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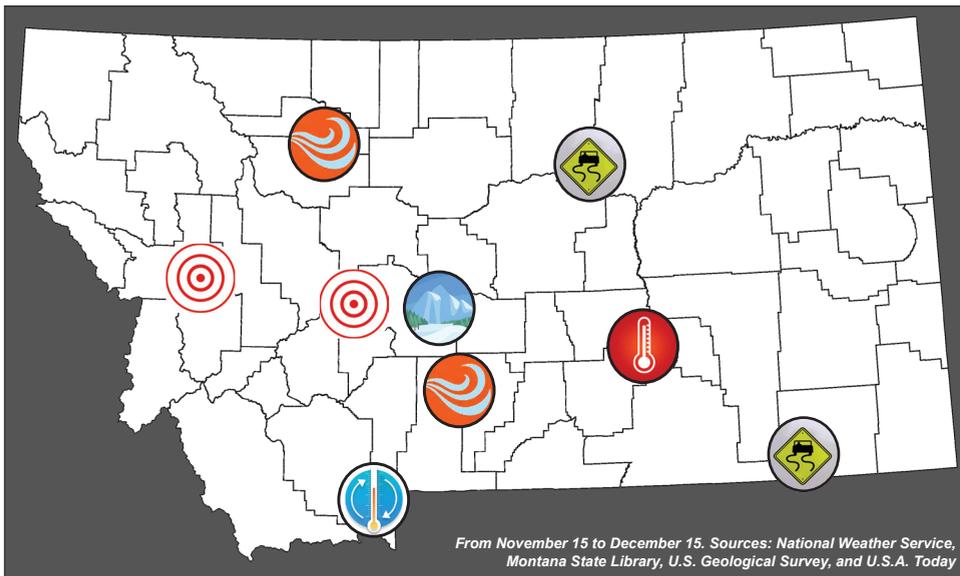


SKI MONTANA!

A GUIDE TO RESORTS ACROSS THE STATE

Statewide Calendar • Interview: Michael McFaul • James Lee Burke & More

MONTANA ALMANAC



Hazardous Travel Across the State

A cold front and snow dropped into the southeast region of the state on Dec. 30 and 31. Due to severe winter storm conditions, Interstate 90 closed from Sheridan, Wyoming to the Montana state line for approximately 12 hours on Dec. 30 and on Dec. 31, 30 miles of highway was closed from the Wyoming state line to Broadus, Mont. A winter storm on January 23 also led to the closure of roads near Harlowton and Garneill. During the winter season, travelers can check road reports before traveling to avoid closures and be made aware of hazardous driving conditions which are common during the winter season in Montana: roadreport.mdt.mt.gov/travinfomobile/

High Temperature Records Set

The high temperature record for the state was 60 degrees in Hardin on Dec. 19 but warm temperatures persisted through the month, including highs recorded across the state: 59 degrees at the Malta Airport on Jan. 3; 58 degrees at Loma on Jan. 4; 57 degrees at Stanford on Jan. 9; 57 degrees at Valentine on Jan. 11; 58 degrees at the Cut Bank Municipal Airport on Jan. 14; and 54 degrees at Bynum on Jan 15. The first week of 2019 marked the warmest first week of January on record for Glasgow, MT with an average temperature of 32.6 degrees. For comparison: The normal (1981-2010 average) temperature for Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 is 12.2 degrees. 2019 saw the first week of January 20.4 degrees above normal. The low temperature of 35 degrees at Glasgow on January 3 sets the record for the warmest low temperature recorded for the date. The previous warmest low temperature was 33 degrees set in 2007. Glasgow recorded a high of 50 degrees at the airport, setting a new daily record for Jan. 4. The previous record was 49 degrees set in 2012 and 1962.

Winter Cold Fronts

The low temperature record from across the state over the past month was recorded at West Yellowstone on Jan. 1 of -38 degrees. Low temps were also recorded at -23 degrees at Newlan Creek, also on Jan. 1; -21 degrees at Saco on Jan. 23 and -18 degrees at West Yellowstone on Jan 14. On January 16, freezing drizzle across parts of northeast Montana turned roads and sidewalks into ice rinks. As far as wind chill, Jan. 23 was the coldest night of the season. The lowest observed temperature was -21 degrees in Jordan and Saco. A few areas across far northeastern Montana saw wind chill values of -40 degrees. On Jan. 24, a wind chill advisory remained in effect through for portions of Northeast Montana with wind chill values of -10 degrees to -30 degrees. In such conditions, frostbite can occur within 30 minutes.

Earthquake Activity

On Dec. 29, a magnitude 2.2 earthquake was recorded at a depth of about 6.6 km near Lincoln. A 2.0 magnitude quake was recorded southeast of Clinton on Jan. 2 at a depth of 7.5 km and the most significant earthquake noted in the past month, a magnitude of 2.4 quake at 5 km depth, was recorded in the state was recorded Jan. 21 near Manhattan. Other similar earth movements were recorded near Virginia City and Pablo.

Be Avalanche Aware in the Backcountry

With a series of storms hitting Montana in late January, avalanche danger in some parts of the state remains high. On Jan. 17, a Backcountry Avalanche Warning was issued for the Centennial Range. Heavy snow and strong winds were loading a weak and fragile snowpack and natural and human triggered avalanches were likely. On the morning of Jan. 18, a lone skier near Fairy Lake triggered and was partially buried in an avalanche. The slide occurred on a wind loaded slope. It was a very close call and a strong reminder it only takes a few inches of new snow combined with strong winds to create unstable conditions. Experts advise avoiding avalanche terrain and avalanche runout zones when recreating in these conditions. Information about safely navigating the backcountry during the winter season can be found on regional avalanche center forecasting websites and feeds.

High Winter Winds Blast Montana

The highest winds of the season whipped through the state on Dec. 29, with the highest gust recorded at 102 mph at Deep Creek near East Glacier. Max wind gusts in Phillips County measured 71 mph and winds gusted to 61 mph in Great Falls, 49 mph in Cut Bank, 55 mph in Geysers and 43 mph in Chinook. At the Livingston airport, sustained winds of 69 mph with gusts to 85 mph were recorded for over an hour. Another burst of high wind came soon in the new year, with the highest wind gusts reported at 103 mph at Deep Creek (Glacier), 94 mph in East Glacier, 66 mph in Bynum, 64 mph in Great Falls, and 59 mph Big Sandy.

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SKI RESORT GUIDE

A full guide to the public ski resorts across the state including vital statistics for each resort.

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MONTANA PROFILE

Stanford professor and former Ambassador to Russia discusses global issues from a Montana-bred perspective.

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ON THE COVER Skiing at Montana Snowbowl near Missoula.
Photo by Tim Kemple. Courtesy of www.visitmt.gov.

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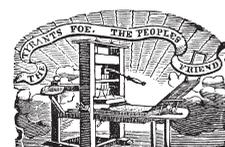
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BYGONE DAYS

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

Dillon Examiner
February 6, 1895

"The Jury in the Butte Explosion Case Brings in a Verdict a to the Cause of the Explosion. That the Kenyon Connell Commercial company... have been criminally negligent and careless in the fact that they have carried... and did carry dynamite in their warehouses far in excess of the amounts allowed by law... the Kenyon Connell Commercial company are responsible for the deaths of the fifty-seven persons mentioned..."

Livingston Post
Wednesday, February 6, 1895

"Jack Baronette, the famous scout, hunter and old-time Indian fighter, is in receipt of a letter from... the United States engineer office of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Chittenden says he is making a careful study of all historical questions connected with the Yellowstone National Park and asks for information on obscure points... In reply to the letter Mr. Baronette gives some interesting historical facts and the Post has been permitted to make the following extracts. Mr. Baronette says: Gardiner river was named by the Washburn party in 1870. At that time, Mr. Washburn was surveyor general of the territory of Montana and organized a party to go to the head of the Yellowstone, Madison and Fire Hole rivers... A Mr. Gardiner, who was with the party was nearly drowned in what is now known as the Gardiner river, which derived its name from this fact ... Baronette peak was named by Dr. Hayden for myself. I built the first bridge across the Yellowstone in the fall and winter of 1870, but it was burned by the Nez Perces Indians during their memorable raid in 1877. The bridge was rebuilt by me two years later. In 1864 I went into the park on a gold prospecting tour, going as far as Yellowstone lake. There were no signs of any white man having preceded me. Arriving at the east fork of the Yellowstone I found a camp of about 150 lodges of hostile Indians, but did not talk with them ... Surveyor General Washburn and Lieut. Doane were the first persons to advance the idea of having congress set apart the region as a national park and Lieut. Doane wrote the first report of that country ever published... The first mention I ever heard made of that region was by old mountaineers. They told about the experience of a man named Holter, who was with Lewis and Clark on their famous trip ... He went up the Madison river to its source and discovered the geysers... Later he told... of the region to the mountaineers. They made fun of him and always spoke of the head of the Madison as 'Holter's Hell' thereafter."

Big Timber Pioneer
February 7, 1895

"How to Cook Trout for Breakfast: Clean, wash and dry the fish, roll lightly in flour and fry in butter or clarified dripping. Let the fat be very hot. Fry quickly to a delicate brown and take up the trout the instant

they are done. Lay for a moment on a hot folded napkin to absorb whatever grease may cling to their speckled sides, Then arrange them side by side on a heated dish, garnish and send to the table Use no seasoning except salt, and only that when the fish are fried in lard or unsalted dripping..."

"The left eye of J.W. Geiger came in contact with a swiftly moving snow ball Tuesday evening, and in consequence thereof J.W. now wears his eye in a sling. His friends trust that the results may not be serious."

The Townsend Messenger
February 8, 1895

"It is curious and interesting at any summer resort or other gathering of intelligent women to see the general profound indifference to politics—to any news of the day, however exciting, which related to the affairs of the nation. Still more curious is it to observe, on questioning ardent female suffragists, how little they know about the great questions of the hour. They generally say, 'Oh, both parties are terribly corrupt, but when women vote politics will be purified.' Will it? Are not women also possessed of moral infirmities? Will not many women sell their votes, bargain for office, intrigue, and combine with others for selfish ends?"

Livingston Post
Wednesday, February 13, 1895

"It Made Them Hump. It was cold enough yesterday morning to suit the most whimsical weather crank in Montana. The lazy man moved like he has electric springs and women flew down the streets like a meteoric flash that had been kicked by a gigantic thunderbolt."

Butte Montana Standard
February 14, 1934

"Bank doors clicked shut in Michigan Feb. 14 a year ago and the parade of depression was on. Today, 12 months later, the parade is toward recovery. Employment, commodity prices and stock values are up. The administration is experimenting. It is spending on an unprecedented scale to salvage the best of the old order and to create something new socially and economically. Win or lose, the scope of the new deal project is tremendous and amazing. ... Gov. Wm. A. Comstock of Michigan ... closed the banks in Michigan and in just over a fortnight every bank in the United States was closed. ... The reconstruction Finance Corporation has been the principal first aid agency for banks. It has authorized expenditure of 950,000,000 for purchase of bank preferred stock... and loaned nearly \$700,000,000 to closed banks... Over and above such direct aid, the first Roosevelt congress enacted a bank deposit insurance program."



Havre Daily News
February 15, 1934

"Glasgow— More than 40 fiddlers from Montana and North Dakota are expected to bow their instruments here February 27 when the second annual old fiddlers' contest will be held... The men's awards will be \$25, \$15 and \$5... while special women's prizes of \$10 and \$5 will also be offered... Each fiddler in the contest will be allowed to play his favorite collection, waltz, polka, schottische, or whatever it may be..."

Billings Gazette
February 18, 1934

"The Montana State university Grizzlies finally won, 40 to 38, from the state college Bobcats, after the lead had changed five times in the last few moments warfare i the second of the state title series. A burst of accurate shooting... brought the state university from far behind after the Bobcats had set a torrid pace..."

Butte Montana Standard
February 22, 1960

"Helena—Four Great Falls persons headed for a week at Las Vegas, Nev. Sunday flew into a blinding southwestern Montana blizzard and disappeared in formidable mountain country. The last heard was the pilot's distress call, 'MayDay, May-Day.' ... Ten search planes roared into the first open skies which ironically cleared briefly after the private 182 Cessna ran into trouble. But within minutes a new and fiercer blizzard swept out of the north... The search planes were ordered to hit any landing areas they could... In Helena, the director of the search and rescue operation... expressed hope the plane had got down safely in some inaccessible spot."

The Dillon Examiner
January 24, 1934

"A great many people in Montana who have no interest in politics per se will take satisfaction in the action of the House of Representatives Thursday night when it rejected a proposal to impeach Governor Cooney... In the final sitting of the charges... it was asserted in the debate and unchallenged from any source that in no instance complained of did he act with intent to harm the public interest..."

"More than 300 retail beer licenses under the new state law have been issued thus far by the state board of equalization... Hotel and restaurant licenses having been abolished by the new law passed by the extra session of the legislature, the licenses are confined to four classes, wholesale, brewery, retail and club... There are six breweries in the state and the brewery license is \$750 a year. The wholesale licenses are \$300 and club licenses \$50."

The Dillon Daily Tribune
February 23, 1960

Emil Schindler, well known Big Hole rancher, was seriously injured Wednesday of last week when a colt he was breaking, reared and jumped on him. He is reported improving satisfactorily at Butte ST, James hospital where he was driven by one of his hired hands. Mr. Schindler underwent surgery that evening and the attending physician reported he repaired a pancreas which had been cut in two and removed two quarts of blood from his stomach. Mrs. Schindler stayed with her husband through the crises."



Kalispell Daily Interlake
February 23, 1960

"Snow reports at Big mountain show a 64-inch base at the bottom of the lift and an 81-inch base at the top of the lift. Minimum temperature last night was six degrees... Visibility is 30 miles and it is clear with bright sunshine. At the Silver Buckle ski resort there is four to five-inch base. Skiing on the lower hill is excellent."

Butte Montana Standard
February 23, 1960

"Helena—A helicopter pilot plucked two lucky Great Falls couples from deep mountain snow in which their plane was forced 27 chilling hours before. They were blinded in a blizzard 14 miles southeast of this Montana Capital city and broadcast a frantic... distress call. They popped down into snow so deep and soft they escaped serious injuries... Sporting a black eye, Mrs. Aileen McCabe, 40, stepped from the white helicopter... With an embarrassed smile, she said, Gee, my feet are awfully cold and don't I look a mess?" ... Flynn was flying his... single engine Cessna 182 with three passengers on only a student's license... Jack Flynn... tells his story from a hospital room. '... we lost our bearing in the snow-storm. ... The gyros went out and that bothered us a little. We kept coming down until we saw a spot we could get into. The plane was icing up badly. It was dropping 300 to 500 feet a minute in the few minutes before we landed uphill. It was an ideal spot for an emergency landing... I believe [passenger] McCabe and I had some idea of what we were doing McCabe was a World War II bombardier pilot and had made several emergency landings... I took up flying last June..."

Kalispell Daily Interlake
February 25, 1960

"The Army Engineers got full permission today to go anywhere on Montana's five million acres of state-owned land, apparently to look for an intercontinental ballistic missile launching site. ... Although the agreement covers the entire state, it was expected the exploration will be confined to central Montana where explorations also are underway or being arranged on private land." ★

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MONTANA VOICES

Chaos in Washington, Looney-Tunes in Helena

President Trump claimed he would be “proud” to take credit for shuttering the federal government and has now set the dubious record for the longest shutdown in history. This heartless president employed his usual methods of bullying, threats and inflicting personal suffering on 800,000 federal employees and countless more government contractors over his childlike demand for \$5.7 billion to build a wall on the Mexican border.

The result has been his plummeting approval ratings, record high disapproval, and broad refutation of his fact-free fear-mongering about drugs, disease, and crime unless the wall is built.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi told Trump that, due to the shutdown, she would not allow the joint session of Congress for his State of the Union address due to security concerns because all the nation’s highest officials, including the Supreme Court Justices, would be in one room. But Trump is so far over the edge of his delusional misunderstanding of Executive power that he told Pelosi he would give his address in the House whether she allowed it or not.

Once again exhibiting his ignorance of law and protocol, Trump still fails to understand that Congress is a “separate but equal” branch of government and he cannot just demand access to spew more lies and threats in the House. Presidents may only address Congress if the House and Senate pass concurrent resolutions inviting them to do so.

Apparently someone managed to teach Trump a civics lesson and convince him that trying to force his way into the House of Representatives would likely get him stopped by the Sargent at Arms— a spectacle that would undoubtedly be broadcast to the nation. He folded, saying he’d give his address when the government shutdown ended.

This is not how the government of the richest and most powerful nation on earth is supposed to operate, but is totally indicative of the chaos now ruling the nation’s capital.

In the meantime, the Montana Legislature is now nearly a month into its biennial 90-day session and the border wall controversy has slopped over into what should be state-focused efforts for spending scarce state revenue on Montana’s needs.

Thus many were stunned when Senate President Scott Sales, a Bozeman Republican, announced that he would introduce a bill to send \$8 million dollars of Montana taxpayers’ money to fund Trump’s wall. The reaction from outraged Montanans was instantaneous and universal. And this is the guy who is supposed to be running the Montana Senate – not the affairs of Congress and the beleaguered amateur in the White House.

Not to be outdone in the looney ideas category comes yet another Republican – Billings Rep. Rodney Garcia – who thinks Montana should sell up to \$500 million in state bonds to finance the purchase of Colstrip’s worn-out coal-fired power plants. Sure there have just been two national reports on the dire impacts of global warming and its accelerating damages. But that didn’t faze Garcia because he thinks we must save Colstrip’s massively

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polluting plants from retirement at any cost to the state, its taxpayers, or the planet.

Of course if the state did buy Colstrip it would also acquire hundreds of millions of dollars in liability for cleaning up the well-documented pollution from the massive coal ash ponds that have already poisoned the area’s groundwater. Under Garcia’s half-baked plan the state would also become the employer for the existing Colstrip workforce and likewise be liable for its benefits and pensions – yet more tens of millions of state dollars.

The level of political dysfunction at the state and national levels would be laughable were it not so tragic, but there’s really nothing funny about it. The clock is ticking, the needs are great and growing, and the ability to pay is limited. It’s long past time for our legislators, members of Congress, and whacky president to set aside their inflated egos and looney ideas and do the work they were elected to do -- which is to pass and fund policies that benefit present and future generations. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI



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MONTANA ROUNDUP

Moderates Emerge as Major Players in 66th Montana Legislature



A loose-knit, ever-evolving group of Republican legislators is making waves and causing headaches in the 66th Montana Legislature.

They call themselves the “solutions caucus.”

It’s not a traditional caucus by any means: No barriers to entry, no specified leaders, nor a roster. Simply put, it’s a group of legislators who meet informally and talk about issues. They’ve branded themselves as independent, realistic thinkers in an environment that often feels deeply divided along party lines.

One such lawmaker is Rep. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, who used the phrase “radically transparent” to describe the group’s sharing of ideas with anyone who’s interested. That also means creating an atmosphere in which people are willing to offer up new concepts, Jones said.

“You can’t get people to speak freely and engage in the sausage-making if they’re not comfortable,” Jones said.

Rep. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, termed out



A Republican from Great Falls is a key member of the solutions caucus, especially considering he carried the bill that passed Medicaid expansion in 2015. Rep. Ed Buttrey, above, says the caucus has come up with some “pretty darn good” ideas. Jan. 8, 2019.

of the Senate last session but is back in the House. He’s been viewed as an independent legislator for years and is a member of the solutions caucus. Jan. 10, 2019.

Solutions caucus members have been planning for this session for months now, Jones said. Members call each other on the phone, eat meals together or gather casually to talk and debate. Jones said freshman legislators are encouraged to ask members for help on policy questions. He estimated the caucus to be comprised of about 25 representatives and 10 senators.

In the first week, this group proved to have significant pull.

The debate over the rules governing the House of Representatives was the first big fight of the session. Democrats wanted the rules amended to allow for a simple majority, 51 votes, to “blast” a bill stalled in committee to the full House for debate. A previous rule had dictated a 60-vote majority for a blast motion. In the weeks leading up to this session, it looked like Democrats had struck a deal with moderate Republicans to change the rules.

However, the night before the session began, moderates and conservatives found a compromise: a 58-vote majority for blast motions. The bill passed 88-to-12 on day four.

Great Falls Republican Rep. Ed Buttrey, another key member of the solutions caucus and also the House Rules Committee, said these compromises are important to keep business moving.

“We come up with some dang good stuff. We just saw that in the rules, and we solve problems because we’ve allowed people have different viewpoints,” Buttrey said.

A Republican from Great Falls is a key member of the solutions caucus, especially considering he carried the bill that passed Medicaid expansion in 2015. Rep. Ed Buttrey, left, says the caucus has come up with some “pretty darn good” ideas. Jan. 8, 2019.

Some legislators, however, have mixed feelings about compromises like these.

Rep. Derek Skees, R-Kalispell, said if a lawmaker is voted into office as Republican on the ballot, he or she should vote with

party leadership. Skees, who holds a party leadership position as a majority whip, said he worries that when he goes home and talks with constituents, they’ll question the integrity of the Republican party if legislators break on votes.

“It makes a component of our service a lie to our constituents,” Skees said.

Skees said national GOP guidelines and state party leadership define how Republicans should vote. There is a little leniency — he said the party should agree and vote together on 80 percent of issues. He said he hopes Republicans can unify this session.

“I would suggest that’s the way that a caucus should behave,” Skees said.

Rep. Derek Skees, R-Kalispell, at left, chair of the House Rules Committee, listens to the debate over “blast” motion proposed changes on Jan. 8, 2019.

Speaker of the House, Greg Hertz, R-Polson, declined to be interviewed for this story and would only say that conservatives have a “unified Republican caucus.” The party has held control of Montana’s lawmaking body for the past four sessions, since 2011.

Republican Rep. Nancy Ballance from Hamilton is a senior legislator and chair of the Appropriations Committee. She’s a newer member to the solutions caucus, after having sided with conservatives in 2015 and voting against the bill that expanded Medicaid.

This session, Ballance said, she wants to work with the caucus to share expertise and create bills that are realistic for a Republican-majority Legislature and a Democratic governor to pass. She disagreed with Skees’ assertion that Republicans need to vote on party lines under the leadership orders, saying that’s not the way it is “at all.”

“In fact, one of the basic things that draws people to Republicanism is that independent thinking,” Ballance said.

Montana’s Legislature meets for only 90 days every other year, and legislators have term limits, which Ballance said motivates the group to keep each other grounded in what can be accomplished “and not focus on the things that represent the world as you wish it was.”

Montana’s Legislature meets for only 90 days every other year, and legislators have term limits, which Ballance said motivates the group to keep each other grounded in what can be accomplished “and not focus on the things that represent the world as you wish it was.”

Past sessions have shown a clear division in the conservative party, and moderates and Democrats working together is not new. In 2013, Skees had served a term in the House and suggested at a GOP state convention the party should rate candidates on how well they uphold GOP principles, and cut off support for those who don’t meet standards.

The next election cycle, a number of conservatives targeted some moderate Republicans in opposition, including Jones. At the time, Jones called moderates in his party “responsible Republicans.” He was nevertheless re-elected.

In 2015, Buttrey carried the Medicaid expansion bill with bipartisan support in the House: All 41 Democrats and 13 Republicans voted in favor of the state-federal partnership program. Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock commended the effort while Republican leaders worked throughout the session to oppose the measure.

The rift appeared to close temporarily in 2017 when Republicans united during the special session to find consensus on a budget.

However, with Montana Medicaid expansion’s expiration date nearing, it’s being billed by both sides as one of this year’s top issues and it could again divide the party. With roughly 95,000 Montanans enrolled in the program, lawmakers have polarized concerns.

Republicans have said Montana cannot afford to subsidize program enrollment this

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Rep. Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton, says the solutions caucus is a group dedicated to exploring policy questions. With term limits and a biannual 90-day session, Ballance said she wants to push for realistic bills that can pass a bipartisan government. Jan. 10, 2019.

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size in the future, and that the program needs more recipient oversight. Democrats and Gov. Bullock are touting the economic and social benefits of Medicaid, and announced their own bill last week to re-authorize expansion called the Keep Montana Healthy Act.

Democrats are in the minority and know they need to reach across the aisle to pass expansion, which Minority House Leader Casey Schreiner, D-Great Falls, said is a paramount goal for the party.

"We know everything we want to pass has to have bipartisan support," Schreiner said.

The most winning method for Democrats to find a majority in the past has been to team up with moderate Republicans, many of whom make up the solutions caucus.

Senate Minority Leader Jon Sesso, D-Butte, and House Minority Leader Casey Schreiner, D-Great Falls, oppose to the use of the word "solutions" by the Republican group, saying it's what Democrats strive for, as well. But in the grand scheme of things, Sesso said the name issue isn't a big deal.

"I have joined hands with the solutions caucus to forge solutions, to address prob-

lems constituents bring to us," Sesso said.

Members of the moderate group made clear they aren't trying to alienate themselves from their party, but that the goal is to engage in conversations with all who are interested in exploring compromise and listening to a variety of viewpoints.

"The only requirement is to come with an open mind, ready to work, and instead of defending the status quo, to say, hey, can we make it better?" Buttrey said. "Sometimes you can and sometimes you can't." ★

—SHAYLEE RAGAR

Story and photos credit: UM Community News Service. Shaylee Ragar is a reporter with the UM Legislative News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism, the Montana Newspaper Association and the Greater Montana Foundation. Shaylee can be reached at shaylee.ragar@umontana.edu. Photography also by Shaylee Ragar;



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MONTANA PROFILE

*Former Ambassador from Montana
Explores Global Issues in New Book*

With Russia in the news nearly every day, many Montanans are bombarded with information about the relationship the United States now has with a country which was once the cold war enemy of the nation. With so many perspectives on the politics and history of the issue, readers can look to a lifetime of insight from a fellow Montanan who is not only a preeminent scholar on the subject but also the former U.S. Ambassador to Russia.

Michael McFaul was born in Glasgow, Montana and graduated from Bozeman High School. Although he went on to achieve advanced degrees at Stanford University in California and the University of Oxford in England, McFaul also received an honorary doctorate from Montana State University in 2015. During his studies, McFaul attended Leningrad State University and the Pushkin Institute in Russia and went on to help inform the beginnings of democracy in the Soviet Union while working for a variety of non-governmental organizations promoting democracy around the world before beginning a teaching career at Stanford University.

McFaul was appointed US Ambassador to Russia from 2012 to 2014 and worked for the U.S. National Security Council as Senior Director of Russian and Eurasian Affairs before returning to his teaching profession at Stanford following his service in U.S. foreign relations.

He is the author of a new book about his studies and experiences *From Cold War to Hot Peace* (Houghton Mifflin, 2018), a revelatory account of U.S. and Russian relations from 1989 until the present. The book is a *New York Times* Bestseller and has propelled McFaul to the national spotlight as a commentator on NBC News and other national news outlets.

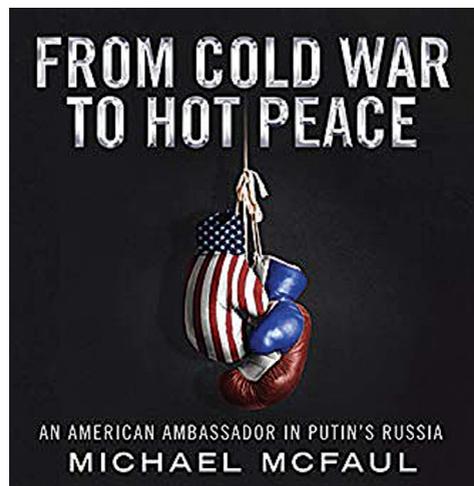
Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State under George W. Bush, gives McFaul's new book high praise: "Mike McFaul has lived history. In this terrific book, he recounts a pivotal time in U.S.-Russian relations, bringing the perspective of a central participant and one of America's finest scholars of Russian politics. This book will be valued by students, experts, historians and diplomats for years to come."

McFaul currently works as a professor of political science, director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and senior fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University in California. He describes himself as, "A specialist on democracy, anti-dictator movements and revolutions." He is currently on the Kremlin sanction list of people who are not allowed to enter Russia.

He spoke to the *Montana Press* on January 17 about his new book, his roots in Montana and the complicated international politics between the U.S. and Russia.

Montana Press: How did your upbringing in Montana prepare you for a life in practice as a scholar and educator?

Michael McFaul: Well, that's a good, big question. I was born in Glasgow. I then moved



to Bozeman, then to Butte and then back to Bozeman, so I know many parts of Montana abstractly. I guess at the biggest level, I'm very proud of my Montana roots. I go back to Montana twice a year and my family still lives there.

I think people in Montana are pretty sensible, pretty practical, not as polarized politically as many places I have to deal with and I think that kind of mentality has helped me in both my academic and diplomatic career.

Specifically, my interest in Russia started when I moved from Butte to Bozeman in my junior year and I registered at Bozeman High School. My English class during fall quarter of that year was debate. It was in that class that I decided to join the debate team. The topic that year was about improving U.S. trade policy and my partner and I ran a case about doing more trade with the Soviet Union at the time.

It was that moment and through that experience that I got interested in Russia and foreign affairs. Two years later, I ended up as a freshman at Stanford and registered in first year Russian. So my interest intellectually started in that class at Bozeman High. Adam Roberts was my teacher then and I thank god for fantastic Montana teachers like Adam Roberts.

By the way, my debate partner in that class was somebody many Montanans know. His name was Steve Daines, now Senator Daines.

Montana Press: In your new book, *From Cold War to Hot Peace*, you describe personally witnessing the birth of democracy in Russia and the counter-revolution that followed. Are you fundamentally optimistic or pessimistic about future hopes for democracy in Russia?

Michael McFaul: Well, it was an incredible time to be living in the Soviet Union in those early years of independent Russia at the end of the 80s and early 90s. I did live and spend quite a bit of time there and witnessed the democratic revolution. I had studied democratic revolutions including the American Revolution. In fact, I now teach a course on revolutions here at Stanford. To be there in real time in history was absolutely exhilarating for me as somebody who strongly believes in democracy.

I've been on a book tour now for several



Bozeman High School graduate Michael McFaul has gone on to serve the U.S. as Ambassador to Russia. He currently teaches Political Science at Stanford University.

months. I travel all over the place and I often get asked this question. I have a kind of academic answer that I can give but I also sometimes say that I'm optimistic maybe just because I'm a Montanan and I think that we are just optimistic people. Maybe there's not a scientific reason for my optimism but I most certainly think that there is a more democratic and free future in Russia. Probably not while Vladimir Putin is president, but Putin won't be president forever and I'm optimistic that there will be a turn back to a freer society and a more western-oriented society.

Montana Press: Speaking of Putin, in your opinion, how do you explain the growing admiration for a strong man like Putin on the right in American politics?

Michael McFaul: I don't understand it, to be honest. It's because of President Trump and his admiration for Putin which is inexplicable to me. He pits everyone against even his own administration by trying to ingratiate himself with Vladimir Putin.

What's equally striking is how so many members of the Republican party now have gravitated that way. This is the party of Reagan. Reagan called the Soviet Union an evil empire and traditionally, the Republican party has always been strong on national security and has not supported dictators. I just see this swing as being part of the Republicans following President Trump. I think a lot of people are going to regret that because I don't think history will be kind to them.

Montana Press: Can you address the paranoid style in American politics, going back to McCarthyism and Masons, the Illuminati and other conspiracy theories, in contrast to the paranoid style you witnessed during your experience with modern Russian politics?

Michael McFaul: Well, it's a legacy of the Cold War in modern Russian politics and they most certainly, from Putin on down, were irrationally paranoid about American influence in their politics and including me, right? They thought that I was sent by Barack Obama to foment revolution against them. I mean that's just not true. It's crazy. We never had that strategy and yet that was a big part of what I had to live with when I was Ambassador working in Russia from 2012 to 2014.

We now have some of that here as well in our country because of the investigation, Mr. Mueller's investigation, and all of these weird, strange contacts that the Trump team had with various Russian officials. I would just say two things about that. One, we need to investigate what these contacts are and I'm 100 percent behind the Mueller investigation. I used to work with Bob Mueller when I was in the government and he is a straight shooter. This is not a witch hunt. We need to know the truth about what happened.

At the same time, we need to be careful not to make illegal every interaction with every Russian citizen or going back to that McCarthy era. That was a very dark time in our history and every now and then I just get a feeling we might be creeping back to that, and that would be a huge mistake because not all Russians are spies and not all contacts with Russians are against the American national interest.

Montana Press: In your opinion, do you think Russia has co-opted American politicians and media to sow discord in the US?

Michael McFaul: Yes. Well, co-opt is a strong word, but are they are working with various politicians, non-governmental organizations to sow discord? The answer to that is yes, and I think the evidence is overwhelming, and I think we need to be smarter about how we deal with that. I think because of our political polarization in Washington today, we're just not thinking strategically about American national security interests.

I worked at the National Security Council for three years at the White House. It's called the National Security Council. It's not called the Democratic Security Council or the Republican Security Council. When I took an oath of office to do that job and then to be ambassador to Russia, I took an oath to the United States of America, not to Barack Obama and I just think we're missing that we've got to come together on this. These are bipartisan issues. They shouldn't be partisan issues.

Montana Press: You noted earlier that you and Montana Senator Steve Daines were debate sparring partners while both at Bozeman High. Do you maintain a relationship with Daines?

Michael McFaul: I talk to him from time to time, and over the summer in particular when Vladimir Putin wanted to interrogate me and President Trump said that was a good idea when they met at the Helsinki summit, I really appreciated the support that I got both from Senator Daines and from Senator Tester. I talked to both of them. I really appreciated that. It was important what they said on the floor.

There was just a vote in the U.S. Senate yesterday and the day before. It was a complicated measure, but it was basically a resolution to continue sanctions on several Russian companies owned by a Russian oligarch. I supported that decision. I see no reason to lift the sanctions now because Putin hasn't changed his behavior. Senator Daines was one of the 11 Republican senators that joined with the rest of the Democrats and supported that resolution. Eventually, it didn't get 60 votes so it failed but that kind of bipartisan support for national security issues is something we need to get back to. For Daines to make that vote, to go against the Trump administration because he thought it was in the national interest, I respect that.

Steve and I disagree on a lot of policy issues. But I want to underscore that I always respect his perspective. Over the years, well before he was a senator, I always enjoyed talking with him and interacting with him. He used to live in the neighborhood where my sister lives in Bozeman. So I'd see him from time to time.

Montana Press: You note in your new book that you struggle with whether to be an activist or an academic in your career. Do you think it's possible to be both?

Michael McFaul: Well I'm still trying. I'm a professor at Stanford University and I love this institution. Stanford is just a fantastic university in so many ways and has been so good to me. Vocationally, what I love about the academy is that facts matter every day here. We have a commitment to the truth and to data and to hypothesis testing in the academy that I respect. I lament that in other domains, more political domains, that it's not the case. I think there should be more academics involved in talking about politics and talking about policy because there's too much data-free conversation that goes on in our country these days. Having said that, I also want to be engaged in the world and I don't just want to analyze it. Finding that balance has been tricky but I feel pretty fortunate that I've been able to play in both fields from time to time.

Montana Press: What advice would you give to young Montanans today interested in studying Russia or the future of democracy outside of America?



"I think there should be more academics involved in talking about politics and talking about policy because there's too much data-free conversation that goes on in our country these days. Having said that, I also want to be engaged in the world and I don't just want to analyze it. Finding that balance has been tricky but I feel pretty fortunate that I've been able to play in both fields from time to time."

Michael McFaul: Read and engage! I think there's just so many more opportunities for Americans, including Montanans, to travel. I was just speaking to some young Montanans over the Christmas holiday about this and told them to just do it. Nothing changed my life more than that first trip abroad I did as a sophomore in college where I went to the Soviet Union. It changed my view. It changed my perspective. You can read about a country all you want, but going there and experiencing it, there's nothing equivalent to it. I would also just encourage Montanans to educate themselves and read. Don't just read Instagram and Twitter but read books written by scholars because there's a difference. Then, get out there and experience the world. It changed my life and I think it could do that for all young people today. ★

Former Ambassador McFaul will be coming to both University of Montana in Missoula and Carroll College in Helena this spring to lecture and discuss his new book "From Cold War to Hot Peace" on April 10 in Missoula and April 11 in Helena. Check www.montanapress.net for updates on the events.

—REILLY NEILL

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MONTANA BOOKS

James Lee Burke Makes a Point with *New Iberia Blues*

Where can you score a handy summary of James Lee Burke's new Louisiana-set Dave Robicheaux mystery, *The New Iberia Blues*? The front page of today's newspaper serves it up cold.

Here's how the 82-year-old Missoula-based Burke describes the societal themes he turned into his 22nd Robicheaux thrill ride:

"What we're watching before our eyes is a re-creation of the same events that occurred in the early 1930s, and that involves the resurrection of nativism, xenophobia and the rise of the demagogues," he says. "They're here, brother; they're back. That's it. There's no question about it."

Sends the reader straight to the sports section. Am I right?

Brandishing his ever-engaging Faulknerian prose, Burke blasts his aging Cajun detective awake when a young woman is found crucified and floating on a wooden cross near the New Iberia lake cabin of his old New Orleans buddy-turned-hot-Hollywood director, Desmond Cormier. The plot thickens when Texas inmate Hugo Tillingier escapes nearby and mob menace Chester Wimple joins the mayhem.

Does it sound like there might be a few of the above-mentioned contemporary themes in there? Make no mistake: Burke knows exactly what he's up to with *The New Iberia Blues*.

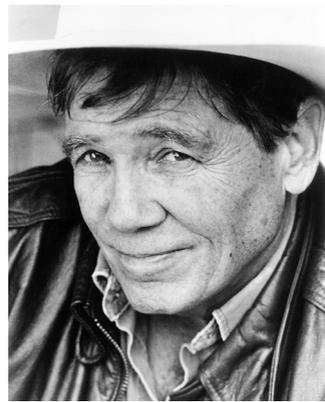
"My book is about fear and the misuse of power. I hope that people enjoy it. It's one of my best books," he says. "In *The New Iberia Blues*, Dave Robicheaux says that he and his partner Clete Purcel will never change the world but the world will never change them. That's the goal. It's not the former, it's the latter. Let the world break its fist on your face and you grin and walk through the cannon smoke. It drives the bad guys up the wall. (laughs) They can't stand it. Shine them on!"

"It's the story we're living out," Burke says. "When people are frightened or they are willing to allow someone to inculcate fear and self-doubt into their midst, they always make the wrong choices. And that's how nativism works – to inculcate fear of others in the electorate. And we've got some masters doing a real job and it has been extremely successful. When people are willing to suspend their mental faculties, to abandon their judgment and to give power over their lives to others, we've got a serious problem, and that's where we are right now."

Burke's Backstory

James Lee Burke grew up in Texas and Louisiana with an unusual awareness of racism, sexism, classism and demagoguery, and learned how to fight back against them, thanks to his great-grandfather, Robert Perry, who hailed from a slave-owning family of wealth and privilege, and great-great uncle, Willie Burke, the son of poor Irish immigrants who opposed slavery. The young writer holds especially dear the diaries of his grandfather Walter Burke, who served as president of the Louisiana Senate during the Huey Long administration.

"He testified against Huey Long when few others had the courage to do so," Burke recalls. "Huey sent the state police to the homes of the witnesses against him the night before their testimony and they were threatened, but



"When people are willing to suspend their mental faculties, to abandon their judgment and to give power over their lives to others, we've got a serious problem, and that's where we are right now."

—James Lee Burke

Huey did not try to do that with my grandfather because of my grandfather's reputation as such a good man. But Huey was a truly awful man."

Long, aka "The Kingfish" and governor of Louisiana from 1928 to 1932, was assassinated in 1935. Burke recalls two other notable demagogues in his lifetime and how they met similar grim fates.

"[Wisconsin Senator] Joseph McCarthy was destroyed by his alcoholism and the fact that one man, Joseph Welch, stood up to him on live TV in a Senate session when he asked, 'Sir, have you no shame?' That one moment brought Joseph McCarthy down," Burke recalls. "And [Alabama Governor] George Wallace paid a terrible price for his demagoguery. He lived out his life in a wheel chair, shot through the spine by one of his own constituents, the kind of man that Wallace had inspired with hatred and rage against people of color or just anybody he could target as part of their agenda. That's the way it was back then. I was around back then."

Burke's artist perspective makes note of both the similarities and differences between demagogues past and present.

"Huey Long was the prototype of all of the demagogues that followed, including Joseph

McCarthy and then George Wallace. The behavior that we see at work now and that has worked so successfully is extrapolated almost word by word, deed by deed, from these three men who were masters of it," Burke says.

"But these men today are not students of history; they're arrogant, they're narcissistic. It's not narcissism; it's what psychiatrists call 'malignant narcissism,' which means people who are just simply pathological. The point is, they understand how the mass mind works and they are marvelous at orchestrating a certain scenario that, as we see, has been very successful. And that's where we are right now."

A Poetic Perspective

Burke summons a line from William Butler Yeats' poem "The Second Coming" to describe our plight: "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

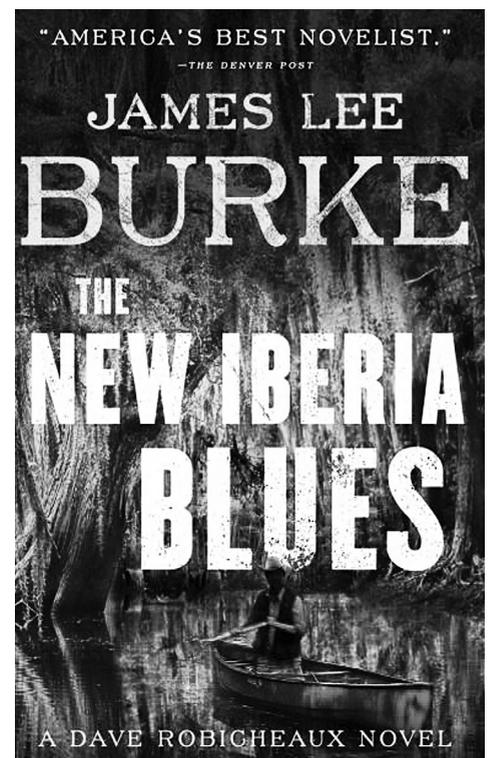
His personal experience also gives Burke great sympathy for the immigrants who long to become Americans.

"Remember what John Steinbeck said about the 1930s and the Great Dust Bowl: 'We became frightened of a man with a hole in his shoe.' It's a great line, and that's where we are now with these poor, desperate people down there on the (southern) border, being demonized," Burke says. "I've lived in a poor village in Mexico and you see the most decent people... they're God's children and they're the most vulnerable people in the world. Yeah, there are some bad guys in there, but there are some bad guys sitting in the dentist office with you. Probably about 98 percent of them are just desperate people. And why is this occurring? It's because their countries are being run by dictators who are absolute tyrants, and exploit it by creating sweat shops down there. Why do drug traffickers exist? Because there's a big market for their products up here in the United States."

As he watches society wrestle with the hand it is currently dealt, Burke admits he has equal misgivings about his fear of a backlash.

"I do worry about the people who are buying into the scam – and it is a scam – that they'll be able to wake up. But it's the unteachability of the liberals and the progressives. This is my fear: they're going to replicate all of the things that brought this about. They're doing it right now," he says.

"I just picked up the paper this morning and there's this new congressperson, wonderful person, really nice lady, talking about a 70 percent income tax! (laughs) Fox News is delighted! They're dancing all over the building about this wonderful story! And they're really going to set the standard to prove how dif-



ferent they are. OK, their circular firing squad is filling up again, going to town. Where is the cyanide punchbowl? I want some more!" He howls.

As for his own separate peace, Burke remarks on the luck of being a struggling young author with guiding him and wife Pearl to their second home, a 120-acre ranch near Missoula.

"I came out here to teach at the University of Montana in the 1960s and I taught three years but I didn't have a doctorate so I had to leave after the three-year contract ended. Fortunately, later, when my work became more commercially successful, we were able to move out here and for many years we lived part-time here and part-time in New Iberia," he recalls.

His fascination with his second home has yet to dim.

"The first day I was here, I said, man, I'm going to plant it here. Where we live is like day one of creation, a wonderful place, the earth at its best. It's full of writers and all kinds of artists, and of course, this was the home of A.B. Guthrie," Burke explains. "John Steinbeck said it best: 'Montana is not a state; it's a love affair.'"

Editor's note: Burke's next book, *Born to Be with You*, will complete a trilogy with *Robicheaux* (2018) and *The New Iberia Blues*. ★

—JAY MACDONALD

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IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Scandinavian farmers, hunters and warriors used skis as a travel mode. By the 18th century, Swedish armies used skis to train. As time wore on, downhill skiing evolved organically from 1850-1900. In the mid-twentieth century, Sun Valley, Idaho, became America's first winter resort in 1936. Since then, skiing and snowboarding has spread as a leisure sport both around the world, and throughout the nation. Skiing has long been a popular pastime in the West, and Montana is home to a host of organized ski resorts for winter enthusiasts from small, family-run affairs to world-class resorts frequented by visitors from across the globe. The 2018-2019 season offers 13 open ski areas for beginners to experts, families, seniors and ski clubs to enjoy from November to April. Here is a brief guide to Montana's winter resorts. Several offer added amenities such as night skiing, yurt trips and a variety of cross-country trails.



Bear Paw Ski Bowl HAVRE, MONTANA

Dubbed "The Last Best Ski Hill," this unique operation in Hill County is run by an all-volunteer group of local skiers. Just 29 miles south of Havre, and accessible by Amtrak train, Bear Paw Ski Bowl's slopes begin right where the highway ends. It stirs up a nostalgic ski era with one double lift and one handle tow. At a base elevation of 4,200 feet, it tops out at a mile high, 5,280 feet, and sports a 900-foot vertical drop. Serving up 24 runs, Bear Paw's longest ski run, the aptly named "Bear Paw," is a half-mile. Average annual snowfall is 140," and its season runs from January - March, operating from 10:30-4:00 daily.



OVERLOOKING FLATHEAD LAKE AT WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

Despite its smaller size, fifty percent of its runs are expert level. The Face and The North Bowl will whet expert skier and rider's whistles, while Bikini Beach and GS are perfect for families with mixed level abilities. Screaming Eagle and the Four Souls will delight intermediate visitors. The other fifty percent is an even split between beginner and intermediate level slopes. This old-fashioned, rustic ski hill will take visitors back to days gone by, when skiing was the sole amenity at resorts.

A full-day adult lift ticket runs \$20, while a half-day runs \$15. A student full-day pass runs \$18, and a half-day \$13. If you happen to be under 8 or over 80, you ski for free!

405-265-8404

bearpawskibowl@yahoo.com

Big Sky Resort BIG SKY, MONTANA

If world-class ski resorts are on your radar, look no further. Big Sky is known for "The Biggest Skiing in America," for the steep runs accessed for 300 degrees down from the Lone Peak tram, the capstone of the area. Open since December of 1973, its skiable terrain spans 5,250 acres, or about two acres per skier, even on a busy day. Thirty-six lifts serve 4,350 feet of vertical terrain, with 18% of its ski runs rated as expert runs, 42% advanced, 25% intermediate runs, and 15% beginner level.

Lone Peak, the summit of Big Sky's operable terrain, tops out at 11,166 feet, offering views of three states and two national parks. Its Mountain Village base sits at 7,500 feet, and its Lone Moose and Six-Shooter base at 6,800 feet. Three hundred runs span across four connected mountains at this expansive mountain paradise, with 24 chair lifts and 12 surface chair lifts, and the infamous Lone

SKI MONTANA!

A FULL GUIDE TO RESORTS ACROSS THE STATE



On December 15, 2018, 45 years after its inception, Big Sky unveiled the Western Hemisphere's first eight-person chairlift, the Ramcharger 8 on Andesite Mountain.

Peak tram, which transports 38,300 skiers and riders per hour. Big Sky's longest run stretches six miles, from Liberty Bowl to Mountain Mall. Seven terrain parks top off the resort's epic options.

On December 15, 2018, 45 years after its inception, Big Sky unveiled the Western Hemisphere's first eight-person chairlift, the Ramcharger 8 on Andesite Mountain. Ergonomically shaped, heated, extra wide seats and a weatherproof bubble protect riders from the elements. "The upgrades unveiled today at Big Sky Resort mark a new age of lift technology," said Taylor Middleton, president and general manager of Big Sky Resort in a press release.

Opening day was November 22, and closing day is slated for April 21, offering Montana's longest season for visitors to relish. With over 400 inches of snowfall per season, and an average daily temperature of 25 degrees, the snow stays cold and the runs never end.

Full day access runs from 9:00-4:00, and adult lift tickets cost \$135-\$154, with discounts for multi-day use. Teens from 13-17 can ski or ride starting from \$118 per day. Big Sky is a member of the Mountain Collective and the Ikon Pass.

**Phone: (800) 548-4486
bigskyresort.com**

**A CHAIRLIFT CARRIES RIDERS UP FOR LAST RUN
AT WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT.**



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**Blacktail Mountain
Ski Area
LAKESIDE, MONTANA**

Towering above the western shore of Flathead Lake, sits Blacktail Mountain Ski Area in Lakeside, Montana. Breathtaking views extend to Glacier National Park, and the Mission, Whitefish and Cabinet Mountain Ranges encompass the area. The parking lot is located at the top of the mountain at 6,780 feet, so visitors get a top to bottom ski run before loading a lift! This family-friendly, affordable ski hill offers over 1,000 acres of skiable National Forest terrain, and 1,440 feet of vertical drop. On December 22, 2018, the resort launched its 21st year of operation. Its longest run is 1.75 miles, and ability levels break down to 20% expert level, 65% intermediate and 15% beginner slopes. The Independence Terrain Park serves gutsy skiers and riders.

Average annual snowfall is 250 inches, and the resort operates two double lifts, a triple and a handle tow, transporting 3,900 guests per hour. Daily lift tickets run \$42 for a full day adult pass, and \$36 for a half day. Teens 13-17 ride for \$30/26, and seniors over 70 ski for free. College or active military are offered \$36 passes. Blacktail is open Wednesday - Sunday from 9:30-4:30 through April 20. Blacktail Mountain X-Country Ski trails are maintained December - March by the North Shore Nordic Club.

406-844-0999
www.blacktailmountain.com

**Bridger Bowl
BOZEMAN, MONTANA**

Gallatin County houses another of Montana's best ski resort gems at Bridger Bowl, just north of Bozeman on the east slope of the Bridger Range located in the southern part of the state. Organized skiing in the Bozeman area goes back to 1935 when the first ski lift in Montana was built near Karst Camp in the Gallatin Canyon. In 1936, the first downhill race on Moose Creek was held and the Bozeman Ski Club was also founded. Operational since the mid-1940s, this locally owned, non-profit ski area offers 2,000 skiable acres and tops out at 8,880 feet of elevation. Four large bowls sit within its boundaries, providing a varied level of ski ability options.

Its vertical rise is 2,700 feet, and 350 inches of annual snowfall grace its slopes. With 75 ski trails served by one quad, six triple chairs and one double chair, visitors are sure to have a good time. Its longest run spans three miles.

Bridger's Ridge terrain serves up some of the state's most challenging in-bounds hike-to skiing and riding, and requires backcountry knowledge and equipment. Two terrain parks accessed from Sunnyside lift round out its amenities. Bridger is open December 7 - April 7 from 9:30 - 4:30 and Adult lift tickets run \$63/\$53, while kids ski for just \$25. Cross-cut Ranch and Bohart Ranch offer nearly 300 acres of Nordic skiing at the base of the Bridger Mountains.

406-587-2111
www.bridgerbowl.com

**Discovery Ski Area
PHILLIPSBURG, MONTANA**

This alpine ski area is located just outside the old mining town of Phillipsburg, along the Pintler Scenic Loop, across from beautiful Georgetown Lake. Three faces of varied ability level comprise 2,200 skiable acres. With a vertical drop of 2,388 feet and a summit of 8,158 feet, intermediate to advanced downhill riders can find thrills on the gentle slopes and advanced groomed cruisers on Discovery's front face, to steep, groomed runs and moguls off Granite Chair. The mountain's backside offers unbridled bliss for more daring enthusiasts.

Winning Ridge is the area's longest run, topping out at 1.5 miles. Five triple chairs, two doubles and one surface chair serve beginner to expert slopes. Medicine Ridge offers stunning views of Flint Creek Valley. With an annual snowfall of 215 inches, its 67 ski trails, 2.5-acre terrain park and 19.6 miles of X-Country trails offer something for everyone. Winter season runs from November 10 - April 7 from 9:30 - 4:00. Adult day tickets run \$49/\$28, and kids 12 and under ride for \$26. This year, the area celebrated its earliest opening ever.

406-563-2184
www.skidiscovery.com

**Great Divide Ski Area
MARYSVILLE, MONTANA**

Northwest of Helena near the Continental Divide in Southwest Montana, lies what is known as "Montana's sunniest ski area." This lesser known ski hill is almost always the first to open in the state, and this year November 10 marked its first day. In 1941 group known as the "Ski Mountaineers" opened the area, calling it the Belmont Ski Hill. Its summit sits at 7,330 feet, and its base area at 5,750 feet. With 1,600 acres of skiable terrain, 110 runs and six terrain parks, this hill is a diamond in the rough, and even offers 9.9 miles of night skiing over 100 acres.

Lighter average snowfall of 150 inches marks this hill, and its five lifts serve 45% advanced, 45% intermediate and 10% beginner runs from 9:30-4:00. Lift tickets run \$35-40 for adults and \$20 for kids. The area will stay open through March 8, 2019.

406-449.3746
www.skigd.com

**Lost Trail,
Powder Mountain
LOST TRAIL PASS, IDAHO-
MONTANA STATE BORDER**

Dubbed the "Rocky Mountains' Hidden Jewel," this family owned ski area offers skiing and snowboarding from the top of the Continental Divide. Opened in 1938, the resort is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Its summit elevation is 8,200 feet and its base sits at 6,400. Serving up an annual snowfall of 325," 60 marked trails span two mountains and 1,800 acres. With a vertical drop of 1,800 feet, this area is a true gem. Five double chairs and three rope tows transport guests around the terrain, and the longest run spans 2.5 miles. Powder Park and South Central round out the area's offerings as two dynamic terrain park options. Adults can ski for \$46/\$41, kids for \$36/32 and seniors over 70 ski for just \$17/\$14. Its season runs mid

December through the first week of April, depending on snow. Open Thursday-Sunday and major holidays from 9:30-4:00, this local hill is sure to satisfy powder hungry winter enthusiasts. Lost Trail's new Prinoth snowcat now transports guests to a four-course meal at its rustic yurt on selected dates, located at the base of Saddle Mountain. For information about the yurt skiing opportunities, contact Will Ferguson at (406)272-524 or email: yurtdinners@losttrail.com

406-821-3211
www.losttrail.com

**Maverick Mountain
Ski Area
POLARIS, MONTANA**

Located in the Beaverhead National Forest in Southwestern Montana near Dillon in Montana's Pioneer Mountains, this unique ski area sports a lone 47-year-old double lift and a tow. The resort recently came under new ownership in 2015. It tops out at a lofty 9,000 feet of elevation. With a vertical drop of 2,020 feet, 24 trails cover 450 acres, and offer mile-long runs, uncrowded slopes and skiing for all ability levels. Expert runs comprise 30% of its slopes, Intermediate 40%, and Beginner the remaining 30%. Double black diamond runs such as Showtime and Widow Maker are favorites for advanced skiers and riders, while Field of Dreams and Thin Air are long blue runs perfect for the whole family, or skiers of mixed ability levels. Adult lift tickets are \$29/29, kids ski for \$25/\$19 and seniors for just \$26. Open Thursday-Sunday and major holidays from 9:30-4:00. Season is snow dependent.

406-834-3454
skimaverick.com

**Red Lodge Mountain
RED LODGE, MONTANA**

In South-Central Montana, just along the eastern front of the Beartooth Mountains, and just outside the town of Red Lodge, lies an alpine ski area known for both its simplicity and its powder stashes. Originally known as Red Lodge Grizzly peak, it was founded by a passionate group of skiers from Red Lodge and Billings in 1960.

Grizzly Peak appropriately marks the summit of this popular ski hill at 9,416 feet, while its base, Palisades Quad, sits at 7,016 feet of elevation. With 1,635 acres of skiable terrain and a 2,400 vertical drop, it is equipped with six chairlifts, one surface lift, 70 marked runs, and it brags 250" of annual snowfall. 'Lazy M,' its longest run, spans 2.5 miles, and two terrain parks lure sporty skiers and riders -- a beginner park on Miami Beach, and an Intermediate Advanced park on Hancock/Lower Continental. Open November 23 - April 15 this season, with lifts spinning from 9:00 - 4:00 daily, skiers of all abilities will find fun at Red Lodge. Expert runs comprise 20% of the area, along with 36% advanced, 25% intermediate and 19% beginner options. Adult lift passes run \$67/\$47 and kids under 12 ski for \$28/\$17. Red Lodge Mountain owns the largest snowmaking system in Montana, which allows it to keep a consistent on-trail snowpack throughout the season, and it is sunny 70% of the time!

406-446-2610
www@redlodgemountain.com



**Showdown Montana
NEIHART, MONTANA**

In Central Montana, in The Little Belt Mountains sits Montana's oldest ski resort. Launched in 1936, and originally called King's Hill Ski Area, it is still known for its friendly atmosphere. In 1957, Showdown installed its first poma lift, and in 1964, its first T-Bar. A triple chairlift followed in 1977, then a beginner chair in 2006 known as Sluice Goose Caboose, and later the "Little Belt Conveyor" for those just learning the sport. Its summit sits at 8,200 feet and its base at 6,800. Its triple chair, two doubles and a surface conveyor transport skiers and snowboarders over 640 skiable acres along 36 marked runs. With a vertical drop of 1,400 feet and 255" of annual snowfall, this lesser known ski area is a diamond in the rough waiting to be discovered. Open December 14 - April 14 from 9:30-4:00 and offers 30% beginner runs, 40% intermediate and 30% expert runs. Adult lift tickets run \$47/42 and kids ski for \$25.

406-236-5522
www.showdownmontana.com

**Snowbowl
MISSOULA, MONTANA**

Just 20 minutes north of downtown Missoula, Snowbowl is another of Montana's mountain treasures. Its first chair went in back in 1962. Built of two peaks with 2,600 feet of vertical drop, Snowbowl's summit sits at 7,600 feet, and its base elevation is 5,000 feet. Spanning 950 skiable acres, its 37 runs include the three-mile long Paradise cruiser and Grizzly, which spans 2,000 vertical feet of steep terrain. Known for its long expert runs like West Bowl, 80% of its runs are designated intermediate and advanced, and its 300" snowfall draws guests from around the state. Open from December to April for 58 years running, four ski lifts transport skiers and riders through steep terrains and chutes, open bowls and glades. Open from 9:30-4:00 from December 8th onward, Snowbowl is open for business, with adult passes running \$50/\$45 and children's passes running \$24.

406-549-9777
www.montanasnobowl.com

**Turner Mountain
Ski Area
LIBBY, MONTANA**

Operational since 1960 and still run mainly by volunteers, this quintessential small town ski area in the Kootenai National Forest housed the "longest T-Bar in America," which ran one mile long. In 2001 the T-Bar, operational for 40 years, was finally replaced with the area's only double chairlift to the summit.

Turner brags a 2,110 vertical drop and brings in 200" of snowfall per year. With a summit elevation of 5,952 feet and a base of 3,842, its 22 designated runs are rated 60%



©Tim Kemple

advanced, 30% intermediate and 10% beginner. Open Friday - Sunday 9:30-4:00, adults ski for \$30 and kids for \$15. If you want to rent the entire mountain, just pick a non-operational day during the open season and make sure to call ahead.

406-293-2468
www.skiturner.com

**Whitefish Mountain
Resort
WHITEFISH, MONTANA**

In the early days before the first T-Bar was installed at Whitefish in 1947, local skiers would hike "Big Mountain in leather boots," and glide down on wooden skis. A Montana favorite is Whitefish Resort, with 3,000 skiable acres in the northern tip of the state. Its summit is 6,817 and its base is 4,664. Known for vast bowls and seemingly endless tree skiing, this area has a vertical drop of 2,353

vertical feet, and is home to 11 chair lifts, two T-Bars, a conveyor belt, four terrain parks, and a skier/snowboarder boardercross course. With 333 inches of snow annually and 105 marked trails, 50 % of its runs are rated difficult or advanced, 38% intermediate and 12% beginner. It's longest run, Hellfire, runs 3.3 miles.

Celebrating its 70th anniversary this season, Whitefish is open December 6 - April 7. Adult lift tickets run \$81/\$71 and kids ski for \$41/\$34. Moonlight Dine & Ski offers guests a unique dining experience overlooking the snowcapped peaks of Glacier National Park from 7,000 feet at its Summit House, followed by a guided moonlight ski back to base.

406-862-2900
www.skiwhitefish.com

Compiled by Jessica L. Flammang
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM VISITMT.COM



BIG SKY RESORT

SOAK IT UP

HOT SPRINGS NEAR SKI AREAS

The perfect compliment to outdoor recreation is soaking in Montana's natural hot springs pools and many are within miles of popular skiing resorts. The following list of Montana's hot spring facilities are noted for their proximity to ski opportunities. For a full and comprehensive list of public hot springs resorts, visit www.montanapress.net.

Big Sky & Bridger Bowl



BOZEMAN HOT SPRINGS 406-586-6492

Bozeman Hot Springs features nearly a dozen indoor and outdoor pools ranging from 57-106°. A fire in 2008 prompted a modern renovation of the facilities to include a solarium, steam room, and dry sauna. New pools outside feature specialized lighting and a deck for live music performances year-round. The facility is located about eight miles west of Bozeman and about 40 minutes from Bridger Bowl and an hour from Big Sky Resort.

www.bozemanhotsprings.com

NORRIS HOT SPRINGS 406-685-3303

About an hour from Bridger Bowl, Norris features one pool fed by a series of artesian springs flowing at a constant rate of 60 gallons per minute with an average temperature of 120°F. A stage at the end of the rustic, fir-lined pool regularly hosts local and traveling live bands and a winter snack bar on-site offers organic, locally-sourced meals along with beer and wine. Norris is open Thursday through Monday during the winter season.

www.norrihotsprings.com

CHICO HOT SPRINGS 406-333-4933

Located at the mouth of Emigrant Gulch, approximately 30 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, Chico is about an hour's drive from Bridger Bowl. The resort has various accommodations—a hotel and western-style cabins are available. Food is available in the Chico Dining Room or a poolside grill and tavern, a day spa features massage and other therapies, and the resort features a full-service conference and event center. The poolside saloon features live music nearly every weekend of the year and beverages are served in plastic containers for guests to enjoy in the hot pools.

www.chicohotsprings.com

Showdown Ski Area

SPA HOT SPRINGS MOTEL & SPA 406-547-3366

The Spa Hot Springs provides a variety of rooms and newly-added cabins with a small-town Montana atmosphere. The facilities feature three mineral hot springs pools: two outdoors and one indoor which are drained, cleaned, and refilled every night with no chemicals added. The Spa Hot Springs Motel is 35 miles from Showdown Ski Area. Open year-round and seven days a week in the winter for lodging and day use soaking.

www.spahotsprings.com

Great Divide Ski Area

BROADWATER HOT SPRINGS 406-443-5777

The Broadwater pools and spas are all filled with natural hot springs water from an artesian well and cooled to comfortable temperatures with natural cold springs water that is exclusive to the Broadwater. Pools consist of a freeform saltwater "springs" pool, a hot tub and cold plunge, a high-temperature soaking pool and a recreation pool all available for year-round use. Live poolside music is featured throughout the winter at the Broadwater and the on-site restaurant features a weekend brunch and a full menu. The adjacent taproom serves beverages to be enjoyed in the hot pools. Broadwater is approximately 30 minutes from the Great Divide Ski Area. www.broadwatermt.com

Discovery Ski Area



FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS 800-332-3272

Located near less than an hour from Discovery Ski Area, Fairmont Hot Springs features a full-service lodging and conference center surrounding natural hot-spring indoor and outdoor pools. During winter, the pools are kept at about 91°F. Hot tubs are at 104°F. There are



two Olympic-sized swimming pools, two mineral soaking pools, one of each located indoors and outdoors. A 350-foot enclosed waterslide is open year round and an on-site spa offers a variety of therapeutic treatments. Full-service restaurants, a lounge and a coffee bar are on-site. www.fairmontmontana.com

Maverick Mountain



ELKHORN HOT SPRINGS 406-834-3434

Located about 40 miles northwest of Dillon, Elkhorn Hot Springs is a year-round hot springs resort which offers two outdoor hot mineral pools, a Grecian sauna, a restaurant, and a bar. Accommodations include rustic cabins, modern cabins, or lodge rooms.

The hot springs pools are naturally heated by geothermal energy and range in temperature from 92-102°F. The indoor wet sauna heats up to 104-106°F.

www.elkhornhotsprings.com

Lost Trail Powder Mountain

LOST TRAIL HOT SPRINGS 406-821-3574

About 80 miles south of Missoula off highway 83, Lost Trail Powder Mountain ski area is six miles south of the rustic resort of Lost Trail Hot Springs. The resort includes ten cabins, including two Jacuzzi cabins and a motel as well as the outdoor pool, indoor hot tub and dry sauna. A restaurant is open seasonally

www.lostrailhotsprings.com



Blacktail Mountain, Snowbowl & Whitefish Resort

QUINN'S HOT SPRINGS 406-826-3150

Quinn's Hot Springs (pictured above) is located about an hour and a half from Blacktail Mountain and an hour and a half from Snowbowl, Quinn's Hot Springs Resort features an extensive, divided soaking pool and plunge, lodging and dining facilities.

Rooms and cabins are available in and adjacent to the lodge, including an adults-only section of riverside cabins. Quinn's is open seven days a week year-round.

www.quinnshotsprings.com

SYMES HOT SPRINGS 406-741-2361

Hot Springs, Montana features a number of hot springs facilities and is within an hour or two of Blacktail Mountain, Snowbowl and Whitefish Mountain Resort. The present-day Symes Hot Springs Hotel in Hot Springs, Mont. has been in operation since 1928. An artesian well into a shallow aquifer feeds hot mineral waters into a flow-through pool in the front of the hotel. The upper pool is toasty at 104°F while the lower pool is more sustainable for most bathers, around 100°F, with a waterfall between the two pools.

The Symes Hotel also offers live music on some weekends during the winter season. The hotel and mineral pools are open year-round.

www.symeshotsprings.com

WILD HORSE HOT SPRINGS 406-741-3777

One of a few soaking facilities in Hot Springs, Mont., Wild Horse Hot Springs features a half dozen private soaking plunges in a remote location just outside the town of Hot Springs. The highway and gravel road to the facility are plowed in the winter and the springs are open year-round.

www.wildhorsehotsprings.com

BIG MEDICINE HOT SPRINGS 406-741-5140

Big Medicine Hot Springs offers a primitive outdoor cement pool located in the geothermal city of Hot Springs. The Salish and Kootenai Indian tribes own the hot springs and bathhouse buildings.

The facility offers two soaking options, a large soaking pool and a smaller Jacuzzi which are emptied every night. A small, cash fee is charged. ★

www.montanapress.net

MONTANA BREWS

From Craft Brew To Major Export: Red Lodge Ales

On a Monday afternoon last December, I sat down for a pint with the founder and owner of Red Lodge Ales, Sam Hoffmann, to speak with him about the brewery. Fans of Montana-made beer out there have undoubtedly enjoyed a Red Lodge Ales beer recently. From favorite watering holes to the grocery store aisles, Red Lodge Ales is ubiquitous in Montana.

The brewery is nestled nicely near the hillside on the northern edge of Red Lodge, Mont., alongside Highway 212, the design and red paint fitting in nicely with the bright red barns dotting the Montana landscape. The only exception is a massive window facing the highway which allows

a glimpse of the glimmer of the stainless steel brewing tanks in the interior.

According to Hoffman, when the brewery opened in 1998 it was primarily a one-man operation, an early start-up during the craft beer boom of the 1990s.

Hoffman was a home brewer for a time before he opened the brewery, working in the ski industry and ranching before leaping into professional brewing.

Twenty years later, Red Lodge Ales is no longer a one-man show. With a dozen employees and distribution throughout Montana and parts of Wyoming and North Dakota, Red Lodge Ales is a flagship brand for the Montana craft beer industry.

Since the early days in the late 1990s, production has risen to 8,000-8,500 barrels of beer per year. As one barrel of beer equals 31 gallons, that translates to over two million pints of beer produced annually.

The brewery building has also grown. The brewery has already moved twice to accommodate expansions in production and will soon be upgrading their packaging operation to include a canning line, shifting all their six-pack offerings away from the 12-ounce glass bottle.

For the glass lovers out there, do not fret, favorite Red Lodge beers will be available in larger format bomber bottles.



Today at the Brewery

The brewery's best selling beer has been their Bent Nail IPA. Bent Nail is a heady brew teaming with the famous Northwestern Cascade hops, bursting with pine and its signature grapefruit/citrus aroma. This beer accounts for 50 percent of sales according to Hoffman.

Red Lodge Ales is known for more than this scrumptious IPA, they also boast a wide range of year-round brews like Czech Mate pilsner, Glacier amber alt beer, Jack's 90 Scottish ale, and Helio hefeweizen. Their seasonal offers are wide-ranging and keep about a dozen beer taps filling pint glasses year round.

Although it's now mid-winter and heading to spring, I would be remiss if I failed to mention Red Lodge Ales' annual Oktoberfest and brew. Worth waiting for the entire year, this annual autumn event, inspired by the original in Munich, Germany, embodies all the best of what Oktoberfest has to offer. There is plenty of food, music, and of course Red Lodge Ale's amber Oktoberfest seasonal lager. Last year, Hoffman celebrated his twenty-first Oktoberfest festival at the brewery.

Right from the beginning, Red Lodge Ales and Sam Hoffmann have been joyfully plying Montanans with lagers, bratwurst, and polka music. Next time you are passing through Red Lodge, stop into Sam's taproom and enjoy a pint or a flight, and sample one of Montana's finest exports: craft beer. ★

— Dr. Paul J. Pope



The brewery's best selling beer is the Bent Nail IPA. Bent Nail is a heady brew teaming with the famous Northwestern Cascade hops, bursting with pine and its signature grapefruit and citrus aroma. This beer accounts for 50 percent of sales according to brewery owner Sam Hoffman.



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BIG SKY BLUEGRASS: LANEY LOU AND THE BIRD DOGS TO RECORD NEW ALBUM

Unifying a four-part harmony and a vigorous musical drive, the Bird Dogs have taken an active approach to the local and regional festival circuit. With their bounce and upbeat ballads and eager-voiced delivery, the Bird Dogs hope to stake a claim in the bluegrass-folk festival genre with their own distinctive sound and devoted fan base.

Part and parcel of the doctrine of the Bozeman-based band is an undeniable can-do spirit from a gaggle of good-timers who are committed to chart the boulevard of bluegrass with an unyieldingly brisk folk-country mark.

"Festivals are so much fun," says Lena "Laney Lou" Schiffer of Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs.

"You've got a one-hour slot to show your best work and to capture their attention," Schiffer says. "Festivals are fun settings and generally everyone is in the best of moods. The weather is great, and backstage is a great setting. You are part of this bigger vibe that everyone is trying to create. Not only do you play but you get to listen to all of these other bands, and gather inspiration."

Settlin' in with Their Sound

With a flock of musicians who draw from a number of collective experiences in eclectic bands, the Bird Dogs have comfortably settled into the frontier of bluegrass-country music.

They've invested the time it takes to build the infrastructure of a fan base with a mixture of innovative covers and swift-tempo originals.

"We have a whole process to see if it draws up to a usable cover or not, and we've learned a few different traditions or covers and some stick, but overall we seek out covers with great harmonies. For instance, she notes that 'Fat Bottomed Girl' has a great four-part harmony and 'Sharecropper's Son' has a harmony throughout the chorus and a real potential for vocals.

"We are constantly growing as a band and finding our style," Schiffer adds. "I think the great thing that contributes to a versatile and variable set is that we each write different songs: Matt, Josh, Brian and I, and we can make that song a Bird Dog tune. It starts as an idea and someone else dotes on it and adds their flair.

"As a group we pick out each song and then all start throwing in our own creative juices... we can start with something that's not a high-energy song, and we can go with the ebb and flow of set, rotating to a slow or harmony-driven piece," she explains. "It creates sets that rise and fall and creates a whole scene."

In the Studio

The Bird Dogs released a live self-titled studio album in 2016, recorded at Basecamp Studio in Bozeman. Their follow-up album, *The Vigilante Session*, was recorded live at a forest service cabin in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

While the quintet is still learning about all of the responsibilities that come with the gift of music, they have already shared the stage with a plethora of talents including The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Leftover Salmon, The Infamous Stringdusters, The Black Lillies, and most recently Amy Helm.



Lena "Laney Lou" Schiffer and the Bird Dogs originated in Bozeman just a few years ago but have already shared the stage with a plethora of talents including The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Leftover Salmon, The Infamous Stringdusters, The Black Lillies and, most recently, Amy Helm.

"We had the chance in July (2018) to be with Amy Helm and her band," says Schiffer. "They were such friendly people that we met and immediately connected with, and we were invited up on the stage to sing and play fiddle and made a great connection."

The fivesome consists of Schiffer on vocals-guitar-percussion, Matt Demarais on vocals-banjo-dobro, bassist Ethan Demarais, Brian Kassay on fiddle-mandolin-harmonica, and guitarist Josh Moore who also shares vocal duties.

The Bird Dogs originated in Bozeman, though the crew all have starting points elsewhere, including the Demarais brothers who claim roots in Great Falls. Schiffer arrived in Montana from California less than a decade ago while other members drifted this far north from Colorado and North Carolina.

"We basically connected through Craigslist," said Schiffer. "I'd just finished massage school and I wanted to play in a folk band and be part of that community. Craigslist had a music page and we started there about five years ago."

Schiffer somehow managed to locate a handful of future bandmates who all shared similar musical aspirations: to cultivate an expression that paid homage to contemporary bluegrass-folk stalwarts such as the Old Crow Medicine Show, Trampled by Turtles, The SteelDrivers, Devil Makes Three, and Gillian Welch.

"We wanted to do something in the style of the Old Crow Medicine Show, covers that were not super-traditional bluegrass," she says. "None of us comes from a traditional bluegrass background, but our love of folk – Allison Krauss, Jackson Browne and Neil Young – that contributes to the style. We find that uplifting."



The band's philosophy is to merely continue to crank out music as happy chemicals. It's about giving them – and others – the vitality and initiative needed to infuse and energize the power of song.

"Happiness a big part of why we've chosen to play and write the way that we do," says Schiffer. "Our music inspires people to dance and smile and connect with us. The thing that drives us is seeking out that audience connection, and they are giving energy to us, and we completely try to give that energy back. It's a great exchange of energy and we feel the excitement and energy coming right back, and that's sort of addicting in a way. It's really symbiotic. You crave that after a while."

The spontaneous part of the band is still foraging, scanning the world for details leading to a reward and a sense of place.

"We are flying by the seat of our pants and connecting with other musicians and asking for advice. We have a great team, and all five of us play a specific role, and we have a machine that has figured out each other's strengths and capitalizes on that... we've been spending time in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon, and Washington, as well as parts of Colorado and our short-term goal is to build a following in those states, and to hit the Midwest next year: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Iowa, and to add that to our roster."

Expanding their Audience

Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs don't just daydream, they take action. In addition to plans of expanding into other regional markets, the band hopes to record its first full professional studio album by the end of the year (the first two albums were comprised of live recordings).

"We are going through an interesting phase as musicians right now," concluded Schiffer. "CD sales are not the highest point of income anymore. It's about touring and getting yourself in front of actual people. You have to prove yourself these days and be proving to the people who book that we are serious and that we can engage a crowd, and that this is what we want to be doing."

In early February, Laney Lou and the crew head to Prairie Sun Records, in California, to record their first full-length studio album, a collection of original songs derived from outlaw country, blues, rock n' roll, and traditional bluegrass influences. Seventy-four backers pledged \$21,602 through Kickstarter to fund the endeavor.

"We think it will appeal to a wide audience," said Schiffer. "We are excited for our fans to hear how the Bird Dog's songwriting has progressed. We were lucky enough to crowdsource enough money to fund this project and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

After recording the new studio album, the band will appear live across the state in early March:

March 1: Filling Station, Bozeman

March 2, Covellite Theater, Butte

March 3: Lena Marie Schiffer Solo, Pine Creek Café, Livingston

March 8: Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena

March 9: Great Northern Brewing, Whitefish

Pre-order the new album here:
www.thebird-dogs.com

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

We welcome additions and corrections to our monthly calendar. Please send updates to info@montanapress.net.

Friday, February 1

Statewide

"Death of a Salesman," stage play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272
Restless Pines, original folk/roots, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Wind in the Willows, folk music, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
The Dodgy Mountain Boys, country, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

Downtown Billings ArtWalk, 4 p.m., Billings, 256-6804
"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141
Funky Bunch Improv, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Bozeman

Alex Robilotta, jazz, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
The Movement, indie rock, 7 p.m., The Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585
"Noises Off," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303

Helena

Little Red Truck Vintage Market, 5 p.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481
The Waiting, Tom Petty tribute, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
Tom Catmull and John Dendy, Americana, 7 p.m., The Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980
"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
The Montana Reggae Band, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

Great Falls

"The Wizard of Oz," musical stage play, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102
El Wencho, country/pop duo, 7 p.m., The Sting Sports Bar, Great Falls, 727-7972
Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Butte & Surrounding

Montana Farmer's Union Women's Conference, 4 p.m., Fairmont Hot Springs, 727-3241
Opening Reception, "Big Sky Scribes," 5 p.m., Main Stope Gallery, Butte, 782-8311

Missoula

First Friday Gallery Night, 5 p.m., Downtown Missoula, 541-0860
102nd Forester's Ball with Cash for Junkers, 7 p.m., Schreiber Gym, UM, Missoula, 243-6880
American College Dance Association Benefit Concert, rock, 7:30 p.m., The Open Space, Missoula, 243-4581
Backcountry Film Festival, 7:30 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
World Rhythms Concert with Omar Keita, 7:30 p.m., Dennison Theatre, Missoula, 728-7363
The Districts: Deeper, rock, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980
Dakota Poorman, country, 9:30 p.m., Sunrise Saloon, Missoula, 728-1559
The Sound Exchange, a cappella, Paradise Center, Paradise, 7:30 p.m., 826-0500



FIRST FRIDAY GALLERY NIGHT

Most Missoula galleries and several retail businesses celebrate new exhibits on the first Friday of the month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Meet artists from throughout the region and enjoy refreshments and appetizers. Info: artsmissoula.org



BIG SKY SCRIBES EXHIBIT

The Main Stope Gallery in Butte will host a show of work by members of Big Sky Scribes during the month of February. The Scribes are a state-wide guild of lettering artists. Calligraphic work from artists in Helena, Bozeman, Missoula and Butte will be on display. An opening reception will be held at the gallery located in uptown Butte at 8 South Montana, on Friday, Feb. 1 from 5 p.m. to 8 pm. The show will be on display for the entire month. Info: bigskyscribes.org

Saturday, February 2

Statewide

"Death of a Salesman," stage play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, 8 p.m., Havre, 945-0272
Montana Raptor Center Program, 1:30 p.m., Elling House, Virginia City, 843-5454
Lang Termes, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Tom Susanj, troubador, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855
The Dirt Farmers, high energy bluegrass, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
www.Twang, country, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

Billings Symphony presents Motown Magic, 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052
"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Bozeman

The Dusty Pockets, recreational Americana, 7 p.m., The Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585
"Noises Off," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
Bozeman Symphony, "A Classical Surprise," 7:30 p.m., Wilson Auditorium, Bozeman, 585-9774

Helena

Little Red Truck Vintage Market, 10 a.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481
"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Winter Extra-Va-Dance-A, 7 a.m., Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, 761-8876
Broadway in Great falls, "Wizard of Oz," musical, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Mansfield Theater, 453-4102
Walleye's Unlimited Banquet, 4 p.m., Pacific Steel and Recycling Arena, 403-2037
Melissa Dascoulias, acoustic guitar, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342

Butte & Surrounding

Auditions for ages 7 and up, "Urinetown," 12 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Midwinter Meltdown, live music with Seda, Nintendo, Animal Treats, DC CHI3F, and Not Sure, 8 p.m., Covellite Theatre, Butte, 498-6869

Missoula

"Groundhog Day" all-day marathon screening and contest, 10 a.m., Roxy Theater, Missoula, 728-9380
Winter BrewFest, 12 p.m., Caras Park, Missoula, 543-4238
Missoula Art Museum's 47th Annual Benefit Art Auction, 5 p.m., UC Ballroom, UM, Missoula, 728-0447
Old Fashioned, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Frederico Brothers, musical duo, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
LP-Heart to Mouth Tour, singer/songwriter, 7:30 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
Dakota Poorman, country, 9:30 p.m., Sunrise Saloon, Missoula, 728-1559
Walking Corpse Syndrome, metal, 10:15 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Sunday, February 3

Statewide

Acoustic Brunch: Ian Thomas, American/Folk, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Wolf and the Moons, Americana/bluegrass, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Billings

"Be My Baby" stage play, 2 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Bozeman

"Noises Off," stage play, 3 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
Bridger Mountain Big Band, swing music, 7 p.m., The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

Helena

Little Red Truck Vintage Market, 10 a.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481
"The Book of Will" stage production, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Celtic Music Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Session, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Missoula

Love is a Dog from Nebraska, rock, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
The Acousticals, live acoustic, 7 p.m., Red Bird Wine Bar, Missoula, 549-2906

Monday, February 4

Statewide

Foxy Blues, blues/rock, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Bluegrass Jam, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855

Bozeman

Broadway in Bozeman, "Wizard of Oz," musical, 7:30 p.m., Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman, 994-2287

Helena

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

Missoula

Raising the Dead, live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula
Open Mic hosted by Gary Kiggins, Imagine Nation Brewing, 6 p.m., Missoula, 926-1251
Lecture with Jean Guerrero, author of "Border Walls: My Cross-Border Memoir and U.S. Immigration Policy," 7 p.m., Law School Building Room 101, UM, Missoula, 728-7363

Tuesday, February 5

Statewide

Danny Bee, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

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

Bozeman

Human Trafficking in Context, discussion panel, 6 p.m., Crawford Theater, Emerson Center, Bozeman (360) 731-2373
Open Mic, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Zocalo Coffee, Bozeman, 404-1036

Helena

String Beings, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, 443-1729
Beat Deaf, rhythm band, 6 p.m., Broadwater Springs, 443-5777

Missoula

Lecture with Dr. Alexes Harris, "A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor," 4 p.m., Gallagher Business Building Room 123, UM, Missoula, 728-7363

Tuesday Picking Circle,

bluegrass, 6 p.m., Montana Distillery, Missoula, 541-1889
Reading with Stephanie Land, "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive," 7 p.m., Shakespeare and Co., Missoula, 549-9010
Wilderness Issues lecture with MaryAnn Bonjomi, "Finding the Language of Place," 7 p.m., Gallagher Business Building Room 123, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Imagine Ireland, Irish traditional music, Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Old Post Picking Circle, 8:30 p.m., Old Post Pub, Missoula, 721-7399



GROUNDHOG DAY MARATHON CONTEST AT THE ROXY THEATER IN MISSOULA FEB. 2

Marathoners endure SEVEN screenings, with 15-minute breaks in between each one. Make it through ALL of them and win a T-shirt specially designed for this year's marathon as well as a special Groundhog Day Membership, which grants you free admission and free popcorn to any regular film screening at The Roxy for a year. Tickets to individual screening are also available. Marathon starts at 9:30 a.m. Info: theroxytheater.org

Wednesday, February 6

Billings

Open Mic, 6 p.m. Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
Open Mic, 7 p.m., Yellowstone Cellars, Billings, 671-0851
Neil McCoy, country, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Bozeman

Walcrik, Americana, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124
Pickin' in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 6:30 p.m., Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290

Helena

"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Melissa Dascoulias, acoustic guitar, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
Ping Pong Throwdown, 7 p.m., Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300

Missoula

Bob Wire and Jussie Wesloh, country acoustic, 7 p.m., Wave and Circuit, Missoula, 550-3145
Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt, SOLD OUT, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
Opening night, "Biography of a Constellation" studio theatre, 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre, UM, Missoula, 728-7363

Thursday, February 7

Statewide

Lecture with Shanti Johnson, "Responsible Consumerism in a 24-hour Media Cycle," 6:30 p.m., Livingston-Park County Public Library, 243-6022
Writer's Night: Peter Bowen, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Larry Hirschberg, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Billings

Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt, acoustic music, 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052
Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show, cabaret and cooking show, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141
Projectile Comedy, 8 p.m., The Loft, Billings, 259-9074

Bozeman

Reading with Stephanie Land, "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive," 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166
Lang Termes, acoustic eclectic, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399



OPENING IN EARLY FEBRUARY:

"Be My Baby" at the Billings Studio Theatre from Feb. 1-17.

John, an uptight Scotsman and Maude, and uptight English woman, both in their late 50s, take a journey of a lifetime.

They are brought together with his ward marries her niece. Then, when the young couple decide to adopt a newborn baby, the older couple must travel to California to bring the child safely home to Scotland.

Info: billingsstudiotheatre.com

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Thursday, February 7 (cont.)

Bozeman

Band of Drifters, country, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Mountain Yarns: Community Story Telling, 7:30 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804
"Noises Off," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
AJ Fullerton Band, blues and roots, 8 p.m., Zebra Lounge, Bozeman, 585-8851

Helena

2019 Governor's Humanities Awards, ceremony, 3 p.m., State Capitol Rotunda, banquet and program to follow, Marriott Hotel Colonial, 243-6022
Travis Yost, pop/Americana, 5 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026
Montana Made Thursdays, 6 p.m., Miller's Crossing, Helena, 442-3290
Open Mic, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Insufficient Funds Band, classic rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
Mojo Revue, electrified blues, 7 p.m., Rathskeller, Helena, 442-5980
"Silent Sky," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
Letters Aloud, "Fame," live theatre, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Great Falls

Eden Bridge, honky-tonk, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
Weekly Irish Seisium, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393
The Thrillbillies, country music, 6 p.m., The Sting Sports Bar, Great Falls, 727-7972
Lecture with Rachel Severson, "Screen Time and Green Time: Effects of Increased Technology on Children's Development," 7 p.m., Great Falls College MSU, Heritage Hall, 899-0277

Missoula

"Biography of a Constellation" studio theatre, 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Trio Noir, jazz, 8 p.m., Plonk, Missoula, 926-1791
Open Mic, 8 p.m. VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Friday, February 8

Statewide

Dan Henry, blues/reggae/folk, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Dammit Lauren and the Well, rock/blues, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
The Max, classic rock, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Bozeman

The Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show, cabaret meets cooking show, 7 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Donny Elliot Band, 5:30 p.m., Kountry Komer Café, Four Corners, 586-2281
Alex Robilotta, jazz, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
"Noises Off," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
"Fun Home," musical stage play, opening night, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Jeff Christiansen, rhythm guitar and vocals, 7 p.m., The Sting Sports Bar, Great Falls, 727-7972

Missoula

Bill Lacroix, folk music, 11 a.m., Bagels on Broadway, Missoula, 728-8900
"Biography of a Constellation" studio theatre, 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Polyrhythms, funk/jazz, 8 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980



THE MAI WAH SOCIETY UNFURLS A 100-FOOT CEREMONIAL DRAGON IN BUTTE FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE ON FEB. 9

Saturday, February 9

Statewide

Todd Green, acoustic/eclectic, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
The Max, classic rock, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

My Furry Valentine, Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter fund raiser, live music with the Dead Presleys, 6:30 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Bozeman

Bozeman Winter Farmers' Market, 9 a.m., Emerson Ballroom, Bozeman, 587-9797
Bozeman Symphony: Free Family Concert, 10:30 a.m., Wilson Auditorium, Bozeman
Bob Britten, pianist, 5:30 p.m., Kountry Komer Café, Four Corners, 586-2281
"Noises Off," stage play, 7:30 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Letters Aloud, "Fame," live theatre, 7:30 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
"Fun Home," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

Feb Fest Chocolate and Valentine Fair, 9 a.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481
Ocelot Wizard, indie rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"Silent Sky," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Pub Crawlers, celtic, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
Great Falls Symphony presents "Heart and Fire," 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102
Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Butte & Surrounding

Storybook Theatre, "Ruby the Copycat," 11 a.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Mai Wah Chinese New Year Parade, 3 p.m., Mai Wah Museum, Butte, 723-3231
Tom Susanj, troubadour, 5 p.m., Phillipsburg Brewing Company, Phillipsburg, 859-2739
"Cereal: The Most Important Meal of the Month," theatrical experience, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657
Virginia City "Brewery Follies" come to Anaconda, 7 p.m., Washoe Theater, Anaconda, 563-6161

Missoula

The Old So and So's, rock, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Crazy Dog Band, rock, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Comedian Mary Houlihan, "Me and Jack" one-woman show, 7 p.m., Roxy Theater, Missoula, 728-9380
"Biography of a Constellation" studio theatre, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
The Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show, cabaret meets cooking show, 5 p.m. & 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



J BOOG BRINGS REGGAE MUSIC TO BILLINGS AND MISSOULA FEB. 19 AND 20.



DIRTY SEXY CHOCOLATE SHOW

Back for its 4th ridiculous year, join CheffyPants and his sexy kitchen crew as they prepare an actual chocolate dessert on stage. The Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show is sexy cabaret meets cooking Show — complete with singing, dancing, original music, sock puppets, and obscene amounts of chocolate. For real, it's included in the ticket price. You get a decadent chocolate dessert at the end. It's a homegrown Missoula show that's now launched a ten-city Northwest tour, as well as upcoming runs in various cities around the country.

Touring across Montana this month:

Feb. 7 in Billings at the Pub Station; Feb. 8 in Bozeman, MT at The Rialto; Feb. 9 in Missoula at The Wilma; Feb. 21 in Deer Lodge at The Rialto Theatre; Feb. 22 in Whitefish at Casey's; and Feb. 23 in Great Falls, MT at The Do Bar.

Info: dirtysexychocolateshow.com Photo by Kathryn Hayes

Monday, February 11 (cont.)

Missoula

Raising the Dead, live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula
Open Mic hosted by Gary Kiggins, Imagine Nation Brewing, 6 p.m., Missoula, 926-1251
Lecture with Dennis Swibold, "What Happened to the News?" 6:30 p.m., Missoula Public Library, 243-6022
Blue Moon, jazz/blues, 7 p.m., Red Bird Wine Bar, Missoula, 549-2906
Guster, studio synth, 8:30 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula, 728-7980

Tuesday, February 12

Statewide

Spectrum, Motown rhythm and blues, 7 p.m., Fort Benton Elementary School, Fort Benton, 622-2013

Bozeman

Open Mic, 7 p.m., Zocalo Coffee, Bozeman, 404-1036

Helena

String Beings, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Brett Veltri and the Sleeping Giants, Americana, 6 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena, 443-5777

Butte & Surrounding

John Floridis, folk, 6 p.m., Elk Ridge Brewery, Deer Lodge, 846-4650

Missoula

Old Post Picking Circle, 8:30 p.m., Old Post Pub, Missoula, 721-7399
Tuesday Picking Circle, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Montana Distillery, Missoula, 541-1889

Imagine Ireland, Irish traditional music, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Wilderness Issues lecture with Julie Cajune, "We are Obligate Mutualists: The Stories of Soul Mates," 7 p.m., Gallagher Business Building Room 123, UM, Missoula, 728-7363

Turkuaz, funk and alternative, Top Hat Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980

Hippie Sabotage, ambient, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521



FEBRUARY BREW FESTS:

SATURDAY, FEB. 2:

Winter BrewFest, 12 p.m., Caras Park, Missoula, 543-4238

SATURDAY, FEB. 16:

Queen City Ball, Winter Beer Fest, 5 p.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481

Sunday, February 10

Statewide

Tom Catmull, original and stolen Americana, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Acoustic Brunch: Mercedes Carroll, Americana, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Bridger Mountain Big Band, swing music, 7 p.m., The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

Billings

"Be My Baby" stage play, 2 p.m., Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Helena

Justin Case Band, acoustic guitar, 6 p.m., Silver Star Steak Co., Helena, 495-0677
My Favorite Sons, jazz, 7 p.m., Walker's Grill, Billings, 245-9291

Bozeman

Final performance, "Noises Off," stage play, 3 p.m., MSU Black Box Theater, Bozeman, 994-3303
Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 3 p.m., Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
The Hooligans, rock and blues jam band, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

Helena

"The Book of Will" stage production, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Missoula

Carla Green, jazz, 5 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
Ed Norton Big Band, 18-piece band, swing, 6 p.m., Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, 360-8763
Britchy, acoustic music, Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575
The Sunday Nightcap, an evening of comedy and burlesque, 8 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Monday, February 11

Statewide

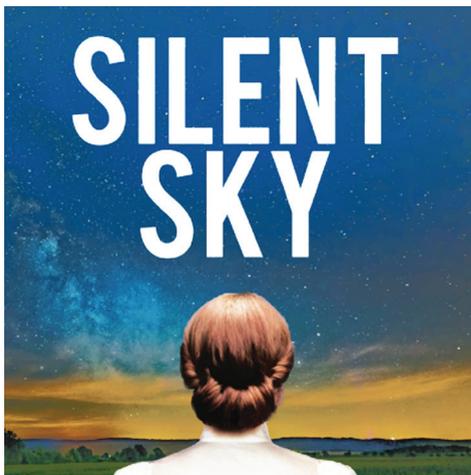
Dan Henry, acoustic guitar, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Bluegrass Jam, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855

Bozeman

One Book, One Bozeman Lecture with Bob Rydell, "World's Fairs in American and European Fiction," 6:30 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166
Improv on the Verge, comedy, 7 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

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



LIVE ON STAGE AT THE GRANDSTREET THEATRE IN HELENA: "SILENT SKY," THE TRUE STORY OF 19TH CENTURY ASTRONOMER HENRIETTA LEAVITT EXPLORES A WOMAN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY DURING A TIME OF IMMENSE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES. PLAYING LIVE FEB. 7 THROUGH FEB. 23.

Wednesday, February 13

Billings

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

Open Mic, 7 p.m. Yellowstone Cellars, Billings, 671-0851

Bozeman

Lecture with Dr. Grace Elizabeth Hale, "Cool Town: Athens, Georgia and the Promise of Alternative Culture in Reagan's America," 5 p.m., Norm Asbjornson Hall, room 165, MSU Bozeman, (434) 228-1545

Bozambique, latin fusion, 5:30 p.m.,

Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124

Dan Henry, singer/songwriter, 6 p.m.,

MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

Pickin' in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 6:30 p.m. Story

Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290

Lecture with Dr. Douglas Smith, "Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World's First National Park," 7 p.m., Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 728-3328

Turkuaz, funk and alternative, 7:30 p.m.,

The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

The Buffalo Ruckus, roots and soul, 8 p.m.,

The Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Haufbrau Open Mic, 10 p.m., Bozeman, 587-4931

Helena

Helena Blues Project, blues, 6 p.m.,

Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

Cow Tipping Comedy, 6:30 p.m.,

Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Spectrum, Motown rhythm and blues, 7:30 p.m.,

Helena Civic Center, 447-8382

"Silent Sky," stage play, 7:30 p.m.,

Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Jayne Stone's Folklife, Americana performances,

7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Great Falls

Ping Pong Throwdown, 7 p.m.,

Back Alley Pub, Great Falls, 762-9300

Butte & Surrounding

Spectrum, Motown rhythm and blues, 7 p.m.,

Rialto Theatre, Deer Lodge, 846-7900

Missoula

John Floridis and Friends, blues and folk rock, 6 p.m.,

Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Old Time Cider Jam, 6 p.m.,

Western Cider, Missoula, 540-4477

Beats Antique, world/funk and electronic, 7 p.m.,

The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Thursday, February 14

Statewide

"Cabaret," musical stage play, opening night, 8 p.m.,

Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Men of Worth, Scottish/Irish folk, 7 p.m., Libby Memorial

Events Center, 293-9643

Billings

Pack Rats, jazz, 6 p.m.,

Yellowstone Cellars, Billings, 671-0851

For the Love of the hEARTs fund raiser, jazz with John

Roberts Duo, 6:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Chris Robinson Brotherhood, rock, 7 p.m.,

Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

"Be My Baby" stage play, 7 p.m.,

Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

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

Bozeman

Foxy Blue, blues, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m.

Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

Infamous Stringdusters, progressive bluegrass, 7 p.m.,

The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Helena

Dan Henry, blues/folk, 5 p.m.,

Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

Damon Johnson from Thin Lizzy, rock, 7 p.m.,

Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m.,

Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Thursday, February 14 (cont.)

Missoula

Basses Covered, jazz, 6 p.m.,

Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251

Open Mic, 8 p.m., VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749

Homegrown Open Mic Comedy, signup at 9:30 p.m.,

show at 10 p.m., Union Club, Missoula, 728-7980

Skiitour, electronica duo,

Top Hat Lounge, 9 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980

Friday, February 15

Statewide

Lecture with Courtney Cowgill, "Localvore News,"

5:30 p.m., Old Roosevelt School, Red Lodge, 243-6022

Men of Worth, Scottish/Irish folk, 7 p.m.,

Lincoln County High School, Eureka, 297-7310

"Cabaret," musical stage play, 8 p.m.,

Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Leah Woods, indie.folk and soul, 7 p.m.,

Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Downtime Band, dance/pop and reggae/country, 8 p.m.,

Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Ward Davis with Sean Devine, country, 8 p.m.,

The Attic, Livingston, 222-6106

Letter B, indie rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Billings

Philip Aaberg/Jeni Fleming concert and dinner, 7 p.m.,

Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

The Hot Club of San Francisco, swing and jazz,

7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

"Our Town," play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

"Be My Baby" play, 7 p.m.,

Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141

Hot Club of San Francisco, music of the Beatles,

7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

Bozeman

Alex Robilotta, jazz, 7 p.m.,

Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399

Chris Robinson Brotherhood, rock, 7:30,

The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 7:30 p.m.,

Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

"Fun Home," musical stage play, 8 p.m.,

Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

Blue Water Highway, Texas blues, 7 p.m.,

Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

"Silent Sky," stage play, 7:30 p.m.,

Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Justin Case Band, 9 p.m., rock and roll,

Miller's Crossing, Helena, 442-3290

Butte & Surrounding

Butte Symphony, "Four Bill Centuries of music from

Northern Europe," 7:30 p.m.,

The Mother Lode Theatre, Butte, 723-5590

Bill Lacroix, folk music, 11 a.m.,

Bagels on Broadway, Missoula, 728-8900

Missoula

"Johnny Appleseed," stage play, 7 p.m.,

Missoula Children's Theatre, 728-7529

V-Day "The Vagina Monologues," 7 p.m.,

Dennison Theater, UM, Missoula, 243-6880

Infamous Stringdusters, progressive bluegrass, 7 p.m.,

The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Arterial Drive, harmonies and rock, Top Hat Lounge,

10:15 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980

Saturday, February 16

Statewide

"Cabaret," musical stage play, 8 p.m.,

Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Chautauqua Winter Series, music and entertainment,

Elling House, Virginia City, 843-5454

Jessica Eve Lechner, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m.,

Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Logan Dudding, folk/blues, 5:30 p.m.,

Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855

Montana Deluxe, blues, 9 p.m.,

Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Downtime Band, dance/pop and reggae/country,

Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

John Adams, acoustic guitar, 7 p.m.,

Yellowstone Cellars, Billings, 671-0851

No Limits Monster Trucks and Thrill Show, 7 p.m.,

MetraPark Montana Pavilion, Billings, 248-7827

Venture Improv, comedy, 7:30 p.m.,

NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

"Our Town" play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Final performance, "Be My Baby" stage play, 2 p.m.,

Billings Studio Theatre, Billings, 248-1141



"LOCALVORE NEWS" ON FEB. 15 AT OLD ROOSEVELT SCHOOL IN RED LODGE

Carrots and journalism have more in common than one might think! Courtney Cowgill shares what she's learned after 20 years in the media and 10 years of farming—when it comes to feeding themselves with either food or information, people will support something they can trust. In an era of fake news and fake food, trust is waning. Local news and local food offer some important lessons on what to do about it. Presented by Humanities Montana. For more info: humanitiesmontana.org

Saturday, February 16 (cont.)

Bozeman

"Mindbender Mansion," exhibit opening, 9 a.m.,

Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 728-3328

Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 7:30 p.m.,

Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

"Fun Home," musical stage play, 8 p.m.,

Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

Queen City Ball, winter beer fest, 5 p.m.,

Helena Civic Center, 447-8481

Big Band Swing, dinner and dance, 6 p.m.,

Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729

"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m.,

Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

The Lucky Valentines, rock, 5 p.m.,

Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342

Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m.,

Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Missoula

Missoula Valley Winter Market, 705 South Higgins,

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 396-0593

"Johnny Appleseed," stage play, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.,

Missoula Children's Theatre, 728-7529

Chris Robinson Brotherhood, Americana funk,

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

Sunday, February 17

Statewide

The March Divide, indie folk rock, 7 p.m.,

Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303

Acoustic Brunch: Luke Flansburg, guitar, 11 a.m.,

Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

Bozeman

Brandon Baglio Quartet, jazz, 7 p.m.,

Walker's Grill, Billings, 245-9291

"Our Town" stage play, 7:30 p.m.,

NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Bozeman

"Fun Home," musical stage play, 3 p.m.,

Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Intermountain Opera presents "Camelot," 3 p.m.,

Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885

Good Clean Funk, jazz and funk music, 7 p.m.,

Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492

Bridger Mountain Big Band, swing music, 7 p.m.,

The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

Helena

"Silent Sky," stage play, 2:30 p.m.,

Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Session, 6 p.m.,

Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Missoula

String Orchestra Concert, "Ravel & Romance," 7:30

p.m., Music Recital Hall, UM, Missoula, 888-MONTANA

Monday, February 18

Statewide

Sundae + Mr. Goessl, vintage jazz, 7 p.m.,

Malta High School, 489-4304

Bluegrass Jam, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing,

Livingston, 333-3855

Missoula

Raising the Dead, live recorded shows of the Grateful

OUT & ABOUT

SUNNY DAYS AHEAD FOR CHRIS ROBINSON

The Chris Robinson Brotherhood performs three shows in Montana in mid-February. Chris Robinson, best known from his years in The Black Crowes, spoke about 2018, a forthcoming studio album, growing up in Atlanta and even Live Aid.

Montana Press: Was 2018 a good year for the band?

Chris Robinson: Yeah I would say so. I mean a band is like any relationship. You have stuff to go through, everyone goes through their thing as people and as a group committed to their sonic form of emotional expression. At the end of the day I think what the CRB really represents is just people who really love music. We love making it. We love being a part of something entirely more dynamic and vibrant than just a rock and roll show. And in a less esoteric way, we met some amazing people and we wrote our new record to come out this summer.

MP: The upcoming album, *Servants Of The Sun* (Silver Arrow Records), how does it compare to 2017's *Barefoot In The Head* (Silver Arrow Records)?

CR: Musically the only protocol I had was I didn't want any acoustic instruments on this record. *Barefoot In The Head* had a lot of acoustic instruments. This time all I really told anyone was I didn't even want acoustic piano on any of the tracks. And I wanted to focus on more up-tempo numbers. With our last couple of records we made songs we knew we probably weren't going to play live. This record every one of these songs will fall into the live repertoire.

MP: Was it difficult paring it down to what made the album and what didn't?

CR: No. We're a fairly tight, self-contained unit once we get into the studio. The coolest thing about making records this day and age is we don't really have any pressures or any worries about the commercial aspects. We played over a thousand shows in the last eight years. Five nights a week, three hours a night, you start to develop a pretty keen sense of language

with each other musically. There's no, 'Oh my god, we have to get the chorus right or it'll never get played on the BBC!' No one gives a shit about that.

MP: How have you evolved musically over the last two decades to where you are now?

CR: In some ways you move just because if you're a songwriter or a musician your music should encompass your soul and what you're putting out there should almost be a roadmap of your experience. So that of course changes. Some things will never change. My great awe of music, my respect and my humility in front of the muse that never will change. I've been collecting records since I was 12 years old. As a dyslexic outsider child of the Deep South music was my citadel.

MP: What was the music scene like growing up in Atlanta?



CR: It was amazing. It was still rock and roll in the '80s. We got R.E.M. up the road. Everyone in our social circle got signed. Drivin N Cryin got signed first to Island and my friends Mary My Hope got signed to Beggars Banquet. The Black Crowes got signed to Def America. It was vibrant. They didn't care about being famous, everything was just about music and art. There's an entire group of people who didn't go to the University of Georgia. We didn't want to be in fraternities. We weren't good old boys, we were Southern people but we had different dreams and different ambitions. They tended to be more sensitive or artistically driven. That's where my early outlook about art and business and commerce was formulated.

MP: What can fans expect from these upcoming shows in Montana?

CR: It's the good old CRB, kick off your snowshoes and dance a little while to the sounds that we put down, that's what it is.

MP: Do you have any fond memories or anecdotes about playing in Montana or traveling through the area?

CR: Well it's incredibly beautiful and every time we're there we usually don't have a night off. We're usually there in the winter so it's a little bit foreboding. But they'll have to legalize all their drugs before we have any real memories to forget from there.

MP: What are the plans for the rest of the year?

CR: We have a record coming out at the end

of June and then CRB is in Europe for like a full month then we come home we have a light August. Then the record's out and we do a full CRB tour from September to Christmas.

MP: This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Black Crowes forming. Do you have much recollection of the first gig?

CR: We started as Mr. Crowe's Garden in 1985 and my very first gig was the same day Live Aid was (July 13, 1985). So not only would no one have been there just in principle because nobody knew who these teenage kids from Atlanta were opening for some band from San Francisco in Chattanooga, Tennessee but it was also the day of Live Aid. That's why everyone else got to see Live Aid but us. ★

The Chris Robinson Brotherhood plays in Billings at The Pub Station on February 14, the Rialto in Bozeman on February 15 and in

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Thursday, February 21 (cont.)

Bozeman

Lecture with Richard Brown, "National Park Architecture and Fred Willson," 6 p.m., Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 728-3328
One Book, One Bozeman Untold Story Slam, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166
John Sherrill, jazz and pop, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Bridger Creek Boys, bluegrass, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
"A Moon for the Misbegotten," stage play, 7 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797
Shooter Jennings, country, 7:30 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Helena

Regan Clancy, classic rock, 5 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026
Ward Davis, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"Silent Sky," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
Great Falls
Britt Arnesen, multi-instrumentalist, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
LGBTQ Center Potluck, 6 p.m., Paris Gibson Museum, Great Falls, 727-8255
Lecture with Dr. Michael Reidy, "Mountaineering and Science: How Alpinism Fundamentally Transformed Scientific Research in the 19th Century," 7 p.m., Great Falls College MSU, Heritage Hall, Great Falls, 899-0277

Missoula

Missoula Valley Winter Market, 705 South Higgins, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 396-0593
Reading with Stephanie Land, "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive," 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881
Open Mic, 8 p.m., VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749
Homegrown Open Mic Comedy, signup at 9:30 p.m., show at 10 p.m., Union Club, Missoula, 728-7980

Friday, February 22

Statewide

"Cabaret," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
Jacob Rountree, rock, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Trout Steak Revival, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Jackson Holte and the Highway Patrol, Americana rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Groove Wax, rock/country, Chico Hot Springs Saloon, 333-4933

Billings

Ward Davis, country singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
"Our Town," play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Bozeman

Alex Robilotta, jazz, 7 p.m., Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 599-1399
"A Moon for the Misbegotten," stage play, 7 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797
The Irish Rovers, traditional Irish performers, Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 585-5885
Zoso, Led Zeppelin tribute, 7:30 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
"Fun Home," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

The Remnant, Southern rock, 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, Helena, 443-1729
Ten Years Gone, rock and pop/funk, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"The Book of Will" stage production, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

America's Liquor Down Band, party music, 8 p.m., Other Place, Great Falls, 761-1694

Missoula

Bill Lacroix, folk music, 11 a.m., Bagels on Broadway, Missoula, 728-8900
Partygoers album release party, organic electronic, Top Hat Lounge, 10:15 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980



CORB LUND PLAYS THE PUB STATION IN BILLINGS ON SATURDAY, FEB. 23

Saturday, February 23

Statewide

"Celebrating Chocolate" with Sundae + Mr. Goessl, jazz, 7 p.m., MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney, 433-3500
"Cabaret," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272
Logan Dudding, acoustic Americana, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Sweet Sage, acoustic duo, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic Brewing, Livingston, 333-3855
Trout Steak Revival, bluegrass, 8 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628
Tom Catmull's Last Resort, Americana rock, 9 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Billings

Corb Lund, country, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
Atmosphere, melodic hip-hop, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020
"Our Town," play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Bozeman

Silly Moose Comedy Improv for Kids, 3 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737
"A Moon for the Misbegotten," stage play, 7 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797
Kitchen Dwellers, bluegrass, 7:30 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
"Fun Home," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Verge Theater, Bozeman, 587-0737

Helena

Vinyl City, rock, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
Solid 15, original songwriters, 7:15 p.m., Free Ceramics, Helena, 438-6212
"Silent Sky," stage play, final performance, 7:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270

Great Falls

Larry Hirschberg, singer/songwriter, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342
Whiskey Revival, country, 9 p.m., Alumni Club, Great Falls, 952-4471

Missoula

Missoula Valley Winter Market, 705 South Higgins, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 396-0593
Performance with Neil Lewing, "Singing the Westward Legacy," 11 a.m., Traveler's Rest State Park Visitor's Center, 243-6022
Jessie Thoreson, folk rock, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Benevolents, rock, 6 p.m., Draught Works, Missoula, 541-1592
Carnival d'Amore, live music with Hypsy Conflux, costume/beard contests, 6 p.m., MASC Studio, 880-3323
"Carmina Burana," Missoula Symphony performance, 7:30 p.m., UM Dennison Theatre, Missoula, 243-4051

Sunday, February 24

Statewide

Cole and the Thornes, reggae/soul, 7 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 685-3303
Acoustic Brunch: Tom Catmull, original and stolen Americana, 11 a.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

Billings

iLuminate, dance and magic performance, 7 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052
Rimrock Hot Club, jazz, 7 p.m., Walker's Grill, Billings, 245-9291
"Our Town," play, 7:30 p.m., NOVA Center, Billings, 591-9535

Bozeman

Something and the Anything, psychedelic rock, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
Bridger Mountain Big Band, swing music, 7 p.m., The Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 587-9996

MONTANA'S FAMOUS BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: COMEDIENNE PERT KELTON

"A 17-year-old Montana girl now has her name in the big electric lights on Broadway and thousands of New Yorkers jam their way into the New York Amsterdam theater every night to see her do her stuff."

So raved the *New York Tribune* in 1924 about the young eccentric comedienne who was born near Great Falls in 1907.



The Tale of Pert Kelton

The daughter of vaudeville performers, Edward and Susan Kelton, Pert Kelton was born October 14, 1907, on the Simms ranch on Box Elder creek, one mile south of the Highwood road, east of Great Falls.

Edward and Susan obtained a string of touring vaudeville contracts when Pert was a little girl. In 1911, while accompanying her parents and sister on an overseas tour of shows, she debuted on stage at the age of three in Cape Town, South Africa.

Her aunt, Jane Kelton, was also a professional actress in the early 1900s. Jane is credited with giving the bright, vivacious Pert her name, while reminiscing to Pert's mother about her career and describing her favorite theatrical role, the character "Pert Barlow" in a play called "Checkers."

At age six her parents added her to their act, and the "Three Keltons" attracted the attention of eastern booking offices. Come the mid-1920s, they were sent over the larger circuits, such as Keith's and the Orpheum.

The young Kelton appeared with her mother as "a sister act," Pert and Sue Kelton, in which Pert played the trombone and Sue the clarinet, both danced, and Pert also gave impersonations of Charlie Chaplin and William S. Hart. The act finished with the two women providing vocal imitations of the trombone and clarinet.

In 1925, Pert was given the four-minute cameo role of eccentric comedienne in "Sunny," Jerome Kern's 1925 Broadway musical comedy, starring Marilyn Miller. Soon her name was flashing from huge electric signs and well-known among Broadway theatergoers in the New York metropolis, prompting the dramatic critic of the *New York Morning Telegram* to write: "And now look at her name up in lights on Forty-second! Rural papers, please don't copy; keep the farm girl on the farm. There's a thousand awful flops for every Pert on Broadway."

Breaking into Film and Television

Her first credited movie role was as Rosie the maid in the 1929 release "Sally," a production based on the Broadway hit by the same name. The 1930 United States Federal Census reveals that Pert was residing in Los Angeles in the Warner-Kelton Hotel and sharing a room there with her parents. That same census identifies all three of the Keltons as employed actors in "motion pictures."

Pert appeared in several top films throughout the 1930s, even playing herself in the 1935 short "A Night at the Biltmore Bowl."

After her appearance in the 1939 film "Whispering Enemies," she returned to theatre and radio and then increasingly found work in television beginning in the 1950s. Her finances must have dwindled, because in February 1940, she filed a voluntary petition of bankruptcy.

Kelton was the original Alice Kramden in "The Honeymooners" comedy sketches on the DuMont's "Cavalcade of Stars." These sketches formed the eventual basis for the 1955 CBS Television sitcom "The Honeymooners."

When television viewers on Oct. 5, 1951, tuned into Jackie Gleason's "Cavalcade of Stars," they expected to see such well-liked Gleason characters as Joe the Bartender, the Poor Soul, and Reggie van Gleason. But this program carried a surprise.

"You know, friends, that great institution, the honeymoon, is the time when the ship of life is launched on the sea of matrimony," said the show's announcer, Don Russell. "Well, tonight Jackie Gleason introduces two brand-new characters, Ralph and Alice Kramden -- the Honeymooners -- whose boat has sprung a leak."

The four-minute sketch that followed, with Kelton playing Alice, was the shaky first step toward "The Honeymooners," whose 39 episodes on CBS in the 1955-56 season are among the most watched and deliberated comedies in television history.

The opening episode is little more than a bickering match between Ralph and Alice about dinner that turns into a competition to see who can chuck the biggest object out the window. As played by Kelton, Alice is a tough, beaten bird with some hard, dispirited miles on her.

As the fracas intensifies, Alice starts to climb out the window. When Ralph shouts, "No! No!" she turns slowly and says, "I wouldn't give ya the satisfaction." The fight stops when Art Carney, playing a policeman, shows up at the Kramden apartment covered in flour.

The sketches get longer and more involved, but the emotional atmosphere remains unforgiving. Some of the comedy is so genuine, it's almost painful. Yet, there's always reconciliation at the end.

Exiled from Hollywood

Kelton was released from her role as a result of McCarthy-era blacklisting and replaced by Audrey s. Due to her and her husband's implication as a communist sympathizer by the scurrilous publication, "Red Channels," she was axed and the producers falsely explained that her departure was due to "heart problems."

Age may well have had something to do with Kelton's replacement, according to some television historians. Kelton was nine years older than Gleason, while her replacement was six years younger.

But contemporary audiences may learn to respect Kelton's straightforward, spunky Alice, a hard-luck working-class wife with a kind heart.



Pert Kelton, una de las cómicas más atractivas de RKO-Radio, contempla al mar desde su yatecito.



KELTON WITH PHIL SILVERS IN 1963

It's a tender moment when, to the strains of Germaine Tira's "Our Love Is Here to Stay," she turns to Ralph and says, "I loved you ever since the day I walked in your bus and you shortchanged me."

Return to Fame

In the late 1960s, Kelton was invited back to The Honeymooners to play Mrs. Gibson, Alice's mother, in an episode of the hour-long musical version of the popular sitcom. Kelton appeared in a number of television programs, commercials, and movies — most noticeably playing the feisty Irish mother Mrs. Paroo in "The Music Man" — up until her death on October 29, 1968.

Her obituary in the *New York Times* refers to her "as a character actress who specialized in gangsters' molls and hard-boiled Brooklyn gals." ★

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



CONSTANCE BENNETT AND PERT KELTON IN "BED OF ROSES" (1933)

OFF THE HOOK

Ever Had a Bad Fishing Guide? #MeToo

I'm a ground breaker – at least in my nuclear family.

I was the first to write a resume because my father inherited a family business, my mother was a homemaker, and my older brother was pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry when I entered the working world.

I was the first to visit the West, because my father was born in Brooklyn and my mother in Lorain, Ohio, and neither developed a wanderlust. They visited popular European cities – London, Paris, Rome— to feel cultured. But they never visited the western third of the U.S., which they considered they still considered frontier. And, I was the first and only family member to cast a fly and stalk trout.

The trouble with being the first is that my family couldn't advise me. Since no one had worked for a boss, they couldn't tell me how to handle bosses who, as they were described on my first day as a copy girl, as “one who hates women, and another who hates them in the newsroom.”

Forewarned is forearmed and I lacked ammunition when, as a new fly fisher, I hired guides to take me down the Madison, Yellowstone, Missouri, and Big Horn Rivers.

When I was a novice, the guide didn't matter much. Anyone could remind me not to break my wrist when casting a dry fly and mend the line upstream when I tossed nymphs. As I became a better angler, I realized that my guides often didn't keep up.

Guiding a float trip is a grueling occupation. Not only do guides fight wind gusts and currents, but they have to dodge hooks that whiz by their head on their way to a slick of water behind a rock to where the trout hang out.

If a client hooks a trout, guides must hop out of the boat, steady it in three feet of rushing water, and yell commands – Tip up! Let it run! – until they sweep the exhausted fish into their net.

The best guides are strong, patient, and willing to risk losing a box full of flies in overhanging trees if a dorsal fin breaks the water underneath. They strain their arms

docking boats on sand reefs, so a client can hop out and fish narrow and deep runs of water offshore.

Luckily, I've had such guides, so I know they exist. But too often, a fly shop or lodge will assign me a guide with less ability, agility, or muscles. Those guides will urge me to nymph (which is like catching a fish on a worm IMHO) so they don't have to row me closer to the shore for dry fly action. They'll stop the trip at four on the dot, instead of remaining out until dusk, which is when fish feed on top in summer.

Maybe, if my mother had ever fished, she could have warned me about guides who underrate female anglers.

I've had a bass guide who wouldn't let me cast the rod or fight a fish. He assumed all I wanted was to reel in and take a selfie with a large-mouth bass. I had to argue for a half hour until he let me cast the rod, although I was paying \$350 for the privilege.

Last August, I booked a float trip on the San Juan River in Nevada, famous for its huge numbers of fat trout. The fly shop guaranteed me and my husband (the non-fisher) rods and tackle. But when we arrived, they had no rod for my husband and charged me extra for every fly I used, something they didn't mention in advance.

When I complained to my guide, he said, “If you don't stop whining, I'll cancel the trip.”

Whining? Me, a whiner? Somehow, I can't imagine this guide calling a 250-pound man, who paid \$400 for a guide, a whiner. And luckily, my husband calmed us both down before the float trip, which I flew 2,000 miles for, was dead in the water.

Are these occasional tiffs with guides examples of sexual discrimination? Is a bad guide a bad guide with men, too?

I don't know. But I do know that I've been fly fishing for 40 years, and I'm sick of proving myself every time I step into a guide boat.

Maybe, if my mother had ever fished, she could have warned me about guides who underrate female anglers. At least, she might have comforted me with an empathetic, “Me too.” ★

— LISA KAPLAN GORDON

STATEWIDE BOOK EVENTS

MONDAY, FEB. 4

Jean Guerrero, author of “Border Walls: My Cross-Border Memoir and U.S. Immigration Policy,” 7 p.m., Law School Building Room 101, UM, Missoula, 728-7363

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

Writer's Night: Peter Bowen, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Cafe, Livingston, 222-3628

2019 Governor's Humanities Awards, Ceremony, 3 p.m., State Capitol Rotunda, Helena
2019 Honorees: Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, Ellen Crain, Tami Haaland, Thomas McGuane and Elizabeth McNamer. banquet and program to follow, Hosted by William Marcus, Keynote address by Bill Pullman Marriott Hotel Colonial, 243-6022

MONDAY, FEB. 11

One Book, One Bozeman Lecture with Bob Rydell, “World's Fairs in American and European Fiction,” 6:30 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

WEDNESDAY, FEB 13

Dr. Grace Elizabeth Hale, author of “Cool Town: Athens, Georgia and the Promise of Alternative Culture in Reagan's America,” 5 p.m., Norm Asbjornson Hall, room 165, MSU Bozeman, (434) 228-1545

THURSDAY, FEB. 17

“Very Hungry Caterpillar” puppet show, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

One Book, One Bozeman Untold Story Slam, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

TUESDAY, FEB 26

Author Jamie Ford, “Love and Other Consolation Prizes,” 6:30 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Sharma Shields, “The Cassandra” signing with author Richard Fifield, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881



STEPHANIE LAND BOOK TOUR

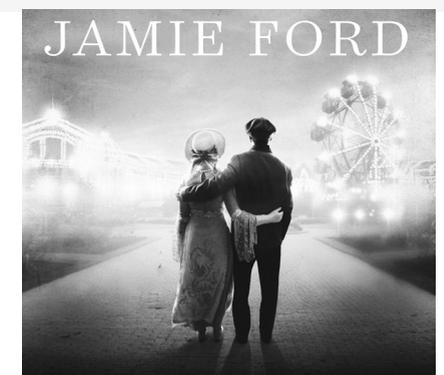
At 28, author Stephanie Land's plans of breaking free from the roots of her hometown in the Pacific Northwest to chase her dreams of attending a university and becoming a writer were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unexpected pregnancy and she turned to housekeeping to make ends meet. “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive,” explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. “I'd become a nameless ghost,” Stephanie writes about her relationship with her clients, many of whom do not know her from any other cleaner, but who she learns plenty about. As she begins to discover more about her clients' lives—their sadness and love, too—she begins to find hope in her own path. Land is making book tour stops across Montana and reading from her new book:

Tues. Feb. 5 at 7 p.m., Shakespeare and Co., Missoula, 549-9010;

Thurs., Feb. 7 at 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166;

Thurs., Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881

Sat., Feb. 23 at 2 p.m., Holter Museum, Helena, 442-6400



JAMIE FORD IS IN BOZEMAN ON FEB. 26

SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

March:

Reading with author Pam Houston, “Deep Creek,” Wednesday, March 6, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Mountain Yarns: Community Story Telling, Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m., MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 579-6804

“The 39 Steps” Dinner Theatre featuring five separate weekend performances in Havre, Chinook, Shelby, and Lewistown, Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

“Spamalot” stage performance, Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

Jurassic Quest, dinosaur show, through March 10, MetraPark Montana Pavilion, Billings, 248-7827

Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, Friday, March 8, 7 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Author reading with David Treuer, Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to Present, Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

“Understanding How Avalanches Happen and How to Stay Safer,” lecture with Dr. Kirk Birkeland, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 728-3328

Jazz Artist Series III: Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival, March 14 and 15, Dennison Theatre and UM Music Building, artists will include the talent of Doug Stone (saxophone), Brian Claxton (drum set), Matt Harris (piano), Aric Schneller (trombone), Ashley Summers (bass) and Steve Roach (trumpet), UM, Missoula, 728-7363

G. Love and Special Sauce, hip-hop and blues, Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776

Wynonna Judd and the Big Noise, Wednesday, March 20, 8 p.m., Helena Civic Center, 447-8481

Galactic, jazz and funk, Thursday, March 21 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

April:

Pixies, indie rock, Wednesday, April 3, 8 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

“Jesus Christ Superstar,” musical, opening Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, 443-0287

Custom Car Show, 10 a.m., April 6-7, Pacific Steel Arena, Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, 761-8876

Reckless Kelly, country, Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Arlo Guthrie, iconic folk music, Friday, May 3, 7 p.m. at The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521 and Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m., Emerson Center, Bozeman, 587-9797

May:

Montana Classic Car Auction, 11 a.m., MetraPark Montana Pavilion, Billings, 248-7827

Mark Chesnutt, country, Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

June:

Belo Fleck and the Flecktones, Saturday, June 1, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE CALENDAR LISTINGS

Billings Bozeman Helena Great Falls Butte Missoula & More

Sunday, February 24 (cont.)

Helena

"The Book of Will" stage production, 2:30 p.m., Grandstreet Theatre, Helena, 442-7270
Larry Hirshberg, acoustic guitar, 5 p.m., Blackfoot River Brewing, Helena, 449-3005
"Bach's Bass in B Minor," performance by Helena Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Helena, 442-1860

Great Falls

Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ featuring the Cascade Quartet, 2 p.m., University of Providence, Great Falls, 453-4102

Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jam Session, 6 p.m., Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls, 952-0393

Missoula

"Carmina Burana," Missoula Symphony performance, 3 p.m., UM Dennison Theatre, Missoula, 243-4051
John Floridis, folk and blues, 6 p.m., Rumour Restaurant, Missoula, 549-7575
Amy Ray Band, folk/country, Top Hat Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980

Monday, February 25

Statewide

Luke Flansburg, acoustic guitar, 5 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463
Bluegrass Jam, 5:30 p.m., Katabatic, Livingston, 333-3855

Billings

iLuminate, dance and magic performance, 12:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052

Bozeman

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

Helena

Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960
"Bach's Bass in B Minor," performance by Helena Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Helena, 442-1860

Missoula

Raising the Dead, live recorded shows of the Grateful Dead, 5 p.m., Top Hat Lounge, Missoula
Open Mic hosted by Gary Kiggins, Imagine Nation Brewing, 6 p.m., Missoula, 926-1251
Trio Canta, jazz, 7 p.m., Red Bird Bar, Missoula, 549-2906
Token, hip-hop, Top Hat, 8:30 p.m., Missoula, 728-7980

Tuesday, February 26

Statewide

Sweet Lillies, Colorado-style Americana, 7 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Billings

"Your Alien," musical stage play, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, Billings, 256-6052
Atmosphere, melodic hip-hop, 7 p.m., Pub Station, Billings, 894-2020

Bozeman

Brews and the Big Sky featuring **"Big Teams in the Big Sky,"** farm history lecture/discussion, 5:30 p.m., Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 728-3328

Reading with author Jamie Ford, "Love and Other Consolation Prizes," 6:30 p.m., Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 587-0166

Open Mic, 7 p.m., Zocalo Coffee, Bozeman, 404-1036

Missoula

Old Post Picking Circle, 8:30 p.m., Old Post Pub, Missoula, 721-7399
Tuesday Picking Circle, bluegrass, 6 p.m., Montana Distillery, Missoula, 541-1889
Imagine Ireland, Irish traditional music, 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, Missoula, 926-1251
Winona LaDuke, Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy, 6:30 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521
Sharma Shields, "The Cassandra" signing with Richard Fifield, 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction Books, Missoula, 721-2881
Wilderness Issues lecture with Becca Skinner, "Storytelling Through the Lens: How Photography Influences Conservation Efforts," 7 p.m., Gallagher Building Room 123, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Magic Giant, indie folk, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Wednesday, February 27

Statewide

Open Mic, 6 p.m. Craft Local, Billings, 702-1458
Open Mic, 7 p.m. Yellowstone Cellars, 671-0851

Bozeman

The Fresh Boys, bluegrass, 5:30 p.m., Bridger Brewing, Bozeman, 587-2124
Pickin' in the Parks, acoustic string jam, 6:30 p.m. Story Mansion, Bozeman, 582-2290
Haufbrau Open Mic, 10 p.m., Bozeman, 587-4931



OPEN MIC NIGHTS

MONDAYS

HELENA: 6 p.m., Lewis & Clark Brewing, 442-5960

MISSOULA: 6 p.m., Imagine Nation Brewing, 926-1251

TUESDAYS

BOZEMAN: 7 p.m. Zocalo Coffee, 404-1036

MISSOULA: 9:30 p.m., Union Club, Missoula, 728-7980

WEDNESDAYS

BOZEMAN: 10 p.m. Hofbrau, 587-4931

THURSDAYS

HELENA: 6 p.m., Staggering Ox, 443-1729

MISSOULA: 8 p.m. Thursdays, VFW Post 209, 728-7749

Wednesday, February 27

Helena

Cow Tipping Comedy, 6:30 p.m., Lewis and Clark Brewing, Helena, 442-5960

Great Falls

Brubeck's Triple Play, 7 p.m., Mansfield Theatre, Great Falls, 453-4102

Missoula

Old Time Cider Jam, 6 p.m., Western Cider, Missoula, 540-4477
Atmosphere, melodic hip-hop, 7 p.m., The Wilma, Missoula, 728-2521

Thursday, February 28

Statewide

Triple Play with Chris Brubeck, jazz, 7:30 p.m., Fergus Center for the Performing Arts, Lewistown, 538-3739

"Cabaret," musical stage play, 8 p.m., Montana Actor's Theatre, Havre, 945-0272

Writer's Night: artist Amber Jean, 7 p.m., Pine Creek Café, Livingston, 222-3628

The Ridgeway Collective, jazz, 8 p.m., Murray Bar, Livingston, 222-9463

Billings

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

Bozeman

Larry Hirshberg, singer/songwriter, 7 p.m., Bozeman Hot Springs, 586-6492
"A Moon for the Misbegotten," stage play, 7 p.m., The Emerson, Bozeman, 587-9797
Joshua Radin and Lissie, indie duo, 7:30 p.m., The Rialto, Bozeman, 877-412-2776
Scott Pemberton, jazz and rock, 8 p.m., The Filling Station, Bozeman, 587-0585

Helena

Aran Buzzas, singer/songwriter, 5 p.m., Snow Hop Brewery, Helena, 442-5026

Great Falls

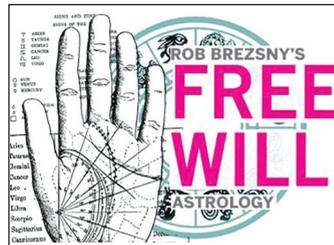
Jeff Carol, traditional and blues, 5 p.m., Mighty Mo Brewing Co., Great Falls, 952-0342

Butte & Surrounding

Opening Night, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," play, 7 p.m., Orphan Girl Theatre, Butte, 782-5657

Missoula

Opening reception for "Stephanie J. Frostad: The Evocative Moment," 5 p.m., Montana Museum, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Lecture with Dennis Swibold, "What Happened to the News?" 7 p.m., Thompson Falls Public Library, 243-6022
"August: Osage County," stage play, 7:30 p.m., Montana Theatre, UM, Missoula, 728-7363
Open Mic, 8 p.m., VFW Post 209, Missoula, 728-7749
Homegrown Open Mic Comedy, signup at 9:30 p.m., show at 10 p.m., Union Club, Missoula, 728-7980 ★



ARIES

(March 21-April 19): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll be invited to make a pivotal transition in the history of your relationship with your most important life goals. It should be both fun and daunting! MARCH: Don't waste time and energy trying to coax others to haul away the junk and the clutter. Do it yourself. APRIL: The growing pains should feel pretty good. Enjoy the uncanny stretching sensations. MAY: It'll be a favorable phase to upgrade your personal finances. Think richer thoughts. Experiment with new ideas about money. JUNE: Build two strong bridges for every rickety bridge you burn. Create two vital connections for every stale connection you leave behind.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You have access to a semi-awkward magic that will serve you well if you don't complain about its semi-awkwardness. MARCH: To increase your clout and influence, your crucial first step is to formulate a strong intention to do just that. The universe will then work in your behalf. APRIL: Are you ready to clean messes and dispose of irrelevancies left over from the past? Yes! MAY: You can have almost anything you want if you resolve to use it for the greatest good. JUNE: Maintain rigorous standards, but don't be a fanatic. Strive for excellence without getting bogged down in a counterproductive quest for perfection.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Be alert for vivid glimpses of your best possible future. The power of self-fulfilling prophecy is even stronger than usual. MARCH: High integrity and ethical rigor are crucial to your success — and so is a longing for sacred adventure. APRIL: How can you make the best use of your likability? MAY: Cheerfully dismantle an old system or structure to make way for a sparkling new system or structure. JUNE: Beginner's luck will be yours if you choose the right place to begin. What's a bit intimidating but very exciting?

CANCER

(June 21-July 22): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Your sensual magnetism peaks at the same time as your spiritual clarity. MARCH: You want toasted ice? Succulent fire? Earthy marvels? Homey strangeness? All of that is within reach. APRIL: Sow the seeds of the most interesting success you can envision. Your fantasy of what's possible should thrill your imagination, not merely satisfy your sense of duty. MAY: Deadline time. Be as decisive and forthright as an Aries, as bold as a Sagittarius, as systematic as a Capricorn. JUNE: Go wading in the womb-temperature ocean of emotion, but be mindful of the undertow.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: There's a general amnesty in all matters regarding your relationships. Cultivate truces and forgiveness. MARCH: Drop fixed ideas you might have about what's possible and what's not. Be keenly open to unexpected healings. APRIL: Wander out into the frontiers. Pluck goodies that have been off-limits. Consider the value of ignoring certain taboos. MAY: Sacrifice a small comfort so as to energize your ambitions. JUNE: Take a stand in behalf of your beautiful ideals and sacred truths.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Master the Zen of constructive anger. Express your complaints in a holy cause. MARCH: You finally get a message you've been waiting to receive for a long time. Hallelujah! APRIL: Renew your most useful vows. Sign a better contract. Come to a more complete agreement. MAY: Don't let your preconceptions inhibit you from having a wildly good time. JUNE: Start your own club, band, organization, or business. Or reinvent and reinvigorate your current one.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Be open to romantic or erotic adventures that are different from how love has worked in the past. MARCH: You'll be offered interesting, productive problems. Welcome them! APRIL: Can you explore what's experimental and fraught with interesting uncertainty even as you stay well-grounded? Yes! MAY: You can increase your power by not hiding your weakness. People will trust you most if you show your vulnerability. A key to this season's model of success is the ability to calmly express profound emotion. JUNE: Wild cards and X-factors and loopholes will be more available than usual. Don't be shy about using them.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: The world may finally be ready to respond favorably to the power you've been storing up. MARCH: Everything you thought you knew about love and lust turns out to be too limited. So expand your expectations and capacities! APRIL: Extremism and obsession can be useful in moderation. MAY: Invisible means of support will become visible. Be alert for half-hidden help. JUNE: Good questions: What do other people find valuable about you? How can you enhance what's valuable about you?

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll have the need and opportunity to accomplish some benevolent hocus-pocus. For best results, upgrade your magical powers. MARCH: Make sure the Turning Point happens in your power spot or on your home turf. APRIL: You should be willing to go anywhere, ask any question, and even risk your pride if necessary so as to coax your most important relationships into living up to their potentials. MAY: If at first you don't succeed, change the definition of success. JUNE: You can achieve more through negotiation and compromise than you could by pushing heedlessly ahead in service to your single-minded vision.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: A new phase of your education will begin when you acknowledge how much you have to learn. MARCH: Initiate diplomatic discussions about the Things That Never Get Talked About. APRIL: Revise your ideas about your dream home and your dream community. MAY: You have the power to find healing for your oldest lovesickness. If you do find it, intimacy will enter a new Golden Age. JUNE: Solicit an ally's ingenuity to help you improvise a partial solution to a complex problem.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Start a new trend that will serve your noble goals for years to come. MARCH: Passion comes back into fashion with a tickle and a shiver and a whoosh. APRIL: As you expand and deepen your explorations, call on the metaphorical equivalents of both a telescope and a microscope. MAY: This is the beginning of the end of what you love to complain about. Hooray! JUNE: You'll have an abundance of good reasons to celebrate the fact that you are the least normal sign in the zodiac. Celebrate your idiosyncrasies!

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20): Here are your fortune cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll have a knack for enhancing the way you express yourself and present yourself. The inner you and the outer you will become more unified. MARCH: You'll discover two original new ways to get excited. APRIL: Be bold as you make yourself available for a deeper commitment that will spawn more freedom. MAY: What are the gaps in your education? Make plans to mitigate your most pressing area of ignorance. JUNE: Your body's ready to tell you secrets that your mind has not yet figured out. Listen well.

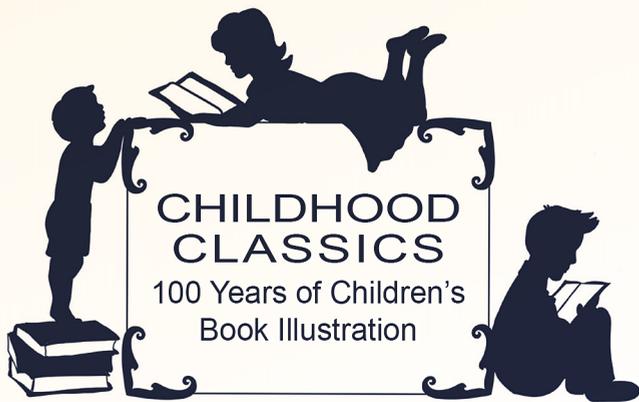
THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

Go here to read all the long-term, big-picture horoscopes I've written about the story of your life in 2019: <https://bit.ly/YourGloriousStory2019>

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MORE ENGAGING

TWO NEW EXHIBITS IN FEBRUARY!



February 9 – April 28

With over 140 original works included from over 75 books, the exhibition explores the art and history of popular children's books from 20th-century pen and ink to modern digital creations.



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