

Vol. 3, Issue 1 • January 2020

MONTANA PRESS

*Free Monthly News, Arts
& Entertainment*

SUSTAINING THE SLOPES

Efforts by Montana Ski Areas to Combat Climate Change



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How are Montana's ski hills and resorts across the country preparing for and adapting to climate change?

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NOT FORGOTTEN

Montie Montana, the original trick roper, was perhaps Lame Deer's most famous production.

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ON THE COVER *A chairlift carries riders up for last run at Whitefish Mountain Resort. Photo: Montana Dept. of Tourism (www.visitmt.com and @chuckhaney.com).*

MONTANA PRESS MONTHLY

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BYGONE DAYS

Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1895, 1935 and 1961. For daily Bygone Days, follow online at: @MontanaPress on Facebook.

The Dillon Tribune January 1, 1896

"The City of Dillon. A look Backward... Dillon is the principal town in southwestern Montana... Dillon is exceedingly well-built for a town that is only 15 years old. There is a great contrast between the rows of old weather-beaten shacks that formerly stood where now are handsome and substantial buildings of brick, iron and stone. People that were familiar with the town in its early days can hardly realize that it is the same town, it has grown and improved so much... Almost the entire business of the town at first depended upon that made by the immense freighting business which was carried on—merchandise being sent from here to all parts of the state."

Columbia Falls Columbian January 2, 1896

"The victim of a shooting affray was Robert McDaniels, a placer miner living near the head of Little Quartz gulch, about nine miles from Wickes. He was shot by a man known as 'Doc' Bovee. Bovee had been living with a woman who is generally believed not to be his wife, for a year or so, in this section. Some time ago the woman left Bovee and went to live in McDaniel's cabin and this incensed Bovee who went over to Mc Daniel's cabin and the two men got into a quarrel which led to the shooting that resulted in the death of McDaniels. The only witness to the tragedy was the woman whose story was somewhat disconnected."

Columbia Falls Columbian January 2, 1896

"Joe Cadotte, the slayer of Oliver Richards, otherwise known as 'Oliver Twist' because of a facial deformity, was executed at the jail yard at Fort Benton Friday forenoon. His death came in four minutes, the quickest ever known in a hanging. He left a statement saying that he had led a wild life, being raised among Indians, and that he attributed his misfortunes to association with the whites, for he had always been taught by the Indians in his boyhood to be brave and honest and fear no one."

The Dillon Tribune January 3, 1896

"The fellow that was 'three sheets in the wind and was fined \$5.00 and placed in the city bastille the other night, told the officer it was cheap as he would probably have spent three times that amount if he had not been 'jugged.'"

.....THE.....

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The Anaconda Standard January 11, 1896

"The lights shone over brave ladies and fair men at the Leap Year Ball last evening at the Montana hotel. The spacious dining room that has so often been the scene of such social affairs, presented a brilliant spectacle... The guests were late in arriving but this was due probably to the extra attention which the gentlemen paid to their toilets. The role which they had to play was a difficult one, but they acquitted themselves in a most lady-like manner and were very modest and retiring in disposition. It was very hard for them to wait in the parlors until the gentlem—lady came seeking but they did it and were voted charming by the gallant girls who claimed them. It was no easy task for them to take the ladies' left arm, and stroll innocently into the ballroom while she presented the ticket at the door. It was still more difficult to sit demure in a row while the busy ones among the enthusiastic Leap Year maids briskly solicited the favor of a waltz. It made their blushes come and go, and the answers given with stammering tongues. Then they were informed that no nice man would cross the hall without an escort, and positively none would go for a drink unless accompanied by a lady. This was the reason that none of the boys got further than the fountain in the rotunda and though it was dry in one respect it was not in any other."

The Big Timber Pioneer January 16, 1896

"Curiously worded advertisements, funny without intent, are not uncommon in English newspapers. Recently a London journal offered a prize for the best collection of such announcements, with the following result: 'Annual sale now on. Don't go elsewhere to be cheated—come in here ...A lady wants to sell her piano, as she is going abroad, in a strong iron frame. Wanted, experience nurse for bottled baby ...Lost, a collie dog by a man on Saturday with a brass collar around his neck and a muzzle ...Wanted, by a respectable girl, her passage to New York; willing to take care of children and a good sailor ...For sale—a pianoforte, the property of a musician with curved legs ...Mr. Brown, furrier, begs to announce that he will make up gowns, capes, etc. for ladies out of their own skins ...Bulldog for sale; will eat anything, very fond of children ...Wanted, an organist, and a boy to blow the same... Wanted, a boy to be partly behind the counter and partly outside."

Havre Daily News January 17, 1935

"Whew! Some Wind! Red Lodge—A high wind forced a rabbit into a pole, killed him, then took the hide right off him, so says Ben (Pack Saddle) Greenough, member of the famous 'Riding' Greenough family, and a guide in this section for the last half century."

The Billings Gazette January 18, 1935

"Morrison Cavern Looms as Focal Point for Tourists. CCC Forces May Do Development. Would Build Highway to Entrance of Attraction. Montana's natural rival of the great caverns of Kentucky—the Morrison cave of pink hued stalactites and stalagmites—may soon become a focal point for tourists and also become more available to Montanans who still hold it in awe, if the federal government carries through a plan for rehabilitation of the national monument... Discovery of The Cave in 1902 is attributed to the flight of an eagle. Daniel A. Morrison, they discoverer, was running a limestone quarry survey line in the vicinity when he saw the bird circling about a four foot hole in the face of a cliff. He climbed to the hole and dropped a stone into it. The stone crashed downward for a long moment, bouncing off ledges and metallic formations. His nephew, George W Morrison, lowered himself into The Cave with a 500 foot rope period he called up for another 500 foot length, then remained so long below that the party at the Top feared for his safety. The young man explained on his return that he was so impressed with the formations he had paid no attention to the time he consumed exploring. The older Morrison spent \$30,000 building a more accessible entrance in constructing spiral wooden stairways which still are in use period the heavier lumber in the stairways was hauled up the mountain by teams of horses. Much of the remainder was taken up by men. Carrying a 2 by 4 inch piece of lumber was a day's work for one man... Morrison sought to interest the government in The Cave and a few years before he died—in 1932 at the age of 85—he was given \$5000 as compensation for his interest in The Cave."

The Billings Gazette January 25, 1961

"Berkeley Pit May Be Closed - The future of the Berkeley open pit copper mine at Butte hinges on passage of a proposal now before the Senate, an Anaconda company official said Tuesday. W. M. Kirkpatrick, Anaconda's attorney for western operations, said in a statement that if the bill fails to pass this session, expansion of the pit will be 'stymied for at least two years.' 'If the necessary land cannot be obtained for this expansion, the pit will have to close,' he said. He referred to a bill proposed by Democratic Sens. John L. McKeon of Deer Lodge County and Frank H. Reardon of Silver Bow that would extend the right of eminent domain to include surface mining operations. Kirkpatrick claimed 'future development of Anaconda Co. operations in Montana is being endangered by a scare campaign' against the proposal... When these laws were passed 84 years ago, pit mining was unknown. Senate Bill 112 simply extends the present law to cover situations where the owner of the minerals need to obtain surface rights.' A loud minority should not be allowed to jeopardize the future of Butte and other communities with a scare campaign."

Butte Montana Standard January 26, 1961

"Man Hurlled From Tumbling Auto Onto Telephone Wires—John Gentry of Warm Springs, hurlled from a tumbling auto and tossed 31 feet through the air onto telephone wires 12 feet above the ground,



clung to life in St. Ann Hospital Wednesday night. Gentry, 40, an attendant at the State hospital who weighs an estimated 250 pounds, broke the span of telephone wires, but officers believe the lines cushioned his fall enough to save his life. Members of a pole line construction crew witnessed the spectacular accident. They reported Gentry was thrown from the right-hand door of the auto as it flipped end-for-end. Gentry was the auto's lone occupant. The accident occurred shortly after noon on the Butte-Deer Lodge Highway one-quarter mile north of Opportunity. Gentry has a broken leg, dislocated shoulder, three fractured ribs, head and face injuries, suffered shock and possible internal injuries. Officers said little hope was held that Gentry could be saved when he was rushed to the hospital. However, chances of recovery reportedly improved considerably after a blood [transfusion]. Measurements indicated the auto was traveling at a high rate of speed when Gentry lost control on a gradual curve, officers said. They said the car traveled 275 feet after leaving the highway—through the borrow pit, back across the road and through another 10-foot borrow pit, there nose down, before somersaulting over a 4-foot barbed wire fence. Gentry was en route to Warm Springs from Butte where his wife had been scheduled to undergo surgery."

Butte Montana Standard January 31, 1961

"Spittoons May Go—Montana Lawmakers might take a tip from their North Dakota counterparts. There's an anti-spittoon league among North Dakota senators. Sen. R.E. Meiginger of Stutsman County feels that as time marches on it should take the spittoons with it. He introduced a resolution in the Senate Monday asking for no cuspidors and more ashtrays." ★

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MONTANA VOICE

2020: Time for Some BIG Changes

Here we go, roaring into 2020 ready or not. New year, new decade and definitely time for some new ways of dealing with the plethora of challenges facing the state, nation and planet.

The impacts from setting new global warming records every year are magnifying almost incrementally as evidenced by vast wildfires, melting permafrost, warming oceans and rising sea levels. The endless foreign wars continue unabated. The current occupant of the White House long ago passed his ability to lead the nation. And to top it off, species are going extinct at a rate not seen since the dinosaurs disappeared. Change? You bet we need it and we need big, not incremental, change if we're planning on having any kind of a livable future for ourselves, our kids, and generations yet to come.

A recent report released by the Montana Outdoor Heritage Project surveyed more than 11,000 Montanans, concentrating on those aged 18-29, and found their top concern was climate change. That shouldn't be a surprise to those who are watching and living with the primarily deleterious effects of climate change such as wildfire, rivers too hot to fish, and low snowpacks.

What is surprising is how out of touch Montana's politicians appear to be on the issue. Rarely do any of them, Democrats or Republicans, make climate change a leading topic in their communications with their constituents. Instead, many are firmly stuck in the far distant past, still trying to figure out ridiculous ways to "save" Colstrip's greenhouse-gas belching coal-fired power plants. What needs to change? Those politicians, from Congress to the state house, that don't seriously offer plans to combat climate change should be summarily voted out of office. We need real action and investments, not lame excuses, and we're not getting it.

A major issue affecting both the nation and the state is resource conservation and sorry to say we are doing almost the exact opposite of what needs to be done. Chopping down the forests that are our best hope for pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is just one example. Yet, despite the indisputable scientific evidence of the dangers of deforestation, Montana's politicians are glove in hand with the Trump administration's cut it down, dig it up, drill it and burn it for instant profit policies.

Montana, however, is one of the last refuges for all the native species that lived here when Lewis and Clark went through more than 200 years ago and they evolved with the forests – not clear-cuts, logging roads, and the sediment they send into the pristine waters those forests produce.

Governor Bullock, cheered on by Senators Tester and Daines, designated a whopping 5 million acres of Montana forests to be eligible for logging under the federal Farm Bill. The phony rubric "healthy forests" - a.k.a. massive logging - came into being when President George W. Bush turned timber lobbyist Mark Rey loose on our national forests as a top administrator. Foolishly, Democrats adopted the term despite the fact that logging does anything but make forests healthy. What needs to change? Get back to science-based policies for managing our national forests, not the chop it down, haul it off, and pocket the profits policies masquerading as forest health.

A major issue affecting both the nation and the state is resource conservation and sorry to say we are doing almost the exact opposite of what needs to be done. Chopping down the forests that are our best hope for pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is just one example. Yet, despite the indisputable scientific evidence of the dangers of deforestation, Montana's politicians are glove in hand with the Trump administration's cut it down, dig it up, drill it and burn it for instant profit policies.

There are plenty more big changes needed in Montana's future, but like the 800-pound gorilla in the room, the biggest change we need in 2020 is to get rid of Donald Trump and his corrupt administration that is solely dedicated to plundering the nation to further enrich the already wealthy.

We now have a record deficit, to which Trump added more than a trillion dollars in just three years. Record income inequality sees three individuals now holding more wealth than the bottom 50% of our populace – about 175 million Americans. The last thing they need is more tax breaks, but that's just what Trump wants to give them.

Not content with plundering the U.S., Trump is fomenting revolution in Venezuela – which just happens to hold the largest known petroleum reserves on the planet. And recently, despite his campaign promise to halt the endless foreign wars, he ordered bombing strikes on Iraq and Syria while beating the drums of war with Iran. This comes after he announced "we have secured the oil" in Syria – openly admitting we are violating a sovereign nation to plunder its resources.

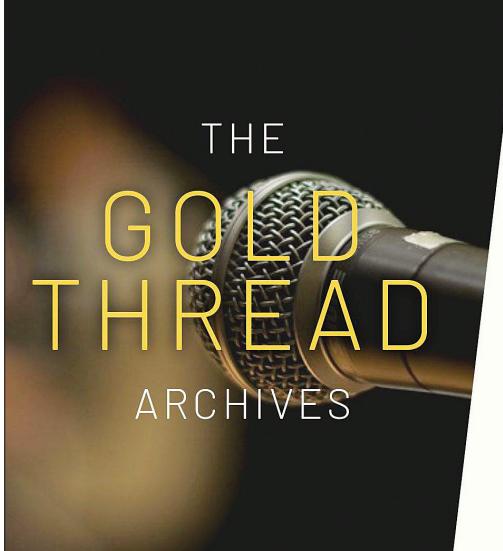
Change? Yep, we need change all right. Starting with getting rid of Trump via impeachment or at the polls at the top of the list. But that's just the beginning and far from the end of the changes we absolutely must make in the coming year and to which each and every one of us must commit in 2020 and beyond. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI



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MONTANA BOOKS

B.J. Daniels Puts Montana on the New York Times Best-Seller List

If you recently discovered the charm of Big Sky romantic-suspense author B.J. Daniels, better stock up on your bookmarks: she has over 100 more adventures under her pen name to enjoy. That said, the story behind her real-life ascent up the *New York Times* bestseller list is every bit as jaw-dropping as the twisted cowboy mysteries she creates.

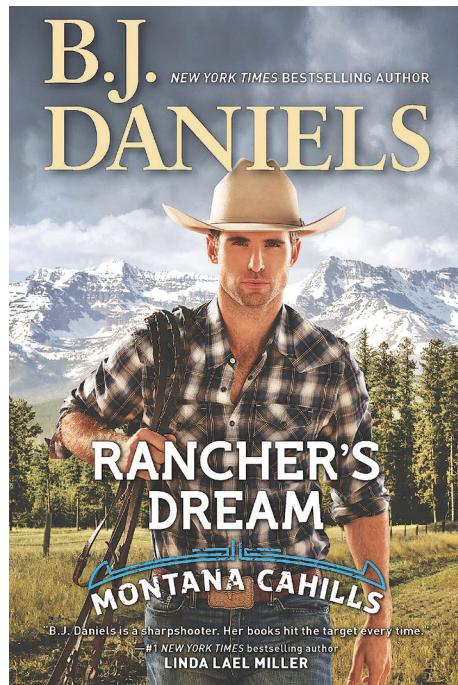
In her latest work, “Restless Hearts,” which marks the debut of her “Montana Justice” series, private investigator Blaze McClintock must return to the family ranch when her estranged father is accused of murder. To solve the mystery, Blaze must work with the one man in town who doesn’t consider her Dad a bad dude: her teenage boytoy Jake Horn. Friction sizzles when the two team up, for better or worse.

Montana figures prominently in Daniels’ work, and for good reason. Born in Texas, her family moved to the West Yellowstone area when she was 5.

“We had a cabin up the Gallatin Canyon, and then we got the lake house at Hebgen Lake, so there were always a lot of adventures,” she recalls. “When I was in high school, we didn’t have a high school in West Yellowstone, so they bussed us down to Ashton, Idaho every day - 65 miles down and 55 miles back - to go to high school. It was great growing up there. I was really lucky.”

Although she dreamed of writing from age 8, her access to books was limited. On the plus side, she learned young how to spin a tale.

“My dad had a fifth-grade education and my mother had an eighth-grade education and we didn’t have books in our house,” Daniels says. “But my parents were storytellers, my whole family. Storytelling kind of got me going. I was going to be a writer because of the stories I overheard around the campfires as a kid. If you can get somebody involved in your story for a few hours or a day or whatever and not put it down, that’s the big thing. That’s the



art to it – telling a story well enough that they just keep turning the pages.”

Most of the writing in her youth remained in her head as her spare time centered on more physical chores.

“My dad was a masonry contractor. He built stuff, and when his hod carriers didn’t show up, he’d wake me up and say, ‘Come on, you gotta carry hod today because nobody showed up to work,’” she recalls.

As rough as the chore was, it still beat one of her early jobs: cleaning aluminum arrows.

“That was a short job and a really bad one,” she chuckles. “They wanted me to learn to fletch (feather the arrows) but I never got that far. I was thinking, ‘Come on, I can do better than this.’”

The frustrated storyteller majored in English at Montana State University but fell just shy of graduating.

“Actually, I ran out of money and I was on loans and it was a time when they cut a lot of the loans, so I went three and a half years. I was majoring in English, but I had realized at that point that there was no way I wanted to teach; I wanted to write books.”

Her bad-luck turned around when she stumbled on a job writing feature stories for the *Bozeman Chronicle*.



“I’d written a couple of stories for the school paper in high school but I really didn’t get into it until I was 30, when I went to work for the newspaper,” Daniels recalls. “I had taken a night class at MSU on writing for the newspaper, and after I wrote a couple of articles and the *Chronicle* published them, I asked for a job. And at that time, the publisher thought that was kind of ballsy, because I’d written two stories and I knew nothing about it, so he hired me. I was a stringer for a while, and I ended up getting on the newspaper staff and wrote features and all kinds of stuff.”

Sure, newspaper writing beat hod carrying and arrow scrubbing but fortunately for readers, it did little to vent the story buildup that she’d lived with forever. “I’ve always made up stories in my head and I just assumed everybody else did. I was shocked when I found out that people didn’t always have a running story going!”

“But for me, stories are just there. I’m one of those people who, when I go out at night to get in my car, I always look in the back seat and I always expect the worst. Because this is what I write,” she explains.

Newspaper writing, which she would go on to do for the next two decades, laid the groundwork for her high dive into writing romance fiction. “The nice thing about writing nonfiction is, it’s all there for you; it doesn’t take much to put it together once you learn how it’s done,” she admits.

“I credit the newspaper because I learned how to write fast and short and to get it done on deadline, and I sold my very first book (“Odd Man Out”). That’s not real common, I don’t think. A lot of writers have more (unpublished books) under their bed; I don’t have any under my bed, which is really sad.”

Right out of a romance novel, the young reporter fell for her Features Editor at the *Chronicle*, an articular-bird hunter known as outdoors columnist Parker Heinlein. Now residents of Malta, they live in a 100-year-old home with Springer Spaniels galore.

The author’s penname “BJ” stems from her maiden name, Barb Johnson, while the

“Daniels” part is from her daughter, Danielle. Once the nascent novelist began turning out books for *Women’s World*, *Harlequin Intrigue* and *HQN*, a somewhat awkward realization emerged: she didn’t exactly write romance novels.

“I kind of stumbled into romance. I had no intention of writing romance. A lot of my friends write romance and I don’t. You read my reviews and they say, ‘Well, there was a little romance, but mostly it was a murder mystery,’ because that’s what I really love, the murder mystery part.

“But murder mystery authors have a harder time making a living than romantic-suspense writers do. I learned that early on, and I thought, ‘Huh, well this is interesting.’ The first things I sold were to *Woman’s World*, so I had to kind of add some more romance to make those sell, and I sold like 42 of them.

“So I was kind of ready to go into this genre if I could get away with not writing too much romance. My friends write such great, very emotional stuff and I don’t think I do. I like killing people,” she adds with a laugh. “I really enjoy it.”

Fortunately for Daniels, publishing is king in the romance genre.

“The publishers want as many books as possible,” she agrees. “I really lucked out. A lot of people go through a lot of editors, and I got my editor (Denise Zaza) on my second book, and she is now the senior editor at *Harlequin Intrigue* and *HQN*, so I’ve been with her basically 25 years.

“I always feel like I’ve snuck in and then I’ve kind of fooled them all this time. I love a romance in the summer, something fun, but I like the murder mysteries. Years ago, my editor was trying to explain what I wrote, and she was having a real hard time, but for some reason, they started selling. I thought, if I can do this and survive but as it turned out, things just took off, and I was like, wow, this is cool!”

When her romance career caught fire, the Heinleins faced a family decision.



A young B.J. Daniels (Barb Heinlein) with her brother at their family’s Gallatin Canyon cabin and (at right) the former telephone office in Malta, Montana which now serves as her main writing office.

“It was like 25 years ago. I was still working at the newspaper, so I was only doing one book a year, then I did two, and then I think that at my fourth book, I decided that this was what I always wanted to do, so I quit the newspaper and jumped into it,” Daniels recalls.

“It was a crazy time for us, because we had both gone through divorces, we had no money and I quit a good job to write. It was really like jumping off a cliff. Parker has been behind me since day one. He always said, ‘I don’t want to stand in your way. Do your thing, and don’t stay at a job that’s going to keep you from doing your thing.’ So I quit, and it all turned out good. And pretty soon, you’re writing six books a year, because the thing about the romance market is, the readers would like one every week! They have an appetite; it’s always like ‘Write faster!’”

So how does a writer turn out six books a year?

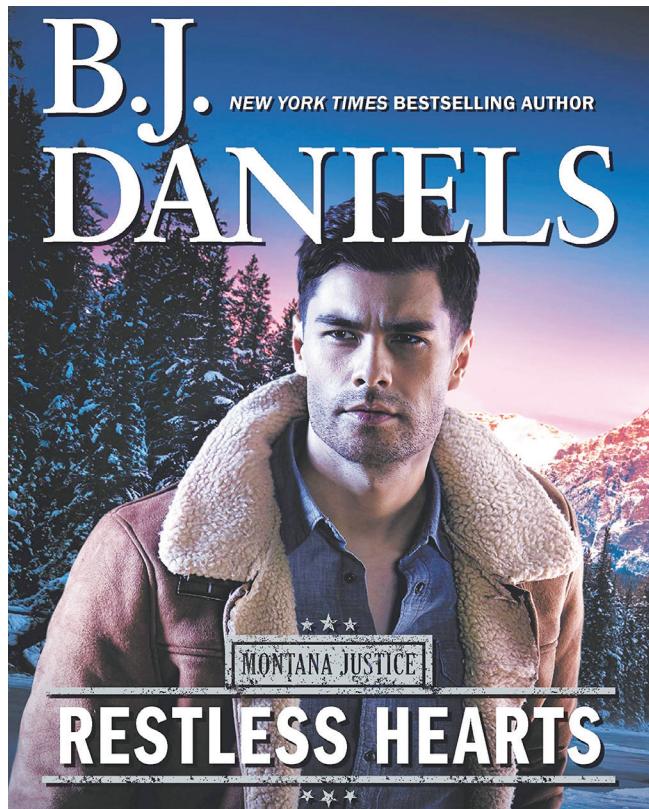
“It’s crazy the way I write, because I write by the seat of my pants. I just start writing. I don’t really know the story because if I already knew the story, it wouldn’t be that fun to write. Usually, 99 percent of the time, I don’t know who the killer is, and I like it that way; it’s really fun for me because I’m learning from the characters as we’re writing.

“I have one friend who says, ‘It all comes from outer space and all we do is type,’ and there are days I feel that’s how it works. I’ve never been interested in teaching writing because I really don’t understand it!” she laughs. “You don’t know where it comes from” and then you get goosebumps; you’re just, ‘Oh my gosh, is that what’s going on?! Holy cow!’ It’s hard to explain.”

What is it about Montana cowboys that empties the bookshelves?

“Women love strong men!” She says. “Cowboys are obviously the strong, silent type, but in the books of course they do more than grunt. They’re not real. I feel like I know men, so I can write a guy; I have no trouble writing guys. But my daughter, who grew up in Montana, said, ‘Cowboys are not like that at all. They’re not.’

“It’s a symbol. Here are guys who are so able to do things. My husband’s like that: he



is so capable. He can ride a horse; he can load a pack mule. I mean, he can do all that stuff because he’s done it. There are so many guys anymore who can’t even hammer a nail. So there definitely is that appeal.”

Daniels spends most days in her writing studio, the charming century-old former headquarters of Moore Telephone Company in Malta. How many books does she turn out a year?

“I think the most I’ve ever done is seven,” she says. “I’ve done six books, but I’ve cut back now to five; I do three big ones and two small ones. It’s a fulltime job. My husband says I write all the time and I do, but I’m happy doing it. I love to write this time of year, when we have about a half a foot of snow out there because then I can play with our 13 grandkids in the summer, because I love summer and being on the water.”

“It’s funny, because I’ve reached goals I never thought I had,” she reflects. “Recently when I sold my 100th book; I bought myself a Mini-Cooper convertible! I couldn’t help myself because everyone I knew thought, ‘Oh, I went to Paris, or I did this, or I bought this bracelet, and I was like, ‘No, that’s not me.’ So I told my husband that I want a Mini-Cooper convertible, and he said, ‘Well that’s a really practical thing to have in Montana.’ So I ordered it, we went out to Portland on the train to pick it up and it’s a blast; he likes it as much as I do.” ★

—JAY MACDONALD



DAVID SEDARIS

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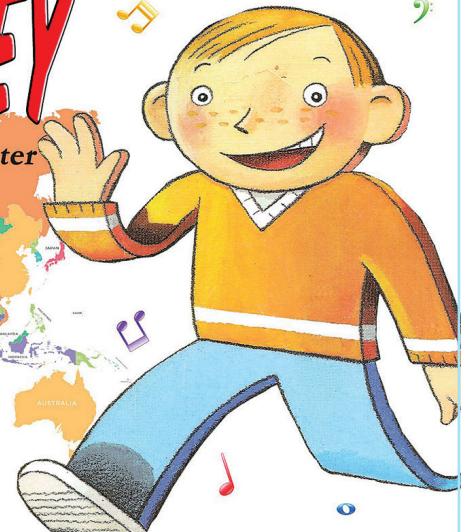


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UNSOLVED MONTANA

The Tragedy of the Sheila Fallang Jordan Murder: A Memory that Lingers in Livingston to this Day

“G littering” is the word one person used to describe Sheila Fallang Jordan’s smile. Another remarked that the gesture was “bright.” Still another said it was “joyful.”

Sheila’s smile fueled her family and friends, and cheered up strangers. She owned it as a teenager, bopping along to “Stayin’ Alive,” her performance replete with hand gestures and embellished carpet glides. As a young lady, she carried it well during the holidays, a notoriously cozy but chaotic time, when this mother of two anchored large family dinners. Her expression greeted customers at County Market, the grocery in Livingston where the curly-haired 29-year-old worked as a clerk in 2000. Her checkout line at the market was often extended; she wasn’t slow at her tasks, but the regulars liked to swarm her row to enjoy her good nature.

That same reliable expression could be observed in one of the final photos of Sheila taken in August 2000: hazel eyes, pretty without effort, hiking boots planted in a riverbed, a small rock smooth in her fingers, enviously abundant curly hair, sitting in the sun with her smile glinting.

THE LIFE OF A “VERY GOOD, SWEET YOUNG LADY”

Sheila Marie Fallang entered the world on May 4, 1971 in Bozeman, the youngest of William and Mary Fallang’s three children. Sister Sherie had arrived first in 1965, brother Bill a few years later in 1969, and then came Sheila.

“She was two years old, happy and stubborn. I still see her quirks,” says Sheila’s second cousin Elaine Fallang. “Silly things like how she’d suck on her middle two fingers, and not her thumb, tapping on her cheek with her pointer finger as she did so, usually putting herself to sleep. To me, whoever killed her also killed that tiny girl.”

Nursery school. First grade. Decorated handlebars of tricycles. Bath times followed by the firm “no” of bedtimes, the inducement of eating vegetables, the warnings to not chase balls into the street, the Fallangs navigated the decades of childrearing and nurtured three bright, healthy children.

“She was a very happy child,” says Mary Fallang, Sheila’s mother. “We thoroughly enjoyed her. She had a good family life. She had a gorgeous head of hair.”

“She was so beautiful,” recalls Sheila’s older sister, Sherie Fallang. “Her hair was naturally curly, and she would blot it dry after she washed it; that was her secret to her curls. She could’ve gone to California and become an actress or a beautiful model, and made her fortune.”

The Fallang family moved from Bozeman to Clyde Park before Sheila started in the third grade. Not a problem; she made friends easily, and retained them effortlessly.

“She seemed so worldly to us small-town girls at the time,” says lifelong Clyde Park friend Chris Broell. “She was an advanced student and ahead in math and reading, and

much more mature physically. She had a great home life and family, and her older sister had a large old record player in the living room. Sheila introduced me to Meatloaf, and we’d crank that up and dance. We were classic rock girls.”

The less self-assured days of high school arrived. Tall and skinny, Sheila embodied the cutting-edge fashion and pop culture of the MTV-infused 1980s: acid wash jeans, sea-green tube tops, and her perennial favorite, a tank top and a T-shirt with the sleeves cut off. “She loved Mötley Crüe, Def Leppard, and she had a huge crush on Brett Michaels of Poison,” recalls her friend Chris Broell.

“Sweet Child O’ Mine’ from Guns N’ Roses was one of her favorite songs, and every time I hear that song, I think about her in a lot of different ways,” Broell says.

Karie Webb first met Sheila in elementary school at Clyde Park. Karie says she remembers the new girl as “lovely-looking, with big glasses and a tumbling mass of hair.” The pair kept close through all of the many transitions in their lives that followed.

“We lived for MTV,” Webb remembers. “She was the best air guitarist you will ever know.”

After Sheila graduated from Clyde Park High School in 1990 – the final year before the Clyde Park Blackbirds consolidated with the Wilsall school district and became the Rebels – she went right to work in Livingston, clerking and cashiering at Western Drug, the retail store Pamida, and County Market supermarket.

Sheila’s older sister Sherie had married and moved away from Montana, switching addresses as often as the life of the wife of a Navy officer mandated. The sisters closed the distance in 1990 when Sherie returned to Livingston and Sheila coached and supported her sibling as her de facto birthing coach. With Sherie’s husband deployed in the Middle East, Sheila was the one who held her sister’s hand and whispered in her ear words of encouragement.

The delivery of Sherie’s third child was bumpier than the previous two, “but she was my outlet and she was there for me the whole time,” says Sherie of her sister Sheila.

One year later, Sheila was pregnant with her first child. The father, Kevin Jordan, was a few years older than Sheila, and he had been divorced.

Jordan owned a couple of properties in Livingston, and Sheila met him while she was searching the market for a rental. It’s not hard to envision why Kevin developed a crush on his bride-to-be; her coquettish smile surely had been one of the catalysts.

“Sheila was quite a catch,” says Elaine Fallang of her cousin.

THE GLUE OF THE FAMILY

Sheila Jordan’s life became a version of the American Dream. The wedding of Sheila Fallang and Kevin Jordan took place

in downtown Livingston in July 1993. The nuptials were “a happy, wonderful event,” according to Sheila’s family members. Her close friend Chris Broell sang at the wedding, a version of Rod Stewart’s version of “Have I Told You Lately?”

Though she was a homebody and feared flying, Sheila visited sister Sherie and her family in a number of different locations, including California and Idaho. After the Jordans’ second child was born, the expanded family ventured on family trips to places such as Seattle.

“They used to come to visit, and we’d do all kinds of things together,” remembers sister Sherie. “We always had a good time, and they’d spend a couple of days together as a family – the Underground City, Pike’s Market – and they seemed happy.”

Cathy Fallang met Sheila’s older brother Bill in 1996 and married him in 2003. She says she had a number of reasons to be grateful. After all, not only was she marrying her love-at-first-sight sweetheart, but she now had the ideal set of in-laws, including a sister-in-law in Sheila whom Cathy straight away adored.

Cathy envisioned a future of school performances, birthday parties, graduations, and many other milestones. “The plan was that we were going to raise our kids together,” she recalls.

If the family was the structure, Sheila was considered by her relatives to be the nucleus, the central part about which all of the daily rigmarole revolved.

“She was the glue to the family,” says Cathy Fallang. “Sheila organized everything, and she worked hard, and she was an amazing mom. She took care of everything. She didn’t go out. She did everything for her kids.”

In the late-1990s, Sheila and Cathy were both employed as cashiers at County Market grocery at the same time that Sheila’s brother Bill worked in the meat market, and their father, Bill Fallang Sr., was one of the store managers.

“Everybody in the community loved her at County Market and it was a fun place to be,”



remembers Cathy. “People loved her – and they went to her line. She was always nice and cheerful and smiling. It’s like she never had a bad day.”

As time went on, cracks appeared in the Jordan marriage. Family members saw glimpses of these cracks, and worried that their relationship was possibly unhealthy. Though she alluded to difficulties, Sheila kept the details of her marriage private. In spite of that ambiguity, things took a turn for the worse. In the summer of 2000, Sheila and her two children, a 3-year-old girl and 8-year-old boy, moved out and told her family and friends that she planned to stay gone.

The pace at which things imploded surprised those who knew her, but not the swiftness of her actions. “Sheila didn’t dilly-dally when she made up her mind,” recalls Chris Broell.

In July 2000, Sheila’s sister Sherie returned to Livingston with her husband to attend his high-school class reunion. Around the same time, Sheila informed her sister that she and Kevin had separated.

“She was excited and optimistic about the new stage,” says Sherie Fallang.

Sheila resolved this domestic discord in the same linear fashion many others do. She first stayed with relatives as she emotionally regrouped; she consulted a divorce lawyer; and then she relocated, kids in tow, to her own separate space. She reminded her loved ones that confrontation didn’t suit her. She would return to the family house only to collect a few photo albums and some of her kids’ favorite toys.

“She had gotten her own place pretty quickly,” says Cathy Fallang. “When she first filed for divorce, she walked away pretty much with nothing.” Despite the abruptness of the split, she reassured her family and friends that a girl of 29 didn’t have to start over; she actually had not yet even to begin.



Sheila and her friend Karie Webb



AUGUST 13, 2000

"The weekend that Sheila was murdered, I was trying to call her on Friday night," says sister Sherie. "Her line was busy. Then I got the call Sunday night from my dad."

Sheila's sister-in-law Cathy Fallang was no longer working with Sheila at County Market, having started a different job about a year earlier. Her father Bill had moved on, too by that time. Her brother Bill was still employed in the meat department and he was working that night.

Something about the late shift unnerved Sheila and she voiced her concerns. Even though she lived just one block south of the market, the walk still left her feeling vulnerable, shaky. This Sunday would be her final late shift, her very last time working late-night at the store.

A boyfriend who lived next door to Sheila was fixing a late-night dinner for her. Still, Sheila was feeling weird. One of the crew – a night stocker – agreed to accompany her to the edge of the parking lot. Perhaps it was reassuring to her that she could see the fluorescent light of the entrance to her apartment at 1203 West Geysler gleaming in the short distance. The stocker said goodbye, and turned around. Sheila stepped into the shadows.

She did not make it to her home.

A terrifying set of images come to mind, images that would make anyone shudder; an attack with a knife or a tool or a handheld weapon, sudden and atrocious. The blows struck by a monster brought her to the ground at 306 South 12th Street. "Mutilated and bloody," she didn't even have a hand to hold when she lost consciousness. Although she was discovered by some passerby soon after the attack, she died a few hours later at a Livingston hospital.

Sheila's family and friends allowed themselves to weep hard at the funeral of a woman whom so many Livingston people loved, their gifts and flowers and letters multiplying over every surface of the room. There were no words to make their grief more manageable or their horrific experience more comprehensible. No one could understand what made such a monster do what he or she did, and no one wanted to believe such a person existed.

"What have you gained? We don't understand why you did this," Sheila's mother, Mary Fallang, said in a letter she submitted to the *Livingston Enterprise*. She wrote the devastating note because she assumed that whoever killed her daughter must have been capable of remorse, of possessing emotions that resembled her own.

Perhaps she was wrong.

POLICE: SHEILA KNEW HER KILLER

Livingston authorities quickly asserted that Sheila knew the person who killed her. Witnesses said that right before the attack, Sheila was observed speaking face-to-face with a man whom, it looked to them, she had recognized. "It is not believed that this was a random attack by a stranger or that other members of the community are in danger," said a written statement from Livingston Police Department Chief Steve McCann, dated August 14, 2000. Sheila was murdered by someone whom she knew, asserted the statement.

Her estranged husband Kevin Jordan came under an immediate onus of suspicion. Her boyfriend, John Payne, was cleared as a suspect and promptly left town.

"She had decided that she wasn't going to leave the divorce with nothing. That's when things changed and things got ugly," recalls Cathy Fallang. "There was a Fourth of July family gathering in 2000 and Sheila told every single person that she was scared for her safety and feared for her life. A little over a month later, it was over. She was afraid of Kevin, and she made that perfectly clear."

Kevin Jordan told investigators that he was home with their children the night of Sheila's homicide. He grew tired of being treated as "a prime suspect," he told the *Bozeman Chronicle* in December 20, 2000. "I tried everything I could do to get our relationship back together," he told the newspaper.

Jordan, who now resides in Eaton, Ohio, has declined multiple requests to be interviewed for this story.

Another suspect, an acquaintance of Jordan's named Darren Hiller, was detained in the investigation, according to available police reports, and later released; he also declined to be interviewed for this story. According to the



Montana Department of Corrections, Hiller had a history of criminal convictions; he was released from a prison facility in Helena in October 2018.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Weeks and months passed without any news of an arrest. In Livingston, family and friends stood at intersections handing out flyers printed with Sheila's picture over the word "REWARD." Her photo was hung in the County Market.

In homicide investigations, time is often synonymous with dreaded inefficacy. Time changed slowly but surely, right before everyone's eyes.

There were no clue-providing witnesses. The \$20,000 reward for information offered from Sheila's family remained uncollected.

The Livingston authorities have said that they grabbed at every proverbial straw without success; some years ago, acknowledging their frustrating lack of progress, they requested assistance in solving Sheila Jordan's murder case from the state Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The Major Case Section of the DCI provides criminal investigative assistance to city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies at their request. Agent Anthony Poppler of the DCI is currently assigned to Sheila's homicide.

SHEILA'S LEGACY

In the Livingston area today, there are memorials preserving the memory of Sheila Jordan: a plaque next to the County Market where she worked, and another one with a loving inscription adjacent to a tree in Clyde Park. And there are two even more obvious living, breathing testaments to Sheila: her two children, a boy and a girl now in their twenties.

The violence committed to Sheila's two children by their mother's death is something they carry. Homicide grief may be a kind of living bereavement. Survivors slog on, diminished by loss. Yet, they've succeeded and advanced in a spirit that inspires the family members who have served as their protective surrogates. After the murder, the children resided in the full custody of their father, but then later moved in with Sheila's family.

"Even after all they've been through, [they] are such amazing human beings," says Cathy Fallang. "They've suffered the most in this, and they've excelled, and they are just amazing people. They are their mother's children through and through."

Two decades have now passed since Sheila Jordan was murdered, and a pall still hangs over Livingston. It's a crime that belongs to everyone in town. Unlike several other unsolved murders in Park County, many of which are crimes that involved victims living on the edges of society, impoverished and undereducated, Sheila's case was an entirely different situation. She was a mainstream, small-town sweetheart, the neighbor next door whose friendly face lit up the grocery store.

It may be easier for people in Livingston to disassociate from victims of violent crime who skirt the edge of society like Angela Brown, 32,

(Far left) Hazel eyes, pretty without effort, biking boots planted in a riverbed, a small rock smooth in her fingers, enviously abundant curly hair, sitting in the sun with her smile glinting, Sheila Fallang Jordan had just left a troubled marriage and was planning on beginning a new life when she was attacked on August 13, 2000.

(At left) Sheila's friends and family at a memorial service in Clyde Park where a tree was planted by her children in her name.

who was discovered in the Yellowstone River near Springdale in February 1998. Brown didn't present a happy face to the world, and the Park County Coroner Al Jenkins once called Brown's a "counterculture" life in the *Bozeman Chronicle*.

The same thing might have been said a few years earlier, when 18-year-old Nelson McNair was found in the Yellowstone River on May 4, 1995. Or earlier still, when 24-year-old single mother Amy Johnson disappeared after heading out on a date one Friday night in 1986. Beyond the violent end to these particular Park County lives, all share another similarity: no arrests were made in any of these cases.

Sheila's family and friends retell her life in small bits and pieces, like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. They have lovingly archived their thoughts of her, polished and placed them carefully in their heads but the retrieval mechanism, alas, is slower. When the memories do emerge, they invariably engender sadness.

"It is really hard for me to believe that she is gone," says her brother Bill Fallang. "Even after all these years, I can still hear her voice and her laughter. I can't believe that someone was such a lowlife coward that they couldn't live in this world with my sister."

Sheila's mother, Mary Fallang, says she is unable to clean out a closet or plant a flower bulb or open the oven to check the thermostat on the Thanksgiving turkey, without thinking about her daughter.

While Sheila's killer has left her mother with the cruelest of scars, Mary says she has learned that she, not the one who injured her daughter, is the person who would suffer the most if she were to withhold her forgiveness. But the qualifier would be the distinction she draws between pity and punishment.

She wants justice; her forgiveness shouldn't suggest otherwise. That justice, she says, is holistic, relational, and framed in the broader societal context of a "resort town," wrestling with the unshakable truth of its evil spirits.

"What's been so devastating to us has also been devastating to many other mothers and fathers in Livingston," says Mary Fallang. "Suicides. Murders. Murders passed off as suicides. When people who are interested in finding answers to the things that have happened in this town, they are cut off." ★

BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

Livingston Police Detective Joseph Harris may be reached at (406) 222-4172. Department of Criminal Investigation Agent Anthony Poppler is the lead DCI investigator in the charge of Sheila Jordan's homicide. He may be reached at apoppler@mt.gov. Future "Unsolved Montana" profile ideas may be sent to Brian D'Ambrosio at dambrosiobrian@hotmail.com.

LAST BEST PHOTO CONTEST

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SUBJECT LINE: PHOTO CONTEST
UP TO 3 ENTRIES - NO AGE LIMIT

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IMAGES MUST PORTRAY MONTANA

- A complete and accurate caption for each photo should be provided and should convey how the image portrays the theme of "Last Best Places" for the photographer. -

CONTEST PRIZES

The Judges will collectively select:

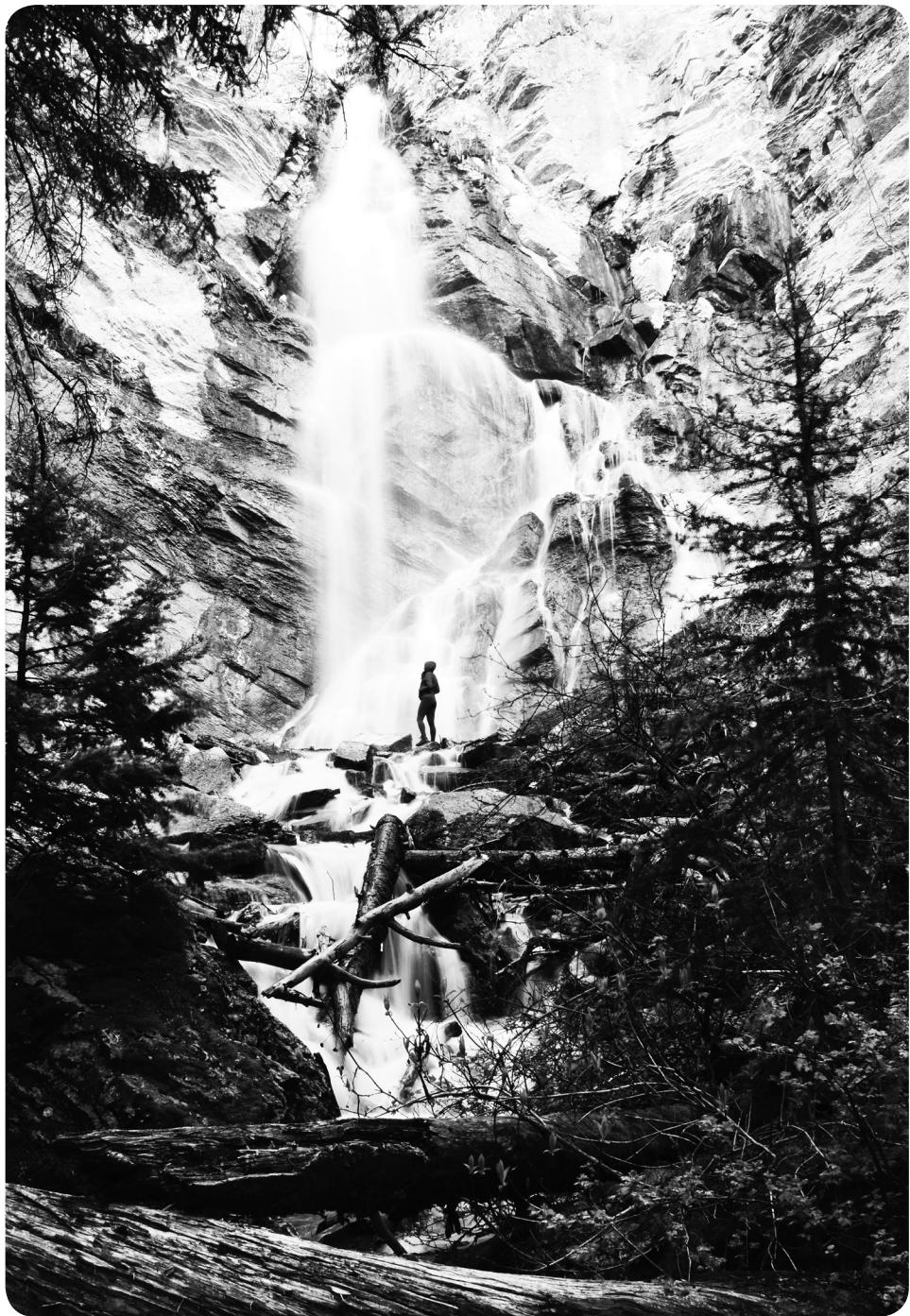
- A First Place Winner and;
- Nine (9) runners-up

The **First Place Winner** will receive:

- \$500 and the winning photograph published on the cover of the June 2020 issue of *Montana Press* and;
- Professionally framed print of the work

Runners-up will also receive publication and a framed print

A subsequent exhibit at the **Center for Art and Culture in Livingston** during the June Art Walk will give all winners an opportunity to exhibit and sell their framed work.



2019 Grand Prize winner (above) Sara Schroeder: **"A hiker experiences solitude and the beauty of spring runoff at Cataract Falls on the Rocky Mountain Front in the Lewis and Clark National Forest."**

Runners-up Eddie Bringenberg (below) and Eric Henderson (at left).

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SUSTAINING THE SLOPES

Efforts by Montana Ski Areas to Combat Climate Change

Every winter, tens of thousands of outdoor-enthusiasts glide down the snow-packed slopes scattered across the jagged Rocky Mountain peaks of Montana. More than a dozen of the state's ski areas pride themselves on having some of the best snow conditions in the nation with the least amount of skier congestion. The industry is a fundamental part of a booming statewide outdoor economy.

"It is a growing industry," says Bonnie Hickey, sustainability director and ski and snowboard course coordinator for the Bridger Bowl Ski Area just outside of Bozeman. "Ski areas are seeing increases in participation and the quality of the experience is ever improving."

The economic health of ski areas is critical to community stability, Hickey explains.

"They balance out other seasonal industries, providing a continuation of paychecks for workers and winter traffic for lodging, restaurants, stores and more."

A BOOMING INDUSTRY

Montana's outdoor recreation industry accounts for \$7.1 billion in consumer spending and for more than 71,000 jobs, according to the Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation. It is the second-largest sector of the state's economy, behind only agriculture, and snow-related activities make up a significant chunk of Montana's outdoor-tourism industry, contributing about \$81 million to the state's gross domestic product, according to Headwaters Economics, a Bozeman-based research firm.

But the booming industry is preparing for serious changes. And the National Ski Association of America lists "climate change" as the number-one threat to the snow-sports industry today.

"The business of snow-sports, and outdoor recreation as a whole, relies for success upon a stable climate," says Adrienne Saia Isaac, the National Ski Areas Association Marketing and Communications Director. "The tourism dollars from outdoor recreation support many rural economies throughout the nation, and it's important to protect our resources and ensure the future of our communities" she adds.

Scientific reports of diminishing snowpacks have ski areas in Montana concerned, and, as is the case all across the country, they are taking action.

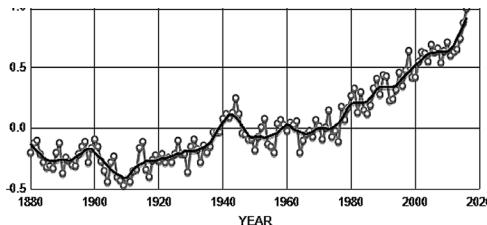
Released in 2017, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment provided a comparison of 1986–2016 temperatures to those for 1901–1960. The comparison showed an increase in average temperature across 95 percent of

the nation's land surface; the temperature increases have been most significant in winter, 1.5°F or higher in most places. The number of cool nights (below freezing) has also declined, and in much of the western U.S., the decrease totals about two weeks, the study found.

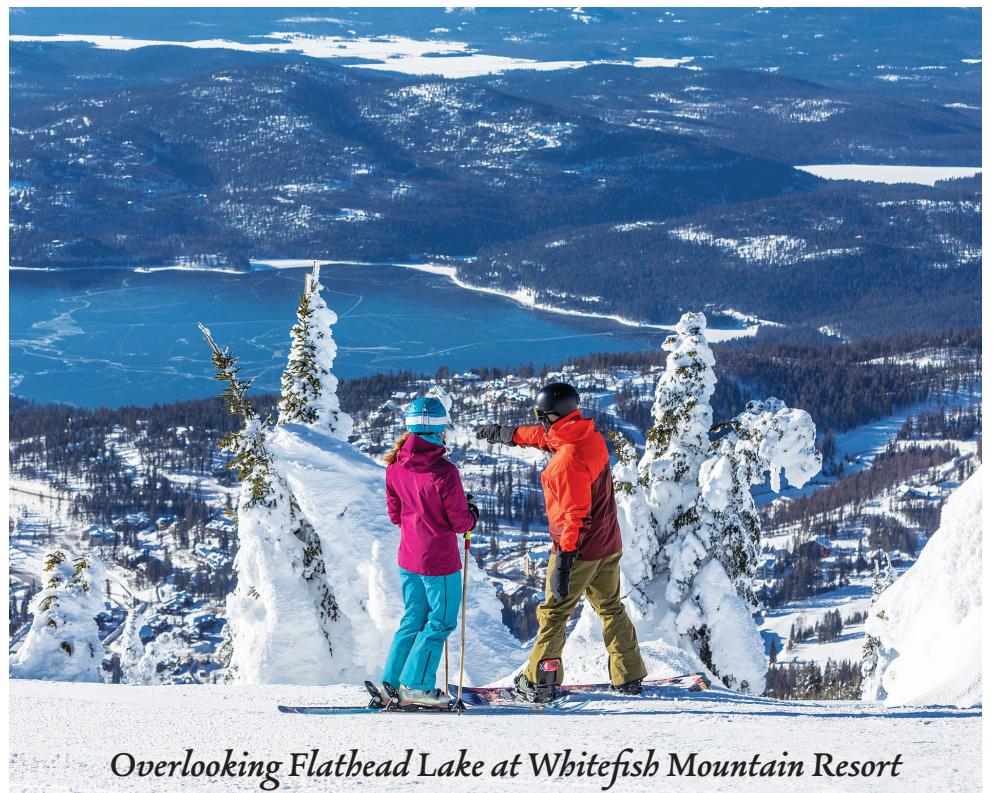
While some ski areas in Montana shy away from the term "climate change" because of its political implications, others are openly committed to tackling the issues on a broader scale.

"Snow is our crop, so we are always paying attention to temperature and precipitation," explains Riley Polumbus, Whitefish Mountain Resort's public relations manager.

Those in the industry who consider themselves snow farmers are worried that climate change could kill their crop.



Global mean temperature (C) Source: climate.nasa.gov



Overlooking Flathead Lake at Whitefish Mountain Resort



Big Sky Resort

PLOTTING A COURSE

“There is a worldwide effort among ski resorts to address climate change,” says Bridger Bowl ski area ski-school coordinator Bonnie Hickey.

Bridger Bowl, the community-owned nonprofit ski area near Bozeman, has been recognized nationally for its efforts to address climate change. Bridger was featured in National Geographic’s “Geotourism Mapguide” for its sustainable building practices. Bridger was also the first ski area in the state to host a Global Sustainable Tourism Council training event, in October of 2019.

“Some ski areas in Montana, especially Bridger Bowl, have been taking a leadership role in this area for a long time and deserve a lot of credit,” says Ciche Pitcher, President of the Discovery Ski Area near Phillipsburg in southeastern Montana. He points out that

Montana ski areas have been discussing efforts to reduce emissions for more than a decade now.

In the fall of 2019, a lack of early snow caused most Montana ski areas areas, scheduled or not, to open in December. Discovery Ski area opens on Thanksgiving when weather conditions allow.

“I think a lot of people want to talk about the ski industry seeing a crisis in continuation, when winter is a little slower to get started,” says Pitcher. “But since the early 2000s, every time we miss our Thanksgiving opening, we see a renewed energy to respond.”

While scientific data shows temperatures rising globally and snowpack decreasing, Pitcher says Discovery hasn’t seen a huge difference in opening dates. “We make our Thanksgiving opening day 60 percent of the time. This has been pretty consistent since we started running Discovery in the early 1980s.”

ADJUSTING TO IMPACTS

The biggest impacts of climate change at Discovery Ski Resort, Pitcher says, can be seen in challenges brought about by extreme weather conditions.

“While we have not seen much change in the high and low temps for the year, we have seen a big increase in volatility,” he reports. “We used to occasionally get rain in the winter and occasionally get 20 below zero temperatures. Now we see that the weather can change from unseasonably warm to extremely cold in a matter of days. This does force us to react more quickly in making operational decisions.”

Randy Elliot, Bridger Bowl general manager from 2004 to 2018, says milder temperatures leave the ski area with higher density snowfall or fewer “cold smoke” days.

“We seem to be receiving as much water, just in the form of wetter snow and increase in rain events,” Elliot says.

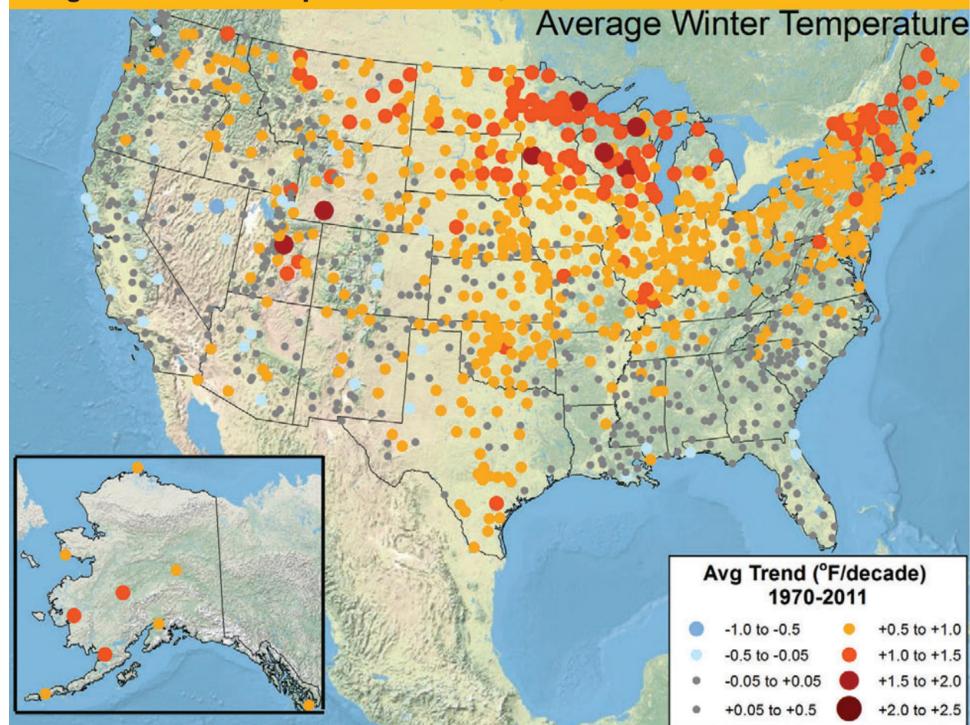
Bridger is also dealing with more extreme weather conditions, according to Elliot. “Because the temperatures are increasing, the storms can have more energy and stronger winds.”

Whitefish Mountain Resort’s public-relations representative, Riley Polumbus, says her resort stakeholders respond to climate issues from a business perspective, rather than a political perspective.

“We’ve learned to adapt to the conditions of our climate and make business decisions based on what is best for us from a cost-benefit analysis,” she says.

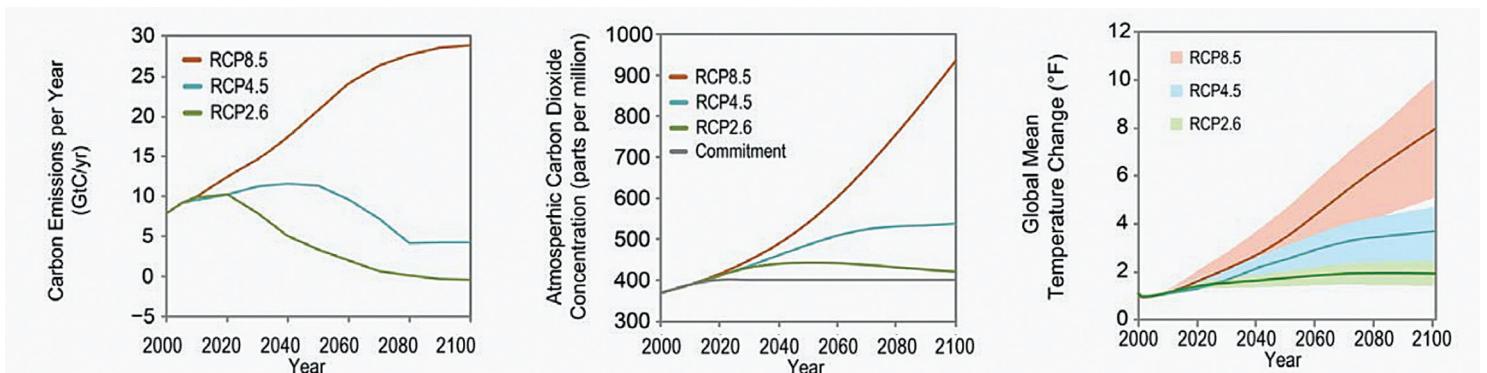
In the past, Whitefish resort would aim to open at Thanksgiving because of public pressure to be the first resort to open but the early-season conditions typically aren’t very good, Polumbus explains. Whitefish Resort now opens in early December, when the conditions are better, and they are able to offer a better product.

Figure 1: Winter Temperature Trends, 1970–2011



Across the United States, winter temperatures have warmed 0.16 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1895 and the rate of warming has more than tripled to 0.55 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1970. The strongest winter warming trends have occurred in the northern half of the United States, where snow plays an important economic role in the winter season.

(Figure from Nrdc.org and ProtectOurWinter.org)



Due to the correlation between CO₂ in the atmosphere and observed global mean temperature rise in past decades, models can be created using Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP). These scenarios can be used to model future climate based on greenhouse gas emissions. RCP8.5 is considered the highest emission, or worst case scenario. (From Figure 4.1 in the Fourth National Climate Assessment Climate Science Special Report, USGCRP, 2017)



“It costs a lot to run the ski area,” Polumbus says, “If only a few people show up for one run, and then leave and don’t come back until mid-December, we’ve wasted money and energy to be open for those weeks.”

THE BOTTOM LINE

Because ski areas are expensive to operate, decision makers always look for ways to save on expenses. Many of the decisions Montana ski areas have made to be sustainable turn out to be fiscally favorable as well, report representatives from the Whitefish, Big Sky, Bridger Bowl and Discovery ski areas.

“Building resiliency makes economic sense as a business,” says Bridger Bowl’s Bonnie Hickey. “Many of the activities we engage in to improve our performance in relation to reducing our green-house gases are things we would do anyway, because they pay back in energy efficiency. Some ski-area efforts happen by default – new grooming machines, for example, are going to be more energy efficient and cleaner than old grooming equipment,” she explains.

Discovery Ski Area’s Ciche Pitcher says he and his colleagues have been working to make their chairlifts more energy-efficient. They’ve invested more than \$700,000 in the past six years to convert chairlifts from DC power to AC power in an effort to improve efficiency and to reduce the impact on emissions from energy production. Discovery is also beginning to make investments in solar-energy production by making their buildings

more energy-efficient and reusing building materials whenever possible, he reports.

Whitefish Mountain Resort’s Polumbus says her ski area also reuses equipment as much as possible. Two of the last three chairlifts at the resort were purchased used, and the third was an under-utilized chairlift that they moved to a more useful location, she says.

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY

A lack of snow at ski areas can cause safety hazards and force skiers to stay at home. But ski areas say they try not to rely too much on snowmaking, because the practice is not only expensive; it consumes a lot of energy and water.

“At White Mountain Resort, we focus on areas that need it the most, and make snow only when conditions are also sustainable – meaning the conditions are not only good for making it; they are good for the days after we make it, so that it doesn’t melt away,” Riley Polumbus explains.

Ski resorts in Whitefish and Big Sky say they use technology to make grooming the ski runs work more efficiently. “Grooming is another area that uses a lot of fuel and expense, and we find that we can deliver quality grooming with a modest crew,” Polumbus adds.

Big Sky Resort’s mountain operation team reports using advanced GPS systems to optimize their grooming routes, limit idle times, and make the most effective use of fuel as possible. Many Montana ski areas are also adopting everyday practices to reduce the amount of materials they use. At Whitefish Resort’s Riley Polumbus agrees. “More and more we favor digital communications over printed materials.”

Big Sky Resort is one of several ski areas that are implementing sustainability initiatives in their dining and kitchen facilities. This season, Big Sky will debut a composting pilot program in their kitchens, to divert food waste from landfills to a local composting facility in Bozeman. Through the course of the winter, Big Sky expects to divert more than one ton of waste from landfills, with the goal of expanding the program in future years. The resort has also eliminated single-use plates, bowls and silverware, by serving meals in washable reusable dishware, and their take-out containers will all be compostable.

THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

This fall, Big Sky Resort hired a sustainability specialist to inventory their greenhouse-gas portfolio, and to develop green policies and initiatives that emphasize the proper use of environmental resources. “As we approach 2025,” explains public-relations manager Stacie Mesuda, “Big Sky Resort is taking steps to strengthen its commitment to the environment and to shed light on the initiatives it has pursued over the last 47 years.”

That commitment includes joining the National Ski Area Association’s Climate Challenge. More than 45 resorts across the United States and Canada are participating in The Climate Challenge. Montana’s Big Sky Resort is one of nine new challengers for the 2019-20 season; Bridger Bowl ski area completed their first inventory for the Climate Challenge last season. Bridger Bowl and Big Sky are the only two Montana ski areas who have joined the Climate Challenge so far, but more are sure to follow. “Each resort is taking innovative strides to take responsibility for carbon emissions and promote environmental protection,” says Stacie Mesuda.

The National Ski Area Association has introduced The Climate Challenge to provide

technical support and to create a public-reporting platform for ski areas that are tackling climate change head-on, by reducing their carbon footprint and advocating for climate change solutions.

“The Climate Challenge is a rigorous program of data collection and inventory of greenhouse gases, target setting, reduction efforts, on site projects and reporting audited by an independent third party,” reports Bonnie Hickey, Bridger Bowl’s sustainability director.

Bridger has made serious strides towards becoming more sustainable and to lessen that particular resort’s impact on the environment. In addition to incorporating many of the sustainability measures reported by other Montana ski areas, Bridger Bowl has worked with Onsite Energy and Northwestern Energy to build a 50kWh solar project adjacent to their mid-mountain lodge this fall.

The solar project is net-metered and will roll back their meter an equivalent amount of kWh in order to run the lifts in their beginner area, make the snow in the beginner area, heat the warming hut and power the building that houses the ski patrol and race programs, explains Hickey. The ski area has also changed many of their lighting fixtures to CFL, and is in the process of upgrading to LED lighting in the Saddle Peak Lodge and Deer Park Chalet.

“We also have just completed installation of an innovative, on-site vertical flow water-treatment wetlands, to handle our effluent in a manner that not only provides treatment but acts as an additional carbon sink,” Bonnie Hickey explains.

Bridger Bowl also offers a bus program that last year transported more than 24,000 employees and guests last season. A leased lot at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds also provides opportunities for guests to carpool. “It is a big investment but one that pays off in guest convenience, less traffic on the roads and parking lots, and saves over 57 metric tons of CO₂e,” Hickey reports. (CO₂e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints.)

“One of the best aspects of The Climate Challenge program,” says Adrienne Saia Issac, marketing director for the National Ski Areas Association, “is the collaboration among our participants. Climate Challengers learn from their peers, hearing about both the challenges and the successes of their individual efforts. They can then create programs tailored to their state, region, public-utility agreement and business model.”

Saia Isaac adds that actions being taken onsite at ski areas are not only reducing the footprint of those operations, but also are serving to inspire guests to take similar actions in their everyday lives. “To truly affect change and move towards a healthier climate, we’re going to need all the solutions we can find. The Climate Challenge is just one way the ski industry can work together, to share information and to move forward.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Extensive information about climate change and the interrelated aspects of the winter outdoor recreation and tourism industry is available from a baseline report co-authored in 2012 by the Natural Resources Defense Council (nrdc.org) and Protect Our Winters (protectourwinters.org) titled, “Climate Impacts on the Winter Tourism Economy in the United States.” In the report, scenarios and challenges are outlined along with projections and responses for the increased climate variability resorts continue to experience around the country and around the world.

A current report from Protect Our Winters, “The Economic Contributions of Winter Sports in a Changing Economy,” provides even greater context for the challenges the snow sports industries will face in the coming decades as the climate continues to warm and climate variability increases. General climate information is available at www.noaa.gov/climate.

—BREEANA LAUGHLIN

Images from visitmontana.com

Keep Winter Cool



Help Stop Climate Change

- **SHARE A RIDE** carpool, drive an efficient car or take shuttles to help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- **BE AN EFFICIENT CONSUMER** buy energy-efficient household appliances and replace normal lightbulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- **TURN OFF LIGHTS AND HEAT** when you leave a room at our resort or your home.
- **BUY CLEAN ENERGY FOR YOUR HOME** contact your local utility to see if “green electricity” is available to power your home through renewable energy sources like wind power.
- **CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES** and ask them to do more to reduce CO₂ emissions and keep winter cool for skiing and snowboarding.
- **SPREAD THE WORD** to your liftmates, family and friends.

www.nsa.org

Go online at www.nsa.org for more information on Sustainable Slopes and climate change.

Sustainable Slopes Grant Program Launched in 2009. The grant program provides cash and in-kind funding to support sustainability projects at National Ski Area Association (NSAA) member ski areas. To date, \$561,000 in cash and in-kind funding has been awarded to ski areas seeking to reduce their footprint and increase their environmental stewardship. The NSAA also encourages skiers to get involved in the project with visitor outreach encouraging simple actions to “Preserve Our Winters.”

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

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

Friday, January 3

Billings

Band of Drifters, Americana, 6:30 p.m., The Pollard, Red Lodge, 446-0001

Art of Comedy with Charlie Mulluk, 10 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

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

Livingston/Bozeman

Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

Jazz Night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

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

Kelly Nicholson Band, rock/soul, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena

Sweetgrass Blues, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

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

Missoula

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

Saturday, January 4



Billings

Counting Coup, western/blues, 9 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Cimarron, country, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, Billings, 245-4991

Steve Lebruska, Americana, 7:30 p.m., Levity Bar and Bistro, Billings, 651-5985

Livingston/Bozeman

Katie Hall, country/folk, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

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

Joe Knapp and Hezediah Johnson, country/rock, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Wolf and the Moons, Americana/pop, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Andrew Gromiller, funk/rock, 9:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Cajun Moon, tribute to JJ Cale, 10 p.m., Haufbrau, Bozeman, 587-4931

Helena

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

Great Falls

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

Big Trouble, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Butte

Tom Gammons, traditional/folk, 6 p.m., Clark Chateau, Butte, 565-5600

Missoula

Jeff Troxel, guitarist, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

Dan Teschner, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Mudslide Charley, blues, 10 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Sunday, January 5

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Weston Lewis, acoustic, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Neil Filo Beddow, folk/rock, 7 p.m., 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Hawthorne Roots Duo, folk, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

Improv on the Verge, comedy show, 7 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Great Falls

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

Missoula

Old Time Fiddle Jam, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Monday, January 6

Livingston/Bozeman

Steph Yeager, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

Improv on the Verge, comedy show, 9 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

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

Tuesday, January 7

Billings

Writer's Circle, open session on first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Second Floor Conference room, Billings Public Library, 243-6022

Twosday Duets: Brenden Fritzer and Roy Buzzard, classic/oldies, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

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

Livingston/Bozeman

"Midway Bravery" reading/signing with author Dennis Gaub, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Kaj, rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Helena

The Growlers, alt-Americana, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Missoula

Aran Buzzas, folk, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575

Missoula's Homegrown Comedy with Todd Lanckton and the Family Band, 8 p.m., The Badlander, Missoula, 549-0235



HOT TEXAS COUNTRY WEEKEND

Aaron Watson and Casey Donahew play two nights at the Jan 10 & 11 at The Pub Station in Billings.

Wednesday, January 8

Billings

Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458

Damien Trujillo, folk, 9 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Kelly Nicholson, funk/soul, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Tom Cook, Americana, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

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

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

Great Falls

Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Butte

"Out of the Ashes: The Forgotten Story of the 1895 Butte Explosion," book and history discussion with collective author group, 12 p.m., Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, 782-3280

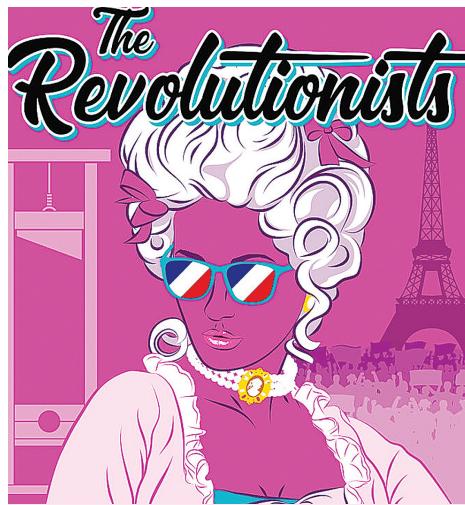
Missoula

"Ballet Beyond Borders," through Jan. 11, 2 p.m., Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre, Missoula, 698-3150

Jordan Plays Guitar, rock, 6 p.m., Great Burn Brewery, Missoula, 317-1557

"This Much Country," reading/signing with Author Kristin Knight Pace, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

Comedy Open Mic, 8 p.m., Freecycle, Missoula, 541-7284



FOUR BEAUTIFUL, BADASS WOMEN LOSE THEIR HEADS

In this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, playwright Olympe de Gouges, assassin Charlotte Corday, former queen (and fan of ribbons) Marie Antoinette, and Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle hang out, murder Marat, and try to beat back the extremist insanity in 1793 Paris. This grand and dream-tweaked comedy is about violence and legacy, art and activism, feminism and terrorism, compatriots and chosen sisters, and how we actually go about changing the world.

On stage at the Verge Theater in Bozeman from Jan. 10 - 26.



NICK STERLING AND THE NOMADS

Featuring Texas folk and rock:

Jan. 9 - Lewis and

Clark Brewing - Helena

Jan. 10 - Murray Bar - Livingston

Thursday, January 9

Billings

Andy Wilson, acoustic, 6 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Sleepy HED, Magnolia West, LoveSoph, and Jaden Bienvenue, local songwriters, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman

King Ropes, acoustic duo, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

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

Slo-mo Jo, songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Jessica Eve, vocalist, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., El Camino Bar, Bozeman, 551-2337

Katie Hall, country, 10 p.m., American Legion, Bozeman, 586-8400

Helena

Continental Drifters, jazz/folk, 5:30 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

Nick Sterling and the Nomads, Texas 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

Missoula

Sundogs, folk, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

Friday, January 10

Billings

Bill Moved Away and Bryson Foos, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie," two one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Hot Texas Country Weekend with Casey Donahew, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Ken Patterson Tribute, pop/rock acoustic, 9 p.m., Northern Hotel, 867-6767

Sanctuary, rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111



A CONVERSATION WITH THE MUSE: INSIDE THE MUSICAL MIND OF SEAN DEVINE

Sean Devine's gift to the world is a sliver of sanctuary amidst the chaos of real life. His songs have been crafted to stir, console, and comfort, the Livingston musician having long ago realized that his musical compositions would become destinations for understanding, commiseration, and empathy. There are no unseen procedures in his line of attack; he arrives with a guitar at a spot where folks converge to share his need.

"There is still an implicit mandate that exists for me to make art," says Devine. "I feel as if it must be witnessed. It's similar to if you paint a picture, the picture needs to be seen. I've always wanted the songs to be heard. If you have any question about the importance of art in your life, remove all art from your life for a week. No music. No painting. No movies. Nothing. Take it all away, and see how desolate that feels."

Sean Devine has been a singer-songwriter in some varying capacity for as long as he can recall: putting his soul on the page, running the risk that someone is going to stomp on it; building up a bit of a tough skin. After decades of constructing the puzzle and crafting the clues, the artist within has arrived at a better and more honest place. Indeed, what makes Sean one of the most appealing singer-songwriters in Montana is his patience (*Austin Blues*, from 2015, brings to light his finest work). He will touch upon the tinkering and noodle over the word or phrase to get to where its heart is. He will bat around cutting great swaths, sometimes, and move things around, whatever it takes to unearth a song that needs to be told. They don't all have to be created as joyful waves of sunshine, but they have to be engaging and interesting.

"The singer-songwriter, the guitar and the song, that tends to work better for me in smaller rooms with intimate audiences. There are some fragments left on the national scene of nightclubs and venues that are all about that, and so what I understand is that those are the places where I need to be playing my songs. I've spent 30 years on the scene, of playing every \$100 dollar gig that I could get my hands on, and been through the necessity of earning my stripes. But you also have to pick your battles."

In order to make his songs genuinely shine, Devine understands that he can't be playing in a loud room where nobody is going to hear him and expect to progress in his career as an artist.

"You won't build an audience playing in a sports bar underneath a television set with the sound turned off," says Devine. "And sometimes the sound turned off comes to be the best-case scenario. There are places that don't care about music at all. Places where it's just a facet of the bar business that will generate income, like a pool table, or having video game equipment, or TVs tuned to MMA fighting while I'm in the corner of the bar singing my heart out. It's exactly like pissing in the wind."

Part of Devine's solution is to be heard in the right type of environment that best matches his music, or "authentic settings on the troubadour's circuit," as he calls them. On a recent night at the Magnolia Motor Lodge in Fort Worth, Texas, the *Montana Press Monthly* met up with Sean during part of a recent two-week road tour across The Lone Star State.



"Texas has a robust culture of songwriting," says Devine. "You could be in a coffee shop in Texas and at any given time someone will talk to you about their favorite singer-songwriters, their parents' favorite singers. There is a generational pride and a regional pride to it and people in Texas seriously revere their songwriters. I feel as if I bring them a song that's worthy, that they will embrace it, too."

It's not the size of the venue that counts most to Devine, but the level of engagement therein, since any number of people listening to an hour set about the trifles of daily life is a victory.

"People gathered for the reason or purpose of listening, who want to be touched: that's powerful," says Devine. "Then it doesn't matter if it's 30 people in a coffee house in Iowa, then it works as essential communication."

Songs come from a mysterious and cathartic place in Sean's psyche. What he writes and what he says reveals reams about him. Song writing allows him the illusion of understanding, of control. Although it's a treatment rather than a cure; the illusion lasts only as long as he is immersed in the act of writing and performing. But to focus only on the artist is to overlook the shared continual experience of the work.

"The songs have been helped into the world to become a thing and to convey the human experience, emotions, feelings, thoughts, and recollections. If I'm doing my job right then I'm getting them down and out in front of people. How do you receive the song? I don't pretend to understand that part. It's none of my business. It's your song, you internalize it, and its awakening your memories and it's there for you to sort out your experiences of life. It becomes your song. That's what it's there for."

The songwriter in Sean still struggles with the unpredictability of true craft. He knows that in real life there are no clear-cut solutions, no neatly tied parcels of right answers. What is the songwriter's duty to mankind?

"I don't want it to be hokey or corny," says Devine. "The tinkering and fashioning process, that's fun, and it causes my mind to rise to it and to be thinking from a higher plain...it's an incomparable feeling, like goose bumps, the hair-raising feeling of a thing that's trying to come into being. It's those moments when I feel like I've been chosen to be the vessel or conduit for that thing that wants to come into being. I try to stay faithful to the thing itself that's playing in my head...I've learned how important it is to make a song, but more importantly how to stay out of the way of one. Not to diminish it by trying to tinker and analyze it and make it a small thing. To trust that the experience is valid and the experience was what it was meant to be."

At 50, life is bright for Sean Devine. He's persnickety about his work but he doesn't have to force himself to do it. He has endured major hardships (divorces, the loss of a child) and emotional obstacles (the perfect clarity of hindsight, the allure of the green grass over yonder), but all of them have forced him to be more disciplined and made him stronger at even the most broken places. He's in the music game full-time following many busy years of work as a contractor. While he still works as a contractor of wetlands and ponds projects, it's more pleasurable and less time-consuming work that it formerly was, he says. It's not a stretch to say that he has sung and narrated himself toward understanding, balance.

"I don't wonder or worry anymore that I'm making a fool of myself," says Devine. "That song - that's what I was meant to do."

Sean is pragmatic enough to bear in mind that his career as a musician may not get easier. But he is also plodding and methodical, able to breathe in the throes of what at times feels daunting - the never-ending challenge of not just creating the art but attracting the audience. When he plays one of his best songs, like "Long Way to Go," his crisp lyrics and vocals carry us vividly through his characters' days and nights. And that's the gift of Sean Devine: the surety that the stories are real, and the weight that lived experience imparts to narrative. It's a present from him for you to unravel and recognize the value of.

"My music is like being read to as a child. While it's my music, it's going on in your head, and it's your own story, your own trip, it's interpersonal. In a larger, wilder room, then it's the opposite experience. If you are sloshing beer and yelling, you are missing the show, and the show is supposed to be interpersonal. It can be intense and cathartic if you let it."

After an extensive tour of Texas and the Midwest, Devine returned to Montana this past December and produced a series of Montana concerts in Lewistown, Big Timber and Livingston. The concerts were presented to "crowdfund" the finish work on Devine's new album, *Here For It All*, which was recorded at Sonic Ranch outside El Paso, TX in June 2019. Sean headlined the shows which featured Montana musicians such as Sara Horvath and Stephanie Jean, Quenby Iandiorio, Jessica Eve, Jad Souza, Melissa Forrette, Lee Calvin and Haeli Allen.

Devine teams up with comedian, film maker and songwriter Rich Hall and Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame alumnus Kostas for a song-swap show at the Attic in Livingston on Thurs., Jan. 16. ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

BREASTMILK, MERMAIDS AND MOTHERHOOD: COMEDIAN SARAH ASWELL

Until four years ago, Montana comedy maven Sarah Aswell worked as a freelance writer, taking jobs that required plenty of work. She had two young daughters, a 2-year-old and an infant, and she never slept. If the girls were sleeping, she was writing, and if they were awake, she was taking care of them. Aswell says she often felt isolated and depressed.

"I love my kids. I think they're the best. But at the same time, I felt super trapped."

Aswell's husband Ben Fowlkes, co-host on the Co-Main Event Podcast and a feature writer for *USA Today*, went out one night with a friend to the Union Club in Missoula. There, they discovered a monthly open-mic night but were unimpressed with the comedians. The two friends dared each other to get on stage for the following month's show. Fowlkes recalls they immediately decided that Sarah needed to be roped into the adventure, too.

"Sarah was one of the funniest people we knew," Fowlkes says of his wife. "So, we knew that something like this would be an obvious fit for her."

A STAR IS BORN

Aswell agreed to taking to the stage the following month at the Union Club. When she left her house, though, she was so conditioned to frequently breastfeeding her two young daughters that her breasts started leaking immediately. She powered through, nevertheless, putting her coat on over her milky pink-cotton dress and delivering her set, opening with a simple "Hello" in a voice she describes as "monotone librarian."

"I immediately knew that this was going to change the direction of my life and that I'd found something that was going to make me feel better," Aswell remembers. Her set was dry, witty and included a joke about whether or not mermaid pussy smells like land.

"People just assume the starting point for all women is that we are not funny and that we don't understand humor. And that drives me insane. It's not even just men who assume women aren't funny."

Aswell says she's asked a lot of women why they avoid stand-up comedy and the most common answer she gets is, "I'm not funny."

The experience of performing initially gave her something to look forward to beyond work and parenting, but now she says she has found a community in comedy.



"It's amazing how when I started doing stand-up every other aspect of my life started changing," Aswell says, recalling the past four years. "It's kind of wonderful to think you can make one positive change and be happier, and that kind of ripples through your whole life."

Charley Macorn, a notable Missoula-based stand-up comedian, knew this new girl was someone to look out for when they saw her on her first night at the Union Club. "I was at the back of the bar and I was listening to Sarah, and I was really blown away."

Once Aswell made comedy a part of her professional life, she soared. She became a successful comedy freelancer and people started offering her jobs, from writing daily posts for *Scary Mommy* online and penning a column in *Forbes* in addition to her current work as a managing editor for Submittable, a networking site where organizations and writers make connections.

Born in Pennsylvania, Aswell moved to Boston when she was a toddler. Growing up, she admits was "pretty shy but always hilarious." Her first real experience with comedy was a deep appreciation of *The Far Side*, quirky one-liner comics by Gary Larsen. She also read a lot of Dave Barry, long-time humor columnist for the *Miami Herald*, and watched comedy on HBO.

In high school she was something of a paradox, she recalls, being both the quiet girl and the class clown. After graduation, she attended Grinnell College, a small liberal-arts college in Iowa, where she joined the improv troupe and wrote for the school's paper as a humor columnist. After graduating, she worked as a journalist at a small paper in Iowa, eventually making her way to Missoula in 2014 for the MFA creative-writing program at University of Montana.

Aswell now volunteers her time running the workshops and shows and still performs stand-up. She has freelanced for major comedy publications around the country and has published three articles in *The New Yorker*. In 2018, she was named one of the Best Undiscovered Comedians in America by Thrillist and, in 2019, she had the honor of performing for HBO's Women in Comedy Festival in Boston, her old hometown.

Beyond working a full-time job and being a mother, Aswell still fits several different local comedy functions into her weeks.

Now a seasoned veteran, Aswell uses her wits and her love for comedy to push for more representation of women, queer people and people of color on stages. She says it's

Aswell recalls performing

her first set on stage:

"I immediately knew that

this was going to change the

direction of my life and that I'd

found something that was going

to make me feel better."



important for more narratives to be shared apart from the common white-cis-male one.

Aswell's "Women and Non-Binary Comedy Workshop" is where she puts that mission into action. Held on the last Tuesday of every month at The Badlander bar in Missoula, the workshop is followed by an open-mic night where workshop participants get priority. Each gathering explores different topics and sometimes feature guest speakers.

Sarah says heckling is a challenge she encounters almost everywhere, particularly at places like the Union Club, where often crowds are thick and drunk. Yet, Missoula's comedy scene is the most inclusive she's ever seen, and she says The Badlander shows have become a safe haven for all types of people.

Comedian Charlie Macorn says Aswell has also inspired others to do things they were afraid to do. "She's been such a great supporter, not just of me personally but of Missoula comedy and comedy in general."

Macorn adds that Aswell encouraged them both to apply for the HBO Women in Comedy Festival; both were accepted to perform live on stage in Boston at the annual event in May 2019. (Sarah's performance there is available on her YouTube channel.) Aswell also helps produce comedy workshops in Bozeman, although she shut down another chapter in Corvallis, Montana because she said hecklers had become dangerous on multiple occasions.

STANDING UP

At her fourth-anniversary Union Club open-mic night, Aswell gave a set and was followed on stage by a man she didn't know. He proceeded to make a joke about how she had a bowl cut and wondered if her vagina also had bowl cut. The punch line didn't land; nobody laughed.

"I give a fuck because I know that sort of stuff prevents women from getting on stage and from returning to stage. And that makes me really angry. Also, it was a poor joke; nothing gets me angrier than that!"

In the past, Sarah says, she never used to confront men about personally offensive jokes but now she asks them what they mean and why they think the joke at her expense is funny. She says it makes them realize how they screwed up without her having to say anything.

Once when she was headlining a show in Great Falls, Aswell got a drink while her opener was performing. The man next to her started chatting, or rather "mansplaining," as Aswell calls it. He asked her if she'd ever been to a comedy show before and she decided to play along. When she said no, he proceeded to

explain how difficult comedy was, and started boasting about his own stand-up experience. And when the host announced her as headliner, she walked onto stage without looking back.

"It's almost like people can't comprehend a female comedian," she says.

Aswell says she receives downright hate-mail. People tell her to kill herself and call her vulgar names behind the masks of fake emails and social media accounts.

"You loonie 'Journalists' do not dictate what funny is. The real joke is how lame you are as a writer. FUCK YOU you hysterical twit!" read the screed one man sent her in response to a movie review.

Regardless of the slanders, Aswell says she usually tries to talk out the issues. She says she even became a Twitter buddy once with a man who pointed out the way she could be perceived as racist in an article comparing Dave Chappelle and Tiffany Haddish.

"You know, I hadn't really thought about how I was writing about people of color generally as much as I should've been," she recalls.

Despite the harassing, trolling and hate, Sarah moves forward. She teaches workshops every month where she's reached more than 100 people in just over two years. She performs on stages almost every week, locally and on the road.

"Sarah really gave Missoula something that it needed," fellow comedian Macorn explains. "It needed someone who wouldn't put up with the bullshit, who could see and identify the sexism that kept people out and she went right up to that door and kicked."

A lot of the work she does is dedicated to her daughters, she explains. She wants them to grow up in a world where their voices can be heard. Aswell encourages them every day, praising their jokes. Because, as she points out, nobody ever tells little girls they're funny.

"People never say that to my kids," Sarah concludes. "It's always, 'You're so cute. I love your skirt. You're so nice. She's so well behaved,' no one's ever like 'that was a good joke.' And my kids do good jokes all the time. A lot of the stuff that I've been talking about is for them, so that they can move through the world like regular humans."

Aswell adds, "I hope we get to a place where we don't have to think about the differences between men and women's comedy. It's just people telling their own stories." ★

— MAZANA BOERBOOM

Sarah Aswell and Charlie Macorn perform regularly at the Badlander Bar in Missoula.

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Friday, January 10

Livingston/Bozeman

Sarah Price, jazz/rock vocalist, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212
Raven Roshi, folk, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
Baroque Music Montana presents "The German Theatre" and "Early Romantic String Quartets," classical, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bozeman, 586-1368
"The Revolutionists," stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
Yonder Mountain String Band, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
Ian Thomas and The Band of Drifters, Americana, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933
Nick Sterling and the Nomads, Texas folk/rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Comedy Night, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Helena

Dan Henry, one-man band, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
Longhorn, country, 8 p.m., Grub Stake, Helena, 458-9816
The Stand-Ins, classic rock, 8 p.m., Miller's Crossing, Helena, 442-3290

Helena

Mojo Revue, blues, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

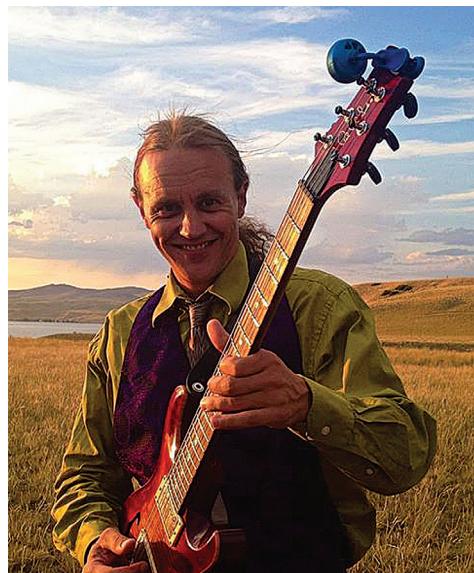
Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals, rodeo competition, Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, 761-8876
A.L.U., rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Butte

Volcanus and Hellrancho, rock and roll, 8:30 p.m., Covellite Theatre, Butte, 498-6869

Missoula

Pale People, prog rock/funk, 7:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555
Hellbound Glory, country/rock, 9:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



ANDREW GROMILLER AND THE ORGANICALLY GROWN

Playing rocking funk and Montana soul across the state.

Every Thursday at the El Camino Bar in Bozeman

Jan. 4 - Bozeman Tap Room (tribute to JJ Cale)

Jan. 11 - The Attic - Livingston

Jan. 18 - Filling Station - Bozeman

Jan. 31 - Murray Bar - Livingston

Feb. 4 - Broadwater Hot Springs - Helena

Saturday, January 11

Billings

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie," two one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535
Hot Texas Country Weekend with Aaron Watson, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
Sanctuary, rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman

Bar J Wranglers, country/swing, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., The Commons at Baxter and Love, Bozeman, 581-6843
Raven Roshi, indie folk, 5 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855
Rod Morrison, guitar classics, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Baroque Music Montana presents "The German Theatre" and "Early Romantic String Quartets," classical, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bozeman, 586-1368

"The Revolutionists," stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Ian Thomas and the Band of the Drifters, Americana, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Blake Brightman Band, rock, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Left on Tenth, funk/soul, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Andrew Gromiller and the Organically Grown, funk/soul, 8:30 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

Lonesome Gold, folk/rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Kelly Nicolson Band, rock/soul, 9:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Jacob Rountree, indie-folk, 10 p.m., Haufbrau, Bozeman, 587-4931

Helena

Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals, rodeo competition, Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, 761-8876

Missoula

Dave Meservy, funk/blues, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

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

MASS FM, groove/post-punk, 8 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555

Yonder Mountain Spring Band, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Volcanus, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

COVELLITE THEATRE, BUTTE JANUARY 10, 2020



MISSOULA WINTER FARMERS MARKET

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

Sunday, January 12

Billings

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie," two one-act plays, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Acoustic Brunch: Peter King, country/rock, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

"The Revolutionists," stage play, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Scottish Folk Ensemble, folk music, 5 p.m., Townshend's Tea, Bozeman, 577-2740

Aran Buzzas, funky-tonk, 6 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

The Travelin' Kind, indie folk/rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

Todd Green, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Helena

Beat Deaf, jams, Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005

Great Falls

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

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals, rodeo competition, Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, 761-8876

Missoula

Tanya Gabrielian, pianist, 3 p.m., UM School of Music, Missoula, 243-6880

Old Time Fiddle Jam, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

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

Monday, January 13

Billings

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie," two one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Kennedy Richards, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

Helena

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

Butte

"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," Broadway show, 7 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602

Missoula

ZACC Open Mic Jazz Jam, 6:30 p.m., ZACC, Missoula, 549-7555



OPEN MIC JAM SESSION AT ZOOTOWN ARTS IN MISSOULA ON JAN. 13

Tuesday, January 14

Billings

Tuesday Duets: Gilda House and Riley Haynie, pop/metal, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

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

Livingston/Bozeman

Josh Moore, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Helena

The IBUs, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Wednesday, January 15

Livingston/Bozeman

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

"Seven Montanas," reading/signing with author Ednor Therriault, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Luke Flansburg, folk, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Stimulus Package, rock/country, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

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

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

Great Falls

Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Butte

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

Missoula

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

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Thursday, January 16

Billings

Sesame Street Live, 2:30 p.m., MetraPark Montana Pavilion, Billings, 248-7827

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

Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

RIFF RAFF, rap, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Livingston/Bozeman

"Chosen", reading/signing with author Kiersten White, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

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

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

Chandler Huntley, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Jessica Eve, vocalist, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Rich Hall, Kostas, Sean Devine, 8 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

Addison Thompson, outlaw country, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., El Camino Bar, Bozeman, 551-2337

Helena

Ryan Acker, folk, 5:30 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

Hawthorne Roots, folk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls

Dan Dubuque, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342

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

Missoula

Jordan Plays Guitar, rock, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

RIFF RAFF, hip-hop, 7 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

Friday, January 17

Billings

Wirerider and Ex-Cat, rock, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie", two one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Cimarron Band, folk duo, 7:30 p.m., Levity Bar and Bistro, Billings, 651-5985

Justin Townes Earle, alt-country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

JP Westerbrook, country, 9 p.m., Northern Hotel, 867-6767

Livingston/Bozeman

West Dakota Stutter, folk/Americana, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

Orange Julians and Jacob Rountree, acoustic, 7 p.m., Townshend's Tea, Bozeman, 577-2740

Dave Provost, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

"The Revolutionists", stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

El Wencho, Montana rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Blake Brighten Band, rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Hawthorne Roots, rock, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Tsunami Funk, funk/soul, 9:30 p.m., The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

Helena

North Hill Trio, bluegrass, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

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

ShakeDown, country, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Missoula

The Ghost Peppers, rock, 10 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, January 18

Billings

National Geographic Live, "Pink Boots and A Machete", presented by Alberta Bair Theater, 7 p.m., Petro Theatre, Billings, 256-6052

"No Exit" and "Free Birdie", two one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Ryan Acker, acoustic, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

Justin Townes Earle, alt country, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Tom Kirwan, folk/country, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

"The Revolutionists", stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

El Wencho, Montana rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Rocky Mountain Pearl, folk duo, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Squirrel Gravy, folk/bluegrass, 9:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Doublewide Dreams, cowpunk Americana, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Raven Roshi, indie/folk, 10 p.m., Haufbrau House, Bozeman, 587-4931

Helena

KneeJerk, big band beat, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

"Queen of the Night", presented by the Great Falls Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Midnight Ride, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Missoula

Beat Deaf, jams, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Letter B, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Aggressive Pedestrian, metal core, 9 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

Helena

KneeJerk, big band beat, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

"Queen of the Night", presented by the Great Falls Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Midnight Ride, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Missoula

Beat Deaf, jams, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Letter B, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Aggressive Pedestrian, metal core, 9 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

Helena

KneeJerk, big band beat, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

"Queen of the Night", presented by the Great Falls Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Midnight Ride, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Missoula

Beat Deaf, jams, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Letter B, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Aggressive Pedestrian, metal core, 9 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

Helena

KneeJerk, big band beat, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

"Queen of the Night", presented by the Great Falls Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Midnight Ride, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Missoula

Beat Deaf, jams, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Letter B, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Aggressive Pedestrian, metal core, 9 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com

Helena

KneeJerk, big band beat, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Great Falls

"Queen of the Night", presented by the Great Falls Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Midnight Ride, rock, 9:30 p.m., Loading Zone, Great Falls, 727-5777

Missoula

Beat Deaf, jams, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Letter B, rock, 9 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Aggressive Pedestrian, metal core, 9 p.m., Monk's Bar, Missoula, info@monksbarmt.com



Comedy Across Montana

Need a good laugh? With homegrown Montana comedy to be the 9th Annual Comedy Revue at the Verge Theater 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

Jan. 6 & Jan. 20
Verge Theater - Bozeman
IMPROV ON THE VERGE

Jan. 7 - Badlands - Missoula
MISSOULA'S HOMEGROWN COMEDY
with Todd Lankton & the Family Band

Jan. 8 & Feb. 12 Freecycle - Missoula
COMEDY OPEN MIC

Jan. 3 & Feb. 7 - Kirk's Grocery, Billings
ART OF COMEDY
with Charlie Mulluk

JJan. 10 - Filling Station - Bozeman
COMEDY NIGHT

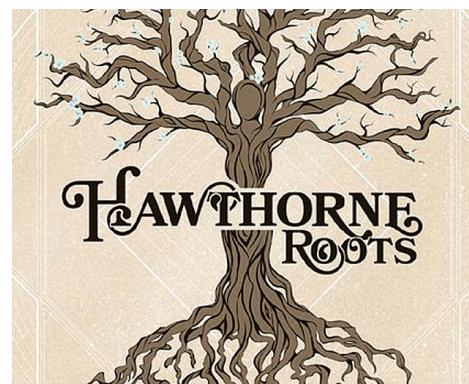
Jan. 31 - Verge Theater - Bozeman
VERGE AFTER DARK, IMPROV SHOW



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: PINK BOOTS AND A MACHETE

The Alberta Bair Theater presents former NFL cheerleader and daughter of Cuban immigrants, Mireya Mayor. After a childhood in Miami, Mayor followed her unlikely dreams and became a respected primatologist, audacious explorer, and Emmy Award-nominated wildlife correspondent for the National Geographic Channel. Mayor's adventures have taken her - armed with little more than a backpack, notebooks, and hiking boots - to some of the wildest and most remote places on earth. Hailed as a "female Indiana Jones" and an inspiration to young women interested in science and exploration, she has survived poisonous insect bites, been charged by gorillas and chased by elephants... and keeps going back for more. She shares stories, images, and film clips of her adventures in this behind-the-scenes look at the hardships and danger of life in the field, along with the moments of discovery that make it all worthwhile.

Jan. 18 at the Petro Theatre on the campus of MSU Billings.



This sister-led country/folk band based in Bozeman hits the road for a winter tour in Montana and beyond. Catch their Montana shows:

Jan. 16 - Lewis and Clark
Brewing - Helena

Jan. 17 - Filling Station
Jan. 18 - Remington Bar - Whitefish



Feb. 13 - Rialto - Deer Lodge
COMEDIAN SHAYNE SMITH

Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 7 - 22
9TH ANNUAL COMEDY REVUE
VERGE THEATER- BOZEMAN

Monday, January 20

Livingston/Bozeman

Ryan Acker, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Bluegrass Jam, Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m., Livingston, 333-3855
Helena
Open Mic, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Tuesday, January 21

Billings

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

Livingston/Bozeman

Aaron Banfield, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
Helena
Dan Henry, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Wednesday, January 22

Billings

Goldenrod, 9 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Livingston/Bozeman

Simple Substitutions, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403
Zion 1, hip-hop, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
Kristen Lundell, rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337
Pickin' in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 7:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290
Bar IX Comedy Open Mic, 8:30 p.m., Bar IX, Bozeman, 551-2185
Great Falls
Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388
Missoula
Sara Ward, vocalist/guitarist, 6 p.m., Great Burn Brewery, Missoula, 317-1557



Thursday, January 23

Billings

Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman

"The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries," reading/signing with author Kate Hampton, 6 p.m., Bozeman Public Library, 582-2400
Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
Shane Secor, country/rock, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Jessica Eve, vocalist, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482
Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., El Camino Bar, Bozeman, 551-2337
Helena

Brett Veltri, rock/Americana, 5 p.m., Ten Mile Creek Brewery, Helena, 502-1382

Katie Roberts, singer/songwriter, 5:30 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

Great Falls

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

Missoula

Dan Dubuque, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592

Jordan Plays Guitar, rock, 6 p.m., Bitter Root Brewing, Hamilton, 363-7468

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

Friday, January 24

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

36 International, rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman

Pacific People, folk/bluegrass, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

Jazz Night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

Zoso, Led Zeppelin tribute, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Kristen Lundell, melodic rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

"The Revolutionists," stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Milton Menasco and the Big Fiasco, reggae rock/funk, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Jackson Holte and The Highway Patrol, rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Lazy Owl String Band, bluegrass, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Helena

Brett Veltri, rock/Americana, 6 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

Solid 15, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

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

Matt Wilson, jazz drummer, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Cowboy Bob and Gypsy Dust, country/western, 8 p.m., Jester's Bar, Helena, 457-8258

Great Falls

"Cozy Classics" with the Great Falls Symphony, classical, 7 p.m., Ursuline Center, Great Falls, 453-4102

Missoula

Hot Club of Cowtown, Django Reinhardt tribute, 5 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

The Fertile Crescent, soul/rock, 10 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



CHINESE NEW YEAR IN BUTTE

The Mai Wah Society will once again host Butte America's annual Chinese New Year Parade, which has been described as the shortest, loudest, and (sometimes) coldest parade in Montana. Celebrating the "Year of the Rat," the parade will start on Jan. 25 at the Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse (155 West Granite, Butte) at 3 p.m.

Following opening remarks, the parade will head east on Granite Street with the dragon stopping along the route to bless business sponsors. Those in attendance are encouraged to follow the dragon and become part of the procession.



THE HOT CLUB OF COW TOWN

A tribute to gypsy jazz artist Django Reinhardt with Montana Manouche

Jan. 24 - Imagine Nation - Missoula

Jan. 25 - Lewis and Clark

Brewing - Helena

Jan. 26 - The Attic - Livingston



Saturday, January 25

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

Billings Symphony presents "Flat Stanley," family concert, 12 p.m., Lincoln Center, Billings, 252-3610

36 International, rock, 9 p.m., High Horse Saloon, Billings, 259-0111

Livingston/Bozeman

Peter King, country/rock, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

Project Constellation, folk/rock, 6 p.m., Wild Joe's Coffee Shop, Bozeman, 586-1212

Weston Lewis, acoustic rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

"From Julliard to Bozeman with Love," performance by Carrie Krause, Pico Ault, and Angella Ahn, classical, 7:30 p.m., Bozeman Symphony, Willson Auditorium, 585-9774

"The Revolutionists," stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Milton Menasco and the Big Fiasco, reggae rock/funk, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Quenby and Kevin, rock/country, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Mimosa, underground/bass, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

The Dirt Farmers, string/bluegrass, 9:30 p.m., Bozeman Tap Room, 577-2337

Left on Tenth, funk/rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Helena

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

Hot Club of Cowtown, music of Django Reinhardt, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

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

Great Falls

Lord Kirkus, rock, 10 p.m., Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300

Butte

Chinese New Year Parade, Butte Silver Bow County Courthouse, 3 p.m., Mai Wah Museum, Butte, 723-3231

Missoula

Dan Dubuque, folk/rock, 5 p.m., Phillipsburg Brewing Company, Phillipsburg, 859-2739

Zosa, Led Zeppelin tribute, 7 p.m. The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



FIND THE BOZEMAN WINTER FARMERS MARKET AT THE EMERSON CENTER EVERY OTHER SATURDAY.

Sunday, January 26

Livingston/Bozeman

Acoustic Brunch: Chandler Huntley, blues/folk, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

"From Julliard to Bozeman with Love," performance by Carrie Krause, Pico Ault, and Angella Ahn, classical, 2:30 p.m., Bozeman Symphony, Willson Auditorium, 585-9774

FINAL SHOW, "The Revolutionists," stage play, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

The Mighty Travis, rock/pop, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

Acoustic Roll, guitar classics, 7 p.m., 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Montana Manouche and Hot Club of Cowtown, tribute to Django Reinhardt, swing/jazz, 7 p.m., The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

Helena

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

Great Falls

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

"Cozy Classics" with the Great Falls Symphony, classical, 2 p.m., Ursuline Center, 453-4102

Missoula

Old Time Fiddle Jam, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

Monday, January 27

Livingston/Bozeman

Amanda Stewart, songwriter, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

Helena

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

Violinist Robyn Bollinger and Bruckner's Romantic Symphony, classical, 7:30 p.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8382



"LEADING LADIES"

Cliché, but men disguised as women is hilarious-especially in the 1950s. Leo and Jack (down-on-their-luck British actors) are touring Shakespearean scenes when they hear an old woman died, leaving millions to her long-lost British nieces. Having no shame, the actors in stockings, wigs, lipstick, and dresses cast themselves as the heirs in this non-musical farce.

At the Missoula Community Theatre from Jan. 23 - Feb. 2

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Tuesday, January 28

Billings

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

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Helena

New Road Duo, Americana, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Missoula

"The Blaze," reading/signing with author Chad Dundas, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

Wednesday, January 29

Billings

"War of the Worlds," radio stage play presented by Montana Repertory Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Petro Theater, MSU-Billings, 826-3150

Livingston/Bozeman

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

"The Blaze," reading/signing with author Chad Dundas, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Edis, folk, 6 p.m., Outlaw Brewing, Bozeman, 577-2403

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

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

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

Helena

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

Great Falls

Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Thursday, January 30

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Livingston/Bozeman

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

The Motet, funk, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Nick Miller Project, multi-instrumentalist, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Jessica Eve, vocalist, 8 p.m., Old Saloon, Emigrant, 333-4482

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., El Camino Bar, Bozeman, 551-2337

Helena

Sweet Memories, golden oldies, 5:30 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

El Wencho, Montana rock, 6:30 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980

CatSkills, rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

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

Great Falls

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

Missoula

"Seven Montanas," reading/signing with author Ednor Theriault, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

"We Leave the Flowers Where They Are," reading/signing with authors Kelley Provost, Gladys Considine, Victoria Emmons, Sarah Aronson, and Elke Govertsen, 7 p.m., Shakespeare and Co., Missoula, 549-9010

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529



INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Each year, International Guitar Night's founder Brian Gore invites a new cast of guitar luminaries from around the world for special concert tours of North America highlighting the diversity of the acoustic guitar.

Feb. 10- Ellen Theater - Bozeman,

Feb. 13- Myrna Loy Center - Helena

Feb. 15- Petro Theatre - Billings

Friday, January 31

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," three one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Poetry Open Mic Night, 6:30 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Jazz night with Alex Robilotta, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

Aaron Williams, rock/reggae, 7 p.m., 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

The Fossils, hippy rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Seek Atlas, folk/rock, 9 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Verge After Dark, improv show, 9 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

BrewHaha, comedy show, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

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

Great Falls

50 Watt Sun, grunge rock, 9 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Missoula

Songwriters Circle, featuring singer/songwriters, 7 p.m., Wave and Circuit, Missoula, 550-3145

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

The Motet, funk, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, February 1

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

3 Miles to Clyde and Doublewide Dreams, 8 p.m., Montana Bar, Miles City, 234-5809

Billings

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," three one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Luke Flansburg, folk, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

Tom Kirwan, folk/country, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

The Fossils, hippy rock, 8 p.m., Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Dan Teschner, rock, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Helena

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

Great Falls

Bud Nicholls Big Band, swing, 6 p.m., The History Museum, Great Falls, 452-3462

Butte

Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, Americana, 8 p.m., Covellite Theatre, Butte, 498-6869

Missoula

"Leading Ladies," stage play, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

Masterworks Series presented by Missoula Symphony, 7:30 p.m., University of Montana, Missoula, 728-7363



THE MOTET FUNK BAND

Jan 30 - Rialto - Bozeman

Jan. 31 - Top Hat - Missoula

Feb. 1 - Remington Bar- Whitefish

Sunday, February 2

Billings

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," three one-act plays, 2 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Acoustic Brunch: Dave Provost, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

Todd Green, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Helena

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

Great Falls

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

Missoula

FINAL SHOWS, "Leading Ladies," stage play, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., MCT Center for Performing Arts, 728-7529

Old Time Fiddle Jam, 3 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Masterworks Series presented by Missoula Symphony, 3 p.m., University of Montana, Missoula, 728-7363

William Russell Wallace, songwriter, 7 p.m., Ole Beck VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Monday, February 3

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Helena

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

"War of the Worlds," radio stage play presented by Montana Repertory Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Tuesday, February 4

Billings

Writer's Circle, open session on first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Second Floor Conference room, Billings Public Library, 243-6022

Livingston/Bozeman

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

Sunny Sweeney, acoustic duo, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Helena

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Wednesday, February 5

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

The Particularly ReNicolous Variety Show and Open Mic, 7 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Livingston/Bozeman

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

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

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

Helena

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

Great Falls

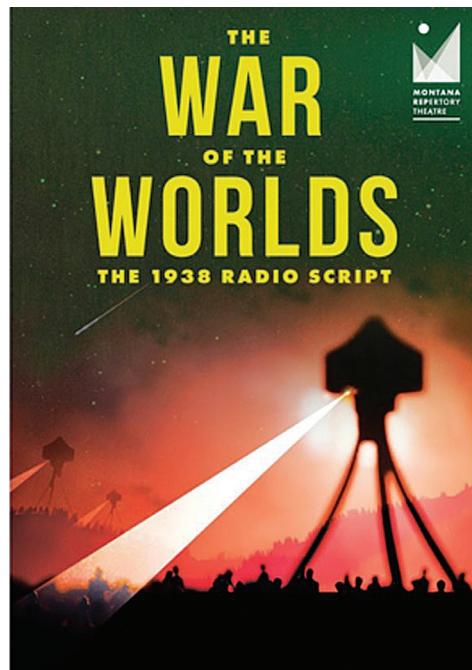
Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Do Bar, Great Falls, 727-0388

Butte

"War of the Worlds," radio stage play presented by Montana Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-3602

Missoula

BoomBox, psych-rock, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



"WAR OF THE WORLDS"

A re-imagining of a classic piece of literature turned radio drama. This radio stage play presented by Montana Repertory Theatre and directed by Caitlin O'Connell under the artistic leadership of Michael Legg.

Jan. 29 - Petro Theatre on the campus of MSU Billings

Feb. 3 - Myrna Loy - Helena

Feb. 5 - Mother Lode Theatre - Butte



"AN AMERICAN IN PARIS"

Winner of four Tony Awards and inspired by the Academy Award-winning film, this production of "An American in Paris" features favorite Gershwin songs including "I Got Rhythm," "Liza," "S Wonderful,"

"But Not for Me," and "Stairway to Paradise."

On stage Jan. 28 at the Mother Lode Theatre in Butte

*By distance mellowed on the water
 The moon to see the evening star appear
 His sword to listen as the night wind
 From leaf to leaf; tis sweet to view
 The run bow based on ocean span*

BOOK EVENTS

BRIAN DOYLE:

ONE LONG RIVER OF SONG

Jan. 15 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

Featuring selected readings from the book by David James Duncan, Katie Yale, Chris Dombrowski, Melissa Stephenson, Ana Maria Spagna, and Chris La Tray.

AUTHOR CRAFT TALK: CARRIE LA SEUR

Feb. 20 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Author La Seur discusses the research and craft in the creation of the retelling of Hamlet in the American West in "The Weight of an Infinite Sky." The critically-acclaimed author of "The Home Place" explores the heart and mystery of Big Sky Country in a novel of family, home, love, and responsibility inspired by William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

READINGS

DENNIS GAUB

"MIDWAY BRAVERY"

Jan. 7 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Soar through World War II history with local author Dennis Gaub and his new book "Midway Bravery: The Story of the U.S. Army Pilot Whose Famed Flight Helped Win a Decisive World War II Battle." Following the harrowing story of Army Air Force pilot Jim Muri flying his torpedo-equipped B-26 bomber on a daring mission of survival that helped win the Battle of Midway in June 1942.

He and his crew were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery.

"OUT OF THE ASHES: THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF THE 1895 BUTTE EXPLOSION"

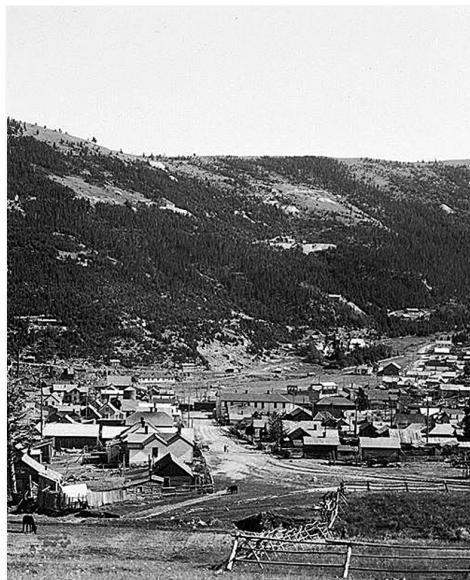
Jan. 8 - Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives

The Archives hosts a presentation by Jim McCarthy, Lindsay Mulcahy, and other board members on the history of the "Great Dynamite Explosion of 1895." They will offer a brief explanation of how the group was formed, how they found their vision via artwork by Martha Cooney-Simonich and sculptor Jim Dolan. The group will also explain the research behind the book.

KRISTIN KNIGHT PACE "THIS MUCH COUNTRY"

Jan. 8 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

A memoir of heartbreak, thousand-mile races, the endless Alaskan wilderness and many, many dogs from one of only a handful of women to have completed both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod.

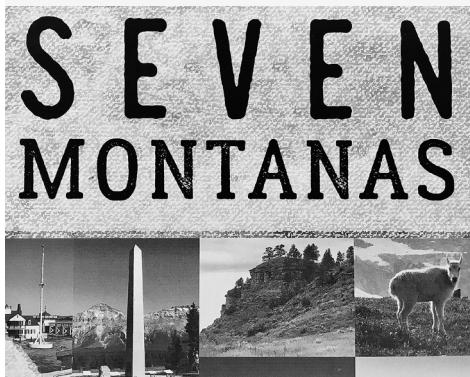


VINCE MORAVEK

"HAUNTED MARYSVILLE, MONTANA"

Jan. 11 - Montana Historical Society - Helena

In advance of the release of his upcoming book, local author and historian Moravek will relate the stunning supernatural events experienced in a half-renovated 1894 cabin in the old mining town. Spielberg-level poltergeists combine with strange lights in an ancient mirror to reveal hidden pioneer secrets. Moravek promises that these history-grounded events will challenge the strongest skeptic.

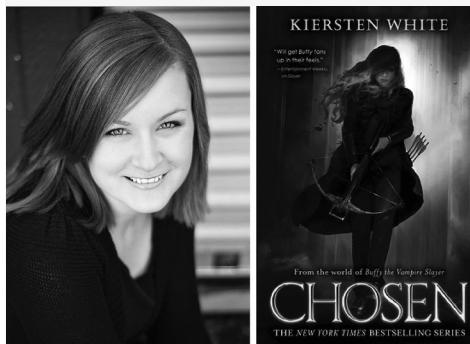


EDNOR THERRIAULT "SEVEN MONTANAS"

Jan. 15 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Jan. 30 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

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



KIERSTEN WHITE "CHOSEN"

Jan. 16 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman
 In the newest novel in the slayer-verse, "Chosen," main character Nina continues to learn how to use her slayer powers against enemies old and new in this second novel in the New York Times bestselling series set in the world of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."



KATE HAMPTON

"THE BEST GIFT: MONTANA'S CARNEGIE LIBRARIES"

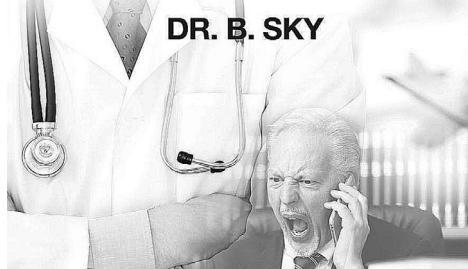
Jan. 15 - Montana Historical Society

Jan. 23 - Bozeman Public Library

Feb. 12 - Montana Book Company - Helena
 Between 1910 and 1922, seventeen Montana communities built libraries with money given to them by the era's richest man, Andrew Carnegie. In January, author Hampton will delve into Bozeman's own Carnegie library history, giving the history of the monumental structure that sits on the corner of Bozeman and Mendenhall. In February, Hampton and photographer Tom Ferris will both be on hand to sign copies of the book in Helena.

Oh, the Things They Like to Hide

A doctor's battle to save lives in the midst of political scandal during our nation's opioid epidemic



DR. B. SKY

"Oh, the Things They Like to Hide"

Jan. 16 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

A true story about politicians, a large health-care system, coercion, and how unsolicited political pressure placed upon physicians can thwart efforts to apply opioid safety initiatives in America leading to unintentional drug overdoses and death.

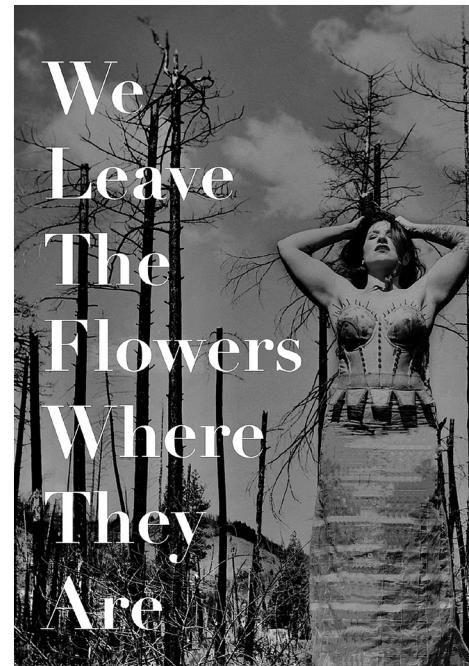


CHAD DUNDAS "THE BLAZE"

Jan. 28 - Fact and Fiction - Missoula

Jan. 29 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Montana author Chad Dundas shares his newest book in which one man knows the connection between two extraordinary acts of arson fifteen years apart in his Montana hometown - if only he could remember it.



"WE LEAVE THE FLOWERS WHERE THEY ARE"

Kelley Provost, Gladys Considine, Victoria Emmons, Sarah Aronson, and Elke Govertsen
 Jan. 30 - Shakespeare and Co. - Missoula
 Part of an on-going tour across the state to bring advocacy to women's voices, this event will benefit Humanities Montana and the Zootown Arts Community Center.

JOANNE TROXEL

"WAITING FOR THE REVOLUTION"

Feb. 12 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

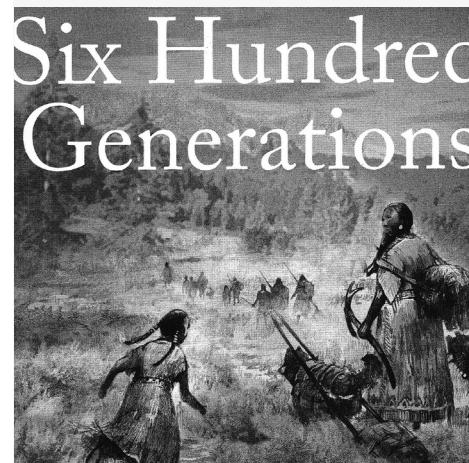
Love and politics: what could be more spellbinding? Born during the radical era of early 20th century politics, author Jo Anne Troxel is the product of a tumultuous affair between her idealistic mother and the infamous Communist sheriff of Plentywood, Montana. Her new memoir explores a complicated family history, the hardscrabble life carved out by the inhabitants of Montana's eastern plains, and the challenges faced by three often parentless children whose only option for survival was to band together.

CARL M DAVIS

"SIX HUNDRED GENERATIONS"

Feb. 13 - Country Bookshelf - Bozeman

Author Davis presents a look at the archaeological evidence of Montana's long Indigenous human history. Focusing on 12 unique archaeological sites, the book takes readers on a journey through time, technologies, and cultures. Beginning with the First Americans who followed mammoths into this landscape, peer-awarded Montana archaeologist Carl Davis describes how Native Americans lived, evolved and flourished here for thousands of years. Illustrated by photographs of archaeological sites, artifacts, and rock art, along with conceptual illustrations of Montana's Indigenous peoples by noted artist-archaeologist Eric Carlson.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: ROPING LEGEND MONTIE MONTANA



“Wolf Point is not the biggest town in the state of Montana, but it’s famous beyond its size. One reason is that it’s the home of the Wild Horse Stampede, Montana’s oldest rodeo. The other is that it has a native son named Owen Harlan Mickel, who grew up as Montie Montana.”

—*Western Horseman*, July 1975

Despite his nickname, Montie Montana liked to joke about his inability to pinpoint precisely where he was born. While it could have been Canada, or possibly North Dakota, he eventually settled on and celebrated the notion that it was someplace in eastern Montana, around Wolf Point.

Owen’s father, Edgar Owen Mickel, was a roving preacher who galloped among churches in Montana and Canada on horseback. According to Owen’s memoirs, the cowboys had a nickname for such poor wandering pastors — sky pilots, as they were called. His father also herded, sold wild horses and entertained at rodeos and fairs, while his mother, Mary Edna Harlan Mickel, and his grandfather (also a “sky pilot”) performed “whip-cracker acts” at the many shindigs the family frequented in their travels.

Born on June 21, 1910, Owen was the family’s fifth child, and he was raised predominantly around Wolf Point and Miles City, engrossed in watching his father gather and sell wild horses and ramble the rodeo circuit with “rope tricks and lantern slides.” At age 6, he watched a man whirling a rope, so he started practicing with a few of his friends. While his buddies moved on to other amusements, Owen kept twirling that rope.

His father taught him “the ins and outs of roping,” and he would exhaust hours practicing in front of the Liberty Theater — “the only building around that was high enough to shield the rope from the winds that raked the town,” according to Owen himself. Eventually he worked his way “inside the theater, sweeping the floors, learning show business from the bottom up.”

According to Owen, “A rope was in my hand all the time; at home, at school, everywhere. I roped anything that moved; chickens, dogs, cats and kids. I rode in the saddle with Dad when I was three days old. When I was four years of age, I rode a trick horse into the arena at the Portland Rodeo. I really stole the show by going right off over that horse’s head.”

At the age of 15, Owen earned \$15 (though some articles claim that it was only \$5), perform-

ing as a trick roper at the Miles City Fourth of July Rodeo. Riding on his horse Rex, Owen came into a Miles City arena on July 4, 1925, for his first professional paid performance. It was there he was christened with his stage name. As Owen rode into the arena the announcer could not recall his real name and simply proclaimed, “Here’s Montie from Montana, the Montana Kid.”

“Montie Montana” started to appear at venues, parades and events across the West as a trick roper and also as a trick rider, back then another exciting form of entertainment. He wandered out to California in 1929 and began his long film career as a roper, rider, stunt double and actor.

“Times were tough, and Hollywood was where the money was,” Montie bluntly told the *New York Times* in 1994.

The true-life cowboy lent his skill and intrepidity to the newly-expanding medium of film. He never panned out as a top-billing Western star, but in 1935 he did earn the lead role in a B-Western called “Circle of Death.” Montie, however, worked with a good number of luminaries and appeared in decades’ worth of classic movies, including “Two Rode Together” (1961), “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance,” the 1962 film version of the novel written by Whitefish author Dorothy Johnson, and “Cheyenne Autumn” (1964). All three films were directed by John Ford.

Montie appeared as a minor actor or stunt rider in at least 19 other films starring, among others, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Jimmy Stewart, Tom Mix, Clark Gable, Bob Hope, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Ken Maynard, Judy Garland, Shirley Temple, and fellow Montana native George Montgomery. Roy Rogers himself once called Montie “the greatest trick roper of his time.”

Back in 1932, Montie began his string of annual appearances in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, adopting a glittery cream-colored, rhinestone-studded fashion that dazzled rodeo and parade watchers countrywide. But perhaps his most famous exploit came during President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Inauguration Parade in 1953.

One of Montie’s most popular tricks was to lasso an unknowing member of his audience while he was performing. He either asked the President’s permission first or Eisenhower agreed to the stunt on the spot (two differing versions of the tale exist). However it happened, Montie rode up to the Presidential reviewing stand and tossed a lasso around the standing Eisenhower.

Montie later recalled in his memoirs that, afterwards a Secret Service man told him, “If they hadn’t heard the President giving him permission to rope him, he would have been a sieve.” The photo with Montie’s rope wrapped around Eisenhower was on front pages of newspapers nationwide. The photo pictured was taken just a moment before the one that showed Eisenhower fully lassoed.

Among his many other stunts, Montie once took his horse, Poncho Rex, to the roof of the Empire State Building, so as to let him get a good look at the New York City skyline. He later roped then-California Gov. Ronald Reagan, a former colleague from Hollywood. Reagan knew Montie well. “Since your boyhood on a Montana ranch,” he affectionately said in the late 1960s, “you have demonstrated the skill and independent spirit that embodies the Western tradition that we love.”



Montie Montana lassoed President Dwight D. Eisenhower during his inauguration parade in 1953. Vice President Richard Nixon is pictured near the pillar on the right.

In August 1964, Montie visited the Foster Frontier Photo Gallery in Miles City and was given a photograph of his father, grandfather and grandmother taken in Miles City about 1923. The photo shows the group standing by a Model T truck with a big covered van on the back. On the sides of the van is a mural of Montana scenery and the words “Pioneer Days” emblazoned across the top. The picture was taken by R.C. Morrison, Miles City photographer and sign-maker, who also painted the truck.

“I’d rather have this than an Oscar,” Montie told the *Billings Gazette*.

Monte especially enjoyed working with John Wayne. “In 1975, when Wolf Point was going to honor my 50th year in show business,” he told *Film Comment* magazine, “the town was going to fly in some of the Western stars. ... And the Indian council came to me and said, ‘We don’t like that you’ve invited Wayne. In the movies, John Wayne kills Indians.’ I said to them, ‘Wayne may chase Indians in the movies, but he employs more of them than anyone else in Hollywood. They may chase each other across the screen, but afterwards, they all sit down and eat lunch together.’”

In 1985, a reporter from the *Los Angeles Daily News* visited with Montie at his home in Agua Dulce, California. The reporter noted that in the yard to the left of his West Coast farmhouse was a bell that once stood on the grounds of the Indian mission in Wolf Point. “When I was a kid,” Montie said, “I remember hearing that bell ring.”

In that same interview, Montie Montana fretted about “the future of children” raised without Western heroes. “It’s a shame,” he said. “There don’t seem to be any heroes for them to look up to except for a few athletes, and they’ve been coming up bad. Rudd Weatherwax used to live across the street; he owned Lassie, and we used to take Lassie out and do benefit shows.

“Kids are so impressionable, and the old shows

and cowboy movies taught them a Western way of life. Taught them to be clean-living and honest and kind to animals and happy and good. We never drank or smoked where kids could see us. Today they say worse things on TV than we did around the back of the barn. Today it seems all they have is ‘Star Wars.’”

Montie proudly plugged Montana wherever he went, and he said more than once in interviews that he considered Wolf Point his home. “This is the home of the real cowboys,” he said while visiting Billings in 1975. “None of the rest of the states can touch Montana for that. I’ve seen them all, and they don’t stack up to us.”

His sentiments were frequently reciprocated: in 1975, Governor Thomas Judge proclaimed July 10 through 17 “Montie Montana Week.” Ted Schwinden, a native of Wolf Point and the state’s governor from 1981 to 1989 once said: “Montie, you represent what Montana is all about; a Western spirit, a love of life and an appreciation for pure entertainment. I can’t think of anyone who has done more to spread goodwill than you.”

Like Roy Rogers, Montie tirelessly toured schools and children’s hospitals. He doled out laughter and gauged his success in smiles. He stayed fit and active to the end. He rode in his 60th and final Rose Bowl Parade in 1994 at the age of 83, and kept doing roping and riding shows for 72 years, his last one being at the famed Pendleton Roundup in Oregon in 1997.

Owen Harlan Mickel died on May 20, 1998, at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, in Valencia, Calif., following complications from a series of strokes. His funeral at Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth, California, included many rodeo notables, actors and stuntmen. And his rose-covered coffin arrived on a horse-drawn wagon, serenaded by a group performing his old buddy Roy Rogers’ signature tune, “Happy Trails.” ★

—BRIAN D’AMBROSIO

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More



LIVE ON STAGE: "PUFFS"

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs - who just happened to be there too!

On Stage Jan. 24 - Feb. 9 at the Grand Street Theatre in Helena

Thursday, February 6

Statewide

"One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

Projectile Comedy, live improv, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Art of Comedy with Charlie Mulluk, 10 p.m., Kirk's Grocery, Billings, (503) 209-2394

Livingston/Bozeman

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

BoomBox, psych rock, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Andrew Gromiller and The Organically Grown, funk/soul, 9 p.m., El Camino Bar, Bozeman, 551-2337

Helena

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

Great Falls

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

Friday, February 7

Statewide

FINAL SHOW, "One Man, Two Guvners," Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272

Billings

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," three one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

Sunny Sweeney, folk/rock, 7 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Brother Ali, hip-hop, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Helena

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

Missoula

Nobide, electronic, 10 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, February 8

Billings

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," three one-act plays, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Livingston/Bozeman

"To the Moon and Beyond," interstellar classical performance, 10:30 a.m., Bozeman Symphony, Willson Auditorium, 585-9774

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

Helena

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

Great Falls

"Cafe Noir," with cellist Inbal Negev, classical, 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Center, Great Falls, 453-4102

Missoula

Brother Ali, hip-hop, 9 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Send calendar updates to info@montanapress.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

YOLA, soul, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Trout Steak Revival, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

Bone Thugs N Harmony, hip-hop, 7 p.m., Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Shayne Smith, comedian, 7 p.m., Rialto Theatre, Deer Lodge, 846-7900

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Fred Eaglesmith, rock/country, 8 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Edis and Cliff, folk, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

Trout Steak Revival, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

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

Chris Janson, country, 7 p.m., Butte Depot, 782-2102

YOLA, soul/roots, 8 p.m., Top Hat, Missoula, 728-7980

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Edis and Cliff, folk, 5 p.m., Sage Lodge, Pray, (855) 400-0505

Fred Eaglesmith, rock/country, 8 p.m., Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Atmosphere, hip-hop, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Lyle Lovett, country, 7 p.m., Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Amanda Shires, alt-country, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat, Missoula, 728-7980

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Colin Hay, rock, 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Wilco, rock, 6:30 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Send calendar updates to info@montanapress.net.



ARIES

(March 21-April 19): "We are all hostages of the joy of which we deprive ourselves," wrote poet Odysseus Elytis. Isn't that an astounding idea? That we refuse to allow ourselves to experience some of the bliss and pleasure we could easily have; and that we are immured inside that suppressed bliss and pleasure? I call on you, Aries, to rebel against this human tendency. As I see it, one of your main tasks in 2020 is to permit yourself to welcome more bliss, to aggressively seize more pleasure, and thereby free yourself from the rot of its nullification.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20): At age 22, Taurus-born Dutch citizen Willem de Kooning sneaked into the United States. He was a stowaway on an Argentina-bound freighter, and stealthily disembarked when the ship made a stop in Virginia. As he lived in America during subsequent decades, he became a renowned painter who helped pioneer the movement known as abstract expressionism. His status as an illegal immigrant rarely presented any obstacles to his growing success and stature. Not until age 57 did he finally become an American citizen. I propose we make him one of your role models in 2020. May he inspire you to capitalize on being a maverick, outsider, or stranger. May he encourage you to find opportunities beyond your safety zone.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20): When British novelist E. M. Forster was in his late 30s, he had sex with another person for the first time. Before that he had published five novels. After that, he produced just one more novel, though he lived till age 91. Why? Was he having too much fun? Looking back from his old, age, he remarked that he would "have been a more famous writer if I had published more, but sex prevented the latter." I suspect that sensual pleasure and intimacy will have the exact opposite effect on you in 2020, Gemini. In sometimes mysterious ways, they will make you more productive in your chosen sphere.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22): "Every part of our personality that we do not love will regress and become hostile to us," wrote poet Robert Bly. I don't know anyone who doesn't suffer from this problem at least a little. That's the bad news. The good news for us Cancerians (yes, I'm a Crab!) is that 2020 will be a favorable time to engage in a holy crusade to fix this glitch: to feel and express more love for parts of our personality that we have dismissed or marginalized. The result? Any self-sabotage we have suffered from in the past could dramatically diminish.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22): As a young adult, Leo-born Raymond Chandler worked as a fruit-picker, tennis racket-stringer, and bookkeeper. At age 34, he began a clerical job at the Dabney Oil Syndicate, and eventually rose in the ranks to become a well-paid executive. The cushy role lasted until he was 44, when he was fired. He mourned for a while, then decided to become an author of detective fiction. It took a while, but at age 50, he published his first novel. During the next 20 years, he wrote six additional novels as well as numerous short stories and screenplays—and in the process became popular and influential. I present this synopsis as an inspirational story to fuel your destiny in 2020.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The fame of Virgo-born Italian poet Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533) has persisted through the ages because of Orlando Furioso, an epic poem he authored. It tells the story of the Christian knight Orlando and his adoration for a pagan princess. This great work did not come easily to Ariosto. It wasn't until he had written 56 versions of it that he was finally satisfied. I suspect you may harbor an equally perfectionist streak about the good works and labors of love you'll craft in 2020. May I suggest you confine your experiments to no more than ten versions?

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Leonardo da Vinci worked on his painting The Last Supper from 1495 to 1498. It's a big piece—about 15 by 29 feet. That's one reason why he took so long to finish. But there was another explanation, too. He told his patron, the Duke of Milan, that he sometimes positioned himself in front of his

painting-in-progress and simply gazed at and thought about it, not lifting a brush. Those were times he did some of his hardest work, he said. I trust you will have regular experiences like that in 2020, Libra. Some of your best efforts will arise out of your willingness and ability to incubate your good ideas with concentrated silence and patience.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21): By 1895, Henry James had already published 94 books. He was renowned in the U.S. and England, and had written the works that would later lead to him being considered for a Nobel Prize. Then, at age 52, although he was not physically fit, he decided to learn how to ride a bicycle. He paid for lessons at a bicycle academy, and cheerfully tolerated bruises and cuts from his frequent falls as an acceptable price to pay for his new ability. I admire James' determination to keep transforming. Let's make him a role model for you in 2020. May he inspire you to keep adding new aptitudes as you outgrow your previous successes.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven created the Eroica symphony in the early 1800s, many observers panned it. They said its rhythms were eccentric, that it was too long. One critic said it was "glaring and bizarre," while another condemned its "undesirable originality." This same critic concluded, "Genius proclaims itself not in the unusual and fantastic but in the beautiful and sublime." Today, of course, Eroica has a different reputation. It's regarded as a breakthrough event in musical history. I'll go on record here, Sagittarius, to say that I suspect you created your own personal version of Eroica in 2019. 2020 is the year it will get the full appreciation it deserves, although it may take a while. Be patient.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I'm going to speculate that sometime in the next six months, you will experience events that years from now you'll look back on as having been the beginning of a fresh universe for you. What should you call this launch? I suggest you consider elegant terms like "Destiny Rebirth" or "Fate Renewal" rather than a cliché like the "Big Bang." And how should you celebrate it? As if it were the Grand Opening of the rest of your long life.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 2020, I believe you will be able to summon the insight and kismet necessary to resolve at least one long-running problem, and probably more. You'll have an enhanced ability to kick bad habits and escape dead-ends and uncover liberating truths about mysteries that have flustered you. Frustrations and irritations you've grudgingly tolerated for far too much time will finally begin to wane. Congratulations in advance, Aquarius! The hard work you do to score these triumphs won't always be delightful, but it could provide you with a curiously robust and muscular kind of fun.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20): Let's say you wanted to dress completely in silk: shirt, pants, vest, scarf, socks, shoes, hat, underwear all made of silk. And let's say your dream was to grow and process and weave the silk from scratch. You'd start with half an ounce of silkworm eggs. They'd hatch into 10,000 silkworms. Eventually those hard-working insects would generate five pounds of silk—enough to create your entire outfit. So in other words, you'd be able to generate an array of functional beauty from a small but concentrated amount of raw material. By the way, that last sentence is a good description of what I think your general approach should be in 2020. And also by the way, dressing in silk wouldn't be too crazy an idea in the coming months. I hope you'll have fun cultivating your allure, style, and flair.

THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

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

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WE BELIEVE IN:

The Value of Rural Communities

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

Supporting Women in Leadership Roles

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

Preserving Family Farms and Ranches

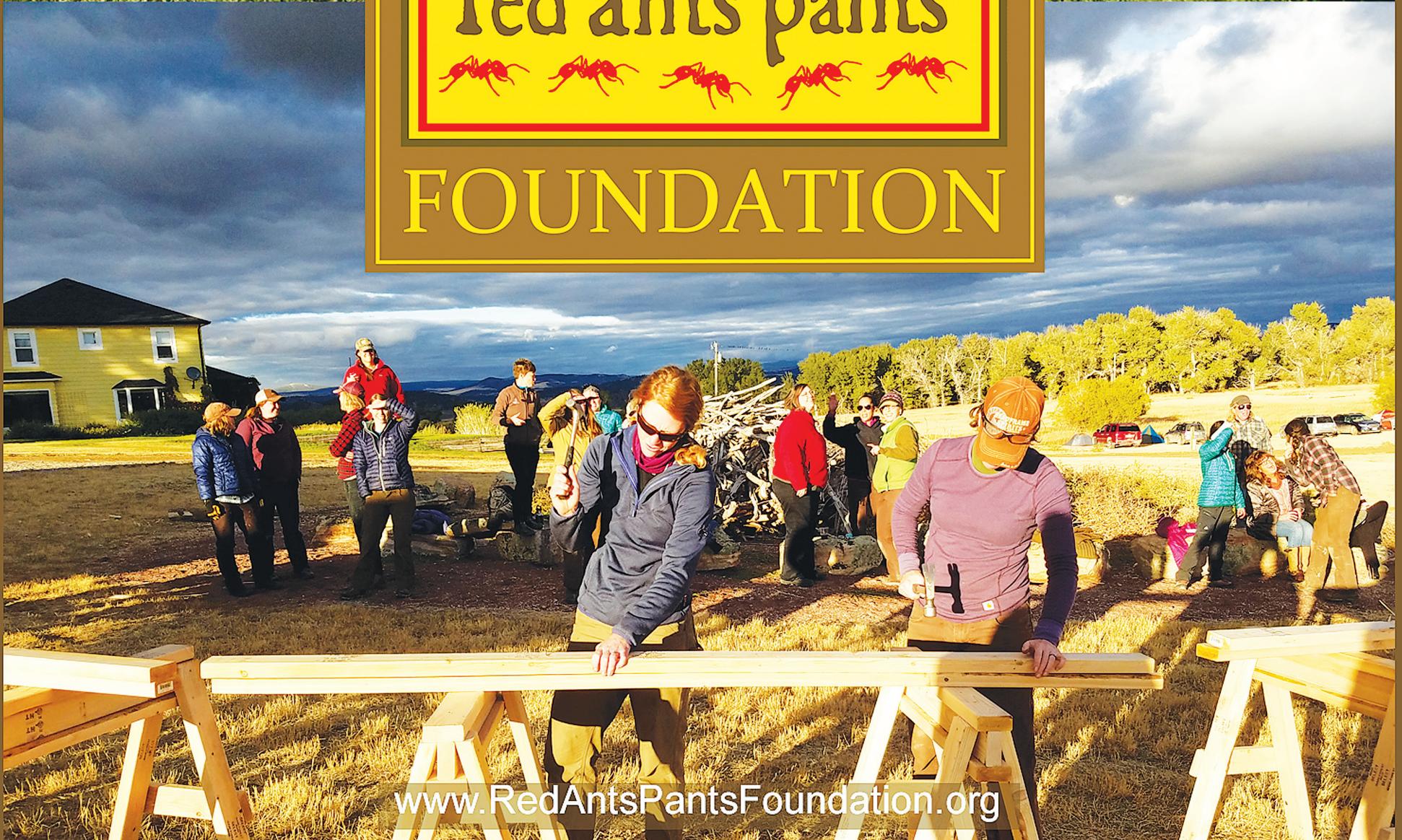
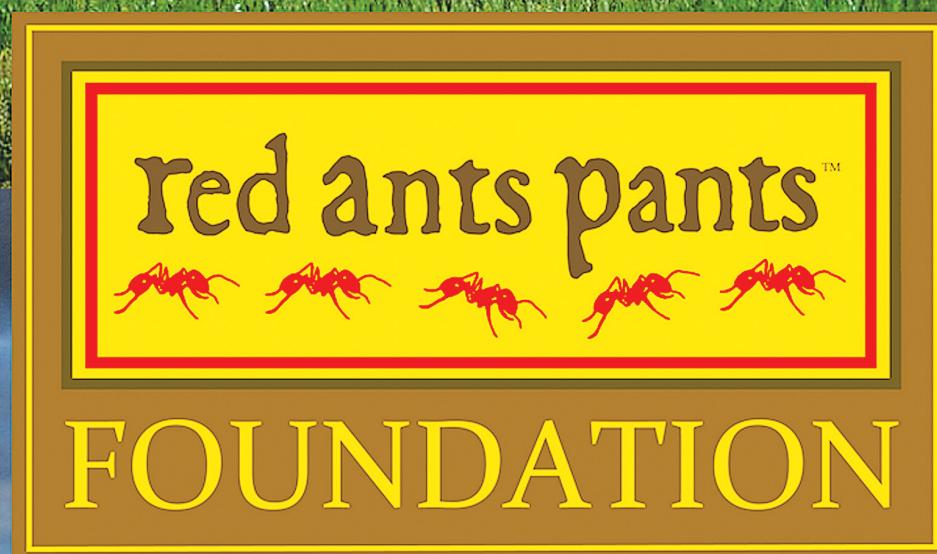
because the lifestyle, the work ethic, and the end product are worth preserving

Maintaining Traditional Work Skills

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

The Power of Music

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



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