

Road Trips

AROUND SOUTHWEST MONTANA

2020 EDITION



Now's your chance to enjoy all southwest Montana has to offer

There's no question about it: It's a different kind of summer in southwest Montana. The events we love, from the Montana Folk Festival and An Rí Rá to Shakespeare in the Park, are canceled. But that doesn't mean there's not plenty to see and do.

With far fewer visitors from outside the state expected and many ambitious vacation plans curtailed, this year we decided to use this opportunity to remind Montanans of the joys in our own back yard.

There's more to see and do than we could get to in a year of summers. And lots of places we've been, we love so much we go back over and over — from the Big Hole National Battlefield to Virginia City to the World Museum of Mining in Butte.

We've got all that and more in this section — so many things within easy driving distance that will produce lifelong memories.

For those in-state travelers who like to avoid the crowd — this summer is your chance!

We've also included some less-well-known gems that could make a perfect stop on your southwest Montana itinerary — places like Tizer Gardens near Boulder. Washoe Park in Anaconda. The Lewis & Clark murals in Whitehall. The list goes on.

We'd urge you to check on events and locations before you leave to make sure things are open given this year's circumstances. But we're confident you'll find lots to savor around southwest Montana, from great cafes to once-in-a-lifetime outdoor experiences.

Use this guide to make sure you get the most out of your southwest Montana road trip!

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ON THE COVER:

The Tobacco Root Mountains are snow-capped along Montana Highway 41 on a cloudy spring afternoon in southwest Montana.

Meagan Thompson, The Montana Standard

IN AND AROUND *Butte*

Mountain ranges surround Butte on three sides. Look to the north to see the Anaconda Range, heading south are the Highlands, and on the eastside is a close-up view of the East Ridge. • But there is so much more to see.

■ Once the largest truck-operated open pit copper mine in the United States, the **Berkeley Pit** viewing stand will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Hours are subject to change with COVID-19 and weather.

■ The one-time home of Sen. William A. Clark, the **Copper King Mansion** at 219 W. Granite St., is open for guided tours through Sept. 30. Tour times are 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. The tour lasts just over an hour and the cost is \$10.

■ Directly behind the East Ridge is a popular campground and picnic area at **Delmoe Lake**, a man-made reservoir. It's a great place for a day trip, picnic and all, or to just camp out under the stars.

■ **Farmers Market** is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 3. The open-air fresh produce market has been a sure sign of summer in Uptown Butte since 1995. There will be several important changes in how the market operates this year to respond to the continuing threat of

the coronavirus. In order to protect the community and the vendors, the market will be redesigned to foster social distancing and also encourage enhanced sanitation. Foot traffic will be restricted to one way flowing west to east and customers can return to the west end on the adjacent sidewalks but not through the center of the market to help improve social distancing in the market. The entrance will be at Dakota and West Park Street.

■ The **Granite Mountain-Speculator Mine Memorial**, dedicated in 1996, honors an estimated 166 miners who were killed when a fire broke out June 8, 1917. It remains America's worst hard-rock mining disaster. The site of the memorial also gives visitors spectacular views of not only the East Ridge, but the Highlands as well. Turn east at the directional sign at the top of Main Street, north of the historic St. Lawrence O'Toole Church.

■ Take a scenic drive through the winding Montana Highway 2, known locally as **Harding Highway**, which leads you to Pipestone and Whitehall.

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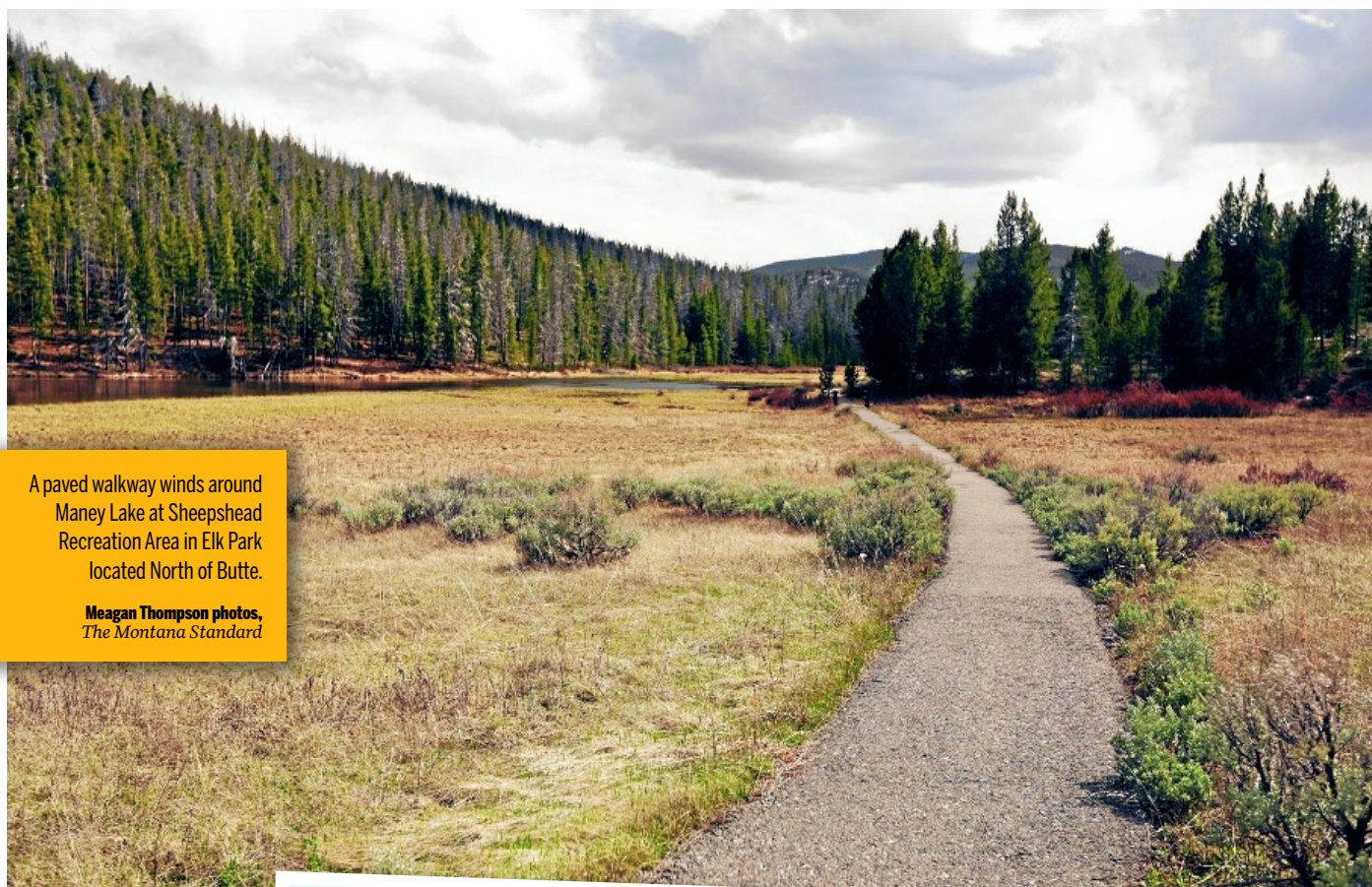


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A paved walkway winds around Maney Lake at Sheephead Recreation Area in Elk Park located North of Butte.

Meagan Thompson photos,
The Montana Standard

The historic byway was named in honor of President Warren G. Harding, who visited Butte in 1923.

■ If you are looking for a relatively quick place to hike, head to the **Highlands**. Admired by many from a distance, the mountain range is also a popular hiking destination. Don't be surprised to find some historic gems along the way. The highest peak is Table Mountain, at 10,223 feet.

■ **Highland View**, Butte's municipal golf course, is located in Stodden Park. To set up a tee time, call 406-497-6578. Opened daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Speaking of mines, take a tour of the Butte Hill, where **historic headframes** still stand as majestic symbols of the "richest hill on earth." They include the Original, Steward, Anselmo,



The Humbug Spires trail south of Butte varies in steepness as it stretches up the geologically vertical granite.

Belmont, Travona, Mountain Con, Kelley, Badger, Diamond, the Granite Mountain, Lexington, and Orphan Girl.

■ No overnight camping is allowed at **Homestake Lake**, but if you and your family are just looking for a day of fun, there are picnic tables in the area. Do a little fishing or take in the scenic trails.

■ If rock climbing is your thing or you're just in the



The Copper King Mansion located on Granite Street in Butte.

mood to commune with nature, **Humbug Spires** may just be the place to go. The Wedge is its largest spire and is 500 feet tall. Located around 24 miles south of Butte, it is located between the Highlands and the Pioneers.

■ On the left-hand side of Elk Park you will find **Lowland Campground**, which has 11 campsites, drinking

water and restrooms, too. If you are fixing to feed a crew, there are some picnic tables, along with some grills.

■ Check out the numerous wildflowers, birds and other wildlife on the trails at **Maude S Canyon** on Butte's East Ridge. Yes, there's lots of rocks along the way, but there are lush forest lands, abandoned railroad tracks, and as an added bonus, hikers

Playground equipment designed to look like the haul trucks used in the open pit mine in Butte is one of the many new features added to Stodden Park in Butte.



get a perfect view of Butte.

■ Drive up to Elk Park, turn left and keep driving until you reach **Sheepshead Recreation Area**, which will open Memorial Day weekend. Not only is there an abundance of pine trees, flowers and more than a few streams, it also includes pavilions, picnic tables and grills. Paved trails are an added addition, along with ball fields and a place to compete in horseshoes.

■ Head off to one of Butte's many city **parks** — whether it be Stodden, Clark, Copper Mountain, Chester Steele, McGruff, Koprivica, or Foreman. Spend the day enjoying the summer weather and the amenities offered.

■ Out around the Nine Mile, head to **Thompson Park**, which offers trails for walking, biking and horse-back riding. Interpretive signs can be found sharing with one and all the park's history. Although there is no overnight camping, there are several picnic areas for families and friends to utilize. If you like a challenge, try the



The Beaver Ponds Trail in Thompson Park located south of Butte.

disc golf course at Eagles Nest, too.

■ **Trolley tours** have commenced. Tour historic Butte on Old Number 1. Tours (90 minutes) start at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St., Monday

through Saturday at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday tours are at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To reserve a spot, call 406-723-3177.

■ There is a very good reason why **Uptown Butte** is on the National Register of Historic Places. Rediscover

your hometown by taking a walk, not only through the business district, but all throughout the uptown to view the unique architecture, where it be retail business shops, churches, or residences. Yes, there are mansions on West Park Street,



A sign marks Thompson Park Recreation Area in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest located south of Butte.

Meagan Thompson,
The Montana Standard

but they may be considered just the icing on the cake. View all the architectural styles that Uptown Butte has to offer, whether it be neo-classical, Queen Anne, Italianate, Victorian, cottage, or craftsman bungalow.

■ There are several **walking trails** throughout Butte. A detailed map can be found on the Butte-Silver Bow County website. Some of these trails include:

■ From the **Alice Overlook trail**, walkers can look out and see the mountain ranges of not only the Highlands and the East Ridge, but the Pioneers and the Pintlers. Nearby is the Granite Mountain-Speculator Memorial.

■ **The Butte, Anaconda & Pacific Railway Hill Trail** goes from Wyoming Street all the way to Rocker, with the Anselmo Mine, Montana Tech and the World Museum of Mining situated in between.

■ **Blacktail Creek Trail** starts at Father Sheehan Park, passes under Harrison Avenue, through the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, and again goes underneath Harrison Avenue, and ends as the Civic Center Trail begins.

■ **Civic Center Trail** is near the Butte Civic Center. Park at Civic Center Road and Texas Avenue.

■ Head up to the **Mountain Con Mine**, which includes two miles of paved walking trails. Stay awhile at Foreman Park where there are picnic facilities.

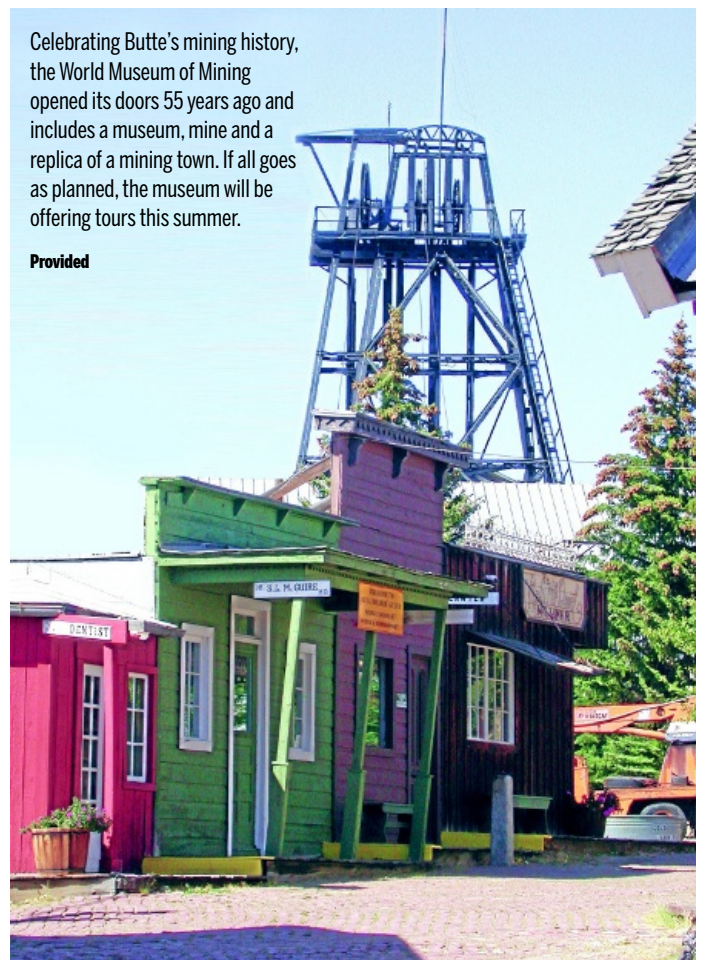
■ **Montana Tech Bike Park Trail** includes an 18-basket disc golf course.

■ If you are into bird watching, go on down to the **Silver Bow Creek Greenway**, where there plenty to watch and photograph, too.

■ **Skyline Park** is the newest addition to Butte's park systems, with easy trails and a kids' fishing pond.

Celebrating Butte's mining history, the World Museum of Mining opened its doors 55 years ago and includes a museum, mine and a replica of a mining town. If all goes as planned, the museum will be offering tours this summer.

Provided



Butte FARMERS MARKET



Meagan Thompson,, *The Montana Standard*

The Butte Farmers Market offers fresh produce, other foods, all kinds of plants and a variety of arts and crafts. Vendors line up from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday on both sides of West Park Street between Gamers Café and the Phoenix Building.

The Butte Farmers Market will be in full bloom in Uptown Butte every Saturday through Oct. 3, offering fresh produce, other foods, all kinds of plants and a variety of arts and crafts.

Vendors line up every Saturday on both sides of West Park Street between Gamer's Café and the Phoenix Building from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Since 1995, the Butte Farmers Market has been providing shoppers with colorful and hardy hanging and bedding plants, farm fresh eggs, and fruits and vegetables from gardens in the Butte area, the Hutterite colonies near Choteau and Hmong vegetable gardens in the Missoula and the Bitterroot area.

Vendors also offer a wide variety of baked goods, packaged sausages, cut flowers, salsa and other prepared foods.

A variety of arts and crafts by people from throughout southwest Montana are also available each Saturday.

The market is a great place to get Flathead cherries in mid- to late-July and melons in August. Some Montana family-owned cherry orchards make a point to have their fruit on site.

This year will encompass several important changes in how the market operates to respond to the continuing threat of COVID-19 coronavirus to protect the community. The market will be redesigned to maintain social distancing among vendors and customers and will encourage enhanced sanitation.

Vendors and customers will be asked to maintain physical distance of at least six feet at all times. Both vendors and

customers will be to advised to wear masks and follow frequent hand washing protocols.

This season, only pre-approved vendors will be allowed to set up. The overall number of non-food vendors will be reduced.

Except for service animals, dogs and other pets will be discouraged from being inside the market.

The entrance will be at Dakota and West Park Street. The route through the market will be restricted to a path that is one way flowing west to east. Customers can return to the west end on the adjacent sidewalks but not through the

center of the market to help improve social distancing.

Free parking again will be encouraged in the county parking garage but only at the Galena Street entrance for the lower level.

To reduce contacts for their most vulnerable customers who would still like to place an order with a vendor and have it delivered to their vehicles, they can call or text 406-565-2249 and the market coordinator will contact the vendor and broker the purchase and delivery. Messages can also be delivered to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ButteFM.

Butte - Silver Bow Trolley Tours



TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY OR
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

The Butte Chamber of Commerce

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TOURS ARE AVAILABLE

MAY - SEPTEMBER

Monday - Saturday

10:00 | 12:30 | 3:00

Sunday

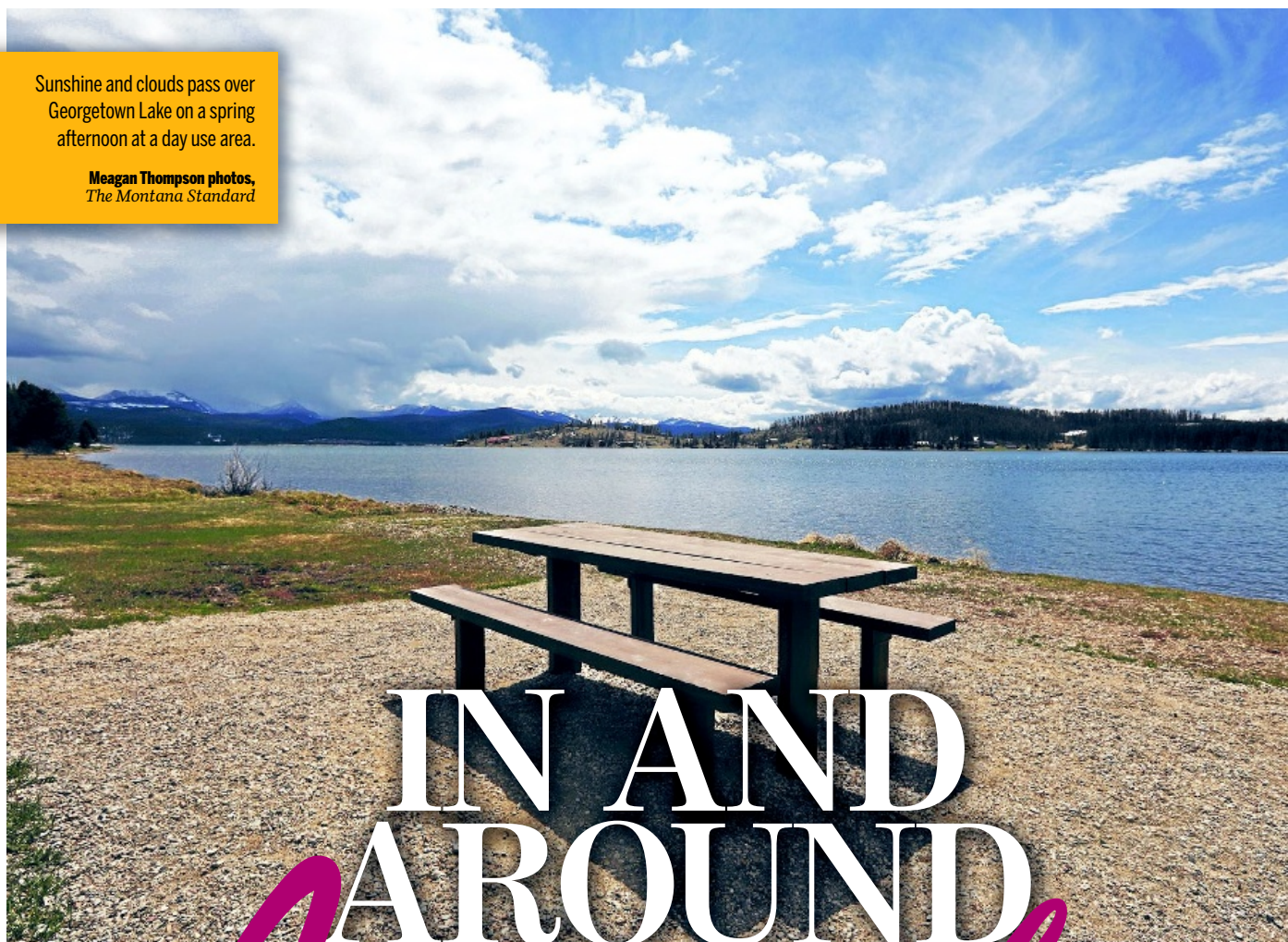
10:00 | 12:30



BUTTE
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Sunshine and clouds pass over Georgetown Lake on a spring afternoon at a day use area.

Meagan Thompson photos,
The Montana Standard



IN AND AROUND *Anaconda*

Nestled in a valley surrounded by the towering Pintlers, Anaconda was founded in 1883 by Copper King Marcus Daly.

Anaconda, like Butte, was a company town. And like Butte, Anaconda has weathered many a storm. There are many things to see and do in Anaconda, and just a short drive away, the vast wilderness awaits.

■ Deemed unique as well as challenging, the **Anaconda Country Club Golf Course** is opened every day

from practically sunrise to sunset. The nine-hole course includes Mill Creek and three man-made ponds. For tee times, call 406-797-3220.

■ **Anaconda Smoke Stack Park** features Anaconda's famous brick smelter stack, which is 585 feet tall. The stack is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can learn more about the stack's vast history by reading the interpretive signs found within the park.

■ In the mood for a picnic? Want to host a barbecue? Head to **Benny**

Goodman City Park, which also features a baseball field, pavilion, playground and a skate park.

■ Check out the **campgrounds** in and around Georgetown Lake: Philipsburg Bay Campground

■ Rainbow Bay Picnic Area and Campground

■ Piney Campground and Picnic Area

■ Stuart Mill Bay Campground

■ USFS Cable Mountain Campground

■ Flint Creek Campground

■ Comers Point fishing access

■ USFS Sunnyside fishing access

■ Spring Hill Campground and Picnic Area

■ **The Copper Village Museum and Arts Center**, which is free to visit, is located in the Anaconda City Hall Cultural Center. This historic building was rescued from being demolished. It is now renovated, and is presently on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum and Arts Center offers visual arts exhibitions of tradition and heritage arts, world arts, and Montana contemporary artists. The



A map of the Old Works is carved in a giant rock at the entrance to the famous golf course in Anaconda.

Marcus Daly Historical Society Museum and Archives and a retail gift shop are also located in the City Hall Cultural Center.

■ Take a trip out to **Echo Lake**, where you will find public access to the lake and picnic tables. From Route 1, about half way along Georgetown Lake, turn NW onto Southern Cross Rd. After about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, stay left onto Echo Lake Road, then go about 2.2 miles and make a left at the sign toward the lake. Stay on the road around the lake until arriving to the western shore.

■ Approximately 18 miles west of Anaconda, **Georgetown Lake** is a popular recreation area for boating, fishing, hiking, camping and much, much more. To the north is the Flint Creek Range and look to the south and there are the Pintlers. Unlike Silver Lake, fishing enthusiasts would be hard pressed not to catch at least one rainbow or a brook trout.

■ **Lost Street State Park/Lost Creek Falls**, 50

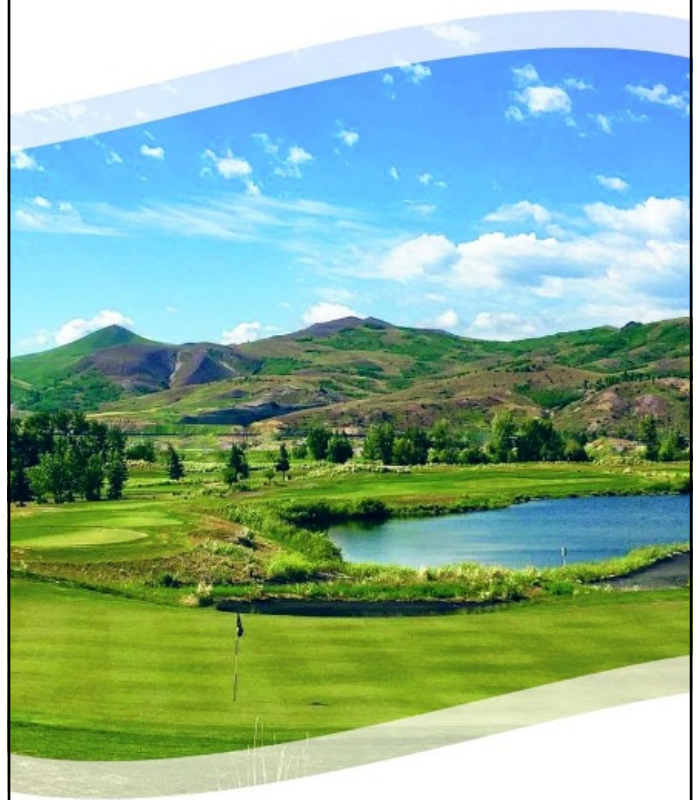
feet high, is set in a glaciated canyon of limestone and granite cliffs populated with mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Location: 1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west. Features: camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, rest rooms, disabled access. Lost Creek State Park is known for its stunning grey limestone cliffs and pink and white granite formations rising 1,200 feet high above the canyon's floor. Numerous activities offered include bicycling, viewing wildlife, camping, fishing, and picnicking.

■ The **Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area**, located about 10 miles south of Anaconda, is reached by Route 274. It crosses the Continental Divide through Mill Creek Pass into the Big Hole River drainage with views of the Anaconda Range and opportunities to view moose, elk, deer, antelope, black bear, birds, beaver, muskrat, mink,

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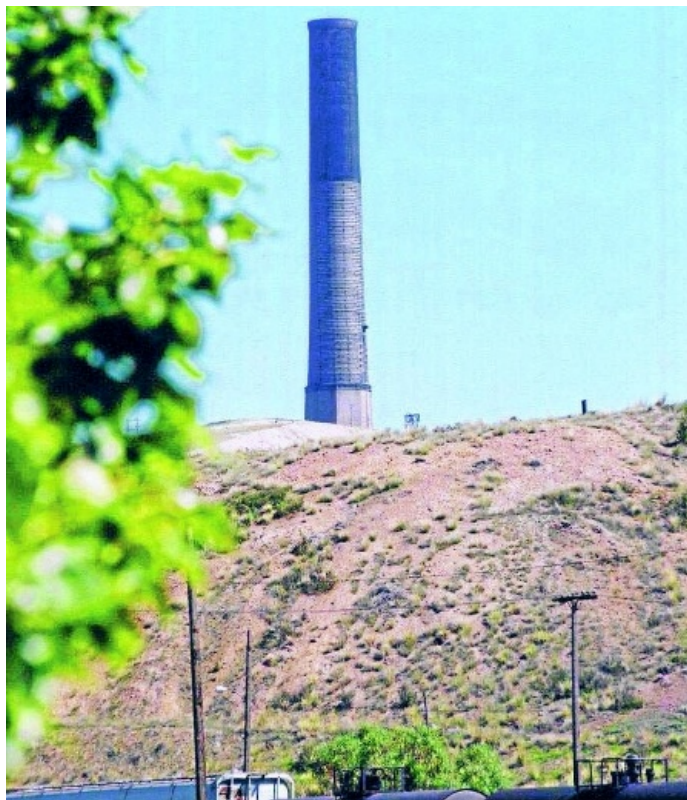
406.563.5989

**1205 PIZZINI WAY ANACONDA
MT 59711**



Warm Springs Creek winds through Washoe Park in Anaconda.

Meagan Thompson,
The Montana Standard



Pat Hansen photo

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the stack at Anaconda Smoke Stack State Park may be viewed and photographed only from a distance.

martens and coyotes.

■ Designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus, **Old Works** is an 18-hole golf course that was built atop the old Anaconda copper smelter. It has a 7,705-yard 18-hole track that incorporates historic artifacts on the site that long ago was a copper smelter. Tee times can be made by calling 406-563-5989.

■ The picturesque loop on Montana 1, known as the **Pintler Scenic Route**, runs through Anaconda, Georgetown Lake, the Flint Creek Range and Philipsburg to Drummond.

■ The reservoir known as **Silver Lake** is about 13 miles from Anaconda, with an average depth of 100 feet. While there are fish in the lake, they are either well-hidden or not too abundant.

■ For skateboard enthusiasts, there is the **Smelter City Skate Pit**, which was built in 2005. Located in Goodman Park, roller skaters enjoy it, too. Helmets are

encouraged.

■ Located east of Georgetown Lake you will find the ghost town, **Southern Cross**. Overlooking Georgetown Lake, at one time the old mining camp had a population nearing 500.

■ There are some **recreational trails** worth mentioning, including:

■ **Copper Trail:** Anaconda's Historic Copper Trail is a 1.7 mile fairly populated trail that offers scenic views and is achievable for all skill levels. The trail is used for walking, nature trips, and bird watching, and is best used from May until September. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on a leash.

■ **Upper and Lower Old Works Trail:** Take a hike on this trail that offers beautiful views of Anaconda and Old Works Golf Course. Discover historical artifacts from Anaconda's mining past. There are numerous descriptive signs offering

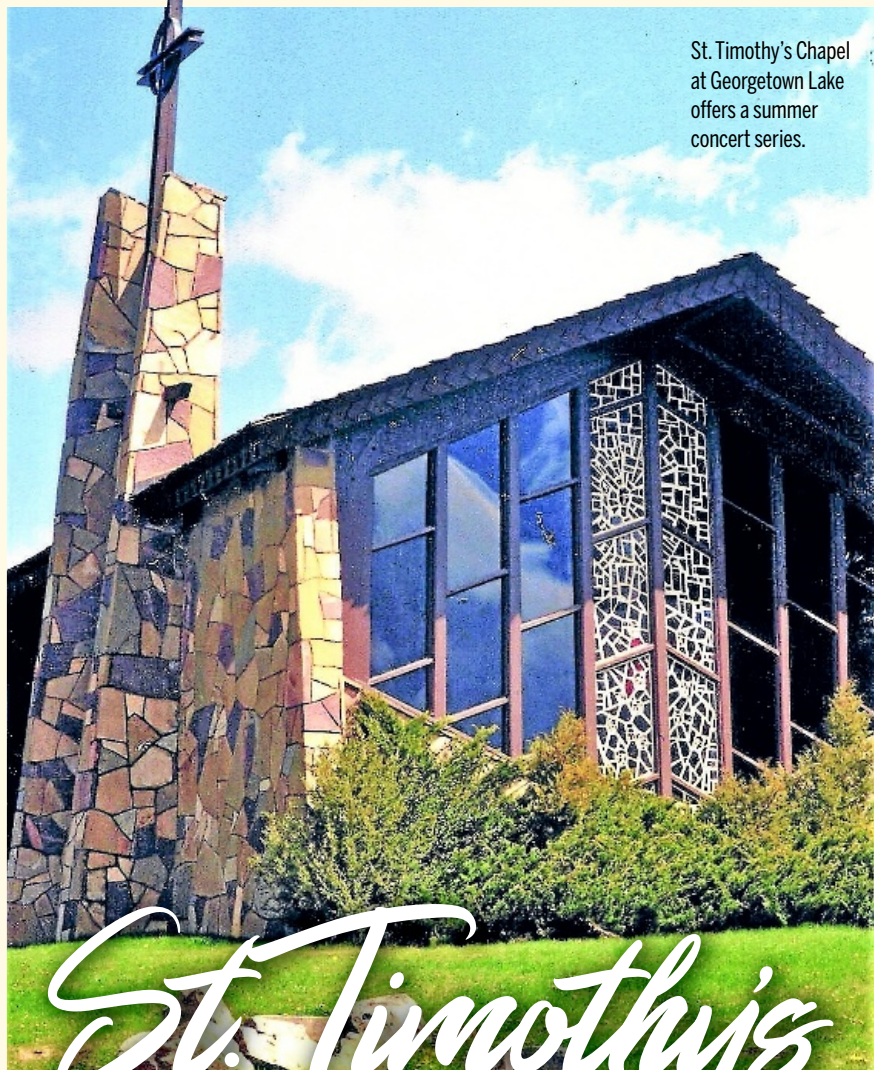
views into Anaconda's rich mining history.

■ The Four Mile Basin Trailhead: The Fourmile Basin Trail is located 1.7 miles up the Twin Lakes Trail #44. At that point, Fourmile Basin goes right and Twin Lakes Trail #44 goes left. Both trails end at scenic mountain lakes. Once onto Fourmile Basin, people will follow the logging road turned-single track for 1.5 miles. Beyond this point is the original pre-logging single track. At 2.4 miles, hikers will arrive at the lake. Beyond the lake bikes are not allowed, the trail past here will be less trafficked.

■ Just north of Anaconda is the **Warm Springs Ponds**. The creeks of Warm Springs, Mill, Willow and Silver Bow converge at the ponds. If you are a runner, hiker or want to take a spin on your bicycle, this would be the perfect place to go. If fishing is what you most enjoy, taken an opportunity to stop here. There's more than a good chance you'll get a fish or two.

■ The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. founded **Washoe Park** in 1906 on the northern edge of Anaconda. It is home to a state fish hatchery, tennis courts, playground and picnic areas, duck pond, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, with the crystal waters of Warm Springs Creek flowing through its midst.

■ The **Washoe Park Trout Hatchery** is the oldest in the state and started in 1907, with help from the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. The hatchery has raised Arctic grayling, westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, golden trout, lake trout and brown trout. It now manages Montana's only westslope cutthroat broodstock, producing more than one million eggs per year. Call 406-563-2531 for details.



St. Timothy's Chapel at Georgetown Lake offers a summer concert series.

St. Timothy's CHAPEL

St. Timothy's Chapel is the venue for a series of summer concerts. All performances begin at 4 p.m. and take place on Sundays.

The chapel, at 7,000 feet high above Georgetown Lake, is dedicated to the memory of Timothy Bowman. The intimate concert setting hosts Montana musicians who have performed on both national and international stages.

To purchase tickets or to get more details on the concert series, visit the Festival's website: www.sttimothysmusic.org. Season tickets are \$75. Individual concert tickets are also sold.

This summer's concert schedule is

listed below.

June 28 – Open Range

July 12 – Montana Chamber Music Society with Muir members and guests

July 26 – Pam Drews Phillips

Aug. 9 – Chinook Winds

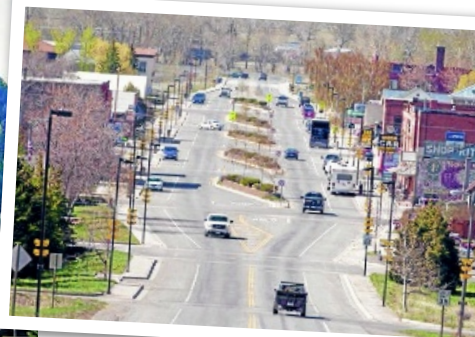
Aug. 23 – Charlotte Dike Trio

The music festival website, <https://sttimothysmusic.org/> will have the most current information on any changes to the season. Also, communications of any decisions will be posted to the website, on the Music Festival's Facebook page, submitted to local newspapers, and via emails to the Festival's email list. Any questions should be directed in email to music@sttimothysmusic.org.



Left: Elkhorn was a silver mining town established in 1872.

Montana State Parks photo



Gillian Hall nestled within the privately owned town of Elkhorn. Bring your camera to record these two picturesque structures from the early-day silver-mining ghost town, preserved as outstanding examples of frontier architecture. Each has been recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey. Bicycling, hiking, photography and wildlife viewing are some of the activities that can be enjoyed here.

■ **The Sunshine Health Mine** is located on 28 acres in beautiful Jefferson County. RV sites and one and two bedroom cabins are available. This historic radon mine is a feature and is used by many guests as alternative treatment for a variety of illnesses. Visits and trips to the health mine are by appointment only at this time.

■ **Tizer Gardens** will be open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Thursdays until 9 p.m. from June through September (weather permitting). Bring your picnics or plan your photo shoots. Entertainers are welcome to share their talents on Thursday nights, but call ahead to reserve your spot. General admission is \$9; \$7 for children 5-12; and children 4 and under get in free. Tizer Gardens is 18 miles south of Helena on I-15 to Exit 176 at Jefferson City. Turn left to east side of Interstate and then right on to Hwy 282. The gardens are only 1.2 miles from the Interstate. (Follow the signs.)

IN AND AROUND *Boulder*

difficult. The trail is essentially used for hiking, off road driving, and snowshoeing and is most used May through October. Dogs are allowed on the trail.

■ **Thunderbolt Creek Trailhead** features a scenic hike on the Continental Divide Trail west of Boulder and Basin in the Helena-Deer Lodge National Forest.

■ **Elder Creek Picnic Area** near Boulder offers a nice place to enjoy a picnic. From Boulder go 1.5 miles southwest and take Forest Road 8528 to Forest Road 86 and continue 5 miles to the picnic area.

■ **Muskat Creek Trail** is a nearly 13-mile route. From the start, it's a steady climb to the meadow area near the foot of Elkhorn Peak. There are dense coniferous forests, and the trail is pretty well-shaded for the duration. The creek that runs next to this trail is never far to dip your feet and cool off. After climbing around 2,000 feet, a scenic meadow is a nice spot to rest. This is a great place to have a snack or picnic and turn around. All of the climbing is rewarded with breathtaking nature on this well-built trail with various rock features everywhere.

■ **Elkhorn State Park** has a 19th century mining landscape that features the historic Fraternity Hall and

The vibrant small town of Boulder is full out character, and not far off the beaten path. Boulder is located halfway between Butte and Helena on the intersection of Interstate 15 and Montana Highway 69 – making it the perfect place to stop. No matter when you go, you'll likely find something going on. There are a number of state parks within a short drive from Boulder. The most well-known is Elkhorn State Park. Now a ghost town, the once populated settlement during Montana's silver boom, has examples of old western architecture and one-of-a-kind hiking and

picnicking sites. Also, the Boulder River offers a great small-stream fishing experience.

■ **Galena Gulch Campground** is a recreation site is located on the Boulder River and offers easy access to recreation opportunities on the river as well as the nearby town of Basin, famous for its radon health mines. Ten camping units, tables and fire rings, restroom, parking area, information kiosk. Open all year weather permitting. Limit is 14 day stay for camping visitors.

■ **Elkhorn and Crow Peak Trail** is a 6.1 mile trail that features gorgeous wild flowers and is rated as

Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway



Kristie Constantine, *The Montana Standard*
The Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway offers stunning scenery.

Access to camping, fishing, hiking

Roads are not usually destinations, but the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway in southwest Montana defies this logic.

This 45-mile stretch of road, designated a scenic byway in 1989, is worth driving just to view the surrounding mountains, the Wise River and the wide meadows. If time allows, there are numerous side attractions along the route well worth visiting.

The roadway slices through a little-traveled area of the state. Imagine an upside-down U with the U being the Big Hole River. The Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway

slices right through the middle of the U.

Traversing through the 3.32 million acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, the roadway climbs more than 2,000 feet in about 30 miles from the Big Hole drainage as it follows the Wise River uphill. Along the way it passes through a beautiful glacier-carved valley dotted with large meadows and stunning views of the Pioneer Mountains. Watch out for the cows, though, as they have free access to the road.

This is high, harsh country. Winter comes early and stays late. It's a wonder that one small town along the way wasn't named Polar instead of Polaris.

The highway tops out at more than 7,800 feet. The tips of surrounding peaks,

such as Maurice Mountain, are another 2,000 feet higher. So even though the roadway climbs considerably, visitors still feel overshadowed by the surrounding 9,000-foot-plus peaks.

This area is popular with summer campers, since there are numerous campgrounds along the route. In addition, there is fishing in the Wise River as well as surrounding mountain lakes and in Grass-hopper Creek on the south end of the road.

For rockhounds, there's a specific site along the route for digging up quartz and amethyst crystals at Crystal Park, 26 miles from the northern start of the route.

Still not satisfied? Visit the old mining town of Coolidge nestled along one of the area's many backroads. The roads are also popular with ATVs.



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BIG HOLE RIVER AND WISE RIVER

The stretch of the Big Hole River from Divide to Wise River along Highway 43 offers plenty of access for fishing or floating and scenic views. At Wise River you can head south along the Pioneer Scenic Byway to Polaris or continue on Highway 43 to Wisdom and Jackson to see all that the Big Hole Valley has to offer.

Wise River area

Wise River sits amid peaks, lakes and headwaters in the Pioneer Mountains and offers some spectacular scenery in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Enjoy camping, fishing, and hiking, along with beautiful scenic drives in this area of Montana.

The Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway — This scenic drive offers 40-miles of back-country driving that cross the Pioneer Mountains between Montana Highway 43 and Highway 278. Enjoy scenic drives, camping, hiking, fishing, ghost towns and digging crystals in the summer.

Listed below are recreation sites, parks and scenic drives that can be taken in this area.

Boulder Creek Campground — There are 13 camp sites at this campground. Area amenities include tent camping, camping trailer, toilets, drinking and water. The nightly fee is \$8. Boulder Creek Campground is located along the Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway. It is a high elevation campground that is heavily wooded. There is a fee charged for some activities. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 13 miles to the

campground.

Canyon Creek Campground — There are three sites at this campground. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, toilets and picnic tables. There is no fee for this campground. This is a small campground with three tent sites west of Melrose in the Pioneer Mountains. From Melrose travel west on Forest Service Road 187 for about 13 miles, then turn southeast on Forest Road 7401 for approximately 4.5 miles to the campground.

Fourth of July Campground — There are six sites at this campground. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets and drinking water. The nightly fee is \$8. Open and sunny, this campground is in an ideal setting. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway proceed south on 73 for approximately 12 miles to the campground.

Little Joe Campground — There are five sites at this campground. The nightly fee is \$8. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets and drinking water. A small but nice campground. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 21 miles to the campground. There are five camping sites at this spot.

Lodgepole Campground — There are 10 sites at this campground. The fee is \$8 per night. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets and drinking water. A basic, small campground that covers two

acres of area. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 13 miles to the campground.

Mono Creek Campground — There five sites at this campground. The fees are \$8 per night. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking. A campground that covers two acres of forested area. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 22 miles to Forest Service Road 2465. Travel southeast one mile to the campground.

Pettengill Campground — There are three sites at this campground. The nightly fee is \$6. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, toilets and drinking water. This campground is named after an early homesteader, the “Wild Man of the Mountains” George Pettengill. His grave is nearby. He is widely admired in the area. The campground is located where the Wise River meets Pettengill Creek. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 10 miles to the campground.

Pintler Campground — There are three sites at this campground. There is no nightly fee. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking.

Seymour Creek Campground — There are 17 sites at this campground. There is no nightly fee. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer

camping, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking. Travel 11 miles west from Wise River on Highway 43. Take State Highway 569 north for 3½ miles, then Forest Service Road 934 northwest for eight miles to the campground.

Willow Campground — There are five camp sites and the fee is \$8 per night. Area amenities include tent camping, trailer camping, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking. From the intersection of Montana Highway 43 and the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway travel south on 73 for approximately 14 miles to the campground.

The town of **Coolidge**, now a ghost town, was developed in the 1920s around the impressive Elkhorn Mill. A narrow gauge railway carried ore to Divide and the Oregon Shortline Railway for shipment out of state.

Crystal Park features picnicking and digging for quartz crystals and amethyst. Opens in June depending on weather, 406-683-3900.

Wisdom area

The small town of Wisdom, surrounded by the Anaconda Range and the Pioneer Mountains, is a paradise for ranchers, sportsmen and recreationists. Often called the ‘valley of 10,000 haystacks’ the area offers access to hiking, fishing, camping and high-mountain lakes. From Wisdom follow Highway 278 to Jackson and beyond to experience the Big Hole Valley.

Big Hole Valley Scenic drive — The Big Hole Valley and River scenic drive is an 82 mile trip that takes people through one of the most spectacular valleys in Montana. Highlights include

the Big Hole Valley, the Big Hole River, Wisdom, and great views of the Pioneer Mountains and Beaver-head Mountains.

Big Hole Battlefield — Big Hole National Battlefield is located 10 miles west of Wisdom on Highway 43. The visitor center is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. But all places in the battlefield are open for people to view and experience. For more information, contact Big Hole National Battlefield at 406-689-3155, or visit www.nps.gov/biho.

May Creek Campground — There are 21 sites at this campground. Area amenities include tent camping, camping trailer, picnic tables, toilets and drinking water. There is a \$7 per night fee at this campground. From Wisdom travel West on Highway 43 for 17 miles. There are established fire pits at each site. Firewood is not provided. Sites are available on a first come, first served basis. You can fish May Creek, which flows across the west side of the campground. For more details, Wisdom Ranger District 406-689-3243.

Mussigbrod Campground — There are 10 sites at this campground. It is located in a dense lodgepole pine on the western shore of the 102 acre Mussigbrod Lake. Area amenities include tent camping, areas for camping trailers, picnic tables, toilets and drinking water. There is a \$7 per night fee for this campground. There is no garbage service at this site. Pack out what you pack in. Camp sites are available on a first come, first served basis. RVs up to 30 feet are welcomed. There is a 16 day stay limit at this campground. There is lake, pond, and river and stream fishing are all options near this campsite.

Steel Creek Campground — There are seven camping units and two with tent pads on this ground. The campground is surrounded by lodgepole pines with a few

Douglas firs. Steel Creek flows through the campground. Area amenities include tent camping, areas for camping trailers, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking. From Wisdom go north for a quarter-mile to Steel Creek Road and continue for 9 miles to the campground. There is no garbage service at this site so please pack out what you pack in. RVs up to 22-feet are welcome. There is a 16 day stay limit on this campground.

Twin Lakes Campground — There are 21 sites in this campground in the trees and along the lake shore. The area is located on fairly flat ground surrounded by lodgepole pines. All sites are a short walk from the shores of both lakes and most sites have a view of the 75-acre Twin Lakes. Area amenities include boat ramp, tent camping, areas for camping trailers, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water and parking. There is a \$7 per night. The campground is located about seven miles south of Wisdom on Highway 278. Take Twin Lakes Road for seven miles. Then Forest Road 945 for five miles. Take Forest Road 183 for five miles to the campground. There is no garbage service at this site so please pack out what you pack in. RVs up to 25 foot are welcome. There is a 16 day stay limit at this campground. Lake and pond fishing available.

Listed below are locations on the Big Hole River with fishing access:

- **Mile 81** — Fishtrap
- **Mile 78** — Sportsman Park
- **Mile 57** — Dewey/George Grant
- **Mile 57** — Greenwood Bottoms
- **Mile 52** — Powerhouse
- **Mile 48** — Maidenrock
- **Mile 38** — Salmon Fly
- **Mile 32** — Brownes Bridge
- **Mile 30** — Kalsta Bridge
- **Mile 25** — Glen
- **Mile 18** — Notch Bottom
- **Mile 9** — Pennington Bridge
- **Mile 2** — High Road



The Big Hole National Battlefield is a memorial to the people who fought and died there Aug. 9-10, 1877, combatants in a five-month conflict that came to be called the Nez Perce War. Army troops under the command of Gen. Oliver Howard attacked the Nez Perce camp before dawn. Some 60 Nez Perce were killed and 29 soldiers.

Big Hole NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

The Big Hole National Battlefield is located 10 miles west of Wisdom on Highway 43 and is managed by the National Park Service. It encompasses more than 570 acres. The Nez Perce War battlefield is a memorial to the people who fought and died on the land on Aug. 9-10, 1877. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free year round.

For more information, contact Big Hole National Battlefield at 406-689-3155, visit www.nps.gov/biho, or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BigHoleNationalBattlefield/>.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the visitor center will be closed until further notice. All the hiking trails and the Battlefield remain open to the public.

Below are hiking trails that can be enjoyed:

The Nez Perce Camp Trail leads people to the site where the sleeping Nez Perce were camped when they were attacked by the Army on Aug. 9, 1877. It is a 1.6 mile round-trip walking

trail with no elevation gain. The surface is packed dirt and could be muddy in the early summer, and rutted later in the season. Hikers should keep an eye out for ground squirrel holes, which can easily be stepped into. The trail takes around an hour to complete.

The Siege Area Trail is 1.2 mile round-trip and climbs about 50 feet in elevation. The trail takes 45 minutes to complete. Visitors can look at rifle pits dug by the soldiers and see the monument dedicated to the Seventh U.S. Infantry soldiers.

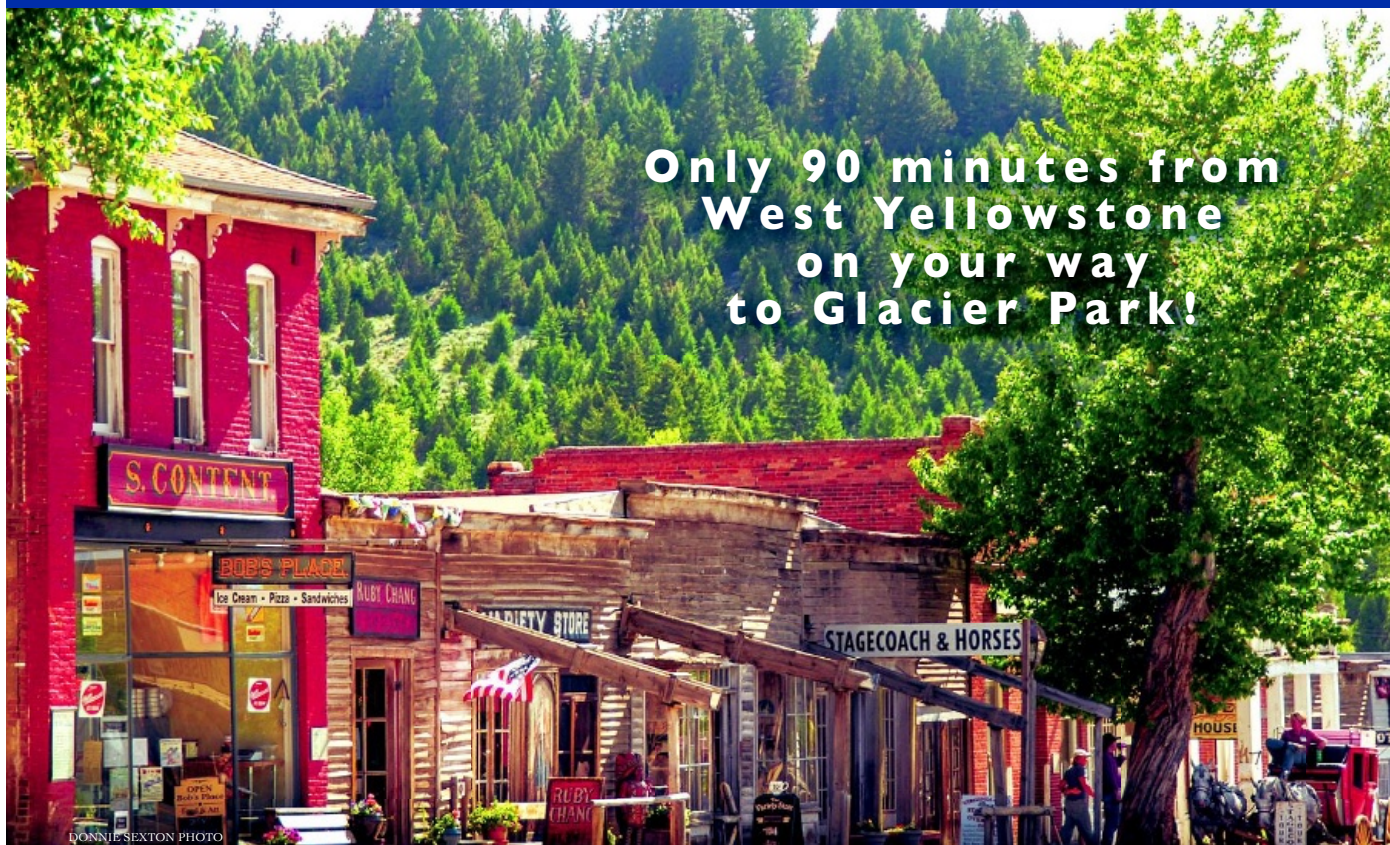
The Howitzer Trail leads to the site where *nimi* warriors captured a Mountain Howitzer Cannon from the military. A replica cannon greets hikers who make it to the site. It is less than a mile trail off of the Siege Area trail that climbs 320 feet in elevation, and takes approximately 40 minutes to hike. The hike can be strenuous, but the view is worth it.

For more information, or for current updates go to www.nps.gov/biho.

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Cabins with thatched roofs line a dirt road in Nevada City.

Meagan Thompson photos,
The Montana Standard

In and around VIRGINIA CITY AND NEVADA CITY



The boardwalk on Wallace Street is lined with historic store fronts and novelty shops in the National Historic Landmark District of Virginia City.

Virginia City and Nevada City, located along Alder Gulch about one mile apart, are the site of the richest placer gold strike in history in the Rocky Mountains, with an appraised value of \$100 million throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. In the early 1860s, it is believed that \$30 million worth of gold was retrieved from the gulch. It is here that people can pan for gold, attend a live theater show, shop in gift and specialty

shops, an old-fashioned candy shop and fine dining.

■ **The Virginia City Players** — The Virginia City Players Theatre Company was founded in 1948 and performs authentic 19th century melodramas vaudeville variety acts in the Virginia City Opera House.

■ **Living History** — See what it was like to live in the 1860s by walking through the Nevada City museums.

■ **River of Gold** — At the River of Gold, located on

PLEASE SEE CITY, Page 20

The Virginia City Players

The Virginia City Players are the oldest continually operating summer theater company in the Northwest. This year marks their 70th anniversary.

Show times are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 4 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 2 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; \$20 for college students, military and seniors; \$12 for children 17 and under. Season tickets are \$54 for adults; \$48 for college students, military and seniors; and \$30 for children 17 and under.

The 2020 schedule is as follows:

June 19-Aug. 2 – The kingdom is broke. The Queen can't find a wealthy match for the Prince. There is hope when a miller shows up, claiming that his daughter, Laura, can spin straw into gold. But, she can't. Locked in a room in the castle, she is forced to make the gold, but she needs help. Who comes to her aid? A maniacal little "wizard" who helps her – at a cost. Will she be able to figure out his name before time is up? His name is **"Rumpelstiltskin."**

July 20 – Christmas



Meagan Thompson, *The Montana Standard*

The Opera House located on Montana Highway 287 at the west entrance to historic Virginia City is home to the Virginia City Players.

Vaudeville in July. The performance promises a "vigorous vagary of vivacious vaudeville variety acts" all pertaining to the Christmas season.

Aug. 4-Sept. 6 – **"Seven Keys to Baldpate"** starts when William McGee, an author, takes a bet from the owner of Baldpate Inn that he can't write a novel in

24-hours. McGee locks himself inside of Baldpate Inn having been promised that there is **"ONLY ONE KEY TO BALDPATE"**. Thinking he is alone in the inn, McGee sets to task to write, undisturbed. The evening quickly comes apart as there are more keys to Baldpate than believed. Murder, ghosts, gun shots, mysterious women,

criminals and a beautiful newspaper reporter all disrupt his efforts to finish his book on time. Will he do it? Can he do it? And, who are all these people? This play is one of George M. Cohan's classics that you won't want to miss!

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Meagan Thompson photos, *The Montana Standard*

Shops with vintage signage line the historic boardwalk of Virginia City.

CITY

From 18

Highway 287 between Virginia City and Nevada City, people can pan for their own gold. Also on display are the outdoor exhibits of mining equipment highlighting the Mount Vernon dredge. Shop for unique gifts, rocks and panning supplies. Call 406-843-5247 for details.

■ **Thompson-Hickman Museum** — Built in the roaring 1920s, The Thompson-Hickman museum is home to many of Virginia City's best artifacts. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Located at 220 East Wallace Street, in Virginia City. Details: 406-843-5238.

■ **Virginia City Boardwalk** — Take a stroll down Virginia City's boardwalk,



The National Historic Landmark District in Virginia City.

shop, and get a taste for what it was like to live in this historic mining town.

■ **Self-guided walking tours** — Make your way through the historical Virginia City and Nevada City. Go to <https://virginiacitymt.com/walkingTour> for printable maps of tour spots in

both places.

■ **Cousin's Candy Shop** — Cousin's Candy Shop has been supplying the Alder Gulch area with the freshest and most delicious salt water taffy since 1992. Their variety of specialties include many different kinds of fudge, old fashioned candies,

and licorice. The candy store is located at 217 West Wallace St., in historic Virginia City. Details: 406-843-5371.

■ **Fishing ponds** — Enjoy some great Montana fishing with the family.

■ **Nevada City Old Town Living History Museum and Music Hall** — The outdoor museum in Nevada City houses one of the largest collections of Old West artifacts outside the Smithsonian and has 100 buildings from 1863 to the early 1900s. The museum offers several unique music machines, exhibits and artifacts to help you experience the time, culture and place of early Montana. The experience offers a glimpse of a frontier mining town in the height of the Gold Rush days in Nevada City. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, through Sept. 7.

Dotting a hillside off Montana Highway 287, the kinetic horse sculptures by Montana artist Jim Dolan are perched on a rolling hill just five miles off I-90 near Three Forks.

Meagan Thompson, *The Montana Standard*



IN AND AROUND *Three Forks*

Three Forks preserves its Old West charm with close accessibility to historical and recreational places. Three Forks is at the heart of a broad assemblage of exciting outdoor adventures, historical sites, and unforgettable scenery. Although the scenery in Three Forks is striking, it's the historic sites that make this place worth a visit. Sacajawea traveled in the area with her Shoshone family before she was kidnapped as a child by a rival tribe. She returned five years later as part of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 1805, they arrived at the forks (the Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin rivers), now in Missouri Headwaters State Park, looking for the river that would lead them to the Continental Divide.

■ The Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin rivers merge to form the 2,300-mile Missouri River within the boundaries of the 532 acres of the **Missouri Headwaters State Park**. Meriwether Lewis once wrote that the country opens suddenly to extensive and beautiful plains and meadows which appear to be surrounded in every direction with distant



The south-facing slope that leads to the Lewis and Clark Caverns can be brutally hot on a summer day, so this new shade shelter will be a welcome relief to tourists.

and lofty mountains. The park provides 17 campsites, tepee rental, foot trails to points of interest, and interpretive displays of the area's cultural and natural history. River floating, fishing, picnicking, bicycling, hiking, interpretive programs, and photography are popular activities.

■ Located on the edge of a wide valley shaped by the Madison River, **Madison Buffalo Jump State Park** has an elevated limestone cliff that was used for 2,000 years by Native Americans. It allowed them to guide stampeding herds of bison in large numbers off a cliff, making use of the buffalo for food,

clothing, shelter and provisions. At Madison Buffalo Jump State Park, short walks provide unique insights into Native American culture as well as spectacular views of the valley below. The day use fee is \$5 per vehicle.

■ The **Bleu Horses** is a set of 39 horse sculptures made mainly of steel and forever installed on a hillside off Highway 287 just north of Three Forks. The name of the sculpture is rooted from a color of horse known as a blue roan. Artist Jim Dolan of Belgrade created and set up the horse sculptures. Dolan has created other unique outdoor sculptures over the past 30

years, including a herd of elk placed on the lawn of a bank in Bozeman, and a fly fisherman in Ennis.

■ The picturesque **Headwaters Golf Course** in Three Forks is just a hop, skip and a jump away from the junction of the Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison Rivers. These waters join to create the majestic Missouri River. The nine-hole, public golf course, completed in 1986, features water on six of the holes and with multiple options for tee boxes this course can be both fun for the novice golfer and a challenge for the seasoned player.

■ "Antler Man" Jim Phillips' has amassed a grand total of 16,000 antlers, all of which are on display in one well-lit shed in Three Forks, Montana, in **Jim's Horn House**. Phillips began hiking and amassing the collection as a 10-year-old boy. Phillips is open to the occasional visitor but you have to ask him personally. His email is 2jd3law4@gmail.com. Once he invites you he will give you his address.

■ **Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park**, Montana's first state park, established in 1941, provides a glance into history partnered with present day adventure. The caverns temporarily closed due to the coronavirus, but hikers can take in views of the wilderness from one of several challenging multi-use trails. The park also offers sweeping views of the Tobacco Root Mountains and over 200 species of wildflowers. Spanning 3,000 acres of land that rests above 4,000 feet, Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park is a great destination after an afternoon of fishing, or a weekend of camping. A new shade shelter has been added for the elderly or people with disabilities. Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park is located about 13 miles west of Three Forks off Highway 287, or about 50 miles east of Butte. Campsites may be reserved online.



Meagan Thompson photos, *The Montana Standard*

An old abandoned shack near Granite ghost town melts into the forest.

IN AND AROUND *Philipsburg*

A one-time mining camp and trading post, Philipsburg has reinvented itself as a tourist destination. Walk along the boardwalks, with its many specialty shops and historic buildings, or mine for sapphires.

■ There are a number of **campgrounds** in the

Philipsburg area including Echo Lake, Copper Creek, Cable Mountain, Lodgepole, Piney, Flint Creek, Boulder Creek and Crystal Creek.

■ Northwest of Drummond and dating back to 1895, **Garnet**, a ghost town, has a pastoral setting in the midst of the forest with cabins and buildings. It is managed by the Bureau of

Philipsburg's main street is bustling on a warm day in May 2020.





Trees take over the ruins of an abandoned mining camp near Granite ghost town located east of Philipsburg.

Land Management and Garnet Preservation Association. Its 30 buildings and visitors center are 11 miles up a gravel road, north of I-90. Call 406-329-3914 for details.

■ East of Philipsburg, 4 miles by dirt road, is the abandoned mining camp of **Granite**, which was known in 1890 as the “Silver Queen.” The park preserves the Granite Mine Superintendent’s House and ruins of the

miners’ union hall.

■ Originally built as the Courtney Hotel on Sansome Street by the Courtney brothers in 1918, the building now houses the **Granite County Museum and Cultural Center**, with its displays of culture, history and mining, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily, 406-859-3020.

■ **The Skalkaho Road**, one of Montana’s scenic gems, extends about 60 miles

from its junction with Montana 1, 6 miles south of Philipsburg, to its junction with U.S. 93, just south of Hamilton. About 20 miles is gravel. It passes through the green meadows of the Flint Creek Valley and crosses a pass into the Rock Creek drainage. Along the way are postcard views of the snowcapped Anaconda Range in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. The route proceeds up the

West Fork of Rock Creek with scenery that reminds one of Yellowstone’s rocky, lodgepole streams. After crossing Skalkaho Pass, 7,262 feet, it descends into the Bitterroot Valley once famous for its truck gardens and orchards.

■ Just about one mile east of Philipsburg is **Tower Town**, an abandoned mining camp. Named for Charlemagne Tower, structures from days gone by still stand.

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An old stone wall and entrance to the historic prison in Deer Lodge is seen from Main Street.

Meagan Thompson photos,
The Montana Standard



IN AND AROUND *Deer Lodge*

The second oldest town in Montana, has had multiple names over the years, such as Spanish Fork, Cottonwood, LaBarge City, Deer Lodge City, and now Deer Lodge. The Deer Lodge Valley is a grassland bordered by mountain ranges on the east and the west. It has always been a center for agriculture. In 1852, on what is now Gold Creek float gold was discovered. About 20 miles north of the city is where the first discovery is located. In Deer Lodge, people can find more museums and historical collections than in any other town in the Northwest.

Browns Lake and Blackfoot Waterfowl area is where people can enjoy



Businesses and restaurants line Main Street in the heart of Deer Lodge.

fishing, windsurfing and bird-watching. Keep an eye out for eagles, loons, herons and pelicans, among many other waterfowl. To get to this location follow the fishing access signs on Highway 200 East of Ovando.

Arrow Stone Park is a relaxing refuge for visitors that want to picnic, fish the Clark Fork, walk the trails or just sit on a bench to view the variety of wildlife surrounding them.

Fishing access near

Deer Lodge:

Flint Creek
Rock Creek
Little Blackfoot River
Boulder Creek
Willow Creek Reservoir
Clark Fork River
Hiking trails near

Deer Lodge

Dolus Lakes Trail is a 6.6 mile lightly populated out and back trail located near Deer Lodge, Montana that features a lake and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking, camping, bird watching, and backpacking and is best used from April until October. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash.

Trask Lakes through Rock Creek is a 15.8 mile moderately populated out and back trail located near Deer Lodge, Montana that features a lake and is rated as moderate. The trail offers a number of activity options and is best used from June until September. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash.

Cliff Mountain is a 11.7 mile lightly trafficked out and back trail located near Deer Lodge, Montana that offers the chance to see wildlife and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking and nature trips and is best used from June until September.

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July 24-Aug. 16 — “Romeo and Juliet — a modern take on a Shakespeare classic”

Aug. 21 — “Comedy Night 44” at 8 p.m.

October — The Cutler Brothers “Creepshow!”

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SUNDAYS**



One of the 12 murals celebrating the Lewis and Clark Expedition painted by Montana artist Kit Mather adorns the side of a building on East Legion Avenue in Whitehall.



Meagan Thompson photos, *The Montana Standard*

The Tobacco Root Mountains south off Whitehall are snow-capped as the valley below begins to show signs of spring.

IN AND AROUND *Whitehall*

With the mountain ranges of the Tobacco Root and the Highlands right out their door, the small town of Whitehall is not a place to be missed.

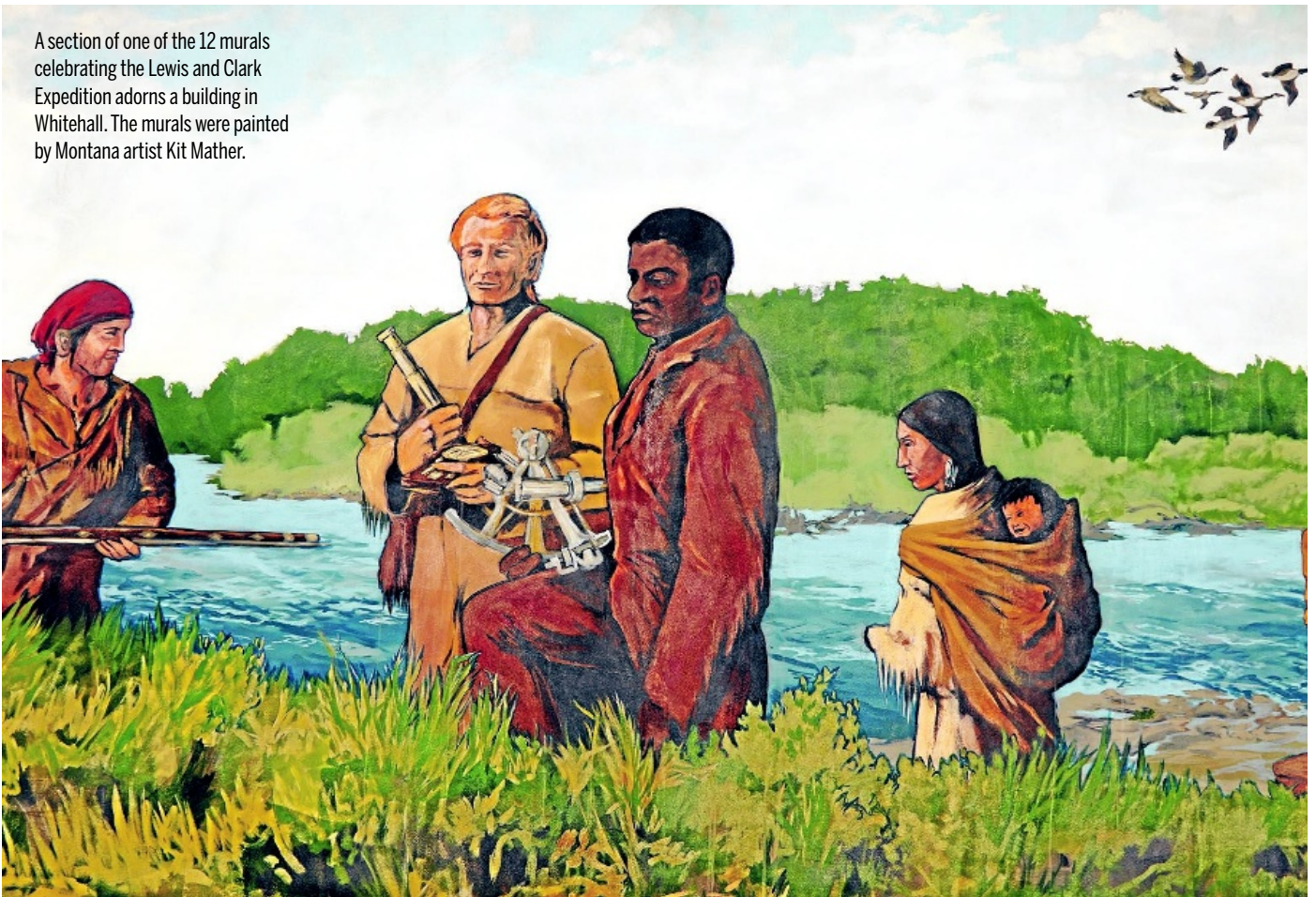
The residents joke about living in the banana belt and there is more fact than fiction to that boastful statement.

Many a time, Butte is literally getting dumped on

with snow, but meanwhile in Whitehall, maybe a “skiff or two.”

■ Right smack dab in the middle of Whitehall are the **bicentennial murals** celebrating the Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1803-06. On their journey to the Northwest Passage, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their expedition party spent more time in Montana than anywhere else. The murals pay homage to

A section of one of the 12 murals celebrating the Lewis and Clark Expedition adorns a building in Whitehall. The murals were painted by Montana artist Kit Mather.



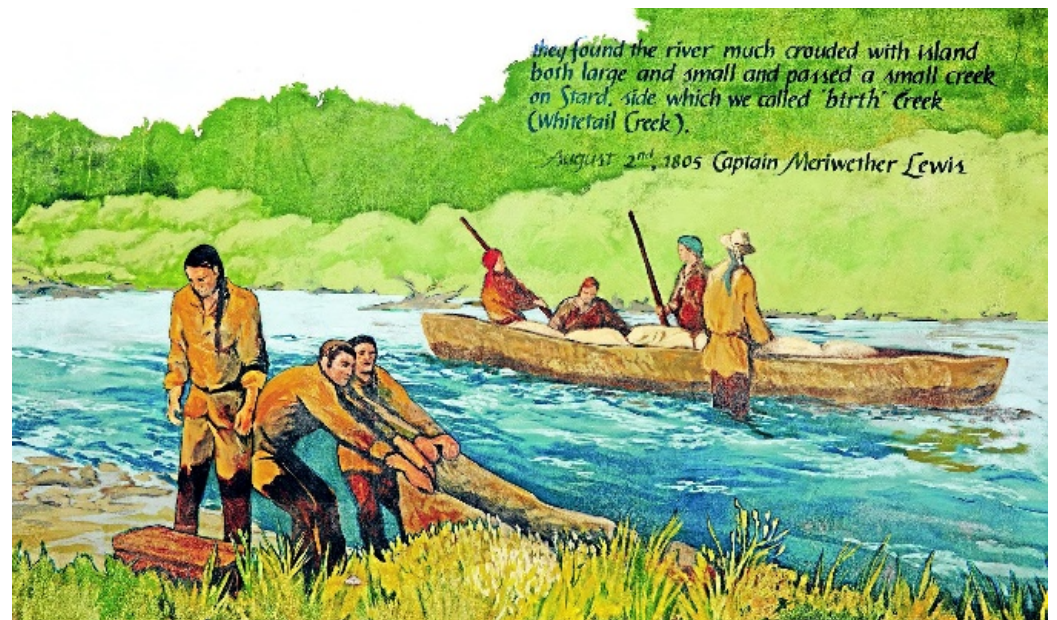
their arduous trip.

■ Running south and west of Whitehall, there are several access points you can use to get to the **Jefferson River**, which is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

■ Walk on over to the **Jefferson Valley Museum**, which houses artifacts from the 1890s on up. The museum at 303 S. Division St., pays homage to the heritage that defines the Jefferson Valley.

■ With its numerous riding trails, the area around **Pipestone** is popular with mountain bikers, motorcyclists and those who prefer ATVs. In bygone days, Pipestone included a hot springs, dozens of cottages, a school house and more.

■ A Montana phenomenon can be found as you are driving toward Whitehall. Yes, it's true — they look just like a big old pile of rocks. But then hit them with a hammer



A section of a mural painted by Montana artist Kit Mather celebrates the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the business district of Whitehall.

and the **Ringing Rocks** near Pipestone become “music to your ears.” Just about 18 miles east of Butte, you can park your vehicle in the parking lot and walk for a bit, but the

trip is well worth your time and effort.

■ East of Whitehall are the **Tobacco Root Mountains**, with plenty of alpine mountain lakes, hiking trails and

rolling foothills. Hikers can find remnants from long ago, including cabins and mining claims. At the higher elevations you will find an abundance of mountain goats.

A grave marker honors PITT, the elephant, and Joe E. Womack, the elephant's "biggest fan." The elephant was struck by lightning and buried in the spot where it died at the fairgrounds in Dillon.

Meagan Thompson photos,
The Montana Standard



IN AND AROUND *Dillon*

Dillon is nestled in a panoramic valley where the Beaverhead, Big Hole and Ruby rivers empty. One of fly fishermen's favorite blue-ribbon trout streams is the Beaverhead River. Over 50 historical buildings line Dillon's streets. Travelers can

find fine dining and quaint shops. Dillon is also home to the University of Montana-Western.

■ **Beaverhead County Museum** is a log structure at 15 S. Montana St., housing artifacts and photos of area history, Lewis and Clark exhibit and natural history exhibit. Walking tour maps

available. Times: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and by appointment. Phone: 406-683-5027.

■ **Beaverhead Rock State Park** was recognized by Sacagawea as a landmark during the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. Seen from the Waterloo area, this rock and hill west of it resembles a beaver swimming. The park is undeveloped. It is also called Point of Rocks by locals. Located 14 miles northeast of Dillon on Montana 41.

■ **Charcoal Kilns** are located in Canyon Creek, west of Melrose, and produced charcoal for smelting silver and other metals at Hecla Consolidated Mining Co.'s nearby Glendale smelter.

■ **Clark Canyon Reservoir** south of Dillon is the headwaters of the Beaverhead River and a popular lake for waterskiing and fishing.

■ **Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge** is 85 miles southeast of Dillon in the stunning expanse of the Centennial Valley, a one-time main route to Yellowstone National Park from the railroad at Monida. The refuge's lakes and marshes became a haven for the trumpeter swan once threatened with extinction.

■ **Western Montana College Museum and Gallery**, 710 S. Atlantic St., features traveling exhibits, student art, and a permanent collection of C.M. Russell, E.S. Paxson, Ansel Adams and Russell Chatham. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 406-683-7232.

■ **Clark's Lookout State park** is located one mile north of Dillon. The 8-acre park encompasses the hill overlooking the Beaverhead River that William Clark climbed on Aug. 13, 1805, during the Lewis and

South Montana Street in
downtown Dillon



Clark Expedition. From the vantage point, Clark took various compass readings and sketched a map of the Beaverhead Valley. The park offers picnicking, interpretive signage, and a chance to make the climb that Clark made and stand where he stood.

■ A unique attraction in Dillon is **Old Pitt**, an elephant who was part of the Cole Brothers Circus. In August 1943, Old Pitt was struck and killed by lightning when a severe storm hit during a matinee performance in Dillon. The elephant was buried right where she died. Old Pitt was given a proper burial at the Beaverhead County Fairgrounds by the circus members. They even commissioned a granite grave marker. Seventy years later, visitors can still visit **Old Pitt's Burial Site**.

■ **Lemhi Pass** sits at an elevation of 7,323 feet above



People walk along South Montana Street on May 13 in downtown Dillon.

sea level and is a rounded saddle in the Beaverhead Mountains along the Continental Divide between Montana and Idaho. In 1805,

the Lewis and Clark Expedition first saw the headwaters of the Columbia River and crossed what was then the western boundary of the

United States. Lemhi Pass was made a National Historic Landmark in 1960 for its importance to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

IN AND AROUND Ennis



An angler wets a line on the Madison River near Ennis.

Bordered by 3 million acres of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, **Ennis** is a great location for outdoor enthusiasts. Within the vast acreage lie the Madison Range, the Tobacco Root Mountains, and the Gravelly Range. The mixture of forested mountains, along with access to the Madison River, produces extraordinary chances for recreating.

■ **Cliff and Wade Lakes** sit on a geologic fault that established a ravine that filled with water; cliffs border most of the lakes' shorelines. Cliff Lake is the larger and more remote of the two. Wade Lake is more easily reachable and stays partly ice-free in the winter. Birdwatchers can see prairie falcons, bald eagles and ospreys. Cliff Lake offers exceptional canoeing. Hikers can take in the flora, fauna, and geology of the area on a nearly one-mile trail connecting the Wade Lake and Hilltop

campgrounds. A spawning channel that is newly developed is a great place to view rainbow trout.

■ **Ennis Lion's Club Park** provides a family-friendly place to recreate next to the Madison River and has walking trails for people and dogs.

■ **Madison Meadows Golf Course**, established in 1982, consists of nine holes. The par-36 golf course measures 3,200 yards from the back tees.

■ **Quake Lake** is five miles long, one-third mile across, and 190 feet in depth. Anglers frequent the shores by boat. The shoreline and a boat ramp are reachable from Highway 287. The lake is stocked with cutthroat and brown trout. Float tube fishing is recommended because of the timbers beneath the surface and high winds. Quake Lake was created after an earthquake hit Aug. 17, 1959 in the Madison Canyon River Area and caused a massive landslide of 80 million tons of rock, damming

the flow of the Madison River in the Madison River Canyon gorge and killing 28 people. Earthquake Lake Visitor Center displays a memorial boulder with a plaque of the names of those who died. The visitor's center is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week through mid-September.

■ Ennis is known for its abundant **outdoor art** that represents the culture of Montana and its citizens. Because Ennis is considered both a blue-ribbon fly fishing destination and an authentic cowboy town rolled into one, the art that comes from the area's artists is entirely unique to the region. Listed below are some stops in Ennis to enjoy the outdoor art.

■ "A Wreck Waiting to Happen" — located on Main St.

■ Largest Hand-Tied Fly Ever — located on Main St.

■ The Last Packtrip — located on the front of the Ennis Café

■ Fishing Bench — located

in front of the Ennis Pharmacy

■ Lone Elk — Lone Elk Mall

■ Troutstalkers — the corner of Third and Main St.

■ The Blue Heron — Berkshire Hathaway building

■ Veterans Memorial "Cowboy Soldier" — north of Main St. on the hill overlooking Ennis

■ 150 Foot Fisherman — the intersection of US Hwy 287 and MT State 287

■ Mustang Spirit Sculpture — Ennis High School

■ Mustang Herd — Charles St., one block off Main St.

■ Surveyor — located in front of the American Land Title company building

■ Sculpted Trout — the entrance to the Ennis RV Village

■ Wildlife Murals — the original log cabins at El Western

■ Trout of many Colors — enormous trout can be seen leaping from various spots around the valley

■ Ennis Welcome Signs — located at entrance of Ennis



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First Street in Alder

Meagan Thompson, *The Montana Standard*

IN AND AROUND THE *Greater Ruby Valley*

If you want to learn more about Montana's history, the **Greater Ruby Valley** includes the five small historical towns of Alder, Laurin, Sheridan, Silver Star and Twin Bridges.

Whether you are a hiker, photographer, bicyclist, or camper, it's a must-see area of southwest Montana that you will want to revisit. The area includes mountain ranges, rivers, historic monuments, and camping.

■ You can't talk about Montana's early gold rush days without including **Alder**. Gold was first discovered at Alder Gulch Creek in 1863. Now, people stop in to learn about its history. Referred to as the "gateway to the Ruby River Reservoir", Alder is also considered a fishermen's paradise with the Beaverhead and Madison Rivers nearby.

■ Off the beaten path you will find **Laurin**, established the same year as Alder, in 1863. It was named after long-time merchant and rancher, Jean Baptiste Laurin. Several of its historic buildings still stand including St. Mary Assumption Church, established in 1901. The one-time well-known trading

post is infamous for its Hangman's Tree, which was used to hang two road agents of Virginia City's Sheriff Henry Plummer.

■ Mountain ranges surround the town of **Sheridan**. Fondly referred to as the "heart of the Ruby Valley," Sheridan was named for a Civil War general, Phillip Sheridan. Those who enjoy the great outdoors can head out to camp, fish, and hike through the mountain ranges of the Pioneers, Ruby Range, Tobacco Root, Snowcrest, McCartney, Ruby Range and Gravellys.

■ In Montana's infancy, silver miners made up much of the population at **Silver Star**. Rich in history, it is the third oldest town in Montana. Remnants of old mining claims still exist and numerous trails can be taken on its outskirts. Situated along the Jefferson River, fishing is readily available as well.

■ Do you like to fly fish? Head to **Twin Bridges**. Bicycling your thing? Head to Twin Bridges. The small town is a mecca for both. It is also known for its "Round Barn," which was built in 1892 and housed race horses. The structure is listed on the

National Register of Historic Places.

Twin Bridges Farmers Market

Runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May through

September, at the Main St. City Park. Fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, jams and jellies, vegetable and bedding plants, bushes, hanging baskets, and eggs.

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