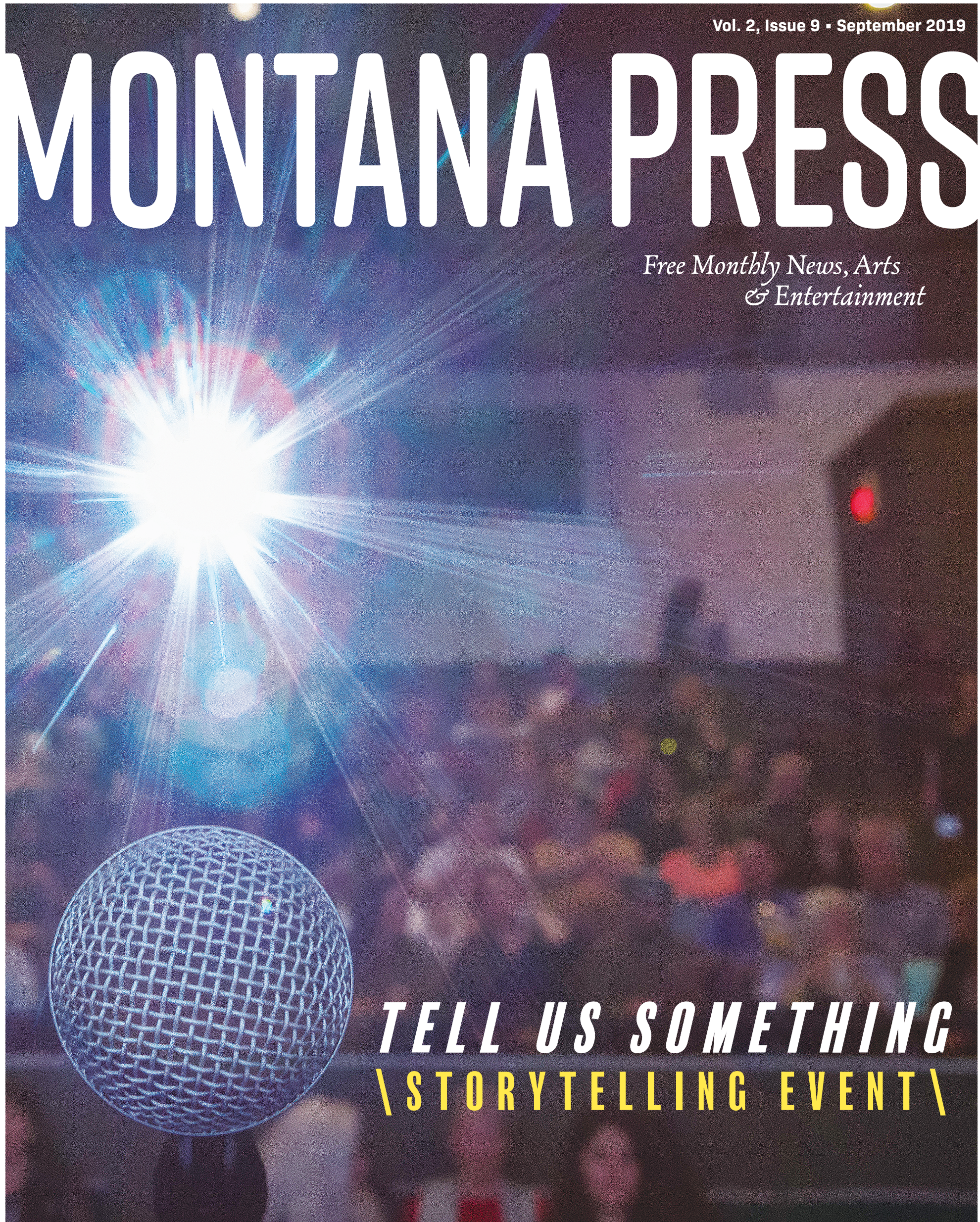


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# MONTANA PRESS

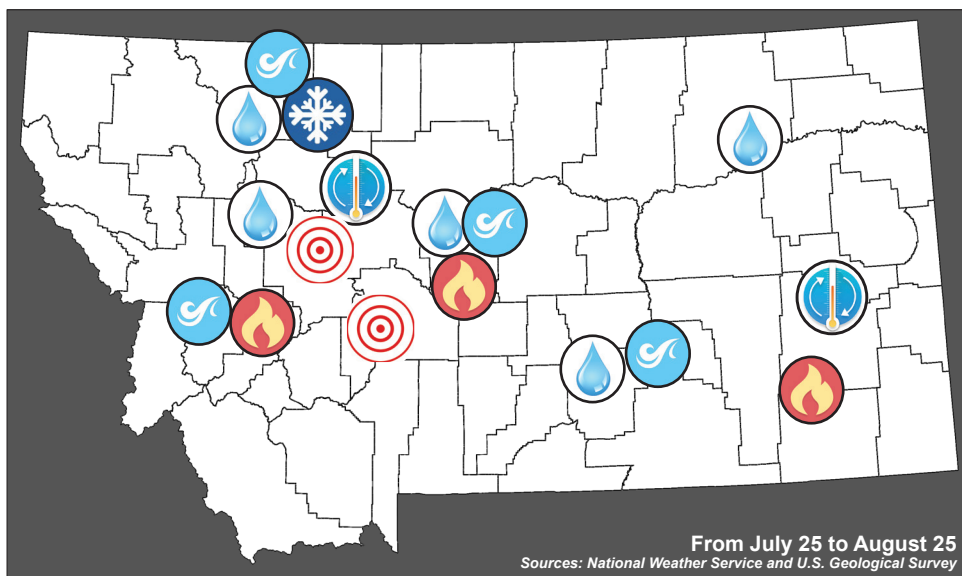
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# MONTANA ALMANAC



## Precipitation

On Aug. 11, minor flooding was reported in the Browning and Cut Bank areas. Also on Aug. 11, 1.16" of rain fell in one hour ending at 3:41 p.m. MDT at the Pistol Creek Look-out (6,000 feet) north of Arlee. On Aug. 21, flash flood warnings were issued along with thunderstorm warnings in Great Falls and Black Eagle. Billings set a precipitation record on Aug. 22 with .97" of rainfall, breaking the old record of .51" set in 1973. On Aug. 12, Glasgow set a record daily rainfall of .9" breaking the old record of .49" set in 2010 for twelfth highest amount.

## Highs and Lows across Montana

The highest temperature recorded during the reporting time was 104 degrees on Aug. 5 in Terry, followed by 102 degrees on July 25 at the Jordan Airport. Montana marked the record low in the contiguous U.S. four times this month, including the state record low for the reporting period of 30 degrees at Gates Park on July 26. On Aug. 18, Miles City set a record low temperature for the day of 46 degrees breaking a record of 47 degrees set in 2004. On Aug. 4, Glasgow set a record warm low of 73 degrees breaking the record of 70 degrees set in 1978. By Aug. 5, Billings saw five consecutive days of temperatures above 98 degrees tying a record for the third time that's happened since temperatures started being recorded. By Aug. 8, Helena marked nine straight days of temperatures of 90 degrees or warmer.

## National Weather Service Projections

Projections from the National Weather Service for September, October and November include increased chances for the western half of the state of being significantly warmer than usual and an even more elevated chance of being warmer than usual in the eastern part of the state. The eastern portion of the state has a 33 to 40 percent chance of higher than normal chance of precipitation.

## Earthquake Activity

On Aug. 3, a 3.4 magnitude earthquake was reported with a 2.6 km depth near Manhattan along with a 3.3 magnitude quake with 5.0 km depth. Earth movements continued in Manhattan on Aug. 4 (3.0 magnitude/2.7 depth), Aug. 5 (3.3 magnitude/5.0 km depth), Aug. 6 (4.1 magnitude/5.0 depth), Aug. 9 (3.1 magnitude/5.0 km depth), Aug. 16 ((3.4 magnitude/5.0 km depth and 4.2 magnitude/7.6 km depth) and Aug. 23 (3.4 magnitude/6.1 km depth). Other earth movements were recorded north of Seeley Lake on August 20 (3.3 magnitude/23.5 km depth).

## First Snows

On Aug. 16, a cold front moved south through north-central Montana causing a drop from 72 to 58 degrees and north winds gusting up to 40 mph and on Aug. 17, fresh snow was reported on the peaks at Glacier National Park in East Glacier and at Logan Pass.

## High Winds Across the State

Montana saw its share of strong thunderstorms during the recording period involving lightning, high winds and varying sizes of hail, including lime-sized hail that fell north of Townsend on Aug. 10 and tornado watches for the Billings and Miles City on Aug. 11. On July 25, wind gusts on the front range of the Rockies were reported at 60 to 70 mph in East Glacier Park. On Aug. 2, Great Falls Airport recorded a wind gust of 62 mph, a gust of 51 mph was recorded at the Butte airport and a 69 mph wind gust was recorded on top of Mt. Sentinel in Missoula. On Aug 11, wind damage was reported in Lolo and Missoula with gusts up to 55 mph. On Aug. 21, a 58 mph gust accompanied a thunderstorm moving through Great Falls, along with .5" of rain in under 30 minutes. Gusty winds up to 40 mph were reported in Liberty, Choteau and eastern Toole counties on Aug. 23.

## Mild Fire Season at Summer's End

Red flag warnings were issued for much of the state during August as high winds and dry conditions persisted but overall, the end-of-season fires were mild. Fires were reported east of I-15 in the North Hills near Helena on July 26 and in the Rattlesnake area of Missoula. On Aug. 1, several fires under 20 acres were reported in the Lewis and Clark National Forest near Helena. A fire in Petroleum county twas 100 percent contained at 11,128 acres by Aug. 6.

Sources: National Weather Service and U.S. Geological Survey

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**ON THE COVER** Montanans can take the stage to share their stories at the Tell Us Something events across the state.

*Photo of Myrna Loy storytelling event in Helena by Jason O'Neil.*

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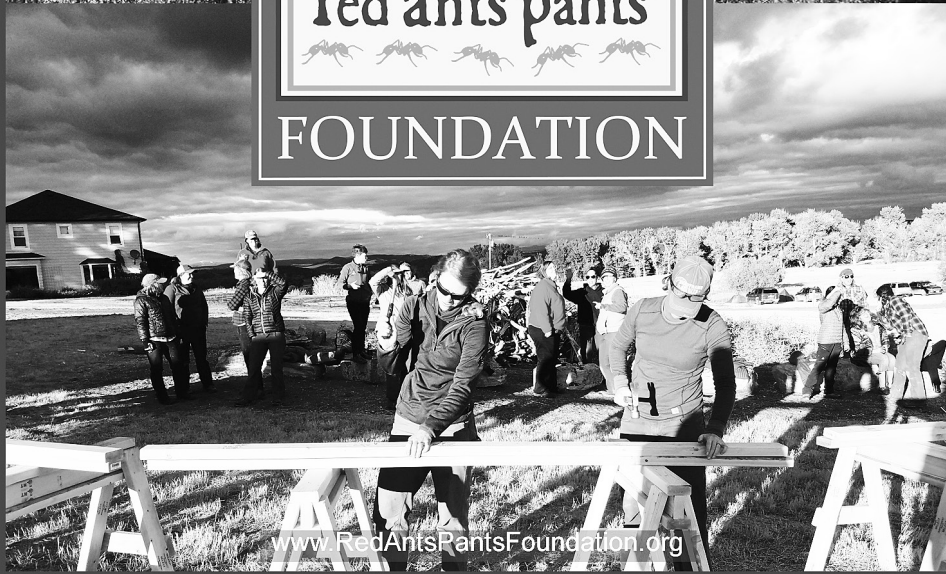
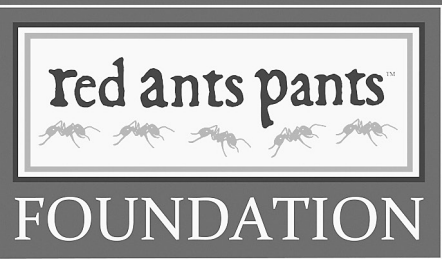
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# BYGONE DAYS

*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.*

## **The Helena Independent September 2, 1895**

"Mark Twain has been interviewed in San Francisco and the result is found in the Call. Mark thinks it was worth while losing his fortune to find his friends. One Montanian, he is quoted as saying, wrote him a letter, which said: 'You may draw on me for \$5 a day until your debts are paid.' Should you think it surprising that Mark Twain considers Montanians the salt of the earth?"

"The Gunboat Helena. The citizens of Helena will be glad to know that the keen interest which they take in all that concerns the doings of the gunboat Helena is participated in by the Naval authorities at Washington who are anxiously looking forward to the completion of all three light-draught gunboats now in the course of construction at Newport News, Va., All three craft, it seems, are intended for service on the inland waters of the Chinese empire... It is a remarkable coincidence that in several ways the probable experiences of the new gunboat Helena are likely to be a reputation of those of the old steamer of the same name that used to navigate the Missouri in the early days. The latter was a wonderfully lucky boat... As Commodore Power put it the other day... 'The Helena never ran into a snag she could not get off in short order... Her good fortune was proverbial and it was often said of her that she could float on mountain dew...'

## **Dillon Examiner September 4, 1895**

"It is said a man who won't buy a paper because he can borrow one, has invented a machine by which he can cook his dinner by the smoke from his neighbor's chimney. This same fellow sits in the back pew in church to save interest on contributions and is always borrowing a ride to town to save the wear and tear on his own horse flesh... He undoubtedly is a relative of the man who went in the back yard during a cold snap last winter and soaked his hair in water, ket it freeze and then broke it off to cheat the barber out of a haircut."

"Enormous damage has been done throughout Montana during the last three weeks by forest fires. The smoke from the burning forests has been very dense. It is said that the main rangers no barrier to the smoky fog that invades all the valleys east of the divide and obscures the mountain outlines in all directions."

## **The Montanian Choteau, September 6, 1895**

"The officials that undertake to arrest women bicycle riders who wear bloomers will have anything but a happy time of it, and will have to retreat with the jeers of the entire country at their folly. They don't seem to know American women."



## **Weekly Montanian Thompson Falls, September 7, 1895**

"Suicide Each Day - Helena Citizens Seek Oblivion From the Woes of Earth - Helena, Mont., Sept. 1.—A suicide a day is a pretty fast record for a town of 15,000 people, yet that is what has occurred here the last three days. Has. Potts, an apple peddler, who sold his wares around the gambling houses, became despondent because his occupation went with the closing of the houses, and hanged himself Thursday forenoon. James H. Murphy, a well known and fairly successful mining man, shot himself in the forehead Friday night... and was thought to have been a victim of the morphine habit. Saturday night Feliz Gallnick, a Silesian druggist, who used to get money from home, but whose allowance seems to have been cut off, and had been chopping wood of late, shot himself in the left temple. He was simply despondent and down on his luck."

"School opened Monday with sixty bright little boys and girls in attendance. Above everything else Thompson Falls can boast of the most excellent schools with as bright as class of boys and girls as ever went barefooted."

"Besides the educated howling dogs and the educated bovines that play the midnight lullabys with chiming bells, Thompson Falls has a cow that eats barb wire, can unlock a burglar proof safe, licks the number off freight cars, has kicked the man in the moon, will climb a tree for the one little leaf on top, has eaten the editor's washing, with her horns pulls spikes out of railroad ties and can eat a barrel cement for lunch. We want a photograph of her interior, believing it will give us an idea of a machine that will save the fine gold in the river."

## **The River Press Fort Benton, September 11, 1895**

"The New Woman in Montana — The Chicago Inter Ocean refers as follows to a lady who is well known throughout this section of Montana: The Montana cattle queen, Mrs. Nat Collins, was at the yards yesterday from her ranch in Montana with several cars of cattle. The stock ws in good condition and brought good prices. Mrs. Collins is about 50 years of age. Her post-office address is Fort Benton. She is a widow who, at the death of her husband some time ago, was left with a big ranch to handle and thousands of cattle to look after. It was in that way she got her title. Mrs. Collins superintends the affairs of her ranch, and makes annual trips to Chicago with her stock."

## **Havre Daily News September 13, 1934**

"Dies of Paralysis — Billings, Sept. 12 (AP) — Billings recorded its first death from infantile paralysis this week when Eddie J. Bergquist, 28, sugar company worker, died after a four-day illness."

"There has been increasing talk and speculation over the country lately as to the prospect for a woman president, ultimately. One woman who is so situated as to have what might be called an inside view of the situation and who for many years has been a leader among women, does not believe we are likely to see a woman in that position for a long time. She is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and her statement was brought out by an address made by Lillian D. Rock, secretary of the National Association of Women Lawyers recently in which she declared she expected to see a woman president within her lifetime. Mrs. Roosevelt... is gratified to see the progress women have made in so many fields but concludes that the majority of our citizens would not be satisfied to follow the leadership of a woman—any woman—and trust her judgment as president of the United States... To say that a woman could not stand the physical strain of the office is, in Mrs. Roosevelt's opinion, sheer nonsense. As she has observed it, women today are standing hard work just as well as men. In the home, on the farm, in the great industrial field, women... have proved their ability to stand the the physical strain, but they have not had the experience in public life... yet. 'Some day,' says Mrs. Roosevelt in conclusion 'a woman may be president, but I hope it will not be while we speak of 'woman's vote.' I hope it only becomes a reality when she is elected as an individual, because of her capacity and the trust which the majority of the people have in her integrity and ability as a person."

## **Butte Montana Standard September 18, 1934**

"Parents should not be alarmed over the action of city and county authorities in closing the schools as a precautionary measure against the spread of infantile paralysis in Butte. There is no epidemic of that dread disease here at the time. There is, however, possibility that such an epidemic might result if precautionary measures were not promptly and effectively taken..."



"John W. Collier, federal commissioner of Indian affairs, is evidently determined to do everything in his power to see that the Indians on the reservations in this country get a square deal. he has recently turned his attention to the white men in charge of agency stores and white women who teach at Indian schools. Several teachers have been suspended on charges that they have been too harsh in punishing the misbehavior of their Indian pupils. One almost incredible complaint is that a teacher 'flogged' a child for speaking his mother tongue on the playground..."

"Charles M. Russell, famous cowboy artist who dies several years ago in Great Falls, will be remembered in Montana's hall of fame, if plans by his friend, Powder River Jack Lee of Deer Lodge, turn out successfully... Powder River Jack is meeting friends of Russell in the state and the nation. He is in Butte today en route to the East, where he will talk to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. An interview has been arranged by Sen. B.K. Wheeler. During the past summer, Powder River Jack Lee and his wife, both internationally famous, have been guests at the Russell cabin on Lake McDonald..."

## **Big Timber Pioneer September 22, 1960**

"London—(AP)—A spokesman for the British Flying Saucer Society said today that, before the society—or anyone else—try to put a man on a planet they'd better get the planet's permission. 'We've been informed by the cosmic masters,' said William Mayhew in an interview, 'that earth men will not be allowed to land on other planets.' Mayhew, a lawyer, and 700 other members of the society have been attending Britain's first National Flying Saucer convention. During their two-day session in London they said they established contact with a spokesman on Mars through one of their officials, George King..."

## **Helena Independent-Record September 26, 1960**

"The Sweet Grass Community hospital is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its opening by having two sets of twin girls on display in its nursery window. The three-puns Gavne girls were born September 9 and the Mauland five-pound identical twins arrived on September 15..."

"Twixt home and school the children go. Watch out for them and let them grow. Drivers, slow down in school and residential areas, and be sure you could stop in time to save a little life and protect your own conscience." ★

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Facebook for daily  
Montana Bygone Days.**



# MONTANA VOICE

## *Fighting Trump's Enormous Threats to Montana's Environment*

**M**ontanans have long been serenaded by politicians claiming we can have extractive industries and a clean environment, too. But as reported by The Hill as we went to press, Donald Trump “skipped a G-7 meeting on climate on Monday morning...and later said he was unwilling to sacrifice an American economic boom for the sake of the environment.” Like a flare in a pitch black night Trump has clearly delineated his priorities – and it’s a clarion call for “all hands on deck” in the battle to protect Montana’s world famous wildlife, fisheries, and landscapes from the insatiable rapacious greed of the Trump administration.

Long before Montana became a state it was already a “resource colony” for the nation. First they killed the beavers for their fur, thus destroying Nature’s very best flood control mechanism. Then came the “settlers” who used the army to push the Indians, who had lived in harmony with their natural environment for 10,000 years, off the land. To do so, they decimated the tens of millions of bison that once roamed the vastness of the Great Plains and forced the Indians onto reservations where they could be “managed” by their “civilized” oppressors.

The cattle barons then marched their enormous herds onto the now bison-free plains to exploit and destroy the lush native grass ecosystems. And of course that also meant extirpating any predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, and coyotes that might harm their cows and sheep.

When the railroad barons swept in the virgin old-growth forests fell before their saws and the sod-busters tore up the plains. To this day we live with the aftermath of the free-for-all destruction of the gold miners, who were followed closely by the Copper Kings and the on-going poisoning of the headwaters of the mighty Columbia River.

One might think that over two centuries of environmental destruction some lessons may have been learned about the ultimate cost of unsustainable natural resource extraction. But apparently those lessons – and the incredible damages of the past – hold no value to the Trump administration.

It didn’t take the blunt words of the president to send up the red flags, however, given that he has put individuals dedicated to the plunder of public lands and resources in charge of the federal agencies once established to protect those very lands and resources.

As Jim Furnish, former Deputy Chief of the Forest Service wrote in a recent column: “President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue are hellbent on increasing logging in our national forests,” citing the newly issued rules that give the timber industry “a nearly unlimited license to commercially log nearly seven square miles — about 3,000 football fields — or build five miles of logging roads at a time without involving the public or disclosing environmental consequences. This proposed rule will stifle citi-

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**Comes now the  
hour of decision  
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and concurrent  
environmental  
destruction.**

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zen participation, foster deepened opposition and increase litigation.”

Add to that startling fact that during what is now called The Sixth Great Extinction the Trump administration is gutting the Endangered Species Act right when we need it most. In Montana, nearly all of the species that existed when Lewis and Clark traveled through are still hanging on. But as the pressures of “civilization” continue to destroy the habitat vital to their existence, the Administration is making it harder to list endangered species, cancelling “critical habitat” designations, and opening what’s left to mining, logging, drilling and domestic livestock.

Make no mistake, in Trump’s increasingly unhinged mind he is willing to sacrifice the well-being of future generations to anything he believes will generate economic activity. Anything.

Comes now the hour of decision when our politicians must make it clear to voters where they stand on unregulated resource extraction and the concurrent environmental destruction. Senator Daines and Rep. Gianforte are not leaders; they are Trump puppets at best and neither deserves return to public office. Democrats, too, must give up the myth of “bipartisan cooperation” and realize these very real threats. Simply put, if they’re with Trump’s environmentally destructive agenda, they’re not with a sustainable future for Montana, the nation, or the planet. It’s time to stand and fight – or get out of the way of those who will. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI



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# MONTANA BOOKS

## *To Die For: Author Lisa Jackson Uses Montana as Backdrop for Thrillers*

**W**ith 85 romantic-suspense novels under her belt, how does bestselling author Lisa Jackson keep creating those dynamic plots and compelling characters that keep us turning our collective pages? The short answer: she now lives to write, just as she once wrote to live.

Fans of Jackson's set-in-Montana "To Die" series featuring Detectives Regan Pescoli and Selena Alvarez are flocking to #86, *Willing to Die*, in which Pescoli, on maternity leave, learns that her sister and husband, Brindel and Paul Latham, have been found shot to death in their tony San Francisco home. The untimely investigation deepens, when the couple's teenage daughter Ivy lands on Pescoli's doorstep in Grizzly Falls, Montana.

And because one title a year is rarely sufficient from the prolific Jackson, her new stand-alone thriller, *Paranoid*, has also just hit the racks. In it, a troubled Edgewater, Oregon woman is haunted by the delusion or memory that she may have murdered her half-brother Luke 20 years ago.

Jackson admits her rural Oregon upbringing likely set the stage for her own life's journey.

"I grew up in Molalla, Oregon. We had the Molalla Indian tribe. My great-great grandfather came out on the wagon train and settled there, and the last person in my family just sold the last piece of it. Kind of sad after, well, since 1849 when the first settlers came. I lived there all of my growing-up years," she says. "I still am an Oregonian, but I don't live in that little rural town. So a lot of my stories have that kind of Western/rural vibe to them. I live in Lake Oswego part-time. I also have a place at the beach, but I don't tell people where I live because I always write creepy stories and I don't want anybody to know."

The technological limitations of her pre-sixties childhood helped create a literary home life that sparked Jackson's creative fire.

"I grew up when we had TV but it was black and white and three stations. My family were voracious readers; they read fiction and mysteries. Mom and Dad were always reading books and doing crossword puzzles. And all before cable. My friend back then said he was the remote, getting up and changing channels," she recalls.

It wasn't until she was married with two young sons that books became more than a pastime.

"I wrote articles for the school paper and I always thought I would write, but I also thought it was a pipe dream. I didn't really get into it until 1980, when my sister Nancy and I read an article in Time magazine about these young women and mothers (which we both were) writing romance novels and she said, 'I think we can do this.' And I just laughed at her and said, 'We've never read a romance novel in our lives. What makes you think we can do this?'"

"But I went to my regular job, which was babysitting because I had little kids, and I thought maybe Nancy has something here. So by the time she picked up her kid, I don't know how but I'd pulled out this whack-a-doo manual typewriter and typed the seven-page prologue with little kids at my legs. I don't know how I did it; I'm a terrible typer and a terrible speller. But when Nancy came, I handed over



her daughter and the pages and said, 'Let's do it!'"

The sisters dreamed up a story idea, researched and wrote it and voila, it sold. Nancy then wrote and sold her first solo teen romance in 1981, and a year and a half later, Lisa followed suit, leaving behind some lingering regrets.

"I'd gone to college for two years at Oregon State University. I guess I went to a community college, too. I didn't graduate; I got married instead. Real smart move. But I'm an optimist and I believe it worked out, because I do believe that if I became an English teacher, I wouldn't have become a writer. I believe one thing begets another in your life; if you take a left turn instead of a right, your life is going to obviously end up different. So it all worked out," she says.

At the time, romance titles differed drastically from suspense novels, a reality the sisters vowed to change.

"Nancy and I have a lot of trouble writing romance," Jackson admits. "Since we grew up on mystery and suspense, we learned to write by writing romance. When I was writing for Silhouette, there were many, many restrictions placed on your writing: no gunplay, no violence, no suspense. It was just a love story."

"And there came a point in my career where I was at a crossroads – I was lucky enough that Kensington wanted me to write bigger books, and I was lucky enough to write these big books; I saw women struggling to do it because they were good at the romance and crappy at the suspense and I saw men doing it and they were excellent at the suspense and couldn't write romance for shit."

"But I could write a male perspective and I had in several of my books because of my growing-up period, so I saw almost this path between two forests, one male dominated, one female dominated, and I thought, if I can go right down the center of the road, that's where I want to be. I've striven to do that – I'm not sure that I always accomplish it; I get complaints from everybody – but I try to write the books that I like to read. I like a little bit of romance but I like a lot of suspense."

Once the hybrid of suspenseful romance took off, Jackson faced a new challenge: choosing

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her all-important series settings.

"There's a distinct feel with each book, whether that comes from the local character or just the ambiance of the place. When my editor first said she thought this series ('Hot Blooded,' 'Shiver,' and 'Malice' with Detectives Rick Bentz and Reuben Montoya) should be set in New Orleans, I thought well crap! I'd never been to New Orleans, or maybe just once, and hey, that's a whole different culture and feel and history than I'm used to," she recalls. "But I hopped on that plane so I could experience it myself, which I don't always do. But in that case, I certainly did, because I thought, oh man, these Southern people are going to say, 'Well, she don't know nothing!'"

The success of her New Orleans series prompted another intriguing suggestion from Jackson's editor that inadvertently inspired Grizzly Falls.

"The New Orleans series had been very popular and I had written another couple of books, and he asked me, 'What do you think about a series where the protagonists are two women cops?' And I thought, 'Oh God no, 'Cagney and Lacey,' the '80s, oh I just can't see that!'" she chuckles. "But then I thought about it and said well, what if I had the cops where they're their usual thing and not like opposites, and what if we set it in a rural location where there are lots of unique characters? I grew up in this little rural town where people used chainsaws to do art, and I thought I would set it somewhere ranch-y because I'd written stories in San Francisco and L.A. and the Portland area and I wanted something different. Wyoming was a little more remote than I wanted to be, but western Montana had the right feel. I felt it would be enough like where I grew up that I could make it work."

Jackson created the setting based on the rural towns where she grew up, but eventually fell for the charms of the Bitterroot Valley.

"I patterned Grizzly Falls a little bit off of Oregon City, which is a two-tiered town where the river runs at one tier and then a lot of the city is up above the cliffs. Because I don't write the series one after the other, each time I went back there it helped me get back in the heads

and where they are living now. It helped to have patterned the town a little bit like Oregon City. It was just a stroke of luck that I set Grizzly Falls in the Bitterroot Valley where my ex-in-laws ended up. It's not exactly as I pictured it but I think it works. But I wrote several books before I actually went over there, and now I have ex-family but really good friends who live in Hamilton, so I have been there recently."

Jackson also had her own take on the character and relationship of her female detectives.

"I used the setting because I wanted the feel of Montana, a medium-size city, a fake county because I wanted the sheriff's department to be up there. And I wanted Pescoli to basically have been up there a lot of years and to have the children and marriages, and Alvarez to be kind of this

lone wolf who is always kind of running away from her past, a brilliant woman who had bad things happen to her in the past and ended up in a podunk town where she's a little bit of a fish out of water. I wanted Pescoli to be the fish in the water and Alvarez to be the fish out of water. I don't know that it actually worked that way because Alvarez is a by-the-book character more so and Pescoli is kind of out there; she runs on emotion and the other one tries not to."

Which character would Jackson most resemble?

"I probably relate more to Pescoli because I've had children who have been a challenge; they're adults now and they're fine but during their teen years they were a challenge. As a matter of fact, one time my son Michael read one of my books and he says, 'Hey, mom, this kind of losing kid who can never get his act together? That's not me, is it? He doesn't keep his room clean and it always in trouble with the law and his mom's exhausted. That's not me, is it?'" she laughs. "And I said, 'Well no, Michael; these are fictional characters.' I didn't write about (sons) Michael or Matthew, but some of their traits certainly show up in the books."

Divorced since 1996, the 68-year-old Jackson looks back with gratitude at the life she was able to provide for her sons by taking her sister's challenge.

"I feel like I've always been a lucky person. I've had a lot of hardship in my life but all in all, I'm very lucky. My boys are 40 and 39 now, and I have five grandchildren, and let me tell you, they are the loves of my life, loves of my life. The other day, we don't do the gun thing or nothing, but it was a hot day and I went to the grocery store and bought eight water pistols and I shot them, and it was so much fun. I thought well, the parents won't approve of this but we're going to do water pistols. I'm a lot more fun grandparent than I was a parent!" ★

—JAY MACDONALD

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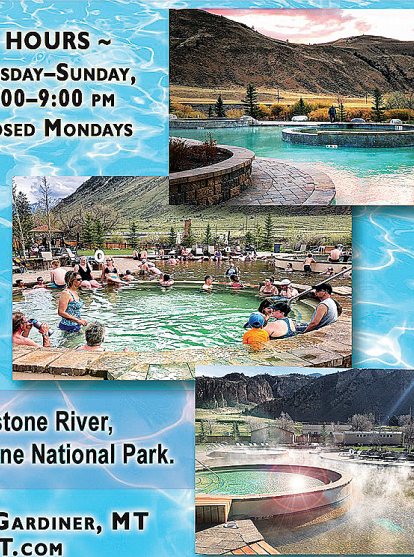
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# UNSOLVED MONTANA

## *The Life, Death and Legacy of Nelson McNair*

*This following is part of a series entitled "Unsolved in Montana," in which author Brian D'Ambrosio will re-examine Montana crimes over recent decades that have never been brought to a definitive legal conclusion. Perhaps readers of Montana Press may be able to bring new information forward to resolve some of these situations and the circumstances that surround them.*

It's been nearly 25 years since the black-and-blue, decomposed body of an 18-year-old Livingston youth was found wedged in the banks of the Yellowstone River.

Generations filter and pass, yet a cluster of Livingston residents vividly remember Nelson McNair's renegade teenage charisma. Charisma is a word that of course is hard to bring to life on the page. When compared with the flesh experience it tries to capture, it falls short. But Nelson McNair had it and, according to friends, family and law enforcement, someone may have purposely eliminated it by taking his life almost 25 years ago.

### TWO SIDES OF LIVINGSTON

Nelson's mother, Arleta Berg, opens a small plastic folder of newspaper clippings which cover the rudiments of her son's death. Scattered across the kitchen table, they are surprisingly few, and almost all of them are terse, providing a slight amount of copy and not very much insight. After all, how could they capture just how smart and athletic and funny her son was? Accompanying images preserve his edgy 1990s skateboarder persona, blonde hair, parted in the middle, often tightly tied back. He was handsome with a distinct jaw line and eyes full of marvel, waywardness and possibility.

As the physical pain and mental anguish washes over her, Arleta peels back the layers of her only son's life. Thomas Nelson McNair was born December 2, 1976, in Bozeman, the son of Clifford McNair and Arleta Berg. He was a "good baby" and "a happy camper," says Arleta. When Nelson was five years old, his parents separated.

Nelson was a product of the days before Livingston was a gentrified tourist town, rather "a

rough railroad, sawmill and mining town," as one resident described it. Indeed, the small town that so fascinates out-of-town outdoor escapists, tourists, well-compensated newcomers and travel bloggers around the country is actually only half of Livingston. The other half, the so-called outskirts or fringes, continues to be characterized by a poorer landscape and a more parochial way of life that has remained basically unchanged for a half a century or more.

The anodyne watercolor paintings, Americano shops and expensive restaurants are really only half of the story. The other half – Nelson McNair's half – is a story of limitation and determination. It's the story of an artistically-inclined, likable kid living with a single mom,

"Mom loved him a lot," says one of Nelson's longtime friends, "but she had her own issues and there was no structure for him to develop within, and he did what he wanted."

When he needed space, Nelson would wander to the overpass or under the I-90 bridge to get high or to scribble lines and images in one of his notebooks. Nights were passed with friends, fiddling with musical instruments and art supplies in between breaks of peanut butter and oatmeal concoctions.

Drugs eventually put him under a cloud, but just which ones he was using and how often are sources of contention. Friends said he frequently used marijuana and may have occasionally taken LSD.



who, not unlike many other children, lacked the advantage of guidance and direction, a good boy who "wouldn't hurt a fly," raised in poverty by a hardworking mother who, proverbially speaking, did the best she could.

Beginning in his pre-teens, Nelson spent much of his free time at Chico Hot Springs, stretching out his calves in the Bridger Mountains or zipping down the ski hill. He'd celebrate the end of school with friends fishing in the lagoon at Sacajawea Park, using worms or metal spinners, reeling in trout, some as extensive as 19 inches in length. One summer he worked in construction up at Mill Creek drainage. Another summer, he spent four days with a friend in the mountains of northwestern Wyoming, where he "survived on a bag of hamburger buns and a can of corn."

Nelson liked classical music and poetry, and he was almost always drawing. There were the typical rites of passage: the shenanigans in the classroom, the experimentation with pushing boundaries, the occasional alcohol consumption and the more frequent joint. He wasn't confrontational, though he was no pushover. Nelson's relationship with his dad, a logger who lived in Big Timber, was often strained. His mother Arleta's free-ranging parenting style was dictated as much by attitude as it was economics. It's hard to quantify latitude, but it's innocent to say that Nelson enjoyed a lot of it.

The stigmatization of marijuana in the early to mid-1990s had a profound effect on the context of Nelson's life and death. On October 12, 1992, Park High School principal Robert Moore confronted Nelson about his drug-induced appearance and the youth provided him two baggies of marijuana. A third bag was found in a classroom where he had been sitting.

"If you weren't a straight A student or athlete around Livingston, you would never get a chance to be branded anything but a trouble maker," says his friend Candace Casey. "Nelson was naturally cool. He was just a kid without a lot of structure. There were no skateboard parks. He wasn't a bully or a jerk. He was the guy who, if a girl was too drunk, he was part of the group who would get her home and would be dropping her off. He talked of the possibility of getting out of Livingston, joining the Job Corps but he thought that he didn't have the means. He had brains and talent, and he could've turned his life around."

Sean Gadberry was one of Nelson's friends and one of the first people to get involved with trying to build the skatepark in Livingston that now bears Nelson's name.

"Nelson was a good person with a good heart," says Gadberry, of Livingston. "He loved his mom and he was a good athlete. I miss him always."



### "BROKEN KIDS" WHO IDENTIFIED WITH NIRVANA AND SKATEBOARDING

Another one of Nelson's friends, Jackson Welker, recalls their relationship as one bonded around mountain biking, skateboard hopping, and at one point even matching Mohawks. They were kids with little supervision who grew up in challenging households, "half-country" kids with the mind-set of nonchalance, lower socioeconomic couriers of the pre-Pilates and Airbnb-everywhere Livingston.

"We were 1990s grunge kids running amok," says Welker, who now lives in the Seattle area. "We were the broken kids. I can remember the morning that we got Nirvana's *Nevermind* CD (1991). We all lived that life for sure."

Skateboarding both filled the void and created a chasm.

While its popularity, participation and acceptance has increased exponentially since the mid-1990s, at that time skateboarding was viewed by many as nothing more than a rebellious activity with a dark side. Indeed, it is a sport that has long been identified with defiance, and many skateboarders have sought the image of being rebels in an outlaw sport in which escaping security guards and the police comes with the territory.

"There were people in Livingston who hated us because we were skateboarders," says Welker. "There were families and adults who went out of their way to make us miserable."

Jackson says that when he was approximately age 15, he was involved in a collision while on his skateboard with a Livingston police officer; one minute he was riding on the sidewalk and another he was prostrate on the pavement.

"The officer drug me to the police car and left the skateboard in the street. You would've thought that I was the devil himself for riding a skateboard. To me, the saddest part was that not a single adult or business owner or anyone raised their voice."

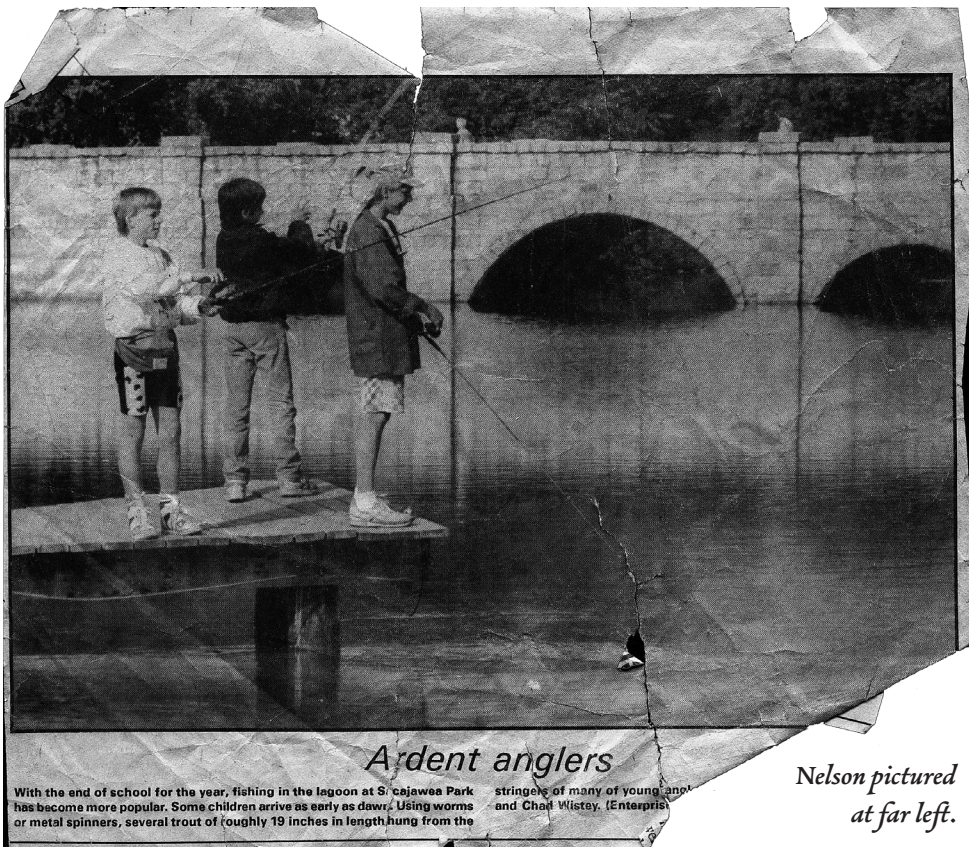
"I was a promoter of it (skateboarding) and I'd shown them how to build ramps at the old school," says Sean Gadberry. "We'd set them up and the police would destroy the ramps and throw them over the fence. You would see them do it. There was a ridiculous hillbilly redneck prejudice against something new. You had to deal with it, and that was ridiculous because none of us were bad kids. But the police had a target on our backs. We couldn't ride in the streets or the parking lots and wherever we went, the cops would push you out, and they made you a criminal."

Nelson's junior and senior years were marked by pangs of growth, remorse and confusion. School was both uplifting and soul-crushing. There were plenty of fun times and smiles, yet there was also an undercurrent of incongruity: he would receive straight A's in shop, but then he'd flunk gym. He wasn't proficient with numbers or math, yet he took the initiative to find an algebra tutor and address his weaknesses. He was smart as a whip, but he could be reckless with his actions. Such as the time, recalled by friends, when he "ruptured his spleen, exploded



*A school-age Nelson McNair pictured on a trip to Disneyland with his mother Arleta and a high school yearbook photo of the young man in the early 1990s (above).*





### Ardent anglers

With the end of school for the year, fishing in the lagoon at Sycamore Park has become more popular. Some children arrive as early as dawn. Using worms or metal spinners, several trout of roughly 19 inches in length hung from the

strings of many of young anglers and Chad Wistey. (Enterprise)

Nelson pictured at far left.

his pelvis, and suffered internal bleeding” after he took a nasty fall on the ice while allegedly under the influence.

In the spring of 1995, Nelson expressed frustration to several friends that he had “gone too far down the wrong path.” One friend remembers a telephone call with Nelson in which the young man described his desire to “get his shit together” and “to do better than this.” He alluded that he had been “too far into drug activity,” and the friend speculated that Nelson might have been “helping transport some stuff.”

### THE BIG BUST

Still, Nelson generally proved himself capable of handling life’s challenges – until the big bust that may have set in motion a series of events which led to his death. Few who attended Park High School in 1995 would forget the raid, the February day when the full-blown sting operation at the school saw officers authoritatively march students into closed interrogation rooms.

Nelson was found to be in possession of a marijuana pipe. City Judge Neil Travis later fined him \$420 and sentenced him to ten days in jail, with the jail time deferred on the condition he perform 160 hours of community service, undergo drug counseling, not be cited for controlled substance violations and “provide law enforcement officials with information or testimony on illegal drug use upon request.”

One month after his arrest, purportedly at the behest of Judge Travis, Nelson and another person, Carisa Schneider, were publicly disclosed as informants on the front page of the Livingston Enterprise. Alarmed by the obvious potential repercussions, the second individual’s family subsequently moved.

“Why is still a good question,” says Welker. “Why on planet earth would you do that to a teenager other than to simply mess with a kid who you thought was trouble?”

### DISAPPEARANCE AND DISCOVERY

Nelson McNair disappeared on or about Wednesday, March 29, 1995, after he dropped a friend named Jon Romans off at his home and invited the friend to come over to McNair’s mother’s house east of Livingston (near the intersection of Highway 89 North and Interstate 90 near the Yellowstone River) the next day. It ended what was a rather bland night. Nelson

and his friends had almost no money and even less marijuana. After they took turns shooting at empty beer bottles at the town dump with a .22 pistol, Nelson dropped off Romans and Joshua Kronske.

“I’ll pick you up tomorrow for school,” Nelson told Romans and Kronske. “See you in the morning for jail,” were the exact words,” says Romans. “That’s how we referred to it.”

Nelson dropped off the fourth kid, Eli Fisher, and headed home.

Nelson ordinarily padlocked his bedroom door, but he didn’t lock it after he left his room that night or early the following morning for the final time. He missed a pair of school days. Nelson had been working as a dishwasher at The Stockman’s Bar and busing tables at a Mexican café, where he had plans to work that weekend. But no one heard from him.

At first, his mother Arleta, who worked graveyard-shifts at the convalescence center as a laundress, hadn’t been alarmed. Nothing appeared out of place. His collection of CDs, estimated value of \$1,500, wasn’t looted. Nelson’s truck was parked in front of the house as he had left it. Wherever he had gone he seemingly had gone willingly, perhaps on foot. But after three days without contact, on Saturday, April 1, Nelson’s aunt, Peggy Berg, reported her nephew missing to the Sheriff’s office. On Friday, April 7, his father, Clifford McNair, filed a second missing person’s report.

In drug-detection mode, police arrived at the house and ransacked Nelson’s room in search of drug paraphernalia; they confiscated a closet full of about ten marijuana plants. In the process, evidence may have been compromised. A 9mm handgun that Nelson kept in his bedroom has never been recovered.

On May 4, 1995, four fishermen in a boat discovered the body of McNair in the Yellowstone River, the victim of an apparent drowning. His billfold and driver’s license were reported to have been discovered. Silt from the banks of the river clogged his lungs, an indicator that perhaps he was held face down and had sucked in the particles. The birthmark patch of reddish warts on the left side of the neck as well as a burn mark on the right cheek (from the masonite of the skate ramp) were perhaps some of the physical hallmarks used to identify Nelson.

Coroner Al Jenkins accompanied Nelson’s body to the autopsy at the state crime lab in Missoula. Jenkins, who began working as the Park County Coroner in 1990, told the media in 2002

that there was nothing on the body to indicate that Nelson had been stabbed or shot, “but a body traveling in the water suffers all sorts of bruises and abrasions. It’s also possible that injury may have been inflicted before he went into the water.”

From the start, Jenkins has been laconic – a sentence here, a one-line declaration there. Though, he stated in a recent interview at the City-County Building in Livingston, time hasn’t distorted his memory of the instant he arrived at the scene.

“From the moment he was found, I knew that it wasn’t right, and it was proven out more and more that way as the hours went by.”

Despite the despondency Nelson endured in previous weeks, not a single member of his family or friends seem to have ever believed that he committed suicide.

“Nelson loved life too much,” writes his friend Cody Redmon in a letter. “He appreciated its hardships and relished in its simple pleasures.” Nelson’s memorial pamphlet concluded with a one-page poem written by Clifford McNair: “Nels – I’ll always have a hug for you in my heart, Dad.”

### POSSIBLE SUICIDE NOTE DRAWS DISBELIEF

On May 15, 1995, a group of Beaverhead County high school students located a note found under a rock near the boat launch at the Carter’s Bridge fishing access. The note read:

“Dear God,

All my life has been a big mistake. I can do no right. I have no one who cares. No matter how hard I try I am not a crazy person. I’m just damned to living hell. I can’t take much more of it. I’m not living in self-pity either I’ve tried.”

“(Park County Sheriff) Charlie Johnson showed the note to me – blue ink on white paper,” says Nelson’s mother, Arleta Berg. “I never believed it was Nelson. He was missing for 36 days and then it showed up neatly under a rock. First of all, it was too religious. That wasn’t Nelson.”

“Nelson was an articulate kid who could write poetry and this was a boilerplate suicide note,” adds friend Jackson Welker.

Coroner Jenkins once publicly expressed his skepticism with the note’s location and its overall neatness, but he has long since denied any requests to elaborate on its characteristics.

Nelson’s case has been particularly exasperating for law enforcement to clarify. The evidence is minimal; there is no time-stamped security-camera footage, there is no one who heard shots or saw smoke, there are no internet searches of social media profiles to comb to indicate Nelson’s mindset.

The time line of Nelson’s disappearance is nebulous, and certain ensuing activities have only intensified the family’s suspicion of a plot to conceal or obscure the truth. Not the least of which is Arleta’s insistence that she never ordered the cremation of Nelson’s body. Coroner Jenkins affirmed this in 2019 and added that he also had nothing to do with ordering the cremation.

Nelson was known to be a “fantastic swimmer” and “a survivalist,” but he ended up drowning in the river. One witness stated that there was a phone call made to the Berg residence the early morning of March 30, either fielded or heard by Arleta and perhaps even transferred to Nelson, which Arleta dismisses as false. Either way, something concrete – a phone call, a knock on the door – drew him out of the house that fateful night.

### SKATEBOARD PARK LEGACY: NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON MURDER

Family and friends scattered Nelson McNair’s ashes near Livingston Peak in late May

of 1995. For Arleta Berg, now in her seventies, time stands still in a town of change. Decades of silence and unanswered questions have only amplified her feelings that Nelson’s death will forever be associated with a fundamental absence of accountability.

Livingston is a rapidly changing town, with a skateboard park named after this charismatic boy who would now be age 42. The skateboard park is a great introduction to Nelson McNair’s indelible stamp on the town’s character. Perhaps the resentment some police officers in the town might have held toward skateboarders has diminished; perhaps skateboarding is now so normalized that an officer wouldn’t even raise an eyebrow much less a fist to some hormonal, shaggy-haired kid with a board and a bunch of brazen slogans on a t-shirt.

“Everyone harassed us back then and it was the social norm to fuck with poor kids,” says Welker. “We’d act the way people projected us to be. Adults trained me to be that way. All of the cops had a thing for us.”

As for matters of investigation, Coroner Jenkins says that Nelson McNair’s mystery remains an open case, “an undetermined case which we are still looking for finality,” as he recently put it. Park County Sheriff’s Office Detective Brian Green reiterates Jenkins’s opinion, and points out that there is no statute of limitations on murder. Like any law enforcement officer whose worth his weight in shield and tin knows, Green also insists that the investigation can never go too far down one trail of theory at the expense of other lanes.

Both the Livingston police and coroner Jenkins insist that they’ve been rigorous and inclusive in their truth-searching but the primary desire of Nelson’s family and friends is to rekindle the investigation. In their defense, the police point to “inconsistent testimony and statements” among several of Nelson’s associates and maintain that they’ve done everything legally possible to deliver charges. If a break in the case is ever going to happen, they say, it’s going to have to originate from within the soul of someone who is finally prepared to reveal the truth.

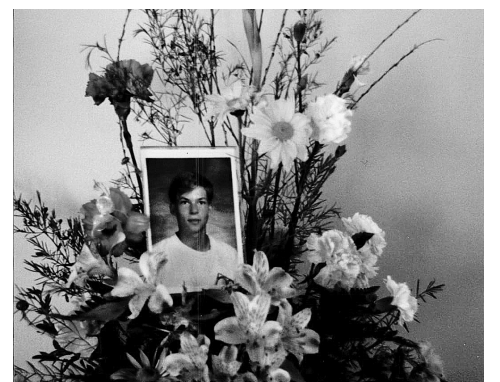
While law enforcement initially questioned Nelson’s peers after his death, many of those who knew McNair allege that the same law enforcement may have a part to play in defeating any further investigation into the matter. The tension between the two groups at the time is documented in many statements from those familiar with the case and continues to be a bone of contention with Nelson’s associates from the time of his disappearance and death.

“It feels like the officials and law enforcement of Livingston have always maintained some type of plausible deniability,” says Welker. “We’d still like to know what the fuck happened? If someone drug him out there, we want to know. If so, someone deserves to pay for it. His mom deserves to know why her son never came home.” ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO

If you have information relating to this case, contact Park County Sheriff’s Office Detective Brian Green at (406) 222-4172.

Author Brian D’Ambrosio may be reached at dambrosiobrian@hotmail.com.





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43. BEST BOOK ABOUT MONTANA

44. BEST JOURNALIST

45. BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

- 46. BEST ARTIST
- 47. BEST MONTANA ACTOR
- 48. BEST MONTANA ACTRESS
- 49. BEST PLACE TO PARTY
- 50. BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE WATCH
- 51. BEST THING ABOUT MONTANA SPORTS
- 52. FAVORITE NATIONAL PARK
- 53. BEST PLACE TO COMMUNE WITH NATURE
- 54. FAVORITE STATE PARK
- 55. BEST LAKE
- 56. BEST HOT SPRINGS
- 57. BEST SKI AREA
- 59. BEST HIKE
- 60. BEST BACKCOUNTRY HORSEBACK RIDE
- 61. BEST COUNTY FAIR
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  - 89. BEST BED & BREAKFAST
  - 90. BEST GUEST RANCH
  - 91. BEST PLACE TO BUY A BOAT
  - 92. BEST QUESTION WE FORGOT TO ASK?
- ANONYMOUS SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TELL US WHO YOU ARE!
- NAME:



# MONTANA SPOTLIGHT

## *Submerged in Flathead Lake: A Submarine Expedition*

*In August, Hank Pronk's Nekton Gamma and Cliff Redus' R300 submarines were used in conjunction with the University of Montana Flathead Lake Bio Station to better understand the Flathead Lake ecosystem. Pictured here is the R300 submarine. Photo courtesy of Cliff Redus (pictured below preparing to launch).*



For the first time this summer, an underwater expedition took scientists into the depths of Flathead Lake. They used submarines to capture videos of fish and microscopic animals. A robotic arm protruding from one of the submarines collected algae and scooped sediment samples from the floor, and a night dive shed light into the way invasive shrimp migrate throughout the lake.

The expedition was a rare chance for local scientists to take advantage of privately-owned submarines. "I thought it was a great opportunity. We have never had a submarine in the lake before," explains Jim Craft, the Flathead Lake Biological Station research scientist who spearheaded the project.

"I really wanted to get a feel for what is deep in the lake," he adds. "We can send samplers and probes down okay, but we've never had someone actually down in there looking at the lake and taking video."

The technology allowed University of Montana graduate students, faculty and resident scientists to collect data in altogether new way. Submarines can dive deeper and stay in cold water longer than divers. They can measure water temperature at different depths within the lake, and can capture images and video while monitoring oxygen and pressure levels in the cabin.

Submarine owners Cliff Redus and Hank Pronk donated their submarines to the project. They are part of a group called InnerSpace Science that connects scientists to submarine



owners. "It is a great opportunity to utilize the machines we have worked so hard on to build," Pronk says.

Pronk started building his first submarine when he was 16 and finished it when he was 20. Since then, Pronk has built a half dozen more submarines. He brought his two-person sub, the Nekton Gamma, to Flathead Lake for three days in early August for the expedition. "It's one thing to go out and have some fun in



the lake," he explains. "But it is more rewarding to do some useful work with it."

With more than 1,000 submarine dives under his belt, this submarine expert considers submerging into deep frigid water is "business as usual." But he enjoys taking other people into the vessel. "Whenever you take a passenger for their first time in a submarine, it is always very fun," he says. "For the most part, they are so excited they are jumping for joy."

Cliff Redus owns the R300 submarine used in the Flathead exhibition. A longtime underwater enthusiast who lives in Texas, says his childhood dream was to design and build his own submarine; that dream became a reality about a decade ago. He uses the word "outstanding" to describe the feeling you get submerging into the water.

"It's absolutely a kick. When you are sitting on top of the water, you can see all around you



— including the people on the boat or the dock. When you hit the button to start flooding the main ballast tanks and you start to go lower and lower, and you can see both above and below the waterline."

At first, it can be a little bit scary because you rely on the submarine for your support and protection, he said. "But when you submerge completely, you find yourself in a fascinating world. Fish come up to the viewpoint and you can see the rocks and terrain," Redus explains.

The scientific exhibition at Flathead Lake took the submarine owners and scientists to several areas around the lake. They took samples and underwater footage of the lake ecology from the waters around Painted Rock, Woods Bay and Bird Island. They also captured soil samples from the mouth of the Flathead River — a major contributor of pollution into the lake.

A highlight for both scientists and submarine captains was a night dive at Yellow Bay. "This was one of the first times we've done night dives," Redus says. As the sun subsided the marine vessels sunk into Yellow Bay, he explains, "people on the docks could see the bright lights of the submarine get darker and darker as they got deeper underwater."

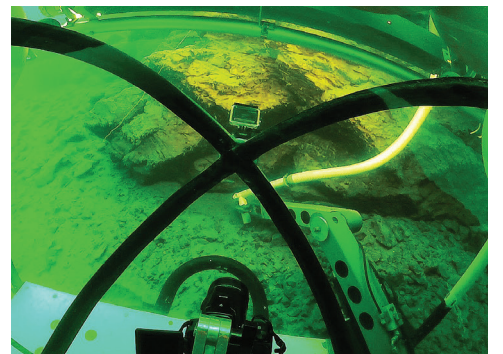
The submarine captains could see mysis shrimp as they lowered to about 200 feet below the surface. The data collected during the night dive may well shed light as to how the mysis shrimp, the invasive species introduced into the lake in 1970's, move throughout the lake.

Flathead Biological Station scientist Jim Craft says the data collected by the submarines will not only contribute to current research projects; it may also provide important baseline data critical to funding future scientific projects at the lake. "One of the reasons why I was so excited when I got a position working here is that we are in an area where we can understand how ecosystems function naturally. Instead of trying to learn how to fix those things, we can try to understand just how they work."

"On Flathead Lake," Craft adds, "Mysis shrimp have certainly impacted the lake, but there are also lakes in Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness that now we do valuable work as well. Those lakes truly aren't impacted very much. It's nice to get a handle on how large lakes should operate naturally."

Flathead Lake Biological Station scientists look forward to seeing the full results of the submarine expeditions within the next six weeks. Meanwhile, submarine captains Pronk and Redus plan to use their submarines for scientific research projects throughout the U.S. for many years to come, including potential follow-up to the data collected on Flathead Lake. ★

—BREEANA LAUGHLIN





# TELL US SOMETHING

## \ STORYTELLING EVENT \

Since 2011, Marc Moss has fostered the art of storytelling in Montana. From participating in an initial concept during a Missoula radio hour to heading a series of large-scale events across the state, Moss has encouraged participants to be a part of humankind's centuries-old tradition of sharing stories with one another. He recently spoke with Montana Press about his work with "Tell Us Something," a Montana-wide storytelling event based in Missoula.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Tell us something about "Tell Us Something."

**MARC MOSS:** We live in a celebrity-saturated culture where people know plenty about celebrities and influencers and know nothing about their next-door neighbor and Tell Us Something turns that paradigm on its head. It's a story-telling event that we've been doing since 2011. Earlier in that same year, Patrick Duganz was running a storytelling event called Missoula Moth. I told a story at Missoula Moth three out of the four times that they had the event and the way Patrick had it organized, and that's a pretty loose term in this case; there was no vetting of the storytellers, there was no theme and there was no time limit. So, the event could stretch on for three or four hours. Sometimes it was amazing. I remember a story about a woman who killed a girl in an automobile accident; the girl ran out in front of her, and then the driver became best friends with the girl's mother. It was pretty intense.

**MONTANA PRESS:** I'm sure. What were some of the other stories told?

**MARC MOSS:** Well, there was one that sticks with me: 'I went to Amsterdam. It was awesome, and I don't have a real story line to tell you why it was awesome, but I'm going to tell you that it was awesome for 20 minutes.'

**MONTANA PRESS:** So it ran the gamut at this initial event.

**MARC MOSS:** It did. So anyway, Patrick moves to Bozeman, the Missoula Art Museum wants him to do a Missoula Moth event and he says, 'Well, Marc really seems to like this. Why don't you call Marc?' And at the time, I'd never organized anything on any mass scale or even led anybody in anything but I also knew that if I was going to put the work in, I wanted it to be long-lasting. So, long story short, I changed the name and tightened it up to what it is today which is eight storytellers, each having 10 minutes to share their true personal stories

from memory on a theme, and the themes are by design very broad. The storytellers are now paid a stipend and since its founding, Tell Us Something has netted hundreds of storytellers who have shared their stories with thousands of listeners. Those who've taken the stage have ranged in age from 13 to 90.

**MONTANA PRESS:** What's your personal background and connection to Montana?

**MARC MOSS:** I was raised in a little town right outside of Akron, Ohio. The name of the city was Cuyahoga Falls, about the size of Missoula. My father came home from the Vietnam War and became a cop. Before he went to Vietnam, he was a rubber worker and worked in the rubber shops in Akron building tires like BF-Goodrich, Goodyear, and Firestone. When he came back, they didn't want him so he became a cop. I was raised by him and my mother. I went through Catholic school and graduated from Columbus State University in 1995 with a BS in Education. I became an English language arts teacher and did that in Akron for a hot minute. I was teaching "Fahrenheit 451" and the book was censored by the school board. So I thought, 'You know, I really don't want to do battle with the school board for the rest of my life' and so I quit Akron and came out west in 1997. I was a park ranger in Yellowstone National Park for seven seasons.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Is that how you were introduced to the West?

**MARC MOSS:** Yes. At the time, I'd never even been camping. I think my first backpacking trip, my pack weighed 80 pounds.

**MONTANA PRESS:** A common first-timer's mistake.

**MARC MOSS:** It was bad, bad news. I brought cans of food and no can opener. It was so ridiculous. I left Yellowstone in 2002 after 9/11 and moved to Bozeman for about a year and met a girl online, then came to Missoula to be with her. She left and went to Helena and I stuck around and met my wife. It took four years for her to say yes to going on a date with me, but she said yes finally and we got married in 2009.

**MONTANA PRESS:** We can see why you are running a story telling event.

**MARC MOSS:** I'm just hitting the highlights really. None of this is a story, really, because it's just linear - these are the things that happened to me. I haven't made an emotional connection with my audience yet. I haven't given you any sense of place or anything like that.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Well, let's dig deeper. Aside from being a natural storyteller, what draws you to explore story telling?

**MARC MOSS:** Well, my dad and I didn't really get along. The only time we weren't fighting with each other was when we would go for long drives in a wooded area which is now Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and listen to Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion. We would just listen. We weren't talking. We weren't fighting. There was nothing. There was just us and the darkness and the frogs outside the window of the car and there was a Blue Heron rookery where we would stop and watch the herons settle in for the evening. It was just really peaceful and the storytelling that Garrison Keillor was able to do could put you in a place pretty quick with just a couple of phrases. But I'd never experienced live storytelling until I moved to Missoula.

There was a live storytelling event at the Peace Farm, it was called "Eat our Words," and I think there were six storytellers at that event. All of them were known members of the community and they advertised who was going to be there. I don't remember if there was a theme or not, but it was certainly really moving just to be out in the field on hay bales in this idyllic, beautiful Montana scene where the sun was setting, the clouds and the alpenglow setting the mountains on fire, just beautiful pink and blue and purple.

People are listening to each other share stories around a bonfire and one of the stories that was told involved Caroline Keys who was a member of, at the time, a bluegrass band called Broken Valley Road Show and they had toured the world and ended up in China and made some real connections with people, despite the language barrier, because of music. One of the things that she said in her story was, 'I can't hear a song that I know the words to and not sing along but I hate John Denver's music.' So that becomes important when the goodbye scene in her story occurs and the Chinese people show up at her hotel room and knock on her door and sing, '...country roads, take me home...' She's telling this and then says, 'You all know the words,' to the crowd there at the Peace Farm. She starts to sing the song and then stops singing. The entire crowd starts to sing this song and she's standing there with these tears of joy running down her face. I was like 'WOW! Story telling is awesome and it's amazing!'

But now, as far as the way that I've now crafted the events, we don't announce who the storytellers are ahead of time because I don't want people to say, 'Oh, so and so is going to be there? Awesome, I'm totally going,' or 'Oh, this person's going to be there? I don't like that guy. I'm not going.'

**MONTANA PRESS:** So there's an element of surprise and wonder that starts with the selection of the participants of each event?

**MARC MOSS:** Yes. The audience, they're coming to listen to their community share stories. They



don't know who's going to be there. They don't know what they're going to get. They come and they listen. The first time I did it, it was at the Missoula Art Museum. There were 75 people there but we moved it after that to the Top Hat at the time Greta Garr ran the bar with her sister. Their dad had just died and they took over the bar and they were trying to get it out of the red. I asked Greta, 'What's the slowest night? We're going to fill your bar.' And she said, 'Tuesdays,' and she didn't believe me. So Tuesday evening came and 175 people showed up and listed to people share stories and they were dead quiet. Even the bartenders weren't pouring drinks while the stories were being told.

**MONTANA PRESS:** So, what makes for a good story, one that will pause a busy bartender?

**MARC MOSS:** People need to make an emotional connection with their listeners and they also need to have something to lose or gain. There needs to be some stakes. We meet the characters at the beginning and there is some incident that occurs that now we have a problem to solve, to get some thing or avoid something or whatever it is and then how do we resolve that problem? There's a story arc where tension gets built and it's built to a climax usually and then that sort of tapers off into some kind of resolution.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Can anyone tell a story?

**MARC MOSS:** Absolutely. Everybody's got a story to share. Everybody's story is important. Everybody's story matters. Some people are natural-born storytellers and they just know how to do it. Right now, I'm working with some children at a summer camp and kids can be all over the place, right? There's a young woman who wants to tell a story about seeing whale sharks, but she also wants to include all the stuff beforehand and all the stuff that happened after that and I'm trying to help her understand that you've got to distill it down to the essential parts of the story that are really important. Everything that happens, if it's not related to the whale sharks, you want to get rid of it and she's not ready to let go of that yet. And that's really common even in adults. I purposely share a story when I'm teaching kids that has elements that aren't important to see if they can identify them without me saying, 'This is not important at all.' Yesterday was one of the first times that the kids picked up on that without me having to say, 'Me going to the donut shop and buying donuts from the bakery is not key here.' One girl was like 'You didn't even bring up the donuts again!' Great! So now I call it the 'Who cares about the donuts moment.' If it doesn't forward your story, you've got to get rid of it. William Faulkner once said if you spend two weeks writing a sentence and it's the most beautiful sentence you've ever written but it doesn't forward your story, you'd better get rid of it.



*The event at the Myrna Loy featured the theme of "Getting Away with It" (at left, photo by Jason O'Neil) and Marc Moss addresses the crowd at an outdoor event in Missoula (above, photo by Steven Begleiter).*



**MONTANA PRESS:** Can you talk a little more about picking the event themes?

**MARC MOSS:** The way they are chosen, generally, is people walk up to me and say, ‘You know what would be a great theme?’ And I write it down. I have a spreadsheet and usually towards the end of the process, I look at all of the themes and pick 20 that resonate with me, and toss them out to vote, to the community via email and social media, and then the community picks the themes with the idea being that if they have selected them, they’re more likely to want to share stories and more likely to want to attend. I’ll also notice other storytelling events around the country that have a good theme. I take my notebook out and write it down and put it in a spreadsheet and, like I said, towards the end of the year, I’ll go through and pick out some of the ones that resonate for me at the time and toss that out to the community and have them vote on social media and through surveys and emails. But when I’m going into a new city, I look back at successful events with themes that really resonated for folks.

We’ve been to Helena three times, once a year for the past three years and the theme that resonated for me over the years that produced a lot of great stories in Missoula was “Getting Away With It” so I said, ‘Yep, we’re going to do that in Helena,’ especially since were at the Myrna Loy which used to be a jail. And I also look at what’s going on in the community that I’m headed to and see what seems like it would make sense to them too. We went to Butte last year in November and the theme was “Work.” Why wouldn’t it be?

**MONTANA PRESS:** Do you return to the same communities each year?

**MARC MOSS:** We’re going back to Butte, I hope, next year. We’re definitely going back to Helena next year. I have great relationship with Logjam Presents and they are opening up a huge venue in Bozeman. I don’t think me taking on that venue right off the bat is a good idea but we’ll probably go to the Rialto in Bozeman next year, which is smaller, and rolling into a new city you can’t expect 400 people to show up if they’ve never heard of you. But if I’m going to be in Bozeman, I might as well swing through Livingston and if I’m in Livingston, I might as well go to Gardiner. Seasonal employees need something to do besides drink at the Blue Goose.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Well, you know that first-hand. Tell us; who are some of your favorite storytellers and how do you find the storytellers to participate in the event?

**MARC MOSS:** In the beginning, it was a lot of me cajoling and recruiting people and people who knew me and knew what I was trying to do were happy to help or suggest other potential storytellers to me. I had a short list of people like Pat Williams who I knew was a storyteller and I wanted to get him. It took me a while to recruit him and figure out how to talk to him, but now we’re buddies and he gets what I’m doing. He appreciates what I’m doing. I mean there are people in the community who, some of them are big names and I’m like, if I get a big name, but nobody knows that they’re going to be there, that’s fun, you know? And often the storytellers don’t have reserved seating at all and they can sit wherever they want in the audience. So it’s pretty fun to be an audience member and be interacting with people around you and all of a sudden one of those people walks up on stage and shares a story. I put out the call for stories to some targeted organizations and also via my email list, which is 1,500 people strong and social media. People call the Pitch Line so I don’t have to do a ton of recruiting in Missoula anymore, which is great because it’s a lot of work. Like I said, we



had eight slots and in Missoula, at least, usually 20 people or so call the Pitch Line to pitch.

**MONTANA PRESS:** What’s a typical pitch?

**MARC MOSS:** What I ask for is people to call and leave the beginning, middle and end of their story. So if they know what the structure is at least at that level we can work it out beyond that. If somebody calls and says, ‘I’ll tell you a story about my trip to Amsterdam...’ I’m like, yeah - no.

**MONTANA PRESS:** That story about the trip to Amsterdam really stuck with you.

**MARC MOSS:** It was funny too because years later, someone did call in with an Amsterdam story and I called her back and she did have a real structure and she did have a very specific incident that sort of defined that moment the entire trip. I was like, ‘You’re in.’ And she did a great job, but I got off the rails. That happens too in storytelling. It’s okay. You know when you’re on stage to say ‘Oh, I just went off the rails.’

**MONTANA PRESS:** Tell us more about the Pitch Line. How can readers pitch stories to you?

**MARC MOSS:** It’s a Google Voice number. People call the Pitch Line and they say what their beginning, middle and end is and if they have extra time and want to add some details, they can. And the way Google Voice works it automatically records the phone number and it turns the voice mail into an MP3 file which I toss into a drop box folder that’s shared with my advisory board and we all listen to them and record yes or no on a spread sheet. So then I’ll go back through that spreadsheet and figure out - because sometimes, there are 15 yes votes and that’s not going to work - so then I have to make the hard choices and I’ll call everybody back and say, ‘You made it!’ or ‘Well, you’re an alternate’ or ‘You didn’t make the cut this time.’

**MONTANA PRESS:** ‘But thanks for sharing your story,’ right?

**MARC MOSS:** Sure. It could be that we’ve heard a version of that story recently, already. It could be that someone else has a story that’s more timely.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Does Tell Us Something also have podcasts?

**MARC MOSS:** Absolutely. In the early days, the podcast was one story per podcast and so they were about 10 minutes long, but there are sponsors to be thanked so I have to thank them all and that turned into seven or eight minutes of advertising essentially, and then 10 minutes of storytelling. Even I don’t want to listen to those podcasts, you know? So, the podcast has become less frequent and is now an hour long. Each podcast features four storytellers from one of the live events. Everybody who shares a story on the stage will be featured on the pod-



*Storytelling at The Wilma (left, photo by KMR Studios) and an engaged audience at the Top Hat in Missoula (above, photo by Amanda Peterson).*

cast unless they say they don’t want to be

**MONTANA PRESS:** Is the podcast just called “Tell Us Something”?

**MARC MOSS:** It is. It’s available on almost all of the major podcasting platforms.

**MONTANA PRESS:** You mentioned you were just at a youth camp. Do you also offer workshops?

**MARC MOSS:** Yes. We have corporate workshops available. We have a non-profit rate for doing it and we do one-on-one workshops with folks and then we do group workshops if just you and your friends decide this would be something fun to do or a skill to learn. We do provide those workshops as well. We’re based out of Missoula. I would love to be able to go across the entire state, but I don’t want to be on the road 300 days out of the year either. For now, western Montana. Maybe out as far as Bozeman down to Yellowstone Park, but I don’t know how, without a bigger team, we could cover more ground.

**MONTANA PRESS:** So what are some of the upcoming events that readers can look forward to?

**MARC MOSS:** Well, September 24, 2019 is the next live event in Missoula. The theme is “Leap of Faith.” And another event is planned in Missoula on December 10 and that theme is “Tipping Point.” Trying to travel, as you know, in the winter in Montana can be challenging. In fact, the show in Butte last year was in November and it was white knuckle all the way across the pass. It was snowing and I couldn’t see. So trying to schedule things across the state between November and March is pretty tough to do. So the next two events will be here. I haven’t nailed it down on paper yet with the Myrna Loy, but I’m hoping to be back in Helena in May. I have to talk to the Logjam Production folks. I know right now they’re pretty busy with their first event at Ogren field. So I haven’t asked them any questions about the future right now.

**MONTANA PRESS:** Can you share a story that has particularly moved you?

**MARC MOSS:** Some of the stories are really difficult to hear and really intense and some of them are just pure entertainment. If I had a whole evening of really heavy stories, no one would come. I learned that because I did that once. Not on purpose, I think there was one funny story and every other one was just a kick in the gut, but also great; great to hear and important to hear and important to tell. I think storytelling, having your story heard and listening to each other builds empathy in a really subtle way without saying, “Hey, come to

this empathy building event.” That’s not what it’s being advertised as, but that’s what ends up happening and I feel like if you start to know your community on that intimate level, you can start to change yourself and your community and then eventually change the world. It may seem overly dramatic to say that, but that’s one of the things that keeps me going. I really do believe that this sort of art form is essential in surviving some of the difficulties that we face.

One of the most compelling stories that I’ve heard recently at one of my events was in the theme of “Stranger in a Strange Land.” A seven-foot tall black guy came to the stage and says, ‘Hey y’all, how’s it going? I’m from Florida. I’d bet you think I’m going to talk about my Montana experience as a black man. No, I’m not going to do that although that would be a good stranger in a strange land story. First, I’m going to ask you a question. Who went to the Trump rally when he was here in Missoula 2016?’ And nobody raised their hand. He said, ‘I did and I’m going to tell you that story. It’s a story about letting go of anger because you can’t be curious and angry at the same time and I want to find out what makes these people tick.’ And so his story is all about getting in line for the event. We never even get into the rally. He has this conversation with some people wearing MAGA hats and he’s trying to understand who they are and why they’re there and what they’re doing and why they believe what they believe and he makes friends with them and they say at the end, ‘You know, we don’t wear our hats much because we’re afraid. We’re afraid that we’re going to get beat up by the liberals.’ And he’s like, ‘Well, you get to take your hats off. I never get to change my appearance.’ And that was how the story ended.

*Find out more about Tell Us Something by visiting their website at [tellussomething.org](http://tellussomething.org). The Pitch Line noted above is open until November 4 for the December 10 event in Missoula on the theme “Tipping Point” and the number is (406) 203-4683.*





# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

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

### Sunday, September 1

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Cheryl Hodge**, Mark Bryan, Brad Edwards, jazz, 7 p.m., Walker's Grill, Billings, 245-9291  
**Acoustic Brunch: Ashly Holland**, country, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628  
**Swamp Dawg**, New Orleans funk/blues, 6 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933  
**"Henry IV, Part I,"** Montana State University, 6 p.m., Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman, 994-3303

#### Helena

**Micky and the Motorcars**, rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing Tap Room, Helena, 442-5960

#### Missoula

**Sarah Frazier**, pop, 5 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592  
**Tom Catmull**, country/blues, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575  
**Tesla**, rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521  
**Junior Brown**, Texas country, 7:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980  
**Dead Hipster Emo Night**, 9 p.m., The Badlander, 549-0235

### Monday, September 2

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Bluegrass Jam**, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855  
**Danny Bee**, rock, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463  
**"The Merry Wives of Windsor,"** Shakespeare in the Parks, 4 p.m., Lewis and Clark City Park, Belgrade, 994-3303

#### Helena

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

#### Missoula

**Market Mondays**, farmer's market, 5 p.m., Highlander Beer, Missoula, 549-8193



### DEAD HIPSTER EMO NIGHT

Photos by Abi Baumann & local DJs CB (of Dead Hipster), Kaylen Krebsbach (Wilma Laverne Miner) and Brady Schwertfeger (Norwell) selecting the emo tunes at 9 p.m. at the Badlander in Missoula on September 1.

### Tuesday, September 3

#### Billings

**Poetry Open Mic**, 5 p.m., This House of Books, Billings, 534-1133  
**Writer's Circle**, open session on first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Second Floor Conference room, Billings Public Library, 243-6022  
**Traditional Irish Music Session**, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Caleb Haynes**, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Blackfoot Gypsies**, Jessica Eve, rock and roll, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

#### Livingston/Bozeman/Etc.

**"Henry IV, Part I,"** Shakespeare in the Parks, 5:30 p.m., Altenbrand Park, Manhattan, 994-3303

#### Helena

**Bo DePeña**, Americana/country, 5:30 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

**Winnie Brave**, Americana, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

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

#### Missoula

**Traditional Irish Music**, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

**Todd Lankton and The Family Band**, improv comedy, 8 p.m., The Badlander, 549-0235

### Wednesday, September 4

#### Billings

**Open Mic hosted by Wes Urbaniak**, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Thollem**, avant garde jazz, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Sol Seed**, reggae, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

#### Livingston/Bozeman

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

**Blackfoot Gypsies**, rock, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585



"EVERY BRILLIANT THING," A ONE-MAN SHOW ABOUT SUICIDE AND MENTAL HEALTH PLAYS IN HELENA SEPT. 6 AND 7.

### Thursday, September 5

#### Billings

**Bowdog Jazz Quartet**, 8 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Agnar**, experimental/electronic, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Belle Plaine and Blake Berglund**, vintage swing/blues, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Winnie Brave**, Americana duo, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

**Dane Thompson**, acoustic, 8 p.m., Burn Box, Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Sol Seed**, Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

#### Helena

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

**The Two Tracks**, folk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Great Falls

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

**"Montana in the Great War,"** reading/signing with author Ken Robison, 6 p.m., Cassiopeia Books, Great Falls, 315-1515

#### Missoula

**Crazy Dog Trio**, acoustic, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

**CAKE and Ben Folds**, rock, 6:30 p.m., Kettle House Amphitheater, Missoula, 830-48480

**Sasha Bell**, indie/pop, 8:30 p.m., The Badlander, 549-0235

### Friday, September 6

#### Billings

**Red Shahan**, country, Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

**Anonimus Eidentity**, disco, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

**Art of Comedy with Charlie Mukluk**, 9 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Kitchen Dwellers**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Christy Hays**, alt-country, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**The Max**, rock, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Eilen Jewell**, Americana, Filling Station, 7 p.m., Bozeman, 587-0585

**Random Acts of Improv**, comedy, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

#### Helena

**"The Kemtons: Adventures of a Ranch Family 1880-1964,"** reading signing with author Trudy Kempton Dana, 6 p.m., Montana Book Company, Helena, 443-0260

**"Every Brilliant Thing,"** stage play, 6:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Butte

**Leigh Guest**, vocalist, 8 p.m., Cavalier Lounge, Finlen Hotel, Butte, 723-5461

#### Great Falls

**Fiddler's First Friday**, 7 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

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

#### Missoula

**Mad Hallelujah**, folk, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

**Petit Poucet**, pop, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749



### THE CAKE

From the writer and producer of the award winning NBC drama "This Is Us," comes a slice of delicious theatre, ripped from the headlines and made with the perfect recipe of humor and heart. Playing Sept. 5 to 15 at the Grandstreet Theatre in Helena.



### WINNIE BRAVE DUO

Alberta-based Winnie Brave, a foot-stomping Americana/roots duo swings through Montana this month, making stops at Broadwater Hot Springs on Sept. 3, The Murray Bar in Livingston Sept. 5, The Mint Cafe in Belgrade on Sept. 19, Gally's Brewing in Harlow on Sept. 20, Draughtworks in Missoula on Sept. 21, Blackfoot River Brewing in Helena Sept. 22 and Quinn's Hot Springs in Paradise on Sept. 23.

### Saturday, September 7

#### Statewide

**Chokecherry Festival**, 8:30 a.m., downtown Lewistown, 535-5436

#### Billings

**Red Lodge Oktoberfest**, music by Soul Funk Collective, 2 p.m., Red Lodge Ales, Red Lodge, 446-4607

**Pride Festival**, North Park, live music with Jessica Eve and more, Billings, (406) 318-9706

**NOVA Center Reds, Whites and Brews Theatre Open House**, 6 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Mike Oregano**, reggae, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855

**Kitchen Dwellers**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Jessie Bridges**, folk, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

**Open Range Duo**, country, 7 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

**Charles Ellsworth Band**, alt-country, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**The Max**, rock, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Random Acts of Improv**, comedy, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

#### Helena

**Meadowlark Music Festival** with Hillstomp, Banshee Tree, Los Marvelitos, Dammit Lauren and the Well, NightCare, Dogjam, Tammie Jones, Helena Oula, Reds, alt-rock to Americana, Latin, Gypsy and country/folk, 12 p.m., Women's Park, Helena, (503) 457-8541

**"Every Brilliant Thing,"** stage play, 6:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

**Mad Hallelujah**, folk, Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Great Falls

**Feral Anthem**, alt-folk/punk, 9 p.m., Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300

#### Missoula

**Wade Bowen**, country, 9 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

### Sunday, September 8

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Acoustic Brunch: Cleo Toll**, folk/rock, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Violinist Gabrielle Wunsch and pianist Bobby Mitchell**, classical, 3 p.m., The Dulcie Theatre, Livingston, 222-1420

#### Helena

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Missoula

**Gary Clark Jr.**, blues/rock, 6:30 p.m., Kettle House Amphitheater, Missoula, 830-48480



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# MONTANA FARMER'S MARKETS

*This listing of Montana Farmers Markets is compiled from a comprehensive list of Montana's farmer's markets available from [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov) from the Montana Department of Agriculture. This listing should not be considered a complete listing of markets, as the events noted represent markets for the general area of distribution and readership of the Montana Press.*

## Anaconda Community Market

Tuesdays, July 9 to Sept. 9  
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
305 Main St, 563-5538

## Big Timber Sweet Grass County Farmers Market

Fridays, July 10 to Sept. 11  
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Lions Club Park, 758-8018

## Billings Healthy by Design Gardeners' Market

Thursdays, June 13 to October 3,  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
South Park, 651-6403

## Boulder Farmers Market

Thursdays, July 11 to Sept. 26,  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Veteran's Park/City Hall, 225-3288

## Bozeman-Gallatin Valley Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 22 to Sept. 14  
9 am to 12 p.m.  
901 N. Black, 388-6701

## Bogert Farmers Market

Tuesdays, June 4 to Sept. 24  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Bogert Park, Bozeman, 539-0216

## Butte Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 18 to October 5  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
West Park Street, 497-6464

## Choteau Rocky Mountain Front Farmers Market

Saturdays, July 6 to Sept. 28  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
N. Main/8th St. NW, 466-5584

## Shields Valley Farmers Market

Mondays, June 17 to August 12,  
4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Holliday Park, Clyde Park, 686-4084

## Columbus Farmers Market

Thursdays, July 17 to Sept. 19  
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Railroad Park, 321-2896

## Deer Lodge Community Garden Farmer's Market

Saturdays, Aug. 18 to Sept. 21  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
519 Higgins Ave., 623-680-4525

## Dillon Farmer's Market

Saturdays, June 22 to Sept. 21.  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
20 N. Montana St., 498-6198

## East Helena Farmers Market

Tuesdays, July 16 to Sept 17  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
East Helena City Hall, 437-1855

## Glasgow Red Rock Plaza Farmers Market

Saturdays, July 7 to Oct. 27  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
213 1st Ave South, 263-7822

## Glendive Saturday Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 1 to Oct. 12  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
313 S. Merrill, 939-1482

## Great Falls Saturday Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 1 to Oct. 26  
7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
2 Park Drive, 761-3881

## The Farmer's Market at O'Hara Commons

Wednesdays, June 5 to Sept. 25  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
111 S 4th St., Hamilton, 369-6451

## Havre Saturday Market

Saturdays, July 6 to Sept. 21  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Havre Town Square, 265-4383

## Helena Capitol Square Farmers Market

Tuesdays, June 25 to Sept. 24  
2:30 p.m. to 6:30  
1310 Locker Ave., 422-2920

## Helena Summer Farmers Market

Saturdays, April 26 to Oct. 25  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Fuller Avenue, 437-1855

## Kalispell Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 4 to Oct. 12  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Flathead Valley Community College, 881-4078

## Laurel Farmers Market

Every Day, April 20 to Oct. 31  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
2505 US-212, 690-5021

## Lewistown Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 16 to Sept. 29  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Symmes Park, 928-6222

## Lincoln Farmer's Market

Fridays, June 7 to Sept. 6  
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Hooper Park on the south side of Hwy. 200, 362-3054

## Livingston Farmers Market

Wednesdays, May 29 to Sept. 11  
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
229 River Dr., 222-0730

## Manhattan Farmers Market

Wednesdays, June 19 to Sept. 11  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Railroad Park and West Main St., 641-0883

## Miles City Community Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 16 to Oct. 27  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Riverside Park, 234-1639

## Target Range Farmers Market

Sundays, May 26 to Sept. 29  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
4095 South Ave West, Missoula, 728-5302

## Missoula Orchard Homes Farmers Market

Thursdays, June 19 to Sept. 25,  
4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
2537 S 3rd St., 803-292-8535



## Missoula Farmers' Market

Saturdays, May 24 to Oct. 26  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Downtown Missoula, 274-3042

## Missoula Clark Fork Market

Saturdays, May 24 to Oct. 26  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
225 S Pattee St., 396-0593

## Sanders County Community Market

Saturdays, April 21 to Sept. 29  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
145 River Rd., Plains, 826-7262

## Polson Farmers Market

Fridays, May 4 to Oct. 12  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
35654 Northwood Dr., 675-0177

## Red Lodge Farmers Market

Fridays, July 5 to Sept. 13  
3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Lions Park, 683-0896

## Ronan Farmer's Market

Thursdays, May 16 to Sept. 26  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
201-299 US-93, 676-5901

## Saint Ignatius Mission Falls Market

Fridays, May 24 to Sept. 27  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
339 Mountain View Dr., 529-8002

## Seeley Lake Market

Sundays, June 15 to Sept. 30  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
3150 Hwy 83 North, 317-2756

## Townsend Farmers Market

Thursdays, June 6 to Sept. 26  
3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Front St., 422-7933

## Trout Creek Farmers Market

Wednesday, July 9 to Oct. 30  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Trout Creek Park, 827-1543

## Twin Bridges Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 4 to Sept. 28  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Main Street City Park, 596-1978

## Whitefish Downtown Farmers Market

Tuesdays, May 28 to Sept. 25  
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Depot Park, 407-5272

## Whitehall Farmer's Market

Saturdays, June 21 to Oct. 11  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Legion St., 287-2276

## JOHN DENDY: JACK OF ALL MONTANA MUSICAL GENRES

**T**ex-Mex? He takes pleasure in it. Gypsy jazz? He's got that genre covered. Soulful Americana? Well, he is also in a band that reaches audiences with flair in that musical field too.

Indeed, at last tally John Dendy is a part of seven diverse Helena-area bands, and he doesn't suffer even the tiniest urge to cast off any of these commitments anytime soon.

"I hang out with some dear people and some outstanding people," says Dendy. "Music becomes your social life. Especially with bands playing originals, you arrange the songs and figure out how to begin them and end them, and figure who plays where, and that's all a collaborative process. It's a social life, with a set of rules and a defined goal – whether stated, or unstated. It's not an open-ended interaction; you are trying to make something move in the right direction. There is some overlap in membership among most of these bands."

Dendy is perhaps most recognized as the upright bass player in the sultry Cottonwood Club jazz band, a snazzy club ensemble in which he accompanies his wife Claire Pichette on a vast repertoire of originals and standards. But his involvement includes a number of other projects, including backing up "the killer voice" of Lanie White with guitar and violin work and an eponymously-named entity which finds Dendy and His Originals supported by a violinist, a trumpet player, and a drummer.

Music to Dendy is a circle. There is no beginning to its action, no end; everything, he realizes, is a circle. But as all circles have centers, Dendy reflects on what his might be – his core, his origin.

Around the time that he was attending college in Mississippi, he was enthralled with the groans of blues mavens such as Robert Johnson. But a most pivotal moment came at a bluegrass jam: six bulky, bearded Southerners pulled into the parking area in a Pontiac station wagon, upright bass strapped to the roof. That instrument would later become his darling.

Dendy has lived in Montana continuously since 2007, though he first arrived here a few years earlier to work for the Montana Wilderness Association. It took him a while but he slowly gravitated toward the cycle of the musician, and in recent years, his life has been an endless repeat of rehearsal and recital. For many years, Dendy covered the saloon scene exclusively as a solo artist, harmonica blowing liberally around his neck, feet tapping, blending his originals with John Prine and Bob Dylan gems. Dendy notes one of his nicest successes as a musician was the time he opened for Martha Scanlan at Free Ceramics a few years ago.

"Music is my art, though I don't know why or where it came from," says Dendy. "I have periods of high and low productivity, and I don't have a process. It starts with the first line, and then there's a melody in my head just waiting to be finished."

Dendy thinks that, while the local live music has declined since the time he first arrived in Montana, the scene is showing signs of rebounding. "Some of struggles often has to do with the changing of the management of the venues. Right now, at the Rathskellar, people consistently expect music on the weekends. With the vibe of the room, you don't have to draw even a single person for it to be worthwhile."



The instrumentalist in Dendy discovered long ago that the upright bass well suited his personality. "It has a presence. I've never liked a lot of notes. I've never wanted to play fast. I care mostly about rhythm. I care mostly about rhythm and groove."

While Dendy (who works full-time at the Helena Food Share) experiences these curious spurts of enthusiasm when he is willing and eager to drive far across the state to a brewery and bellow for tip money, by and large he is fond of the provincial benefits of sticking close to town.

"If you travel around Montana playing music, you have to do one thing or play an awful lot. I choose to stay in town and to be in a lot of bands. I have had the opportunity to try to do just music, but I was never any good at waking every day and booking shows. Plus, I like the physical work at Helena Food Share."

Other musical roles which Dendy is affiliated with include being the bassist and harmonist in the "Latin-Motown" hybrid Los Marvelitos, a quirky association in which he gets to sing in Spanish even though he doesn't speak even a syllable of the language, and working as the bassist for a country cover band called Copper Queen.

Dendy, 48, explains that two of the biggest advantages of performing in so many disparate projects is that he is always sharpening his talents; he need not worry about diluting any one of the acts. "It's an advantage to play every single week and not overplay the same band," said Dendy. "I'm in two bands with my wife, and that helps with scheduling."

On the flip side, he has to uphold a memory akin to a machine and must always be absorbing new lyrics, new notes, and new techniques.

"The disadvantage is that I have to know the full set list for all of those bands, and we are always adding, writing, or developing tunes, and that's a lot of rehearsal. I think that my mental set list with the Cottonwood Club holds about 50 to 60 tunes, and I use lead sheets. Among the seven bands, maybe there are 15 tunes that more than one entity plays. The trick is that you can tape notes if you need to do so to the side of the bass and the audience doesn't see it."

Perhaps the most humbling aspects of music are that it continuously allows for Dendy to socialize and smile. Yet maybe even more importantly, music provides him with the chance to share those special aspects of his character. "There are people in town who like my songwriting, and they will ask me when I am going to play my own original music. I tell them that I'm not sure. I guess I'm in too many good things." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



# OUT & ABOUT

## RUSSIAN CIRCLES IN MONTANA



Chicago-area trio The Russian Circles are best known for their dynamic, adventurous, heavy-rock instrumental odysseys. Those trademarks are continuing with the well-crafted barrage of material found on their new album *Blood Year* (Sargent House). Montana Press spoke to bassist Brian Cook about the group's new album, the Windy City's influence on the band, and a Missoula gig that went downhill fast.

**MONTANA PRESS:** What was the biggest challenge in making *Blood Year*?

**BRIAN COOK:** I'm not sure if there's really any aspect of *Blood Year* that was necessarily challenging on our end. The main thing is that we really wanted to make an authoritative record; we wanted to scale back on the atmospherics and focus on the meat and potatoes. With every other record up through *Guidance* (Sargent House, released in 2016), we've tried to broaden our palate of sounds and textures, and that usually involves expanding the number of instruments in our arsenal or throwing more effects and pedals into the chain. I wanted to scale back and make a record that wasn't about headphone candy and cool sounds and new textures. I wanted a record that was all heavy substance.

**MP:** Did you write a lot for it, or did you already have a lot of material to choose from?

**BC:** Mike (guitarist Mike Sullivan) is always stockpiling guitar parts and song fragments, so there were a lot to ideas choose from. But we're also tinkers. So there was a lot of groundwork laid before we actually started piecing things together, but we also did a lot more homework before going into the studio. So I'd argue that this was the most prepared we'd been for an album since *Station* (Suicide Squeeze, released in 2008).

**MP:** How did the song "Milano" come about?

**BC:** That one was an anomaly. We usually fuss over songs and try countless variations of riffs and structures, but "Milano" was based on a handful of riffs Mike had laying around. We pretty much just jammed it out in the practice space one day, and we all just looked at each other and were like "is that the song? I think that's the song!" It is rarely that easy.

**MP:** The members grew up in different regions but formed in Chicago. How much of an influence was the Chicago music scene growing up?

**BC:** The music of Chicago played a big role in our lives even before any of us wound up there. Shellac and Jesus Lizard had a huge impact on all of us. Tortoise was another one that loomed large. Big Black, Pegboy, Naked Raygun, Los Crudos, and MK-Ultra were also big ones for me, not to mention the scope of influence of labels like Touch & Go and Thrill Jockey.

**MP:** How do you think the band has evolved as artists from when Russian Circles first started to the band it is today?

**BC:** We always talk about how we're

simplifying things, even though if you look at our equipment that doesn't seem to be the case at all. But in all seriousness, I think in our younger years we were all interested in cramming more notes into everything, and now we just want everything to have breathing room. Every note needs to have a purpose.

**MP:** What can fans expect from the upcoming Montana show in Bozeman? Has it been difficult putting a set list together?

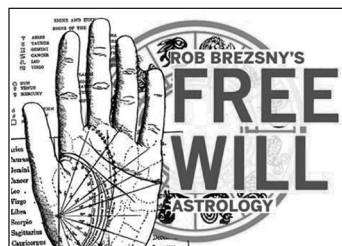
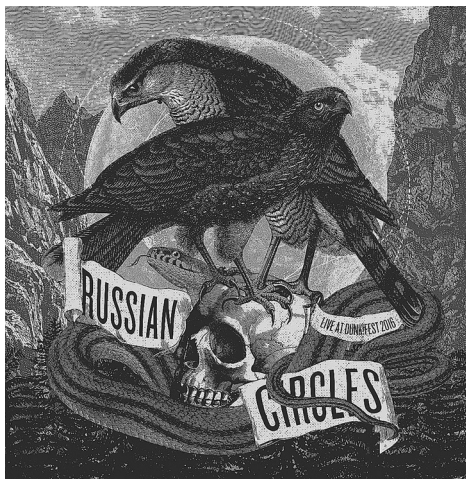
**BC:** We always try to find a good balance between new songs and old songs. We're not one of those bands that abandons our past work, so we try to play one or two songs from every record, though we're at the point now where we have too many albums to do that. But we're definitely ready to play a bunch of new material.

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

**BC:** We had a train wreck of a set in Missoula when we headlined there a few years ago. The sound engineer forgot to turn on the monitors and cut the house music at the beginning of our set, but all the lights were out on stage so there wasn't really a way to communicate with each other. We were starting off with the first song on *Guidance*, which starts with me playing a really quiet baritone guitar part. I was a minute into the song when Mike walked across the stage and yelled at me "are you playing the song?" I thought he was calling me out for butchering my guitar part, but it winds up he literally couldn't tell if we had started. We never quite recovered from that, and the rest of the set was pretty miserable. Sorry, Missoula! ★

—JASON MACNEIL

*The Russian Circles play in Bozeman at The Rialto Bozeman on September 14. For more information, contact the theatre at [www.rialtobozeaman.com](http://www.rialtobozeaman.com)*



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Here are examples of activities I recommend you try in the coming days. 1. Build a campfire on the beach with friends and regale each other with stories of your most interesting successes. 2. Buy eccentric treasures at a flea market and ever thereafter refer to them as your holy icons. 3. Climb a hill and sit on the grass as you sing your favorite songs and watch the moon slowly rise over the eastern horizon. 4. Take naps when you're "not supposed to." 5. Sneak into an orchard at night and eat fruit plucked just moments before. 6. Tell a beloved person a fairy tale in which he or she is the hero.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The hardest creature on the planet may be the bacterium known as *Deinococcus radiodurans*. It can endure exposure to radiation, intense cold, dehydration, acid, and vacuum. I propose we make it your power creature for the coming weeks. Why? Not because I expect you'll have to deal with a lot of extreme conditions, but rather because I think you'll be exceptionally robust, both physically and psychologically. If you've been waiting for the right time to succeed at demanding challenges that require you to be in top form, now is a good time to do it. P.S. *Deinococcus radiodurans* is colloquially referred to as Conan the Bacterium, borrowing from the spirit of the fictional character Conan the Barbarian, who is renowned for his strength and agility.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): In the yearly cycle of many Geminis, retreating into a state akin to hibernation makes sense during the end of August and the first three weeks of September. But since many of you are high-energy sophisticates, you often override your body's signals. And then nature pushes back by compelling you to slow down. The result may be a rhythm that feels like constantly taking three steps forward and two steps backward. May I suggest a different approach this year? Would you consider surrendering, even slightly, to the invitation to relax and recharge?

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): If you decide to travel to a particular place via hot air balloon, you must be prepared for the possibility that your route will be indirect. At different altitudes, the wind may be blowing in different directions: toward the east at a hundred feet high, but toward the southwest at two hundred feet. The trick for the pilot is to jockey up and down until finding a layer that's headed toward the desired destination. I see your life right now as having a metaphorical resemblance to this riddle. You have not yet discovered the layer that will take you where you want to go. But I bet you will soon.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Considering how bright you have been burning since the Flame Angels designated you as the Hottest Cool Person of the Month, I hesitate to urge you to simmer down. But I must. Before there's a meltdown in your vicinity, please lower your thermostat. Not a lot. Just a little. If you do that, everyone will continue to see your gleaming charisma in the best possible light. But don't you dare extinguish your blaze. Don't apologize for your brilliant shimmer. The rest of us need your magical radiance.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): *Shogun* is a bestselling novel about an Englishman who transforms himself into a samurai warrior in seventeenth-century Japan. Written by James Clavell, it's over 1,100 pages long. Clavell testified that the idea for the story sprang up in him when he read one line in his daughter's school book: "In 1600 an Englishman went to Japan and became a samurai." I suspect it's highly likely you will soon encounter a seed like that, Virgo: a bare inspiration that will eventually bloom into a Big Thing.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran athlete Mickey Mantle is in Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. He had a spectacular 18-year career, winning the Most Valuable Player Award three times, playing in 12 World Series, and being selected to the All-Star team 16 times. So it's astounding that he played with a torn ligament in his knee for 17 years, according to his biographer Jane Leavy. She quoted an orthopedic surgeon who said that Mantle compensated for his injury with "neuromuscular genius." I'm thinking that in the next few weeks you're in a position to accomplish an equivalent of Mantle's heroic adjustment

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Most people who belong to the Church of Satan neither believe in nor worship Satan. (They're atheists, and don't believe in the supernatural.) I think a comparable principle is true for many rightwing fundamentalist Christians. Their actions and words are replete with bigotry, hard-heartedness, materialism, and selfishness: so contrary to what the real Jesus Christ taught that they in effect don't believe in or worship Jesus Christ. I mention this, Scorpio, in hope of inspiring you to take inventory of whether your stated ideals are reflected in the practical details of how you live your life. That's always an interesting and important task, of course, but it's especially so for you right now. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to purge any hypocrisy from your system and get your actual behavior in close alignment with your deepest values.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's the right time for you to create a fresh mission statement and promotional campaign. For inspiration, read mine: "My column 'Free Will Astrology' offers you a wide selection of realities to choose from. With 4,212 years of dedication to customer service (over the course of my last 13 incarnations), I'm a reliable ally supporting your efforts to escape your oppressive conditioning and other people's hells. My horoscopes come with an ironclad guarantee: If the advice you read is wrong, you're under no obligation to believe it. And remember: a panel of 531 experts has determined that 'Free Will Astrology' is an effective therapy for your chronic wounds and primordial pain. It is also dramatic proof that there is no good reason to be afraid of life."

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here are good questions for you to meditate on during the next four weeks. 1. How can you attract resources that will expand your mind and your world? 2. Are you bold enough to reach out to wise sources and provocative influences that could connect you with useful tricks and practical treasures? 3. What interesting lessons can you stir up as you explore the mercurial edges, skirt the changeable boundaries, journey to catalytic frontiers, and make pilgrimages to holy hubbubs? 4. How best can you encourage lyrical emotion over polished sentimentality? Joyous idealism over stringent zealotry? Exuberant integrity over formulaic kindness?

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "It is the beginning of wisdom when you recognize that the best you can do is choose which rules you want to live by," wrote author Wallace Stegner, "and it's persistent and aggravated imbecility to pretend you can live without any." That will be an excellent meditation for you during the coming weeks. I trust you are long past the time of fantasizing you can live without any rules. Your challenge now is to adjust some of the rules you have been living by, or even dare to align yourself with some new rules—and then completely commit yourself to being loyal to them and enjoying them.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Given the astrological omens that will symbolize your personal story in the coming weeks and months, I think Piscean author Nikos Kazantzakis articulated the perfect prescription for you. I invite you to interpret his thoughts to fit your circumstances. "We're going to start with small, easy things," he wrote. "Then, little by little we shall try our hand at the big things. And after that, after we finish the big things, we shall undertake the impossible." Here's an additional prod from Kazantzakis: "Reach what you cannot."

### THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

**Homework:** What do you want most for the person or animal you love best? Report results at [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com)!

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# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

### Monday, September 9

#### Livingston/Bozeman

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

**Mercedes Carroll**, singer/songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Pato Banton**, reggae, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

#### Helena

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

#### Missoula

**Arran Buzzas**, folk/tonk, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

### Tuesday, September 10

#### Billings

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

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Hot Tuna**, classic blues/rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

#### Helena

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

**Christy Hays**, alt rock, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

#### Missoula

**StrFkr**, electronic, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

### Wednesday, September 11

#### Billings

**Open Mic/Open Jam**, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Sundae + Mr. Goessl**, vintage jazz, 7 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**The Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

**StrFkr**, electronic, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Lazy Owl String Band**, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

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

#### Helena

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Missoula

**Hot Tuna**, blues/rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



### MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL

The Meadowlark Music Festival returns to Women's Park in Helena for the third year with 50% of the proceeds going to The Friendship Center. This 10-hour festival takes place Saturday, September 7, 2019 and will feature live music, market vendors, local food and drink along with daytime kids activities.

Festival headliner Hillstomp based out of Portland, Oregon plays folk music in its purest form – from loud and gritty, to intricate and poignant, and always heartfelt and true. Festival attendees can also dance in the grass to hot swing and deep trance grooves by Banshee Tree of Boulder, Colorado. Food trucks, microbrews, cider and cocktails, games and musicians from Montana will round out the festival as well as performances by Los Marvelitos, Nightcare, Dammit Lauren & The Well, Dogjam and Tammie Jones.



stringed instruments. Alameda has written award-winning poetry, journals and songs since her teen years and has been performing at cowboy gatherings throughout the west for nearly two decades.

### A WESTERN WOMAN'S VOICE

Western musician Alameda Bradshaw performs in Billings Sept. 13 at Kirk's Grocery and Sept. 12 at Craft Local. Raised in north central Montana, Bradshaw bred and showed performance horses, running 150 cows and operating a seed plant and feed business. She now helps train AQHA performance horses with her husband, former Marlboro Man, Merritt Bradshaw, on the Yellowstone River in Huntley.

A multi-instrumentalist, Alameda studied cello and piano through college, has a BA in Elementary Education and is self-taught on the guitar, mandolin and various other

### Thursday, September 12

#### Billings

**Alameda Bradshaw**, Americana, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Chad Okrusch**, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

**Ryan Aker**, acoustic, 8 p.m., Burn Box, Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Darsombra**, psych rock, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

#### Helena

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

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet

Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

**Gabriel Rutledge**, comedian, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy

Theatre, Helena, 443-0287

#### Great Falls

**Weekly Irish Seisiun**, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great

Falls, 952-0393

#### Butte

**Annie Moses Band Concert**, folk/country, 7:30 p.m.,

Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602

#### Missoula

**Poetry Reading with Geoffrey Davis, Sarah Aronson and Nishi Chawla**, 3:30 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

**"Indelible in the Hippocampus: Writings from the Me Too Movement,"** with Sharma Shields, Melissa

Stephenson, Shelly Oria and Tamara Love, 7 p.m.,

TBA, Missoula, montanabookfestival.org

**Dusty Green Bones Band**, jam band, 8 p.m.,

The Badlander, 549-0235



DON'T MISS RED LODGE OKTOBERFEST ON SEPTEMBER 7 AT RED LODGE ALES.

### Friday, September 13

#### Billings

**Alameda Bradshaw**, Americana, 7 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Darsombra**, psych rock, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Dead Sky**, folk/rock, Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Red Glow Buffalo**, rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Paige and the People's Band**, funk, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Comedian Gabriel Rutledge**, 8 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

#### Helena

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

**Mojo Revue**, blues, 7:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

#### Butte

**Christy Hays and Friends Residency**, alt-country, 8 p.m., Cavalier Lounge, Finlen Hotel, Butte,

723-5461

#### Missoula

**Poetry Readings with Alexandra Teague, KMA Sullivan, Hastings Hensel**, 9:30 a.m., reading and discussion with poets Paul Logo Portugé, Jessica

Jones, Susan Kay Anderson, and Virginia Barrett, 10:30 a.m., The Public House, Missoula, 285-1786,

montanabookfestival.org

**Titus Andronicus**, punk, 8 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post

209, Missoula, 728-7749



DARSOMBRA: TRANS-APOCALYPTIC GALAXY ROCK ON SEPT. 12 AT THE FILLING STATION IN BOZEMAN AND SEPT. 13 AT KIRK'S GROCERY IN BILLINGS.

# Heathers

## The Musical

### WHAT'S YOUR DAMAGE?

**SEPT 20 – OCT 6**  
8PM | FRIDAY + SATURDAY  
3PM | SUNDAY

Comedy for ages 17+

*Come to the Edge*  
**VERGE**  
THEATER  
www.vergetheater.com

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### MISSOULA

**Burns St. Bistro presents a PANCAKE BREAKFAST (FOR DINNER) for the new ZACC**

Burns St. Bistro // SEPT 14 // 5 – 9 PM // \$10

Our final Capital Campaign event! \$10 gets a full plate of pancakes with New Hampshire maple syrup, sausage links, fruit, and coffee (if desired). Morning-style drinks for purchase will include mimosas and red beer. Live music by Worst Feelings Family Band featuring Special Guests, and color-your-own-breakfast for kids. There will also be a silent auction under the theme: 'Yeah, you're full now, but what are you eating tomorrow morning?' All funds raised support the new ZACC project and are 100% matched by the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust.

**DRINK & DRAW FLOWERS! with Farm Hand Farm**

Western Cider // SEPT 11 // 5:30 – 7:30 PM // FREE

The ZACC is partnering with Farm Hand Farm and Western Cider to present a stunning, floral still-life Drink & Draw. Urban flower farmer Adelaide Every will bring seasonal arrangements for attendees to sketch or watercolor. Arrangements will be available for purchase at the end of the evening. All art supplies are free and supplied by the ZACC. The ZACC receives a portion of the profit from cider sales during the event, and donations are always appreciated.

FOR MORE AWESOME COMMUNITY ART PROGRAMS VISIT  
**zootownarts.org**



### 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: Tues. Sept. 3 at The Pub Station in Billings; Pride Festival Sept. 7 in North Park in Billings; The Waterhole Saloon in Reed Point Sept. 14; Yellowstone Winery in Billings on Sept. 20; The Old Saloon in Emigrant on Sept. 21 and The Pub Station in Billings on Sept. 27



# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

### Saturday, September 14

#### Statewide

**"2019: A Space Odyssey,"** 5:30 p.m., St. Jude's Gym, Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Jackson Holte and the Highway Patrol,** rock, Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

**Doublewide Dreams,** original rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Paige and the People's Band,** funk, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Russian Circles,** rock/instrumental, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Comedy Gate,** 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Jay Owenhouse,** illusionist, 7 p.m., Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman, 994-2287

#### Helena

**The Jiggawatts,** rock/soul, Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Great Falls

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

#### Missoula

**Poetry Reading with Charles Kell,** Jen Karentnick, Geri Doran, Paul Lobo Protégés, and Bill Carty, 9 a.m., The Public House, Missoula, 285-1786, montanabookfestival.org

**AVoLA,** dance/electronic, 8 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

**K. Flay,** alt/hip-hop, The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



#### "THE OTHER MOZART"

A one-woman show featuring the true and untold story of Nannerl Mozart, the sister of Amadeus, a prodigy, keyboard virtuoso and composer, who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim. Her work and her story faded away, lost to history until she is rediscovered Sept. 14 at the Petro Theater at MSU Billings.

### Sunday, September 15

#### Livingston/Bozeman

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

**Butte Magic,** magic show performance, 3 p.m., Elling House, Virginia City, 843-5508

#### Helena

**"The Cake,"** stage play, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

#### Missoula

**Poetry Reading with Brian Laidlaw,** 2:30 p.m., Montgomery Distillery, Missoula, 926-1725, montanabookfestival.org

**Black Label Society,** rock, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

### Monday, September 16

#### Billings

**Black Label Society,** rock, 7:30 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

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

**Paul Lee Kupfer,** hobo music, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

#### Helena

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

#### Missoula

**Market Mondays,** farmer's market, 5 p.m., Highlander Beer, Missoula, 549-8193

**Raising the Dead,** live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

**The Melvins,** rock, SOLD OUT, Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



RAPPER KUNG FU VAMPIRE PLAYS THE FILLING STATION - BOZEMAN ON SEPT. 18.



### Tuesday, September 17

#### Statewide

**"Inside Montana Politics,"** reading/signing with author Mike Dennison, 6:30 p.m., Boulder Community Library, Boulder, 225-3241

#### Billings

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

**Stand Ins,** rock/punk, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band,** rock, 7:30 p.m., Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman, 994-2287

#### Helena

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

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

#### Missoula

**Flogging Molly and Social Distortion,** rock/punk, 5:30 p.m., Kettle House Amphitheater, Missoula, 830-4848

**Traditional Irish Music,** 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

**Papa Mopho,** blues, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

### Wednesday, September 18

#### Statewide

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

**Summer Cannibals,** rock, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**The Bridger Creek Boys,** bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

**"Inside Montana Politics,"** reading/signing with author Mike Dennison, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

**Kung Fu Vampire,** hip-hop, 6:30 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

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

#### Missoula

**Incubus,** alt-rock, 6:30 p.m., Kettle House Amphitheater, Missoula, 830-4848

**Wizard Rifle,** metal, 8 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

### Thursday, September 19

#### Billings

**Montana International Film Festival,** through September 22, Babcock Theater, Billings, 927-3456, mintfilmfestival.org

**Martha Scanlan,** folk, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

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

**Jeff Long,** jazz, 8 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Riley Green,** country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Kalyn Beasley,** singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**"Fishing with My Father,"** reading/signing with author Carolyn Hopper, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

**Winnie Brave,** Americana, 7 p.m., The Mint Cafe, Belgrade, 924-6017

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

**Luke Flansburg,** acoustic, Burn Box, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

#### Helena

**"Come West and See,"** reading/signing with author Maxim Loskutoff, 6 p.m., Montana Book Company, Helena, 443-0260

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

**David Casey,** folk/rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

#### Great Falls

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

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

### GET YOUR CELTIC ON!

Celtic jams on Tuesdays at Craft Local in Billings and Imagine Nation Brewing in Missoula. The Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls also hosts a weekly Tradistional Irish Sesiun every Thursday and a Celtic Brunch on Sundays.



### 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**



**Todd Lankton and The Family Band**  
Improv Comedy - The Badlander  
Sept. 3 - Missoula

**Art of Comedy with Charlie Mukluk**  
Kirks' Grocery - Sept. 6 - Billings

**Random Acts of Improv**  
Verge Theater  
Sept. 6 & 7 - Bozeman



**Comedian Gabriel Rutledge**  
Myrna Loy Theater  
Sept. 12 - Helena  
Ellen Theater  
Sept. 13 - Bozeman



**Comedy Gate**  
Rialto - Sept. 14 - Bozeman

**Brewery Comedy Tour**  
Beaverhead Brewing  
Sept. 18 - Dillon

# DARE TO LAUGH

## Broad Comedy

Opening Act by Lenny Peppers

**BENEFIT FOR THE ACLU**  
TICKETS: ACLUMONTANA.ORG

Whitefish  
**9/25**

Missoula  
**9/27**

Bozeman  
**9/28**

**ACLU MT**





## RILEY GREEN: SEPT. 19 AT PUB STATION & SEPT. 20 AT RIALTO

Born in Jacksonville, Alabama, Riley Green was raised on the sounds of old traditional Country, Bluegrass, and Southern Gospel music. He learned the spirit of songwriting and performing at a young age while spending time with his grandfather, Bufford Green, who ran Golden Saw Music Hall. Riley “shared the stage with him and other men of his generation, laying a foundation for the songs he’d craft in the years to come, reflecting on the experiences of a young Southern man trying to find his place in the world.” With a mixture of outlaw-rebellion and respect for tradition, Riley’s original music has already tallied over 27 million streams to date and he is an international touring sensation.

## Friday, September 20

### Billings

**Gilda House**, electronic, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Wind and the Willows**, folk, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Tsunami Funk**, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Riley Green**, country, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Martha Scanlan and Jon Neufeld**, folk, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

### Butte

“**The Audition**,” staged reading, 6 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657

### Missoula

**Jason Isbell**, rock/country, 6:30 p.m., Kettle House Amphitheater, Missoula, 830-4848

**Ainonimus Eidentity**, disco, 8 p.m., Monk’s Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

**California Honeydrops**, soul/R&B, Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Saturday, September 21

### Billings

“**Inside Montana Politics**,” reading/signing with author Mike Dennison, 1 p.m., This House of Books, Billings, 534-1133

“**A 1920s Evening with Billings Symphony**,” 7:30 p.m., Lincoln Center, Billings, Billings Symphony, 252-3610

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Jessica Eve**, folk, 7 p.m, Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

**Martha Scanlan and Jon Neufeld**, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

**William Russell Wallace**, rock/soul, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Tsunami Funk**, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**The Fossils**, hippy music, 8:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

**Tab Benoit**, blues, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

### Helena

**Flagship Romance**, alt folk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

### Great Falls

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

### Missoula

**Winnie Brave**, Americana, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

**TopHouse**, folk, 7 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Sunday, September 22

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Acoustic Brunch: Luke Flansburg**, folk, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

### Helena

**Winnie Brave**, Americana, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

### Missoula

**Glen Hansard**, folk, 6 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

## Monday, September 23

### Livingston/Bozeman

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

**Collapsing Stars**, blues/Americana, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**The Commonheart**, funk/rock, 9 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

### Helena

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

### Missoula

**Market Mondays**, farmer’s market, 5 p.m., Highlander Beer, Missoula, 549-8193

**Raising the Dead**, live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

**Soccer Mommy**, pop/rock, 7:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Tuesday, September 24

### Billings

**Bill Moved Away**, rock/pop, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

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

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Collapsing Stars**, neo-folk, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

### Helena

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

**The Growlers**, surf rock, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

**Leo Kottke**, guitarist, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

### Missoula

**Traditional Irish Music**, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

**The Benevolents**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

“**Tell Us Something**,” storytelling event, 6 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

## Wednesday, September 25

### Billings

**Open Mic/Open Jam**, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

### Livingston/Bozeman

**The Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

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

“**We Will Rock You**” Queen musical tribute, 7:30 p.m., Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman, 994-2287

### Missoula

**Chris King and the Gutterballs**, Americana/rock, 9 p.m., Monk’s Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

**RuFus Du SoL**, dance/house, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

**The Commonheart**, rock, 7:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Thursday, September 26

### Billings

**The ParNicularly ReNicolous Variety Show**, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Alex Nauman**, jazz, 8 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Walcrik**, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

“**Ernest Hemingway in the Yellowstone High Country**,” reading signing with author Chris Warren, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

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

### Helena

**46th Annual Montana History Conference**, Delta Colonial Hotel, through Sept. 28, Montana Historical Society, Helena, 444-2694

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

### Great Falls

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

### Missoula

**Devon Lmarr Organ Trio**, soul/jazz, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Friday, September 27

### Billings

**Montana International Film Festival**, through Sept. 28, Roman Theater, Red Lodge, mintfilmfestival.org

**Maddie Alpert, Jackson Blue, Sleepy Head**, indie rock, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**John Roberts y Pan Blanco**, jazz, 8 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

**Calvin and the Coal Cars**, country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Reckless Abandon**, blues/rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Groove wax**, rock/country/blues, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Lyle Lovett**, country, 6 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797

**Ranges**, post-rock/ambient, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

### Great Falls

**Memphis Strange**, rock, 7 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

**Soulshine**, folk/rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

### Missoula

**Middle Sea Album Release**, rock, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



## 46TH ANNUAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 2019 Montana History Conference will be held in Helena September 26-28 at the Delta Colonial where the theme will be “Keeping up with the Past.”

## Saturday, September 28

### Billings

**Miss Massive Snowflake**, Trainride Meatsweat, Alex Nauman and more, indie/pop/punk, 7 p.m., Kirk’s Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

**Deathwish**, punk, Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

### Livingston/Bozeman

**Rancho Deluxe Festival** with Sam Platts and The Great Plainsmen, Quenby and Kevin Toll, 7 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

**One Leaf Clover**, mountain boogie, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

**Groove Wax**, rock/country/blues, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Counting Coup**, blues/country, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

**An Evening with Broad Comedy**, 7 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

### Great Falls

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

### Missoula

**Misty Mtn and Chloe Gendrow**, pop, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Sunday, September 29

### Livingston/Bozeman

“**Heathers**,” musical theatre, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

“**Among the Maasai**,” reading signing with author Juliet Cutler, 4 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

**Voice of Addiction**, rock, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

### Missoula

**Too Many Zooz**, jazz, 7:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Monday, September 30

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

**Edwin Johnson**, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

### Helena

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

### Missoula

**Market Mondays**, farmer’s market, 5 p.m., Highlander Beer, Missoula, 549-8193

**Raising the Dead**, live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

**Dirtwire**, country, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

## Tuesday, October 1

### Helena

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

**Tom Susanj**, folk, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

### Missoula

**Traditional Irish Music**, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

**John Floridis**, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

## Wednesday, October 2

### Livingston/Bozeman

**The Bridger Creek Boys**, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

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

## Thursday, October 3

### Livingston/Bozeman

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

**Lena Marie Schiffer**, Americana, 8 p.m., Burn Box, Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Dirty Revival**, soul, Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

### Great Falls

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

### Missoula

**Dirtwire**, Americana, Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



# OUT & ABOUT

## SAWYER BROWN LOVES BIG SKY COUNTRY

Critically-acclaimed country group Sawyer Brown maintains a healthy touring and working regimen, backed by a bevy of hit singles and dynamic stage presence. *Montana Press* spoke with founding member and keyboardist Gregg Hubbard about the band's longevity, its deep admiration for Montana and being the forefathers of television talent competitions.

**MONTANA PRESS:** This year marks the 35th anniversary of the self-titled debut album. Why has the band been able to persevere?

**GREGG HUBBARD:** We just never gave up wanting to do this whether it's making new music or playing the shows live. We have never lost the spark for wanting to do it. Also, we have incredible fans who continue to show up year after year and tell their friends about it and their friends show up. That has been a giant blessing.

**MP:** You grew up in Apopka, Florida. What was the music scene like there growing up?

**GH:** There was no music scene growing up. Everybody listened to music. My first musical experience was playing piano in the church. John Anderson, one of my favorite country music singers, lives right around the corner. John had a band and he was the only person I knew that had a band that would play at all.

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

**GH:** That is a great question! I think as you grow up hopefully some of that growing up is in the music and in the art and in the work as well. Even though we would have always told you we felt appreciative, I think we are more appreciative than ever when you realize what an incredible blessing it is to ever get the chance to do this, much less to do it for as long as we have. I think that continues to make us work hard.

**MP:** How have the shows gone so far this year?

**GH:** Oh they've been great. I swear the longer we do it the more fun we have with it. I think people come knowing the music and ready to have a good time. Now more than ever having an hour and a half where you don't have to think about whatever is bouncing around the news on any given day is a nice respite.

**MP:** What can fans expect from the show in Billings?

**GH:** We're going to have a ball; we want you to have a ball. It's all about that. There's a certain amount of songs we know we'll play every night because those are the ones folks hear on the radio. Then we'll mix in some other stuff just to have fun with it.



**MP:** Do you have any fond memories of playing in Montana?

**GH:** The very first time we ever got to Montana we played Missoula. I remember thinking as a kid from Florida, where the highest elevation was like six inches, seeing the mountains and those beautiful rivers and thinking, 'Where has this been all of my life?' I absolutely fell in love with Montana. That's just one of my favorite states, one of my favorite places ever. I'm not just saying that; that's the truth. There are not enough good words in my vocabulary for Montana.

**MP:** You guys may have been the pioneers when you won "Star Search" in 1983. What do you make of "American Idol," "The Voice" or similar programs?

**GH:** I think anything to get your music out there is great. Then it's just the awareness at the end of a show like that the work is really still just beginning. We're in a world of short attention spans. Once you're not on television every week you've got to cultivate 'What do I do that makes people continue to be interested in my music?' For us for some reason by the grace of God we were able to realize early on even after 'Star Search' that 'Okay, this is just one stepping stone; this isn't just the end of the road.' We've got to get back out on the road, make our first record and remind people we are a really live working band.

**MP:** What advice would you give to any up-and-coming bands starting out?

**GH:** Be yourself. Write the music, sing the music, play the music, do the show the way that it feels the best for you. All too often people will try to put you in a box; don't let them. ★

—JASON MACNEIL

*Sawyer Brown plays The Pub Station in Billings on October 4. Visit [www.1111presents.com](http://www.1111presents.com) for more information about the show.*

# WE RECOMMEND...

## STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

### Friday, October 4

#### Billings

**Sawyer Brown**, country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**Johnny Dango**, rock, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

**Downtime**, rock/funk, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**Cadence**, groove, 8:30 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

**Proxima Parida**, rock, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

**"Heathers,"** musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

#### Helena

**Mojo Revue**, blues, 7:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

### Saturday, October 5

#### Billings

**Proxima Parida**, rock, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

#### Livingston/Bozeman

**www.twang**, country, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

**"Heathers,"** musical theatre, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

#### Missoula

**Brook Pridemore**, alt/indie, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

## SAVE THE DATE

### Monday, October 7

**Lucero**, Southern rock, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

### Tuesday, October 8

**White Reaper**, rock, 6 p.m., Yellowstone Valley Brewing, Billings, 245-0918

**Lucero**, Southern rock, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

### Wednesday, October 9

**"ABBACADABRA,"** tribute concert to ABBA, 7 p.m., Rialto Theatre, Deer Lodge, 846-7900

### Saturday, October 12

**Rita Coolidge**, vocalist, 7 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

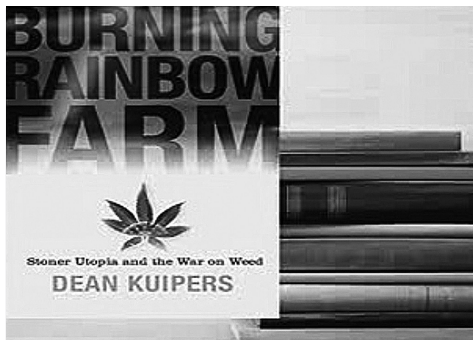
**"The River Where You Forgot,"** reading/signing with author Corrie Williamson, 2 p.m.,

**Holter Museum of Art**, Montana Book Company, Helena, 443-0260

Send information for the monthly calendar to:  
**info@montanapress.net**







## BOOK EVENTS

The Montana Book Festival in Missoula this month features a wide variety of readings, panels and workshop activities with notable writers, artists and poets. The festival opens on Thursday, September 12 with a reading and discussion at 1 p.m. at the Missoula Art Museum on "The Landscape of Family."

**Sophia Pfaff Shalmiyev** emigrated from Leningrad to America in 1990. She is a feminist writer and painter living in Portland with her two children. **Dean Kuipers** is a former environmental editor and writer for the Los Angeles Times. He is the author of "Burning Rainbow Farm" (winner of the Michigan Notable Book Award) and "Operation Bite Back." **David Axelrod** is the editor of *basalt*: a journal of fine and literary arts, and "Sensational Nightingales: The Collected Poetry of Walter Pavlich." His new collection of poems, "The Open Hand," appeared in the autumn of 2017.

Dozens of events will take place throughout the weekend at locations as varied as the Montgomery Distillery to The Public House and Berkshire Hathaway. The official kickoff is a Poetry Reading at Fact and Fiction

Books with a trio of poets at 3:30 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 12.

**Jeffrey Davis** is the author of "Night Angler" and "Revising the Storm." **Sarah Aronson** is a Montanan by way of Alaska. Her debut collection of poems, *And Other Bodiless Powers*, won the 2018 New American Poetry Prize. She is also the host of the Montana Public Radio literary program and podcast, "The Write Question." **Nishi Chawla** is a writer and an academician. She has seven volumes of poetry, eight plays, and two novels to her credit.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Fri., Sept. 13, 11 a.m. - "Unlocking Montana's Indigenous History," with Lauri Travis and Carl Davis at the The Dana Gallery

**Carl M. Davis** wrote "Six Hundred Generations: An Archaeological History of Montana" and **Lauri Travis** authored "Arrowheads, Spears, Buffalo Jumps: Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers of the Great Plains." Both books combine deep prehistoric research to demystify Montana's Indigenous human history. Join the authors in a conversation about the process of their work.

Fri., Sept. 13, 11 a.m. - Tiffany Midge presents, "Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese" - Marriott Missoula Downtown

**Tiffany Midge** is a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and was raised in the Pacific Northwest. She is a former humor columnist for *Indian Country Today* and teaches multi-genre humor writing that elevates awareness of social justice issues.

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Fri., Sept 13, 1 p.m. - "Natural Perspectives: Four Writers, Four Different Approaches to Writing the Natural World" at Montgomery Distillery

**Chris La Tray** is a writer and photographer. His first book, "One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays From the World At Large" won the 2018 Montana Book Award. **Heather Durham** is an essayist, nature writer, and naturalist. Her first book of nature essays is titled "Going Feral: Field Notes on Wonder and Wanderlust." **Heather Hansman** is the author of "Downriver: into the Future of Water in the West" about her trip down the length of the Green River, and the water system in the Western U.S. and **Antonia Malchik** is an essayist and author of "The Walking Life."

Fri., Sept. 13, 2 p.m. - "Corner of Space and Time: The Evolution of the Collaborative Process in Bringing the Eddies Club Portraits to Publication" - with **Jean Belangie-Nye** and **Ben Ferencz**. This presentation is an overview of the collaboration of how to write a book that requires multiple areas expertise and how to develop a Kickstarter program to raise the funding. "A Corner of Space and Time: Lee Nye's Eddies Club Portrait" is Lee's collection of 125 8x10 black and white portraits of the patrons who inhabited Eddie's Club (now Charlie B's) from 1965 to 1973. It includes the biographies of each of the portraits. The patrons were retirees, railroaders, mill workers, and construction workers, "The people who built Missoula and Montana." Also included are the writers Jim Crumley, Richard Hugo, and Anthony "Tony" Cronin. The collection still hangs at Charlie B's.

Fri., Sept. 13, 3 p.m., "Recipe Writing as StoryTelling" with four authors at The Public House

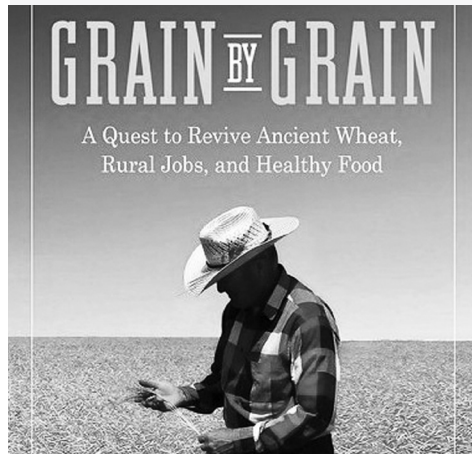


**Sara Bir** is a chef and author of two cookbooks, "The Fruit Forager's Companion" and "Tasting Ohio: Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State." **Leslie Budewitz** is a mystery writer known for her cozy mystery series. She has won numerous Agatha Awards including Best First Novel in 2013, Best Short Story and Best Nonfiction. **Greg Patent** is an American cookbook author and baker. He also co-hosts a weekly radio show about food on Montana Public Radio, "The Food Guys." **Searing Davis** won the culinary High Plains Book Award in 2016 for the cookbook, "A Taste of Montana," and is the author of several other books, including "A Montana Table: Recipes from Chico Hot Springs Resort."



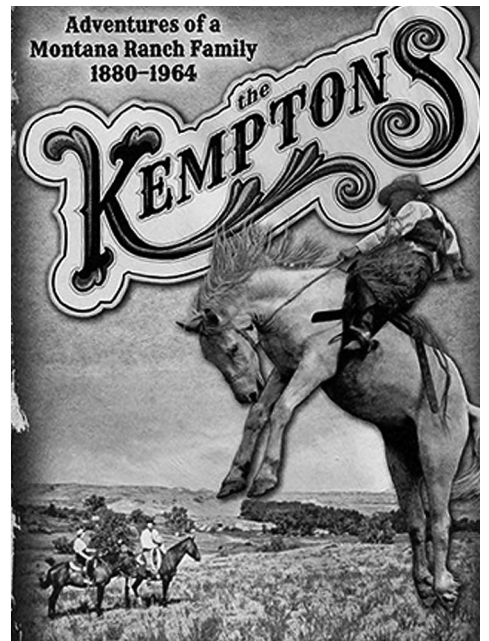
Sat., Sept. 14, 12 p.m. - "Mixed: Navigating the Kaleidoscope of Identity" reading/discussion at Monk's Bar with two noted authors. **Shonda Buchanan** is an award-winning poet and educator. She is also the author of "Who's Afraid of Black Indians?" and "Equipoise: Poems from Goddess Country." **Nicole Zelniker** is an editorial researcher at The Conversation US, a producer at "The Nasiona" and the author of "Mixed," a non-fiction book about race and mixed-race families.

Sat., Sept. 14, 5 p.m. - "Butte, Montana in the 20th Century," panel/discussion with at the Missoula Public Library. **Marc C. Johnson** has worked as a broadcast journalist and served as a top aide to Idaho's governor, Cecil D. Andrus. His writing on politics and history has been published in the *New York Times*, *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, and *Montana the Magazine of Western History*. Marc is the author of "Political Hell-Raiser: The Life and Times of Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana." **Janelle M. Olberding** is an independent historian, writer, avid reader, part-time educator, and lifelong learner. Her first book, "Butte and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic," was published in 2019. She's currently at work on her first piece of fiction - a novel loosely based on the 1917 Granite Mountain disaster in Butte.



Sun., Sept. 15, 12 p.m. - "Sustainable Farming in Rural Montana" presentation with writer **Robert "Bob" Quinn**, the 2007 recipient of the Montana Organic Association Lifetime of Service Award—is a progressive leader in promoting organic and sustainable agriculture throughout the state of Montana and the rest of the world and author of "Grain By Grain: A Quest to Revive Ancient Wheat, Rural Jobs and Healthy Food."

Sun., Sept. 15, 2:30 p.m. - Poetry Reading and Performance with Brian Laidlaw at The Montgomery Distillery **Brian Laidlaw** is a poet-songwriter originally from the Bay Area. He has released the poetry collections "Amoratorium" and "The Stuntman," each of which includes a companion album of original music; another book called "The Mirrormaker" was published in Fall 2018.



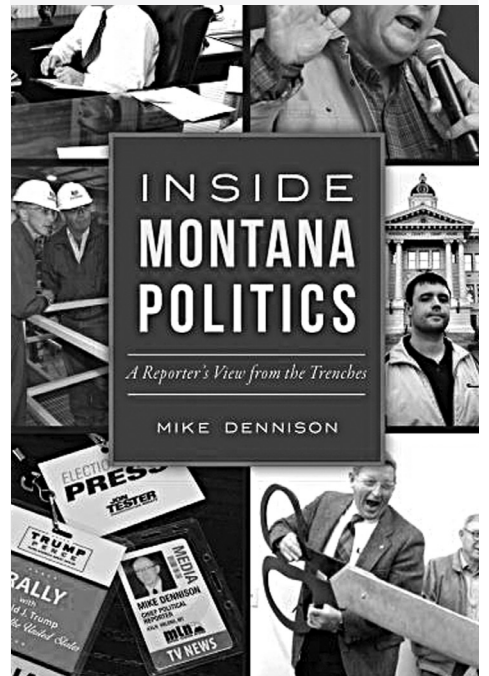
## BOOK EVENTS

**"Montana in the Great War"** by Ken Robison

Sept. 5 - Cassiopeia Books - Great Falls

**"The Kemptons: Adventures of a Ranch Family 1880-1964,"** by Trudy Kempton Dana

Sept. 6 - MT Book Company - Helena



**"Inside Montana Politics"** by Mike Dennison

Sept. 17: Boulder Community Library  
Sept. 18: Country Bookshelf, Bozeman  
Sept. 21: This House of Books, Billings



**"Fishing With My Father"** by Carolyn Hopper

Sept. 19 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Sept. 19  
**"Come West and See"** by Axim Loskutoff

Sept. 19 - MT Book Company - Helena

**"Ernest Hemingway in the Yellowstone High Country"**

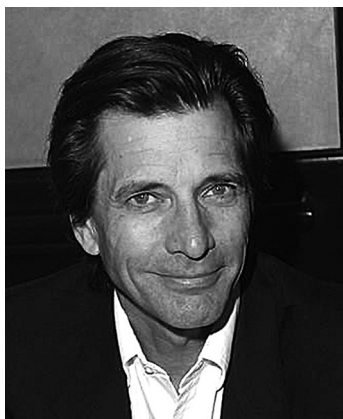
by Chris Warren  
Sept. 26 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

**"Among the Maasai: A Memoir"** by Juliet Cutler

Sept. 29 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman



## MONTANA'S FAMOUS BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: DIRK BENEDICT



**D**irk Benedict's odyssey from a central Montana town of fewer than 1,000 inhabitants to the hustle of Hollywood has been nothing short of marvelous.

Born Dirk Niewoehner, in Helena on March 1, 1945, he led a tranquil childhood of fishing, skiing, and grouse hunting in White Sulphur Springs, the county seat of Meagher County.

When he was sixteen, however, his parents divorced. And at age 18, his father, George, died.

"My dad always taught me that life wasn't just about going through the motions," says Benedict, 74. "He was interested with the discovery of what gave each life its real and unique qualities. That made such an impression."

Football was among Dirk's earliest interests. He spent summer evenings playing catch with George. He dreamed of playing college football until he auditioned "on a prank and a bet" for the spring musical at Whitman College, in Walla, Walla, Washington, and earned the lead in a production of Oscar Hammerstein II's "Show Boat."

"Never once when I was stacking hay in the high mountain hayfields of Montana did I daydream about being any kind of celebrity," says Benedict. "Even in my college years and beyond, I considered it play-acting, fun, just sort of a hobby."

He advanced his acting studies through a two-year apprentice program in Michigan and began appearing in repertory productions all over the country. During this period, he adopted his stage surname — inspired by a breakfast of "Eggs Benedict" with his agent. While looking down at the two halves of an English muffin, topped with ham, poached eggs, and Hollandaise sauce, he decided he would become "Dirk Benedict."

Dirk Benedict made his Broadway debut in 1971 before launching his on-screen career with the little-known Swedish drama "Georgia, Georgia." By 1973, he was splitting his time between Hollywood and Broadway. His first experience as a series regular came in 1974 with "Chopper One," a short-lived police drama on ABC.

That same year, Benedict was diagnosed with prostate cancer, but, he says, he cured the misfortune through a macrobiotic diet (all vegetarian, without refined or animal products). He still touts the benefits of the macrobiotic diet that he has followed for more than 40 years.

"Eating your way past generation upon generation of meat-eaters and a meat-eating mindset is no easy task," says Benedict. "But the change is dramatic when you go from a diet that is based on animal protein, to one based entirely on grains, beans and vegetables, which I still practice now. What a difference on the body and mind. Macrobiotics was the compass to point me to a greater, longer life."

Benedict's big breakthrough happened in 1978, at age 33, when he was cast as Lt. Star-

*Dirk Benedict's big breakthrough happened in 1978 at age 33, when he was cast as Lt. Starbuck on the television space opera, "Battlestar Galactica," a \$14 million, three-hour epic for ABC. "It was the kind of fluffy, comedic, romantic character I had always loved playing. I was so glad I had a job — and was working," Benedict says.*

*"As far Universal and Glen Larson were concerned, I was their choice — their man for the part."*



buck on producer Glen A. Larson's television space opera, "Battlestar Galactica," a \$14 million, three-hour epic for ABC.

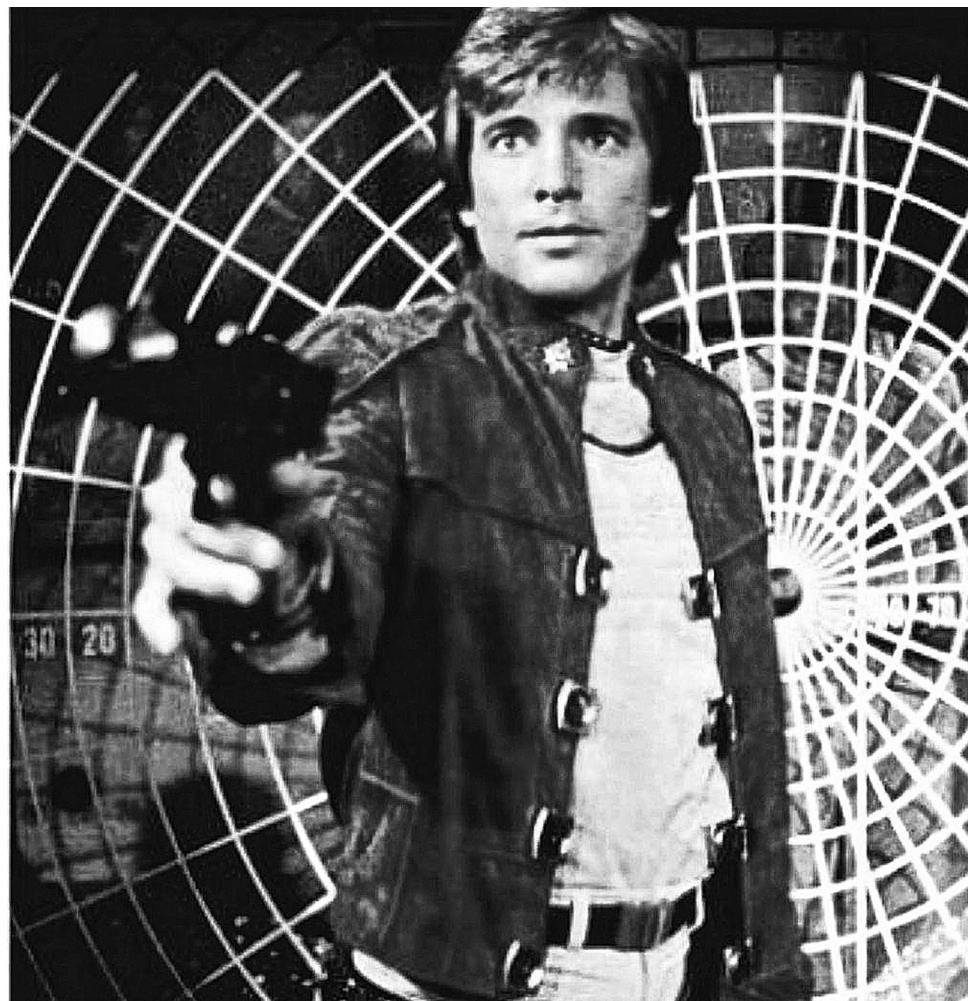
"It was the kind of fluffy, comedic, romantic character I had always loved playing. I was so glad I had a job — and was working. As far Universal and Glen Larson were concerned, I was their choice — their man for the part."

A memorable scoundrel with a fondness for card games and the ladies, Starbuck was the most skilled pilot in the "Galactica" fleet. Benedict's good looks and self-belittling sense of humor made for a memorable character.

"Battlestar Galactica" became an overnight success for me," says Benedict. "I'd been supporting myself for eight years solely from whatever sums of money I barely made as an actor. It got me attention, that part. I learned quickly about the media's manic desire for manufacturing celebrities."

After "Galactica" was canceled in 1979, Benedict appeared in many forgettable features and programs before landing his most popular part as Templeton "Faceman" Peck on "The A-Team." That show, which turned "Mr. T." into a household consonant, was a cartoon-like action series about four Vietnam veterans who worked as honorable mercenaries-for-hire.

"If the 'A-Team' was about anything," says Benedict, "it was about people standing up for



*Benedict dated Marie Osmond (at left) for a short period in the late 1970s.*

*After "Galactica" was canceled in 1979, Benedict appeared in many forgettable features and programs before landing his most popular part as Templeton "Faceman" Peck on "The A-Team."*

themselves and having control of their own lives."

Templeton Peck resembled Benedict's earlier "Starbuck." Both had appetites for life's refined pleasures; both were orphans. But Peck shunned the fist-fights and shootouts that were part of the quartet's mode of operation; he preferred slick plots, elaborate cons and his own smooth-talking dialogue. "The A-Team" brought Benedict sizeable attention during its four-year run.

After "The A-Team" sank in the ratings in its fifth season, Benedict returned to episodic television. Since then he has made his big-screen directorial debut and participated in "Bring Back... The A-Team," a documentary that reacquainted the surviving members of the series. Benedict made a cameo in the action-comedy adaptation of "The A-Team's" (2010), featuring Bradley Cooper as his former character. (Mr. T boycotted participating in the film because he felt that it did not live up to the original.)

These days, Benedict can be seen at comic book and collectibles shows from coast-to-coast. He says that he lives "a trouble-free life" of frequent travel, good, healthy eating, and regular exercise. "I look at it this variety of attitude," says Benedict. "If you chew your rice, drink your tea, and wear your clothes, the rest will fall into place. I avoided the general excesses all of my contemporaries were enjoying."

His Montanan attitude to live simply has remained untouched by time and travel.

"I've been fortunate to have lived a marvelous life," explains Benedict, who splits his time between Kalispell, the West Coast, and visiting his mother who still lives in White Sulphur Springs. "Coming from Montana, it's been a long, long, long journey. Miracles happen in funny ways."★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



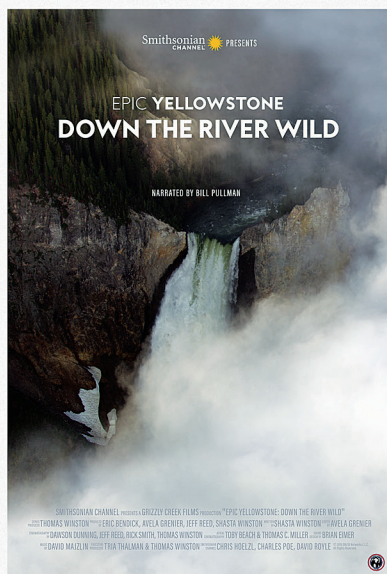
5 DAYS, 90 FILMS, 5 AFTER PARTIES, 3 CONCERTS, 3 PANELS

# MINT

Montana  
International  
Film Festival

DOWNTOWN BILLINGS  
sept. 19-23

TICKETS & PASSES AT  
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## OPENING NIGHT FILM **EPIC YELLOWSTONE**

Produced by Grizzly Creek Films

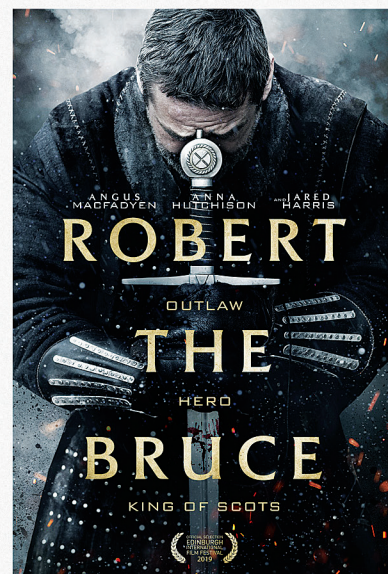
**BABCOCK THEATRE**

**SEPT 19 | 6 PM**

It's among the last of its kind: a mighty river, still wild. The Yellowstone flows from the world's first national park into the life of the American West, moving as few rivers do. Undammed, untamed and changing with the seasons. This is the story of water that gives and takes as it makes a 700 mile journey from the peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains.

4 PM **RED CARPET OPENING** | 5 PM **CEREMONY**  
6 PM **FILM** | 8 PM **AFTER PARTY W/LIVE MUSIC**

Join us after the film for a Q&A with the director and producers of the series!



## CLOSING NIGHT FILM

## **ROBERT THE BRUCE**

Produced by Yellow Brick Films

**BABCOCK THEATRE**

**SEPT 22 | 3 PM**

Director Richard Gray takes the helm to create this epic, Made-In-Montana sequel to *BRAVEHEART*. Starring Angus Macfadyen, reprising his original role as Robert The Bruce.

The story of nobleman-turned-outlaw hero who was crowned king of Scots in the 14th century.

2:30 PM **DOORS** | 3:30 PM **FILM**

Join us after the film for a Q&A with director Richard Gray and lead actor Angus Macfadyen.

See all films & schedule at [mintfilmfestival.org](http://mintfilmfestival.org)



## **Boom**

84 min, Montana Premiere

**STAPLETON GALLERY**  
**SEPT 20 | 6:00 PM**

'Boom' tells the untold story of one of rock 'n' roll's wildest and most influential bands, The Sonics.

Join us after the film for a Q&A with the director.



## **Nighthawks**

90 min, Montana Premiere

**ART HOUSE CINEMA**  
**SEPT 21 | 6:00 PM**

Midwest transplant Stan, agrees to play wingman to his roommate Chad as they embark upon an exploration of glittering New York nightlife, whose darkest secrets are held captive by an elite band of millennials known as the Nighthawks.

Join us after the film for a Q&A with the director.



## **Once Upon A River**

90 min, Montana Premiere

**STAPLETON GALLERY**  
**SEPT 21 | 6:00 PM**

It's 1978 and Margo Crane, a 15 year old part Native teen, must take to the Stark River on an odyssey. Akin to Huck Finn, this is a heroine like no other.

Join us after the film for a Q&A with the director.



## **Hugh Hefner's After Dark**

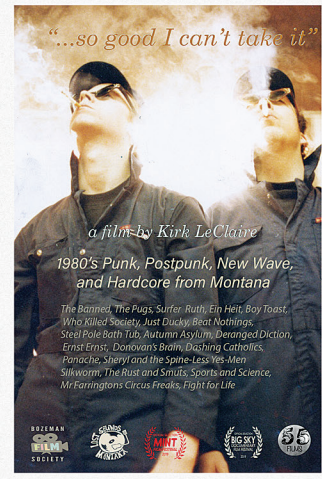
Canada

101 min, Montana Premiere

**BABCOCK THEATRE**  
**SEPT 21 | 11:00 AM**

From Oscar-winning director, Brigitte Berman, comes this remarkable documentary of one of America's most influential and controversial cultural icons, Hugh Hefner.

Join us after the film for a Q&A with Brigitte Berman.



## **"...so good I can't take it"**

81 min, Billings Premiere

**BABCOCK THEATRE**  
**SEPT 20 | 1:00 PM**

When it was so good they just couldn't take it, the story of Montana punk in the 1980's

Join us after the film for a Q&A with the director and special guest John Dahl.



RAISE A GLASS WITH THE BREWERS AT THE

# MONTANA BREWERS

**2019**

## FALL RENDEZVOUS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14

CARAS PARK MISSOULA



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VISIT **MONTANABREWERS.ORG**

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VIP HOUR 3:00 - 4:00 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION 4:00 - 8:00 PM

# "CRAFTING MONTANA'S FUTURE"