you a reader as a kid?

You know, it's funny; I didn't really read all that much, even. There was a period – in fact, it was the period on which this book is based – when I did read a lot when I was living on this ranch and sort of not getting along with any of the kids. I actually did show up at school with loafers and looked around and like, holy shit, I'm not going to fit in here. And I used that framework and threw in the murder to kind of spice it up a bit.

I was one of those goody two-shoes who got straight A's and was a singer. I was the oldest, so I was an overly responsible kid. I was a music major as an undergrad. I wrote music, played in clubs for a while. My band was called The Authorities. I played keyboards. But yeah, I didn't really have the dis-

cipline or the passion for it that I do for writing, so I got discouraged easily.

Where did you graduate high school?

In Billings. We moved to Billings when I was 12. My mom's family ranch (outside Billings) was established in the late 1800s, so it's been there forever. I got my B.A. at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. where I graduated in music education. Those were my drinking years. My major was based on the fact that I got a scholarship, but I didn't really want to teach music.

Did drinking awaken your inner scribe?

I didn't read too much until my twenties, when I quit drinking. Post-grad, I was going through a divorce and had a bunch of financial problems, so that's why I joined the Navy, to get all that taken care of. My dad was an alcoholic and he got sober when I was 23, so I knew enough about AA by then to realize that it was just a matter of time for me. I joined the Navy when I was in my late 20s, so I was already sober by then.

Where were you stationed?

I was stationed at the sub base in New London, Connecticut. I wasn't actually on a sub; I was on the ship that provided supplies and did repairs for submarines. I was on a ship but these ships hardly ever go anywhere because they have to be there for the subs, so it was kind of ideal, being on a ship that didn't go anywhere. Especially when I found out what the clientele in the Navy is like. So you could leave the ship at night, and I did that a lot.

Is that how you wound up in grad school at Boston University?

I only applied to two grad schools: Boston and Missoula. For some reason, I always wanted to live in Boston and I got accepted to both of them, so I decided to go to Boston just for a change. Plus, I was stationed in Connecticut in the Navy right before grad school, so I just went up the road a hundred miles or so.

Post-trauma, you earned you M.A. in literature. How come?

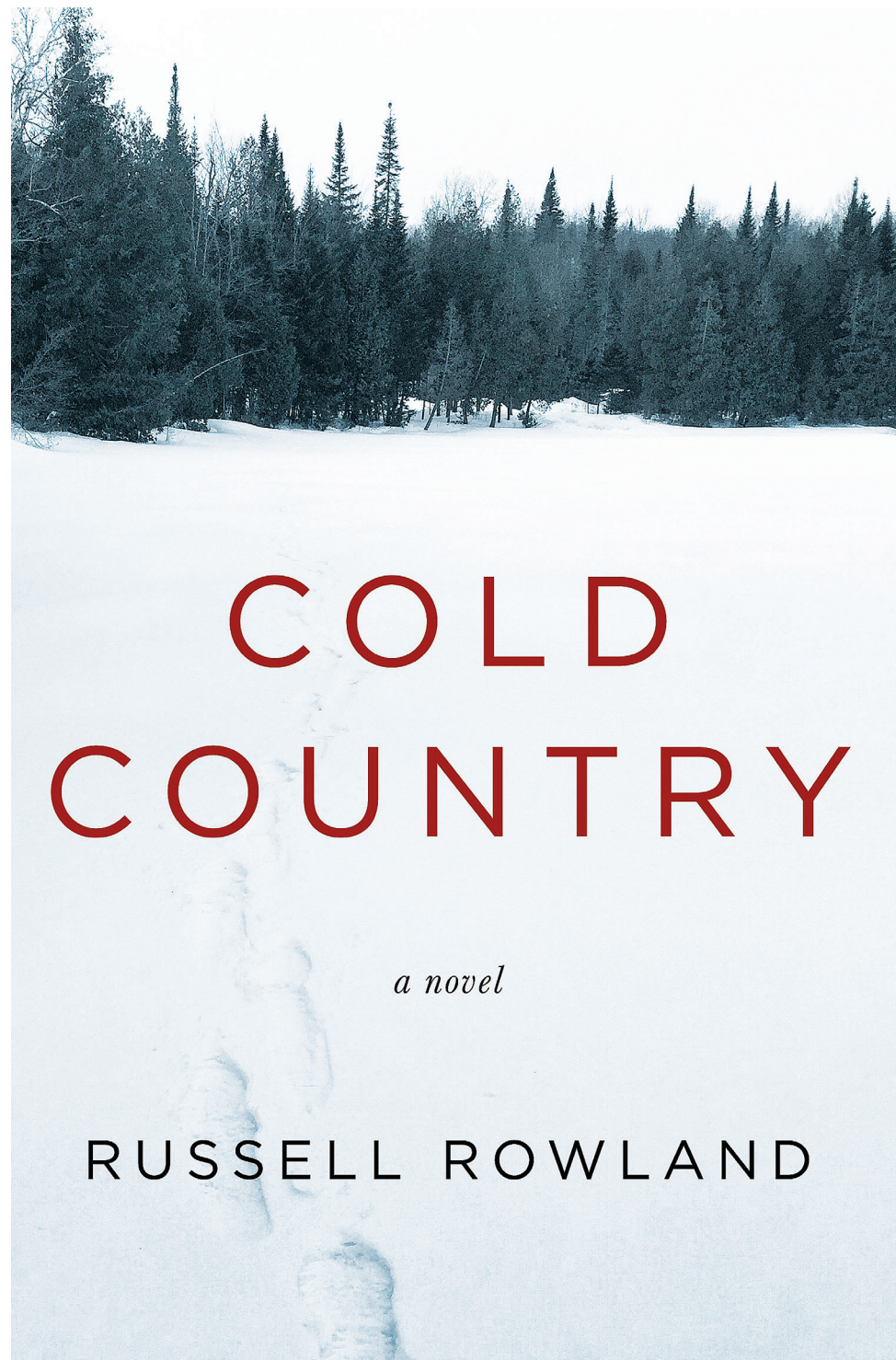
By that time, I had decided that I wanted to be a writer, and this is probably typical of a lot of writers but I gave myself one year to get published when I made the big decision. And my first novel (“In Open Spaces”) came out 15 years later, when I was living in San Francisco, so things didn't go according to my plans. I think I had four novels finished before my first one was published, so I had the bug. It's a disease, really.

How did you like San Francisco?

I loved San Francisco. I worked at an advertising agency.

Were you writing ads?

No, I was actually in the finance department! They wouldn't even consider hiring me for copywriting, even though I had a masters in creative writing. It was really



weird. Ad people are strange, man. I worked in the finance department and I was actually glad because it was kind of mindless work, so I could put my mental energy into my writing. I was there for 12 years and I think five was about enough, but eventually I figured out that I wasn't a big city guy. I came back to Montana and I felt immediately at home and so much more relaxed.

How did you make a living post-ad agency?

We moved back to Billings in 2007 and by that time, I had found a gig with this online writing class out of New York called Gotham. I taught for them for almost 10 years, doing these workshops, and a lot of the people that I had in those classes ended up hiring me to help them with their book privately, so I got a lot of clients through those classes.

Anybody we'd know?

There was one person in particular who has done really well named Nancy Bilyeau (“Dreamland,” “The Crown,” “The Blue”), who had a series. She was kind of my star, but I had quite a few who got published. That was really satisfying, and of course I ended up learning a lot from them, too.

Your writing, both fiction and nonfiction, feels smooth and almost effortless.

Yeah, well, I was a huge fan of Raymond Carver when I first started writing, so I was

drawn to that minimalist style, but I also took this class in grad school from a nonfiction guy named Mark Kramer, and that guy was absolutely brutal when it came to editing. We would get our stories back and they'd be completely covered in red, so he taught me a lot about the art of saying a lot in as few words as possible.

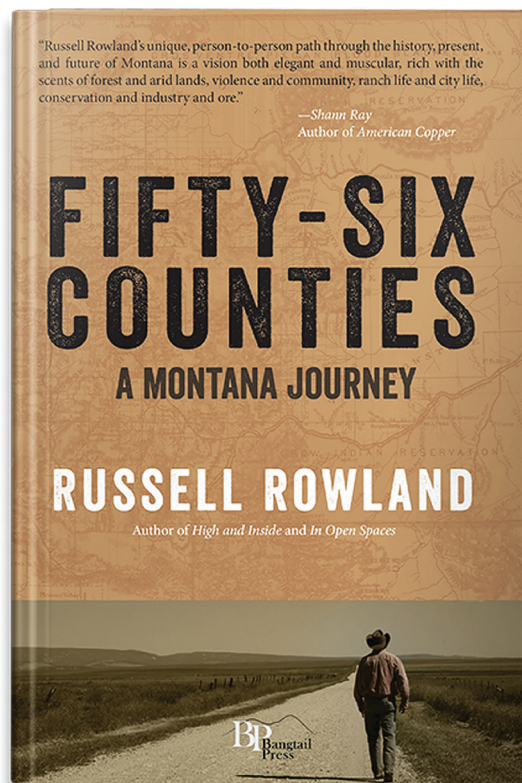
Were you writing fiction and nonfiction at that time?

No, I never saw myself as a nonfiction writer; it was strictly novels. In fact, “Cold Country” was one of them. That book has been in the works for a long time, 20 years or so.

Where did the plot of “Cold Country” come from?

Well, my dad took a job managing a ranch between here and Sheridan. The owner of the ranch was named Peter Kiewitt, who had a huge construction company; they built the BART (San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit) among other things, and he was this super-wealthy guy who lived in Omaha. So my dad was kind of left on his own to manage this ranch, because Kiewitt was always in Omaha.

My dad was the Peter Kenwood character, and the ranch was actually exactly as it was in the book; there were a lot of hands who worked on that place who were expecting to get the manager job, so when my dad showed



Author Russell Roland



up, they were like, ‘Who the fuck are you?’ So there was a lot of lack of cooperation there and we were treated pretty coldly by the locals. They weren’t mean; they just didn’t include us in stuff.

The on-page community you create is almost this amorphous thinking machine.

Right. Exactly. That’s what I wanted to capture, how that happens. It explains a lot of our political climate right now. Everyone follows the herd, and the people who are the loudest and most successful usually set the tone for that.

You broke through that non-fiction barrier with the wonderfully adventurous “Fifty-Six Counties,” in which you actually visit every Montana county.

That was so much fun. I split out the travel over about six months, doing four different loops through the state. I stayed with friends when I could. And I didn’t really know what it was going to look like either. I was fortunate to have a publisher that agreed to publish it before I had even started it, so I just planned my trips and once I gathered my research together, each chapter was based on a certain country.

I ended breaking out the chapters based on the industries – ranching and farming, the railroad, mining – and I just put the counties in each chapter that seemed like they belonged. It ended up having much more of a narrative that way.

Any negative feedback from your treatment?

A lot of people are unhappy with the way I portrayed their county, and I knew that was going to happen so it hasn’t bothered me. It’s just my opinion.

What are you working on now?

I’m working on a memoir. The basic premise of it is, I wanted to explore how growing up as a man in the West affects your personality.

We get so many mixed messages here about what it means to be a man and be tough and handle your problems by yourself. There’s a huge suicide rate here, especially among men. And along with my drinking problem and being divorced twice, I had a lot of anger issues when I was young, so I’m trying to direct a lot of that stuff, too. Just the basic inability to open up about things that we kind of struggle with out here in the West.

I’m also working on a new novel in which I’m trying to keep the character count down to just a few people, because a lot of my books have had so many characters. This one’s been a lot of fun. It’s about a woman who lives up in the Bakken where the oil boom is happening, an older woman who lives on her family farm and all of a sudden, she has all this money coming in from mineral rights, so she’s suddenly a person of interest to other people there. And she ends up hiring this young native kid to work for her on the farm, and at some point, she confides in him that she killed a guy, one of her boyfriends, and that he’s buried out on the farm.

And we’ll continue to enjoy your journey on YPR’s “Fifty-Six Counties,” right?

I’m having so much fun with that. It’s been going really well. There are just so many interesting people in Montana and I’ve been trying to look for maybe a little bit more obscure stories rather than the predictable ones. I’ve had some good guests. ★

—JAY MACDONALD

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MONTANA SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Filmmaker Erik Petersen: Preserving “Paradise”



Erik Petersen

Montana photojournalist, still photographer and filmmaker Erik Petersen sat down with the *Montana Press* staff to discuss his new film, “Paradise.”

Debating locally next month, this short film documents the effort to ban gold mining on public lands near Yellowstone National Park, and the unlikely associations formed between conservatives and conservationists that helped pass the federal Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act. Enacted in March 2019, the Act removed the possibility of mining on public lands in 30,370 acres that surround Yellowstone National Park in perpetuity.

MONTANA PRESS: What was the inspiration for the film and the story-making process?

ERIK PETERSEN: Well, the inspiration was just following this particular story that was in my

backyard and knowing what an important issue it is and was. I had just finished a previous film project, and I was looking for something else to work on. I have a family, so my projects need to be relatively local these days, and this one kind of checked all the boxes of being something I was passionate about, something that was close to home, and a story that had interesting characters and issues that were important to me.

I just started reporting it as you would any other story: doing some initial interviews to get a feel for who the players were, what the issues were, what the back story was and figuring out what the narrative arc was going to be.

Bryan Wells, the main character, is super-compelling in that he is a traditional conservative. He is pro-mining, pro-logging, and fiscally and socially conservative. But on this particular issue, because he has had

a history with mine companies and getting burned by them, he felt strongly enough to step out of his box, cross political barriers and join forces with a group that he would probably never have had interactions with, and certainly not become friends with, outside of an issue like this.

MONTANA PRESS: Wells says in the film, “If you want to have a powerful voice, you have to leave politics at home.”

PETERSEN: Working with Bryan was a great joy. He’s such a wonderful person and so thoughtful; he doesn’t say much but what he says carries weight. I think that’s why people gravitate toward him and like him. It’s always hard doing these film projects because I’m asking so much of the subjects. I’m asking them to open up their life and their homes and their family and their beliefs.

MONTANA PRESS: Did you suggest Bryan’s epic hike to Emigrant Peak which is depicted in the film?

PETERSEN: Yes. Not only was I asking him to open up his life and his home to me, but I was asking him to do something, physically, that was really demanding. And he wasn’t entirely sure he would be capable of it.

MONTANA PRESS: Who are some of the other characters in “Paradise?”

PETERSEN: The other main characters in the film are Lynette Jones, co-owner of Katabatic Brewing, [lodge owner] Jeff Reed and Dale Sexton, the owner of Timber Trails [an outdoor gear store].

The reason I chose these three characters is they each represented a form of outdoor recreation, namely, fishing, hunting, and back-country skiing.

The business coalition formed because there’s such a robust outdoor-recreation economy in Paradise Valley, and honestly in all of Montana. One of our biggest assets and one of our biggest economic driving forces is outdoor recreation. To put that on the line for a short-term monetary gain like gold mining, something that has so much potential for environmental destruction, is ridiculous.

MONTANA PRESS: In the film, there are some fairly extreme scenes from the Montana backcountry. What were some of the challenges of capturing the wilderness of the Absaroka Mountains?



“Paradise” screens in Montana on January 9 in Livingston at the Shane Center, January 10 in Bozeman at the Ellen Theater and January 11 in Red Lodge at the Roman Theater. Musician Ryan Acker, who composed the original score for the film, will be performing live music at some of the events. The film will be released on Vimeo in early 2020.



MONTANA PRESS: What kind of input did the other sources and organizations, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Park County Environmental Council, Strategies North and others have on the project?

PETERSEN: They were the sponsors of the film. Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Patagonia, Park County Environmental Council, Wisetail, Strategies North, and Sweetwater Fly Shop all sponsored it.

MONTANA PRESS: Musician Ryan Acker wrote an original score for the film. How did you connect with that resource?

PETERSEN: Ryan and I met at Red Ants Pants [Music Festival] in White Sulphur Springs, because I also do their still photography, and he’d played there several years ago. When he started hanging out in Montana more and more, I reconnected with him. I asked him if he’d be interested in something like this. He was super excited. He wrote the music for it. The fun part is he’s going to be touring with the Montana screenings, so he’ll be playing some live music at the live events that we do.

MONTANA PRESS: What is the process of distributing “Paradise” and bringing it to the big screen?

PETERSEN: Part of the process when I finish these films is identifying film festivals that they might be a good fit for. For this particular one, there’s a lot because it checks the box of both the outdoor-adventure film genre, which is what I normally work in, but also the conservation/environmental film festivals.

The world premiere was at the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Banff a couple weeks ago, and that’s the biggest of the outdoor-adventure film festivals. I was super excited to get it into Banff. One of the goals when I do these outdoor-adventure films is to get it into Banff, because they have such a big audience.

So far, “Paradise” has also been accepted into the D.C. Environmental Film Festival in Washington DC, as well as the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California in January. Following the film festival circuit and the local screenings, I will release it to the public via Vimeo.

MONTANA PRESS: Will you have special showings in Montana?

PETERSEN: Yes, the Montana screenings will be January 9 in Livingston at the Shane Center, January 10 in Bozeman at the Ellen Theater and January 11 in Red Lodge at the Roman Theater.

MONTANA PRESS: “Paradise” is a unique story because it brings together some unlikely political forces. Why do you think that is?

“Brian Wells, the main character, is super-compelling in that he is a traditional conservative. He is pro-mining, pro-logging, and fiscally and socially conservative. But on this particular issue, because he has had a history with mine companies and getting burned by them – knowing what happens when the ball starts rolling on these exploratory mine projects and knowing where that can lead – he felt strongly enough to step out of his box, cross political barriers and join forces with a group that he would probably never have had interactions with, and certainly not become friends with, outside of an issue like this.”

PETERSEN: I think that’s a big part of why there’s so much interest in it, because it’s unique in that it brought together people from all sides of the political spectrum.

MONTANA PRESS: How do you think the film fits into the current political climate in Montana and the country?

PETERSEN: This was one of the few examples in recent times in our country that people crossed the political aisle and worked together, and that’s a rarity these days. I think any time that happens it needs to be celebrated.

I think we’re divided politically in the media, but when it comes to talking person-to-person with people, we can all find common ground, especially in Montana. It’s worth celebrating when something like this happens, when people come together and set down their political beliefs and work together for a common goal.

Secretary of the Interior [Ryan] Zinke first signed a 20-year moratorium [on mining on public lands near Yellowstone National Park] and that was great. But it was only for 20 years. The Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act removed the possibility of mining on public lands on 30,000-plus acres around Yellowstone in perpetuity.

MONTANA PRESS: Why do you think politically-conservative elected officials like Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Greg Gianforte joined this effort to side with environmentalist groups in order to get the Protection Act signed and passed?

PETERSEN: I think that happened because they heard from their constituents. People spoke up, including Republicans, including Democrats, including Libertarians. People from all walks of life and all sides of the political aisle spoke up, and they listened to their constituents, which is their job. From my perspective it’s not Daines’ doing it or [Senator Jon] Tester doing it; it’s that they all did it. They all listened to their constituents. They all did their jobs.

I think it’s a really good example of setting aside our differences and working together for a common goal. That’s the takeaway. Yellowstone is a treasure to the world, not just our country. There’s a lot of reverence for that place, regardless of who you are or where you’re from. ★

Photos courtesy of Erik Petersen

PETERSEN: Well, the biggest challenge was the hike itself. I mean, not just physically, but logistically as well. Making sure that we had the equipment we needed and were set up for the shots that we needed. We had a four-person film crew on that hike segment.

MONTANA PRESS: Had you hiked Emigrant peak before?

PETERSEN: Well, the skiing scene with Dale, that was my first time. That was two years ago, when we backcountry skied up to the top and then skied off of it. I hiked it one more time before going with Bryan, to scout it and to figure out where we wanted to do what. I think I made it up there four times during the filming.

MONTANA PRESS: What is your connection to Montana, and your background in photography and film?

PETERSEN: I grew up in Minnesota and moved to Montana right after I graduated college. I started here in Livingston, at the Livingston Enterprise in 2000 as a photographer and then got a job at the Bozeman Chronicle where I was a staff photographer until about 2012, when I left the newspaper industry and started doing freelance work.

I traveled to central Asia for several years with the Central Asia Institute, documenting their work in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and then taught as an adjunct at the University of Montana in the journalism department for a couple of years. I also got my master’s degree in science journalism there.

Part of the thesis for that master’s degree was my first film. When I was going to school in Missoula, I met this old-timer, this 89-year-old guy named Bob Hayes, who was still running absurd amounts daily and running 50K races, and still cutting his firewood with a crosscut saw and doing these old-time things to stay active and vital. I did a magazine story about him, photographed and wrote a story about him. When I got done, I was like, there’s still so much of his story to tell.

I approached Jeremy Lurgio, who is a professor in the department, because he had some film background, and said, “Hey, I’ve got this great character and this great story,

I’ve never done a film before. I would like to do one on this guy, would you be interested in partnering with me?” He said yes.

We spent two years filming “The Hard Way,” and that was my first film project. The film went all over the world, because Hayes was such a great and likable character. I think the theme was universal and really resonated with people. It was my first taste of filmmaking but because of the character, it played in China and South America and went to Banff Mountain Film Festival and Telluride and some of the biggest film festivals, at least in the outdoor-adventure genre.

I got a taste of that and was like, wow, this is a really powerful medium. I had been doing still photography at that point for 15 years, and it was neat to learn a new medium and be challenged in a new way. After that, I started augmenting my still- photography business with a passion project I would select each year, just because I like the process of making films, and I wanted to build that toolkit out for being able to use for my other commercial clients.

“Paradise” is the fourth film I’ve done.

MONTANA PRESS: What was the process of getting “Paradise” produced?

PETERSEN: I applied for a media grant from Patagonia in 2018. Their media grant is unique in that they just back projects that align with their mission and there’s zero editorial oversight, which was pretty cool

MONTANA PRESS: Did you have any other partners in the project?

PETERSEN: The filmmaking world is not a one-person program, unlike still photography, which is my background. I realized that I had a lot of holes that needed to be filled; reaching out to people in the industry and building a team to do these projects is pretty important. It’s such a complex process compared to still photography.

Kirk Rasmussen of Topographic Media is one of the people I brought in. I met him at the Banff Filmmakers Workshop a couple years ago. He lives in Wyoming. so it’s close enough that we can collaborate on projects. He was a second camera and co-director on this project. And Jeremy Lurgio, who teaches up in Missoula in the journalism department, this is the third film that we’ve collaborated on. He was the editor.

2019 Giving Guide

Volunteer Donate Participate

Every year during the holiday season, people around the world dip in their pocketbooks to give gifts to one another. At the end of the year, those who find themselves in good fortune are often able to give back to their communities in the form of donations of funds and time.

So many worthwhile organizations across the state can use the assistance of the public as volunteers and participants at all levels. In Montana, we have thousands of non-profits and organizations devoted to making sure people across the state take care of one another, and that quality of life in Montana is ensured for every resident, especially the most vulnerable in the state's population.

The following is a highlight of just a few of the many Montana organizations worthy of donations of time, energy or funds this holiday season and year-round, from organizations supporting veterans' mental health to entities supporting activities for the disabled and regional arts programming.

Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation

www.warriorsandquietwaters.org
351 Evergreen Dr, Ste A,
Bozeman, MT 59715
585-9793

Since 2007, the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation (WQW) has provided over 700 Fishing Experiences to combat veterans and spouses/caregivers from across the nation. All therapeutic programs are based out of Quiet Waters Ranch, 112 peaceful acres near the base of the Bridger Mountains. After undergoing ADA-accessible renovations, Barnard Lodge (the main home at Quiet Waters Ranch) guarantees every program participant an experience devoid of physical barriers in which to promote healing and resilience throughout participation in a therapeutic fishing experience.

According to WQW, recruiting methods are evolving in an effort to meet the ever changing needs of post-9/11 combat veterans

and their families. WQW has also expanded programming to serve military caregivers, spouses, and active duty special operations military personnel, recognizing the positive impact a the experience has upon service members who continue to experience high stress and kinetic environments.

Volunteer applications are accepted year-round. To be considered for program placement in 2020, applications must be submitted by January 31, 2020. Volunteer interviews will take place in January and February, 2020. Program volunteers will be notified of placement by March 1, 2020. Regardless of program placement, all applicants will be considered for opportunities outside of direct program support.

Eastern Montana Mental Health Center

www.emcmhc.com/donations/
2508 Wilson St
Miles City, MT 59301
234-0234

The Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center was established in 1967 with a mission to provide quality, professional, comprehensive mental health care and substance abuse treatment services to the citizens of Eastern Montana in ways that respect the dignity of citizens and communities.

Due to the confidential nature of the services provided, the organization does not work with volunteers but the offices across eastern Montana maintain wish lists online for certain items needed and accept all donations to facilitate operations of four offices in Miles City, Glendive, Glasgow and Sidney.

Jeff Regan, Chief Operating Officer for the organization, shared more information about the organization and its plans for providing comprehensive care to the most rural counties in Montana.

MONTANA PRESS: What are the origins of the Eastern Montana Mental Health Center and what is its mission?

JEFF REGAN: We've been in service for over 50 years, since 1967. The biggest thing for us is that we're focused on mental health and substance abuse treatment in the 17 most rural counties in the state. Pretty much from Malta over to North Dakota on the Highline, and all the way from Wyoming border to the Canadian border. Those are the 17 counties we serve. We are committed to helping create healthy and secure communities through a comprehensive system of care that holds paramount the needs of the consumers. Vital to this commitment as a network of services and professional providers and offices offering services of unparalleled value.

MONTANA PRESS: Where are your offices located?

JEFF REGAN: Glendive, Glasgow, Sidney and Miles City are our big offices, our major offices. We have satellite offices in pretty much every little town in our area. We provide services in Baker and Broadus and Circle and other small communities, and we partner with the hospitals and private providers that are in those communities.

MONTANA PRESS: Is this the only care available in some of these smaller areas?

JEFF REGAN: Yes. That's our stated goal: to try to work within all those small communities that we have in our area and the big ones, too. We have a sliding fee scale for people, and we work off that to make care as affordable as possible for people. We work with a lot of people who are on Medicaid and Medicare and private insurance. We also do a lot of work with vets and veteran's services.

MONTANA PRESS: How could someone become involved with helping your organization? Do you accept donations?

JEFF REGAN: We sure do. You can go to our website, which is www.emcmhc.com, and you can see all the services we have, everywhere that we're serving, a special spot for clients who need to reach out, and a donation link. These funds will go directly to helping the people of Eastern Montana.

Montana Press: What was a significant success for the organization in the last year?

JEFF REGAN: We've started some new services. We've expanded our prevention of substance abuse and alcohol services in much of our area. We've also added a new mental-health group home in Glendive; it's an 8-bed group home there that just opened up in August of this year. That's been really helpful for people who have those mental health needs that can't necessarily be handles on their own. It gives them a place to be in the Glendive area. Opening that group home in Glendive was a big step for us. I think that's just helpful for the whole Eastern area.

MONTANA PRESS: Are there any significant projects or programs planned for the future of the organization?

JEFF REGAN: We've formed a formed partnership with Rimrock, the organization out of Billings, to make sure that we're providing all the services that we can out here in Eastern Montana and sharing some resources that we have. That just started over this past a couple of months and we'll be building off of that. And we've added a lot of school-based mental-health service programs throughout our area for children. We have six programs, one in Miles City and one in Broadus, three in Huntley Project and then one in Glendive. Those services are really impactful in the communities that we serve.

Montana Food Bank Network

www.mfbn.org
5625 Expressway
Missoula, MT 59808
721-3825

The Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) is a Missoula-based non-profit organization that solicits, gleans, sorts, repackages, warehouses and transports donated food and distributes it to charitable programs throughout the state of Montana, directly serving needy families, children and seniors.

Support for MFBN programs comes from a variety of sources. Gifts from individuals, grants from foundations, workplace giving campaigns, and corporate sponsorship are all sources of financial support for funds used to carry out a mission of feeding hungry people in Montana.

Stephanie Stratton, Chief Programs Officer for MFBN, discussed the origins of the organization and plans for continued work eliminating hunger in Montana.



Photo by Studio McLeod

MONTANA PRESS: What are the origins of the Montana Food Bank Network?

STEPHANIE STRATTON: We were established in 1983. The organization was originally out of Glendive and was called Action for Eastern Montana. Somewhere along the line, Montana Food Bank Network or Action for Eastern Montana joined Feeding America, which is a nationwide, hunger-fighting organization. They're our parent organization and since that time, we've grown to a network of over 280 partners throughout the state as well as hold a couple of contracts with DPH, HHS and FWP.

MONTANA PRESS: What is the organization's stated mission?

STEPHANIE STRATTON: Our mission is to end hunger in Montana through food acquisition, distribution, education and advocacy.

MONTANA PRESS: How can people become involved with the organization's activities? How can individuals donate goods or services, volunteer time or funds?

STEPHANIE STRATTON: They can go to www.mfbn.org and sign up through our website for volunteer shifts to come out to our warehouse (in Missoula) and pack food for the lovely folks throughout Montana. They can also donate through our website as well. We have a couple of different campaigns and different needs. If people want to focus on childhood hunger, there's options there. If people want to focus on senior hunger or just general hunger issues or help with operating, there are options through the donation portal.

MONTANA PRESS: What's been a significant milestone or plateau in the last year in your organization that you can look to as a success? What are your plans for the future?

STEPHANIE STRATTON: We are on track this year to distribute over 12 million pounds of produce, and that is through our grocery store and retail partnerships. The organization will be revisiting and revamping our strategic plan this coming summer. At that point, once we've gone through that process, then we'll have some new visions and new goals going forward.

Essential Eats Distributors

Email: essentialeats@aol.com
1139 Harrison
Missoula, Montana 59802
829-6348

Essential Eats Distributors (EED) is a grassroots organization working with local volunteers and area farmers, meat packers, and other wholesalers to provide fresh meat and vegetables to outlying communities of the Blackfeet Nation. EED provides a monthly pantry box to Babb, Blackfoot, Heart Butte, and East Glacier during the school year to children and their families. The group also serves Big Sky High School in Missoula with a SnackPack program which distributes 100 pre-packed food supplements to its students per week; 27 teachers request to use the program. The organization is laying groundwork to serve Seville and Starr School in late 2019, which would increase output to 200 pantry boxes every month.

Last school year, EED provided 35,000 pounds of food, six elk, hundreds of dozens of eggs, \$35,000 of new clothing, and 120 bikes and helmets to the Blackfeet Nation, working in cooperation with dozens of other organizations with a focus on Heart Butte. EED is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization.

Casting For Recovery

www.castingforrecovery.org
109 E Oak St Ste 1G
Bozeman, MT 59715
624-6583

The mission of Casting for Recovery (CfR) is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. Retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with other women and nature. CfR's retreats are open to women of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery for breast cancer, and are free to participants.

Since their founding in 1998, CfR has conducted more than 750 retreats, serving over 10,000 women across the nation. The organization currently offers 59 annual retreats in 42 states. 2018 post-retreat evaluations show that, after attending a Casting for Recovery retreat, 99% would recommend the program to others, 98% felt connected with other participants, 98% gained a new support base with new friends, 92% felt better able to cope with their situation, 92% learned something new about living with breast cancer, 98% received new ideas or resources to improve their quality of life, 98% were inspired to include more outdoor activities at home (walking, mindfulness in nature, fly fishing, etc.). Whether an avid fly fisher, a go-getting fundraiser or just a passionate supporter, CfR is always seeking more volunteers. Check out the volunteer opportunities on the CfR website or by calling the number listed.

Montana Racial Equity Project

www.themtrep.org
PO Box 11885
Bozeman, MT 59719
(406) 624-6820

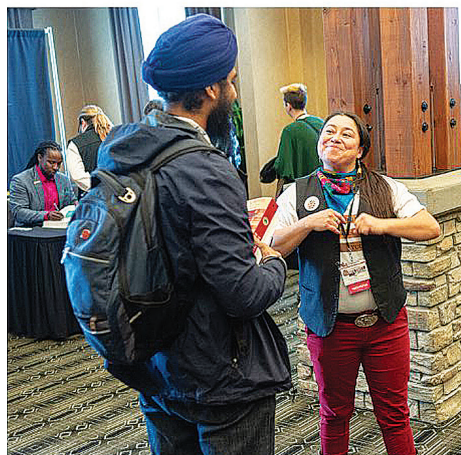
The Montana Racial Equity Project, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, advocates equity and justice for historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed peoples in Montana. The organization provides education and training and activates organizers, individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses to invest in interrupting racism, bigotry, and prejudice whenever encountered. Program Director Meshayla Cox shared stories of success and progress in Montana.

MONTANA PRESS: What are the origins of the Montana Racial Equity Project?

MESHAYLA COX: We were founded in 2015 by Judith Tullman, who is now the executive director of the organization. She noticed a need within the community to talk about race, and that there wasn't really an open way to have discussions on race. People weren't aware of how to facilitate those conversations, and there weren't any organizations doing specific work around racial injustices in Montana.



(Above) Dr. Ibram X. Kendi at the REP Conference



MONTANA PRESS: What is the organization's stated goal or mission?

MESHAYLA COX: Our mission is to decrease the expression of racism in all of its forms. We advocate for people who, while not voiceless, have oftentimes been unheard or unrecognized when we're in spaces of advocating for social justice.

MONTANA PRESS: How can people become involved with the organization's activities? How can individuals donate good services, volunteer time, donate funds?

MESHAYLA COX: People can donate through our website (www.themtrep.org). Our monthly newsletter is a great way to find out about the different things we have going on. Anyone interested in volunteering can actually contact me directly at mcox@themtrep.org, or just contact us through our website or phone number.

Our upcoming workshop in February will be a little bit shorter than our normal workshops, only about four to five hours, and it's for anyone who interacts with children. This includes parents, educators, or mentors, and it will feature ways to begin conversations on race that are healthy for children and easy for them to understand.

MONTANA PRESS: Can you tell me a significant event or aspect of the last year in your organization, that you can look to as a success for the organization?

MESHAYLA COX: Yes. I would say our biggest success was our 2019 conference; about 230 people attended. We partnered with the Montana Human Rights Network, the Montana Wilderness Association, and a brother-and-sister duo, Ivy and Ivan McDonald, who are doing a documentary on missing and murdered indigenous women ("When They Were Here"). The keynote speaker was Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, a renowned author who wrote, *From the Beginning: A Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. He engaged people in conversations about rethinking our lenses on race, how we think about racism, and how we think about combating racism.

MONTANA PRESS: What significant projects are planned for the future of the organization or in the coming year?

MESHAYLA COX: We periodically plan our "Ending Bias, Bigotry, and Racism" workshops, and they're normally hosted at the C'mon Inn (Bozeman). We are also doing work with community groups both in Bozeman and Missoula to honor the centennial of the suffrage movement. We are focusing on bringing forward the intersections of identity for black women within the movement, gaining access to voting rights, and we'll do some workshops on the access to the ballot.

We are also planning and working with organizations like Haven and Planned Parenthood, and have a virtual theater to put on what are called "unplanned story parties" to talk about women's access to reproductive health services. We try to do those at least twice a year now.

We have our 2020 conference next year, and it's looking like our focus will be on criminal justice reform; it will be our biggest one yet. We've also been getting more involved with consulting with organizations that are interested in doing equity and inclusion work within their organizations, looking at what it would take to make them an actual equal opportunity employer.

Chinook Horses

www.chinookhorses.org
481 S 56th St. West
Billings, Montana 59106
(917) 903-0873

Chinook Horses works to provide opportunities for individuals and families to engage, learn and thrive outside of the classroom and traditional therapeutic environments by practicing equine-assisted activities.

Abigail Hornik, the founder of Chinook Horses offers equine-facilitated psychotherapy, learning, and activities. Hornik earned certifications from the recognized Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, Inc. (EAGALA) and is an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning & Therapeutic Riding Instructor from the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, and is pursuing further affidavits. The organization offers unique and individualized services based on extensive staff training.

Chinook Horses offers equine-facilitated psychotherapy, equine-facilitated learning, and equine-assisted activities and learning at White Aspen Ranch which west of Billings. The facility includes a heated indoor, and multiple outside spaces.

Donations are accepted online in different denominations including amounts for enabling a Medicaid client to participate in a session (\$86) or providing a equine-facilitated learning experience for up to six children with special needs (\$218) among other options.



Eagle Mount

www.eaglemount.net
Bozeman, Billings and Great Falls

With the motto of “Everybody has challenges. We have adventures!” Eagle Mount organizations across Montana have been transforming the lives of people with disabilities and children with cancer since 1981. Eagle Mount opens up a world of adventures from skiing and horseback riding to swimming, rock climbing, kayaking, cycling, fishing, and other activities that foster freedom, joy, strength, focus, and confidence. Following its founders’ wishes, Eagle Mount never turns anyone away who cannot pay and does not accept any government funding. While the original Eagle Mount was founded in Bozeman, three organizations across the state now share the name and the same mission. To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit www.eaglemount.org (Bozeman) www.eaglemount.us (Billings) or www.eaglemount.net (Great Falls). Heather Martin, Coordinator of Operations at Eagle Mount in Great Falls, describes the mission and activities of the Eagle Mount programs in Great Falls.

MONTANA PRESS: What is your organization’s stated goal or mission?

HEATHER MARTIN: To provide recreational therapeutic recreation for anyone with a doctor-diagnosed disability. It could be physical, developmental, mental or behavioral, and we provide these services to all ages, up to 103.

We provide adaptive programming such as horsemanship and boarding, or sled hockey. We have a lot of programs: adaptive climbing, indoor climbing, soccer. We have a veteran’s program, we have a tippy toes program that is for infant and toddlers, and we have some seasonal programs like rafting. We even have a pontoon boat.

MONTANA PRESS: How can people become involved with the organization’s activities?

HEATHER MARTIN: The best way is to go to our website at www.eaglemount.net and read about programs. Click on “Get involved” and you can click on our “Participate” page. People can also donate directly through our website donate.

MONTANA PRESS: What are some opportunities for volunteers?

HEATHER MARTIN: It depends on the program. With the equestrian and the horsemanship program, we use volunteers to do side-walking with the horses or leading the horses. With ski and snowboarding, it’s actually helping them to learn how to ski or snowboard; hockey is the same.

MONTANA PRESS: What is something in the last year Eagle Mount could look to as a success?

HEATHER MARTIN: Just staying open every year as a nonprofit! This last fiscal year, we served 557 with about 300 volunteers. All of our programs have different successes. Our equestrian program is moving into helping veterans with PTSD. We’re getting a lot of children with PTSD as well who come abused families, and so many of our volunteers are pretty amazing in helping kids. They’re not therapists but they do a wonderful job just providing a recreation or an activity that some of these guys can’t do otherwise.



2019 Giving Guide

Montana School For The Deaf And Blind Foundation

www.msdb.mt.gov/foundation
3911 Central Ave
Great Falls, MT 59405
(800) 882-6732

The Foundation provides funds for programs that help prepare Montana School for the Deaf and Blind students for independent lives. The Foundation’s purpose is to benefit children and youths with vision or hearing loss who are students of or served by the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The funds are invested and reinvested and used to create a pleasant, homelike setting for students living away from home; provide programs and support to develop and enhance social skills; provide career training and preparation; encourage support and training of school graduates at the post-secondary level; encourage family involvement in student educational and social development; and provide other programs that enable students to take their rightful place as productive members of society.

The MSDB Foundation provides Montana’s deaf and blind children with opportunities for academic and social development similar to those of other children, in order to better prepare them for independent lives. With the help of many generous donors, the Foundation has funded a large technology program that brought the School into the 21st century, an updated and automated library with an expanded collection, a playground accessible for children with vision or hearing loss, and many programs that directly benefit MSDB students.

The MSDB Foundation provides ongoing support for: job training and career preparation, assistive technology, outreach services for students in their home communities, and capital improvements on campus.

Each year, the Foundation supports a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities that improve the students’ self confidence, quality of life, and education. Donations can be made directly to the Foundation online.



Montana Legal Services Association

www.mtlsa.org
616 Helena Ave, Suite 100
Helena, MT 59601
(800) 666-6899

Montana Legal Services (MLSA) is the only comprehensive legal-services provider in the state, protecting and enhancing the civil and legal rights of Montanans living in poverty. MLSA has provided legal aid to people in every county of Montana over its nearly 50 years of continuous service.

MLSA’s Board of Directors sets priorities for direct client representation by MLSA attorneys. Current priorities include: domestic violence advocacy; housing matters; public benefits; consumer issues; health issues; and utilities. As a private, non-profit law firm, MLSA provides non-criminal legal information, advice, and representation to thousands of Montanans each year. MLSA’s services help fight scams on seniors, assist veterans who have been denied their earned benefits, help people escape abusive relationships, and represent families living in unsafe housing conditions.

MLSA works to provide civil legal aid to low income individuals. Donations to MLSA help provide access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. Donations also make it easier for all Montanans to access legal information, through easy-to-understand forms, on-line forms, and legal self-help. See a variety of donation options online including in-kind and legacy giving.

Montana Coalition for Domestic and Sexual Violence

www.mcadsv.com
P.O. Box 818
Helena MT 59624
443-7794

Incorporated in 1986, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCADSV) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations working together to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, public education, public policy, and program development. Their stated mission is to support and facilitate networking among member organizations while advocating for social change in Montana.

Currently, MCADSV represents over 50 programs across Montana that provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children. In addition, their membership includes other



nonprofit and government organizations and individuals (professionals and members of the general public) interested in addressing domestic and sexual violence in a way that holds offenders accountable and provides support for the people they victimize.

The Montana Coalition works to eliminate all forms of oppression such as ageism, anti-Semitism, classism, violence against women, homophobia, racism, and sexism within the Coalition and in our members’ crisis centers and other programs. Also, the Coalition is committed to speaking out about the connections between domestic and sexual violence and other forms of oppression.

The Coalition provides support, networking opportunities and training for organizations and community groups that provide domestic and sexual violence intervention/prevention services on the state, regional, and national levels and encourages increased awareness and understanding of domestic and sexual violence and the concerns of survivors and to explore and support innovative policy approaches to issues related to domestic and sexual violence.

Donations are accepted directly on our website, and MCADSV participates in the State Employee Charitable Giving Campaign.



Western Native Voice

www.westernnativevoice.org
310 N 27th St
Billings, MT 59101
869-1938

Western Native Voice is a non-partisan social-justice organization that works year-round to inspire Native leadership to help communities flourish. Recently, the organization has taken on the task of helping Native Americans in Montana overcome obstacles to participating in the Census. Ta’jin Perez shares information about the origins of the nonprofit organization and the scope of the work being done. Perez joined Western Native Voice as the Program Manager in March 2017, after organizing local efforts in solidarity to the Water Protectors at Standing Rock.

MONTANA PRESS: What are the origins of Western Native Voice?

TA'JIN PEREZ: Established in 2011, Western Native Voice (WNV) is a non-profit, non-partisan social justice organization working to inspire Native leadership through community organizing, education, leadership, and advocacy. With 7% of Montana's population being Native American, living almost evenly split between reservation and urban areas, WNV organizes in both rural and urban communities, using a culturally tailored community organizing and citizen education model to build Native leadership.

We began to meet the growing need to hold elected officials accountable to their policy promises made during their campaigns. So often, candidates would court the Native vote and leave our communities without a way to check that they make good with those promises. Today, we work in seven Montana tribal communities and three urban centers--Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls. We inspire Native leadership so our communities flourish. We strive for a world absent of discrimination and inequality, where every human has equal access to safety and success. Building on the successes of our ancestors, we equip community members with the tools to address local community needs, and enhance political and personal power.

MONTANA PRESS: What is the mission of the organization?

TA'JIN PEREZ: To foster sustainable positive social change in our communities through community organizing and mobilization, leadership development, education, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy.

MONTANA PRESS: How can people become involved with the organization's activities? How can individuals donate goods or services or volunteer time?

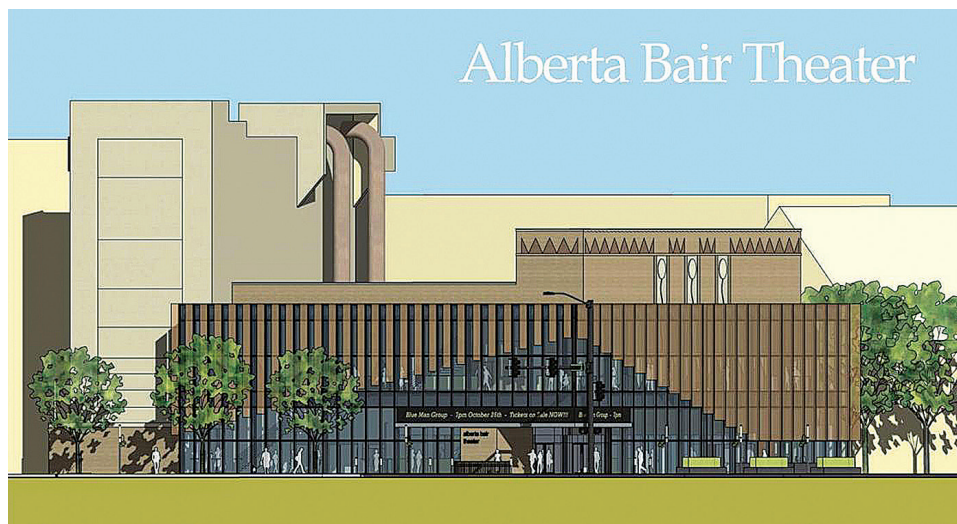
TA'JIN PEREZ: People can become members, for free, online at www.westernnativevoice.org, and folks can donate there as well.

MONTANA PRESS: What has been a significant event or aspect of the last year in your organization that you can look to as a success, milestone or plateau?

TA'JIN PEREZ: For us, the Northern Cheyenne day labor program is an example of great community organizing and proper community outreach. It was an idea that came from locals and had community buy-in. By the end of the program in August 2019, the day-labor program employed 125 people for 390, eight-hour shifts, and has made a very meaningful impact on the Northern Cheyenne Nation.

MONTANA PRESS: Are there any significant projects or programs planned for future of the organization or in the coming year?

TA'JIN PEREZ: We are currently looking to expand the day-labor program to other tribal nations across Montana. We are also looking to include more youth into our work in inspiring Native leadership, both in rural and urban areas.



Alberta Bair Theater

www.albertabairtheater.org
2801 3rd Ave. North
Billings, MT 59101
256-6052

The Alberta Bair Theater, in one iteration or another, has been an integral part of the cultural scene in Billings for more than 80 years. Originally, the facility was called The Fox Theater. The theater opened its doors November 13, 1931, with a parade, a short-lived street dance and the motion picture Merely Mary Ann with Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell. The Fox Theater served as home for the Billings Community Concerts Organization for over fifty years. The venue was also home for the Billings Symphony and Chorale and offered live plays and musicals that benefited the Fox Committee for the Performing Arts. This Committee was responsible for bringing such stellar performers as Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Charles, George Winston and Judy Collins to the community. The Fox Committee's name still lives on in the popular "Fox Series" offered each season by the Alberta Bair Theater.

The original Charles M. Bair family homestead sat on the same spot where the Fox Theater was built. This house, on the corner of what is now Broadway and Third Avenue North, is where Charles' daughter Alberta M. Bair was born. This prompted Alberta Bair to provide the lead gift for a project to preserve the music hall, and in 1987 the renovated Fox Theater was named in her honor.

The venue opened its doors to the public on Saturday, January 24, 1987, with a Gala performance by Burt Bacharach. Thanks to the dedication, vision and hard work of the founding board members, the Fox Committee and numerous community-minded people, the Alberta Bair Theater still stands as a world class performing arts center for all the people of Billings and the Northern Rockies.

The Alberta Bair has recently begun a historic journey to expand and improve the theater. It's been 32 years since the old Fox Theatre was renovated, and in that time tens of thousands of people have attended performances to Tony-awarded Broadway musicals, Grammy Awarded musicians and the best of ballet and modern dance, as well as theatre for all ages.

More than half of the \$13.6 million renovation budget addresses infrastructure needs. Today the Alberta Bair Theater is the largest fully-equipped performing arts center in the region. The 1,400-seat is currently undergoing extensive renovations; the venue showcases professional touring companies, featuring musician, dance, and theater

performances, as well as local performing groups. The Alberta Bair Theater provides outstanding educational programming for 22,000 school children annually and serves a population of 400,000. Information about donating to the Capital Campaign to continue renovations or the operating fund is available online at the theater website.

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Inc.

www.bmwf.org
PO Box 190688
Hungry Horse, Montana 59919
387-3822

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation (BMWF) connects individuals with their wilderness heritage by providing access to and stewardship of one of the world's most iconic places, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The complex is named for Robert "Bob" Marshall (January 2, 1901 – November 11, 1939) who was an American forester, writer and wilderness activist who is best remembered as the person who spearheaded the 1935 founding of the Wilderness Society in the United States.

Stewardship programs that the BMWF coordinates benefit the wilderness recreational community including hunters, anglers, hikers, backpackers, horsemen, and packers. The BMWF works to restore damaged areas, remove invasive species and ensures that all Americans have access to Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Each year, up to 350 BMWF volunteers, ages 12 to 80, participate in 40 to 50 wilderness projects. Projects are accomplished in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service on trails and land within the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Since its incorporation in 1997, the BMWF and its volunteers have cleared over 5,000 miles of trail and treated hundreds of acres of invasive species.



In 2017, 336 BMWF volunteers worked a total of 14,492 hours on 46 projects, clearing 3,061 downed trees, maintaining 180 miles of trail, and conducting 17 acres of weed suppression. The total value of labor donated to public lands by BMWF volunteers in 2017 was \$440,128. Also in 2017, BMWF provided two college and high school youth with wilderness conservation internships, where students worked shoulder to shoulder with forest-service wilderness rangers, and packer apprentice programs provided two youth with 40 hours of training and six packing experiences with pack livestock.

BMWF accepts monetary and/or time donations and provides an opportunity for all Montanans to support their work in the annual Mountainfilm Tour across the state (www.mountainfilm.org). In 2020, BMWF will sponsor four nights of raffles, beer, snacks, and an outdoor recreation film festival across Montana. Tour dates for 2020 are as follows: Great Falls on March 8, Helena on March 9, Missoula on March 11 and Whitefish on March 12. Buy tickets in advance to secure seats and email stewardship@bmwf.org to sponsor or volunteer at the events.

Glacier National Park Conservancy

www.glacier.org
402 9th St W
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912
892-3250

The Glacier National Park Conservancy is the official fundraising partner of Glacier National Park, and the only philanthropic organization dedicated exclusively to supporting Glacier. While federal funding provides for Glacier's day-to-day operations, Glacier National Park Conservancy provides resources that support exceptional projects that the park cannot do on its own. Taking a walk on Glacier National Park's trails or a driving along the Going-to-the-Sun road, visitors pass by historic cabins, native wildflowers, exhibits about park wildlife, and visitor centers and ranger stations. With over 700 miles of trail and nearly 400 historic structures, countless artifacts and archaeology sites, Glacier National Park stretches across one million acres of forest, prairie, and alpine parkland. Donations to the Conservancy go to preserve and enhance the visitor experience through trail repair, restoration of historic structures, interpretive displays, bear lockers and more.

Yellowstone National Park has a similar fund raising entity in Yellowstone Forever (www.yellowstone.org), that is official non-profit partner of the Park. ★

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

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

Friday, December 6

Statewide
“**Jack and the Beanstalk**,” stage play, 7 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings
Monsters of Rock Mixtape Show, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman
Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
“**A Christmas Carol**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Sean Devine with special guests Sara Horvath and Stephanie Jean, Quenby landiorio, Jessica Eve, Melissa Forrette, and Lee Calvin, Americana, 8 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106
Gary Small and the Coyote Brothers, rockabilly, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
Sam Platts Trio, country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
Tara Rose and the Real Deal, string band, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Cole and the Thornes, rhythm/blues, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Helena
Mojo Revue, blues, 8 p.m., Miller’s Crossing, Helena, 442-3290

Great Falls
Lester’s Mystery Oil, rock, 8:30 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
50 Watt Sun, grunge rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Missoula
Storyhill, folk, 7:30 p.m., Public House, Missoula, 926-3404
Motorhome, electronic, record release party, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



COLORADO-BASED STRING BAND PLAYS IN MONTANA IN EARLY DECEMBER: DEC. 6 AT MURRAY BAR IN LIVINGSTON, DEC. 7 AT BOZEMAN TAP ROOM IN BOZEMAN, AND DEC. 8 AT SNOW HOP BREWERY IN HELENA..

Saturday, December 7

Statewide
“**Jack and the Beanstalk**,” stage play, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
Band of Drifters, Americana, 6:30 p.m., The Pollard, Red Lodge, 446-0001

Billings
“**Kind Soup**,” reading/signing with author Jean Petersen and kid-friendly activities, 11:30 a.m., This House of Books, Billings, 534-1133
“**Polar Express**” theatrical production, 12 p.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m., Zoo Montana, Billings, 894-2020
“**A Christmas Carol**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535
Nothing Yet Trio, folk/rock, 9 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Livingston/Bozeman
Montana Ballet Company’s 36th Annual Nutcracker, Willson Auditorium, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Bozeman, 585-9774
Christy Hays, alt-country, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505
Dave Provost, Americana, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
PermaFunk, funk, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
“**A Christmas Carol**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Gary Small and the Coyote Brothers, rockabilly, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
710 Ashbury, Grateful Dead tribute, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585
Madeline Hawthorne, soul/folk, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, Americana, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106
Tara Rose & The Real Deal, string band 8:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
Pat Reedy and the Long Time Goners, country, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena
Left on Tenth, funk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
Kenny G: The Miracles Holiday Hits Tour, jazz, 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8382
“**A Charlie Brown Christmas**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270



KENNY G BRINGS SMOOTH JAZZ TO HELENA ON DEC. 7 AND BILLINGS ON DEC. 8

Saturday, December 7

Great Falls
Great Falls Symphony presents, “**Winterscapes**,” classical concert, 3 p.m., Mansfield Theater, 453-4102
Liquor Down, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388
Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Missoula
“**Six Hundred Generations**,” reading/signing with author Carl Davis, 11 a.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881
“**Rubix Ruckus Reubenstein Takes Himself On A Hike**,” reading/signing with author Jen Nitz, 2 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881
Parade of Lights, downtown Missoula, 1 p.m., 543-6623
“**This Town is Full of Ghosts**,” memorabilia and rock show, 3 p.m., Zootown Arts, Missoula, 549-7555
Wailing Aaron Jennings, yodel-tonk, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
Holiday Pops with the Missoula Symphony, 7:30 p.m., University of Montana, 721-3194
Hell Rancho, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749
Indubious, reggae, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Sunday, December 8

Statewide
“**Jack and the Beanstalk**,” stage play, 2 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings
Kenny G: The Miracles Holiday and Hits Tour, jazz, 7:30 p.m., MetraPark Montana Pavilion, Billings, 248-7827
“**Polar Express**” theatrical production, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m., Zoo Montana, Billings, 894-2020
“**A Christmas Carol**,” stage play, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman
Acoustic Brunch: Dave Provost, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Montana Ballet Company’s 36th Annual Nutcracker, Willson Auditorium, 2 p.m., Bozeman, 585-9774
“**A Christmas Carol**,” stage play, 3:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Lazy Owl String Band, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
Todd Green, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Shane Secor, singer/songwriter, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403
Swamp Dawg, soul/funk, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Pat Reedy and the Longtime Goners, country, 8 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

Sunday, December 8

Helena
“**A Charlie Brown Christmas**,” stage play, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
Tara Rose and The Real Deal, string band, 4 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026
Raised by Wolves, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

Missoula
Old Time Fiddle Jam, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Vintage Trouble, blues/soul, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Monday, December 9

Livingston/Bozeman
Slomo Joe Trio, acoustic rock, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Bluegrass Jam, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855
Sundance and The Wilds, indie rock, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

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

Missoula
Ed Norton Big Band Trio, jazz/swing, 7 p.m., Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, 360-8763

Tuesday, December 10

Billings
Erik Olson & David Banuelos, funk/rock, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
Traditional Irish Music Session, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
Art Alexakis of Everclear, alt-rock, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman
“**Treasure State Tycoon**,” reading/signing with author John C. Russell, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166
Aaron Banfield, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Helena
String Beings, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

Missoula
A Journey Through Missoula History,” reading/signing with author Stan Cohen, Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881
“**Tell Us Something**,” storytelling event, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
“**Fatuous Twaddle**,” reading of the work of author Jamie Kelly, 7 p.m., Shakespeare and Co., Missoula, 549-9010
Out of Office Holiday Party and Comedy Show, 8 p.m., The Badlander, 549-0235

Wednesday, December 11

Statewide
Shake the Baby Til the Love Comes Out, rock/instrumental, 6:30 p.m., Montana Bar, Miles City, 234-5809

Billings
Rocky Mountain College Rock Band, rock, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
Hamilton Loomis, funk/rock, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman
The Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124
Luke Flansburg, acoustic, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403
“**For the Love of Soil: Future-Proof Strategies to Regenerate Food Systems**,” reading/signing event, 6:15 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
Lang, folk/blues, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
Pickin’ in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290
Bar IX Comedy Open Mic, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185

Helena
Cottonwood Club, jazz, 6 p.m., On Broadway, Helena, 443-1929
“**Frozen, Jr.**” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, Helena, 442-7270
“**A Charlie Brown Christmas**,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Missoula
Ink and Whiskey: Rick Bass & Chris Dombrowski, poetry and prose reading, 5:30 p.m., Montgomery Distillery, Missoula, 926-1725
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, synth-pop/classical, 7:30 p.m., Adams Center, Missoula, 243-4051
Comedy Open Mic, 8 p.m., Freecycle, Missoula, 541-7284

GRANDSTREET

THEATRE

A

CHARLIE

BROWN

Christmas

NOV. 22

- DEC. 22

WED. DEC. 4TH & 18TH

WILL BE SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES

IN HELENA THIS

DECEMBER!

RAMBLIN' MAN: CHARLIE PARR RETURNS TO MONTANA

While it wouldn't be derogatory to call Charlie Parr "authentic," the Minnesota-born singer-songwriter is uneasy with such compliment.

"I've never been comfortable with the idea of authenticity," explains Parr, 52, who is noted for his slick-fingered, country-blues mish-mash. "It's something that I don't understand. I believe that I'm just plain lucky because I grew up at a time where I had access to a lot of music, and my dad had a big, weird collection of records, and that's how I was first able to understand music. He had a Harry Smith (*Anthology of American Folk Music*) collection, Woody Guthrie, Jimmie Rodgers, the first-generation of country and folk.

"My sister would listen to the next generation, like the Grateful Dead, in the back room of the house, while my dad's originals would be playing in the front. So I got to hear the first-generation of popular recorded music and the recordings of those who were influenced by them, and it changed my way of thinking."

Two years ago, the workmanlike Parr released his 15th album, *Dog*, a project that almost never came to fruition because he canceled it three times. Dealing with the rut and stagnancy of clinical depression, Parr could barely muster the mental fortitude to step into the recording booth.

"Clinical depression saps all of your energy and makes it difficult to do things," says Parr. "For me, putting together an album is always challenging, and I've always looked at the recording sessions as simply another performance. It's not my strong suit. I was deep and well into the thick of it [depression], and you will note it affecting this record [*Dog*] more. The songs indicate my struggle with it, and you can't help notice it because the song writing was coming from those places."

Catharsis in song writing is nothing new to Parr, who said that music has been an effective coping mechanism for him since the beginning, when he self-released his initial record in 2002.

"I started writing songs out of grief after my dad passed away, and writing the songs made me feel better. I'm not sure why, but they started to come. It turned into therapy, and into a cathartic situation. When I play it is fun to play the old blues and folks songs. But the ones that I've written will take me to one of the places of more pain and darkness. It's interesting to be a musician because I can rewrite the song over and over again through the performance, and

constantly rewrite it over and over in front of new people.

"Painters sell a painting.. but I can rewrite one in front of everybody. The audience is interested and provides feedback and that affects the songs' existence and being. If it's helpful to others then it's not just painful to me. Then the less that it's mine and the more that the song belongs to the people who like it."

Parr's style lacks romantic gloss — and that's a strong compliment. He's an old-time journeyman with a hint of the weary, hard-traveler/bard of a passed-but-not-forgotten time who used to sing stories of places visited and private lives lived.

"I like to think that I play the music that existed from a time before those categories or music labels were ever established," says Parr. "Charlie Patton would not be found in the blues section; he would have been listed as a race record, as they were divided up that way. If you had gone to Frank Hutchinson, he would have told you that he was a 'songster' and 'musicianer.'"



"Music is going forward because of the internet and YouTube. In the 1970s, music was owned by a few companies and the categories were established by others. Now the genres have become fuzzier and fuzzier, to the point of which they start not to make any sense, a subcategory of a subcategory. I'm a folk singer, or at least that's how I feel."

Parr's music explores the explosive faultiness of his own soul, offering contemplation with a heavy dose of enchantment, albeit tempered with a sense of whimsy and cynicism.

"It's simple to me," Parr explains. "When I'm playing, everything else gets fuzzy. It's weird but the performance seems more self-indulgent than anything, and I like it when the line between me and the audience is not there, or when the people are right there and the stage is low, and it's like you are providing the soundtrack to a party. It's a transcendent experience for me to play for people who are interested."

All things that are now consequential in his life are rooted in simple and repetitive previous behaviors, from the first time he picked up the guitar at the age of seven and strummed it obsessively. Carrying the guitar into rowdy bars and cafés as an almost invisible act throughout the late 1980s and 1990s, he sat on a chair on the stage and sometimes sang as many as six hours in a single night.

Living on tips, he earned almost no money, yet the sensation of playing music out in the open, feeling liberated and not bothered by time or status, was a godsend. Still savoring the diversity and individuality that every single night grants, he reached his plateau with 272 road shows in 2016.

"What's challenging for me now is that I have a hard time saying no to playing. I've also ended up sacrificing things, like a marriage, for example, or a regular life. But what I've got is something I've always wanted, and not too many damaged things. I'm lucky not to have an ex-wife that hates me or children who don't want to speak to me. And I'd gladly take even the bad parts of the lifestyle that I've had."

Parr, who was born and raised and started his musical career in Minnesota, said that his music is imbued with a distinct brand of Midwest provincialism, a blend of seriousness, stoicism and simplicity. His mother worked for Hormel Foods, which has its corporate headquarters in Austin, Minnesota, and is home of the Spam Museum. She worked in the dry-sausage plant for 40 years and then worked an additional dozen or so years as a tour guide at the museum.

"I was in Hollandale, Minnesota, a small town, and my mother's family farmed vegetables there for decades, and I'm influenced by the landscape there more than anything. I love the pasture and the rolling hills and seeing for a long, long way, like that stoplight blinking for five miles down the road. It's a vast, flat thing."

"In Austin, Minnesota, you had a town of 23,000, which was centered on the Hormel packinghouse, with a lot of purposeful, intentional people. My dad was a man who enjoyed the lack of intent, and I enjoyed and inherited that from him. I derive joy from those moments with the pure lack of intent, and I'm very ambitious after I do the things that I immediately want to do, like play music and drink coffee, and then I'm fulfilled. I got that from my dad."

The musician in Parr doesn't believe in the application of novel devices; he lets his music fend for itself. His style isn't especially one designed to attract attention or increase appeal. Armed with a guitar, his well-worn and black-and-blue fingertips, a strong sense of humor, irony, intensity, and anecdotal experience, he is not equipped with unnecessary features.

While music is always the act of repeating, it's the act of living within repetition, drawing from familiarity to distill and deliver subtlety, sound, and the keen observation of language for a unique time and place. One of the many fine songs in Parr's repertoire that he has sung hundreds of times is "Cheap Wine," and to hear him sing it live is like putting your mind and heart and ears in the singer's own weathered waterway, a strait of rough, battered edges that makes the past vividly — and painfully — present.

"I tried to write a short story but it wasn't any good so I pulled bits of the story and rewrote the story as songs," said Parr. "One of which is 'Cheap Wine,' which now I see it as more of a real event than a fictional one, and it plays that way for me. If a song is not interesting anymore or if it feels done then I'll stop playing it. But I haven't stopped playing 'Cheap Wine' since I finished it or wrote it, and that's the extra attraction is that it's organic and alive and awake." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

Charlie Parr performs at the Top Hat in Missoula Dec. 17 and The Rialto in Bozeman Dec. 18.



BLACK SHEEP NO MORE: THE YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND

The Yonder Mountain String Band was once the nontraditional black sheep act of the bluegrass festival circuit. Five studio albums and at least 2,000 live shows later, the excitable, wide-eyed band has sustained its act with jubilant experiment and lighthearted, ad-libbed craft.

In a time when many bands arrive loudly and then exit quickly, or endlessly morph or fragment, the secret to the success of the Yonder Mountain String Band is that, perhaps, it's actually no secret at all.

"I think that people still like us to explore in the jams," said Adam Aijala, guitarist of the band. "I think that even our jamming is getting more cohesive. It's not planned and it has no definition, and it's always going its own places. We just don't know what it's going to do. Maybe it's something we've never played before; if I'm feeling adventurous, I'll start something that none of us has ever heard."

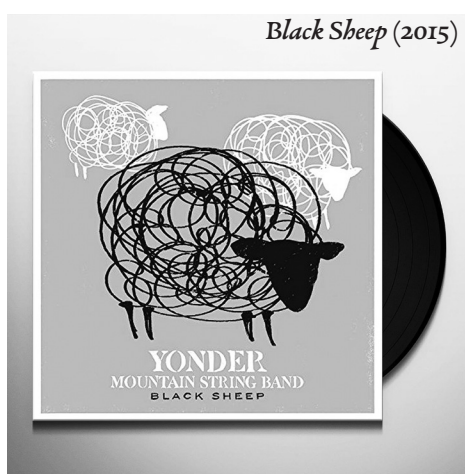
"It might be a new lick, or chord structure, and then another (band member) will follow, and then another one of us will follow after that, and then make a switch. All of the time there is no clear definition as to where it's going to go."

The progressive, Colorado-based bluegrass group is still composed of its three original members – Dave Johnston, Ben Kaufmann, and Adam Aijala – in addition to fiddler Allie Kral and mandolinist Jacob Joliff, who were added to the ensemble in 2014. The band is still all about a future of collective effort and joy, said Aijala.

"Dave, Ben, and I are like brothers. We've been through everything. I was close to 25 when we met, and they were even younger. My whole life has been with those guys, and we care about each other and can still make each other laugh. Dave lives in Boulder, and we are about two miles apart from each other."

"Dave is a great songwriter," continues Aijala, "and I hold him in high regard. He's got this regimen about writing, where he is writing daily, or when he hears someone say something, he puts it down in a book or notepad."

Aijala says that the additional presence of Jacob and Allie adds an invigorating level of ingenuity to the band. "I think they both provide us with a youthful vibe, and both of them contribute to us still feeling fresh. We



did a tour of five weeks when (guitarist) Allie was 5 months pregnant and she still killed it. At the end of another tour, she was 8 months pregnant."

Aijala, now 45, explains that the Yonder Mountain String Band has stuck around long enough to now be blessed with a multi-generational audience presence.

"The parents who were originally bringing their kids, well, those little kids are now in college, and in their 20s, and that's bizarre. We play college towns, so we get a fresh crew of people, and it's a pretty diverse crowd, maybe something equated (on a smaller scale) to The Grateful Dead. I've had several people come up to me and say, 'Hey, this is my wife, whom I first met at a Yonder show.' It's a cool community – and we are into it."

Yonder's most recent release, *Love, Ain't Love* (2017), is a collaborative blending culled from the bandmembers' individual songs, bristling with familiar, free-flowing energy, a provocative-sounding companion piece to the band's earlier works. Still, Aijala says that this record reflects the group's most polished and "effective" piece of studio work.

"The songs are less, quote-unquote, 'bluegrass,' rhythmically speaking. When we write a song it's not automatically a bluegrass rhythm. Sometimes it's a good jammer; sometimes it's about the harmony: sometime everyone solos, and sometimes it's a three-and-a-half minute song. Sonically speaking, it's our best, and the mixing sounds better to me than *Black Sheep* (2015); the tone of some



of the instruments sounds better.

"We are still evolving and songs are still being written, and we are still drawing imagination and coming up with exciting stuff."

The Yonder Mountain String Band gives a recognizable and relaxed energy boost to Missoulians; the band has made the city of Missoula a regular tour-stop almost since its inception.

"The renovations at The Wilma are awesome," observes Aijala, "and to me it's reminiscent a bit of the Boulder Theatre. I like the sound there, and Missoula is a place so similar to Boulder, a university town that is close to the Rockies, with similar minds and a crossover of like-minded people."

Aijala says that a night with Yonder Mountain String Band is a night of imperfection, mystery, and presence. The band's purpose is to restore listeners' faith in music as a spur-of-the-moment, hypnotic art form.

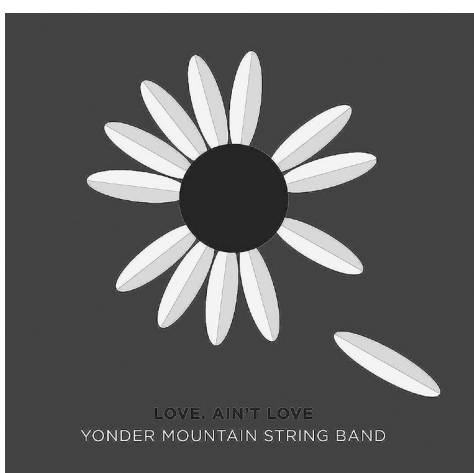
"Our fans understand that we are not about perfection, but we are about being lighthearted and energetic and about how it all translates. We are not about playing the same set as good as we can, because that same set would be perfect."

"Fans are coming for the energy, and they enjoy not knowing what we are going to play. You can come see the show and turn everything off and enjoy and live in the moment and nothing else."

"When I was growing up," concludes Aijala, "I remember hearing 'Strawberry Fields Forever,' and getting goose bumps on my arms as a kid. And that's why we do what we do." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

The Yonder Mountain String Band perform at The Rialto in Bozeman January 10 and at The Wilma in Missoula January 11.



Yonder's most recent release, Love, Ain't Love (2017), is a collaborative blending culled from the band members' individual songs.



WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Thursday, December 12

Billings

Andy Wilson, acoustic, 6 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111
Holiday Symphony at the Billings Depot, classical, 6:30 p.m., Billings Symphony, 252-3610
D A E M, dreamy popsters, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman

Open Range, country, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505
JEB, indie rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Jess Atkins, songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Marcedes Carroll, Americana, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
"Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf," comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

The Peripherals, jazz, 5:30 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026
Open Mic, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Charles Ellsworth Band, blues/Americana, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"Frozen, Jr." stage play, 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, Helena, 442-7270
"A Charlie Brown Christmas," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Weekly Irish Seisiun, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, synth-pop/classical, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Butte

"Babes in Toyland," stage production, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Missoula
Aran Buzzas, folk/tonk, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
Travis Yost, pop/rock, 6 p.m., Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468
Aran Buzzas, folk, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
Mendelssohn Choir, Christmas concert, 6:30 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Erica von Kleist, jazz, 7 p.m., Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, 360-8763



"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

Montana TheatreWorks, producers of "Damn Yankees," "Annie," and "Oklahoma!" present, "A Christmas Carol" at The Ellen Theatre in Bozeman Dec. 6 through 22. This Charles Dickens classic tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a misguided miser visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as they help him become a kinder, more generous man.

Friday, December 13

Statewide

"Jack and the Beanstalk," stage play, 7 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
Liquor Down, country, 8 p.m., Eagles Bar, Havre, 265-9551

Billings

Country Time Yee Haw Bois, Americana, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
"Timeless" screening and Warren Miller event, 7:30 p.m., Babcock Theater, sponsored by Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052
"A Christmas Carol," stage play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535
Buster Sparks, rock and roll, 9 p.m., Squire Lounge, Billings, 969-2233

Livingston/Bozeman

Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
Kristen Lundell, rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
"A Christmas Carol," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Panther Car, prog-rock, 8:30 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
Lazy Owl String Band, bluegrass, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Montana Sun, classic rock/country, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
"Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza," variety show, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
"Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf," comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

Acoustic Roll, folk/rock, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980
Dusty Pockets, country/folk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"Frozen, Jr." stage play, 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, Helena, 442-7270
"A Charlie Brown Christmas," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
Great Falls
Common Ground, rock/country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

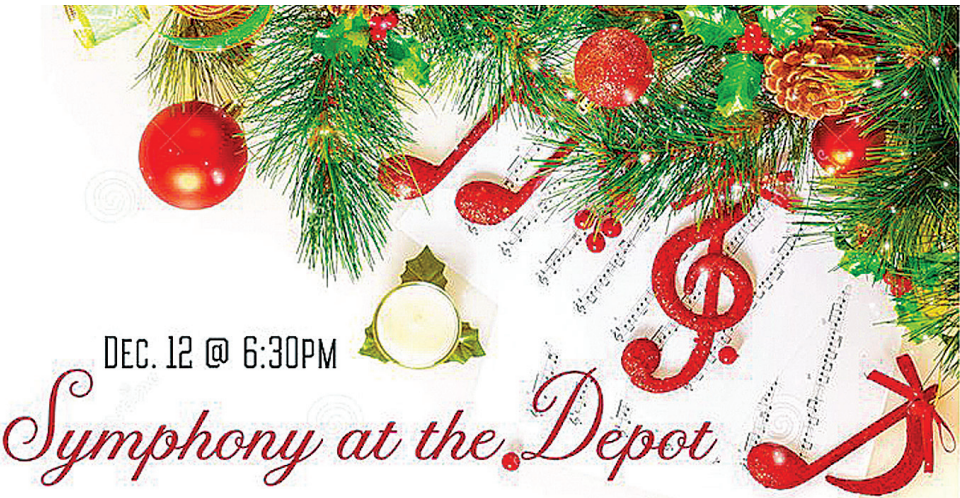
Butte

Heather Lingle, country, 6 p.m., Muddy Creek Brewery, Butte, 299-3645
"Babes in Toyland," stage production, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Missoula
Hellcat Jazz Band, 6 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980
Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana Holiday Soiree, party/drag show performance, 7 p.m., Zootown Arts Community Center, Missoula, 549-7555
Garden City Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m., University of Montana, Missoula, 728-7363
County Line with Bob Wire Trio, country, 9:30 p.m., Sunrise Saloon, Missoula, 728-1559
Funky Disco Soul, funk jams, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



MISSOULA WINTER FARMERS MARKET

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



HOLIDAY MUSIC PERFORMED BY THE SWEETGRASS QUARTET
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.
FULL CASH BAR AVAILABLE
\$15 PER PERSON
ALL FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT THE BILLINGS DEPOT AND THE BILLINGS SYMPHONY



DECEMBER 12

ONE NIGHT ONLY

7:00 PM

Downtown Dance Collective
MISSOULA
Tickets: \$20
Available at
DDCMONTANA.COM

BOOBS!

with Erica von Kleist

FUNKY DISCO SOUL

LIVE GROOVES

Funky Disco Soul plays Dec. 13 at The Top Hat Lounge in Missoula

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Saturday December 14

Statewide

Jack and the Beanstalk,” stage play, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
Liquor Down, country, 8 p.m., Eagles Bar, Havre, 265-9551

Billings

“Cinder Yeti,” reading/signing with author Precious McKenzie, 11:30 a.m., This House of Books, Billings, 534-1133
Dusty Pockets, country/folk, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535
Buster Sparks, rock and roll, 9 p.m., Squire Lounge, Billings, 969-2233

Livingston/Bozeman

Hanna Jo Lally, folk, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505
Aran Buzzas, funky tonk, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855
Edis, folk, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403
Charles Ellsworth Band, blues/Americana, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Tom Kirwan, Americana, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
“Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza,” variety show, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Montana Sun, classic rock/country, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
Open Range, country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
Hooligans, rhythm/blues, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585
The Well, alt/psych rock, 8:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
Charles Ellsworth Band, Americana, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena

“Frozen, Jr.” stage play, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, Helena, 442-7270
John Roberts y Pan Blanco, jazz/Latin, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Thorns Amongst Roses, Celtic music, 7 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Butte

“Babes in Toyland,” stage production, 2 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Christy Hays, alt country, 8 p.m., Cavalier Lounge, Finlen Hotel, Butte, 723-5461

Missoula

Garden City Ballet presents “The Nutcracker,” 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., University of Montana, Missoula, 728-7363
Cork and Spark, jazz/blues, 6 p.m., Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468
Dave Meservy, singer/songwriter, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Erika von Kleist, jazz, 6:30 p.m., fund raiser for UM Jazz Program, Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, 360-8763
John Floridis and Ed Stalling, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Longstaff House, Missoula, 239-0802
Ganja White Night, electronic, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980
Writ Large, jam/rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749
Straw Hat Riots, rock, 9:30 p.m., Sunrise Saloon, Missoula, 728-1559

Sunday, December 15

Statewide

“Jack and the Beanstalk,” stage play, 2 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Billings

“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535
Rimrock Hot Club, jazz, 7 p.m., Walker’s Grill, Billings, 245-9291

Livingston/Bozeman

Acoustic Brunch with Amanda Stewart, singer/songwriter, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 3 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Acoustic Roll, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
“Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza,” variety show, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420

Helena

“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
“Frozen, Jr.” stage play, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, Helena, 442-7270
The Ballad and the Bullet, country, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

Great Falls

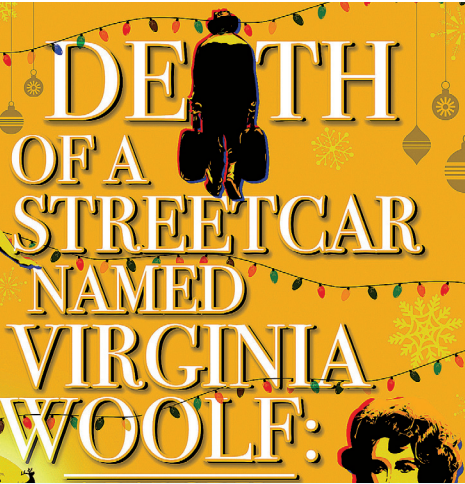
Celtic Music Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
Celtic Cowboy Roundup, bluegrass jam, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Butte

“Babes in Toyland,” stage production, 2 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657

Missoula

Garden City Ballet presents “The Nutcracker,” 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., University of Montana, Missoula, 728-7363
That 1 Guy, imaginative instrumentals, 9 p.m., Monk’s Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com



PARODY ON STAGE IN BOZEMAN

When a mysterious invitation brings Blanche DuBois back to New Orleans, she finds herself once again face-to-face with the smoldering Stanley Kowalski. They are soon joined by luckless salesman Willy Loman and hard-drinking, hard-fighting couple George and Martha, and suddenly all bets are off. This satirical mash-up of “A Streetcar Named Desire,” “Death of a Salesman,” “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” and “Our Town” is a tongue-in-cheek salute to celebrated icons of American drama. Playing Dec. 12 - 22 at the Verge Theater in Bozeman.



Monday, December 16

Billings

“Gonzo Road Show Diary,” reading/signing with John Brian Driscoll, 5:30 p.m., This House of Books, Billings, 534-1133

Livingston/Bozeman

Blake Brightman, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Tuesday, December 17

Billings

Traditional Irish music Session, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Livingston/Bozeman

Matt Miller, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Helena

Dan Henry, one man band, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Missoula

Homegrown Improv, 8 p.m., The Badlander, Missoula, 549-0235

Charlie Parr, blues/rock, record release party with Dead Horses, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Wednesday, December 18

Statewide

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

Billings

Open Mic, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
367 and Laura Hickli, Canadian popsters, 9 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Livingston/Bozeman

Aaron Banfield, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Peter King, country/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

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

“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

Charlie Parr, blues/rock, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

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

Helena

“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Butte

Ukulele Jam, 6 p.m., Clark Chateau, Butte, 565-5600

Missoula

Dan Henry, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Great Burn Brewery, Missoula, 317-1557
Homegrown Showcase, comedy show, 7:30 p.m., Roxy Theater, Missoula, 728-9380



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

The classic tale of magic beans, a giant and treasure. Fun for the whole family! At the Montana Actors Theatre in Havre Dec. 6 through 21

GET YOUR CELTIC ON!

Celtic music brunch every Sunday and a weekly Irish Seisuns on Thursdays at Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls. Billings Symphony presents a “Celtic Christmas in Dec. 21 and Thorns Amongst Roses plays Celtic music at Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls on Dec. 14.



Comedy Across Montana

Need a good laugh? With homegrown Montana comedy and traveling entertainers, there are plenty of opportunities to laugh out loud across the state:

Every Wednesday

BAR IX COMEDY OPEN MIC,
Bar IX, BOZEMAN



Every Thursday
PROJECTILE COMEDY
The Loft, BILLINGS

Dec. 11 - Badlander - Missoula
OUT OF OFFICE COMEDY SHOW

Dec. 11 - Freecycle - Missoula
COMEDY OPEN MIC

Dec. 16 - Verge Theater - Bozeman
IMPROV ON THE VERGE

Dec. 18 - Beaverhead Brewing - Dillon
BREWERY COMEDY TOUR

Dec. 18 - Roxy Theater - Missoula
HOMEGROWN COMEDY SHOWCASE

Dec. 19 - Ten Spoon Winery - Missoula
COMEDY REVIVAL SHOWCASE

Dec. 20 - ZACC - Missoula
BASE COMEDY SHOWCASE



Dec. 21 Wilma - Missoula
REGGIE WATTS
ELECTRO-POP/COMEDIAN

Dec. 27 - Verge Theater - Bozeman
VERGE AFTER DARK IMPROV

Dec. 27 - Badlander - Missoula
REVIVAL OPEN MIC

Dec. 28 - ZACC - Missoula
ZACC COMEDY SHOWCASE

Jan. 2 - Kirk’s Grocery - Billings
THE PARTICULARLY RENICULOUS
VARIETY SHOW

Jan. 6 - Verge Theater - Bozeman
IMPROV ON THE VERGE

Thursday, December 19

Statewide
Big Sky Drive, rock, 6 p.m., Eagles Bar, Havre, 265-9551
Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074
[Billings](#)
Poetry Jam, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
[Livingston/Bozeman](#)
Open Range, country, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505
Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m. Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
“A Bozeman Radio Christmas: 1939,” musical play, 7 p.m., Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU Bozeman, 585-9774, smallbatcharts.org
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Christy Hays, alt-country, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Dan Henry, one-man band, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Mercedes Carroll, Americana, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
[Helena](#)
Open Mic, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Tom Catmull’s Last Resort, rock/pop, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
[Great Falls](#)
Weekly Irish Seisiun, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
Poetry Open Mic Night, 6:30 p.m., Paris Gibson Museum, Great Falls, 727-8255
36? and Laura Hickli, Canadian popsters, 9 p.m., Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300
[Butte](#)
“Babes in Toyland,” stage production, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
[Missoula](#)
Hardwood Heart, folk, 6 p.m. Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468
Aaron Golay and Original Sin, rock, 7 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980
Adam Trent’s Hollywood Magic, Broadway show, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
Comedy Revival Showcase, 7 p.m., Ten Spoon Winery, Missoula, 549-8703



JESSICA EVE

Voted best Female Vocalist in the Magic City Music Awards in Billings two years in a row, Jessica Eve plays across the state this month on Dec. 6 with Sean Devine and special guests at The Attic in Livingston and Dec. 21 at Yellowstone Valley Brewing in Billings.



TRAVELING THE STATE AND WRAPPING UP A RESIDENCY

Alternative country songstress Christy Hays plays across Montana in November at a variety of venues, including wrapping up a residency at the Cavalier Lounge in the Finlen Hotel in Butte.

- Dec. 7 - Sage Lodge - Pray
- Dec. 14 - Cavalier Lounge - Butte
- Dec. 19 - Murray Bar - Livingston
- Dec. 22 - Norris Hot Springs

Friday, December 20

Statewide
“Jack and the Beanstalk,” stage play, 7 p.m. and 7 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
[Billings](#)
Daniel Kosel, blues, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
Riley Haynie, solo set, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
Kyle Shobe and the Walk’em Boys, country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
D’tective, rock, 8 p.m., Squire Lounge, Billings, 969-2233
[Livingston/Bozeman](#)
Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
“A Bozeman Radio Christmas: 1939,” musical play, 7 p.m., Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU Bozeman, 585-9774, smallbatcharts.org
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
“Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza,” variety show, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Justin Case Band, classic rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
Swamp Dawg, funk/blues, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
[Helena](#)
“Wuthering Heights,” screening/premiere with Montana filmmaker Bryan Ferriter, 7 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287
Dodgy Mountain Men, stompglass, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
[Great Falls](#)
Soulshine, rock, 8 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388
Liquor Down, country, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777
[Butte](#)
“Babes in Toyland,” stage production, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Rocket to Uranus, rock/dance, 9 p.m., Silver Dollar Saloon, Butte, 782-7367
[Missoula](#)
BASE Showcase, comedy show, 6:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555
710 Ashbury, Grateful Dead tribute, 10:15 p.m, Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, December 21

Statewide
“Jack and the Beanstalk,” stage play, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Montana Actor’s Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
[Billings](#)
Jessica Eve and Mountain Folk, vocalist, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918
Celtic Christmas at the Lincoln Center, classical, 7:30 p.m., Billings Symphony, 252-3610
Renegades; A Tribute to Rage Against the Machine, rap/metal, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
D’tective, rock, 8 p.m., Squire Lounge, Billings, 969-2233
[Livingston/Bozeman](#)
“Nutcracker in a Nutshell,” ballet performance, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797
“A Bozeman Radio Christmas: 1939,” musical play, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU Bozeman, 585-9774, smallbatcharts.org
Yellowstone Ballet Company presents “The Nutcracker,” ballet, 4 p.m., Willson Auditorium, Bozeman, www.yellowstoneballet.info
Ryan Acker, acoustic/folk, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505
David Aubert, Americana, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403
Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Wild Joe’s Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212
Weston Lewis, acoustic rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
“Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza,” variety show, 8 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Justin Case Band, classic rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
Two Story Ranch, country/rock, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
Slomo Joe Trio, acoustic rock, 8:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
One Leaf Clover, mountain boogie, , 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
[Helena](#)
El Wencho, Montana originals, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
[Great Falls](#)
Eklegein Jam Band, rock/folk, 8 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388
[Butte](#)
“Babes in Toyland,” stage production, 2 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
[Missoula](#)
John Floridis and Ed Stalling, folk/rock, 5:30 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Canta Brasil, Latin, 6 p.m., Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468
Reggie Watts, electro-pop/comedian, 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
Left on Tenth, funk, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



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

Sunday, December 22

[Livingston/Bozeman](#)
Acoustic Brunch with Ryan Acker, singer/songwriter, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
“Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf,” comedy play, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
“A Bozeman Radio Christmas: 1939,” musical play, 7 p.m., Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU Bozeman, 585-9774, smallbatcharts.org
Christy Hays, alt-country, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
“A Christmas Carol,” stage play, 3 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
“Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza,” variety show, 3 p.m., The Shane Center, Livingston, 222-1420
Tiny Paycheck, rock/soul, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804
Knee Jurk, acoustic/beans, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
[Helena](#)
The Mighty Travis, rock/pop, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005
“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” stage play, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
[Great Falls](#)
Celtic Music Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
[Missoula](#)
John Floridis and Ed Stalling, folk/rock, 7 p.m., First United Methodist, Missoula, 549-6118



JOHN FLORIDIS

This Missoula-based guitarist, singer-songwriter and composer has released seven recordings mixing bluesy, folk-rock vocal tunes with adventurous solo acoustic guitar compositions. His most recent recording is *Live From 11th and Grant*, the soundtrack from his Northwest Emmy Award-winning performance for the Montana PBS program of the same name. Floridis and percussionist Ed Stalling play a number of benefit concerts for various non-profit organizations this holiday season including: Dec. 14 at the Longstaff House in Missoula, Dec. 21 at Imagine Nation in Missoula and Dec. 22 at First United Methodist in Missoula.

By distance mellowed on the water
His song to see the evening star appear
His song to listen as the night wind
From leaf to leaf; his song to view
The rain bow based on ocean spray

BOOK EVENTS

“FATUOUS TWADDLE”

Shakespeare and Co.
Missoula - Dec. 10

A reading of the collected work of late
Missoula author Jamie Kelly

INK AND WHISKEY:

RICK BASS & CHRIS DOMBROWSKI

Montgomery Distillery
Dec. 11- Missoula

Rick Bass and Chris Dombrowski
discuss the Yaak Valley Forest
Council's struggles to protect the last
25 grizzlies in the Yaak Valley, and
defend against over 500 acres of
regeneration harvest proposed atop
the U.S. headwaters of the Yaak River.



BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH DEBBIE BOWMAN SHEA

Dec. 11 - Butte/Silver Bow Archives

Shea's natural curiosity coupled with
her passion for history led her to a
twenty-year search for her father's birth
family. In that search, her world opened
to avenues that would bring his family
to life: online genealogy sites, the Butte
Archives, historic newspapers, family
stories, pictures, and finally, DNA. The
resulting book, "Dear Dad," tells the
story of that journey to discovery and
of the extraordinary, yet troublesome,
lives that mark her family lineage.

Shea was born and raised in Butte.
She received a B.S. in Education from
Eastern Montana College and a M.Ed.
from the University of Montana. She
taught school for twenty-six years and
served eleven years in the Montana
Legislature, as both Representative
and Senator.

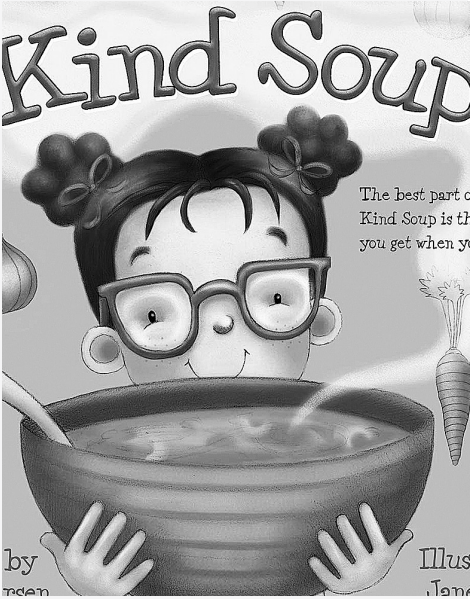
READINGS

“Behavior of Love”

VIRGINIA REEVES

Dec. 7 - Helena

Montana Book Company

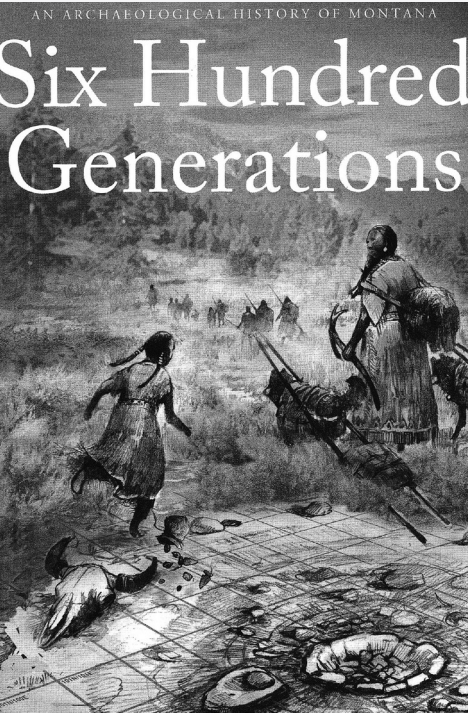


“Kind Soup”

JEAN PETERSEN

Dec. 7 - This House of Books - Billings

Petersen is a writer with more than
20 years of professional writing
experience. She is the author of “The
Big Sky Bounty Cookbook” and “Rustic
Recipes.” She lives in Red Lodge,
Montana. The late morning event
features kid-friendly activities.



“Six Hundred Generations”

CARL DAVIS

Dec. 7 - Missoula

Fact and Fiction Books

Writings and illustrations look at the
archaeological evidence of Montana's
long Indigenous human history.

Focusing on 12 unique archaeological
sites, the book takes readers on a
journey through time, technologies
and cultures. Beginning with the First
Americans who followed mammoths
into this landscape, peer-awarded
Montana archaeologist Carl Davis
describes how Native Americans
lived, evolved and flourished in the
area for thousands of years. The
writing is accompanied by an array of
photographs of archaeological sites,
artifacts, and rock art, along with
conceptual illustrations of Montana's
Indigenous peoples by noted artist-
archaeologist Eric Carlson.

READINGS

“Rubix Ruckus Reubenstein Takes Himself On A Hike”

JEN NITZ

Dec. 7 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

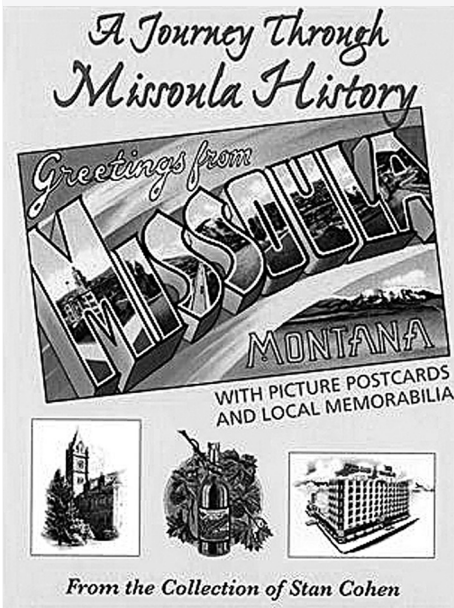
Author Nitz was born and raised in the
Chicago area. After studying Zoology
in college, spent many years working
seasonal jobs studying wildlife or
teaching children at camps around the
country. Last year a dog from West
Yellowstone finally adopted Jennifer and
as she was getting to know him while
hiking in the forest, he inspired this book.

“Treasure State Tycoon”

JOHN C. RUSSELL

Dec. 10 - Country Bookshelf- Bozeman

Local historian Russell shares the
history of Bozeman and its founding
father Nelson Story in the first full-
length biography of Story, a pioneering
prospector, cattleman, and entrepreneur
whose influence profoundly shaped the
development of Montana.



“A Journey through Missoula's History”

STAN COHEN

Dec. 10 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

“For the Love of Soil: Future-Proof Strategies to Regenerate Food Systems”

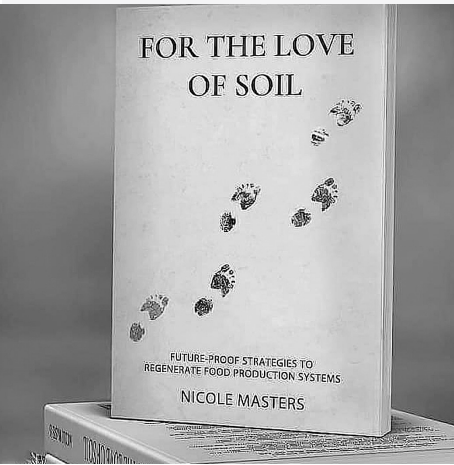
NICOLE MASTERS

Dec. 11 - Livingston

Shane Lalani Center

*Tickets required.

Globally-recognized soil advocate
and agroecologist Nicole Masters
delivers the solution to rewind the clock
on the soil crisis in her first book, a
“roadmap” written to “equip producers
with knowledge, skills and insights to
regenerate ecosystem health
and grow farm profits.”



READINGS

“Cinder Yeti”

PRECIOUS MCKENZIE

Dec. 14 - This House of Books - Billings

McKenzie is a prolific author of over 50
published books, mostly for children. In
her newest book, “Cinder Yeti,” a kind,
sweet yeti who lives with her bossy
stepsisters high in the mountains and
longs for fun and adventure. The pictures
for the book are the work of Billings
resident Edward Tanzosh.

“Gonzo Road Show”

JOHN BRIAN DRISCOLL

Dec. 16- This House of Books - Billings

Driscoll presents a reading from his
new book, “Gonzo Road Show Diary.”

With him will be Randall LeCocq, his
co-author on the 2018 book, “The Battle
of the Bulge, A Montana Perspective.”
Driscoll is a former U.S. Forest Service
Smokejumper, a former Speaker of the
Montana House of Representatives,
and a retired Colonel of the Montana
Army National Guard. His last military
assignment was working several years
on the Joint Staff of the Chairman of
the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Midway Bravery”

DENNIS GAUB

Jan. 7 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Penned by a local author, “Midway
Bravery: The Story of the U.S. Army
Pilot Whose Famed Flight Helped Win
a Decisive World War II Battle” follows
the harrowing story of Army Air Force
pilot Jim Muri flying his torpedo-equipped
B-26 bomber on a daring mission of
survival that helped win the Battle of
Midway in June 1942. He and his crew
were awarded the Distinguished
Service Cross for bravery.



“The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries”

KATE HAMPTON

Jan. 15 - Helena

Montana Historical Society

Hampton's work profiles each of
Montana's 17 Carnegie libraries
built between 1901 and 1922 with
photographs by Tom Ferris.

“Seven Montanas”

EDNOR THERRIALT

Jan. 15 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Through interviews, photos, history and
personal observations, author Ednor
Therriault profiles each region and in the
process gives a more complete view of
the state as a whole. While Montanans
may share a few attitudes and a love of
the land that attracts them to Big Sky
country, it's the differences between the
regions that “truly give the state
its unique flavor.”

FAMOUS BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: RODEO STAR ALICE GREENOUGH



Rodeo star Alice Greenough remains one of Montana's greatest heroines.

Long before Ben Greenough died in 1956, he had lived long enough to see his family surname become synonymous with the word "rodeo" in Montana. Five of his eight children — Turk, Bill, Frank, Margie and Alice — went on to become rodeo professionals. During the 1930s and 1940s, the family became known as the "Riding Greenoughs." Among them, they most likely captured just about every rodeo championship to be had in the state. Alice, the first person named to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, was the most famous of the bunch.

Alice Greenough was born in 1902 on a ranch near Red Lodge. Her orphaned father, Ben, arrived in Montana Territory from New York City via Illinois at age 16 in 1884 or 1886 (accounts vary). Ben found work as a cowboy and later as a mail carrier, at times driving the mail stage from Billings to Red Lodge. He met his wife-to-be on a pack trip while he was selling and breaking horses.

The Greenough family kept dozens of horses to ride and Alice fed cattle, roped them, and then rounded them up. The open range of the West was Alice's playpen and park. "I can't think of a day in those mountains that we didn't have fun," Alice once recalled.

Alice and her siblings were hardened to withstand a rugged life. "Dad used to leave us in cow camps for a month at a time. If we ran out of food we didn't starve. We killed grouse and ate wild berries. It was the survival of the fittest."

Alice started rodeoing while she was still in grammar school. "I cut class to ride saddle broncs in the local fair."

When Alice was a teenager, she received her first job, assisting a local rancher who came to the Greenough house looking for hired hands. She and her sister, Marge, also started riding in local rodeos. Alice mostly rode in races, occasionally even bucking broncos.

A reporter summed up Greenough's energetic routine in 1945: "Predawn rising, getting breakfast for the family and hired hands, cleaning up the ranch-house, lending the boys outside a hand with branding or bronc busting, cooking a noon meal, then designing and making riding clothes, and in season, canning, preserving and salting down foods." Wonder Woman had nothing on Alice Greenough.



One day Alice and Marge came across an ad for the "Jack King Wild West Show," which was in need of bronco and trick riders. Alice had won the World's Championship in women's bronco riding in Boston in 1933, 1935 and 1936 and again in 1940 in New York City.

"The saddle bronc event was closed to women after 1941," Alice recalled, because it was said to be "too rough for the girls." The last time Alice took part in the event, only 5 out of 22 women participants didn't end up in the hospital. She and Margie were among them. "It was a hard life, but we could take it," she said, in 1969. "Today's girl would probably fall in a heap."

In 1932 Alice went to Mexico City to take part in the Rancho Charros, a Mexican fiesta held in the bull ring. She also rode bare back and rode steers.

"The Mexican people weren't surprised to see a woman bronc rider," she said. While in Mexico City, she met a Spanish impresario who was contracting bullfighters for a season in Spain. He saw her ride and

asked her to go to Spain, where she rodeoed in 40 of that country's largest bull rings.

From Spain, she toured the South of France and then returned to the U.S. and another season of rodeoing. In a full life spent in professional rodeo, Alice traveled throughout the United States, Spain, Mexico, Australia and to Canada. She met the Duke of Windsor while he was still Prince of Wales. "He was a friendly, shy young man," she recalled. Alice met him, and King George V and Queen Mary at the royal stables during a trip to England.

In 1934 she again went abroad, this time to England with Tex Austin, a great rodeo impresario of that time. Of all the countries she had visited, Australia, she once said, was her favorite. Her first trip there was in 1934, when she won the women's bronc-riding event in the Melbourne Centennial show and entered the Sydney Royal Show.

In 1939 she went Down Under again, this time to defend her World Championship title in the Sidney Royal Show. She found the Australians a Western-ranch type people at heart, "rugged and easy to get along with."

Alice taught the actress Dale Evans, the wife of Roy Rogers, how to ride. She worked in their pictures — two in 1938 — but according to Greenough, "You have to sit around too much. There's too much waiting for shots."

In addition to her Hollywood venture, the rider lassoed herself a bit of fame in journalism by

Alice taught the actress Dale Evans, the wife of Roy Rogers, how to ride. She worked in their pictures — two in 1938 — but according to Greenough, "You have to sit around too much. There's too much waiting for shots."

writing magazine articles, one of which was titled, "What a Cowgirl Wants."

In 1942, the year after the saddle-bronc event was closed to women, Alice and a Tucsonian, Joe Orr, bought a rodeo of their own. They operated it for 14 years. In addition to producing the Tucson rodeo and handling the business end of its affairs, Alice rode broncs in every event they presented.

A reporter summed up Greenough's energetic routine in 1945: "Predawn rising, getting breakfast for the family and hired hands, cleaning up the ranch-house, lending the boys outside a hand with branding or bronc busting, cooking a noon meal, then designing and making riding clothes, and in season, canning, preserving and salting down foods." Wonder Woman had nothing on Alice Greenough.

Before permanently relocating to Tucson in the 1970s, she started the Historical Museum in Red Lodge, filling it with memorabilia from her own family. Even in retirement, Alice explained that her work at Wall's Livestock Supply kept her busy "nine hours a day," and every chance she would get, she'd go down to her brother Frank's ranch at nearby Sahuarita.

In 1975, Alice was the first person named to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. In 1983, she was named to the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

"The rodeo life was a good life," she observed at the induction ceremony. She died at her Tucson home in 1995 at age 93. The Greenough family maintained the Montana ranch where she was born until the early 1990s. ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Wednesday, January 1

Livingston/Bozeman

The Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124
Pickin' in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290
Bar IX Comedy Open Mic, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185

Butte

Ukulele Jam, 6 p.m., Clark Chateau, Butte, 565-5600

Thursday, January 2

Billings

The ParNicularly ReNicolous Variety Show, comedy and open mic, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394
Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Helena

Open Mic, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Hardwood Heart, folk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls

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

Friday, January 3

Billings

Gray Joy, alt-indie, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman

Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212
Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
Free Spirit Rock Band, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933



Cultivating community through accessible arts experiences for all.

216 W Main Street, Missoula, MT 59802
(406)549-7555 | zootownarts.org

Holiday Open House
Dec 6 / 5-8 PM
Bring your friends and family to the new downtown ZACC for our Friends & Family show, free food, live music, and free ornament painting!

Parade of Lights: Santa's Cookie Plate Painting
Dec 7 / 12-4 PM
Make sure Santa remembers your house by painting him his very own special cookie place at the ZACC!

Gay Holiday Soirée
Dec 13 / 7-11 PM
The ZACC is partnering with The Center (Western MT's LGBTQ+ Community Center) to host their annual Gay Holiday Soirée!

Santa at the Northside Kettlehouse!
Dec 18 / 5-8 PM
THE REAL Santa will be there for wishes and photo ops, and \$1 from every pint you drink (or buy for Santa) goes to the ZACC!

Drink & Draw with Krampus at Western Cider
Dec 18 / 5:30-7:30 PM
The ZACC and Western Cider teamed up to pull St. Nicholas's demonic buddy out of hiding to join us for a very special holiday Drink & Draw!

and paint-your-own pottery anytime during open hours!

Friday, January 3

Helena

Red Onion Purple, jazz, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Missoula

Sunlight Black, rock, 10 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, January 4

Free Spirit Rock Band, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Livingston/Bozeman

Loose String Band, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls

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

Sunday, January 5

Livingston/Bozeman

Acoustic Brunch with Cleo Toll, Americana, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

Great Falls

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

Send calendar updates to info@montanapress.net.

UPCOMING:

JANUARY 10

Yonder Mountain String Band, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

JANUARY 11

Big Head Todd and the Monsters, rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

JANUARY 15

Shooter Jennings, country, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

JANUARY 16

Shooter Jennings, country, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

FEBRUARY 12

Bone Thugs-n-Harmony, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Minnesota, Americana, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

FEBRUARY 13

Bone Thugs N Harmony, hip hop, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

FEBRUARY 14

Bone Thugs in Harmony, hip hop, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Submit listings to info@montanapress.net.



Toyota • Subaru
VW • Honda • Nissan
Japanese/German
Cars Trucks SUVs
Nice or Ugly
Running or Not
327-0300



ARIES

(March 21-April 19): Humans invented the plow in 4,500 BC, the wheel in 4,000 BC, and writing in 3,400 BC. But long before that, by 6,000 BC, they had learned how to brew beer and make psychoactive drugs from plants. Psychopharmacologist Ronald Siegel points to this evidence to support his hypothesis that the yearning to transform our normal waking consciousness is a basic drive akin to our need to eat and drink. Of course, there are many ways to accomplish this shift besides alcohol and drugs. They include dancing, singing, praying, drumming, meditating, and having sex. What are your favorite modes? According to my astrological analysis, it'll be extra important for you to alter your habitual perceptions and thinking patterns during the coming weeks.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20): What's something you're afraid of, but pretty confident you could become unafraid of? The coming weeks will be a favorable time to dismantle or dissolve that fear. Your levels of courage will be higher than usual, and your imagination will be unusually ingenious in devising methods and actions to free you of the unnecessary burden. Step one: Formulate an image or scene that symbolizes the dread, and visualize yourself blowing it up with a "bomb" made of a hundred roses.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20): The word "enantiomorphism" refers to a phenomenon that occurs when a vivid form of expression turns into its opposite, often in dramatic fashion. Yang becomes yin; resistance transforms into welcome; loss morphs into gain. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you Geminis are the sign of the zodiac that's most likely to experience enantiomorphism in the coming weeks. Will it be a good thing or a bad thing? You can have a lot of influence over how that question resolves. For best results, don't fear or demonize contradictions and paradoxes. Love and embrace them.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22): There are Americans who speak only one language, English, and yet imagine they are smarter than bilingual immigrants. That fact amazes me, and inspires me to advise me and all my fellow Cancerians to engage in humble reflection about how we judge our fellow humans. Now is a favorable time for us to take inventory of any inclinations we might have to regard ourselves as superior to others; to question why we might imagine others aren't as worthy of love and respect as we are; or to be skeptical of any tendency we might have to dismiss and devalue those who don't act and think as we do. I'm not saying we Cancerians are more guilty of these sins than everyone else; I'm merely letting you know that the coming weeks are our special time to make corrections.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22): "Erotic love is one of the highest forms of contemplation," wrote the sensually wise poet Kenneth Rexroth. That's a provocative and profitable inspiration for you to tap into. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you're in the Season of Lucky Plucky Delight, when brave love can save you from wrong turns and irrelevant ideas; when the grandeur of amour can be your teacher and catalyst. If you have a partner with whom you can conduct these educational experiments, wonderful. If you don't, be extra sweet and intimate with yourself.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the follow-up story to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, our heroine uses a magic mirror as a portal into a fantastical land. There she encounters the Red Queen, and soon the two of them are holding hands as they run as fast as they can. Alice notices that despite their great effort, they don't seem to be moving forward. What's happening? The Queen clears up the mystery: In her realm, you must run as hard as possible just to remain in the same spot. Sound familiar, Virgo? I'm wondering whether you've had a similar experience lately. If so, here's my advice: Stop running. Sit back, relax, and allow the world to zoom by you. Yes, you might temporarily fall behind. But in the meantime, you'll get fully recharged. No more than three weeks from now, you'll be so energized that you'll make up for all the lost time—and more.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Most sane people wish there could be less animosity between groups that have different beliefs and interests. How much better the world would be if everyone felt a generous acceptance toward those who are unlike them. But the problem goes even deeper: Most of us are at odds with ourselves. Here's how author Rebecca West described it: Even the different parts of the same person do not often converse among themselves, do not succeed in learning from each other. That's the bad news, Libra. The good news is that the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to promote unity and harmony among all the various parts of yourself. I urge you to entice them to enter into earnest conversations with each other!

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Poet Cecilia Woloch asks, "How to un-want what the body has wanted, explain how the flesh in its wisdom was wrong?" Did the apparent error occur because of some "some ghost in the mind?" she adds. Was it due to "some blue chemical rushing the blood" or "some demon or god"? I'm sure that you, like most of us, have experienced this mystery. But the good news is that in the coming weeks you will have the power to un-want inappropriate or unhealthy experiences that your body has wanted. Step one: Have a talk with yourself about why the thing your body has wanted isn't in alignment with your highest good.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven was inclined to get deeply absorbed in his work. Even when he took time to attend to the details of daily necessity, he allowed himself to be spontaneously responsive to compelling musical inspirations that suddenly welled up in him. On more than a few occasions, he lathered his face with the nineteenth-century equivalent of shaving cream, then got waylaid by a burst of brilliance and forgot to actually shave. His servants found that amusing. I suspect that the coming weeks may be Beethoven-like for you, Sagittarius. I bet you'll be surprised by worthy fascinations and subject to impromptu illuminations.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During the next eleven months, you could initiate fundamental improvements in the way you live from day to day. It's conceivable you'll discover or generate innovations that permanently raise your life's possibilities to a higher octave. At the risk of sounding grandiose, I'm tempted to predict that you'll celebrate at least one improvement that is your personal equivalent of the invention of the wheel or the compass or the calendar.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The only thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history. Philosopher Georg Hegel said that. But I think you will have an excellent chance to disprove this theory in the coming months. I suspect you will be inclined and motivated to study your own past in detail; you'll be skilled at drawing useful lessons from it; and you will apply those lessons with wise panache as you re-route your destiny.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20): In his own time, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882) was acclaimed and beloved. At the height of his fame, he earned \$3,000 per poem. But modern literary critics think that most of what he created is derivative, sentimental, and unworthy of serious appreciation. In dramatic contrast is poet Emily Dickinson (1830–1886). Her writing was virtually unknown in her lifetime, but is now regarded as among the best ever. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to sort through your own past so as to determine which of your work, like Longfellow's, should be archived as unimportant or irrelevant, and which, like Dickinson's, deserves to be a continuing inspiration as you glide into the future.

THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

You have the power to re-genius yourself.
Guidance: <https://tinyurl.com/ReGeniusYourself>



WE BELIEVE IN:

The Value of Rural Communities

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

Supporting Women in Leadership Roles

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

Preserving Family Farms and Ranches

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

Maintaining Traditional Work Skills

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

The Power of Music

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



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