



2020 TRAVEL GUIDE

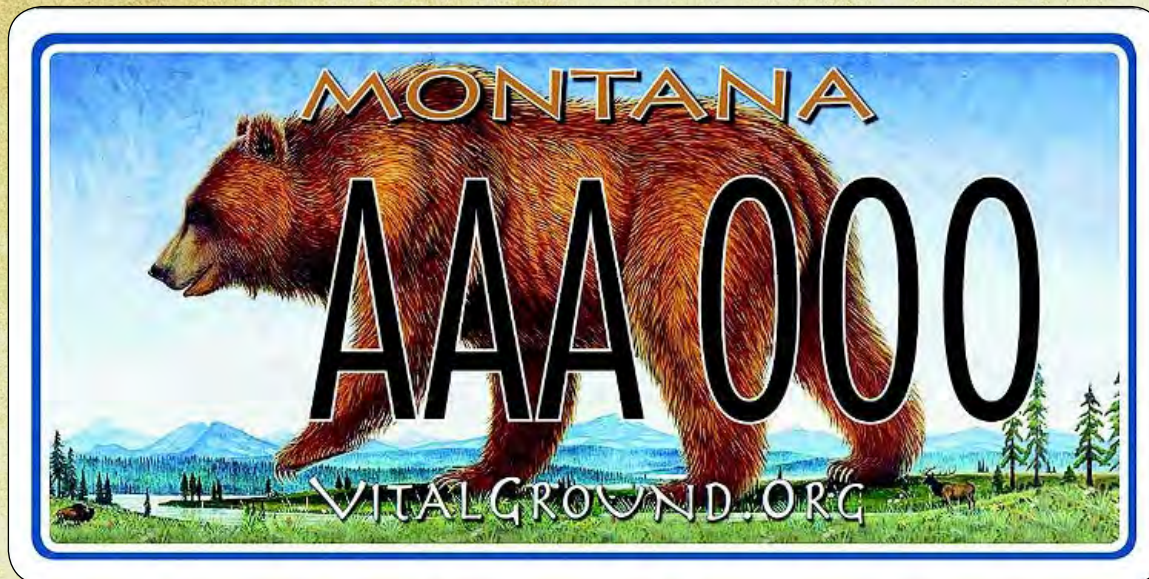
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YOUR LOCAL GUIDE FOR THINGS TO DO IN MONTANA

LEE NEWSPAPERS OF MONTANA

Montana — One Landscape for People and Wildlife



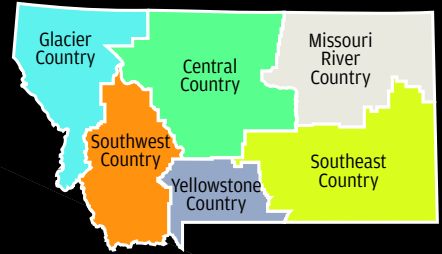
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"The Great Bear" by
Monte Dolack. More
at www.dolack.com.

Save vital habitat. Put a bear on your car!

Montanans have always prized open space. It allows both people and wildlife to thrive here. Nothing embodies wild Montana like our state animal, the grizzly bear. Vital Ground protects key habitat, connecting wild strongholds so grizzlies, other wildlife and people have room to roam. You can help Montana's one landscape stay open and wild for future generations!

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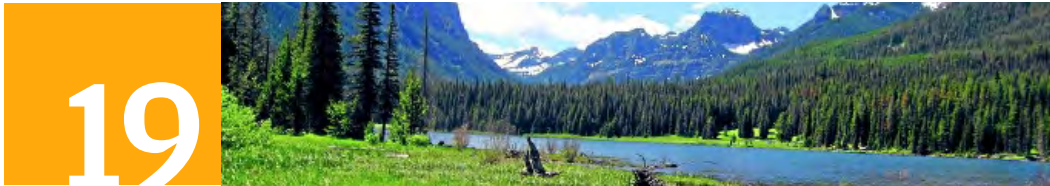
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FROM THE GOVERNOR

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WELCOME TO MONTANA



Growing up in Montana, I never took for granted the spectacular wide open spaces that make our state one of the last truly unspoiled places on Earth.

Montana is still a place where you can walk for miles and see more elk, bear, and trout than people. Our world-class rivers, majestic mountains, and rolling plains are where I hunt, fish and hike with my family.

We hope your travels will give you the same special memories we have from growing up here. On behalf of the people of Montana, we invite you to join us in exploring the “Last Best Place.”

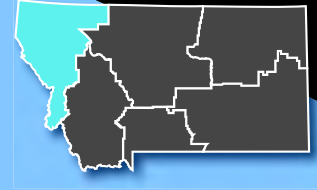
See you soon,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bullock', written over a light blue background.

Gov. Steve Bullock

FROM THE COVER

Beautiful view of scenic highway with american rocky mountain landscape in the background during a cloudy summer morning. Taken in St. Mary, Montana.



Mountaintop treasures

Bitterroot National
Forests lookout towers
offer unique experiences

By **PERRY BACKUS**

pbackus@ravallirepublic.com

There's nothing quite like watching the sunset from on top of a mountain in a room surrounded by glass.

The silence is broken only by the sound of the wind against the windowpanes as the skies turn red across a horizon filled with purple mountains that seem to go on forever.

It's an experience that hundreds of visitors to the Bitterroot National Forest have every year through the forest's fire lookout rental program. But it's not the only way that people can tap into the rich history of the forest's lookout towers that date back to 1915.

The Bitterroot National Forest has a total of 17 lookout towers that still stand watch over huge expanses of public lands.

Each one offers visitors a

unique opportunity to explore. Some can be reached over rugged roads by vehicle. Others are only a short walk from a nearby trailhead. To reach the most remote requires stamina and an overnight backcountry stay.

"People go to all of them," said Rene Eustace, who retired in 2016 as the forest's lookout coordinator. "Every one offers a completely different experience. Some you can spend the night. At others, you can meet the lookout working there."

If they're not in the middle of searching for a new smoke following a thunderstorm, the lookouts will often take time for a tour of their summer home and answer questions about life at the top of a mountain is like.

"It's a pretty unique experience for many people," Eustace said. "I like to think that besides the trail crew, lookouts are one of the last and really old-time Forest Service jobs that are done basically the same way that they've been done for more than a century."

Of the 17 lookouts that remain, three are open to public as rentals.

Bitterroot Forest Recreation Manager Erica Strayer said the three rental lookout towers – McCart, Gird Point and Medicine Point – can all be reserved through the national

reservation system at www.recreation.gov Reservations can be made up to six months in advance.

"For the most part, they are reserved from June to mid-September," Strayer said. "Most fill up right away at the six month point... Sometimes people do cancel and spots come open in the summer. If people are interested, it's a good idea to check the site frequently."

The hike into both McCart and Gird Point is relatively short, but those who want select Medicine Point need to be prepared for a 3.5-mile march that heads right up the hill.

"It's a different experience," she said. "It's more backcountry than the others. It is also definitely a good workout to get there."

Visitors are asked to leave their comments in a book that's left at each of the rentals.

"It's always really fun to read their comments," Strayer said. "The public is always very appreciative that the lookouts are available to them to rent. It is a very unique experience to stay on the top of a mountain in a fire lookout."

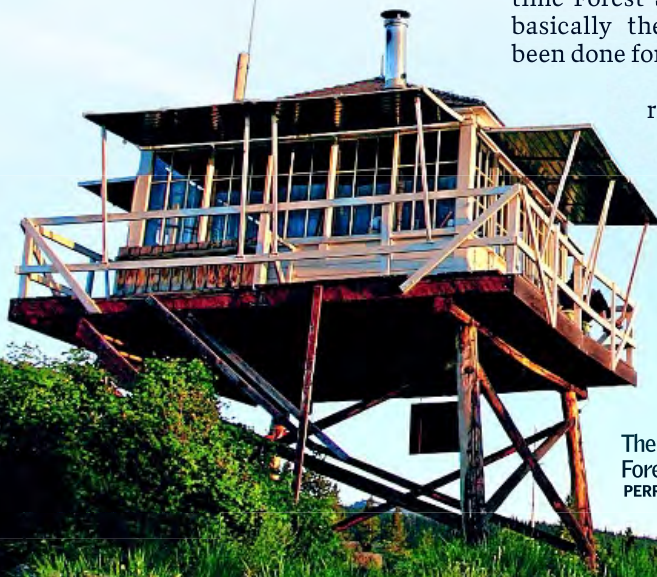
All three of the lookouts on the rental program are on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Lookouts on the forest go back a long ways," Eustace said. "Salmon Mountain is the oldest that we have documentation. It was first mentioned in the

Please see **Treasures**, Page 7

The McCart Fire Lookout is one of three lookouts on the Bitterroot National Forest available to the public to rent in the summer and fall.

PERRY BACKUS/pbackus@missoulian.com



Where the WILD THINGS

are: Some can't miss and don't miss options

By **ROB CHANEY**
rchaney@missoulian.com

Tourists often compare Yellowstone National Park to visiting an open-air zoo. But there are other places to see amazing wildlife during a Montana visit.

Oddly enough, Glacier National Park isn't the best of them. The northern park has stunning scenery and lots of wild animals, but its rugged terrain and deep forests keep them well hidden. Areas where grizzly bears come near trails get closed quickly for public safety.

Its Logan Pass Visitor Center area at the midpoint of the Going-to-the-Sun Road gets regular visits from mountain goats in their white fur coats. Those motorists and bikers who make it to the pass in June will see the goats in seasonal shift, shedding their bulky winter coats for much shorter summer fur. By late September, that hair will have grown back to make the goats' bodies look much bulkier.

Elk and moose also wander into view occasionally in Glacier, but critter-counters would have better luck looking for smaller species. Hoary marmots frequent many alpine trails, and

sometimes share space with the smaller and cuter pika. Listen for a distinctive "beejj" call in talus fields, where you might spot them ferrying mouthfuls of grass to stockpile in burrows for winter food supplies.

Very lucky observers might find a few of Glacier's mustelids: members of the weasel family. These include river otters, martens, mink, long-tailed, short-tailed and least weasels, and the extremely rare king of mustelids – the wolverine.

Both black and grizzly bears frequent the same trails and meadows that tourists enjoy, and both omnivores require wide safety margins. All visitors, whether in developed areas or deep backcountry, must keep close watch on food supplies to ensure prowling bears don't get any. Human food tends to have far more calories than most wild edibles, and bears quickly learn to seek more after they get a first taste. That leads to high-risk conflict for both people and bears: People have been injured and (very rarely) killed by bears seeking food and bears accustomed to human food must be relocated or occasionally killed for public safety.

Few of these animals get seen



ROB CHANEY

A tiny pika totes a mouthful of grass to its winter hay pile, hidden in the rocks above the Highline Trail. Its distinctive "Beejj" call is the best way to locate the 5-ounce rodents.

from a car window in Glacier Park. Those who get out on trails and waterways have the best chance of finding them.

•••

For a different kind of wildlife experience that actually requires a car, consider the National Bison Range. This 18,500-acre refuge between Missoula and Polson holds one of the nation's most genetically pure herds of bison, captured by Salish Indian tribal members at the start of the 20th century from the last remaining wild herds. Around 300 of the massive ungulates, which can weigh a ton and launch a 5-foot vertical leap, roam the mountain at the center of the range.

In addition, drivers can often see elk, pronghorn antelope, whitetail and mule deer, coyotes and small bands of bighorn sheep as they work their way around the Bison Range's two main routes. The roads are well-maintained dirt surfaces, usually

suitable for street vehicles except in bad weather. No trailers or vehicles longer than 30 feet are allowed on the 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain Road.

Just north of the Bison Range, a complex of state and federal wildlife refuges encompass a swarm of pothole lakes supporting dozens of bird species. The Ninepipe and Pablo national wildlife refuges and the Montana Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area. A wide range of ducks, geese and swans migrate through or nest in the waterbodies, along with shorebirds like yellowlegs and plovers, songbirds like red-winged blackbirds, and sparrows, and many raptors including bald and golden eagles.

South of Missoula, the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge has good driving and walking trails beloved by bird-watchers along the Bitterroot River. In fact, the three rivers converging around Missoula; the Bitter-



ROB CHANEY/For The Gazette

root, Clark Fork and Blackfoot; abound with opportunities for impromptu wildlife spotting. Look for the numerous camp-

grounds, fishing access sites and state parks such as Milltown State Park at Bonner for places to prowl the riparian areas for beaver, muskrats, great blue herons and osprey.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Visit Local DMV

For more information visit www.veteransmonumnet.org



GLACIER COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARLEE

ARLEE ESYAPQENYI (CELEBRATION)

July 1-5

This 121st event includes dance and singing contests, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a parade, powwow, food and more. Visit Arleepowwow.com for more information.

BIGFORK

WHITewater FESTIVAL

May 22

Bigfork's annual Whitewater Festival draws kayakers from all over the Northwest to compete on the thrilling rapids of the Wild Mile of the Swan River. Info at: Bigfork.org.

BIGFORK FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

July 4

Noon event begins in downtown Bigfork. Bigfork Summer Pro Rodeo

July 4-6

Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Bigfork Rodeo Grounds, 2840 MT Hwy 82. Visitors are urged to wear Red White and Blue to the pro rodeo, while visiting the kids area, food and beverage vendors, and live music. Free Parking. Info at: Bigforkrodeo.com.

BIGFORK FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Aug. 1-2

Two-day event happens 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes 150 vendors in Bigfork from all over the country. Wood work, pottery, paintings, jewelry and all sorts of other types of art work are on display. The festival draws thousands of people each day to buy artwork, listen to music, eat great food or just people-watch. Info at: bigfork.org.

14TH ANNUAL BIG SKY ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

Aug. 1-2

An entire weekend of classic boats is seen on Bigfork Bay, The Marina Cay Resort and The Classic Company Boatworks in Somers. Participants may also attend a banquet, a parade down the east shore of Flathead Lake and then lunch at Woods Bay. Info at: bigfork.org.

RUMBLE IN THE BAY CAR SHOW

Sept. 5-6

Downtown Bigfork, 10 a.m.-3 pm. Held by the local VFW post to benefit veterans. Info at: Bigforkrumble.com.

HAMILTON

HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

July 24-26

A family-friendly festival with an "old timey mountain feel" that features traditional bluegrass music via 11 great bands who hail from all over the nation. New location this year, 424 Forest Hill Road. Info at: Hardtimesbluegrass.com.

LAKE COMO TRIATHLON

July 25

A challenging XTerra-style race with .9-mile open water swim, 12.6-mile mountain bike and 7.7-mile trail run at Lake Como in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley.

Info at: Lakecomotri.com.

SUMMER ANNUAL MEMBERS ART SHOW & SALE

June 12-14

Show and sale of oil paintings, soft pastels, watercolors, photography and bronze sculpture. Bitterroot River Inn, Hamilton. Info at: Montanaprofessionalarartistsassoc.com.

DALY DAYS FESTIVAL

July 4-25

Music, food, fun, crafts and more as a celebration of Hamilton founder Marcus Daly. VInfo at: Hamiltondowntownassociation.org.

BITTERROOT CELTIC GAMES & GATHERING

Aug. 15-16

Highland and Irish Dancing, Highland heavy athletic competitions for adults and children, international pipe and drum bands, the gathering of the clans, scotch, mead and Irish whiskey tastings, vendors and live music. Info at Bcgg.org.

ANNUAL CHAMBER MICROBREW FESTIVAL

July 25

At Second and Bedford Street in Hamilton, 3-10 p.m. Lots of brews, wine, cider, food and music. Info at: bitbitterrootvalley.com.

HOT SPRINGS

HOMESTEADER DAYS

June 11-14

Event includes a 3 day rodeo, a kiddie parade and games; Music on Main Street on Saturday, street dance on Saturday night, the Grand Parade on Sunday, softball and horseshoe tournaments, breakfast and barbecues; plus, a car show, a quilt show. Info at: townofhotspringsmt.wordpress.com/

MISSOULA

MAGGOTFEST

May 16-17

The emphasis at Maggotfest is on both the competition of the sport and its social aspects. Teams are encouraged to not only play great rugby, but are highly encouraged to win the party, wear costumes, play with sportsmanship and have fun. Playing at Fort Missoula Regional Park, men's and women's teams from across the country, and even across the world, will be in town for a weekend of premier rugby, hosted by the Missoula Maggots men's rugby team. Info at: Maggots.org.

OUT TO LUNCH

June 3-Aug. 26

Out to Lunch is the longest-running performing arts festival in the state of Montana. It attracts thousands of people to Caras Park every Wednesday June through August from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Out to Lunch features some of Missoula's best food and performing artists from throughout the region. Info at: VisitMissouladowntown.com.

DOWNTOWN TONIGHT

June 4-Aug. 27

Downtown ToNight is Missoula's outdoor, after-work

happy hour and features free live music, exceptional food vendors and a beer/wine garden. Downtown ToNight is held every Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. from June-August. Info at: Missouladowntown.com.

MONTANA SENIOR OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES

June 11-13

From Pickleball and Golf held Thursday to Saturday's Track and Field Games and Swimming, all winning athletes this year will be qualifiers for the national games, to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nov. 5-18, 2021. Info at: Montana.fusesport.com or call (406) 552-6664.

SUMMER MADE FAIR

June 21

A modern art and handcrafted market featuring local and regional artists and makers. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Caras Park. Info at: Handmademontana.com.

MISSOULA MARATHON

June 26-28

A weekend celebration has evolved around the Sunday marathon and attracts runners from across the U.S. to run in one of many different runs offered. Info at: Missoulamarathon.org.

RIDES IN THE ROCKIES WEEKEND

July 24-25

This new event held at Fort Missoula Regional Park is a car show open to all classifications of cars and trucks; \$20 registration fee. Info at: ridesintherockies.com.

RIVER CITY ROOTS FESTIVAL

Aug. 28-29

Missoula's signature celebration of the city, Roots Fest attracts more than 10,000 individuals to the heart of the community for a variety of fun activities and was named the 2009 Montana Tourism Event of the Year. This 15th annual event features quality live performances on a big stage on West Main Street, a juried art show, entertainment for children and families and a 4-mile run. This admission-free festival takes place annually the last weekend in August. Info at: Missouladowntown.com.

OVANDO

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Hosting "The Biggest Taste of Old Time Americana, by the Smallest Old Town," Ovando stands proudly decorated in red, white and blue with flags flying everywhere. Festivities begin with the Parade, whose theme every year is "Everybody participates! Nobody watches." It is followed by a BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs sponsored by the Ovando Volunteer Fire Department and Helmsville Quick Response Unit. Info at: ovancomontana.net.

POLSON

MISSION MOUNTAIN NRA RODEO

June 26-27

Youth events at 6:30 p.m. include Mutton Bustin' and Mini Bull Riding, then at 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Mountain NRA Rodeo rodeo events begin, including bareback, steer wrestling, saddle bronc, team roping, tie down roping, ladies and youth barrel racing, ladies and

youth breakaway roping and bull riding. Tickets \$10 adult, \$5 children under 12. Live music after Friday nights performance. Free vendors fair, no food items. Info at: polsonchamber.com .(406) 261-2861 or (406) 883-1100.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

July 4

The Independence Day celebration kicks off with a parade at noon and fireworks at dusk. Info at: polsonchamber.com or (406) 883-5969.

MIRACLE OF AMERICA MUSEUM'S ANNUAL LIVE HISTORY DAYS

July 18-19

The museum is open each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in Polson showing visitors everyday living and wartime memorabilia. Info at: Miracleofamericamuseum.org or (406) 883-6264.

6TH ANNUAL FLATHEAD LAKE FESTIVAL OF ART

July 25-26

Held on the shores of Flathead Lake at Sacajawea Park in Polson from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info at: polsonchamber.com.

49TH ANNUAL SANDPIPER ART FESTIVAL

Aug. 8

This annual event takes place on the Lake County Courthouse lawn 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info at: polsonchamber.com or (406) 883-5956.

FLATHEAD LAKE BLUES FESTIVAL

Aug. 14-15

This 10th annual festival is held at the Regatta Shoreline Amphitheater, Polson Fairgrounds. Enjoy 40 acres of free camping and parking on the shores of the Flathead River while listening to 20 hours of the best music in the Northwest. Info at: polsonchamber.com.

22ND ANNUAL POLSON FLY-IN

Aug. 15

Join pilots for an exciting day of aviation activities, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Watch as visiting aircraft arrive and land. View some fantastic aircraft; from home-built, vintage, War Birds, float-planes, to general aviation aircraft. Held at the Polson Airport; free admission. Info at: polsonchamber.com.

MISSION MOUNTAIN PEDAL TO THE PLATE

Aug. 29

For the 2020 ride, we have a new venue, a new route and more farms. Plan your cycling needs for more gravel and rural roads. Early-bird rate until June 1 is \$55/person with coupon code "earlybird2020," applied at checkout.

Registrations after June 1st will be \$60/each. Fee includes ride, a commemorative item to keep, a fork, and lots of delicious snacks to enjoy with said fork. Dinner of locally-sourced, organic food and craft brews, served along with an intimate concert.

STEVENSVILLE

CREAMERY PICNIC

July 31 - Aug. 1

A traditional, family-oriented Stevensville celebration with a parade, Montana State Bar-B-Q contest, food vendors, crafters and booths; and, incredible ice cream. Info at: Creamerypicnic.com.

ST. REGIS

ST. REGIS FLEA MARKET

May 23-25

Annual flea market occurs over Memorial Day Weekend in St. Regis Community Park, offering breakfast, a bargain, the Unique or the Odd delivered with hometown hospitality. Info at: Stregismtfla.org.

TROUT CREEK

TROUT CREEK HUCKLEBERRY FESTIVAL

Aug. 14-16

More than 100 arts and crafts vendors display and sell wares at Trout Creek Community Park. Events include entertainment on stage, a parade, a 5K run, and much more. Info at: Huckleberry-festival.com.

WHITEFISH

WHITEFISH ARTS FESTIVAL

July 3-5

This 41st annual festival follows a long tradition of high quality arts and fine crafts. Artists from across the country are represented with their metal sculptures, paintings and photography, woodworking, pottery, jewelry, clothing, and home decorations. Info at: whitefishartsfestival.org.

UNDER THE BIG SKY FESTIVAL

July 18-19

This long-awaited Americana event celebrates the tradition of gathering friends and family together under open skies. Shows begin at noon, Sat. Jul 18, and 11 a.m. Sunday. A list of celebrity artists take on our country's rich musical traditions at the 350-acre Big Mountain Ranch, 1876 Voerman Rd, Whitefish. An expansive 180-degree view shows performances across two stages in naturally formed amphitheaters on the ranch. Info at: Showclix.com.

HUCKLEBERRY DAYS ARTS FESTIVAL

Aug. 7-9

Art festival with more than 100 artists and food vendors, local live entertainment, a mobile climbing wall for kids and adults and a huckleberry dessert bake-off contest. All events take place in/around Depot Park, Whitefish, unless otherwise noted. Info at: whitefishchamber.org or call (406) 862-3501.

Treasures

From Page 3

summer of 1915, but there could have been some lookouts that operated earlier on the forest."

In their heyday — starting in the 1930s to the end of WWII — Eustace believes there were probably three times as many lookout towers on the Bitterroot Forest as there are now.

"There used to be tons of them," he said. "There were so many in the West Fork that people were kept busy all summer supplying them with pack strings."

Today, the most popular lookout tower can be easily seen on a sunny day from the grounds of the Historic St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville perched atop Saint Mary Peak. It's a 3.5-mile climb from the trailhead just west of town to the St. Mary's Peak Fire Lookout.

The tower has been manned for years by hearty volunteers with the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation.

The foundation's executive director, Sally Ferguson, said it's not been hard to find people willing to spend a couple of weeks at what feels like the top of the world.

"Lookouts are so romantic and St. Mary's in particular is in gorgeous spot," Ferguson said. "Folks have volunteered for many years and they've been loyal and committed. When there have been times that we have an opening, we do have to be a little careful."

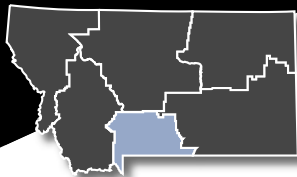
"Everyone thinks manning a lookout will be an experience in solitude," she said. "In reality, our volunteers are greeting people constantly. We get a couple of thousand people coming up there every season."

The volunteers open up their lookout and offer a variety of information to those who have made the trek. The volunteers are also trained to spot smoke and call in anything they might see.

"It offers us the chance to spread the message of the importance of wilderness to the public," Ferguson said. "People have a chance to gain an understanding of the importance of maintaining a vegetative mosaic and the history of St. Mary's in the context of wilderness. So many don't really understand what that all means."

"The lookout at St. Mary's transcends age and interests," she said. "It's an iconic structure that represents so much. It's not just about the old days. It's also about what people can do to support their national forest now."

"It lets them touch it, experience it and see it for themselves," Ferguson said.



Historic Chico Hot Springs

resort offers relaxation, exploration and more

By **MIKE KORDENBROCK**
mkordenbrock@billingsgazette.com

For more than 100 years, Chico Hot Springs, in one form or another, has offered peace in the heart of Montana.

A resort in the small town of Pray located in the scenic Paradise Valley, Chico Hot Springs has lodging and a wide variety of activities along with access to its namesake natural hot springs pool.

When Percie Knowles and her husband William Knowles opened a boarding house at the hot springs in 1900, they celebrated with a brass band to herald their new business which promised a clean bed, hot bath and strawberries with meals.

Much has changed since then, including the \$6

weekly fee charged at the time. When it became a health spa in 1912, the doctor employed there boasted the mineral hot spring pools could cure rheumatism, kidney disease, skin problems and internal ailments.

Over the decades it has served as a boarding house for immigrants seeking gold, a hospital, a church camp, guest ranch, bed and breakfast, hotel, roadhouse, fine dining restaurant and romantic inn before settling into its current form.

As if in honor of its long and varied past, Chico offers and facilitates a wide variety of activities in the present for visitors.

Those activities include horseback riding, fly fishing, river rafting, disc golf, hiking, mountain biking and live music. The property also has vegetable and flower gardens which have been known to attract honey bees and Monarch butterflies.

Food and drink options are

also plentiful at Chico, where guests can choose from the historic dining room, the Chico Saloon, the Poolside Grille and the tasting room.

Reservations are recommended for the dining room, which also serves buffet breakfast and Sunday brunch, in addition to dinner. The menu has a variety of options including trout, steak, chicken breast, prime rib, pork chops, filet mignon, duck and Beef Wellington.

For a more casual dining experience, or for lunch food, The Poolside Grille has menu items including melt sandwiches, burgers, pizza, wraps, soup, salad and milkshakes. The restaurant also has kid friendly food options. The Poolside Grille also cooks food for the adjacent Chico Saloon.

The Chico Sa-

More information

Chico Hot Springs Resort and Hotel

Address: 163 Chico Road, Pray, Montana, 59065

Phone: 406-333-4933

Website:

www.chicohotsprings.com

Kids and adults of all ages enjoy the pool at Chico Hot Springs.

HANNAH POTES,
Gazette Staff



The Lower Lodge at
Chico Hot Springs.

HANNAH POTES, Gazette Staff

loon has live music every Friday and Saturday night. The bar is next to the hot spring pool and has a walk-up window for swimmers to order drinks. In addition to bar seating, the saloon has video poker, keno machines, billiards, foosball, shuffleboard and TVs.

Chico's tasting room requires reservations and is available to parties of between two and six people. In the private wine cellar, the tasting room offers a chef's tasting menu of between seven and 12 courses, which can be joined with select or premium wine pairings.

The hot spring pool is open air

with a view of the Absaroka Mountains. Admission is included in lodging fees. Day guests must pay a fee. The pool is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Day guests can pay a fee at the front desk. After 11 a.m. that fee can be paid at the saloon or poolside grille. Adults pay \$8.50, seniors age 65 and up along with kids age three to six pay \$3.50. Children two and under have free admission.

Lodging is available in a variety of forms, including rooms, suites, glamping, luxury cabins and a hillside chalet. The Main Lodge of the resort is on the National Register of Historic Places.



HANNAH POTES, Gazette Staff

The Warren Wing at Chico Hot Springs.



HANNAH POTES, Gazette Staff

Swimmers can enjoy drinks from the pool bar at Chico Hot Springs.



Flaming Orange

Served since the late 1970s, this dramatic dessert is an original recipe from Chef Larry Edwards. It is a creative combination of whimsy and wild, the childhood experience of a Creamsicle partnered with fascination for fire. This recipe can be found in "A Montana Table: Recipes from Chico Hot Springs Resort."

Ingredients:

- 8 large oranges
- 10 oz. bittersweet chocolate

Filling:

- 4 c. high-quality ice-cream (e.g., Wilcoxsons)
- 1/2 oz. Grand Marnier
- 1/2 oz. Triple Sec
- 1/2 oz. vodka

- 1/2 c. sour cream
 - 1 oz. frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- ### Merengue topping:
- 4 egg whites, room temperature
 - 1/4 t. cream of tartar
 - 3/4 c. sugar
 - 1/4 t. almond extract

Directions:

Cut the tops and bottoms from the oranges, making the top cut a little wider than the bottom. Hollow out each orange by running a grapefruit spoon halfway between the skin and the pulp on the top. Repeat this step on the bottom of each orange, then carefully push out the pulp. The inside of the orange should be clean of any pulp. Melt bittersweet chocolate in a double boiler. Replace a pulp-free slice of orange end on the bottom of orange shell, creating a plug for the hollow rind. Line the inside of the orange with the melted chocolate using a soup spoon to smear it until all the white is covered. Repeat with remaining 7 oranges. Place oranges in the freezer at least until chocolate has hardened.

Captives rescued from closing California shelter

By **BRETT FRENCH**
french@billingsgazette.com

Getting a gray wolf to relax isn't easy.

For an hour and a half, Katherine Blackford recently sat on the cold concrete floor at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary talking to Ginny and Dakota, two wolves recently transferred to the Red Lodge facility.

"That first week they wouldn't lay down or eat while we were around," Blackford said.

The female wolf, nicknamed for writer Virginia Woolf, was slower to "chill out," Blackford added.

"It's really important for the animals' well-being to be comfortable with the animal trainer," said Gary Robson, executive director of the sanctuary. That makes it easier and less traumatic for the trainer and the animal to do tasks like blood draws, he noted.

RED LODGE SANCTUARY will care for 2 wolves

The two wolves are being held in quarantine at the facility until they are deemed parasite free and suitable for release onto the grounds which also is home to bears, coyotes, a mountain lion and red fox, to name a few of the 35 wild animals housed there. The wolves will occupy an expanded area that now covers 24,000 square feet compared to the 4,500 that was available to the sanctuary's previous wolf, Apache, who died in 2017.

Cali wolves

Ginny and Dakota were driven to Red Lodge earlier this month from South-

ern California where they had lived most of their lives at the Wildlife Waystation. That 43-year-old facility is shutting down after damage caused by a wildland fire in 2017 and floods in 2019. The Wildlife Waystation was home to about 400 animals including chimpanzees that had been used in laboratory experiments, lions from New Zealand and tigers from Ireland, according to its website.

"Unfortunately for the wolves, if they couldn't find them a home they

would be put down," Robson said.

The Red Lodge sanctuary had the space available to house Ginny and Dakota. Then the work began to have them cleared for transfer, which includes permits from state agencies. Dakota, the big male, will also be neutered.

Iconic species

Having the wolves on display to educate the public is a big draw for the Red Lodge sanctuary.

"If you look at the iconic species of the Yellowstone ecosystem and the American West, the first species that come to mind are bison and wolves," Robson said. "We have Yellowstone in our name because of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, not because we are affiliated with

Please see **Wolves**, Page 12



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If you go

Some time in December visitors will be able to see gray wolves Ginny and Dakota three days a week — Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sanctuary has reduced hours in the winter.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and military personnel and \$4 for children ages 4 to 12. For more information log on to www.yellowstonewildlifesanctuary.org.

The 30-year-old sanctuary is a nonprofit business sustained on donations, memberships and entry fees.

Wolves

From page 10

(Yellowstone National Park).”

Wild wolves are known to roam the Red Lodge area, trotting along the Beartooth Front in search of prey. Two of the first wolves released in Yellowstone National Park in 1995 migrated to the region. They denned, and the female gave birth to cubs before the male wolf was illegally shot by a local man. At the time the wolves were still under federal protection.

Interestingly, Dakota rode to Montana in a crate built by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to transfer those first wolves to Yellowstone from Canada. The crate had been stored at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary since it was used to haul that early female wolf from the area after her mate was shot, Robson said.

Captive

Ginny and Dakota were born on a fur farm in Minnesota. With their mother they were moved to the California facility while still pups. Consequently, they have lived their entire lives in captivity. Blackford described the big male as “pretty outgoing” and



CASEY PAGE, Billings Gazette photos

Ginny, left, and Dakota, two wolves new to the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge, walk around in their quarantine area on Tuesday.

with a desire to be “the center of attention.” If Ginny claims too much of that spotlight, Dakota will remind his sister of her subordinate role, she added.

“He’s definitely the boss,” Blackford said. “She won’t do anything until he checks it out and gives the OK.”

To keep the wolves entertained, Blackford and the other animal keepers will do things like add boxes and boards to their cage, sprinkle cinnamon on their hay bedding and spray elk estrus or red fox urine on boxes.

“She loves boxes,” Blackford said.

“They need things to do. They’re not like a regular couch potato dog. We want to keep them intrigued and amused.”

Early in December the wolves will likely roam the hillside next to the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary discovering new smells and sights to keep them



CASEY PAGE, Billings Gazette

Gary Robson, the executive director of the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge, talks about the expanded wolf enclosure.

intrigued for a while.

After that, it won’t be unusual to hear their mournful howls echoing across the mountain town.

“They are very vocal most

of the time,” Blackford said. “When we turn off the lights they will howl, talking to the coyotes. When the wind was blowing last week they were howling the whole time.”

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Lamb sliders with plum chutney, goat cheese and caramelized onions at PREROGATIVE Kitchen in Red Lodge. CASEY PAGE photos, Billings Gazette

On the RISE

PREROGATIVE Kitchen in Red Lodge taking over restaurant at Tippet Rise

By ANNA PAIGE
apaige@billingsgazette.com

Two years into operating PREROGATIVE Kitchen, Gena Gale Burghoff and her husband Chris Lockhart have found a groove in Red Lodge.

Even with a population that dips in the off season, the community has supported its restaurants in Carbon County, which Burghoff and Lockhart have been part of for the past decade.

"The first year is always a nightmare, but this year we had to borrow much less," Burghoff said. "It's hard in the middle of nowhere on a dead-end road to be able to get the

freshest ingredients. We're proud to keep it going and staying to our standards."

The couple began with a food truck in a parking lot off Main Street in Red Lodge and are now expanding into a second location at Tippet Rise Art Center, located outside of Fishtail. They'll serve lunch and dinner to patrons of the performance arts venue and outdoor sculpture park, which opens to the public June 26.

"I still think that people locally don't realize how world famous Tippet Rise has become," said Lockhart, who grew up in England. "I've seen articles in the U.K. about

Please see **Rise**, Page 16



Chris Lockhart of PREROGATIVE Kitchen in Red Lodge talks with customers on Monday, February 17, 2020. The restaurant operates in the former City Bakery location on South Broadway.

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The  of Yellowstone

Rise

From page 14

it. For us, we're super excited to be on board. It's just going to get more and more well-known. It's amazing what they are doing."

Both Burghoff and Lockhart began in the restaurant industry at age 18, though in very different parts of the world. After attending college in Powell, Wyoming, Burghoff headed to Los Angeles to pursue acting, and Lockhart was working in various restaurants around England. He decided to take a year off to travel, and Burghoff was also traveling with Cirque du Soleil. They met in Cambodia, and their relationship developed across the distance. Lockhart then moved to the U.S., and they relocated to Montana a decade ago.

"When I was 10 years old, I said I was going to marry a chef," Burghoff said. "When I married Chris, he was not a chef, so it was disappointing," she laughed. Lockhart took the hint, and when they moved to Red Lodge he started working in the kitchen at Café Regis.

"I just like to eat," Lockhart said. "Plus, I never really found anything else I was good at, so I just started cooking."

"It was also partially because he didn't want to eat nachos the rest of his life, which is my special-

Brussels sprouts with a buffalo sauce, micro greens and Gorgonzola cheese at PREROGATIVE Kitchen in Red Lodge.



ty," Burghoff added.

The pace of Café Regis got Lockhart up to speed in the kitchen, where 300 tickets will go out on a Sunday. He never attended culinary school. Instead, his recipes and food choices are informed by his extensive travel.

"I've been lucky enough to visit most regions of the world and tried foods all around the world," Lockhart said. Growing up in England also informed his palate. "It's so multicultural. I grew up with curry houses, Chinese restaurants, Italian. ... I just love different foods from around the world."

Lockhart shares culinary duties with Danny Mowatt, who grew up in Absarokee and attended culinary school at Oregon Coast Culinary Institute. He's been working with the couple since they were managing Montana Jack's in Nye, and went into business with them to open PREROGATIVE Kitchen in 2018.

Mowatt, whose previous kitchen jobs didn't include a lot of interaction with customers, enjoys the open concept of PREROGATIVE. Customers order at a counter, and wait staff bring food to their tables. The kitchen has a window open to the dining area allowing interaction. "It's nice to get to talk to people," he said.

The building was once a bakery, and now seats about 40 people across about 2,000 square feet, including the back space they plan to turn into a private rental room.

They left the old bread proofer in the space (it was cheaper that way) and paid homage to the 100-year-old bakery that operated until 2016 by hanging the old baking tins on the wall and the City Bakery sign from the ceiling.

Food is focused on local ingredients, from steaks sourced outside of Molt and beef from Belgrade to



CASEY PAGE, Billings Gazette

Gena Gale Burghoff of PREROGATIVE Kitchen in Red Lodge talks about the restaurant, which opened in 2018.

lamb from Big Timber. Local produce is a bit trickier based on location, but in the summertime they frequent farmer's markets in Laurel and Billings and try to bring in fresh, seasonal ingredients.

"We only use tomatoes when they are in season," Mowatt said. As well, food distributors like Sysco Foods and QFD have started distributing more local products, Burghoff said.

The menu rotates based on available ingredients, but one item that is a staple is Lockhart's sticky toffee pudding, a recipe from his childhood in England. "I've had my life threatened if I ever take it off the menu," he said.

The menu won't be the same at Tippet Rise, but the local focus remains. The arts center sits atop a working ranch, so the kitchen staff will incorporate beef sourced from Tippet Rise.

They will offer an a la carte menu where guests to Tippet Rise can pick a protein and different sides. Lunch will be grab-and-go style, including snacks and charcuterie plates, as well as soups and sandwiches. Dinners will be served quickly, as well. The goal is to have guests in and out in under 40 minutes, Lockhart said, to accommodate those attending concerts.

The restaurant will serve Tippet Rise's guests, who must preregister to visit the facility.

There are hiking and biking trails throughout the property, as well as tours via van. Tickets to concerts are available through a lottery, and registration for a chance at tickets is open at tippetrise.org.

Since opening, Tippet Rise staff and guest artists have been connected to Burghoff and Lockhart through their restaurants. They operated Montana Jack's near Nye on the Stillwater, as well as Ox Pasture in Red Lodge.

"It's just been amazing meeting the artists that come out here. And they really seem to enjoy being in small town Montana," Lockhart said.

Burghoff is looking forward to the scenery and the artists who frequent Tippet Rise. "Being back out on that land, it's so beautiful out there. It's hard to find creative energy in a small town, especially something that is so intense as it is out there. Just being able to be around that and being around artists is going to be awesome."

Bringing in such a cultural infusion has been refreshing and helps drive business in a remote part of the world, but locals are the backbone of year-round restaurant business in the area.

"It's definitely a challenge," Burghoff said. "For a town of only 2,000 permanent residents, I think that everyone gets out and supports all the local businesses, not just us."

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BIG SKY

PEAK TO SKY

Aug. 7-8

Now in its second year and curated by Mike McCready from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted band Pearl Jam, Peak to Sky features two days of world-class rock under the backdrop of 11,166-foot Lone Mountain in Big Sky, Mont. The full lineup includes headliner Sheryl Crow on Friday, Aug. 7, and Wilco, Sleater-Kinney co-headline on Saturday, Aug. 8. Mike McCready & Friends, Fred Armisen, Jamie McLean Band, Kolars, Caspar Babypants, and a special Mike McCready art exhibit. This event will have sustainability and zero-waste community-building. Info at: peaktosky.com.

BOZEMAN

ART WALKS

June 12, July 10, Aug. 4, Sept. 11

From 6-8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month June through September, and a special "Winter" Art Walk in December, art galleries and businesses display artwork located along Main Street and at the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture. The galleries feature artists' openings and receptions, and often provide hors d'oeuvres and complimentary refreshments. Music may play as you stroll along Main Street in Downtown Bozeman. Info at: Downtownbozeman.org.

BOGERT FARMER'S MARKET

June 16-Sept. 8

On Tuesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. from June through late September, area vendors bring vegetables, arts, crafts, music, food and much more to this fun-filled family environment. The Market is run by The Friends of Bogert Park, and proceeds go to rejuvenate the park, found on S. Church Ave. in Bozeman. Info at: Bogertfarmersmarket.org.

BOZEMAN STAMPEDE RODEO

Aug. 6-8

The Bozeman Stampede is a nonprofit rodeo serving as a fun community event that benefits Bozeman businesses and community - both culturally and economically - while supporting local agricultural groups. The rodeo is sanctioned under the PRCA and happens 7-10 p.m. each night at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 901 N Black Ave. Info at: Bozemanstampede.com.

BZN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

June 11-14

Join this four-day event celebrating independent filmmaking, creative expression, and emerging and established voices. Over 70 films will screen at various theaters throughout downtown Bozeman, complemented by a slate of Q & A sessions, panel discussions, community-wide events and parties. Opening Film and Reception is Thursday; Family Free Night is Saturday, and Awards Ceremony and Filmmakers Brunch is Sunday. Info at: Bozemanfilmcelebration.com.

THE BIG SKY COUNTRY STATE FAIR

(GALLATIN COUNTY) 2020

July 15-19

This is your chance to experience a traditional western fair, celebrating the Montana lifestyle with top-notch



LARRY MAYER, Gazette Staff

Livingston Rodeo Parade

concerts, motorsports, rodeo, entertainment throughout the grounds, and delicious fair food. Held at Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Info at: www.406statefair.com.

WARRIOR TASTE FEST

July 31

Held 6-8 p.m. in the Haynes Pavilion at the Gallatin County Fair Grounds, the Warrior Taste Fest is a tasting of some of the best restaurants, breweries, distilleries and wineries in the area. This event benefits Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the live auction starts at 8 p.m. Info at: Downtownbozeman.org.

CRUISIN' ON MAIN ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Aug. 16

At 9 a.m., come see the biggest car show in the region. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Black and Main Streets. Show runs to 3 p.m. All classes of cars are welcome to enter. All proceeds support Cancer Support Community, and prizes will be awarded in more than 14 car categories including a "People's Choice" and Best of Show. Info at: Downtownbozeman.org.

MUSIC ON MAIN

Thursdays July 2-Aug. 20

Every Thursday evening for eight weeks from early July through August, enjoy live music, food and fun in Downtown Bozeman on Main Street from Rouse to Black Avenues. Bring the kids early for kid's activities. Then, enjoy live music from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Grab a bite to eat from numerous food vendors that will be on site or step into a few of the downtown stores that stay open late. Info at: Downtownbozeman.org.

SWEET PEA FESTIVAL

Aug. 4-9

Celebrate the arts and community through a vine of events for the whole family in Downtown Bozeman. Even the days prior to the Festival weekend, Aug. 7-9, people begin to create their artistic statements on Main Street

between Grand and Broadway during the Chalk on the Walk, 8 a.m., Tues., Aug. 4. The Bite of Bozeman, is at 6 p.m., Wed., 5, bringing food and drink offerings of over 40 area restaurants and food vendors. There are bands and entertainment on every corner, food choices galore, and the fun of dining among friends in the middle of Main Street; Adult Run, Children's Run and Parade, Aug. 4. Info at: Sweetpeafestival.org or Downtownbozeman.org.

LIVINGSTON

SUMMERFEST

July 1

This year's Summerfest is a day-long event with music and family-friendly festivities along the Yellowstone River. Local vendors and Montana talent add to the show that is held each year by the Livingston Recreation Department. Info at: Livingstonmontana.org.

LIVINGSTON ROUNDUP RODEO

July 2-4

Livingston's rodeo draws 10,000 spectators yearly to see top rodeo cowboys and cowgirls from across North America competing in multiple events. These are the best saddle-bronc riders, team ropers, barrel racers, and bull riders.

Fun starts 3 p.m. Monday at the Livingston Chamber of Commerce Parade held downtown. Monday-Wednesday rodeos start at 8 p.m. and fireworks follow at the Park County Fairgrounds. Kiddie Rodeo is Tuesday, using stick animals. Info at: Livingstonroundup.com.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

July 2-4

The Livingston Depot Center's Festival of the Arts will be held in the Depot Rotary Park, on West Park Street (next to the Depot Center) in downtown Livingston Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday,

Please see **Calendar**, Page 18

Calendar

From page 17

doors close at 5 p.m. This three-day juried show features works from all media of arts and crafts, created by approximately 100 skilled artists and craftspeople. Non-profit groups also offer specialty foods, and the Depot continues to host the acclaimed pie booth. Info at: Livingstondepot.org.

"MATILDA" AT SHANE LALANI CENTER June 26-July 19

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts presents the smart, sassy musical MATILDA from June 26 through July 19, 2020. Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, MATILDA is a captivating masterpiece. Info at: Theshanecenter.org.

PARK COUNTY FAIR July 22-26

This county-wide and 4-H fair has a carnival, games, rides, stock auction, commercial exhibitions, family entertainment, farmers market and pig wrestling contest. There are 20 water and electrical hookups for RVs and campers at the Park County Fairground, 46 View Vista Dr., Livingston. Info at: Livingston-chamber.com.

RED LODGE

RED LODGE MUSIC FESTIVAL June 6-14

The oldest and most successful music festival in Montana attracts more than 200 students annually to the Red Lodge Civic Center. With faculty from universities, colleges and symphony orchestras from across the nation, this is a full-blown, nine-day music festival with five evening faculty concerts, two evening student recitals, and afternoon band and orchestra performances. Student concerts are free. Info at: Redlodge.com or Rlmf.org.

RED LODGE SONGWRITER FESTIVAL June 18-20

Celebrate summer listening to some of the country's best songwriters at various locations throughout Downtown Red Lodge restaurants, bars, cafes and theaters. Shows will start late in the afternoon and play into the late night. A portion of the proceeds support Friends of the Beartooths, dedicated to the improvement and promotion of the Beartooth Highway and its neighboring communities. Info at: Redlodesongwriterfest.org.

RED LODGE HOME OF CHAMPIONS RODEO AND PARADE July 2-4

Home of Champions Rodeo features some of professional rodeo's top cowboys and cowgirls. Take in the ropin' and ridin', singin' and swingin' with a downtown parade each day at noon and a rodeo at 6 p.m. July 2-3 and at 3 p.m. July 4. Fireworks can be seen from the whole town at 10 p.m. Info at: Redloderodeo.com.

ART IN THE BEARTOOTH July 11

The 47th Annual Art in the Beartooths is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, July 11 at the Carbon County Depot Gallery. This annual fundraiser begins with 30 artists painting live on the deck of the Depot Gallery and in Lions Park. As the artists paint until 2 p.m., viewing is free and open to

everyone. Gates for the ticketed part of the event open at 4 p.m. in Lions Park. A no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres will be available while viewing the art created that day. Info at: Carboncountydepotgallery.org.

BEARTOOTH MOTORCYCLE RALLY July 16-19

Plan on the 26th Annual Beartooth Motorcycle Rally being better than ever! As always this weekend promises lots of rides, food and fun each day, and in the evening you can dance under the stars. Info at: Beartoothrally.com.

CRUISEN RED LODGE CAR AND BIKE SHOW July 24-26

Red Lodge's premiere summer car show will have you in awe at your favorite classic cars and motorcycles. A 4-7 p.m. Friday BBQ is at Pride Park, with a parade down Main Street at 6 p.m. This 10th annual Saturday car show is all day at Pride Park. The nostalgic drag races are Sunday on the airport runway. Info at: Cruisenredlodge.com.

LABOR DAY ARTS FAIR Sept. 7

Enjoy this 41st annual art and fine crafts from 90-plus artists for one annual Labor Day Arts Fair, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 7, in Lions Park, Red Lodge. Stroll the park and stop in the artists' booths to shop for original creations. Food vendors surround the gazebo, and local groups entertain all day at the gazebo, rain or shine. Free Admission. Info at: Carboncountydepotgallery.org.

REED POINT

2020 YELLOWSTONE BOAT FLOAT July 10-12

The 57th annual Boat Float features Free camping July 11

at Mayors Landing in Livingston. On 8 a.m. July 12, launch from Mayors Landing; Lunch in Springdale provided by the Crazy Mountain Shriners, for a fee. Float down to Otter Creek just east of Big Timber. Free camping at Otter Creek. Food trucks and bands in the campground. At 8 a.m. July 13, launch from Otter Creek, float to Reed Point. Free camping at Indian Fort. Street dance and food in Reed Point. If you can handle another day, 8 a.m. launch for float to Columbus. Info at: Stillwatercounty-chamber.com.

GREAT MONTANA SHEEP DRIVE Sept. 6

Hundreds of sheep take to Reed Point's main street at 10 a.m. during this Labor Day weekend staple. Enjoy the street fair, parade and street dance, as well as the Classic Car Show and Round Bale Roll. Info at: Stillwatercounty-chamber.com.

THREE FORKS

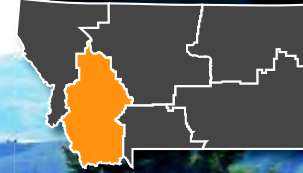
ROCKIN' THE RIVERS MUSIC FESTIVAL Aug. 13-15

The biggest country music festival in Montana has a bit of rock 'n roll this year during three days of music featuring more than a dozen bands. This summer go-to event has camping available, and the crowds enjoy ice-cold beer, ongoing horseshoes and dancing, all at The Bridge near Three Forks. Headliners include Skillet, .38 Special, Lit, Candlebox, Iron Maidens, Steven Adler of Guns 'N Roses, Jefferson Starship, Georgia Satellites, Jared Stewart, Saving Abel, Hell's Belles, LA Guns, Defenders of the Faith, Dead Fervor and Blue Tattoo. Info at: Rockintherivers.com.



The Great Montana Sheep Drive in Reed Point

LARRY MAYER, Gazette Staff



Looking west from
Lemhi Pass.

Courtesy photo

Lewis & Clark IN SOUTHWEST MONTANA

By PAT HANSEN

After completing an arduous 18-mile portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri, the Corps of Discovery once again took to the river. On July 19, 1805, Lewis and Clark were paddling upstream between towering rocks that seemed “ready to tumble,” as Lewis wrote, “I shall call them **Gates of the Mountains.**” Today, you can take a 105-minute boat cruise to see these 1,200-foot limestone cliffs, plus ancient Native American pictographs, and wildlife like the explorers may have seen.

In **Helena**, Montana’s capital city, plan to visit the **Montana Historical Society Museum** and the **State Capitol Building** where Charlie Russell’s largest mural – a scene of Lewis and Clark meeting Salish Indians at Ross’ Hole – is displayed.

Traveling south from Helena on US 12 and 287 you will pass by

Canyon Ferry Lake and recreation area.

At the junction of US 287 and I-90, exit onto I-90 and travel three miles east to the **Three Forks** exit.

After traveling 2,500 miles from its mouth, Lewis and Clark found the headwaters of the Missouri River here at the confluence of three rivers they named after Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, Secretary of State James Madison, and President Thomas Jefferson. At **Headwaters State Park** climb past the Pioneer Graves to the top of the hill above the interpretive exhibits for a view of Fort Rock and the surrounding mountain ranges.

Lewis and Clark explored the forks July 25-30, looking for the one that could take them through the Continental Divide. Sacagawea showed the explorers where her people’s camp had been when Hidatsa braves captured

her five years earlier. A plaque in the city park commemorates her contribution to the expedition’s success.

The captains chose to follow the western-most river, named the Jefferson for “the author of our enterprise,” in search of a route to the Pacific. From Three Forks follow US 287/MT2 westward and stay on MT 2. A major attraction along the way is **Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park**. Despite its name, the explorers were unaware of these beautiful limestone caverns that have some of the most beautiful underground landscape in the nation.

The Jefferson Valley was a major hunting ground and wintering area for several Indian tribes. Traveling up the Jefferson River was a strenuous task for the Corps of Discovery. The boats were pulled up the canyon by means of a long rawhide towline that broke in the rapids with near calamitous

results. On August 1, after a long day of hard work, the tired and hungry men pitched camp. Hunters killed deer and antelope, and the party celebrated Clark’s 35th birthday. Clark returned through here in 1806.

In **Whitehall** you can view 12 murals depicting the Lewis and Clark Expedition painted by muralist Kit Mather on buildings throughout the business district.

Turn south along Routes 55 and 41 following the Jefferson River through productive cattle country. Along the way **Beaverhead Rock**, a massive sandstone outcrop resembling a swimming beaver rises from the landscape about 14 miles north of Dillon.

It has long been an important landmark. Native American hunting parties traveling the Jefferson and Beaverhead rivers passed it on their way to buffalo country

Please see **Lewis & Clark**, Page 20

Lewis & Clark

From page 19

in the east. When the expedition paddled upriver, Sacagawea recognized the rock. Her Shoshone tribe's summer camp was near here, and beyond lay their route to the Bitterroot Mountains. The headwaters of the Jefferson River begin where the Beaverhead River and Blacktail Deer Creek converge at **Dillon**.

One mile northwest of Dillon on Hwy 91, across the railroad tracks and to the right, is **Clark's Lookout State Park**. Clark climbed this area to get a look at the Beaverhead Valley on August 13, 1805.

At the **Beaverhead County Museum**, in the Old Depot, is a diorama of the Lewis and Clark expedition at Beaverhead Rock, Native American artifacts, ranching and mining memorabilia, a homesteader's cabin; a boardwalk imprinted with the area's ranch brands and an extensive bird collection.

Twenty miles south of Dillon exit I-15 onto MT 324 to an overlook on the west side of the Clark Canyon Dam reservoir for a view that approximates **Camp Fortunate** (which is now under the water), but there are interpretive kiosks and canoe. It was here that the expedition obtained from Sacagawea's brother, Chief Cameahwait, some of the horses they needed to take them across the mountain ranges to the west.

On August 12, 1805 Lewis and three men climbed to the top of Lemhi Pass and were disheartened to discover "immense ranges of high mountains still to the West." Having acquired horses, the expedition began an arduous trek across the Continental Divide over Lost Trail Pass into the beautiful Bitterroot Valley.

A Forest Service road leads to Lemhi Pass. There is a small campground and memorial to Sacagawea near the summit. From June to Nov. 1 (weather permitting) the road is open, but the Idaho side is steeper, so traveling with a trailer or motor-



Courtesy photo

One of the many Lewis & Clark murals in the town of Whitehall.

home is not recommended.

Backtrack to Grant and take the graveled county road past the ghost town of **Bannack**, Montana's first territorial capital and the site of the state's first major gold strike in 1862, to Rte 278; or backtrack to I-15 and north to Rte 278, a paved shortcut to Montana's western most Lewis and Clark Trail sites, that also closely follows the route Clark took on his return journey eastward in 1806. Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce followed this route in 1877 on their 1,500-mile odyssey, and were attacked at the **Big Hole National Battlefield** in 1877.

The Corps of Discovery Returns in 1806

On their return trip from the Pacific Coast, the Corps of Discovery, guided by five Nez Perce Indians, stopped for three days at Travelers Rest (near Lolo) after crossing Lolo Pass where snow on the trail was 10 feet deep. On July 3, 1806, Lewis wrote, "I took leave of my worthy friend and companion Capt. Clark and the party that accompanied him."

That morning, Clark, 20 men, Sacagawea and her baby, and 50 horses traveled south along the Bitterroot River, following the route they had come the previous year. Clark returned across Lost Trail Pass to Camp Fortunate to retrieve the dugouts and supplies cached there earlier, and then proceed-

ed down the Jefferson River to the Three Forks. From there he and his party traveled east through the fertile Gallatin Valley, known by the Indians as "Valley of the Flowers." Sacagawea directed Clark to a gap in the mountains - Bozeman Pass - and the party arrived on the banks of the Yellowstone River just south of Livingston. The Yellowstone is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states, and Clark's trip along it held pleasant surprises and visual wonders—as it does today. It is easy to miss the beauty that surrounds you while driving through the Lower Yellowstone region of Montana past Billings and Pompey's Pillar where Clark engraved his name on July 25, 1806. Unlike the mountains of western Montana with their majestic vistas, the beauty of the plains and prairies is gentler and easier to overlook with its subtle colors and rugged badlands.

Lewis' Return Trip

Accompanied by the Nez Perce guides, Lewis and his men traveled northward, down the Bitterroot River and camped near present day Missoula at sunset.

Lewis tried to persuade the Nez Perce to stay with his party until they crossed the Continental Divide, but they were afraid of meeting with a Hidatsa raiding party and told Lewis he didn't need them because the road was a well-beat-

en track, and even a white man couldn't miss the way. The men had managed to cross communication and cultural barriers to become genuine friends and it was with regret that the Nez Perce and Lewis' party went their separate ways.

Five miles east of Missoula exit I-90 at Bonner onto MT 200 to where Lewis, with nine men, 17 horses, and his Newfoundland dog, Seaman, came to the **Blackfoot River**, called "Cokalahjshk-jit" by the Nez Perce or "**The River of the Road to the Buffalo**." (This blue-ribbon trout stream was featured in the movie "A River Runs Through It".)

On July 5, 1806, they camped at the confluence of the Blackfoot River and a creek that Lewis named Seaman's Creek after his dog. Today Seaman's Creek is called Monture Creek, named after George Monture, an early day U.S. Army Scout. Lewis described this part of the valley as "**prairie of the knobs**" because of the mounds along the trail, some of which are seen today. The "knobs" that Lewis described were caused by glaciers dumping rocks along their edges and down icy holes as they melted and slowly retreated to the north some 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. An interpretive sign and view of the knobs can be seen in the town square of Ovando.

There were no encounters with Indians although there were fresh tracks along the trail and Lewis was concerned: "They have a large paset of horses," he wrote. He expected to meet with either the Hidatsas or another hunting party at any time, so he and the men were "much on our guard both day and night."

Lewis followed the Nez Perce route to the Great Falls of the Missouri to pick up supplies cached there the year before, and then explored the Marias River as a possible route into the fur country of Canada.

Uncertain at their parting of ever seeing each other again, Lewis and Clark reunited on August 12, 1806 just beyond the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers.

Old Montana Prison

By **PAT HANSEN**

The Montana Territorial Prison, built in 1891, resembles a medieval castle and is a fascinating piece of Montana history that anchors the south end of Main Street in Deer Lodge.

The towering gray sandstone walls of the first Territorial Prison in the western United States are 24 feet high and buried four feet deep to prevent escape by tunneling. The walls and guard towers were built in 1893 by convict labor using locally quarried stone. Under the direction of Warden Frank Conley, convicts also built the brick cell house in 1912, the maximum security building and the W.A. Clark Theatre.

In 1979, the last prisoners were moved to the new prison west of town. Today the nine-acre Old Prison museum complex is managed by Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation.

Passing through a large wooden door in the Visitor Center, you enter the enclosed courtyard where convicts once exercised, and two were hanged; visit the austere 1912 cellblock where this year's featured exhibit will tell you about inmates who lived here during the era of 1912-1920, Montana Law Enforcement Memorial Hall

of Honor, and across the yard feel spine tingling chills in the former Women's Prison that became Maximum Security, see where prisoners worked, received medical care, and enjoyed entertainment at the W.A. Clark Theatre until it was gutted by fire in 1975.

You can tour on your own using an informative guide book, or take a guided tour. Either way, you will learn about prison life, interesting characters like Turkey Pete, and what guards experienced during the 1959 riot. The Administration building has been given a facelift inside since a grant received last year allowed them to replace the leaky roof. The Secretary Pool and Medical room have been redone and new artifacts are on display.

Are you intrigued by the paranormal? Throughout the summer and fall, the brave-of-heart can join a nighttime Ghost Tour, or even spend the night in prison! You may hear the eerie sound of footsteps, voices, steel cell doors clanging in the cellblock and spirit orbs have been seen. Tickets sell out months in advance, so call early for dates and reservations.

Reentering the gift shop, proceed to the Montana Auto Museum, listed by USA Today as one of the top 10 car museums in the country. You will find a magnificent collection of nearly 170 cars and trucks that showcase

automotive history from the 1886 Benz Motor Wagon replica and Schacht high wheeler, through the 1960s and early 1970s muscle cars. Recall memories of Grandpa's, Dad's or your first car or truck and it is a great opportunity to share stories with the younger generation.

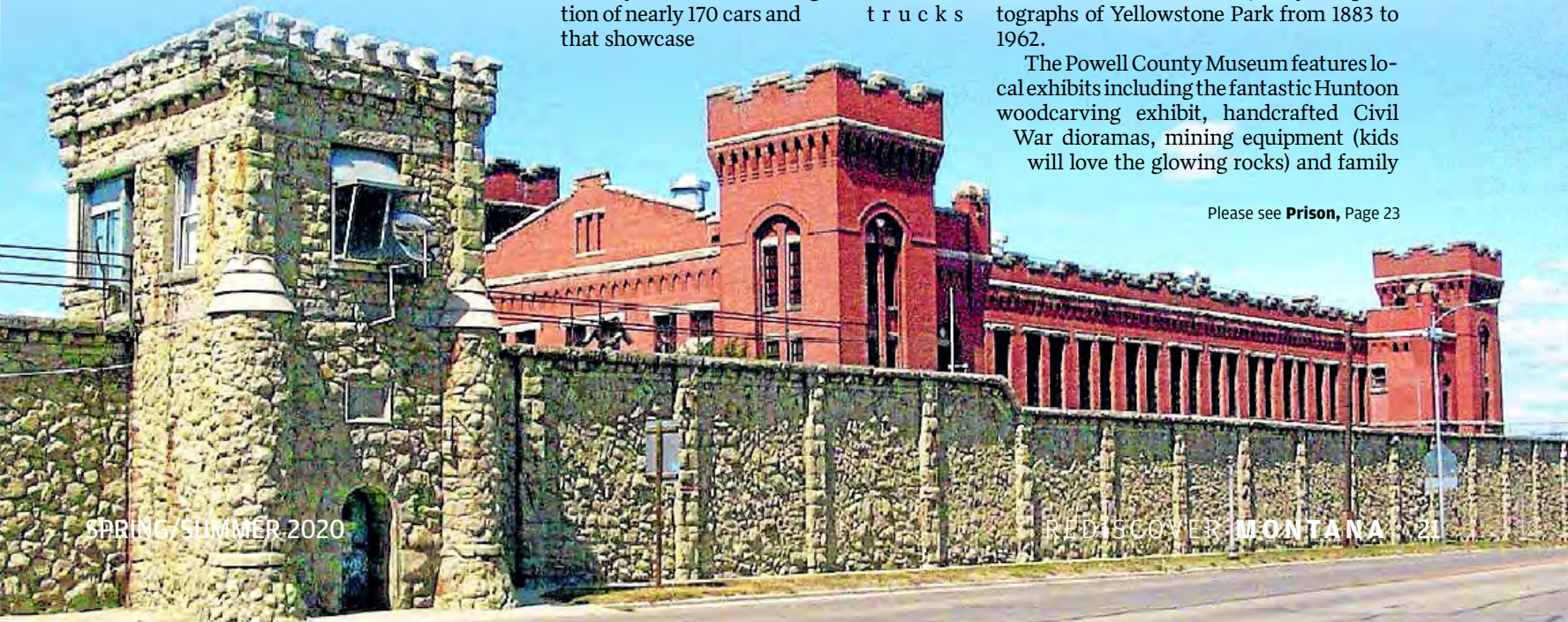
A special exhibit highlights completion of the Yellowstone Trail in 1916 - the first transcontinental road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound (now part of Interstate 90 or closely parallels it.) To celebrate, on September 11, 1916 a relay from Plymouth Rock to Seattle took 121 hours, the fastest time ever clocked across the nation, coming through Deer Lodge about 10 a.m. on September 15.

Across Main Street, at Yesterday's Playthings dolls, toys and trains of the past are on display. A marvelous model railroad exhibit features a large diorama with two or three trains running through a setting that replicates the local area.

Frontier Montana houses the largest collection of guns and Western memorabilia, between Cody, Wyoming and Calgary, Alberta, Canada that was used between 1829 and 1900; and replica of a frontier Sheriff's office. See also a display of World War II memorabilia with posters, personal letters, uniforms and more; and F.J. Haynes' photographs of Yellowstone Park from 1883 to 1962.

The Powell County Museum features local exhibits including the fantastic Huntoon woodcarving exhibit, handcrafted Civil War dioramas, mining equipment (kids will love the glowing rocks) and family

Please see **Prison**, Page 23





Courtesy photo

Pumpkin Sunday at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS is one of the most popular events of the year when hundreds of youngsters select a favorite pumpkin from the pumpkin patch.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

By Pat Hansen

Step back in time to the late 1800s and early 1900s at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site at Deer Lodge. The Ranch is not just a museum, but a working ranch with year-round chores, and is a fun and interesting living history experience for the entire family.

There is also a very good resource library. Visitors can easily spend two to four hours exploring, listening to the history and stories told by knowledgeable guides, and kid-friendly hands-on activities.

Johnny Grant, a frontiersman and trader, established his pioneer ranch and trading post here in the 1850s. He recognized the potential for raising cattle in the valley after seeing native grasses as high as his horse's belly gently swaying in the breeze; the surrounding mountains provided protection during the winter and water was abundant.

Grant built his cattle herd by traveling to Fort Hall on the Oregon Trail where he traded with emigrants one good cow for two sore-footed ones. He trailed them to the Deer Lodge valley and after they had rested and regained strength

grazing on the lush grasses he took them back to the Oregon Trail and traded for other cattle.

In 1866, Grant sold the ranch to Conrad Kohrs, who became a prominent cattleman of the late 1880s. Kohrs continued to build the cattle herd until at one point he had cattle grazing on more than ten million acres from the Canadian border to Colorado.

It wasn't until the devastating winter of 1886-87 during which thousands of head of cattle starved to death on the open range that ranchers began fencing privately owned land, irrigated, raised

and harvested hay. That winter changed the cattle industry and the open range era came to an end.

To gain an insight into the lifestyle of the late 1800s, a visitor's experience at the ranch begins with short walk from the Visitors' Center along a path past teepees and Longhorn cattle lying in the shade of towering cottonwood trees to the original ranch house, bunkhouse row where the cowboys lived, the barns, blacksmith shop and other areas. The undisturbed view of rolling hills and rugged mountain scenery to the west is as it was when Johnny Grant and Conrad Kohrs lived

here.

Guides offer frequent tours of the ranch home with its beautiful Victorian décor and personal items that offer a look into the lives of both of the families who lived here. In the lower yard, watch the blacksmith at work at the forge and anvil, sample "cowboy coffee" at the chuck wagon, check out a splendid display of horse-drawn wagons, buggies, sleighs and equipment in the Thoroughbred barn, see the farm animals and take a wagon ride. There are a number of easy walking trails to explore and perhaps see some of the many bird species that nest here.

Information

Location: North end of Main Street in Deer Lodge across from the fairgrounds. Leave Interstate 90 at either Deer Lodge exit.

RV friendly and wheelchair accessible.

Open Daily – except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. **Admission is free**

Hours are: 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day; 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. the rest of the year

Summer Events: April 11 - Junior Ranger Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 15-19: Teacher STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Workshop, good for 35 renewal units or two graduate level credits

June 25-Aug. 13: Summer Explorers for kids ages 5-14 – Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; activities include River Exploration, Oregon Trail stories and activities, Victorian Era customs and games, and more.

July 1-Aug. 5: Movie with a Ranger – 7 p.m. Wednesday nights at the Rialto Theatre

July 7: Cattle Branding 11 a.m. and Family Activities 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

July 16, 29, Aug. 5: Haying with Horses (weather permitting) 1-3 p.m.

July 31-Aug. 1: Campfire, Bedrolls and Starry Nights 7 p.m.-8 a.m. family overnight campout with activities and breakfast

Oct. 18 – 1-4 p.m.: Pumpkin Sunday: pumpkin patch, games, heritage activities, wagon rides

Dec. 6 - 1-4 p.m.: Holiday Open House: tour Victorian ranch house decorated for Christmas, wagon rides, caroling, crafts, refreshments and Santa

More details: www.nps.gov/grko/planyourvisit/hours.htm, or call 406-846-2070 ext. 250



Courtesy photo

A portion of Cottonwood City, with Snowshoe School, the blacksmith shop, jail, gazebo and more.

Prison

From page 21

life displays. New this year is an educational trapping exhibit with information boards, traps, skulls furs and photographs.

Take a break, relax and enjoy an ice cream treat at the "Prison Cow" or have a picnic in the park area.

Other points of interest in the two-block complex are the replica frontier town of Cottonwood City (once the name of Deer Lodge), Milwaukee Railroad display, and the PEN Art Gallery.

From June 1 to Sept. 30, the Gallery will host a Western Montana Photography exhibit featuring works by four area photographers.

Not part of the museums, but worth visiting are the Prison Hobby Shop, nationally recognized for its beautiful hand-hitched horse hair belts, bridles, hat bands, arts and crafts made by prisoners and Territorial Antiques in the former Warden's house.

Getting There and Information

Located just off I-90; 38 miles West of Butte at Exit 187 or 81 miles East of Missoula at Exit 184

The Old Prison is open 7 days a week, except closed Thanksgiving Day and from mid Dec. to early Jan.

Hours: Jan. 10 to May 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; June 1 to Oct. 1: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; winter hours 10 a.m. to

Events

May 9 -Oct. 31 – Ghost Tours from 9:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. (check website for dates)

May 15 – noon – Peace Officer Memorial Day in Prison Yard and Law Enforcement Hall of Honor

June 13, July 18, Aug. 15 and Sept. 5 – Virtual Convict Lockdown in the cell house; 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

July 4 – Annual BBQ and Fireworks

July 23-25 – Gold Wings Motorcycle Event

Aug. 1 – Shakespeare in the Park

Oct. 23, 24, 30 and 31 – Haunted House

4 p.m.

One admission price allows visitors to enjoy the Prison and four other museums

For information: call 406-846-3111, www.oldprisonmuseums.com, or email info@pcmaf.org

Guided tours of the prison are at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. daily during June through August.

Restrooms are in visitor Center/gift shop

There is quite a bit of walking, so wear comfortable shoes; a wheelchair and scooter are available. The prison is over 125 years old and some of the walkways are a bit uneven.

To fully enjoy the entire complex plan at least two to four hours; but if time is limited your pass is good for another visit within the year.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

By PAT HANSEN

Discovered in 1892, Lewis and Clark Caverns were dedicated as Montana's first state park in 1941. The famous explorers never saw the caverns but the area does overlook about 50 miles of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Trail along the Jefferson River. The spectacular limestone caverns are the finest in the Northwest. Naturally air conditioned, the caves are lined with amazing intricate stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and helictites; they are electrically lighted and safe to visit. Bring a light jacket because inside the caves are much cooler in comparison to the outside temperature.

The tour guides are passionate about what they do and you will learn a lot about the caverns. When you exit the caves after two hours in the dark, the light of day is quite harsh, so bring your sunglasses.

A large population of western big-ear bats at the cave put on a spectacular show in the evening when they fly out to feed on insects. There are no tours during the winter to allow the bats to have a peaceful hibernation.

Canoe, kayak or float on the Jefferson River; the fishing is good, too. Two picnic areas are located along the 3.2-mile road to the Caverns.

The campground has 40 spaces, three camping cabins, tipi, picnic sites, firewood, flush and vault toilets, showers, group use area, RV dump station, grills/fire rings, picnic tables, trash cans, drinking water, and a food/beverage and gift concession. Pets are allowed if on a leash and under control.

The cabins are handicap-accessible and sleep four comfortably (maximum occupancy is six) with a double bed, a set of bunk beds and room for a cot. Plumbing, kitchen facil-



Courtesy photo

Lewis & Clark Caverns is a popular tour spot.

ities, bedding and linens are not provided, so bring your own sleeping bag or bedding, towels, cook stove, etc. There are electric lights and plug-ins - you may bring your own coffee maker. A table and four chairs are provided and outside each cabin is a picnic table and fire ring. Shower facilities are located nearby.

Lewis and Clark Caverns are a great stop during a trip between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

If you go

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is located 19 miles west of Three Forks - or 17 miles east of Whitehall on Montana Highway 2.

Open all year, with cave tours from May 1 to Sept. 30

Visitor center, interpretive displays about geologic development and history, café and gift shop.

Evening programs are held Tues. and Fri. during the summer months. Special programs this year are: June 6 - National Trails Day Event; June 7 - Birding Day; Sept. 4 - Star Gazing overnight camp out and breakfast the next morning; Oct. 10 - National Public Lands Day Cave Restoration - volunteers ages 12 and older are invited to help clean up the caves; Oct. 17 - Escape Room in one of the cabins. Bat Week and a music program are also being planned.

For a full listing of subjects and times: www.stateparks.mt.gov; phone 406-287-3541

or 406-287-3032

Campground and cabins are open all year. For reservations call toll free: 855-922-6768

Cave Tours are \$15 for adults (15 and up), \$10 for children between the ages of 5 and 14, four and under are free - due to clearance, backpacks or bulky items are not allowed.

May 1 - June 14: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30p.m.

June 15 - Aug. 19: 9:00a.m. - 6:30p.m.

August 20 - Sept. 30: 9:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

The tour is great for all ages and kids will love it.

The ¾-mile walk uphill to the cave can be a strenuous. The two-hour, two-mile walking trip deep into the mountain requires a lot of stooping and bending with many stairs up and down, slippery areas, and a short slide that can be difficult for someone with knee or back problems; but handrails throughout the caverns help steady you. If you are claustrophobic you might want to think twice. If unable to meet the physical challenges, call the park for details about a modified Paradise Tour and times.

Paradise Tour - \$10 for seniors; children under 4 are free. This tour is on the level and much easier for seniors and very young children; it is wheelchair accessible.

Wild Cave tours will be conducted into side passages of the cave that are not seen by others - Sun. and Tues. mid-June to mid-Aug. at 5:20 p.m. The three-hour tours are by reservation, limited to 10 individuals, and cost \$40/person.

SOUTHWEST COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANACONDA

ANACONDA AFTER HOURS

Formerly called Alive After 5, monthly events are held the second Friday evening starting June 26. Themes vary, such as Renaissance in Anaconda, and Kids and Family Karnival. Info at: discoveranaconda.com.

ART IN WASHOE PARK

July 17-19

Art in Washoe Park is one of the best shows in southwest Montana with 85 juried art and craft booths from around the US, ethnic foods, and professional entertainment offered all three days. This show is set up in a beautiful park with lots of room and a playground available for kids. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy hours of professional music. Event begins at noon, Friday; 10 a.m. to 110 p.m. Saturday; and, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Friday only and weekend passes can be purchased at any entry gate. Info at: cvmac.org.

SMELTERMEN'S DAY

Aug. 7-8

Various festivities to celebrate the Stack and Anaconda's smelting history. Friday is the Art and Wine Walk with map available at Copper Village Art Museum. This free event supports local artists, with donations welcome; 11 a.m. Saturday, parade and festivities kick off with added music, food vendors and kids games; 2 - 6 p.m. Smeltermen's Brewfest, 12+ Breweries will join the fun at Kennedy Commons. Check website for info on Stack Tours and the Tennis Show Ball at the Washoe Park Tennis Court. Info at: discoveranaconda.com.

BUTTE

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

July 3-4

Butte is home to Montana's most spectacular fireworks display on July 3, and the festivities continue July 4, with Montana's best Independence Day parade. Info at: silverbow.mt.us.

MONTANA FOLK FESTIVAL

July 12-14

More than 22 bands bring music from around the world Uptown Butte and the event is free. Info at: Montanafolkfestival.com.

BUTTE 100 MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

July 25

Butte 100 Mountain Bike Race is Saturday, July 28. The nationally-recognized event includes a 25-, 50- and 100-mile all off-road race that draws professionals and amateurs alike. Info at: Butte100.com.



WALTER HINICK/Rediscover Montana

Lena Naipo leads Kahulanui a Hawaiian swing band at the Montana Folk Festival.

THE SERBIAN FESTIVAL

Aug. 8

The Serbian Festival celebrates the food, music and dance of the Serbian culture with homemade Serbian food and drink available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 2100 Continental Dr., Butte. Info at: holyltrinitybutte.org.

AN RI RA MONTANA IRISH FESTIVAL

Aug. 14-16

All the music, dance and tradition of Butte's An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival happen Friday - Sunday at the Original Mine in Uptown Butte. Free admission. Info at: Mt-gaelic.org.

SILVER BOW COUNTY FAIR

The Silver Bow County Fair will be, at the Butte Civic Center. Info at: Buttesilverbowfair.com.

DEER LODGE

BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO

June 26-28

Montana's only draft horse and mule show. Show events and classes are selected with families in mind. Held at Powell County Fairgrounds, Deer Lodge. Info at: drafthorseexpo.com.

COOKIN' ON THE CLARK FORK BBQ COOK-OFF AND BREWFEST

July 25

Cookin' on the Clark Fork BBQ Cook-off and Brewfest, noon to 6 p.m. on Main Street in Deer Lodge. Info at: Clarkforkbbq.com.

DILLON

DILLON HISTORY DAYS

July 24-26

Mechanical Bull Riding with the winner going to Las Vegas to compete in MBRWC

Championship (mbrwc.com for details.) Join various Living History Demonstrations, historic tours and old-fashioned fun. Info at: (406) 683-4245.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND BAZAAR

Sept. 4-7

Food, fun and shopping in Depot Park at the south end of Montana Street. Noon - 6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; and, 10 a.m. - noon Monday. Info at: (406) 683-4245.

LABOR DAY RODEO

Aug. 31-Sept. 3

Wed 9 2, rodeo sat sun afternoon 5-6 Montana's biggest weekend, Dillon's Labor Day Rodeo and concert in Dillon begins Friday, Aug. 22, and runs through Monday, Sept. .

Eli Young Band headlines 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5. Info at: dillonjaycees.com. 683-5771

ENNIS

FLY FISHING AND OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

Sept. 3-5

A weekend to learn and enjoy more about fly fishing, river ecology and outdoor activities in the Maison Valley. Info at: Ennis-chamber.com.

Madison Valley Arts Festival

Aug 1, 2020

The Ennis Arts Association's 24th annual Madison Valley Arts Festival features 55 juried artist booths, live music, food, children's rock painting and an art raffle. This free event happens 10 a.m. to 5 p. m. in Peter T.'s Park on Main Street in Ennis. Info at: backroadtoyellowstone.com.

PHILIPSBURG

BLUES, BREWS AND BBQ

June 20

From noon to 5 p.m. Downton Philipsburg is closed off and full of BBQ chefs and Brewers mix with top-notch live music all afternoon. Info. at: philipsburgmt.com.

PINTLERFEST

July 31-Aug 1

This inaugural PintlerFest is hosted at the historic Philipsburg Theatre and features 10 separate original performances in the theatre and many more musical acts and artists appearing at other local businesses. Performances will be held at a matinee schedule 4 to 11 p.m. Friday and 1Noon to 11 p.m.-11 Saturday with hour-long sets separated by hour-long breaks to explore Philipsburg. Info at: adventurecrewrepresents.com.

SHERIDAN

SHERIDAN DAYS SUMMER FESTIVAL AND STREET PARTY

July 31-Aug. 2

A weekend event, the Sheridan Summer Festival happens along Main Street. Enjoy countless offerings of a car show, food, beer gardens, live music and more. Info at: (406) 842-5431.

THREE FORKS

HEADWATERS COUNTRY JAM

June 18-20

Headwaters Country Jam will be at The Bridge near Three Forks for a 12-acre Montana weekend festival of star-studded country music, food, arena games, camping and memory making. Info at: headwaterscountryjam.com.

ROCKIN' THE RIVERS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Aug. 13-15

The biggest country music festival in Montana has a bit of rock 'n roll this year during three days of music featuring more than a dozen bands. This summer go-to event has camping available, and the crowds enjoy ice-cold beer, ongoing horseshoes and dancing, all at The Bridge near Three Forks. Headliners include Skillet, .38 Special, Lit, Candlebox, Iron Maidens, Steven Adler of Guns 'N Roses, Jefferson Starship, Georgia Satellites, Jared Stewart, Saving Abel, Hell's Belles, LA Guns, Defenders of the Faith, Dead Fervor and Blue Tattoo. Info at: Rockintherivers.com.

WHITEHALL

FRONTIER DAYS

July 24-25

Visitors will see food and art vendors galore during this Jefferson County event held annually in Whitehall. Info at: whitehallchamberofcommerce.com.



HAUNTED History



Photo courtesy James Reich

By **CHARITY DEWING**

cdewing@billingsgazette.com

Traveling the great state of Montana beholds many adventures. From driving the Beartooth pass and enjoying the great outdoors to renaissance fairs and state-wide concerts, there is something for everyone – even the strange and unusual.

While exploring Big Sky Country, check out some fascinating history about Billings – and the haunted backstories to some of the city's most popular landmarks.

The first permanent school in Billings has a bleak, dark history. It was built in 1884 along Fourth Avenue North between 29th and 30th streets. Lincoln School, now the Lincoln Center had a "brilliant but sadistic principal," according to Gazette archives. George W. Shoemaker delighted in torturing his students. Gazette archives reveal the basement of the original Lincoln School was known as the "Chamber of Horrors" by students as Shoemaker would whip them so terribly that the children's screams could be heard on the top floor. Parents, students and community members were outraged but somehow, Shoemaker escaped the allegations. The school finally closed because of scarlet fever – several students fell ill, and at least one boy died. The paranormal activity at the Lincoln Center today echoes the past. Former students, employees and visitors claim to have felt tapping on the shoulders and poking on the arms. Allegations of an unfriendly man in a top hat and overall sense of dread in the basement are the dominant complaints at the Lincoln Center – believably, it could be Shoemaker, himself. As a place that should have been safe and educational, the cries of students infused into the stonework of the building. Although additions have been built and time has passed, the "Chamber of Horrors" appears to have locked in the sorrow of many young souls.



Gazette archives

Believe it or not, the L&L Building, located at 2624 Minnesota Ave., was the heart of Chinatown in Billings during the late 1800s to early 1920s. Yee Sam Lee either built or bought the building in the 1890s. Lee was the most influential individual in the Chinatown district – right down to the gangs. Called fractions, Lee was a member of Bing Gong Tong. According to Gazette archives, there were two gangs – the other was Hip Sing. Court testimony from a 1922 Gazette archive reveals gang-activity resulting in an assault case with the Tong division in court. A quote read, "Every Chinaman who has testified in the trial so far has said he belong to one society or the other." Legend has it that Yee Sam Lee was murdered on the top floor of the L&L Building at the hand of a rival gang member, and now haunts the building. When the building housed a SUBWAY sandwich shop, employees claimed objects were relocated, they felt tapping on the shoulder and laughter – in essence, a playful spirit. Lee was often fined, had several run-ins with law-enforcement and was assaulted on more than one location – and in fact, almost lost his life when attacked with a hatchet. But, Lee was not murdered. He did die there in 1925, at age 72, from natural causes.



Courtesy of the Western Heritage Center

The Stapleton Building was built circa 1904-1905, and was home to the Hart-Albin store until the location was moved a block north in 1917. However, the Stapleton Building was built on the former site of Gruwell Livery Stable, and then the Cothron and Todd Livery barn – where horses were kept for hire, similar to bike rental vestibules in bigger cities today. Gun slinging, disorderly conduct and at least one fire that took the lives of dozens of horses occurred during operation of the stable(s). Now, it houses businesses like The Joy of Living, Big Dipper, Le Fournil and Rocket's Burritos. It was nominated among the haunted locations of our city and little evidence was found to support a reason why. Nonetheless, customers claim the restroom in Rocket's Burrito is unnerving. There is a reported sense of not being alone in the restroom and hall area – even when you are. What is causing this heavy feeling of another presence at the Stapleton Building that, at least patrons, are experiencing? Perhaps it is simply the energy of businesses past, still engrained into the soil beneath the foundation of the Stapleton Building.

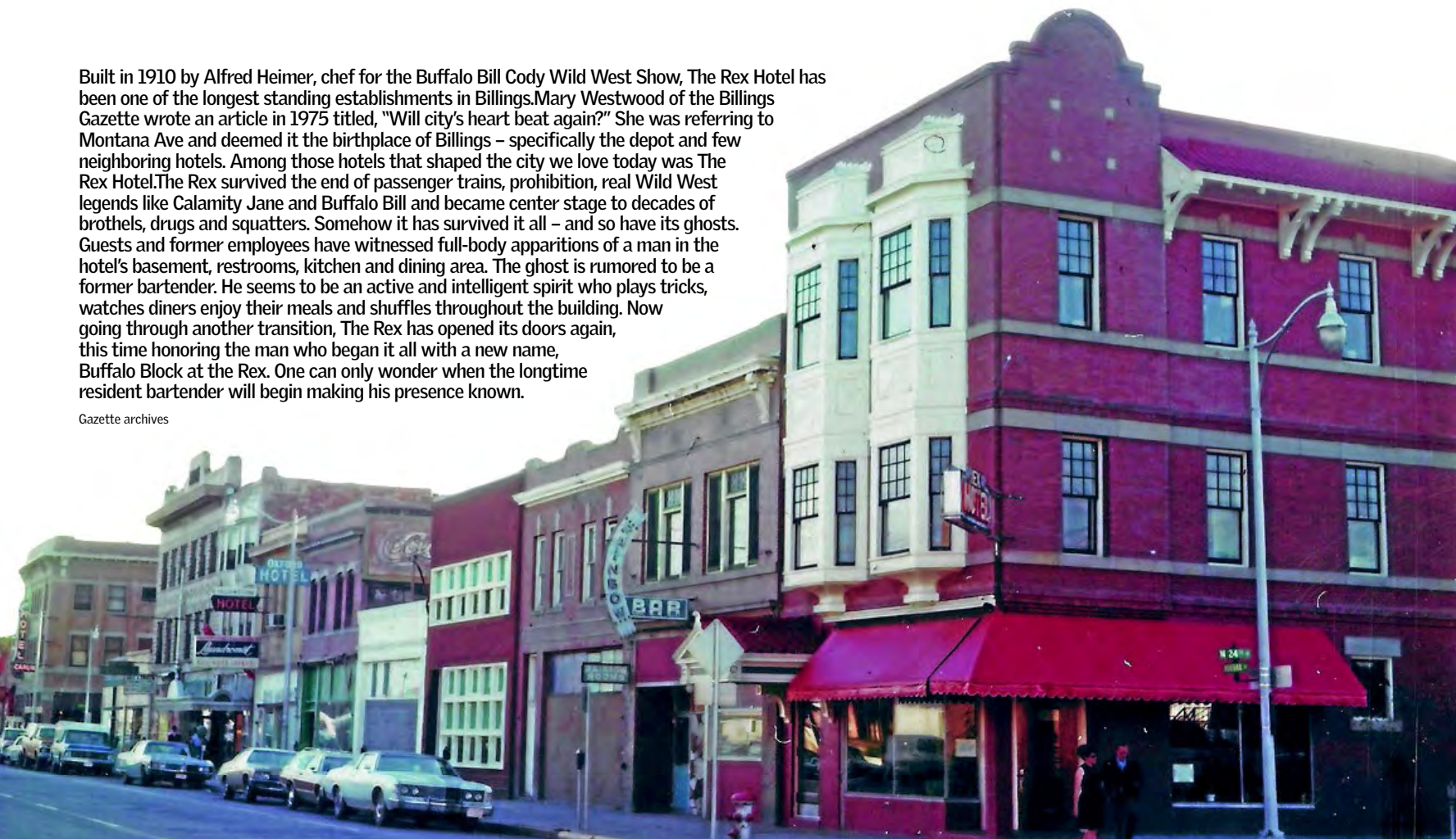


Built in the 1930s, the hall was originally called Fox Theater until 1986 renovations and change to namesake, Alberta Bair. Interestingly enough, Fox Theater is said to be the same piece of land that the Bair family homesteaded. It seemed only right that they took back what was theirs – at least with title. Alberta Bair donated as much as \$600,000 to the theater. When she died, the family again donated a whopping one million to the theater. Stories are told of specters taking a seat in the theater and chairs moving as if someone had just sat down. Former employees and performers have experienced a beautiful woman dressed in costume and ready to perform, her presence is especially prevalent in the dressing room. Theories are that the apparition is actually Alberta, visiting and enjoying the theater that held the birthplace and legacy of her family.

Billings Gazette archives

Built in 1910 by Alfred Heimer, chef for the Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show, The Rex Hotel has been one of the longest standing establishments in Billings. Mary Westwood of the Billings Gazette wrote an article in 1975 titled, "Will city's heart beat again?" She was referring to Montana Ave and deemed it the birthplace of Billings – specifically the depot and few neighboring hotels. Among those hotels that shaped the city we love today was The Rex Hotel. The Rex survived the end of passenger trains, prohibition, real Wild West legends like Calamity Jane and Buffalo Bill and became center stage to decades of brothels, drugs and squatters. Somehow it has survived it all – and so have its ghosts. Guests and former employees have witnessed full-body apparitions of a man in the hotel's basement, restrooms, kitchen and dining area. The ghost is rumored to be a former bartender. He seems to be an active and intelligent spirit who plays tricks, watches diners enjoy their meals and shuffles throughout the building. Now going through another transition, The Rex has opened its doors again, this time honoring the man who began it all with a new name, Buffalo Block at the Rex. One can only wonder when the longtime resident bartender will begin making his presence known.

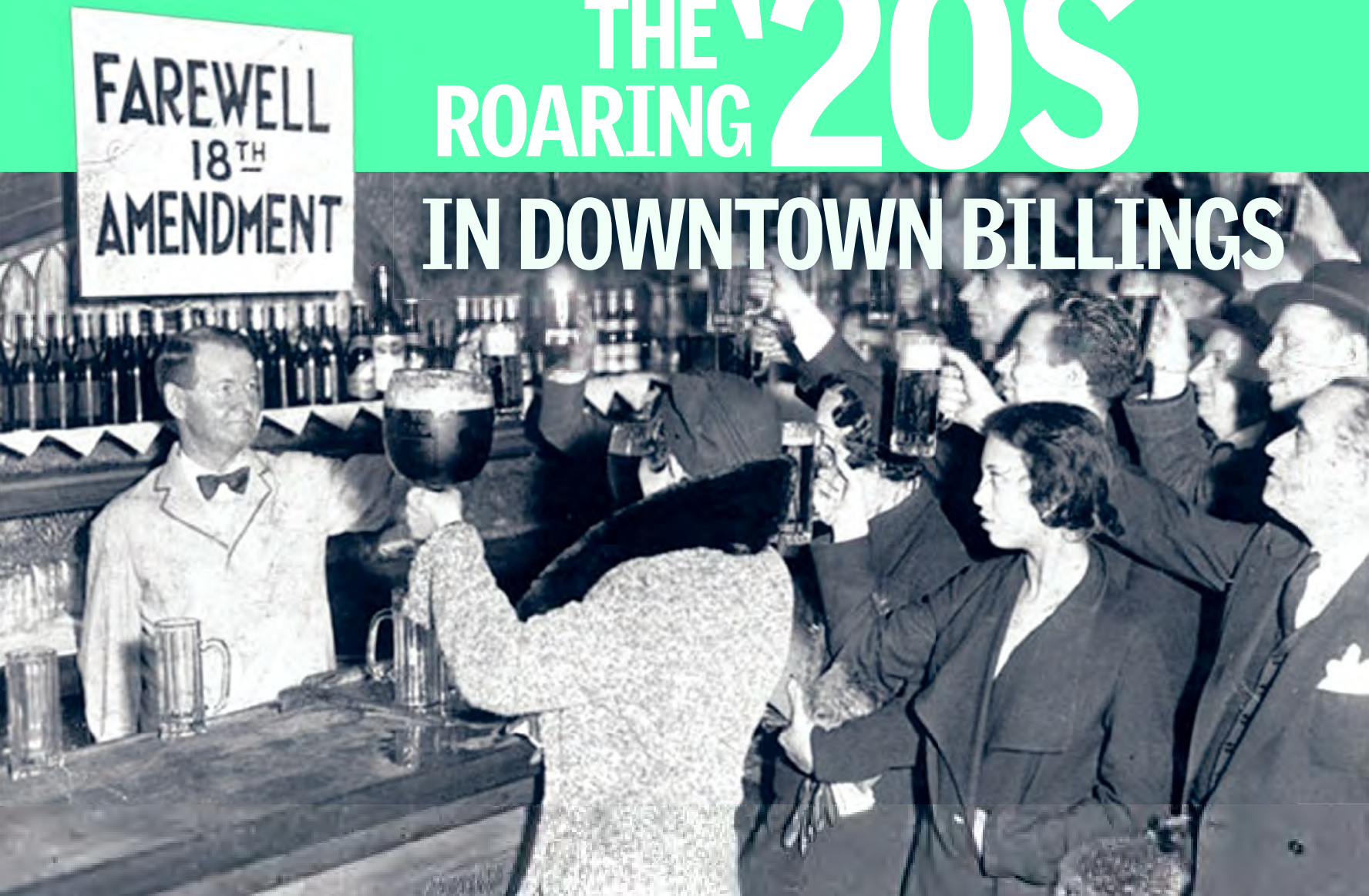
Gazette archives



Please see **HAUNTED**, Page 40

THE '20S ROARING

IN DOWNTOWN BILLINGS



St. Louis Post-Dispatch

On January 17, 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution banned the transportation, production and sale of alcohol. On December 5, 1933, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Utah ratified the Twenty-first Amendment in state conventions, giving a needed 75 percent majority and effectively ending prohibition. The amendment didn't become effective until December 15, but that didn't stop consumers from celebrating a few days early.

By **CHARITY DEWING**
cdewing@billingsgazette.com

When you think of the iconic Jazz Age, the images of flappers, speakeasies and art deco may come to mind. The Roaring '20s was simultaneously an era of restriction, freedom and evolution. It was an experimental decade of which some of the best inventions, art, lit-

erature and music were born.

With the implementing of the 18th Amendment, prohibition became part of the U.S. Constitution – making alcohol illegal to produce, sell or consume. This caused the country to divide. Many citizens known as “the dries” believed the amendment was the answer to the alcoholic epidemic that was sweeping the nation. The “wets” welcomed the end of WWI and the new modern America that offered a continuing

workforce for women; modern housewares like refrigerators, telephones, washing machines, canned goods and factory-made clothing; and the booming automobile industry – it was a time of celebration.

As the modern world took off, so did urbanization, making many cities feel the need to maintain their downtown night scenes and Billings was no exception to any of the movements, fads and law-breaking.

Bootlegging, Booze and Speakeasies

The line between “wets” and “drys” became immediately evident at the beginning of the ‘20s. Initially, most of the country, including the newspaper industry was supporting the dry movement, including Montana and the Billings Gazette. But almost immediately, states in the East (and their newspapers) began opposing prohibition, even rejecting the terminology “wets.” For many, the new amendment imposed upon their freedom and soon, moonshine was becoming a popular and dangerous drink.

According to Gazette archives, booze running became prevalent within the state. Accounts of hospitalizations from “bad” moonshine was one of the problems. Rum-runners transported liquor from Canada to the U.S. in efforts to avoid law enforcement. Raids were frequent and it seemed most of the city was finding ways to get and hide booze.

Even officials, both in church and state, were smuggling moonshine.

One Gazette archive reveals a small article about a priest caught with two gallon jugs of moonshine behind his pulpit.

One of the largest alcohol busts in Billings was former City Councilman Herman Schwanz, who was arrested with 500 quarts of whisky, several barrels of moonshine, 1,000 or more quarts of beer and 200 gallons of mash – an estimated \$15,000 of liquor.

Even Billings own mayor, Arthur Trenerry, was charged and put on trial for conspiracy to violate the National Prohibition Act. After 17 hours of deliberation, the jury found him not guilty.

And then there were the speakeasies and yes, there were plenty right in the heart of downtown Billings.

While there are no photos to be found of the speakeasies that once gave Billings reprieve from long hours on the job, Gazette archives reveal at least 15 downtown speakeasies were

raided. Beer, whisky, wine and gin were taken in the raids.

Speakeasies raided were: *The Club*, 2811 Montana Ave.; *The Turf*, 21 N. 29th street; *The Hub*, 2821 Montana Ave.; *The Alley Club*, off 27th St. in alley between Montana Ave. and First Ave. North; *The Manhattan*, 2421 1/2 Montana Ave.; *The Missouri Club*, 2511 Montana Ave.; *The Mint*, 2813 1/2 Montana Ave.; *The Smoke House*, 2519 1/2 Montana Ave.; *The T-P club*, 15 S. 27th St.; *The Forum*, 2605 Montana Ave.; *The Empire*, 20 1/4 North 27th St.; *The Blue Front*, 2717 1/2 Montana Ave.; *The Montana Club*, entrance off alley between Montana Ave. and First Ave. North near 27th street.

The drink of choice, especially around the holidays, was a steaming bowl of “Tom and Jerry,” an old-style Christmas drink similar to eggnog with hot water and rum or brandy. It became customary for many of the speakeasies to serve this drink and in some cases, even a free lunch of pretzels, bologna, liverwurst and cheese. While the large bowls of hot liquor caused accidents and over-the-top drunkenness, the idea was to provide a sense of comfort, a place to let off steam and “cheers” with the fellow man... or woman.

Flappers and Fashion

Flappers are the iconic face of The Roaring ‘20s. Women felt a new sense of freedom when their men went to war and the job market opened. After WWI, they remained in the workforce but something else had changed. Modernism was moving in and the Renaissance period was out the door. This meant everything from art

to music, style and the female form was changing. Women across the country cut their hair in a bob-style; wore dresses and skirts exposing their knees; danced, smoked and drank in public; and mingled with men at speakeasies. It was all at once scandalous and intriguing.

The country both loved and hated flappers, who were simultaneously hailed for the overtness and fashion while ridiculed for being vulgar, unoriginal and unattractive.

One Gazette archive shared an Associated Press story that flappers were not an original model of bobbed hair and short skirts, but that the concept first came from ancient Egypt. The article was accompanied with hieroglyphic illustrations of ancient Egyptian women that supported the claim that flappers were not worth all the hype.

Another article with an all-capital headline

Please see **ROARING '20S**, Page 30



Actress Evelyn Downing
cirque 1922.
Gazette archive



The Roaring '20s became such an intriguing and provocative time in history that it inspired movies, music and literature.
Gazette archive



Gazette archives

“The Beautiful and Damned” was a novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1922. It exemplified the Jazz age and mirrored Fitzgerald’s marriage to his muse, “The first American flapper,” Zelda Fitzgerald. The stage production came to the Babcock theatre on more than one occasion.

Roaring '20s

From 29

reading, "BILLINGS WILL BE FILLED WITH BALD FLAPPERS" claimed the bobbed hairstyle would lead to imminent baldness and soon, the world would be filled with hairless women.

Still, flappers were the selling point for cinema, plays and fashion. People couldn't take their eyes off of the women recreating the country in their image.

Soon, retailers were targeting and advertising the flapper movement. Dresses and skirts became shorter, even shoes were marketed specifically for the flapper - or any woman wanting to become one.

The flapper was enhanced by movie stars like Clara Bow who became the iconic "It Girl" of the time and socialite Zelda Fitzgerald, who is recognized as the first "American Flapper." In addition, Zelda's husband, F. Scott Fitzgerald published his book "The Great Gatsby" in 1925, emphasizing the flapper movement, speakeasies and the rise of the Roaring '20s.

The Gazette published many articles on Fitzgerald, even calling him the prophet of jazz. The Babcock Theatre also created stage productions of his second novel, "The Beautiful and Damned."

Ethel Hays, a published cartoonist from Billings, was well-known for her flapper-style illustrations and cartoons of the 1920s, further developing local intrigue and progression towards the flapper movement.

Living

Because of new inventions, including the automobile and other devices that required assembly-line production, there was an economic boom with the increased job market. Living became a little easier to manage and with urbanization, apartments became a trendy way to live in the big city.

In downtown Billings and surrounding ar-



Gazette archives photos

LEFT: Loved and hated, flappers were changing fashion in the 1920s and retailers knew how to market for the trending style.

LEFT BELOW: 1925 Hart-Albin ad appealing to the more modest women's fashion.

eas, a one-bedroom apartment started at only \$12.50 a month, while a two bedroom (with a sleeping porch) cost only \$28 a month.

All-you-can-eat seafood buffet lunches at the Shell-ing Café cost 65 cents; brand new Chryslers started at just \$725; diamond engagement rings were as low as \$15; silk dresses were less than \$10 at Hart-Albin; and admission to shows at the Babcock Theatre were five to 50 cents.

A Gazette archive revealed that local downtown stores played a large role in the evolution of the community: "There is another light in which the (downtown) merchant is seldom seen, though always present, and that is as the patron of all progress, art, comfort and invention."

The 1920s paved the way for the concept of the American Dream. It embodied "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," the fundamental rights from the Declaration of Independence. Downtown Billings dreamed big, its citizens defied the Prohibition Act and established speakeasies.

The dull roar of the '20s lingered into the early '30s as the economic boom ended with the Great Depression.

In 1933, Prohibition was eradicated, making it the first and only revoked amendment in the Constitution. Still the wet-dry issue raged on for a few years to follow, causing hesitation to reopen drinking establishments throughout the country. Still, Montana beer sales increased and places like The Billings Brewing Co. found solid footing in the community.

The grand allure of the speakeasies, and all that it entailed, came to an end. The flapper be-



Gazette archives

Ethel Hays focused on flappers and their dynamic with men in the 1920s.

came a passing notion that fizzled like a shooting star. The Roaring '20s were over.

Full Circle

Here we are again, celebrating a new version of the '20s. The echo of that time swept every downtown New Year's party as women wore fringed and sequin costumes, and liquor poured freely into champagne glasses welcoming the New Year.

2020 is here and not unlike the Roaring '20s, it is boisterous - full of artists, inventors, activists, rebels and patrons.

Downtown Billings still captures an ever-growing and living time capsule of that roar.

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The Beartooth Mountains shimmer in the haze beyond a large meadow atop the Pryor Mountains that is stippled with green gentian plants.
BRETT FRENCH photos, Billings Gazette

Pryor Mountain trail cooperation

BLM, USFS collaborating to make travel easier

By **BRETT FRENCH**
french@billingsgazette.com

Their ATV parked along a rocky road up Red Pryor Mountain, Gary and Connie Marman studied a travel map spread across the seat while also taking time to appreciate the vast view.

"It's always amazing to me how far you can see," Connie said, gazing across the Bighorn Basin to the Absaroka and Beartooth mountains. "We try to explain that to our friends in Minnesota and they just don't understand."

The Marmans were spending a weekday exploring the Pryor Mountains with their dog, Rusty. It was the first time they had adventured into the island range south of the their Billings home, one that Gary had vowed to visit since moving to the city in 2007.

Cooperation

The Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest and the Billings Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management are working together to make trips like the Marmans' easier, while also improving the routes to alter decades of environmental and vehicle wear and tear.

"Our long-term goal is to make recreation as a whole more seamless between the two agencies," said Jenny Alexander, outdoor recreation planner for the BLM in Billings. "The public just wants to ride and know where they're at."

"One reason I think we've been successful is we've had support from motorized and nonmotorized groups," added Jeff Gildehaus, outdoor recreation planner for the Beartooth District. "That's been really helpful to get support from a wide range of user groups."

Wild place

The Pryor Mountains are an island range that inhabit a rain shadow east of the larger Beartooth Mountains. At their 4,800-foot elevation base, the Pryors are parched, populated by steep limestone cliffs, twisted juniper and fragrant sage. But drive or hike upward about six miles while climbing 3,700 feet in elevation and the mountains transition into large swaths of dense Douglas fir, meadows of stalky green gentian and ground-hugging white sego lilies. This range has a split personality.

The division is vertical as well as horizontal. Crooked Creek creates a deep dividing line between the west and east Pryors. The west is mainly Forest Service land up high, with BLM below. In the East Pryors the BLM and National Park Service share much of the highlands and lowlands, including the famed wild horse range, while the national forest is confined mostly to the west around Big Ice Cave.



The 850 trail sign at this BLM-Forest Service boundary will be a relic of the past as the agencies work together to make the routes the same number even when they cross boundaries. Jenny Alexander, at left, is the BLM recreation officer, and Jeff Gildehaus, at right oversees recreation for the Beartooth Ranger District.



Jenny Alexander of the BLM loads up the agency's Honda UTV after a morning of travel on the Stockman Trail in the Pryor Mountains.

So for trail users motoring down a BLM route, the transition to forest land would also result in a new trail number. Now the agencies are working together to ensure that a loop route is numbered the same no matter where the person travels. The only change would be a sign denoting which federal land agency is in charge when crossing a boundary.

"Each of these routes, too, will be a little different level," Alexan-

der said. "ATV users want a little something different. We'll try to make it as diverse as possible."

An example would be the Sykes Ridge Road, which provides views down into the Bighorn Canyon as well as access to a double limestone arch. This route at the far east end of the range would be maintained for ATVs. The Burnt Timber Road, which is just to the west of Sykes, would be maintained for four-wheel drive vehicles like Jeeps.

Other Pryor routes

Accessing the Pryor Mountains can be difficult by road.

The Sage Creek Road on the west end is deeply rutted. Forest Service attempts to re-engineer the route years ago were thwarted by the multiple owners of land on the Crow Reservation.

Backing away, the agency gave all of its engineering plans for the route to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the tribe in the hopes they would fix the road.

Road funding for the Forest Service is difficult to come by, according to Jeff Gildehaus, of the Beartooth Ranger District, which is why the road past the Big Ice Cave to Dry

Head Overlook in the Pryors is also in disrepair. Lack of funding and the possibility that the BIA and Crow Tribe may repair Sage Creek Road also prompted the Forest Service to back off improving the Powerline Road that stays on forest land to access Sage Creek.

On the Main Fork of Rock Creek, however, funding repaired that route to within two miles of Glacier Lake making it passable to two-wheel drive vehicles. It will cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 to finish the work.

The West Rosebud Road has also been repaired after being closed for six weeks after a spring popped up in the middle of the route.

Alexander said the BLM has about 50 miles of motorized trail in the Pryors, and none of them are restricted to any certain vehicle. But some roads like Sykes are extremely narrow, so Jeep use is discouraged. Likewise the Forest Service routes are restricted only by

users' ability or confidence. While a two-wheel-drive pickup with clearance might be able to climb some routes in dry conditions, a Subaru Outback probably doesn't have enough clearance. But the

Please see **PRYOR**, Page 34

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The Stockman Trail accesses the top of King Canyon. This view looks west toward the Beartooth Mountains in the distance.

Pryor

From 33

agencies are leaving those decisions up to each driver's discretion.

The BLM's management seems to be popular. Trail use has climbed about 3 percent a year for the past few years. Last year trail counters in the Pryors on BLM land tallied about 17,000 visitors.

Trail work

Most of the routes into the Pryor Mountains were user created, whether by ranchers, uranium miners or Jeep drivers. That's why many trails go straight up a ridge or drainage, rather than switch-backing.

The problem with such routes is that they are prone to washing out during heavy rains or spring runoff, leaving them deeply rutted and sometimes impassable. In some places where that's occurred, drivers simply created a new route around the old one, expanding the problem across the landscape.



Jeff Gildehaus, at left, provides directions for Billings ATV riders Gary and Connie Marman atop Red Pryor Mountain.

To try and lessen the damage, the BLM and Forest Service are using trail grants and agency funding to create water diversions, while also removing some large rocks and plowing the top off the ridges between deep ruts. The Forest Service has also rehabbed two mud bogs on the popular Stockman Trail to make it more passable while installing

culverts to drain water away from the route.

It's harder to upgrade some of the rockier ridge routes, where the roadbed is solid stone covered with larger loose stones. Those trails remain fairly primitive and challenging.

The BLM has requested \$20,000 in funding that would be used next year for trail work.

The Forest Service has received \$13,000 from a state OHV grant and has included \$8,000 of its own money for work that began this year and will be finished next summer. New signage and maps will also be installed to make it easier for users traveling the routes.

In addition, a travel management plan for the BLM portion of the Pryors should be available for public comment by December. The Beartooth Ranger District completed its travel plan in 2008 but a lawsuit challenging the document held up implementing any trail improvements until 2014.

User groups

Bruce Butler of the Treasure State ATV club in Billings said the work by the federal agencies is appreciated by his group.

"It's made things a little easier for old guys like me and my wife," he said. "We're pushing 80."

Members of Friends of the Pryor Mountains, the conservation group that sued the Forest Service over the travel plan, even signed on to support the trail work.

"It's not a huge amount of work," said Dick Walton, a member of the group. "The problem is the Forest Service doesn't have the staff or the funding to maintain the roads and trails they have up there. The same goes for weeds."

Although the Friends of the Pryor Mountains objected to so many routes being left open to motorized vehicles, Gildehaus said the idea was to provide loops or routes that appealed to drivers of different abilities, even if three trails may end up in the same general area.

Butler took his older sister into the Pryors on an ATV last year for the first time.

"She was just thrilled," he said. "It's great to do things like that."

"You're in the mountains. There's fresh air, wild horses and not many people. That's kind of a neat feeling."

MOSS MANSION AND THE WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER

offer a chance to learn about Billings history

By **MIKE KORDENBROCK**
mkordenbrock@billingsgazette.com

To understand the history of Billings, Montana's largest city, it helps to first talk about the history of railroads.

That's the view of Kevin Kooistra, executive director of the Western Heritage Center, a museum and historical outreach organization located in the heart of downtown Billings.

Montana had been inhabited by Native Americans for centuries before Americans began taking

over the land, motivated in part by a gold rush in the 1860s, more than 50 years after Lewis and Clark first explored the region.

Montana became a territory in 1864 and a state in 1889.

As Kooistra tells it Billings is among the last cities in Montana to be constructed along early

Northern Pacific Railroad construction and land acquisition strategy which put tracks through the middle of cities in accordance with a symmetrical plat design.

The result is a city, founded in 1882, that has developed uniquely on either side of the railroad tracks, with the southern side having a significant industrial business presence.

The arrival

of the railroad and the rise of Billings came at the cost of Coulson, a town that once existed nearby along the river in an attempt to court business from steamboats.

Coulson had a reputation for a rougher, rowdier way of life in the West, but the town eventually disappeared due to growth so rapid in Billings it seemed to be an act of magic, leading to Billings being nicknamed The Magic City. One of the 47 parks in Billings is called Coulson Park and located where the town used to stand.

The symmetric layout of downtown Billings ultimately created an industrial corridor to the south that would become home to a diverse minority population

Please see **MOSS**,
Page 36

Moss Mansion
Gazette staff



Gazette Staff

The dining room in the Moss Mansion is planned as the main scenery for the filming of Shane Patrick McClurg's upcoming independent movie, "Oswald's Dinner."

Moss

From 35

driven in part by the needs of regional agriculture and industry.

In its earlier years the city of Billings had a sizable population of German Russians, known as Volga Germans, along with immigrants from Mexico, Japan and China.

Along Division Street stands one of the most spectacular holdovers from Billings' past, a towering red sandstone structure known as the Moss Mansion. The house was built in 1903 at the behest of Billings entrepreneur Preston Boyd Moss.

Moss enlisted architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, the same man who designed the Waldorf Astoria hotel, to design his home, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places and has been featured in movies including "Return to Lonesome Dove."

Moss had five children and his daughter, Melville, lived in the mansion until the 1980s when he died. Some people believe the mansion is haunted by ghosts of the Moss family.

More information

Western Heritage Center

Address: 2822 Montana Ave.,

Billings, MT, 59101

Phone: 406-256-6809

Website: www.ywhc.org

Moss Mansion

Address: 914 Division Street,

Billings, MT, 59101

Phone: 406-256-5100

Website: www.mossmansion.com

The Moss Mansion has been maintained as a museum and event venue for decades and continues to offer tours inside, along with special programming throughout the year. Summer 2019 will include its first ever Kids Fest, in which children will have a chance to visit different booths staffed by educational outreach partners of the mansion. That event is slated for July 27.

The Mansion is also planning to roll out a special display on stained glass windows, of which the building has many. The exhibit will look into how stained glass windows are made and include information



Courtesy of the Moss Mansion

The Moss Family on the 50th anniversary of Mattie and P.B. Moss. Front: Mattie and P.B. Moss. From left to right: Woodson Jackson, Kula, Preston Boyd Moss, Jr., Melville, and David Hickman Moss III.

geared towards children.

The mansion has resident historians to lead guided tours, but also offers people the chance to take self-guided tours. "We've gotten such great feedback from people who love to come in and visit the Moss at their own pace," said Jenna Peete, executive director of the Moss Mansion.

The mansion does not have air conditioning and can get warm in the summertime. To cool off, people can stroll the grounds and visit the gardens maintained around the property.



Gazette Staff

Woodwork details in the dining room in the Moss Mansion at 914 Division St.

SOUTHEAST COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



BETHANY BAKER, Billings Gazette

Tessa Thompson of Tesseract Dance Collective performs at Montana Renaissance Festival at ZooMontana.

BILLINGS

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday of every month, various locations

From 5-8 p.m., downtown businesses come together to offer specials on food and drinks, merchandise and gallery events.

ALIVE AFTER 5

Held 5-8 p.m. each Thursday through the summer, this annual outdoor music series happens at a different venue every week. Each evening combines live music, adult beverages, fresh food and favorite downtown locations such as restaurants, breweries and cultural venues. Info at: (406)-294-5060 or downtownbillings.com.

ARTWALK - DOWNTOWN BILLINGS

Many fine arts and crafts offered for sale during the Downtown Billings Alliance ArtWalk, 5-9 p.m. on select Fridays. Host sites include galleries, art studios, businesses, a downtown Billings church, nonprofit entities, restaurants and other venues who value the creative spirit that thrives in downtown Billings. ArtWalk is "weather-resistant." Info at: downtownbillings.com.

SPRINGFEST AT MOSS MANSION

June 6

This juried art festival features handicrafts and art by regional artists, antique booths, musical entertainment and

a wide variety of refreshments. Pancake breakfast, artist demonstrations and lively musical acts are on the grounds of Moss Mansion, 914 Division St. Info at: (406)-256-5100; mossmansion.com.

MONTANA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

June 6-7

Revel in the atmosphere of a 16th Century European Country Festival at ZooMontana, 2100 S. Shiloh Rd. Explore the bustling marketplace, attend a royal wedding, interact with costumed characters and enjoy full-contact armored jousting tournaments. Storytellers, musicians, jousters and villagers welcome all while the air fills with scents of foods and ale from the Renaissance period. It happens 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Info at: montanarenfest.com.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

June 6

Held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the streets of downtown Billings, the long-cherished community event opens the summer season with a rich diversity in arts and crafts, interactive children's area, fresh produce and strawberries, food-truck fare, live street entertainment and a 60-foot strawberry shortcake. Info at: (406)-294-5060; downtownbillings.com.

HEART & SOLE RACE

June 20

The Annual Heart & Soul Race features people of all ages and abilities. Choose

from 5K, 10K or 2-Mile Health Walk; all start at St. Vincent Healthcare and are a fundraiser for the YMCA and Billings Trail-Net. Info at: (406)-254-7426; heartand-solerace.org.

MONTANA ACTIVE LIFE FESTIVAL

June 15

Held before and after the Heart & Sole Race, this festival happens 8-11 a.m. at Dehler Park, home of the Billings Mustangs. This free healthy lifestyle event features live music, more than 40 interactive booths, kids' events and family fun. Info at: (406)-254-7426; heartand-solerace.org.

SYMPHONY IN THE PARK

June 28

Live, symphonic music comes to Pioneer Park for a relaxing evening while you sit on your blanket or lawn chair enjoying a picnic from food vendors. Take in the 4 p.m. Instrument Petting Zoo, 5 p.m. Billings Community Band Concert, 6:45 p.m. Young Conductors' Contest and the Billings Symphony Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m. Reserved parking (\$5) and reserved seating (\$10) are available. Info at: (406)-252-3610; billingssymphony.org.

SUMMERFAIR

June 26-28, 4-8 p.m.

Yellowstone Art Museum hosts the region's largest arts and crafts festival featuring some of the best artisans, craftspeople and entertainers in the area. More than 100 artists, community groups and food vendors are at Veterans Park, 13th Street West and Poly Drive. This year, the weekend event is open Friday night, 4-9 p.m. with live music by Mojo Cats at 5 p.m.; Saturday hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, free for children ages 12 and younger. Info at: artmuseum.org.

Magic City Blues

Bring your ID for this 18-and older Montana Urban Music Festival happening on the 2500 block of Montana Avenue with gates opening each day at 5 p.m. Info at: magiccityblues.com.

MONTANAFAIR

Aug. 7-15

MontanaFair is an agricultural celebration in the historic tradition of fairs. Held at MetraPark, the 9-day celebration has livestock, arts and crafts, a carnival and food. Stages provide entertainment that can include music, comedy, hypnosis, kids'

entertainment and variety acts. There are competitive events, entertainment and a PRCA rodeo event. Night shows feature internationally known artists. Info at: montanafair.com.

CROW AGENCY

LITTLE BIGHORN REENACTMENT

Real Bird's Battle of Little Bighorn Reenactment happens 1-3 p.m. each day, with the Real Bird family showing troopers and braves as they rush through the Little Bighorn River, just as they did 140 years ago. The battle is held at Garryowen, a portion of the Sioux camp where soldiers are believed to have attacked the village. Info at: littlebighornreenactment.com.

CROW FAIR CELEBRATION, POWWOW & RODEO

Crow Fair attracts more than 50,000 spectators and participants from the around the world. Celebration features parades, a four-day powwow, a rodeo and horse races. The largest Native American event in Montana has one of the biggest powwows in the country and is held by the Apsáalooke people of the Crow Indian Reservation just South of Hardin. Info at: crazycrow.com

LAUREL

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

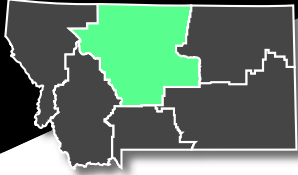
July 4

Laurel entertains more than 30,000 people, starting at the 6-11 a.m. pancake breakfast at Fireman's Park, followed by The Chief Joseph Run that begins at Thomson Park with races set for 2, 4 and 8 miles. A Kiddies Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Western Security Bank and ends at Firefighter's Memorial. The Grand Parade is at 11 a.m. A Food and Craft Fair begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m. As soon as it is dark, one of Montana's largest fireworks display takes over. Info at: laurelmontana.org

POMPEYS PILLAR

CLARK DAY

Visit this historic sandstone pillar on July 25 the same date Capt. William Clark signed the monument during his travel down the Yellowstone River. Learn the pillar's Native American heritage with presentations. Sponsored jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the Friends of Pompey's Pillar; free admission. Info at: (406)-969-5380; pompeypillar.org.



By **INDEPENDENT RECORD**
staff

Fort Benton comes highly recommended. Forbes Magazine's list of America's top 15 prettiest towns included Fort Benton and said the West is well preserved and celebrated there.

Andrew Evans, National Geographic's "digital nomad," savored the languid Missouri River downstream of this historic river town as it passed through the famed White Cliffs area. He wrote of the experience and compared his feelings to those of Meriwether Lewis, whose passage with the expedition helped cement Fort Benton's place in history.

Fort Benton is north and east of Great Falls and less than an hour's drive along Highway 87. It bills itself as the birthplace of Montana – a claim that history supports and a trademark projects.

The town traces its roots to 1846, when the foundation was laid for the fort that would be built there.

The first steamboat arrived in 1860, according to the Fort Benton information website www.fortbenton.com.

The discovery of gold two years later in what would become Bannack further fueled Fort Benton's growth, as those seeking their fortunes and others that would provide them with the goods they needed passed through the town. The 30-year era of the steamboat ended in 1890 when the railroad arrived.

What remains of that history helps bring people there today.



FORT BENTON

a portal to Montana history

CASEY PAGE/Gazette Staff

Shep the loyal sheepdog's lonely, five-and-a-half year vigil over the train station in Fort Benton is a famous piece of Montana folklore. Shep, who followed a dying owner to the town in 1936 and never left, was adopted by the town and memorialized 50 years after his death with a "heroic-sized bronze sculpture," which sits on Front Street near the Grand Union Hotel.



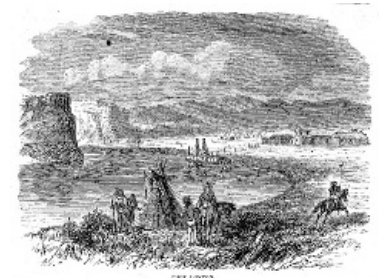
COURTESY PHOTO/KURT WILSON, Missoulian

Historic photograph showing men lining the bar at the Grand Union Hotel.

The Museum of the Upper Missouri, the state of Montana's Museum of the Northern Great Plains, Homestead Village, The Hornaday Smithsonian Buffalo Gallery, the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center, Joel F. Overholser Historical Research Cen-

ter, and the Schwinden Library and Archives are destinations for visitors and historical researchers alike.

This is also the Montana town with a life-size bronze memorial to a shepherd's dog. Shep, as the dog was named, kept his vigil for more than five years at



Courtesy photo

Fort Benton

the train station after seeing his owner's body loaded on a train in 1936 for delivery to relatives back East. The dog met four trains each day until its death in hopes of the shepherd's return.

The Grand Union Hotel, built in 1882 and since restored, is another reason for visitors to include Fort Benton in their plans. The hotel was known as the finest hotel between St. Louis and Seattle.

And the Grand Union is the place to stay, if visitors are lucky enough to be able to get a room there.

HISTORY AND BEAUTY MEET

at First Peoples Buffalo Jump

By **INDEPENDENT RECORD** staff

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is where beauty meets history and the seemingly endless prairie momentarily falls away to the sky.

Records of Native Americans using the buffalo jump, called Ulm Pishkun, near Ulm date back thousands of years. Now a state park, First Peoples Buffalo Jump offers visitors an interpretive center and 3.5-mile hiking trail that allows nearly unparalleled access and education.

Herd of 100 or more bison were funneled to the sandstone cliff which at first glance seems only to be a part of the prairie. But here the ground suddenly disappears, sending unsuspecting bison plummeting 30 to 50 feet as they followed the animals in front of them.

Still evident “drive lines” lead to the edge while bison bones and other remnants below demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency with which Native Americans

used the site, with artifacts dating back to 300 A.D. In 2015 First Peoples was listed as a National Historic Landmark.

The largest jump in North America, First Peoples Buffalo Jump was used by 13 different tribes. A tour of the interpretive center provides some history of those tribes, which include Pend O’rille, Shoshone, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Cree, Gros Ventre, Salish and others.

With panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain Front, the beauty is also a major attraction for visitors.

Events honoring the history of First Peoples have become a staple of the park. A day of traditional Native American games and opportunities to try primitive weapons such as the atlatl and archery have become annual summer programs.

More information on the state park and upcoming programs is

available at <http://stateparks.mt.gov/>.

While every season offers a different experience at First Peoples, the most popular times tend to be early summer and fall. Located only about 4 miles from the interstate, both tourists and Montana residents have easy access to the park.



CHARLIE RUSSELL CHEW-CHOO

is a dinner theater on wheels

By **INDEPENDENT RECORD**
staff

Masked bandits, saloon girls, rolling hillsides and an ample slab of prime rib are all part of the show aboard the Charlie Russell Chew-Choo.

The train ride starts on the outskirts of Lewistown, which is nestled between the mountains and prairies in central Montana. The train chugs along ranches and even through a tunnel on its way to Denton. It then makes its way back to the northwest Lewistown area on

the spur track, which was built in about 1912 as a connection between the town and Great Falls. In all, it's a 50-mile trek.

The train ride lasts an average of four hours. Lively musicians entertain and instigate during the venture. There is also some narration about the area and namesake Charlie Russell himself.

Meanwhile, wildlife such as antelope, eagles and coyote can be seen from the five rail cars.

On the way back, a visit from the Salt Creek Gang is imminent. And even though they are train robbers, they are always happy to take pic-



The Charlie Russell Chew-Choo includes masked bandits, saloon girls, rolling hillsides and an ample slab of prime rib.

tures with riders.

Food Networks deemed Charlie Russell Chew-Choo one of the craziest restaurants in America. Trip Advisor lists the Charlie Russell Chew-Choo as one of the best thing to do in Lewistown.

The Chew-Choo started in the late 1990s as a way to bring more visitors to the area. It was a hit.

The 2020 schedule starts with a Mother's Day ride on May 10. Rides

will be offered on certain Fridays and Saturdays until Oct. 3.

Each trainload can accommodate about 240 passengers, and riders are encouraged to purchase tickets well in advance.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce at 406-535-5436, 866-912-3980 or lewchamb@midrivers.com.



Haunted

From 27

CASEY PAGE/Gazette Staff

Constructed in Victorian-Italianate style, the Oxford Hotel was built circa 1908 and completed in 1909. According to Gazette archives, the back part of the building was added on during WWI and the entire building was completed around 1917. According to a Gazette article written on Sept. 9, 1922, Clifford Ramsbotton, of Buffalo, Wyo., worrying about his health, shot himself in the forehead with a .32 automatic revolver at 8:15 a.m., in his room at the Oxford. The bullet entered his forehead just above the right eye and came out at the back of the skull. Papers found in his coat indicate that he had been contemplating the deed for some time. Another gruesome story tied to the Oxford is an alleged murder of another long-term resident. According to a 1966 Gazette article, the body of Tobias Gustav Hallinger, 83, of the Oxford Hotel, an elderly man from Norway, was found in Alkali Creek on Monday, Feb. 21, 1966. Oxford Hotel personnel told deputies Hallinger left the hotel carrying a suitcase. The suitcase was never found. There were also numerous natural deaths and disturbances by residents throughout the years of the hotel. The city condemned the building for use as a hotel in 1981. Mike and Alexandra Gregory purchased the building – including the hotel's furniture – and opened Oxford Antiques that year. There is a sense of heaviness throughout the establishment. Velvet wall paper, Victorian-style ceiling designs and doors that once lead to many guest rooms and living quarters remain evident. Upstairs is a different vibe, altogether. Customers have felt nausea, dizziness, and immense pressure to the head and eyes. Is there a ghost at Oxford Antiques? Perhaps there are several. The old hotel is filled with numerous trinkets, clothing, photos, heirlooms, historical relics and journals. It is a collection of other people's lives – and that is a haunting all in itself.

CENTRAL COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CHOTEAU

TETON COUNTY 4-H FAIR June 22-28

Held at the Choteau Fairgrounds, the Teton County Fair is the summer's premier event meant to showcase the talents and hard work of the local 4-H members. Call 406-466-2491 for more information.

CONRAD

WOOP-UP TRAIL DAYS June 5-6

The annual Whoop-Up Days at the Conrad Lions Whoop Up Rodeo Grounds is a two-day rodeo that also includes a parade, fun run, pancake breakfast, live entertainment and more. Visit www.conradmt.com/whoopup for more information.

FORT BENTON

FORT BENTON SUMMER CELEBRATION June 26-28

Montana's "birthplace" community celebrates summer with a parade, arts and crafts, historical tours, free entertainment, street dances, a fishing derby and fireworks. Also included is a fun walk and run. Visit www.fortbenton.com for more information.

GREAT FALLS

CRUISIN' THE DRAG May 2

Downtown Great Falls will fill with car enthusiasts from around the region for Electric City's annual classic car show. Visit <https://visitgreatfallsmontana.org/event/cruisin-the-drag/> for more information.

GREAT FALLS CRAFT BEER WEEK June 7-13

Join the fun all week long, including the Craft Beer Obstacle Course, Beer Olympics, and the Montana Brew Fest. Call 406-453-6151 for more information.

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL June 19-21

Every June you have the chance to go back in time and celebrate Lewis and Clark, who spent nearly a month in the Great Falls area on their way to the Pacific in 1805. Call 406-452-5661 for more information.

MONTANA STATE FAIR July 24-Aug. 1

Experience Montana's culture and history at the Montana ExpoPark in Great Falls.



Courtesy photo

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous in Lewistown.

Includes superstar entertainment, carnival rides, a pro-rodeo, food vendors, livestock shows, stage acts, exhibits and more. Call 406-727-8900 for more information.

HAVRE

BLACK POWDER MUZZLE DAY May 23-25

The competition at Fort Assiniboine will have almost 40 events, including long-range and primitive shoots, tomahawk and knife throwing, and a pancake race. Primitive dress is encouraged, and camping is available. Call 406-265-7431 for more information.

LIVING HISTORY DAY June 6

Experience Havre's early history with re-enactments of the underground businesses when the stores come to life. Enjoy tasty homemade pastry in the Gourley Brothers Bakery, as well as sausage, ice cream and soda samples in the Meat Market and Boones Drug Store. Pacific Junction Railway Club will have a special train run as well in the Frank DeRosa Railroad Museum. Call 406-265-4383 for more information.

LEWISTOWN

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY BIRD FESTIVAL June 5-7

The keynote speaker for this year's festival is Marshall Johnson, vice president of Audubon Conservation Ranching for National Audubon Society. The festival features numerous birding outings planned to the surrounding diverse Northern Great

Plains grasslands region. Visit mtaudubon.org for more information.

CENTRAL MONTANA FAIR July 22-25

Enjoy PRCA Rodeo action, entertainment by Ned LeDoux, a demolition derby and more at the Fergus County Fairgrounds. Call (406) 535-8841 for more information.

MONTANA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING AND WESTERN MUSIC RENDEZVOUS Aug. 13-16

This cultural festival is dedicated to celebrating and preserving the history, heritage and values of the cowboy lifestyle of the Upper Rocky Mountain West. Through cowboy poetry and western music lyrics, an oral history of the American cowboy is shared. Call 406-538-4575 or email kbkuhlmann@midrivers.com for more information.



Courtesy Lewis and Clark Foundation

The Lewis and Clark Festival

SHELBY

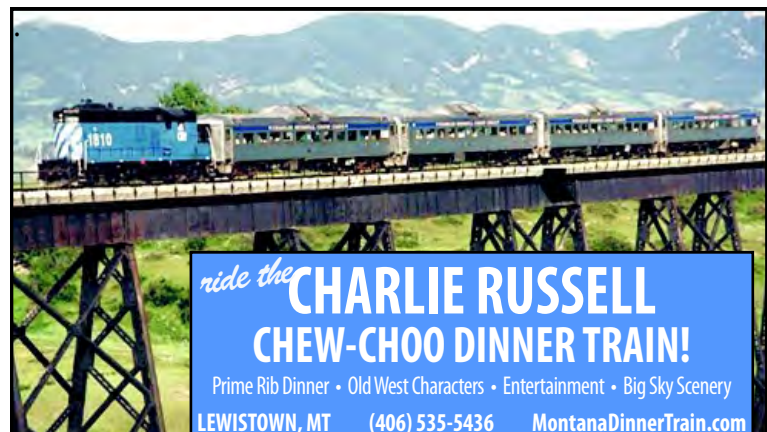
SHELBY KITE FESTIVAL June 13

If you don't have a kite of your own, you can make one (free for kids) or buy one. The festival will also feature face painting and vendors offering food, crafts, jewelry, and other goodies. Call 406-434-7184 for more information.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

RED ANTS PANTS MUSIC FESTIVAL July 23-26

Located on the Jackson Ranch three miles outside of White Sulphur Springs, the festival is designed to bring people together and support the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which is dedicated to women's leadership, working family farms and ranches, and rural communities. The festival was founded and is produced by Red Ants Pants owner Sarah Calhoun. It remains a home-grown celebration, run by a dedicated crew and 250 festival volunteers. Call 406-209-8135 for more information.



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August 9



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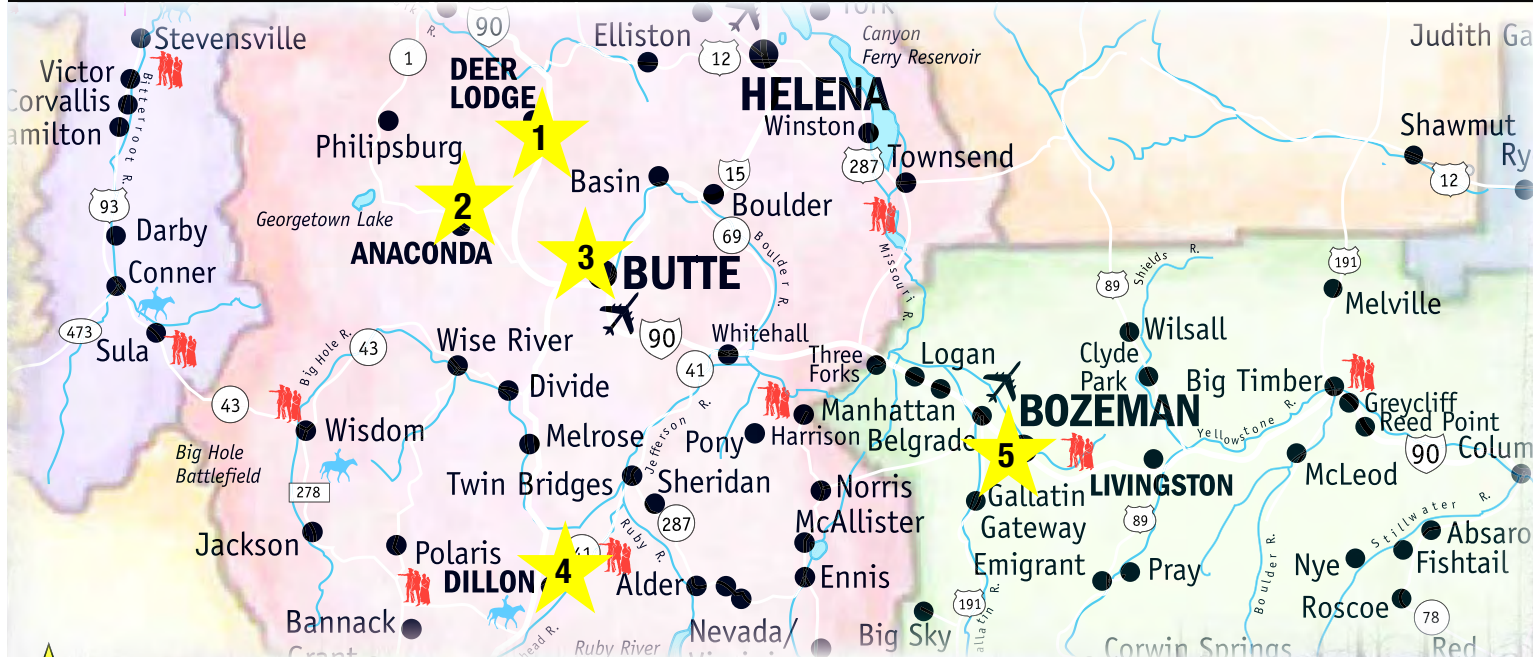
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BLOOD AND GOLD

Both have a place in history of Zortman and Landusky

By **MIKE KORDENBROCK**
mkordenbrock@
billingsgazette.com

These days the towns of Zortman and Landusky, nestled in the Little Rockies of Montana, have a reputation for recreation and small town friendliness. They are places that take visitors out of the bustle of the 21st century and into a world where things move at a slower pace and neighbors stop to chat.

But that peace hasn't always held sway in these small towns. There is both gold and blood in the history of Zortman and Landusky.

The founding of Zortman and Landusky goes back to the late 1800s, when a heavy vein of gold was discovered by Pike Landusky and Bob Ormond. Zortman would take its name from Oliver "Pete" Zortman, a man who operated a mill in the nearby Alder Gulch.

Landusky was named after Pike Landusky, a man whose life met a violent end at the hands of an outlaw who would go on to run with Butch Cassidy's gang.

In one version of events, Harvey Logan, also known as Kid Curry, shot and killed Landusky after beating him senseless in a saloon as retribution for embarrassment he suffered at Landusky's hands.

In a 1994 article the Western

Outlaw-Lawman History Association described how Curry had come for blood after Landusky had him arrested on assault charges. Curry, the journal claims, had been courting Landusky's daughter without her father's approval.

Despite being badly beaten, the journal reports Landusky fired first, but either missed or misfired. Someone handed the unarmed Curry his gun and he shot back, killing Landusky in what eleven people at a later inquest verified was an act of self-defense.

An edition of the Billings Gazette newspaper from 1895 tells another version of events.

"They had been neighbors for nine years, but were enemies for some two years past," The newspaper reported in an article with the headline "Another Montanan Killed."

"Because of these bitter feelings each carried a gun and a shooting scrape was expected by those who knew them," The Gazette reported.

Blood was finally spilled on a Thursday afternoon at the town of Landusky, then described as a Thursday afternoon at the town of Landusky, then described as a Thursday afternoon at the town of Landusky, then described as a Thursday afternoon at the town of Landusky.

Before the fatal shot was fired, Landusky drew his gun first and with vicious intent. It seemed as if Kid Curry's life had ended.

"He shoved his revolver close to Curry's face and snapped," The Gazette wrote of Landusky.

"But the cartridge failed, Curry fired a second later and Landusky

fell, dying in 12 minutes."

This story of life and death and revenge between two embittered neighbors in a remote stretch of America concludes just two sentences later.

"Landusky was about 50 years of age and leaves a family," The Gazette reported. "Reports from the scene are very meager."

An unpleasant death also befell the namesake of Zortman.

Zortman died of colon cancer in 1933. Destitute by the time he passed in a hospital in Big Timber, a small town in Sweet Grass County near the Crazy Mountains, he was buried in an unmarked grave—until he was exhumed in 2005.

Zortman motel owner and history enthusiast Candy Kalal, her husband John, veterinarians from Big Timber and Malta and an undertaker from the town of Chinook were among the people who came together to find Zortman's grave and, with permission from his surviving family, dug it up, so that his bones could be moved back to Zortman.

Zortman's old cemetery, with graves from the 19th century, is among the other interesting places to visit for the historically curious, Kalal said.

The area's fascinating past lingers, and locals embrace it. A white church upon a hillside is one of the first things visitors to Zortman will come across. It's estimated to have been built in 1910. A guestbook at

More information

Zortman Motel & Garage

Phone: 406-673-3160

Address: 395 Whitcomb St., Zortman, MT

Website: zortmanmotel.webstarts.com

Email: zortman76@mtintouch.net

Info: The motel accepts reservations and also has RV park accommodations. Guests are allowed to pan for gold on the motel owner's claim. Motel has laundry and other amenities. Owners have maps, information and advice for recreation and sightseeing in the area.

Buckhorn Store, Cabins & RV Park

Phone: 406-673-3162

Address: 143 Whitcomb St., Zortman, MT

Info: The general store has groceries and other supplies, along with RV options and cabin rentals.

Miner's Club Cafe

Address: 10 Whitcomb St., Zortman, MT, 59546

Phone: 406-673-3515

Info: This bar and cafe offers both eating and drinking options.

the church has been signed by travelers far and wide.

On the opposite end of the spectrum between faith and sin, part of the old Zortman jail still stands in town. The wooden cell block that still stands is a popular attraction for people who like to have their picture taken with the small structure that was built sometime toward the end of the 19th century.

"As history goes, people have passed down that the last person supposedly in it was a judge that drank too much and was kind of ornery with the town" said resident Candy Kalal. "I'm not sure what he got in jail for but supposedly he was the last official resident."

That was decades ago, maybe more than a century. But Kalal remembers that story and many

Please see **GOLD**, Page 48

5 places to explore in spring



From the hills of the Terry Badlands visitors can enjoy views of the Yellowstone River valley. Stop at the Evelyn Cameron Gallery to view her photos of the area taken during the homesteading era.
BRETT FRENCH, Billings Gazette

By **BRETT FRENCH**
french@billingsgazette.com

As snow still relentlessly clings to the high country, it's a good time to explore portions of eastern Montana.

Here are five areas worthy of checking out in the spring when the temperatures are cool, bugs minimal and spring greenery and flowers are breath-taking. One note of caution, check the weather report because you don't want to be driving some of eastern Montana's back roads after it rains. The mud can be a slippery mess.

Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area in northeastern Montana includes native short grass prairie.
Tony Bynum photo



1

The Bitter Creek area north of Glasgow offers a wide expanse of Bureau of Land Management and state school trust lands linked together, including the 59,000-acre **Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area**. The Montana Wilderness Association is hosting a walk into the region on June 1 if you're looking to explore with other folks. Find more info on their website. wildmontana.org



2

Makoshika State Park is a good place for a day trip, or overnight stay. The badlands just outside of Glendive offer hiking, camping, a disc golf course and a great interpretive center. Buzzard Day, an annual celebration that includes races, performances and a fun run, is scheduled for June 8. stateparks.mt.gov

CASEY PAGE, Gazette Staff
Makoshika State Park's informative visitor center has just been remodeled.

Travel farther sought from Glendive to **Medicine Rocks State Park** to explore the unique sandstone formations and check out the variety of human etchings left in the rock. Zip into nearby Ekalaka and check out the museum. stateparks.mt.gov



3

The Terry Badlands' natural stone bridges are a unique feature.
KAREN STEVENSON/



Medicine Rocks State Park.
KURT WILSON/Missoulian

4

Just off Interstate 94 at the town of Terry are access points to the **Terry Badlands**. Natural bridges, broad views of the prairie and Yellowstone River valley are highlights of this stop. The BLM land is a wilderness study area. Find more details on the agency's website: www.blm.gov



5

Drive south out of Miles City to reach the **Ashland Ranger District**, which includes rolling pine tree-covered hills in addition to a Forest Service rental cabin and an old fire lookout tower that is one of the most unusual places to watch a Shakespeare in the Parks performance. www.visitmt.com

Gazette photo
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks performs on Poker Jim Butte in the Ashland Ranger District.

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CULBERTSON

ROOSEVELT COUNTY FAIR

August 12-15

Culbertson's free event of traditional family activities food, crafts, plants, 4-H and FFA livestock auction, fashion revue, petting zoo, various vendors and fun run. Free noon meal Friday and Saturday. Info at: Culbertsonmt.com/events.

FRAZER

RED BOTTOM CELEBRATION

June 19-21

See the oldest powwow on the Fort Peck Reservation. The Red Bottom Celebration honors Native American culture and traditions through dancing, food, crafts, fellowship and more. Open to all. Info at: Wolfpointchamber.com.

FORT PECK

FORT PECK SUMMER THEATRE

May 29 - Sept. 6

This century-old theater features three plays this summer. "The Sunshine Boys" runs May 29-June 14; "Seussical" happens June 19 - July 5; "Seussical Jr." is June 27 - 18; "God Help Us" runs July 17; "Working" shows July 10-26; "Sister Act" is July 31-Aug. 16; and, "Wait Until Dark" shows Aug. 21 - Sept. 6. Info at: Fortpecktheatre.org.

LONGEST DAM RACE

June 20

All events for The 24th Annual Longest Dam Race begin at Kiwanis Park in Fort Peck. Entry fee is \$25, \$10 for children age

10 and under and \$5 for each additional event. Events Include: 10K Run, 5K Run, 5K Walk, 1 Mile Run/Walk both competitive and casual and 10 Mile Novice Bike Race. All start at top of the Fort Peck Dam and finish at Kiwanis Park. Info at: Glasgow-chamber.net.

GLASGOW

MONTANA GOVERNOR'S CUP WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

July 9-11

Held at Fort Peck Lake, this 200-team, 2-day tournament is hosted by Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture. Info at: glasgowchamber.net or (406) 228-2222.

MILK RIVER CATFISH CLASSIC

June 5-6

The "grand daddy" of the Montana Cats Tour is a nighttime event annually boasting a full 80-team field and more than \$10,000 in guaranteed cash and prizes. Slots fill fast, enter early. Info at: Montanacats.com.

NORTHEAST MONTANA FAIR

July 27-Aug. 1

The Northeast Montana Fair has a carnival, PRCA Rodeo, Demolition Derby and live music. It all happens at Valley County Fairgrounds in Glasgow. Info at: Northeastmontanafair.com.

MALTA

2020 PHILLIPS COUNTY FAIR

July 30-Aug. 2

In addition to all the expected summer

fair activities, a music headliner will start the event. Info at: Phillipscountyfair.com.

THE MILK RIVER GOSPEL JAMBOREE

June 6-28

Malta hosts this Gospel music event organized through a nonprofit group founded in 2001. Info at: Mrgjamboree.org.

PLENTYWOOD

SHERIDAN COUNTY FAIR

July 23-26

This traditional fair and PRCA rodeo in Plentywood has all the entertainment you'd expect. See details at Facebook/SheridanCountyFair.

POPLAR

INDIAN DAYS

Sept. 4-6

Poplar Indian Days is a Powwow celebrating native culture and traditions through dancing, food, crafts, and fellowship at American Legion Park. All members of the general public are welcome to participate or spectate. Thursday is Camping day. Info at: (406) 768-7623.

SIDNEY

BAKKEN BEAT DOWN DEMOLITION DERBY

June 19-10

This multi-state demolition derby will feature over 100 cars in this family, fun filled weekend. The purse will be \$50,000 and the grand prize will be \$15,000. Info at: Facebook 2020 BEATDOWN.

MONSTER CAT ROUNDUP

July 18

Cash prizes pay from \$100 to \$1,500. Find out more at Montanacats.com.

SUNRISE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

July 11

Visitors can enjoy browsing displays of artists and crafters from many states 8 a.m. - 4p.m. while taking in live music in scenic Veterans Memorial Park. Purchase a Sunrise Festival button and redeem discounts offered by local merchants and enter to win prizes, including the annual grand prize: a piece of art from the featured artist of the year. Info at: Sidneymt.com.

RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Aug. 5-8

The Richland County Fair & Rodeo offers home-style events and rodeo action. Visit Sidneymt.com.

WOLF POINT

WOLF POINT WILD HORSE STAMPEDE AND PARADE

July 9-11

This two-day celebration includes the annual stampede, rodeo, music and several parades. Info at: Wolfpointchamber.com.

WADOPANA POWWOW

Aug. 6-9

See the oldest traditional powwow in Montana. It allows elders and younger generations to hold special ceremonies for naming of individuals and honoring of family members. For the young people, there are run/walks and outdoor activities. Info at: (406) 650-8724.

Gold

From 45

others. Kalal, who operates the Zortman Motel and Garage with her husband, said she loves the stories visitors and locals tell and the pieces of the past that connect the town to its roots.

Part of her business is decorated with old photos and artifacts, some of them the remains of a museum that used to be in the mining town.

A wildfire damaged mining operations in 1936. Mines in the area are estimated to have produced

\$125 million in gold by 1949 when they were shut down. Mining was active again in the area from 1979 to 1998.

Located among the Little Rockies in the Missouri River Breaks Country, the area around Zortman and Landusky is popular for ATV motorists. Reservoirs fit for fishing are also nearby, along with a hot springs and the Missouri River, where people can fish for paddlefish, strange creatures with a paddle-like protrusion from their faces. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates they have lived in North America for 65 million

years.

Threaded throughout the story of these towns and the land around them is the gold that has sent them through boom and bust.

There are opportunities to pan the water for gold, including for customers at the motel. Kalal said they are willing to take interested customers out to a claim where they can still find pieces of gold. On Memorial Day the town of Zortman has The Big Dig, an event sponsored by the Yellowstone Gold Club with a pot luck, an auction and gold panning.

One of the liveliest times to be

in town is the Fourth of July, when a parade open to all takes off during the day. Later a community meal takes place before fireworks begin, lasting anywhere from two to five hours, Kalal said.

"People say they love us because they said it's like if they grew up in the 50s and 60s," she said. "They said it reminds them of where they grew up, because everybody has time to talk, the pace is slower."

For some people one visit isn't enough, according to Kalal.

"It's the weirdest thing. By the time they leave, they're planning their next trip."

We all need a little push sometimes...



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