

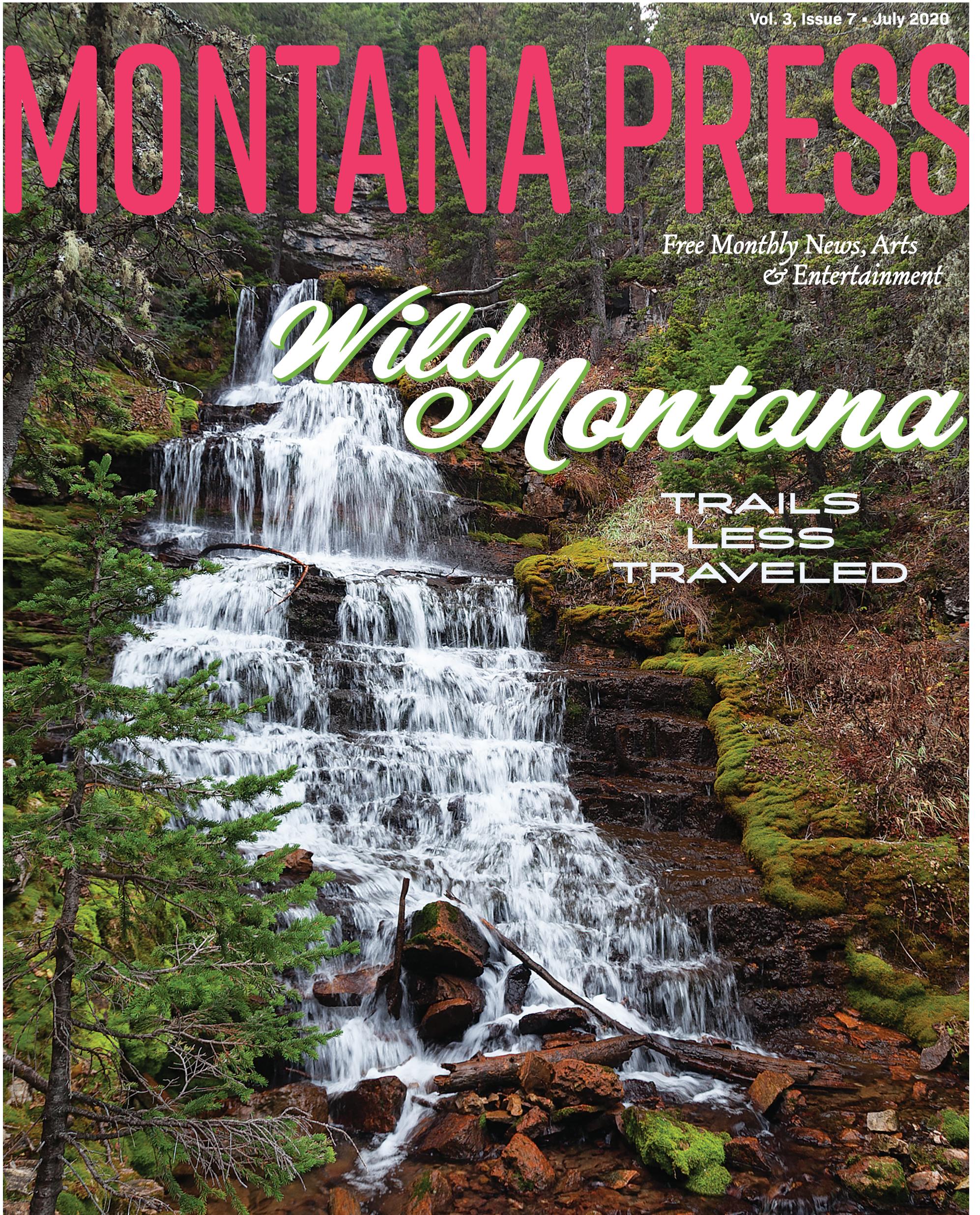
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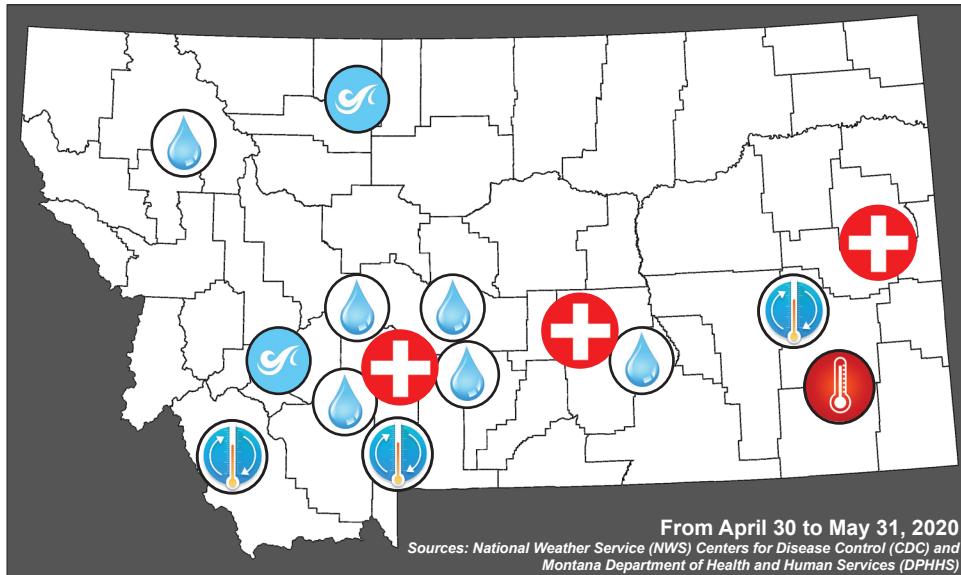
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MONTANA ALMANAC



High and Low Temperatures Across the State

The highest temperature reported during the recording period was 97 degrees at Brandenburg on June 13. The lowest temperature recorded during the period was 27 degrees at Big Sky on June 11 and 27 degrees at Bannack State Park on June 15. May was pretty close to average here in Montana but May 2020 was the globally-averaged warmest May since record keeping began in 1850. NWS-released data indicates: The average temperature for Great Falls in May 2020 was 0.4 degrees below normal. The average temperature finished 0.5-degree above normal for May 2020 in Helena. Havre finished May 2020 with an average temperature departure of 0.2-degree below normal. On June 12, high temperatures of 95 degrees were recorded in Billings and Broadus. On June 17, the NWS issued a possible freeze warning for Beaverhead, Fergus, Gallatin, Glacier, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Madison and Meagher counties. On June 19, Miles City set a record low with 41 degrees, breaking the old record of 43 degrees in 1946. Then, on June 23, Miles City hit a high temperature of 85 degrees.

Drought and (Mostly) Deluge

Over June 5 and 6, damaging winds up to 55 mph, large hail, lightning, and heavy downpours crossed the state in a series of severe thunderstorms from Beaverhead and Madison counties to Cascade, Meagher, Fergus and Blaine counties and into eastern Montana through June 7. Some instances of flash flooding were reported under thunderstorms producing one-half to one inch of rain per hour. 24-hour precipitation totals by June 7 included 2.40" at Sacajawea Snotel and 2.20" at Brackett Creek in Gallatin County, and 2.20" at Porphyry Peak in Meagher County. Another inch fell at Brackett Creek over the next 24-hours. By June 8, winter driving conditions were observed over 5,000 feet and snow was falling in the high country, accumulating to 19" at Albro Lake in Madison County and 12" at Darkhorse Lake in Beaverhead County by June 8. Regardless of the moisture in most of the state, on June 11 the USDA Drought Monitor showed an expansion of D0 (Abnormally Dry Conditions) across Northern Montana due to lack of moisture. High winds and near-record high temperatures contributed to a fire starting in the Lump Gulch area near Helena on June 13. Snow storms hit areas over 5,500 feet on June 16 in central and western Montana, reducing visibility and prompting Winter Storm Warnings. On June 17, The Helena Regional Airport recorded 0.63 inches of rain, which broke the previous record for June 17th of 0.61 inches which was set in 1949. Over June 16 and 17, Bozeman saw 3.20" of rain and Lakeview in Madison County saw 3.10" of precipitation. In late June, more hail-producing thunderstorms moved across the state, including a June 24 storm that dropped golf-ball-sized hail on Polson and Kalispell. On June 28, Livingston set a daily precipitation record with .64" of rain, breaking the old record of 0.44" set in 1995. On June 30, 2.20" of precipitation had fallen in the last 24 hours at the Twelvemile Creek near Hamilton. This was the highest 24-hour amount in the months of June and July since 1980. Also on June 30, Billings airport received a daily record 1.10" of rain, breaking the old record of 0.50" set in 1968.

Severe Storms Bring Hail, High Winds

Thunderstorms pushing through Montana on June 13 brought high winds of up to 77 mph at Deep Creek in Glacier County, 72 mph at Neihart, 71 mph in Townsend, 63 at McAllister in Madison County, 61 mph at Hilger in Fergus County, East Glacier, and at Grant in Beaverhead County, and 60 mph in Big Sky. On June 13, strong winds were observed across southwest Montana. Bert Mooney Airport in Butte topped the list with a 63 mph wind gust. How rare was the damaging windstorm in Butte? In the last 40+ years of wind records, NWS reported they had never recorded such an extended period of severe winds of 50-63 mph for almost five hours straight, not connected with thunderstorms.

Continuing COVID-19 Health Emergency

Businesses and establishments remain under "Phase II" of the Governor's COVID-19 response plan with continued restrictions. The governor's office, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control, urges all residents to wear non-medical masks when visiting any establishment where six feet or more of personal distancing is not possible. Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks are reopen with restrictions. As the virus continues to spread, The U.S. topped 2.7 million infected cases and 109,000 related deaths. Montana reported 22 deaths by the end of the month, with the highest number of infected cases in Gallatin County/Bozeman (263) and Yellowstone County/Billings (174), Missoula (86), Big Horn (74), Flathead (58) and a total number of 967 cases in the state were reported on June 30. Approximately 90,861 individuals in the state have been tested for the virus. **Visit dphhs.mt.gov for up-to-date information.**



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ON THE COVER A backcountry scene from the Crystal Cascades trail in the Big Snowy mountains. Photo by Zach Angstead.

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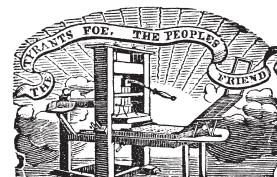
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Racial Justice Conversations Continue

As unrest continues to unfold nationwide over the killing of George Floyd, Montana too sees continued response – although the form may look different than places with greater population density.

From Havre to Helena, nearly every community has seen a demonstration of the First Amendment through expression and assembly, whether in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement or against it. And more events and reform conversations are being planned by grassroots activists, Montana nonprofits, and legislative bodies across the state.

19-year-old activist Teddy Jumpp says, “I think the sticking point is that especially in Montana, no one, particularly white people, wants to believe that they are racist or racist things are happening around them.”

Jumpp, a student at the University of Montana studying English education, organized his first large-scale public rally in his hometown of Helena on June 14. An estimated 1,000 people gathered outside the Montana State Capitol with featured speaker Helena Mayor Wilmot Collins, a Liberian refugee and Montana’s first Black mayor. Jumpp says as a result, the Helena Police Department is reviewing its policies.

The Helena protest also attracted counter-protesters. The *Helena Independent Record* reported a fight broke out after a woman yelled at protestors; and a 48-year-old Helena man was later charged with a felony after he allegedly told protestors he was a police officer and they were breaking the law.

Individuals, many with firearms, continue to show up to oppose BLM demonstrations throughout Montana. They oppose aspects of the BLM movement, including defunding police departments.

Jumpp says once counter-protestors began to engage at his planned protest in Helena, he left the scene.

“It was after three, and the police had come out with riot gear, so my de-escalators basically forced me to leave. It’s not what I wanted to do but I’m safe because of it,” Jumpp says. “These small town protests bring attention to small town racism, and it makes racists angry and people that aren’t anti-racist uncomfortable.”

Jumpp says he is prepping for a “Human Rights Rally,” set to take place June 28 in Helena, to showcase the intersectionality of BLM supporting trans women of color, the indigenous community, as well as other marginalized groups.

“I’m half-Jamaican, half-mixed Caucasian, and growing up my parents had always taught me to be an advocate for myself and others,” Jumpp says.

Not only are organized protests continuing at Montana’s capitol and throughout its cities, task forces are forming.

KTVQ reports a group in Billings called “Walk With Me,” made up of state, city and law enforcement leaders who plan to meet to address racial issues. In Bozeman, Commissioner Terry Cunningham requested a review of the city’s treatment of people of color including de-escalation and hiring policies. The final report will be used to create an action plan to address areas of improvement. Missoula City Council President Bryan von Lossberg announced a new committee and held community listening sessions at a June 15 council meeting in response to local protests.

Non-profits statewide that aim to remedy racial injustices are also ramping up their activities. According to Rachel Carroll Rivas, Co-Executive Director of the Montana Human Rights Network, racial justice has been near to MHRN’s core advocacy work for the past 30 years.

“Our work has not shifted, but our focus has intensified on program areas of defending democracy and combatting white nationalism,” Rivas adds.

Rivas explains there’s a false perception that because Montana is demographically less diverse than coastal areas, racism doesn’t exist here.

“We are hearing from Black, Indigenous, and Latinx that the opposite is the case. The fact that people are more isolated means there are more instances of bigotry and discrimination,” Rivas says.

PROTESTS EVOLVE IN MONTANA

Due to tension and fears of conflict, the manner of organization in Montana is evolving. In Missoula, the crowd that organically demonstrated at the Missoula County Courthouse since late May has largely dissipated after a BLM rally was held at Caras Park on June 14. According to Montana Public Radio, the event was organized privately to keep out armed counter-protestors and this action helped activists feel safe to attend.

This was a response to a Missoula police investigation into an alleged attack on a Black teenager and a cancelled June 5 courthouse protest. First-time organizers Whitney Wakimoto and Gillian Brooke Todd cancelled their demonstration admit fears that surfaced for the security of the event and antifa rumors.

Wakimoto explained that while both she and Todd were born and raised in Missoula, they’ve lived their recent adult lives in larger cities — Wakimoto in Los Angeles and Todd in New York City — prior to coming home due to COVID-19.

“I work in a prison, I’m around people of color constantly and I am a person of color. All of my Black friends have been very clear that they are tired and angry because [racism] has been happening for so long and keeps happening,” Wakimoto says. “The thing that I felt was really different about this time was that a lot more white people are getting involved, but here it’s different.”

Todd adds, “This has ultimately been a process of listening and learning. The listening comes in when I realized – we are in Missoula, and it is a different dynamic, and that has to be taken into account.”

“Everyone needs to listen, because there’s a lot of thoughts about what is the right way to be, but there’s no right revolution,” Wakimoto says. “We are trying to heal this country.”

Though formally cancelled, hundreds still showed up to partake in the June 5 protest in Missoula. Ed Baker, a 58-year-old Little Shell Tribal Member, was in attendance. Baker says he’s hoping the current movement will help his cause – equality and recognition for Native Americans.

“I want to see where this goes because they’re not listening to us natives,” Baker says. “The initial cause was a violation of being human. We should expect better on all levels. ★

—GENEVA ZOLTEK

MONTANA VOICE

Coronavirus Rages while Politicians Fail to Lead

As we go to press the news and forecast for the future is grim — even for those of us living in Montana where we are surrounded by incredible beauty and residents with a long-standing reputation for being willing to lend a helping hand to those in need while respecting their fellow citizens. But while we temporarily escaped the worst of the outcomes from the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the globe, those days are over. Our cases are doubling daily right now, the World Health Organization just announced that “the virus is speeding up” and our political “leaders” seem dazed and confused about what must be done to effectively deal with one of the greatest challenges in the nation’s history.

FAILURES CONTINUE TO MOUNT

Donald Trump’s presidency is notable primarily for one thing -- his incredible record of failure. He has failed to protect the environment, the economy, national security, racial justice, our standing in the world, and most of all, our citizenry. In fact, he has done just the opposite and we, as a nation and people, are worse off by any metric since this delusional narcissist stepped into the Oval Office.

Concerned only with his own dwindling chances for re-election, this historically unpopular president ignored the emergence of the coronavirus and failed to take the necessary steps to effectively contain the pandemic. Instead, he claimed “I take no responsibility” and shuffled what should have been national leadership to the states. Then, when responsible states took effective measures to lockdown their populace and contain the disease, it impacted Wall Street’s bandits. That sent Trump into a frenzy to “LIBERATE,” and prematurely “re-open” the economy.

Now we live with the disastrous outcome as infectious disease experts warn that we are “losing control” of the pandemic. “Lost control” is more like it and these same experts say “the worst is yet to come.” Given that our nation has to face this daunting and possibly unbeatable challenge with the loser in the White House, the worst is definitely yet to come.

WHERE’S MONTANA’S LEADERSHIP?

A surprising number of people are asking, “Where’s Governor Bullock?” right now. The answer, it seems, is that when politicians holding one office decide to run for another office, their ability to govern is severely diminished by the potential electoral consequences of making the hard and potentially unpopular decisions necessary to face the exigencies of the moment.

In this regard, while Bullock undoubtedly did the right thing by urging “shelter in place” and closure of non-essential commercial activities early in the pandemic, he has slipped into the fantasy that the economy can safely “re-open” while the coronavirus continues to infect, sicken, and kill our citizens at an increasing pace.

We must all rise to this challenge and if it means inconvenience, hardship, and the loss of our much-loved social interactions, then that’s what has to happen. We must do what we need to do not to beat the coronavirus, which is unlikely to happen, but to keep ourselves, our families, our friends and loved ones healthy.

In Montana’s case, it’s even worse because our natural beauty and national parks draw millions of tourists from across the nation, including from states like Texas in which one in 10 are known to be infected and many, many more are likely asymptomatic carriers.

While it is totally understandable that a priority for the state and nation is to drive Trump and his sycophants like Daines and Gianforte out of office and as far as from governance as possible, the necessity to lead now far eclipses the electoral paranoia of campaigning politicians.

We don’t expect and will not get rational leadership from Trump’s puppets, but at this perilous juncture, we desperately need real leadership from those who seek to depose them. At this writing, Dr. Fauci warned the Senate that we could see 100,000 new infections a day if reckless “re-opening” continues. That, in and of itself, should be a clarion call for the political leadership that sadly seems so lacking at this critical time.

It would be great if things were “normal” and Montanans were enjoying our short, sweet summer as we have in so many years past. But that is not the case and there’s no use deluding ourselves about that. We must all rise to this challenge and if it means inconvenience, hardship, and the loss of our much-loved social interactions, then that’s what has to happen. We must do what we need to do not to beat the coronavirus, which is unlikely to happen, but to keep ourselves, our families, our friends and loved ones healthy. Bottom line, you can’t have a healthy economy without a healthy populace – and there’s simply no argument against that fact. ★

—GEORGE OCHENSKI

BYGONE DAYS

Bygone Days are compiled from archives of Montana newspapers. Current years featured are 1896, 1936 and 1961. For daily Bygone Days, follow online at: @MontanaPress on Facebook.

Anaconda Standard
July 5, 1896

“Lost Children. They Wander From the Picnic Grounds and Their Parents Are Uneasy. Several children were reported to have been lost in the shuffle in Butte yesterday. One 6-year-old youngster, the child of a Walkerville family named Young, was still missing at a late hour last night. The boy got separated from his parents at Columbia gardens in the afternoon and the father and mother, almost crazed with anxiety, searched for the child all the afternoon and evening without finding him, but it is supposed that some one found him and is caring for him. Another child, 4 years old, had a score of persons searching for it and was finally found asleep in the brush in one of the far corners of the gardens.”

Helena Independent
July 8, 1896

“Mr. John L. Stoddard, the celebrated lecturer, accompanied by Messrs. Burdett and North, his business managers, have just concluded a tour of the Yellowstone National park. After having charmed audiences for the past sixteen years by his vivid reproduction of scenes in foreign lands, Mr. Stoddard proposes, as one of the features of his seventeenth season, to perform an equally valuable service for his countrymen and women in acquainting them in the same felicitous manner with notable scenes in their own land. In furtherance of his undertaking he has made a trip which is conceded to be a unique feature of the natural scenery of the world—the Yellowstone National park. The railroad officials, the hotel association, the National park Transportation company, the park photographer, all vied with each other in placing at their disposal every facility for the study and reproduction of this famous locality, realizing that through his conceded excellence in making realistic to his hearers his own experiences this wonderful portion of the national domain would be made familiar to American audiences as it has never before been.”

Big Timber Pioneer
July 9, 1896

“Camping Outfits for the Girls. The girls who have a fondness for roughing it in the summer time, that is, avoiding the conventional summer resorts and camping out in some out-of-the-way place in canvas tent or log house, should have an easy time of it in these days of rational dress. In former years the great obstacle in the path of feminine enjoyment of camp life was the restriction as to dress. Now, however, it is possible for a woman to dress in a way which will insure her the most comfort and at the same time without making her a target for bullets of adverse criticism and jeering looks. For those who are thinking of camping out and who have never gone through the experience, some pointers are given here which

should prove of value. Enjoyment of camp life depends more upon dress than most people have any idea, and it would be wise for those contemplating a summer life of the kind to study the matter well. -Use only Woolen Underwear. First, all experienced campers agree that the underwear should be woolen, and the union suit, winter weight, being none too heavy for the northern camp. As to hose, there is a difference of opinion, a few declaring in favor of woolen, but the majority preferring heavy cotton. The present form of bicycle hose, with linen feet, is probably the best of all. A shirt waist of flannel, or a man's flannel shirt, comes next, the latter being as comfortable; over it the short skirt is to be buttoned. No undershirts are to be worn, but instead, knickerbockers of canvas, buckling about six inches below the knees. A short skirt of the same canvas, fitting close above, but full at the bottom, and a coat of the same material, complete the costume. The most serviceable coat is made like a boy's box coat—double breasted. It must be something to button up to the throat when needed. A canvas cap with double visor finishes the suit.”

Anaconda Standard
July 17, 1896

“A deposition of Mrs. Augusta Ward in her suit for divorce against John Ward was filed in the district court yesterday. Mrs. Ward formerly lived in very destitute circumstances in South Butte, but a few months ago she came into the possession of 160 acres of land in Blaine county, which had been left to her children by a former husband, and she removed to that state. She testified in her deposition that she was three times married. . . . By her first husband she has one child, a daughter, now 24 years of age. By her second husband she had three and as many more by her third, the six now being under her care and assisting her in working the farm. In her deposition she gives an account of the work they do in clearing the land of sage brush, raising cows, hogs, sheep and chickens. The defendant, she says, deserted her in Butte on Dec. 21, 1893. He went away angry because she spoke of their destitution. He said if she was not satis-



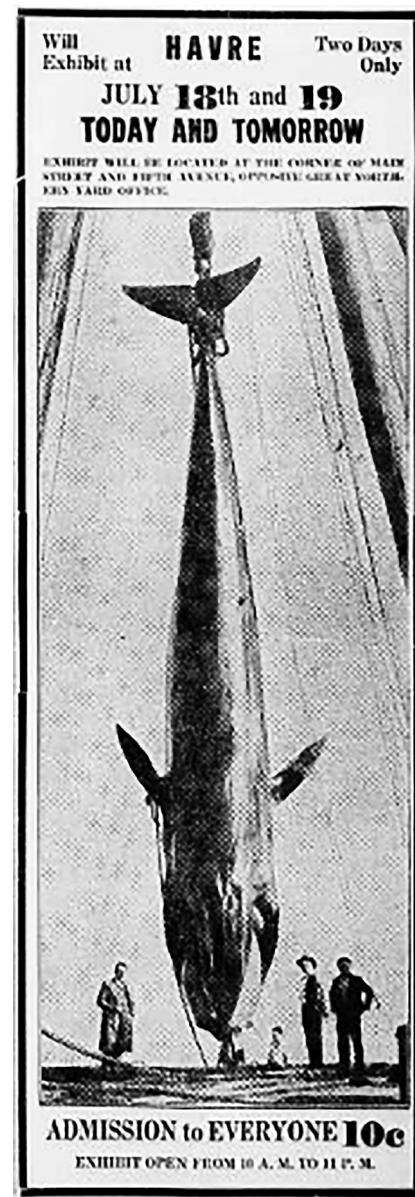
fied with what he did for her she could hunt up some one else who might do better for her. For 12 months before he left he did not work except to serve 12 days on a jury and tend bar for 11 days. She says her children went hungry, ragged and barefooted and all would have perished but for the aid they got from the county. She was compelled to take in washing to get something for the family, but the defendant would not do so much as turn the clothes wringer. Mrs. Ward says she can now see her way clear to make an independent living for herself and children, but does not want to be burdened with a worthless husband.”

The Madisonian
Virginia City
July 17, 1936

“Days of '63 Are Relived Wednesday. Record Crowd Enters Into Spirit of Events. A record crowd of approximately 150 persons attended the Woman's club annual picnic in Alder Gulch park Wednesday evening. Depicting the days and spirit of '63, guests came dressed in appropriate costumes, representing squaws, road agents, gamblers, Sheriff Plummer, dance hall girls, miners and their wives and children. A plentiful picnic supper was served at 7 o'clock, after which a midway, constructed under the auspices of the program committee, provided entertainment for all. Roulette, black jack, beano, games of skill, horse shoes and several other games proved popular, while a saddle horse, bedecked with ribbons and frills, was in constant demand by those wishing horseback riding. Gold nuggets were plentiful and several fortunes were made and lost during the evening. When dusk fell, a trio composed of Mrs. Charles E. Raper, Paul H. Love and Oscar Wallin, gave pleasure with several vocal selections, with the latter also giving several popular solo numbers, including 'Minnie from Minnesota,' 'Oh How She Lied' and 'Clementine.' A light shower about 9 o'clock failed to dampen the appetites and enthusiasm of the greater part of the crowd, who stayed to eat watermelon and toast marshmallows around a bonfire, climaxing one of the club's most successful picnics, which have become annual events.”

Havre Daily News
July 18, 1936

“Monster 55-Foot Whale to Be on Exhibit Here Today And Tomorrow. 'Colossus' the 69-ton whale, Capt. Harry White and the greatest collection ever assembled of both living and dead sea monsters will make the opening bow in Havre, at 10 a.m., today. Amid nautical surroundings that lend a salty tang to the very atmosphere, the gigantic marine exhibit will be spread over a specially built railroad car over 100 feet long, and be placed on a siding at the corner of Main St. and Fifth Ave. Old 'Colossus' himself will take up the biggest chunk of this space, stretching 55 foot from his baleen filled jaws to the tip of his flukes. A crew of thirty attendants are working feverishly this morning to get everything in shipshape for the engagement here. Capt. White, who has spent the last 50 years of his life in whaling in remote reaches of the seven seas, will order the gang plank in place when the last exhibit is set up and prepare to introduce thousands of Haverites to the first view of whales and whale lore. The captain had a personal hand in the capture of Colossus 4 years ago off the California coast and since that time he has



spread the fame of his embalmed prima donna from coast to coast, via print, the lecture platform and radio. A staff of uniformed attendants will be on hand to give educational talks on each feature of the show and to answer any questions asked by landlubbers...”

Flathead Courier
July 28, 1961

“Flathead Lake is named as one of the 10 best diving areas in the U.S. in the current issue of 'Skin and Scuba Diver,' national magazine. William H. (Bill) Browning, travel and promotion manager of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, said the boost for the Flathead comes as the result of a Montana Chamber-sponsored trip for Hazel Speirs, member of a husband and wife photography and freelance writing team. Mrs. Speirs visited the area last summer. 'If you're an exposure-suit owner, you'll find some of the cleanest, clearest, more irresistible water in the world in the great natural body of water that is Flathead Lake,' is the magazine's recommendation, accompanied by a half-page lake scene. While the water is cool, 'It contains some marvelous photographic subjects: giant trout, mackinaw for example, and the colorful Rainbow, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout—and in waters clear enough to photograph them,' the article adds. While game fish are protected from spearing, the diver can find plenty of action with rough fish in Flathead waters. 'Other Flathead attractions are the occasional gold nuggets found here by enterprising scuba miners,' the magazine reports.” ★

Bygone Days are compiled by Jen Eames.

MONTANA BOOKS

Internet Superstar Hank Green Shifts Gears

Many across Montana and the world were completely stunned and disoriented by the invisible monster named Covid-19 — but not Hank Green. The bestselling Missoula sci-fi author has been writing and making videos about preparing for the unfathomable for most of this century.

Green is also a world-renowned video blogger, internet producer, musician, entrepreneur, and CEO. He and his older brother John Green are known for producing the YouTube channel Vlogbrothers, where they regularly upload videos, as well as for creating and hosting the educational YouTube channels “Crash Course” and “SciShow.” Hank also co-created VidCon, the world’s largest conference about online videos and created NerdCon: Stories, a conference focused on storytelling.

In Green’s crazy-science-teacher imagination, a mind-bending encounter formed the framework for his 2018 debut sci-fi novel “An Absolutely Remarkable Thing.”

In the book, 23-year-old April May discovers gigantic armored robots, who become known as The Carls, while she’s strolling in pre-dawn New York City. Once her video goes global, the world looks to April to guide the hunt for the mysterious menace.

In his new sequel to the story, “A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor,” the stunned human race struggles with the motivation of The Carls and the even more challenging quest for truth on the internet.

If his fiction sounds both frightening and (now) strangely relevant, there’s very good reason. Raised in Orlando, Florida, Hank and his brother John soaked in the passions of their father Mike, a documentary filmmaker and Florida state director of The Nature Conservancy, and their mother Sydney, a community organizer who worked with Disney, the Science Center of Orlando and the Junior League.

His love of both science fiction and science fact led Hank to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Eckerd College and a science masters in environmental studies at UM. The title of his master’s thesis pretty accurately summarizes his life since then: “Of Both Worlds: How the Personal Computer and the Environmental Movement Change Everything.”

In 2006, he and brother John, who by then had published the first two of his successful YA novels (“Looking for Alaska,” and “An Abundance of Katherines”), combined their love of science teaching and videography by launching Vlogbrothers, an expansive world of eclectic videos that remain wildly popular, with their 15 million online subscribers, known as Nerdfighters.

Hank also dabbles in music, having recorded six albums, including Harry Potter tunes. He talks to *Montana Press* about the foundation of his experience in the videosphere, the publishing process and his concerns and hopes for the future of online education and influence.

MP: You went to college at UM. What was it like to move to Montana after spending your youth in Florida?



Hank Green: There were two big shifts to that. One was the weather; I don’t mind every day of the winter. I like it in January when it’s new and fresh and pretty, but I don’t like it in April when it’s been hovering between 28 and 35 (degrees) and everything has been melted and refrozen a thousand times. I don’t like that, but I do like seasons. I like to be able to feel the differences each year, and I like being not hot all the time. When I go back (to Florida) now, I’m like, how the fuck did I do this for 22 years?

The other difference was how people imagine each other. In Florida or in Orlando, you spend so much time on the road, with the main impediment between you and the thing that you want is interacting with the people in front of you. It’s like almost all of the interactions you have with other humans is abstract. They’re inside their cars and you’re inside of yours. It’s not a great way to have a society.

When I walked into the grocery store and bought my first set of groceries at the Albertson’s at Eastgate [in Missoula], I was checking out and the checkout person looked at me as she was swiping and said, “For tacos tonight?” And I was like, what?

She said, “Are you having tacos tonight?” And I was like, are we going to have a conversation right now?!

That had never happened to me, and I love that. I love making eye contact with people on the sidewalk, I love waving to people, I love talking to strangers. I didn’t love any of that when I first moved here. At first, it was uncomfortable, but it’s something that I really love about this place.

MP: When did you sense you had a science fiction book in you?

Green: That was a long, long process, my first book, and I initially wrote it as a comic; it was like a graphic novel. I love graphic novels. I think we all sort of look for the paths that other people have



walked down. I’m a big fan of Neil Gaiman (“American Gods”) and I kind of got into fiction largely through the world of graphic novels.

That was really appealing to me. Basically, my graphic novel turned into just an amazing outline; what ended up happening was that I realized that if I wanted to write a graphic novel, I would have to collaborate with someone. Whereas if I wrote a novel, I could just do it by myself. It didn’t require any skills that I didn’t... (laughs) well, that’s not true, but it required fewer skills that I did not have.

MP: Was it comfortable, suddenly sitting at a keyboard alone?

Green: It felt comfortable to me in that I had spent a lot of time writing already. Now obviously writing a 100,000-word book is different than writing an 800-word op-ed, which is sort of what I would do with my

The Green brothers, Hank and John launched Vlogbrothers in 2006, an expansive world of eclectic videos that remain wildly popular with their 15 million online subscribers.

videos, which are sort of constructed like an opinion piece, or like a humor essay.

The writing part wasn’t super-uncomfortable, but you’re right, the loneliness was very new and was very frustrating. I’m sitting through that right now, where even after you finish the book, there are months that go by when one can read it, and that’s really, really not what I am used to. Like when I make a video, I finish it at midnight and people are watching it six hours later.



MP: How did you and your brother invent The Vlogbrothers? Did you take the lead from your father?

Green: Yeah, that was definitely true in two different ways. I think we both saw that it was something that was possible. We'd seen Dad edit, and while we'd never done it ourselves, we'd seen it be done. Also, after college, I worked at a television station for a while, so I knew it in that context as well. But then there was the practical aspect of us being like, 'Dad, how do we do this?' and he was like, 'Get this \$200 camera.' Dad knew what we needed to buy. Now there are basically kits and YouTube videos that tell you the equipment you need to make YouTube videos, whereas then, no one had a camera in their phone, especially not HD, 4K, 3D, 4 lenses like all the stuff we have now.

MP: Your brother wrote several books before you wrote "An Absolutely Remarkable Thing." Did he offer you any advice and did you welcome it?

Green: Yeah. I didn't want him to read it.

He gave me advice about the publishing industry; "Here's how this works, this is why they say this. Does that matter? Maybe, maybe not. Here are the things that you should really be focusing on." And he helped me get an agent and that sort of thing. But in terms of craft and book stuff, he did not read it before it was done, and then he read it and had two suggestions for me, of which I took one. They were both good suggestions. I'm still ambivalent about the other thing he told me to do.

MP: How was the publishing experience for you? Did your publisher force you to make changes to your manuscript?

Green: Oh, I don't ever think about it as anybody is forcing anybody to do anything in that relationship. You have to understand why everyone is saying the things they're saying, and you have to weigh those things.

Ultimately, they're pretty good with me having control over the final manuscript but I am very receptive to criticism and very aware that my editor knows a lot more about editing than I do and that my publisher knows a lot more about publishing than I do. I listen very openly. I stand up for the things that matter the most, but there are lots of things that I don't think matter the most.

MP: What's next for you? Will there be a third book?

Green: There won't be a third book in this universe. This was written as a two-book series, so that's done with. I do want to write another novel someday; I'm working on a couple ideas right now. I'm also interested in nonfiction writing. And I'm also a business person, so I have a couple of ideas of things I'd like to do, and I'm kind of a strategist.

There's also concern about education, with what does school look like if a lot of universities have a hard time getting through this pandemic and how do we preserve the best parts of education but make it more accessible?

I'm legit worried about that, both because I live in a college town where often my friends are employed by the university but also because education is the most important thing in society, what we build everything on top of. The way to make health care cheaper is to have more doctors, and the way to increase people's livelihood and decrease inequality is to broaden access to education.

There's a disconnect between people who have a certain kind of cushy education like the kind that I had, which I think is extremely valuable but also very cushy and expensive, and people who don't have access to that kind of education [who] then sort of can't figure out why they can't get on the same page with each other... That's a problem. If that really is a valuable thing but it's only for people who have \$150,000 in the bank, that's pretty fucked up.

But right now, what I'm really struggling with is what social media is, actually – that's a lot of what I write about in this second book – and the actual amount of power it has over us right now, and how that is tremendous but maybe pales in comparison to the amount of power it may have over us in the future. ★

—JAY MACDONALD

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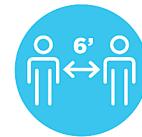
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MONTANA PROFILE

EcoPioneer Jim Evanoff

Yellowstone was established as the world's first national park in 1872, influencing the creation of the National Park Service and helping spark the more than 400 national park units today across the United States.

Encompassing 3,500 square miles, Yellowstone and the surrounding region are one of the largest, nearly intact temperate-zone ecosystems on Earth. With a steady increase in visitation from about 2.75 million in 2000 to a record-breaking 4.25 million in 2016, the park is constantly faced with how to best take care of visitors as well as the environment.

In 1988, Montana resident Jim Evanoff was working in Yellowstone's administrative division when he made a commitment to bring about a more sustainable Yellowstone National Park. The now-retired Yellowstone employee saw the public land mission to preserve and protect the park for the future generations at risk.

"It's something the park still grapples with today," he says.

Over the course of his 32-year career, Evanoff witnessed Yellowstone's efforts to adhere to its designation, "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," but says the mission is a hard one to balance.

"The three to four million national and international visitors that come to Yellowstone expect – they actually demand – that we are preserving the park for their kids and grand kids," Evanoff says.

During his career at Yellowstone, Evanoff took the initiative to tackle sustainability issues and advance environmental stewardship. As a result, the sustainability model used in Yellowstone National Park has now been employed in dozens of parks in the U.S. and internationally, including the Galapagos Islands and Patagonia in Southern Chile.

Thanks to Evanoff's stewardship, about 1,200 tons of waste was diverted each year from landfills during his career at the park. He put innovative recycling measures into place and helped create a compost system that diverted about 40 percent of the trash generated in the park.

Evanoff championed an effort to switch the janitorial staff's cleaning products from toxic to environmentally-preferable products, and also notably led the charge to switch the diesel fleet of vehicles to a renewable bio-diesel blend. This reduced park emissions by 52 metric tons annually, according to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Pioneering Personality

Evanoff has a knack for bringing people together to get important work done, according to Dylan Hoffman, the Environmental Director for Xanterra, a private company operating under contract with the National Park Service.

"Jim has a storied career, not just in Yellowstone, but even in his time beyond. He's always one to have his finger in a number of pies, and I think that's a big reason why Jim has been able to see a variety of successes," Hoffman says.

Evanoff started his career at Curecanti National Recreation area in Gunnison, Colo. He then moved to Grand Teton National Park to work as a historic preservation specialist before transferring to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Southern Utah. He worked next at Mount Rushmore National Memorial before moving to Yellowstone in 1988.

The last leg of his Park Service career would last 22 years as Evanoff found his niche in sustainability and settled into Montana.

Evanoff says he decided to stay in Montana in 1988 after coming back to work at a park he loved. It also came with a heartfelt plea from one of his two daughters Annie, who was just entering high school at the time: "Dad can we please stay in one place now?"

Evanoff retired in 2012 and now resides in Paradise Valley, just north of the Yellowstone border, with his wife Ren Evanoff.

"We met in Grand Teton Park and we both knew we wanted to go to Yellowstone," Ren says.

"His love for Yellowstone is just something that's so deep and he's always felt that way. It's not something that he grew into. It's just always been there."

Ren says her husband might not be the most polished speaker, but he is so genuine it captures and inspires his audience into action.

"People come up to him and they want him to do this or that, or they want to spend time with him. I've never known him to ever turn down taking a person into the park."

"I mean, you couldn't drag me into the park that many times," she laughs.

When Evanoff isn't educating interested parties about the facts, figures, successes and challenges the park faces, he's serving on nonprofit boards, consulting parties about sustainability projects within the parks system and serving on a fire crew as a logistics chief with a Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.



"Jim never really retires. He's bouncing around all over the place, not just in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, but around the country and around the world these days," Xanterra employee Hoffman says.

Building a Better Park

The movement, "The Greening of Yellowstone" started in the early to mid-90s.

"We began to have symposiums and conferences and brought in experts from around the country to use Yellowstone as a showcase as far as how best preserve these last best places on the planet – our national parks," Evanoff says.

Evanoff's longtime career in sustainability took off when he led the charge in a grassroots recycling effort at Yellowstone in the late 80s and early 90s.

"I started with really simple things in the beginning," he says.

He wanted to find ways to reduce, eliminate or recycle everything on the front end, so it didn't end up in the landfill. At that time, the garbage created in the park was being hauled more than 100 miles to a landfill in Logan, Montana.

His team conducted a study to analyze the garbage being produced in the park. They found that more than 40 percent of the trash was food waste – from picnics, restaurants etc. It was determined the food waste would make a rich compost, so Yellowstone National Park and nearby local governments applied for a low interest loan through the Montana DEQ and a \$4 million compost facility was built outside of West Yellowstone.

"Every single piece of garbage ends up in that facility. It's huge, like a football field."

The garbage is sorted into compostable and non-compostable piles. The compost that comes from food waste in Yellowstone is now sold to local nurseries and used in reclamation projects on public lands.

As loads of garbage were being sorted in the new facility, a visual of the waste stream indicated what needed to be done next, Evanoff said.

"We saw hundreds and hundreds of these little shampoo bottles from hotel rooms were clogging up the whole compost process, so we worked with Xanterra, our major concessionaire, to change all that. Now they have push dispensers for shampoo and lotions," he says.

Small propane cylinders used for lanterns and stoves were also being thrown out in large numbers.

"People didn't know what to do with them so they were ending up in the dumpsters and the compost facility. They all contained some level of propane so it was a health and safety issue," Evanoff says.

"We worked with a Mountain States Environmental company out of Billings to

develop a recycling trailer that takes all the propane cylinders – which has the ability to process up to 1,000 a day actually – and purges all the remaining propane out of these cylinders. Then they are punctured and flattened into what can be redeemed as high quality steel at the recycling center."

Evanoff's team developed a similar way to deal with disposed canisters of bear spray by purging out the contents and recycling the containers.

The sustainability professional also found ways to make recycling more efficient within the park.

"People look at recycling thinking they are doing the right thing, but what's really happening with everything we recycle?"

He traced the 45 tons of plastic coming out of Yellowstone and the Tetons and found it was being sent to Belgrade, Montana and then sold to a company in Seattle and shipped to China.

"I couldn't find what happened to it in China," he says. "I changed it so the plastics from Yellowstone and Teton are shipped to Georgia – which is still a footprint – but the plastic there is being shredded and used in the backing for carpet."

Glass generated at the park is pulverized into sand and used to sand the roads, he says.

"It's not just about recycling. It's about reusing."

Evanoff also led a charge to stop using toxic cleaning products at park facilities. He found employees within the janitorial staff to back him up.

"The whole key is to find champions within the ranks. In other words, because I was management, if I came down and said, 'You will change,' it would never work. So I sought out people on staff who wanted to make the change," Evanoff said. "It was a huge change in the way Yellowstone does business."

"He really carried the water on that, pardon the pun, cleaning project," says Steve Iobst, who worked 43 years with the National Park Service and retired as Yellowstone Deputy Superintendent. "It's one thing to say, 'We're not going to use these products anymore.' But he got people behind it and interested."

Yellowstone was using 140 different types of cleaning products at the time – all contained some level of toxicity – both for the employees and for the public, according to Evanoff. They cut down to six different products that were biodegradable and naturally derived.

"These are common household items these days but back then it was pretty innovative and really changed things," says former Deputy Superintendent Iobst. "To this day, I'm sure Yellowstone, Grand Teton and many other parks are using much safer products that are better for the environment – and that are better for the people who are cleaning and using the bathrooms."





No. 118 A PARK BEAR – YELLOWSTONE PARK. HAYNES-PHOTO. Printed in CA

Times have changed since bears in Yellowstone National Park were encouraged to feed on waste from the park dumps, a practice that ended in 1970. Since the late 1980s, now-retired Park Administrator Jim Evanoff (below) led exhaustive efforts to recycle everything in the park from food waste to used propane tanks. He also pioneered the use of biodiesel fuels in park vehicles and helped eliminate toxic cleaning products.



Expanding by Educating

Yellowstone was the first national park to introduce a renewable alternative fuel.

Evanoff led an effort to fuel park vehicles with renewable biodiesel from canola and rape-seed oil. As a result, public pumps popped up in West Yellowstone, Jackson and Bozeman.

“Then many other parks in the country followed that lead and started using renewable non-polluting fuels instead of diesel fuel,” Evanoff reports. “You could see the ripple effect from what we were doing.”

Evanoff’s colleagues say one of the reasons he is successful is because he isn’t afraid to be a “cheerleader” for a cause, and has the ability to connect to every one – whether seasonal employees or the head of a major corporation.

“We had an internship program with different schools including Montana State and Georgia Tech. Jim did a good job working with the interns and took them under his wing,” Lobst said. “He would always have the time to go check on a project or help them understand what they were working on.”

“At the same time Jim had a good relationship with a few corporations like Toyota. He was very good at explaining what we’re doing and why it makes sense, then he could match different corporations to different programs in the park.”

Evanoff worked with Toyota to fund a variety of sustainability projects. They donated eight Priuses to the park and helped fund an

educational program in the early 2000s called “No child left inside.”

“When you work with corporations, all of a sudden things change,” Evanoff says. “I made a great partnership with Toyota. They gave millions of dollars to the parks’ sustainability because it was the right thing to do.”

A Legacy of Sustainability

Jim Evanoff made a commitment to bring about a more sustainable Yellowstone National Park and his mission helped protect not only Yellowstone but parks around the world for future generations.

Evanoff says one of his favorite successes while at Yellowstone was witnessing a cultural change with the millions of visitors and employees in the park about how to do things differently.

After his retirement, Evanoff says he worries if some of his programs are falling to the wayside. But he continues to do sustainability work consulting for Yellowstone and other national parks.

“It’s all about education. You need to hit the visitor right as they come through the entrance gate about how to do things right and behave environmentally,” he says.

Evanoff said having the platform of Yellowstone Park made his job easier.

“When people are in the park they want to do the right thing,” he says. “You have a captive audience.” ★

—BREEANA LAUGHLIN

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Wild Montana



TRAILS LESS TRAVELED

Since 1958, the spirited people of Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) have worked to protect Montana's wilderness, wildlife habitat, and traditional recreation opportunities. The Montana-based association was instrumental in the passage of the 1964 Federal Wilderness Act and helped win Wild and Scenic designations for the Missouri and Flathead rivers, and National Monument status for the Upper Missouri River Breaks.

According to the strategic mission of the organization, MWA works to build broad-based bipartisan support for wilderness protection through outreach and mobilization of influential constituencies. They also work to protect Montana's wild places through wilderness designation, administrative agency processes, collaboration with communities and stakeholders, and youth empowerment.

MWA recently launched an updated online hiking guide at hikewildmontana.org.

"Hike Wild Montana" features more than 350 trails across the state, providing options that will help hikers stay safe, avoid crowded trails and trailheads, and discover some of Montana's lesser-known gems.

A variety of MWA members and staff have shared their favorite off-the-grid hikes and explorations to encourage all Montanans to explore their wild, public lands during one of the best seasons of the year. Visit hikewildmontana.org for trail features, further directions and information about each trail listed.

Sunset Loop

Medicine Rocks State Park is located 25 miles south of Baker on Montana Highway 7, 14 miles north of Ekalaka. (Easy)

**Aubrey Bertram
Billings, Montana**

Medicine Rocks is my favorite state park. It's a few miles south of Baker, a few miles north of Ekalaka, and basically a stone's throw from South Dakota: it's about as far east as you can get in Montana. The park is relatively small, just 330 acres, but has 12 developed campsites, including a group site, to choose from. It's named for the medicine rocks – large hunks of sandstone that dot the area and have been eroded into swiss cheese-like formations by millions of years of wind and water whipping across the prairie.

Great Plains Nations used this area as a meeting spot for diplomatic talks, hunting parties, and other ceremonies. In the late 1800s, Teddy Roosevelt was also entranced by the rocks, calling the area "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen." Medicine Rocks is far away for most Montanans, but worth the effort to enjoy an incredibly serene and quiet place with some of the most amazing sunsets and stars I have ever seen.

Roundtrip distance: 0.7 mi.
Elevation Gain: 200 ft.
Highest Elevation: 3,400 ft.



Teepee Creek Trail

Near Yellowstone National Park. The trailhead is located approximately 25 miles south of Big Sky on the east side of the highway before entering Yellowstone National Park. (Easy to Moderate)

**Emily Cleveland
Bozeman, Montana**

This moderately trafficked trail will take you through sagebrush meadows with views of the Gallatin and Madison ranges. From Dailey Creek, you'll head to Teepee Creek in the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, an area addressed in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest Plan revision. Beginning hikers, families, and anyone who loves wild solitude will enjoy this pleasant adventure.

Roundtrip Distance: 6 mi.
Elevation Gain: 925 ft.
Highest Elevation: 7,600 ft.

Sunset Loop in Medicine Rocks State Park (above) is a short walk among the unique sandstone towers at this holy place sacred to the Indigenous peoples of the Great Plains (photo by Dee Linnell Blank) and views from the Teepee Creek Trail near Yellowstone Park (Photo by Sylvia Davis).

Shining Peak (Ch-Paa-Qn)

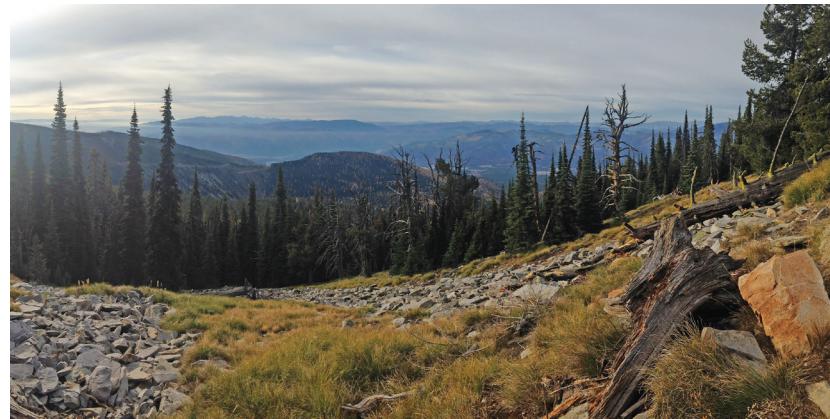
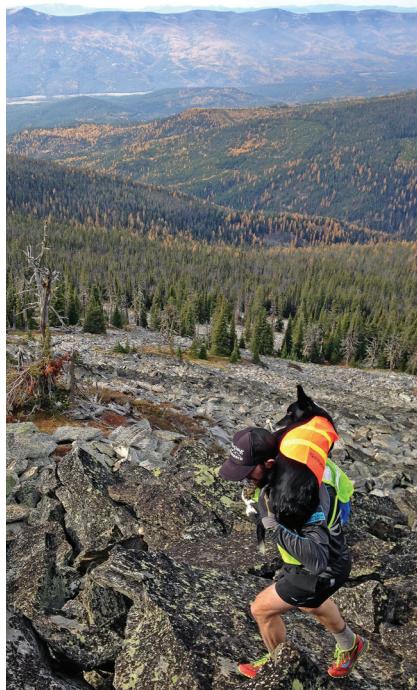
From Interstate 90, exit 82 at Ninemile, take Montana 10 west to the Remount Road. Turn north (right) and continue to the Ninemile Ranger Station. From there, continue north on the Edith Peak Road #476 for 2 miles to Stoney Creek Road #5490. Turn northwest (left) onto road #5490 and proceed 1.5 miles to road #456. Turn west (left) onto road #456 and drive 1 mile to junction with road 2178. Turn north (right) onto road #2178 and proceed 6.6 miles to trailhead. (Easy to Moderate)

**Erin Clark
Missoula, Montana**

Cha-Paa-Qn (the Salish name meaning "shining peak," pronounced "cha pa kwinn") is the peak on Missoula's western horizon with a nearly perfectly triangular top. I suspect that most of Missoula's residents take note of Cha-Paa-Qn almost daily, and most of the year it shows off a snowy hat. It's uniquely satisfying to hike to the top of a peak you gaze at from a distance so frequently.



Hike to the top of the pyramid-shaped summit of Ch-paa-qn Peak near Missoula for a unique 360-degree view of the Missoula, Mission, and Bitterroot valleys. (Photos by Bob Hopkins)



Located west of Augusta in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Crown Mountain Trail pictured below is a 30-mile, multi-day cherry-stem that starts with a quick summit over Crown Mountain Pass, then drops down into a large, recently burned area. (Photos by Mike Rooney)

Cha-Paa-Qn is accessed via the Nine Mile Valley on a fairly well-maintained Forest Service road. In the fall the road is flanked by golden larch, and western red cedar cling to one of the road's tightest turns year-round. The first two miles of trail are in the forest. It's a rooty, steady climb to start, but the deep forest makes it pleasant even on hot days. After mile two, the trail opens out into a few alpine meadows with views back towards Missoula. The last quarter mile is not really a trail but a fun, fairly strenuous scramble over large rocks to gain the summit. From the top, you'll take in 360-degree views toward the Mission Mountains, back over the Missoula Valley, west toward the Great Burn, and south along the Bitterroot Range. It's a stunning view and one you'll enjoy revisiting in your mind every time you gaze toward Cha-Paa-Qn Peak when you're back on the valley floor.

Roundtrip Distance: 7 mi.
Elevation Gain: 1,200 ft.
Highest Elevation: 7,996 ft.

Crown Mountain Trail

From Augusta, head West on Benchmark Road for 20 miles. Just past Double Falls campground and on the left side of the road will be the trailhead for Trail 270 Crown Mountain Trail. There is no access to water while you are on the trail, so be sure to bring enough. (Moderate to Difficult)

Mike Rooney
Helena, Montana

Most times when people think of "The Bob," their minds jump directly to The Chinese Wall, with its soaring reef and long approach. There's another reef worth mentioning, though, that's seldom visited and has one of my favorite campsites in The Bob: The Crown Mountain Trail, aka The Scapegoat Loop. It's a 30-mile, multi-day cherry-stem that starts with a quick summit over Crown Mountain Pass, then drops down into a large, recently burned area.



In fact, about 80% of this hike is burned, so I'd highly recommend not hiking it in peak summer as my wife and I did.

After descending the pass, the route briefly follows the Continental Divide Trail and then cuts south along the Green Fork. It's here that you'll have the opportunity to drop your packs and head up to Scapegoat Mountain if you have the energy; if not, head down into Halfmoon Park, a campsite ringed on one side by a massive reef with easy access to water and shade. You'll then have the option to follow three separate drainages to finish the loop around Halfmoon Peak to the CDT and back up to Crown Mountain Pass. This is a somewhat strenuous hike through a burn area with little shade, but the opportunity to camp a night at Halfmoon Park beneath the soaring reef is definitely worth it. And while you're out there, be sure to say, "Hi!" to the ranger at the Green Fork Guard Station.

Roundtrip Distance: 30 mi.
Elevation Gain: 3,067 ft.
Highest Elevation: 8,340 ft.

A view of the Bob Marshall Wilderness west of Augusta. (visitmontana.com)



Continental Divide

This trailhead is located a short distance west of Flesher Pass, off Highway 279. The facility provides access, both north and south, to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. A kiosk providing information is located at the trailhead. Directions from Helena: Drive West/North on Lincoln Road West/Highway 279. Continue on Highway 279 until you reach Flesher Pass Turn Left at the pullout. There is a large sign marking Flesher Pass. Continue for 1/4 mile down the dirt road to reach the trailhead. (Moderate to Difficult)

John Gatchell
Helena, Montana

The wild place I turn to, again and again, is the Continental Divide. There is a hike, ski, or snowshoe for each season. Flesher Pass offers a choice of two wildlands. South of Flesher Pass, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) enters the Specimen Creek Roadless Conservation Area. Continue south all the way (11 miles) to Stemple Pass.

To the north, the CDT ascends into the Anaconda Hill Roadless Conservation Area. From the very first overlook, you can look south and see Specimen Creek, Nevada Mountain, and – in the distance – the Electric Peak Roadless Conservation Areas along the winding Divide. North a turn reveals glimpses of massive Red Mountain (9400'), the highest peak of the Scapegoat, Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness region. The face of Red Mountain – home to grizzlies, mountain goats, elk, and wolverines – is proposed for inclusion in the Scapegoat Wilderness. In summer, this reach of the CDT offers spectacular vistas of mountains and prairie all the way to Rogers Pass (13 miles). Be prepared for wind!

In spring, fall, and early summer, I am drawn to the crown jewel of this stretch of the Great Divide: the Nevada Mountain proposed Wilderness. There is something special about the way these mountains rise and roll unmarred by roads, and open up into intimate cirque basins along the headwaters of Little Prickly Pear. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail follows the twisting rise of the Divide through excellent wildlife habitats. Watch for tracks of elk, moose, grizzly, lynx, or wolverine along the wild divide, and wildflowers.

Crystal Cascades Trail

From Lewistown, follow U. S. HWY 87 west 7 miles to the Forest Service sign. Turn left onto Crystal Lake Road and take the gravel road 22 miles to Crystal Lake. The last five miles are paved but narrow, with lots of curves. Stay to the left of the lake until you see the Ice Caves Trail sign, then the parking lot at the trailhead. (Moderate to Difficult)

Zach Angstead
Great Falls, Montana

After numerous hikes to the crest of the Big Snowies – leading hikes to the Ice Caves for MWA, friends, and family – I took the time last summer to hike a trail that I'd passed on the way to Crystal Lake. The Crystal Cascade Trailhead is about 2.5 miles before Crystal Lake and is well marked. When I pulled into the parking lot, there were a few other cars and one couple just starting their hike.

Crystal Cascades in the Big Snowy Mountains. (Photo by Nikki Yancey)

As I headed up the trail, I encountered the couple I spotted earlier already on their way back. They were daunted by a stream crossing but, receiving a quick word of caution, I continued up the trail. Within 200 feet I encountered the first of many stream crossings (22 in total if I remember correctly). The trail travels about 3.5 miles and gains 1,000 feet to reach the Crystal Cascades, which is a beautiful 100-foot, stepped waterfall emerging from the mouth of a cave. If you're looking for a longer trip, about a mile from the falls you can take a spur trail that connects to the Ice Cave trail. Apart from the first couple who quickly gave up, I had the trail entirely to myself.

Roundtrip Distance: 7 mi.
Elevation Gain: 770 ft.
Highest Elevation: 6,809 ft.

Mount Thompson-Seton Trail

Drive 59 miles north from Columbia Falls on the North Fork Road. Turn left on Whale Creek Road (#318 and #1674) and drive about 14 miles until the road dead-ends near Inuya Creek. The trail begins past the Kelly Hump. (Moderate to Difficult)

Allie Maloney
Whitefish, Montana

Up in northwest Montana, many of the trails in the Whitefish Range still have snow this time of year, but in the coming weeks, I highly recommend checking out the Mount Thompson-Seton trails.

Named for British author Ernest Thompson-Seton, this mountain is a joy to hike. After walking over the Kelly Hump at the end of Whale Creek Road, continue down the old roadbed (Whale Creek Trail #11) for a few hundred feet until you reach Inuya Creek. The creek can be a rushing torrent during spring run-off but becomes easier to cross on rocks as the water level drops during the summer. After crossing Inuya Creek, take the Inuya Creek Trail #79 to the right. This is easy to miss if you are not looking for it, as sometimes the trail sign is up and sometimes it isn't.

After climbing for a mile or two, the vegetation thins and the trail parallels Inuya Creek rushing below. When you reach Inuya Pass, Trail #79 intersects with Trail #28, the Ninko-Thompson Seton Trail. The trail signage can be easy to miss, so I suggest familiarizing yourself with your map before heading out. Once you reach the summit, there are the remains of an old lookout. The views from the top are some of the best in the entire Whitefish Range and you can gaze at a sea of peaks in every direction. You'll also see spectacular views into Canada and Glacier/Waterton National Parks and the Cabinet Mountains. Thompson-Seton is the second tallest peak in the Whitefish Range and it also provides an overview of the whole of the proposed wilderness that hopefully will encompass Tuchuck, Hefty, Review, Nasukoin, and Thompson-Seton.

Roundtrip Distance: 11.2 mi.
Elevation Gain: 3,048 ft.
Highest Elevation: 7,820 ft.



Q & A Montana Wilderness Association

Keely Damara, Communications Coordinator for the Montana Wilderness Association, spoke with *Montana Press* about the history of the organization, significant milestones in their mission of protecting and preserving public lands, and what challenges they face in the future.

MONTANA PRESS: When was the Montana Wilderness Association Founded?

KEELY DAMARA: For more than 50 years, the Montana Wilderness Association has been working with communities across the state to protect Montana's wilderness heritage, quiet beauty, and outdoor traditions.

It's a mission that began in 1958 when the founders, Ken and Florence Baldwin, sent a letter to 100 friends, inviting them to join a citizen-led effort to protect the Madison and Gallatin Ranges. Since that time, a commitment to grassroots conservation has proved instrumental in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act and in the designation of all 15 wilderness areas in Montana. We currently have more than 5,500 members.

MP: What is the association's stated mission?

DAMARA: We work with local communities around the state to protect Montana's wilderness heritage, quiet beauty, and outdoor traditions, now and for future generations.

MP: What are some of the greatest successes the organization has seen in the last year? And some of the challenges?

DAMARA: Last summer, Sen. Jon Tester reintroduced the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act. This made-in-Montana bill adds 80,000 acres to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains Wilderness and permanently protects the four most important tributaries of the Blackfoot, helping ensure the river and its native trout populations remain healthy.

The next big hurdle is getting Sen. Daines to support the bill and make sure it gets a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Daines is a member of that committee, and so far, he's blocked the bill and hasn't explained why.

This month, the Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act, legislation that would, among other things, secure full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This vital program does a lot for our outdoor way of life and quality of life. It pays for trailheads, fishing access sites, land easements, not to mention soccer fields, baseball fields, and tennis courts. This bill has bipartisan support going into the House, so we're hopeful it will be passed expeditiously after being introduced there.

Also this month, a federal appeals court upheld the cancellation of the last remaining oil and gas lease in the Badger-Two Medicine, a landscape along the Continental Divide sacred to the Blackfoot Nation.

While this is a long-awaited victory that's been nearly 40 years in the making, we're not stopping until the Badger is permanently protected. The Blackfoot Nation just recently rolled out a draft of federal legislation that would provide that protection. Our next big lift will be working with the tribe to get it passed.

MP: How can people become involved with the Montana Wilderness Association?

DAMARA: Individuals can become members and help us protect the wild public lands that make Montana such an amazing place to live by taking action on any number of issues we're working on, such as passing the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, achieving permanent protection for the Badger-Two Medicine, stopping oil and gas companies from being able to control public lands, and many other issues. Members of the public can join one of our free guided hikes and winter adventures across the state. Additionally, we welcome volunteers, and that can mean helping maintain hiking trails, helping organize events, serving on our chapters' board of directors, and whatever else helps us achieve our mission. Anyone interested in becoming a member or our activities can find out more at wildmontana.org.

See you
on the trail...

WE RECOMMEND...

STATEWIDE ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online

The monthly calendar is a sampling of events and activities online across the state. All events listed are subject to change. Send updates to: info@montanapress.net.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE VENUE TO CONFIRM SHOW TIMES AND AND CURRENT REGULATIONS.



NOT YOUR BOYFRIENDS BAND

Billings-based musicians Not Your Boyfriend's Band brings alternative rock, soulful Blues, Sketch Ska, and an edgy granite style to the region's rock and soul music genres. Links to their videos can be found at www.notyourboyfriendsband.com. Their facebook handle is [@notyourboyfriendsband](https://www.facebook.com/notyourboyfriendsband).



MUSIC ON MAIN

The Downtown Bozeman Association presents the 20th Annual Music on Main summer concert series this summer in Downtown Bozeman coming at you LIVE from the Rialto Bozeman in Downtown Bozeman and available to the public through Facebook Live at [@DowntownBozeman](https://www.facebook.com/DowntownBozeman) from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every Thurs. July 2 through July 30.



TEN SPOON WINERY MISSOULA

Local singer/songwriter Aran Buzzas returns to the Ten Spoon Winery in Missoula for a July 4 show at 6 p.m. Masks are required indoors but outdoors seating is expansive enough for social distancing. Musical acts are updated at [@TenSpoon](https://www.facebook.com/TenSpoon) on FB or www.tenspoon.com.



JOHN FLORIDIS

This Missoula-based guitarist, singer-songwriter and composer has released seven recordings mixing bluesy, folk-rock vocal tunes with adventurous solo acoustic guitar compositions. His most recent recording is *Live From 11th and Grant*, the soundtrack from his Northwest Emmy Award-winning performance for the Montana PBS program of the same name. Floridis will play Montana Happy Hour @ MontanaPress on Facebook Live at 5 p.m. on July 30. He also records a regular show on Montana Public Radio and his music, merch and performances are available at www.johnfloridis.com.



SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES: MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK

Missouri Headwaters State Park presents an outdoor Summer Speaker Series kicking off July 4 at 7 p.m. with musicians Buck Buchanan and Mark O'Boyle. On varying Saturdays through the summer with social distancing standards and limited capacity. The Park will also be hosting these events via Facebook Live at [@MissouriHeadwatersStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriHeadwatersStatePark).



LANEY LOU AND THE BIRD DOGS

An energetic Americana-folk band that infuses four-part harmonies, engaging songwriting, and rock-n-roll drive into a modern approach to traditional folk music. Lena Marie Schiffer (Laney Lou) also plays solo. Check her out her FB handle online at [@LenaMarieSchiffer](https://www.facebook.com/LenaMarieSchiffer) and past concerts at the handle [@TheBirdDogs](https://www.facebook.com/TheBirdDogs). Find albums, music to download and Bird Dogs merch and swag at www.thebird-dogs.com



MARCEDES CARROLL

With a guitar in tow, Carroll bends Americana melodies to her stylistic storytelling. Frequently uploading musical collaborations on her Facebook handle [@MarcedesCarrollMusic](https://www.facebook.com/MarcedesCarrollMusic), the artist recently released *She's Pretty: Vol. 2* which is available at her website at www.marcescscarroll.com. Carroll will perform at the [@MontanaPress](https://www.facebook.com/MontanaPress) Happy Hour on July 16 at 5 p.m.

MONTANA HAPPY HOURS: COUNTING COUP AND RYAN ACKER



On Thursdays at 5 p.m., Montana Press Monthly hosts live music with a Montana artist on Facebook live. During the summer, these events are every other week. After the live performance, the hour-long concert remains available to view at any time. On June 18, Counting Coup, a rock band out of Billings, performed live for Montana Happy Hour. The Montana Press spoke with Toby Falcon of Counting Coup ahead of their show.

A self-described “western-blues-folk-rock group,” Counting Coup is an indigenous term, pronounced “koo,” meaning “to strike.” In Native American culture, counting coup is the ultimate display of bravery.

On the band’s website, it’s noted the term takes many forms but the most well-known is the act of touching an enemy in battle, showing a chance to take their life and choosing not to. No matter the case, “Counting coup always includes risking one’s life for the sake of honor and bravery.”

“We are no stranger to loss and hardship,” says Falcon, “But we believe there is power in what you listen to. Music has had a profound effect on our lives and we hope to pay that forward.”

Falcon chatted with *Montana Press* ahead of their Montana Happy Hour performance recently about the band, the music and their inspiration.

MONTANA PRESS: Can you tell me a little about how the band formed/how you evolved to the point you are now in your music?

TOBY FALCON: We got started playing as a group in the winter of 2017/2018. That one was a record breaking year for snow, and also just a really tough time for us. We had suffered a lot of loss, so it seemed imperative to us to express ourselves honestly and come together in a positive way. Counting Coup is a Native American term for an act of bravery, and we hope we represent that.

MP: What/who are some of the major influences, past and present, that affect the band’s sound?

FALCON: For us, it’s all for the sake of the song. We look up to writers like Guy Clark and John Prine, while musically we are pretty eclectic. We draw sounds from Hank Williams to Jimi Hendrix, from Dawes to Muddy Waters.

“We believe there is power in what you listen to. Music has had a profound effect on our lives and we hope to pay that forward.”

—Toby Falcon, Counting Coup

MP: Tell us about your touring schedule right now, especially with COVID restrictions - where have you been and where are you headed? What are some of the challenges to touring and performing at this time?

FALCON: We’ve lost a lot of bookings, though they are starting to trickle back with small gatherings. When it comes to COVID19, we realize lost shows can’t compare in the slightest to the lives and livelihoods lost in the pandemic. It’s given us time to work on other things such as recordings and merch, so there’s a blessing there. We all just hope we come out of the other side, stronger and smarter when the dust settles.

MP: What’s something you’d say all the band members all have in common?

FALCON: We are all very alike, with a few personality differences. We are cut from very similar cloth. We all enjoy shooting pool, collecting and listening to vinyl, and enjoying the outdoors.

MP: What can we look forward to in your show/performance this week and at live and online performances in the future?

FALCON: Counting Coup is going to do as we’ve always done. We will continue to strive for that new favorite ol’ song you never knew. We will ask you to feel and encourage you to dance. We will ride on until we are rugged, rowdy, and broken; and at the very least, offer a little distraction to this crazy life we all lead. ★

—REILLY NEILL

Check out Counting Coup’s concert video on the @MontanaPress Facebook page. For more info on the band, check out their website at countingcoup.net where more uploaded performances are available.

Montana native Ryan Acker, a long-time member of The Last Revel, a Minnesota-based bluegrass outfit, had a busy touring plan on the calendar for support of his debut self-released solo album, *Winter Where You’re From*. But with the global coronavirus pandemic, those plans have been put on the backburner. *Montana Press* spoke with Acker about how he’s adapting to the new reality, the contents of his new album, and his admiration for Bob Dylan.

MONTANA PRESS: How have you been coping with the current Coronavirus situation?

RYAN ACKER: It was initially a huge shock to the system, to have so much planning and preparation for 2020 go out the window. There were so many gigs I was looking forward to this summer that now are not happening. I’m investing a lot of time and energy into home-recording techniques. On the other side of that, it’s been nice to have a bit of a break. For the first time in my adult life I will be home for a summer.

MP: Have you done many of the live-stream shows?

ACKER: I’ve done a couple and I enjoy it. There’s an initial awkward element to playing and performing when nobody is really there. That’s a strange little hurdle to get over. I realized how much I missed it, how much it was a weekly part of my life that I hadn’t visited in a while. I think people are realizing how much live music means to them when they don’t have it.

MP: Have you thought about how shows can be staged after this situation?

ACKER: I’m just holding my breath and just wanting to see what happens. I have some local in-person events that I feel fortunate to have. It’s limited-capacity events, smaller venues, bars and breweries. But as far as touring outside Montana, I’m not personally counting on that happening this fall. Not sure about some of these venues that I have played before; will their doors even be open again?

MP: Did you have a vision for your new album before starting it?

ACKER: It’s been an idea I’ve had for a long time. I’ve been part of this bluegrass band (The Last Revel) based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota for about a decade or so. But there’s something to be said for having

complete creative control. Just going through the process of writing, recording and releasing music on your own. I recorded most of it on my own. Some home recordings and some studio work in Minneapolis to finish it up. It was a really eye-opening process.

MP: Was it difficult paring down the material for the album?

ACKER: I was fortunate enough to have a lot of solo gigs in 2019 to try new tunes out. I think that’s always a decent judge of a song’s character. If it doesn’t feel good to play live, it probably doesn’t feel good to listen to on a record.

MP: How did the song “The Night Before Us” come together?

ACKER: I’ve been working on that song since probably 2016. I wrote different versions of it. That feeling of a relationship ending and drifting apart and that emotional process after a long-term relationship. Just where that fits into the healing process.

MP: Do you have a hard time letting go of a song?

ACKER: Absolutely. I do have a problem with that. I like to take that liberty as an artist in that maybe something isn’t ever done. I got to see Bob Dylan play in 2017 in St. Paul, and it was an incredible concert. I knew going in that Bob Dylan’s live shows are off the wall. I went into that and there wasn’t one song I recognized. He had changed these songs to something completely different. Something about that was inspiring to me. Bob Dylan can do whatever he wants because they are his songs, and he’s not done evolving and changing who he is and what his music is.

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

ACKER: When I first started out, I was always a band guy. That collaborative effort was my bread and butter for a long time. But I never really thought I’d been releasing solo music. That’s the biggest step I’ve taken personally in the last few years -- just going from a band guy who wrote songs for somebody else to sing, to singing my songs on my record.

MP: What can fans expect from The Montana Happy Hour show in July?

ACKER: I will be playing tunes off my new record, for sure. I also love covering some of my heroes -- Bob Dylan, Neil Young, John

Prine -- that’s where a lot of my influences come from. I will likely be bringing along friends to play with me. I’ll talk a bit about the songs. One thing I liked about live streaming is I have all the liberty in the world to tell the stories that I want. ★

—JASON MACNEIL

Ryan Acker performs live on Facebook on the @MontanaPress page on July 9 at 5 p.m.



MONTANA ARTS: AMANDA HEIMBUCH AND COUNTRY GIRL CLAY

Amanda Heimbuch, owner of Country Girl Clay, in Glendive, provides mud-caked testimony that, behind every polished and impressive mug, saucer, or plate, there is a hardworking pair of hands. Fine details beautify the object, but the worn fingers of the maker form the finished piece.

“If you don’t work hard as a potter, you are not going to survive,” says Ms. Heimbuch. “I think that there is a misconception that pottery is super relaxing. Truthfully, it’s a ton of work, with hours of standing, or hours of sitting, trimming. But you need to put in all of your effort, and not be prideful. It’s not something to do as a hobby; you really do have to love it.”

The diverse inventory of Amanda’s sparklingly multi-hued glazes found at her studio at 211 North Merrill Ave, in Glendive, makes known the effort, intensity, and the aesthetic ambience of the potter and the expression of a lasting vision for Country Girl Clay.

Raised on a sugar beet and horse farm outside Glendive, Amanda once wrote her second grade teacher a letter expressing her dream to make a living at art. While in high school, Amanda was drawn to the stroke of the paintbrush, and later while she attended college in North Dakota, she studied color application and art theory and was widely exposed to pottery.

“I’ve always wanted to make things that make people happy,” says Heimbuch. “I’ve been to art school, and I’ve learned art theory, and I understand deeper purposes. But all of the time, I’ve just wanted to make stuff. I’m a maker. I’m not an art theorist. Yeah, I love the history of pottery. But I was always more interested in finding things and making things that make people happy. In college, I started paying attention to pottery. Since the second grade, I’ve wanted to spend my life making art, and I didn’t care what it was.”

She credits her knowledge of ceramics to the years she spent working with Tama Smith, the founder of Prairie Fire Pottery, in Beach, North Dakota, in the late 2000s. From premise to conclusion, Amanda learned the balancing act of craft and business.

“Our glazing style is similar, but we work in different color palettes. She’s very good at working with glazes. Anybody can learn to make a decent pot, but I learned that if it’s an ugly color, it just doesn’t sell. Working for another small business, I fell in love with



the business of pottery. Pottery is a utilitarian art and easier to sell than a \$2,500 painting. Something that you could use is easier to sell on a regular, consistent basis.”

Heimbuch’s pottery is a body of work melted into near magnificence, a crossroads of the serviceable and the startling, the practical and the poetic. Color provides her with the most skillful means of realizing her vision.

“A lot of pottery, a lot of art, is mostly brown, blue, and tan,” says Heimbuch. “That just didn’t call to me. I want to be a bright, colorful potter. I still want to bring more color into it, like my favorite color, turquoise. It’s been a journey over a ten-year period, but the glazes are always evolving.”



In the beginning, Heimbuch rented a small 400 square-foot retail space, but when another larger building came up for sale nearby, she swooped on the opportunity.

“There’s quite a bit of traffic in Glendive, and many people come for tourism, like the Dinosaur Trail, or the Lewis and Clark Trail. A lot of people find me now because of the shows that I’ve done, and I have a good Facebook following.”

Heimbuch has since expanded to offering her works to gift shops at places such as Old Faithful Inn and the Lake Yellowstone Hotel and about ten more locations around Montana. One of the signature features that makes her electric kiln-fired pottery most salable is its fiery drip and run and its exuberant explosion of about 30 different glazes.

The life of a production potter can be taxing now and again – think about the replication needed to toss approximately 2,000 mugs in about six months – so Heimbuch is smart to allot a few days or more to make experimental items, like patterning a new batch of butter dishes.

“I think it’s a balance of pleasing people and not getting burned out. I work with so many color combinations, and if I’m doing, say, a dinnerware set, using 12 different colors, that can be overwhelming. On a good note, I’m backed up from two to six months.”

Heimbuch says that she is accustomed to the unpredictable spouts and droughts and booms and busts of the economy, yet she is feeling particularly optimistic in the teeth of the mayhem wreaked on the country as a result of COVID-19.

“I think we are seeing another shift, where for a while people were super excited for Walmart, whereas now people want unique stuff again,” Heimbuch says. “Even though the economy sunk in 2008 in the oil fields, overall it has been busier and busier every year, until now.”

Nonetheless, the recent news that the BNSF Railroad Company’s diesel facility in Glendive will be closing down in July could hardly be perceived as anything but ill-fated.

“There are a lot of families moving out or about to,” says Heimbuch. “I’ve tried to work hard enough and in a way that I’m not too tied to the economy directly here. Thinking outside the box. This year, in March, we had no traffic; we had to close, so I used it as a time to put together new color groupings, and I sold everything that I posted. You need to find a way to dig in and dig deep. If you don’t work hard, you are not going to survive.”

While hard work is the obvious mandate, posterity is her secret incentive.

“When you look back at all of our history, pottery is something that might be found 500 years into the future. We archeologically date stuff by looking at pottery. Where nothing else has survived, you will still find the pottery.”

Encouraged by an increased presence online and a strong demand, and fulfilled by the tenets of slow, deliberate living, Heimbuch, 35, says that she is grateful to have built a business from the inside that happens to look spectacular from the outside.

“Yes, it’s been risky, and I took a chance with this. But I knew that I could figure out a way how to make things in the world. I love coming into work every day, and most of the time it’s all fulfilling.” ★

BRIAN D’AMBROSIO

Visit countrygirlclay.com to learn more about potter Amanda Heimbuch.



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Music, Performances and Events Outside and Online



LIVE MUSIC ONSTAGE IN GREAT FALLS AT THE BEACON ICEHOUSE ON SATURDAYS. VISIT @BEACONICEHOUSE ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

KIRK'S GROCERY- BILLINGS

Bring a chair, soak in the pure Minnesota Ave. air, and listen to live music or poetry at Kirk's Grocery in Billings where poetry jams, comedy shows and musical acts will perform outdoors. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. Check out FB handle @KirksGrocery for event updates.



PINE CREEK - PARADISE VALLEY

Pine Creek continues to host live outdoor music events through the summer. Acts planned for the stage include The Fossils, Pinky and the Floyd, and The Samples. Visit their FB handle @PineCreekLodgeMontana.

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



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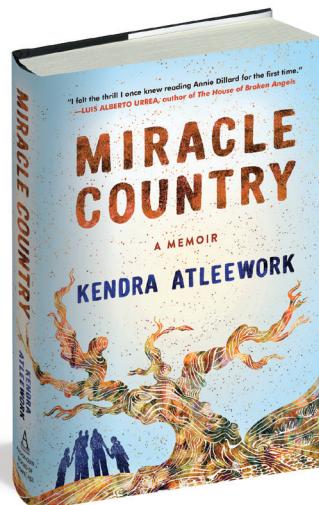


Mad Max: Fury Road

THURSDAY, JULY 9
OGREN PARK ALLEGIANCE FIELD

Centerfield Cinema

MISSOULA



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PHILLIP MARGOLIN

July 9 - 7:30 p.m.

Margolin has written over 20 novels, most of them *New York Times* bestsellers. His newest Robin Rockwood thriller "A Reasonable Doubt" hit stands in March 2020.

KENDRA ATLEEWOR

July 16 - 7:30 p.m.

An essay selected for The Best American Essays 2015 formed the basis for a chapter of Debut author Atleework's "Miracle Country." *Montana Book Company in Helena* will host a Zoom call with the author on July 29 at 6 p.m. For information, visit @MtBookCompany on FB.

ERICA C BARNETT & DAVID SCHMADER

July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

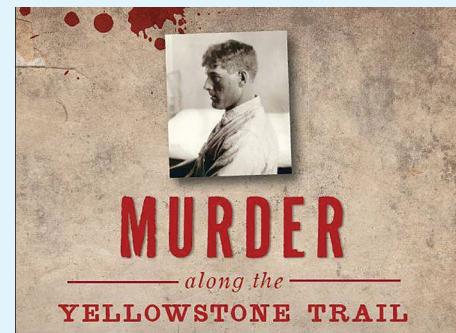
Seattle-based political reporter Barnett in conversation with writer and performer Schmader to discuss Barnett's new book "Quitter," a frank memoir of one woman's struggles with alcoholism and recovery.

STEVE OLSON & SHARMA SHIELDS

July 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Science writer Olson ("The Apocalypse Factory") and award-winning author Shields ("The Cassandra") in conversation about their new books colliding in the Atomic Age.

MONTANA BOOK EVENTS

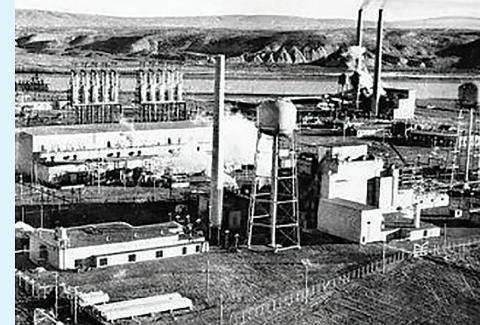


NEW RELEASE: KELLY SUZANNE HARTMAN

In the Fall of 1920, two couples pulled into a campsite just off the famous Yellowstone Trail between Manhattan and Three Forks. A few weeks later one couple drove away while the other simply vanished. In one of the most sensational murder cases ever played out in a Montana court, Seth Danner put up a fight for his life and lost. But was he guilty? Montana author Kelly Hartman recently released the book, "Murder Along the Yellowstone Trail: the Execution of Seth Danner." Hartman's curiosity into the possible innocence of Seth Danner has haunted her since visiting the Gallatin History Museum museum as a child. Her book became a labor of love as well as a personal study into the simplicity and complications of human behavior, revealing "a light of illumination" on the characteristics of the man who was judged and those who condemned him. The book is now available at the Gallatin History Museum.

Send book events, author news and new releases to info@montanapress.net.

THE PLUTONIUM AND THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC AGE
APOCALYPSE
FACTORY
STEVE OLSON



FAMOUS AND NOT FORGOTTEN: THE TERRY COWBOY BAND

Terry and Prairie County stake claim to one piece of Montana's most idiosyncratic history—a band of musicians who invited themselves to a President's birthday party, and made a great friendship in the process.

First called Joubert's Landing in recognition of the man who built the supply route along the Yellowstone River, Terry, Montana was renamed after Alfred Howe Terry, a general in the Union Army who commanded forces in the Dakota Territory after the Civil War. The original Terry Cornbelt Band formed in Terry, in 1909, one year before Terry was incorporated.

At that time, Terry would have been a double railroad town, influenced by the presence of both the Northern Pacific and Milwaukee Railroads. Most of the original band members were business men from Terry, but some were considered genuine "cowboys," while others hailed from other nearby towns, including Fallon, where the bandleader, Carl Anderson, lived. Their purpose was simple: supply their communities with good quality music and the promise of a jolly time.

After splitting up for a few years, the group re-emerged in 1915 with a fundraising dance held to secure funds for uniforms and new instruments. Starting in 1922, the Terry Cornbelt Band, bedecked in new chaps, dusters, bandannas, and cowboy hats, held weekly summer concerts at the town bandstand.

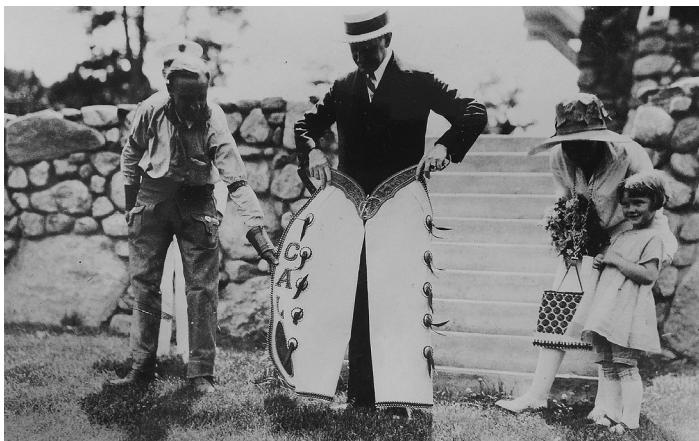
The most famous event surrounding the Terry Cornbelt Band was their trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota to play at the Summer White House of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the U.S. whose 55th birthday was on the Fourth of July in 1927. Coolidge, a Republican, served as President from 1923-1929, and was first thrust into the position after President Warren G. Harding died unexpectedly while in office.

According to the journals of band member Billy Grandfield, the Terry Cornbelt Band had just returned from Glendive, where they had played at the town's celebration of the opening of the branch line of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Circle-Brockway. During their stay in Glendive, band members were treated as guests of the officials of the NPRR in their private cars. Someone asked the question, "Where do we play next?"

One of the members responded, "in an off-hand manner," according to Grandfield: "For President Coolidge's birthday!" Another voice chimed in, "Why not?" Another member of the band, W.R. Flachsenhar, a State Representative, parroted the question, "Why not?"

Inspired, Flachsenhar soon corresponded directly with the President's secretary on the matter. Soon, a wire arrived with the President's invitation for the band to appear at his summer White House, about 35 miles from Rapid City, on July Fourth at 1:30 p.m. According to Grandfield, "we held a practice meeting on that night and was ready to go next day, making the start and on the way."

As a present for President Coolidge, they chose a pair of chaps made by Al Furstnow's Saddlery, in Miles City. The original invoice shows the purchase price of "1 pr. Coolidge chaps" at \$36.00, minus a "special reduction" of \$8.50, for the billable total of \$27.50.



Seventy-seven people packed in 22 vehicles and caravanned to the Black Hills, including a designated official car, a truck for instruments, and a chuck wagon. First stop was an evening of music in Fallon. The route then traversed through the Montana towns of Mildred, Ismay, and Baker, and then through Camp Crook, and Buffalo, South Dakota.

The morning of the July Fourth visit, Grandfield wrote that some of the group "seemed a little excited on thought of meeting with the President and his wife... But most of us old hands went about our tasks, just like meeting with Presidents were an everyday thing with us."

The band marched past hundreds of people who lined the road on both sides until they came to the entrance to the Summer White House lawn, when the sentry on duty stepped aside and stood at attention while they passed. They followed Colonel Edmund W. Starling up the driveway and onto the lawn, where they formed a circle in concert formation. In a few moments the President and Mrs. Coolidge appeared, and the crowd and the band joined in a loud cheer. "We played a piece or two, and the President came down on the lawn from the House," journaled Grandfield.

Colonel Starling motioned Rep. Flachsenhar, who on behalf of "the Terry Montana Cowboy Band" — the band settled on the new moniker during the drive to The Black Hills — and the people of Montana, presented the President with the chaps of light-colored leather, embossed with silver studs around the edges, and letters CAL in silver down each leg, and a medallion monogram on the bottom of each leg, hand-engraved, with the words "Presented By The Terry Cowboy Band," above a picture of a cowboy riding a bucking bronco.

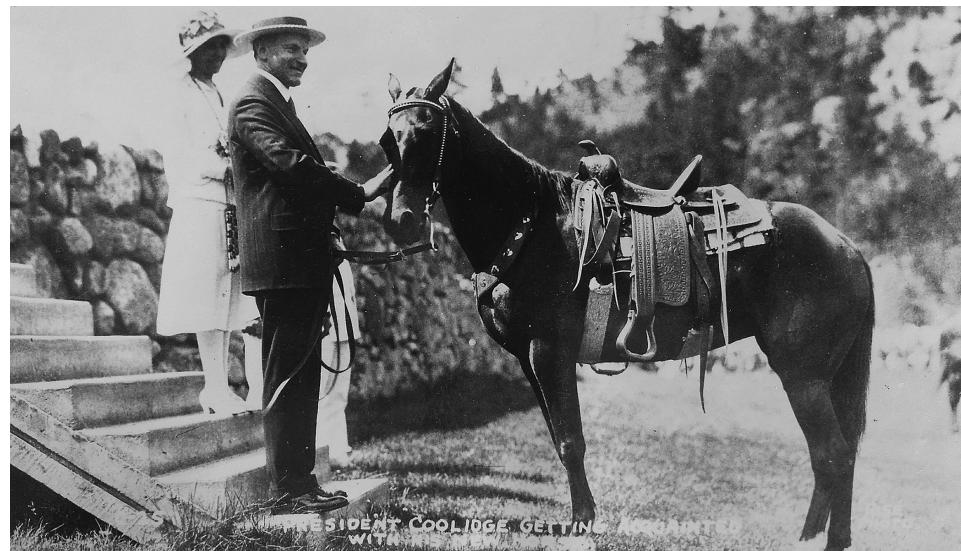
Representative Flachsenhar said a few chosen words that were received by the President "with a broad smile and a handshake." The Boy Scouts then came forward and presented the President with a horse, saddle, spurs, shirt and kerchief.

Subsequently, a four-year-old from Terry named Frances Lillian Hewitt presented Mrs. Coolidge with a beautiful bouquet of pink roses, and the Terry Montana Cowboy Band and friends received an introduction to the President and the First Lady in sight of thousands of people who lined the road and covered the hillside. After this the band played a few selections; a song was sung by Korse Johnson, the drum major, which "caused the President and his wife to smile." Afterwards, Mrs. Coolidge approached Johnson



and requested that the words and music of the song be sent to her as soon as the band returned home. The President donned his cowboy rig and the band played more tunes.

—BRIAN D'AMBROSIO



"President Coolidge getting acquainted with his new horse," reads the inscription above. The custom chaps, a gift to the president upon his birthday on July 4, 1927, were a gift from the Terry Montana Cowboy Band.

Soon, the Summer White House servants arrived with loads of trays, and a large half-circle formed with the Cowboy Band in the center, and their families and friends from Montana on one side. After the birthday cake was unveiled, the band played another number or two, and the horse that was presented to the President by the Boy Scouts was led into the circle, and the bridle reins were placed in the President's hands.

"Most everyone kept expecting to see the President mount his horse," wrote Grandfield. "But as he had not done much riding before he came to the Black Hills, he refrained from making any attempt to ride. But he led it around the lawn while the movie men took pictures..."

Coolidge cut his birthday cake and served it to his guests. At about 3 p.m. the President returned to the house, and Mrs. Coolidge retired to the porch of the house overlooking the lawn, having "assured herself that everybody enjoyed themselves," recalled Grandfield.

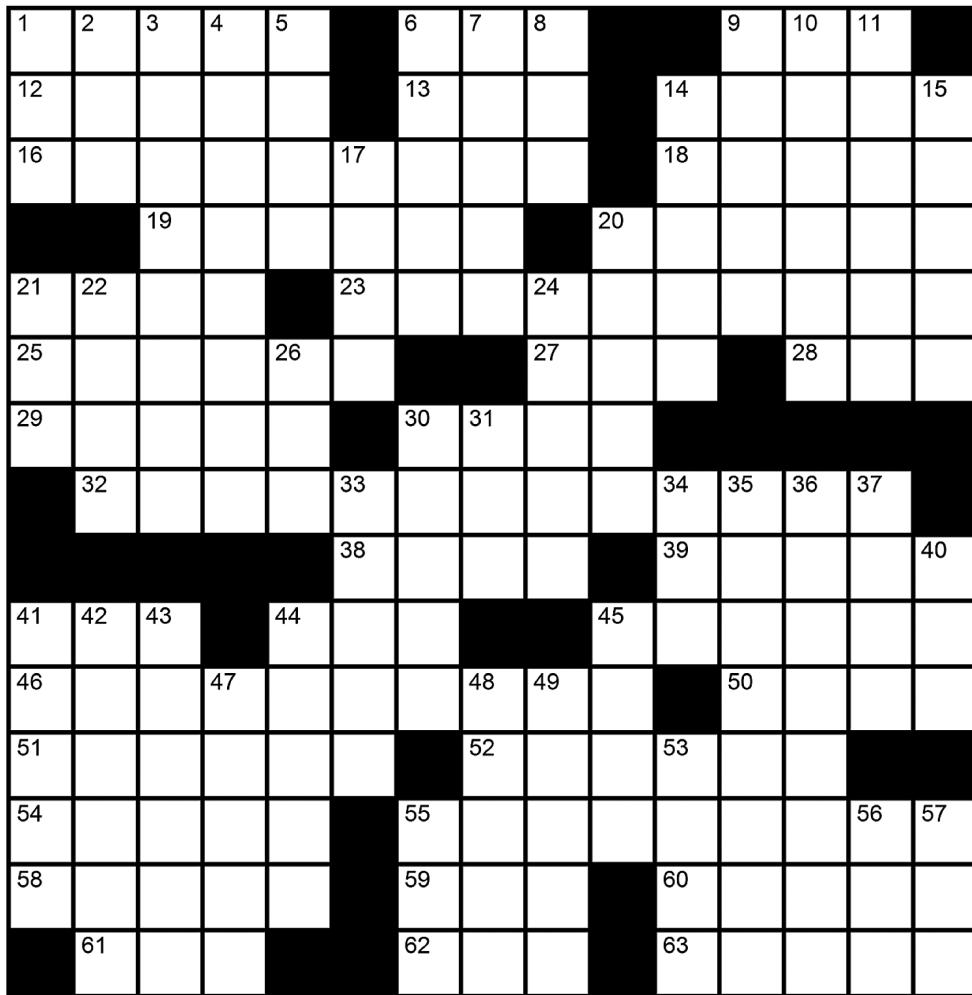
To conclude the memorable event, the Terry Montana Cowboy Band played several more numbers, saluted the observers, and marched away to camp. Within a few hours, the band was embarking on the route to their next gig in Belle Fourche the following night.

The Terry Cowboy Band later made several other long journeys, including to Gallatin Gateway for the official opening of that entrance to Yellowstone Park on June 29, 1929, to the Minnesota State Fair in 1934, and to the Golden Jubilee of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, also in 1934. The band also played at the celebration of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Glendive and Circle, starting with a rousing set as the initial passenger train arrived in Circle, on June 2, 1928.

Newspaper clippings, photos and posters of the performances of the Terry Montana Cowboy Band may be found at the Prairie County Museum, in Terry. According to papers at the museum, the last documented event was a concert combining the Terry and Glendive bands in 1947; the Terry Montana Cowboy Band officially disbanded in 1953. The President's chaps are now located in the Coolidge Room of the Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts, while Al Furstnow's Saddlery, in Miles City, where the chaps were made, stayed in business for almost a century, from 1894 until 1982. ★

Jonesin' Crosswords

by Matt Jones



"Art Colony"

Wear your work proudly.

ACROSS

- 1 Drum from India
- 6 In a bygone time
- 9 Lithuania, once: abbr.
- 12 Erotic diarist Nin
- 13 Camera output, slangily
- 14 Bridge material
- 16 Demand that Kissinger squeal like a pig?
- 18 What things could always be
- 19 Judged
- 20 Joint
- 21 Melville character
- 23 Learn about all things rosy-colored?
- 25 Lean and muscular
- 27 Put in one's piehole
- 28 Body part that may be "on the line"
- 29 Time Warner launch of 1996
- 30 Gross-looking delicacy
- 32 Where 16-across, 23-across, 46-across and 55-across all got their work done
- 38 Finds work for
- 39 Hill of the Clarence Thomas scandal
- 41 Cash cow, so to speak
- 44 Holy folk, for short
- 45 Shellfish considered an aphrodisiac
- 46 Do the nasty with Jeter?

- 50 Flour measurements
- 51 Rapper's greeting
- 52 Japanese historical period that ended in 1868
- 54 Creed lead singer Scott ____
- 55 Ice skating area that's totally green?
- 58 Conversational switch
- 59 Title for a Khan
- 60 Singer Cruz
- 61 Noise
- 62 Printer's measures
- 63 "I put a spell ____..."

DOWN

- 1 Concept embodying yin and yang
- 2 Folk singer DiFranco
- 3 Biker's headwear: var.
- 4 Favor over other options
- 5 Tennis legend Arthur
- 6 It may cause snoring
- 7 Braces (for)
- 8 Acne-fighting brand
- 9 Bend down low
- 10 Novak Djokovic's country
- 11 Varnish ingredients
- 14 Said some bad words
- 15 Shallot relatives
- 17 One of many for "Mad Men"
- 20 Put off
- 21 Cameraman's certification, for short
- 22 Help breaking into a puzzle
- 24 "Save the ____" (breast cancer awareness phrase)
- 26 Ability to say clever things

- 30 One's homies
- 31 Mimic
- 33 Show up
- 34 Put (down)
- 35 Like duos Dharma & Greg or Mike & Molly
- 36 In a traditional way
- 37 Rung
- 40 "____ Poetica"
- 41 Deep hole
- 42 Played the horn
- 43 "The Karate Kid" guy who catches flies with chopsticks
- 44 Online call service
- 45 "All right, I get it already!"
- 47 "____ intended"
- 48 Sit on the throne
- 49 Krabappel and Ferber
- 53 Kitchen gadget and cookware company
- 55 Singer Corinne Bailey ____
- 56 Mark Tatulli comic strip
- 57 Former "Survivor" contestant ____-Man Chan

JUNE SOLUTION



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries author Marge Piercy writes, "The people I love the best, jump into work head first without dallying in the shallows." The Aries people I love best will do just that in the coming days. Now is not the right time to wait around passively, lazily hoping that something better will come along. Nor is it prudent to procrastinate or postpone decisions while shopping around for more options or collecting more research. Dive, Aries, dive!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): *Calvin and Hobbes* is a comic strip by Bill Watterson. It features a boy named Calvin and his stuffed tiger Hobbes. In the first panel of one story, Calvin is seated at a school desk looking perplexed as he studies a question on a test, which reads "Explain [Isaac] Newton's First Law of Motion in your own words." In the second panel, Calvin has a broad smile, suddenly imbued with inspiration. In the third panel, he writes his response to the test question: "Yakka foob mog. Grug pubbawup zink wattooom gazork. Chumble spuzz." The fourth panel shows him triumphant and relaxed, proclaiming, "I love loopholes." I propose that you use this scenario as your victorious metaphor in the coming weeks, Taurus. Look for loopholes! And use them to overcome obstacles and solve riddles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It is a fault to wish to be understood before we have made ourselves clear to ourselves," wrote philosopher and activist Simone Weil. I'm hoping that this horoscope of mine can help you avoid that mistake. In the coming weeks and months, you will have a stronger-than-usual need to be seen for who you really are—to have your essential nature be appreciated and understood by people you care about. And the best way to make sure that happens is to work hard right now on seeing, appreciating, and understanding yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some readers wish I would write more like Cormac McCarthy or Albert Camus or Raymond Chandler: with spare simplicity. They accuse me of being too lush and exuberant in my prose. They want me to use shorter sentences and fewer adjectives. To them I say: It ain't going to happen. I have feelings similar to those of best-selling Cancerian author Oliver Sacks, who the *New York Times* called, "one of the great clinical writers of the 20th century." Sacks once said, "I never use one adjective if six seem to me better and, in their cumulative effect, more incisive. I am haunted by the density of reality and try to capture this with 'thick description.'" I bring these thoughts to your attention, my fellow Cancerian, because I think it's important for you to be your lavish, sumptuous, complex self in the coming weeks. Don't oversimplify yourself or dumb yourself down, either intellectually or emotionally.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel writer Paul Theroux has journeyed long distances by train: once from Britain to Japan and back again, and then from Massachusetts to Argentina. He also rode trains during part of his expedition from Cairo to Cape Town. Here's one of his conclusions: "It is almost axiomatic that the worst trains take you through magical places." I'd like to offer a milder version of that counsel as your metaphor for the coming weeks: The funky, bumpy, rickety influences will bring you the best magic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Philosopher Miguel de Unamuno declared, "Everything that exalts and expands consciousness is good, while that which depresses and diminishes it is evil." This idea will be intensely true for and applicable to you in the coming weeks, Virgo. It will be your sacred duty—to both to yourself and to those you care about—to enlarge your understandings of how the world works and to push your awareness to become more inclusive and empathetic. What's your vision of paradise-on-earth? Now is a good time to have fun imagining it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What do you want to be when you grow up, Libra? What's that you say? You firmly believe you are already all grown up? I hope not! In my vision of your destiny, you will always keep evolving and transforming; you will ceaselessly transcend your existing successes and push on to accomplish further breakthroughs and push on. Now would be an excellent time to rededicate yourself to

this noble aspiration. I invite you to dream and scheme about three specific wonders and marvels you would like to experience during the next five years.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren has advice that would serve you well in the coming weeks. She says, "Keep a little space in your heart for the improbable. You won't regret it." In accordance with your astrological potentials, I'm inclined to amend her statement as follows: "Keep a sizable space in your heart for the improbable. You'll be rewarded with catalytic revelations and intriguing opportunities." To attract blessings in abundance, Scorpio, be willing to set aside some of your usual skepticism and urge for control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Author Malidoma Somé lives in the U.S. now, but was born in the West African country of Burkina Faso. He writes, "In the culture of my people, the Dagara, we have no word for the supernatural. The closest we come to this concept is *Yielbongura*, 'the thing that knowledge can't eat.' This word suggests that the life and power of certain things depend upon their resistance to the categorizing knowledge that human beings apply to everything." I bring Somé's thoughts to your attention, Sagittarius, because I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will encounter more than the usual number of experiences that knowledge can't eat. They might at times be a bit spooky or confounding, but will mostly be interesting and fun. I'm guessing that if you embrace them, they will liberate you from overly literal and materialistic ideas about how the world works. And that will be good for your soul.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pioneer Capricorn scientist Isaac Newton is often hailed as one of history's greatest geniuses. I agree that his intellectual capacities were sublime. But his emotional intelligence was sparse and feeble. During the time he taught at Cambridge University, his talks were so affectless and boring that many of his students skipped most of his classes. I'll encourage you to make Newton your anti-role model for the next eight weeks. This time will be favorable for you to increase your mastery of three kinds of intelligence beyond the intellectual kind: feeling, intuition, and collaboration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When future writer (and Aquarius) Charles Dickens was 12 years old, his parents and siblings got incarcerated in a debtors' prison. To stay alive and help his family, he took a job working 12 hours a day, six days a week, pasting labels on pots of boot polish in a rotting, rat-infested warehouse. Hard times! Yet the experiences he had there later provided him with rich material for the novels that ultimately made him wealthy and beloved. In predicting that you, too, will have future success at capitalizing on difficulty, I don't mean to imply you've endured or will endure anything as harsh as Dickens' ordeal. I'm just hoping to help you appreciate the motivating power of your challenging experiences.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Maybe you feel that the ongoing pandemic has inhibited your ability to explore and deepen intimacy to the degree that would like to. But even if that's the case, the coming weeks will provide openings that could soften and remedy your predicament. So be extra receptive and alert to the clues that life reveals to you. And call on your imagination to look for previously unguessed and unexpected ways to reinvent togetherness and tenderness. Let's call the next three weeks your Season of Renewing Rapport.

THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK:

Decide on three special words that will from now on serve as magic spells for you. Keep them secret! Don't even tell me.

TESTIFY AT FREEWILLASTROLOGY.COM

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