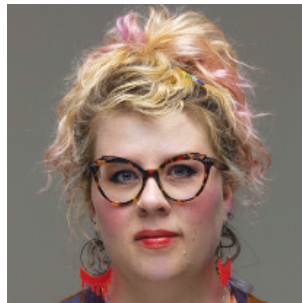
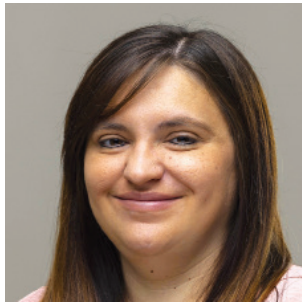




20 UNDER FORTY

RECOGNIZING 20 OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
UNDER AGE 40

The MONTANA STANDARD
mtstandard.com



INSIDE

Katelyn Kotka	3
Missy Turner	4
Dion Williams Jr.	5
Katie Flint	5
John Lappin	6
Kerry Hall	7
Alan Christensen	7
Jenica Held	8
Raven Hrysenko	8
Holly Dilbeck	9
Taylor Liva / Margaret Nielsen	10
J.R. Gustafson	11
Karlee Jane	12
Catherine Scarffe	13
Dr. Addyson England / Dr. Bryan Mark	14
Brittney Doherty	15
Chuckie Richards	16
Quincy Lee	17
Ashleigh Preston	18
Jonathan Dupuis	19

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 Butte, MT, 59701
 (406) 496-5546
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 news, events and information
 on Montana sports, weather,
 entertainment and lifestyles
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Presenting the 2025 class of 20 Under 40

The Montana Standard and Butte Chamber of Commerce are proud to present 20 stalwarts in our community who are all under 40 years of age. These are people nominated by their peers – several times over in some cases – for demonstrating and exemplifying outstanding leadership in business, philanthropy and community.

Whether they are business owners, program directors, health careworkers or educators – just to name a few – their day doesn't end after clocking out from their day jobs.

This group of Montanans understands which components of a community are most critical: people.

Whatever the cause may be, these honorees have not only gone above and beyond the call in assisting those in need, but also connecting with people on a personal level.

Narrowing the field down to just 20 was difficult.

If you nominated someone who wasn't chosen this year, please reach out to us again next year if their age allows.

And without further ado, here are this year's 20 community powerhouses under the age of 40.

Please join The Montana Standard and Butte Chamber of Commerce in congratulating them.

Congratulations

20 UNDER 40 RECIPIENTS



Working together we can make a difference. Thank you for making Butte a better place to live, work, play and do business. We appreciate your dedication and involvement to our community.

Our Members and the Chamber Applaud You!

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KATELYN KOTKA

Age : 28

I am a proud native of Butte, raised by my parents, John and Brenda Kotka. I received my education at West Elementary, continued at East Middle School, and graduated from Butte High School in 2015. I'm raising my daughter Maycee with her wonderful father, William Cusson. Maycee is a third-generation Butte native, who I get to share my love for this community with. I take great pride in representing Butte and appreciate the rich history that our community offers.

Occupation

I am proud to serve as the Branch Manager for Clearwater Credit Union in Uptown Butte. Beginning my journey with Clearwater in 2020 as a Universal Associate, I've grown into my current leadership position through dedication and a true love for what I do. Working in the credit union industry inspires me every day—I genuinely enjoy building strong relationships with our members and helping them find the best products or solutions to their needs. Leading within this industry is exciting and deeply rewarding, as I have the chance to empower our team and encourage others to grow

in their careers with the credit union.

I am genuinely passionate about leading by example. I not only get to build relationships with members and our team, but I also have the opportunity to connect with the community and make a positive impact.

Community & volunteer activities

I am always seeking volunteer opportunities that allow me to make a positive impact in our community. Currently, I am actively seeking opportunities to join boards where I can help make a difference.

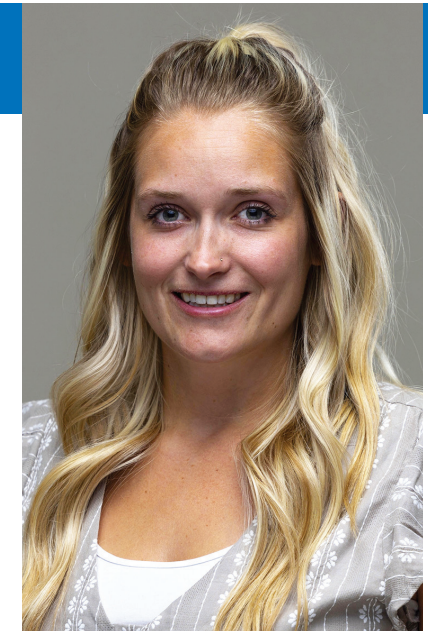
One of the most rewarding experiences I have had is assisting the Food Bank with their annual Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway drive. This event has been especially meaningful to me, as I have the chance to contribute to a cause that brings joy and relief to families in need during the holiday season. Participating in this initiative is a humbling experience, and it is truly gratifying to witness the happiness it brings to those in our community.

Another deeply fulfilling experience in my community service journey has been my involvement with the Special Olympics. Participating in this empowering event has given

me the opportunity to support athletes with kindness and encouragement. It is truly inspiring to witness their determination and achievements, and being a part of their journey is both humbling and uplifting. Supporting these incredible individuals as they strive toward their goals has left a lasting impact on me and further strengthened my commitment to making a positive impact.

Whenever there is an event or benefit, I make it a point to be present—whether volunteering my time or showing support. I truly believe in the strength of our community, where we come together to uplift and assist one another. Being an active member of Butte and contributing as a force for good is incredibly fulfilling for me. It gives me the opportunity to make a real difference and bring joy to others, reinforcing the power of unity and compassion in our town.

Within the Credit Union industry, I am also a proud member of HYPE: Harnessing Young Professional Energy. This organization brings together young professionals from credit unions across Montana, creating opportunities for connection, collaboration, and professional growth. My involvement with HYPE has allowed me to engage with like-minded peers,



share ideas, and contribute to the ongoing development of our industry. Being part of this group has been both inspiring and rewarding, as it allows for meaningful interactions and the chance to help shape the future of credit unions.

KOTKA, continued on Page 4

Congratulations, Katelyn Kotka!

You're shining bright!

Katelyn, we're thrilled to celebrate you as a 20 Under 40 honoree! Your leadership, passion, and commitment to making a difference in your community shine bright for all to see. We're so proud of you, and we're grateful you're part of the Clearwater family.



MISSY TURNER

Age: 39

I grew up all over because my father was in the Army and we would move to a new duty station every few years. I went to college in Nevada, where I met my husband, and his job is what moved us to Montana in 2013. After the school year finished, I left my early childhood special education teaching position in Reno and followed him to Montana where he was working as a geologist at the Golden Sunlight mine.

Occupation

I currently teach kindergarten at Butte Central Elementary and coach their Jr High track team in the spring.

Community & volunteer activities

I volunteer as a board member for Snowflinga, Montana's Winter Festival as well as run their kid's day events. I volunteer to coach my daughter's YMCA soccer team and help coach elementary school cross-country each fall. I often sing for weddings, funerals and graduations within the Catholic and Presbyterian church communities. I attend First Presbyterian Church and am occasionally on committees there as time allows.

I love being active in my community because I believe it's necessary for humans to be a part of something bigger than themselves and I want my two daughters to see me live

what I believe in. I believe being connected to others through activities helps everyone to see their own weaknesses, build up their strengths and lift others up to heights they wouldn't have dreamed of going to on their own. Building community is the backbone of positive change and innovations that can improve everyone's lives. I believe people think that volunteering for specific organizations or events is the only way to do that, but building community starts with a smile. You don't have to do something huge to cause ripples; you just have to believe in someone or something enough to lift it or them up.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

I have lived all over the country and the mountains of Montana are hands down my favorite place. I enjoy winter activities and knowing how much fun summer will be when it finally comes. I love the beautiful scenery, no matter the season. And I love that Butte is a unique blend of the past and the present. The people of Butte have hearts of gold and I am so grateful my girls were born here and know what it is to be a part of community on so many levels.

What else should people know about you?

My youngest daughter said people should know I am cool, and my oldest said people



should know I am kind. I don't know about the cool part, but I do try pretty hard to make sure I am being kind! I want people to know

that I try to be a problem solver and not just point out a problem and hope someone else solves it.

KOTKA

continued from Page 3

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

What I like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area is the incredible network of people who live here. The residents of Butte, along with those from our neighboring towns, bring a unique sense of character and warmth that truly sets our area apart. Living in such a beautiful location not only offers breathtaking surroundings but also promotes a strong sense of pride and support among our residents. This environment makes it easy to feel connected, supported, and proud to call Butte home.

What else should people know about you?

I have a deep love for Butte, but an even deeper love for my family. The person I am

today is a reflection of the guidance, support and love I have received from those closest to me. My father John, my mother Brenda, my brother Jonthan, my sister in law Cyndy, and the rest of my family have consistently provided encouragement and support. Their influence has played a role in shaping my values and character.

Not to mention, I am incredibly fortunate for my significant other William. Even though he is a cowboy's fan and I am a Packers fan we get to laugh, take adventures and experience life together. One of our favorite hobbies is camping and surfing at Canyon Ferry Lake. I enjoy creating new memories with our daughter Maycee and his daughter Alice.

I am honored to be a part of the 2025 "20 Under 40", thank you to everyone who has mentored and supported me along the way!

Congratulations
on being Honored
Nominees for 20 Under 40

Missy Turner & Dion Williams
Thanks you **for all you do
for our school
and our
children.**



**We are in awe of
your commitment
and dedication to our
students.**

DION WILLIAMS JR.

Age: 29

I'm from Northern California (Fairfield to be exact). I came to Butte to attend Montana Tech and to play football. I played football here from 2014-2019 where we won back-to-back conference championships (2015,2016), ended up being the all-time leading receiver in Montana Tech History and achieved the highest ranking for a Montana Tech Football team at #3 in the nation.

Occupation

My occupation is a trainer, coach and business owner. I own Inspire Academy, which is a sports academy for kids here in the butte area where we do sports training, speed & agility & personal training. We put on sports camps and events for the youth in town and around Montana/California as well. I am a trainer at Recreate Fitness Gym where I'm head over the kids' program and lead a majority of their adult fitness classes. Lastly, I'm

the current offensive coordinator & Receivers coach at Butte Central Highschool giving back my knowledge for the game!

Community & volunteer activities

My organization Inspire Academy does a number of community service events and activities including our Back To School Supply BBQ we host every year for the kids in Butte and surrounding areas where we give away free school supplies for anyone in need. Anything left over gets donated to various schools around town. We also do as much as we can by providing scholarships for our camps so anybody who wants to attend can do so.

I just love to give, and I love to help! That's been my nature since I was a young child and it's been my thing all my life. From serving in food banks and soup kitchens on holidays as a

child, to winning various community activist awards in Highschool for AFJROTC, to coming to Butte and spending time and various schools around town with the kids to ensure they had good role models to look up to. I've been here and will continue to do everything I can to make an impact

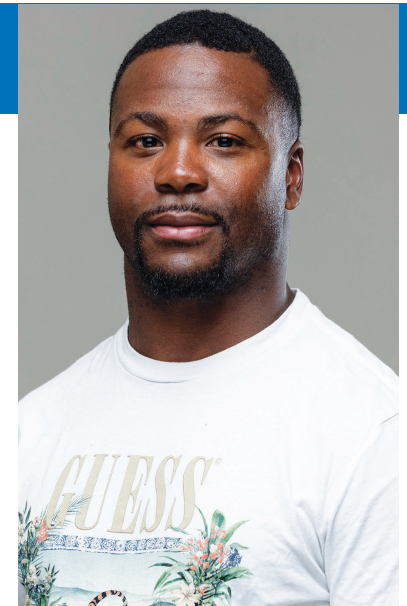
Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

The thing I like best is seeing others smile and be happy from the deeds I've done. It's not about me getting recognition, it's about making someone's life easier/better. That is what gives me satisfaction.

What else should people know about you?

I'm a selfless person who will do all I can for the people who love and support me. I believe that together, we all can do great things, and I'd love to collaborate, partner and work



with anybody who has the same vision as me for Butte. Butte can be greater and elevate to incredible heights; we all just need to come together and make that happen!

KATIE FLINT

Age: 37

I was born in Missoula and raised in the Ulm/Cascade area in Central Montana. I moved to Butte in 2008 after high school, a short stint of island life with my dad on Maui, and living in Coeur D' Alene, ID. After moving around, I visited some friends who were going to school at MT Tech and they were having an absolutely fantastic time. I moved into an old Victorian we called the Cat House with one high school friend and three other strangers to make some lifelong friendships. Butte had my small-town heart, it was just big enough to feel city-ish, it was just dive-y enough to feel like our hometown, and the people were incredible. I met a Butte boy and solidified it as home.

Occupation

For 13 years I worked for SCL Health's medical group division in one form or another. In 2021 I decided I wanted something a little different for myself and my family and decided to start dabbling in catering and started a health lunch subscription service that has been running for 4 years. Since then, it has evolved into having a small drive-through cafe in the MT connections Park on I15 and we are in the process of joining the Uptown Butte district to bring our second location into town.

Community & volunteer activities

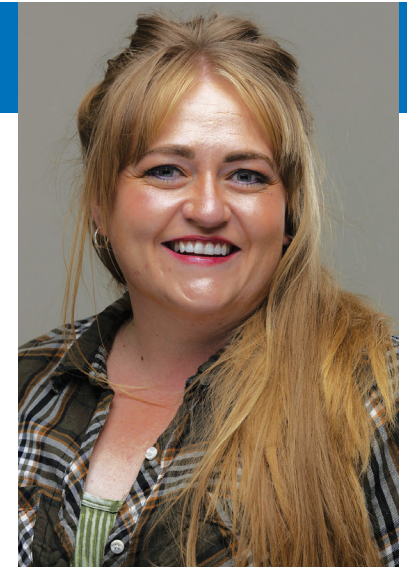
I love this community. There is something about it that makes me never want to say no to an opportunity. During my healthcare career I didn't say no to anything and was involved in many of our community events. I organized health fairs, flu shot clinics, job fairs, and donation drives. I helped to start wellness community advisory councils to give a voice to patients and always looked for ways to bridge the healthcare gap between patients and care teams. Since owning my own business, I have held events that donate all the proceeds to Caring Bridge for the foster kids of SW Montana, supported Toys for Tots, we regularly donate to the Rescue Mission, and help the Butte Food Banks with Empty Bowls. I am a board member of the Spirit of Columbia Gardens and help to raise funds for their annual events. We stay as active in the community as possible to support our events like Folk Festival, Butte Farmers Markets, Movies in the Park, Music on Main. If we don't have a booth at them, we are usually in attendance to support all the great work being done to make Butte a vibrant place to live and work.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

I have met some of the most incredible and supportive people since living in Butte. I actively want to be out doing things in Butte just to run into the people that are on the same circuit as we are. The people in our community are great and the people in small business in Butte are amazing. It makes it easy to be a part of organizations, events, and volunteering when many have a great attitude about how awesome this community can be. I love that we are centrally located to many other fun places to travel but our location surrounded by mountains makes all the

FLINT, continued on Page 13



Congratulations Katie!

No matter what you are doing, from salads to coffee, a day at work or the lake, being a boss businesswoman, a loving mom, wife or a steadfast friend; Your passion and drive shine bright.

Congratulations on this honor and all the many truly wonderful accomplishments on your journey.

♥ your family and friends

THE LOCAL
EST. IN THE 400

JOHN LAPPIN

Age: 37

I grew up in Butte, MT. I graduated from Butte High School in 2006. I moved back from Billings, MT in 2012, and met the love of my life Kayla Lester Lappin. We have been married since 2015 and have 3 amazing children Blake age 8, Kinsley age 5, and Beau age 3. Growing up in Butte taught me the value of community, service to others, and family.

Occupation

I work as a Clinical Treatment Supervisor with Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. In this role, I oversee all treatment programming and case management services for residents in our facility. My primary responsibility is to ensure that residents receive effective, evidence-based interventions that support both their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

I supervise a team that includes case managers, licensed addiction counselors, and facility staff, providing weekly clinical supervision, training, and performance evaluations. A key part of my work involves developing and maintaining treatment policies, facilitating weekly clinical staffing meetings, and monitoring program quality through audits and reports.

In addition to supervision, I stay actively engaged in direct clinical services when needed, such as conducting assessments, facilitating groups, and supporting residents in developing individualized treatment and release plans. My work requires a balance of leadership, crisis management, and clinical expertise, as I often navigate challenging situations while ensuring staff and resident safety.

Ultimately, my passion in my job is about creating a structured and supportive treatment environment where residents are held accountable, but also given the tools and guidance needed to build a crime-free and healthier lifestyle.

I am currently getting my master's degree in social work through the University of Montana. GO GRIZ!

Community & volunteer activities

I was just added to the board for Mariah's Challenge. As a member of the Mariah's Challenge Board of Directors, I am part of a group of great people that help advance the organization's mission to inspire young people to make positive choices and to honor the legacy of Mariah Daye McCarthy. In this role, I contribute to fundraising, governance, and strategic direction, ensuring that programs and outreach efforts remain true to the mis-

sion of promoting safe, healthy, and responsible lifestyles.

Board members at Mariah's Challenge are hands-on leaders who not only guide policy and fundraising, but also actively support community events and youth programs. Whether helping organize fundraisers like the annual golf tournament, coordinating scholarship initiatives, or assisting with donation drives such as "Pennies for Mariah," I work alongside other board members to keep the organization connected to the community.

This opportunity allows me to be part of creating safer communities, empowering youth, and ensuring that Mariah's Challenge continues to have a lasting impact in Butte and beyond.

I am also a member of the Butte 4-C's. As a member of the Butte 4-C's Board of Directors, I contribute to advancing the organization's mission of supporting families, children, and early childhood professionals across southwestern Montana. In this role, I provide governance and oversight, help guide strategic planning, and ensure the organization's programs and policies align with community needs.

I also support fiscal responsibility by reviewing budgets and financial reports, while engaging in fundraising and advocacy efforts that strengthen services for children and families. Beyond governance, I serve as a community ambassador, connecting Butte 4-C's with local partners and stakeholders to broaden its reach and impact.

My passion is improving access to quality childcare, empowering families, and building a stronger foundation for the next generation in Butte and the surrounding region.

I am also actively involved in youth athletics as a high school football and basketball referee. In this role, I strive to model integrity, fairness, and respect, while helping create a positive environment for student athletes to grow through competition.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

What I like best about living, working, and volunteering in Butte is the culture and the people I get to surround myself with. This community has a very distinct spirit that revolves around resiliency and deeply connected to its history and traditions. Whether through my professional work, board service, or refereeing high school sports, I get to collaborate with people who care about one another and are committed to making a difference. That sense of pride, support, and togetherness is what makes Butte such

a meaningful place to call home. Butte vs. Everybody!

What else should people know about you?

I believe many athletes and communities lack emotional and psychological support for student-athletes. This sparked my passion to pursue and address the systemic gaps in youth mental health services. Many athletes face the cultural stigma around vulnerability and mental health which can add another factor to mental health issues. Student-athletes are often celebrated for physical performance, but rarely supported when facing emotional or psychological distress. We can link this concern to structural oppression, where the mental health needs of youth are deprioritized in competitive school environments. Through my own personal journey and conversations with other athletes, who navigated alone without structured support or guidance, reinforced my belief for the need for programs that promote mental health awareness. It is my dream one day to use my Masters of Social Work to create a mental health program that will help the youth in our community transition out of high



school and college sports and into a career and life that is meaningful and inspired. I don't want anyone to suffer with this transition like I did.

J F LAPPIN
Congratulations
on your 20 Under 40 Honor

We are proud of you for
all you do in our
community.



YOUR FRIENDS
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS

KERRY HALL

Age: 33

I was born and raised in Butte America and graduated from Butte High School in 2010. I studied Elementary Education at the University of Montana, but always knew I'd come home to Butte. My husband Ethan and I have been married for 6 years, and we are lucky and thankful to have a 3-year-old daughter, Collins.

Occupation

This is my 11th year teaching Kindergarten at West Elementary. There are few things more rewarding than being a part of a student's growth and it's still surreal that I get paid to hang out with kids! I also teach Irish dancing to Butte's Tiernan Irish Danc-

ers. We are thankful for our Irish history and choose to honor those who came before us by preserving the traditions of Irish dancing. Whether it's in a classroom or on stage, I'm overwhelmingly thankful I get to create relationships and memories with the most important members of our community, kids!

Community & volunteer activities

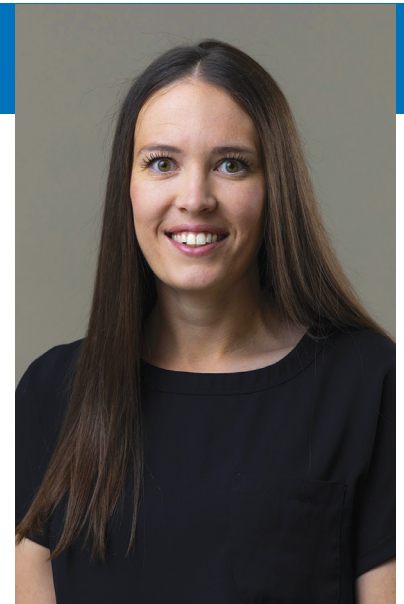
I am a member of the An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival. My parents, Tom and Cindy Powers, are original members of the committee who brought it here to Butte. My role in the festival seems to change a little each year but mostly revolves around dance related needs. The festival strives to bring world class musicians and dancers to Butte to celebrate true

Irish culture and language. In the 20+ years of An Ri Ra, our Butte community has had a lasting impression on the musician who visit, many of whom have written songs honoring our town.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

We are thankful to live in a community that always shows up for its kids! Sometimes that means cheering them on during a St. Patrick's Day performance and other times that means making sure everyone has warm boots for recess. Butte finds so much pride in creating lasting relationships in our community which makes it the perfect place to raise a family.



ALAN CHRISTENSEN

Age: 34

I moved to Butte in the Fall of 2009 to attend Montana Tech. I picked Butte because in 15 minutes, you can be in the wilderness. I enjoy living in a smaller town, and a slightly slower pace and quieter way of life.

Occupation

I have worked for Montana Technological University for 14 years as a Software Engineer & Telecommunications Technician. This involves writing and maintaining some custom web applications, integrating data with purchased software, administering our electronic filing software, IT service request software, online calendar, and helping with our Learning Management System. I also maintain our radio and telephone communi-

cation systems. Everyone really pulls together to get the work done. In my off time, I teach Red Cross Wilderness First Aid for The Peak Inc.

Community & volunteer activities

I've been a volunteer with 15-90 Search & Rescue since 2010, and I was elected to their board of directors in 2017. I enjoy working on our equipment, going on calls to bring members of the community back to their families, and helping with community events. Several times a year, I help with the Butte Radio Club with amateur radio test sessions to get new people who are interested in the hobby licensed. I've been volunteering as a Hunter Safety instructor for 8 years. As an Eagle Scout, I've always thought it important to

give back to the community.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area?

I truly appreciate living in a small, tight-knit community where kindness and support are abundant. It's rewarding to work alongside individuals who are genuinely invested in their workplace and take pride in the quality of their work. I'm also grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with organizations that are making a real impact in both the community and people's lives.

What else should people know about you?

I enjoy hiking and camping in my free time and have recently become interested in muz-



zleloader hunting. My wife, MacKenzie, lives here in town with me. We recently purchased a house together at the end of 2023. We have two cats. My parents, Robin & Annette, live in Aloha, Oregon. My brother Colin & sister-in-law Alicia live in Las Vegas, Nevada



Mariah's Challenge

Congratulations, JOHN LAPPIN!

Thank you for all that you do!



The Butte School District would like to extend our congratulations to Kerry Powers for being selected an honoree for the 20 Under 40!

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our Butte School District students, families, and the entire Butte Community. Kerry deserves our full recognition and appreciation as a school district and community.

JENICA HELD

Age: 38

I'm proud to be a Butte America native! This town has my heart, and I truly couldn't imagine living or thriving anywhere else.

Occupation

I'm the Branch Manager at Opportunity Bank of Montana, one of Butte's most community-focused financial institutions. With 16 years of experience in banking—OBMT being my third financial institution—I've found a place that not only values community involvement but actively encourages it. Their support has empowered me to confidently build my personal and professional brand

within our local community.

Community & volunteer activities

I'm currently wrapping up my third year on the BSB County Fair Board, and 2025 marks my second year serving as Treasurer. I also love volunteering with United Way, especially during events like Stone Soup and Dress a Child.

My passion for community involvement stems from a desire to create meaningful, family-friendly events that bring people together. As a parent, I see the importance of keeping young minds engaged with fun, interactive experiences that strengthen our

community and give families opportunities to connect and grow together.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area?

It's the people—US! Whenever I say I'm from Butte, I'm met with comments about our strong sense of community and family values. Across Montana, it's known that Butte is "Butte Tough," but more importantly, Butte cares. The generosity and authenticity of our residents make this town my forever home.

What else should people know about you?



I'm a proud mom, a passionate community advocate, and someone who believes in leading with heart. Whether it's through my work, volunteering, or everyday interactions, I'm all about making meaningful connections, cheering people on, and trying to help Butte shine a little brighter every day.

RAVEN HRYSENKO

Age: 29

I moved to Whitehall from New Jersey with my grandparents when I was in the 8 grade. They raised me from a baby because my mother was a drug addict, which meant I was probably a drug-syndrome baby. I had learning disabilities which kept me isolated in special needs "rubber rooms" in NJ.

Everything changed for me in Montana. I was not put in the special education class all day, which let me grow into a functioning member of society. From that point on, I went to being a Student of the month, and even Year, at Highlands college, where I got Associate degrees in Drafting and Civil Tech before going to Tech for an engineering B.S. that COVID kept me from completing.

Occupation

I am the owner and operator of Raven 3-D printing and design, utilizing my education and practical experience from college. I run seven 3-D printers nearly full-time, as well as design products for myself and others (including industrial clients), provide full machine repairs, and teach printing skills.

I am also a substitute teacher in the Whitehall district.

Community & volunteer activities

I have volunteered for a lot of organizations, one of which is the Montana Youth Leadership Forum for disadvantaged young folks, where I was once a participant. I also volunteer at Gold Junction Presents, which is the Star Theater in Whitehall. I help with movies and almost all the events they put on for the community.



I started out in Butte with work on Our Lady of the Rockies Carousel, and putting up the flags and Christmas lights on the mine headframes. I organize bingo nights for non-profit organizations in Whitehall, which have grown to packed-house events. I put on small free 3-D object painting events for kids, and other learning events in both towns. I also made a t-rex skull for everyone to see and to help get families out and about last winter. It's been on display several places, including the Butte library and courthouse. I also run a free program called Hide-a-Print Butte where I team up with a business to hide a 3-D printed object in town. It gives people a fun mystery and helps highlight businesses. The Facebook page has grown to over 300 followers.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

It makes me happy to give back to the people and communities that have helped me.

What else should people know about you?

I want people to know I am disabled. It takes me a long time to do even simple things, sometimes. I often struggle with what normal

people can do without any problem. But that has not and will not ever stop me. I smile and laugh a lot.

My mindset is "Legends don't stop because they have a boo-boo".



Opportunity Bank
OF MONTANA

Congratulations, Jenica!

We're proud of your leadership
and commitment to **excellence**.



Jenica Held

Retail Branch Manager, Butte

406-479-5144

jheld@oppbank.com

MEMBER
FDIC

HOLLY DILBECK

Age: 36

Butte born and raised “on the hill,” my childhood was shaped by old souls, the heart of a friendly neighbor, an overachieving work ethic, with that can-do spirit that Butte is known for.

At my core, I’m driven by connecting, good music, humor, and the belief that small acts of kindness create ripple effects far greater than we ever see. My professional journey has been rooted in early childhood development, education, prevention, and behavioral health. My deeper “why” has always come from my personal childhood experiences, which led me to advocate for youth who learn or live differently and to create opportunities where they feel seen, safe, and supported. My mission is inclusion—creating a seat at any table for anyone, regardless of their status or differences.

I’m also a proud mom to Timber and Delaney, who inspire me every day to keep building a community that is safe, inclusive, and full of possibilities.

Occupation

Ever since I was 13 years old, I could be found in a classroom teaching, down the hall handling a crisis, leading youth leadership groups, or working in behavioral/mental health settings. My former role as a teacher fueled my lifelong passion for advocating for young people.

I am now beginning a new chapter as an Implementation Specialist with the Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI), a Montana-based nonprofit dedicated to reducing suicidality and improving mental health outcomes for adolescents in rural and under-resourced communities. My work with RBHI reflects my lifelong commitment to supporting youth, families, and communities through compassion, connection, and awareness. This also aligns with my motto: “It only takes one caring adult to make a difference in a child’s future.”

Community & volunteer activities

Community service and youth activities have always been cornerstones of my life. I’ve been involved with local PTO groups, the DUI Task Force, Tavern Association, Kiwanis, Key Club, Builders Club, Butte Parks & Trails, and countless school and youth partnerships. I’ve led efforts such as becoming the director of the Montana Bar Fairies (Butte Chapter), which promotes DUI prevention and safe rides home. I’ve also spent many years coaching volleyball, T-ball, and softball.

What inspires me most is seeing young step

into leadership roles, building their self-worth and confidence, and watching them realize their voice and their power in shaping the future of our community.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area?

Butte is a place where people take care of each other. I love the way co-workers turn into family members, neighbors become lifelong best friends, and the way we all rally together through the darkest days. Living, working, and volunteering here means being part of something bigger than yourself.

What else should people know about you?

I had to learn at a young age that it’s not the cards you’ve been dealt, but the way you play the game. The most important thing I strive for is to normalize the truth that adverse or negative experiences do not label or define you.

I believe my success, compassion, and resilience is owed to my family, friends, and the people in our community who influenced me, guided me, taught me, showed me grace, and most importantly, cared deeply.

Most of the credit goes to my late dad, Robbie Lochrie—a man who faced more hardships yet still carried the kind of generosity that would make him give the shirt off his back to a stranger. He taught me that kindness, empathy, gratitude, and paying it forward aren’t just values, they’re a way of life. His favorite saying, “Someone, somewhere is happy with less than you have,” still guides me today. From him, I learned that the greatest wealth or legacy isn’t money, but the friendships, laughter, and the good you leave behind.

Through his volunteer work as a firefighter my dad witnessed the tragic death of a newborn caused by a house fire. That moment transformed his service into prevention work, launching a youth fire safety education program as the department’s mascot clown, Seymour Safety. Traveling around Montana and appearing at local events, schools, and fundraisers with the slogan “Stop, Drop, and Roll,” his mission was to ensure no community suffered a preventable tragedy again. Seymour Safety made sure every newborn went home from the hospital with a smoke detector. He even traveled all the way to Washington, D.C., in a fire truck to accept a congressional award.

Why is this important? Because it’s a story of “see the change, be the change” and a reminder to all that children do not need a perfect adult—they just need a caring role model.



CONGRATULATIONS



Holly Dilbeck

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*Love,
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TAYLOR LIVA/MARGARET NIELSEN

(nominated for their cohesive partnership
for their collaborative work at Montana
Technological University)

Age : Both 22

Taylor - While I was not born in Butte, my family is from here, and I moved here when I was just two months old. I attended West Elementary, East Middle School, and Butte High School. After high school graduation, I decided to stay in town and go to Montana Tech. I got my degree in Exercise and Health Science and am now in Physical Therapy School.

Margaret - I was born and raised in Butte, and I attended Margaret Leary Elementary, East Middle School, and Butte High School. After attending public school in the Butte School District, I knew I wanted to stay in Butte, so Montana Tech was the obvious choice. This was not only because it was right

here in my own backyard, but also because Montana Tech's nursing program is the best in Montana and I knew I'd receive an exceptional education.

Occupation

Taylor - While in college, I got very involved on campus and had many different jobs in my time there. For the past four years I have worked as an Orientation Leader, and in the past two years, with my good friend Margaret Nielsen, alongside our dean of students, worked to completely reimagine new student orientation. We worked hard to build a meaningful experience for these students and give them a warm welcome to Butte. We saw a drastic increase in enrollment of about 400%, which was so inspiring to see the growth over the years. I just started a hybrid Physical Therapy Program through Hawaii Pacific University, that allows me to

stay right here in Butte and travel often for labs. After graduating, I plan on working in Montana and continuing to serve the community that raised me.

Margaret - For the past 2 years, along with my friend and colleague, Taylor Liva, I have led and implemented new student orientation at Montana Technological University. During this time, we completely reimaged and transformed orientation for all incoming students in order to provide a truly meaningful experience that would build a foundation for their sense of belonging at Tech and within Butte. This included a streamlined check-in and move-in process, opportunities to connect with Butte businesses, organizations, and recreation options, and a return to hosting the tradition of Convocation on historic Leonard Field. As a result of our efforts, we estimate that we saw a 400% increase in student and family participation in our orientation. This is incredible because that also means that many more students and families exploring Butte and supporting our local businesses. Later this month I will begin my nursing career at St. James Healthcare on the Medical Surgical Floor. This is very spe-

cial to me, as I wanted to stay right here in my hometown to be able to provide healthcare to my community.

Community & volunteer activities

Taylor - Montana Tech has given me the opportunity to give back through community service in many different ways. My freshman year I participated in a community clean-up day called Make A Difference Day. I have also taken part in food drives for the Rescue Mission and Emergency Food Bank and our on-campus food pantry. We also hosted a winter clothing drive for the Rescue Mission and were able to donate tie blankets made by the students at Tech. I am very proud of the work I was able to do while serving on the student government as both a senator, and last year as the Student Body President. While in college, I have also been able to help out with a few events for the Montana History Club, which I hold near and dear to my heart as it was my favorite club to be a part of in high school.

LIVA/ NIELSEN, continued on Page 11



CONGRATULATIONS

Maggee Nielsen and Taylor Liva
on being named to the
20 under 40 list.

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MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

J.R. GUSTAFSON

Age: 36

I was born in North Dakota but have been a Montana native in spirit since childhood. My father was stationed at Fort Harrison in Helena through the military, and I started grade school there. I was raised in Helena and have lived in Montana most of my life, with the exception of graduate school. As soon as I finished school, I returned to Montana and took the first opportunity to move to Butte. This community has everything I love about Montana, outdoor access, the right size, a strong sense of history, and grit. Butte reminds me of Helena when I was growing up. Although Butte is growing (which is great), it still has a small-town feel that I love.

Community & volunteer activities

Our clinic team regularly participates in community service and sponsorships. This year we supported: George Grant Trout Unlimited, Butte Central Auction, Minor local sponsorship, Silver Bow Youth Leaders donation, Butte High Football sponsorship.

In previous years, our team has volunteered for and sponsored: Toys for Tots, Food Bank and Turkey Drive, Hypoxia, Uptown Hoops, Movies in the Park (Joybulation), Suicide Awareness Walk, Alzheimer's Walk, Special Olympics.

Community involvement matters to me because it builds connection, purpose, and momentum toward a stronger Butte. Giving back is a core value for our business and team.

Occupation

I am an Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist by training. Today, I'm also the owner and operator of an outpatient therapy clinic. While I still see patients, I also manage a team of 10; seven therapists and three front desk staff. I genuinely enjoy the business side of healthcare. I'm passionate about building something exceptional, providing quality care, and creating a supportive environment for both patients and my team. I believe high standards in healthcare matter, and I aim to uphold them every day.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area?

I love Butte, the outdoors, the people, the small-town feel, and the energy of a community on the rise. I enjoy mountain biking, fishing, hunting, and coaching youth hockey. I also love building a clinic that provides quality jobs, delivers excellent healthcare, and contributes to a community I believe in. I'm committed to supporting my team so they can support others. It's all connected - and it all has to matter.

What else should people know about you?

Above all else, I value my family and the time I spend with them. I want to set an example for my children about the importance of hard work, doing the right thing, and leading a meaningful life. I care deeply about the people I work with and the community I serve. I want everyone, myself included, to find reward in their profession, maintain work-life balance, and love where they live. I hope I'm helping build a space where that's possible.



LIVA / NIELSEN

continued from Page 10

Margaret - During my time at Montana Tech, I had many opportunities to give back through service. I've helped host community clean-ups and have organized and delivered food drive collections to the Rescue Mission and the Butte Food Bank. I've also led a winter clothing drive for the Rescue Mission. I'm especially proud of a recent project I co-led this past spring, which was a four-month community health project that focused on educating 4-5 year old children from underserved families about proper dental hygiene. We created an advertising campaign for this initiative, made multiple visits to classrooms, selected and read age-appropriate books to children about dental hygiene, created and distributed handouts for families, and even demonstrated proper tooth brushing and flossing techniques. The kids had lots of questions for us, and it was awesome being able to use our skills and education to help others in our community.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

Taylor - The sense of family that is so easily built. I love getting to meet a multitude of different people and learning about their experiences.

Margaret - The main thing I like best about living, working, and volunteering in Butte is the sense of community. Getting involved with and working at Montana Tech has allowed me to have such a unique opportunity to build and strengthen Montana Tech and Butte relations. Montana Tech has students from all over the country and world, and I consider myself fortunate that I am able to introduce them and their families to Butte - a place that has given me so much. The community and atmosphere of Butte are some of the main reasons why I have never thought about leaving my hometown.

What else should people know about you?

Taylor - I just graduated with honors from Tech in the Spring. My passion in life is to help others, and when I'm not too busy I love to spend time with family and friends.

Margaret - I just graduated from Montana Tech this spring with honors. While I am not in school, I spend my time camping, fishing, going to concerts, and spending time with my family and friends.

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KARLEE JANE

Age: 39

I was raised on my family's cattle and quarter horse ranch in Augusta, Montana along the beautiful Rocky Mountain Front. I moved to Butte in spring of 2019 after meeting my now partner in a sweet little uptown coffee shop the previous year. I adore the historic bones and artsy weirdness of the community. It didn't take much to convince me to transition from small town Dillon, which had been home since college.

Occupation

I am the owner and operator of Square Peg Framing. I have been in the picture framing industry for over sixteen years, and focus on the conservation and preservation of art, prints, photos, ephemera, and so much more for home, gallery, private, commercial, and archival purposes. I totally stumbled into this trade and quickly fell in love with it. With my art design and wood shop background, it utilizes some of my best talents and skills. I recently decided to add to my education and will start studying for my Master Certified Picture Framer certification. I am also a costumer and hair/makeup artist, mostly for stage, and some historic reenactments and independent films. I consider myself a jane-of-all trades and I relish learning new skills and crafts.

Community & volunteer activities

Supporting and advocating for visual and performing arts has long been a pursuit and passion. I have been involved with the Orphan Girl Children's Theatre as educational support, as well as building and designing costumes, hair, and makeup, for the past four seasons. One of the projects I am most proud of is creating the 12' luck dragon puppet, Falkor, for the performance of Never Ending Story last winter. The arts are a vital aspect of any community and hav-

ing accessible and inclusive spaces for kids is even more so. In the theater, the opportunities and educational facets are limitless, and everyone can find their place on or off stage. I've also been involved with the Imagine Butte Resource Center, Montana Folk Festival, and recently got involved with The Covellite Players and Queer Butte, starting with Rocky Horror Picture Show last fall and Abba: After Dark this summer. I take an interest in my community because I need my community to take an interest in me. I offer my strengths to my community, because someday I may need to lean on theirs. Raising my kids in a community that cares is important. If they are surrounded by a community that builds and supports, they in turn will know how to continue that growth. And of course, communities are stronger when their volunteers and community organizations are well-supported and well-funded.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

Where to start! I love the mountains, the moonrises over the East Ridge, family treks around the Big M Hill. Butte's deep history of diverse cultures and experiences, and the pride of its resolve and resolute stubbornness are things I admire ever so. The kinships I have found here, especially in the arts community, are heartwarming. When there is a need to come together to make things happen, people show up and give so much of their time and care. There is a lot to like about Butte. The historic district is one of the best. But it's the people I like the most.

What else should people know about you?

I love cats. I am a mum to three marvelous children. I have degrees in Visual Arts and English with minors in Theater and



Design. Some of my favorite childhood memories include wearing flannel pajamas and mud boots, early morning sun shining, riding bareback in the field in front of my

house. The arts are essential, and I will always find a way to be creating, performing, educating, and adding to creative, collaborative spaces.



CATHERINE SCARFFE

Age: 38
I was born & raised in San Diego, CA. I came to Montana when I was 20 years old, to visit a friend, and a month later I decided to move here permanently. My Grandmother was raised in Butte & Helena before moving to California

Occupation
I work for Town & Country Foods as the Vice President/Treasurer and the Store Manager for the Dillon location. T&C Foods is a 100% employee-owned grocery store with 9 locations in Montana.

Community & volunteer activities
My company encourages each of our locations to be a part of the community they live and work in. We recently purchased 2 hogs from the 4H auction and will donate the meat to the hot lunch program. I am a member of the Beaverhead Trails Coalition in Dillon. Picking up trash and making the trails & campsite better than I found them brings me joy that others can enjoy the mountains as much as I do.

Q&A
What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

My favorite part of living in Montana is the mountains. I love to be able to look in any direction and see a mountain range. When I'm hiking and camping, I feel the most content and at peace. Being able to incorporate mountains and exercise together prepares my body & mind for the week to come, and I feel I can accomplish anything. I enjoy my job every day and the customers I've gotten to know over the years. Working in a local grocery store, you see the same faces daily and are able to create friendly relationships with many people from the community.

What else should people know about you?

I am a mom to a wonderful little boy who brings me joy and laughter every day. I enjoy the small town feel of Dillon where things aren't so rushed and busy. Dillon is a caring community that is strong, and family & neighbors come first.



FLINT

continued from Page 5

great recreation a stone's throw away. I love Butte's history and that even 16 years later I am still learning facts that fascinate me. It is a hub of history, art, new innovation, and collaboration to make for a great home for everyone.

What else should people know about you?

One of the things I look for most in my life and business is supporting our local small businesses. Through this venture I have met so many great people and truly enjoy going to collect all my restaurant items from other businesses in town. It may be easier to shop online or go through a restaurant outlet, but the impact of spending local is so great. We keep the dollars in our community, our friends and neighbors are supported and if you are going to spend it anyway, spend it locally. The joyful feeling of support from a successful day in a small business is unmatched.

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DR. ADDYSON ENGLAND/DR. BRYAN MARK

(nominated for the collective presence they bring to the community)

Age: Both 35

Addyson - I was primarily raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I lived in Denver Colorado during dental school and fell in love with the mountains. After my one-year GPR residency in Houston I moved to California to be with my husband during his lengthy training.

Bryan - I was born and raised in Denver Colorado. I didn't leave Colorado until I matched for my residency surgical training at UCI in California. After completing five years of residency, I completed a year of Sports Medicine fellowship at UCLA. I did enjoy my time next to the ocean; however, we both wanted to be in the mountains. Fall of 2023 we moved to Butte for both of our jobs.

Occupation

Addyson - I am a general dentist.

Bryan - I am an Orthopedic Surgeon with a specialty in Sports Medicine.

Community and volunteer activities

Addyson - My office and I are members of the Chamber of Commerce, support Butte

Rescue Mission (BRM) and the Annual Banquet, Butte Heroes and am coordinating up a dental outreach day in 2026. I am interested in being an active community member because I value connection and the opportunity to make a positive impact. I believe that when people contribute their time and skills, it not only strengthens the community but also creates a sense of belonging, something I have been trying to obtain since moving here. I enjoy learning from others, sharing ideas and working together towards goals that benefit everyone.

Bryan - I support Butte Rescue Mission (BRM), BRM Annual Banquet, Montana Tech, Western Athletics, Butte Central and Butte High as well as Intermountain Health. I am interested in being an active community member because I believe my role extends beyond the operating room. Contributing to the community allows me to promote health, support education, help build systems that improve people's lives, and support high school and college athletics. I value collaboration on the field, in the hospital and in the community; I see active involvement to give back.

ENGLAND/MARK, continued on Page 16



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BRITTNEY DOHERTY

Age: 38

I was born in Anaconda, and now I live in Butte with my family. These two towns aren't just dots on a map to me; they're home in every sense of the word. I've been lucky enough to spend my entire life experiencing what Montana has to offer. It's incredible how much adventure and natural beauty surrounds our hometown, right at our fingertips and often just a short drive away. The people here, the rhythm of life, even the way the seasons roll in—it's all part of who I am. I've never lived anywhere else, and I wouldn't want to. This place holds my roots, my memories, and my heart.

Occupation

I've been proud to call St. James Healthcare my professional home for the past 17 years. The first seven years of my career were spent in the Operating Room as a surgical technologist, where I discovered my passion for perioperative care. The OR quickly became more than just a workplace, it became a place constantly challenging me both mentally and physically. With ever-evolving technology and techniques, there's always something new to learn, making every day an opportunity for growth.

What makes the OR truly special is teamwork. It's a dynamic environment where every role, no matter the title, is essential to the success of our patients and each other. Over time, we become more than colleagues; we become a family. The trust and mutual reliance we cultivate as a team are essential to delivering safe, efficient, and compassionate care, forming the backbone of our success in the operating room.

About ten years ago, I had the opportunity to step into a leadership role and with this transition brought its own set of challenges, some difficult, many rewarding, but all deeply fulfilling. Each year I've spent in healthcare has added layers of experience, knowledge, and a profound sense of purpose.

Honestly, I can't imagine being anywhere else.

Community & volunteer activities

For seven years—excluding the COVID year—I've had the privilege of volunteering as the 5th grade volleyball coach at my daughter's school, Whittier Elementary. Each season, I've had the joy of watching kids grow, not just in their volleyball skills, but in their confidence, teamwork, and belief in themselves. Seeing their faces light up when their first serve goes over the net or



when they are so excited to get three touches on the ball by working together as a team to get the ball over is a moment I would never get tired of. It's a reminder of why I kept coming back year after year.

My goal as a coach has always been simple: to give these kids a chance to fall in love with the sport and to have something exciting to look forward to each year. It's about more than just volleyball, it's about creating memories, building character, and fostering a sense of belonging.

I'm also incredibly fortunate to work at St. James, where community service is woven into the fabric of our culture. One of my favorite initiatives is "Dress a Child" with United Way. There's nothing quite like seeing the pure joy on a child's face as they pick out new clothes for the school year. It's a moment that warms the heart and reminds me why giving back matters.

Honestly, any opportunity to see a child light up—to be part of something that excites and empowers them—is what makes it all worthwhile. Kids are our future, and investing in them is the most meaningful work I know.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

I was raised in the great outdoors—hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, skiing, and four-wheeling were just part of everyday life. Growing up here teaches you to truly appreciate the natural beauty we have right in our backyard. My goal is to give my kids even richer experiences of the Montana lifestyle, helping them build the same deep connection to this land and community that shaped me.

DOHERTY, continued on Page 16

Celebrating our very own 20 Under 40



Bryan Mark, MD

Orthopedic Surgeon—
Sports Medicine



Brittney Doherty

Supervisor of
Surgical Support

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CHUCKIE RICHARDS

Age: 33

I was raised in beautiful Butte, America, with family roots that are as deep as the Mountain Con. I am the proud son of Chuck and Debbie Richards, and my mom's favorite of three children. I have two older siblings: my brother Dan'l Richards and my sister Angie Fett, whom both followed in my mom's footsteps and have had amazing careers in education. I, on the other hand, took a different path that is TBD.

Occupation

I am the managing partner for The Miner's Hotel, 51 Below Speakeasy, and The Miner's Café located in the heart of Uptown Butte. I was extremely grateful to have been asked to join this venture by my business partner/best friend, Beau Randall. Beau endorsed me to owners Tom and Billie Klemp, who didn't

know me at the time but have adopted me as family.

My role allows me a ton of flexibility and creative control, granting me the opportunity to try new things and explore different avenues to grow our business. I love that no day is the same; one day I'm a plumber, and the next I am in a very serious Mario Kart tournament with bar patrons. To say I have the greatest job in the world would be an understatement.

Community & volunteer activities

I am the Vice President of the TBID board. The primary goal of the TBID is to enhance the economic vitality of Butte by promoting tourism and attracting visitors to Butte.

I'm a member of the Uptown Bar Association. We recently established the UBA with a shared objective of uniting uptown businesses and leveraging each other's expertise

and unique spaces to organize unforgettable events that inspire participants to discover all that Uptown Butte has to offer.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working, and volunteering in the area?

Butte has a strong sense of community. People here look out for each other, and there's a genuine pride in our history and traditions. Whether it's pitching in at local events, supporting small business, or helping preserve our heritage, there's a feeling that we're all part of something bigger.

What else should people know about you?

My far better half makes me the second most qualified person in our household to receive this award. In 2017, I married my high school sweetheart, Jaimee (Paffhausen) Rich-



ards, a physical therapist at Stenson PT and the president of Copper City Softball Little League. Together, we have a beautiful daughter named Charlie, who keeps us laughing and reminding us who's really in charge. The best workdays are when Charlie tags along. She gets her whipped cream and sticker fix from Dan in the café, and Bluey overtakes the surround sound. I am extremely grateful for these moments, and it wouldn't be possible without the support from my family, business partners, and our amazing staff.

ENGLAND / MARK

continued from Page 14

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

Addyson - I absolutely love Butte. Butte America's people are hardworking, true to their word individuals that support the community and everyone around them. That is what makes it rewarding when time and effort is contributed to the community. I enjoy being involved in the volunteer aspect but always feel I can do more - I am really looking forward to 2026, and to get the dental outreach day going so I can provide my skillset to the community.

I also value how easy it is to step outside and enjoy what Butte and Montana has to offer, whether it's hiking, trail running, rafting, fishing, digging for crystals, sifting for sapphires or garnets. Growing up in Phoenix, downhill skiing or snowboarding is still not my jam, but I am thrilled to have multiple areas to enjoy cross country skiing.

Bryan - The unique blend of community, tradition, and opportunity. Butte has a proud history and strong sense of identity. That carries over to how people support one another, in the community as well as the athletic teams. Being involved with both college and high school sports allows me to connect with student athletes, coaches, and families in a meaningful way. Beyond athletics I value the chance to serve a community where the impact of the work is tangible and appreciated.

It's incredibly rewarding to help athletes as well as members of the community recover and return to the field or to their daily lives.

On a personal level, access to Montana's outdoors provides balance and perspective - whether it's hiking, skiing, or simply spending time outside. Living and working here allows me to combine my professional skills with my passion for service in a community that feels like home.

What else should people know about you?

Addyson - I am a passionate and caring person who puts a lot of heart into everything I do. I love spending time with my husband and rescue dogs in Thompson Park, Maud S or the M. I enjoy being creative through crafts and cooking, and I love the outdoors. I am a hard worker who gives my best, but I always try to keep a balance with the things that make life meaningful. I am blessed to call Butte, America my home.

Bryan - While I tend to be more reserved, I am very thorough and dedicated to my work. I take pride in staying up to date so I can bring the best knowledge and care to what I do. I enjoy collaborating with the trainers and teams, and work hard to contribute in a way that supports everyone's success. I may not always be the loudest voice in the room, but I am consistent, dependable, and fully committed to both athletics and the community.

DOHERTY

continued from Page 15

I'm fortunate to have a career at St. James that gives me purpose and financially provides for my family. Not only do I get to stay local, so my family can call Butte home, but I get to be proud to work for an organization who values their caregivers and community.

Volunteering in the community where you live is deeply rewarding, especially when it involves supporting the kids who represent our future. There's something special about giving back to the place that gave so much to you.

What else should people know about you?

My family and friends are the ones I enjoy spending my time with. I am fortunate with some of the best. In the spring/summer I will

be on the river, camping or out on the lake. This year I have also ventured into trying out golf, that's still a love hate relationship. When fall rolls around, you'll find me at every home Griz football game - missing one just isn't an option. Winter months are spent skiing, sledding and ice-fishing or enjoying a warm soak in a hot springs.

I have a not-so-secret obsession with coffee shops; I literally can't leave town without stopping at one. It's a problem... but a delicious one.

Live music? Count me in. I'll never turn down a concert, no matter the genre. That said, I also cherish the slower moments, those cozy, do-nothing days spent binge-watching Netflix or getting lost in a good book.

CONGRATULATIONS

CHUCKIE RICHARDS

On being Honored in 20 Under 40



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QUINCY LEE

Age: 35

I was born and raised in Butte as the youngest of seven, and this community has always been home. I attended Whittier Elementary, East Middle School, and Butte High before going on to Montana Tech, where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in General Engineering with a minor in Occupational Safety & Health.

Growing up in such a big family shaped me in every way. I'm lucky to come from a supportive family and have an amazing network of friends, and I don't take that for granted. I know not everyone has that kind of built-in support system, which is why I believe community is so important. The resilience, humor, and willingness to lean on each other that I learned from my family are mirrored in Butte itself. This town has a way of showing up for one another, and that's what makes it so special. It's also why I've chosen to raise my two daughters here; I want them to grow up surrounded by that same sense of connection.

Occupation

Today I'm a Real Estate Advisor with Engel & Völkers Butte and the founder of Joybulation, which creates community-based events,

most recently Movies in the Park. Real estate has given me the freedom to do both: helping people find homes while also giving back to the community they're investing in with their purchase. I love that balance; serving clients during one of life's biggest transitions while also creating spaces for connection, joy, and giving back.

The path here hasn't been a straight line, and I think that's one of my greatest strengths. While attending Montana Tech, I worked at some of Butte's staple restaurants, Lydia's, Mack Riv, Fred's, and Perkins, which gave me a strong foundation in customer service. I had the opportunity to intern with NorthWestern Energy, Montana Resources, and Pioneer Technical, and later worked full time as an Engineer with TREC, then as an Account Manager at the Port of Montana. Working for companies that play such a large role in Butte's economy gave me an appreciation for just how many moving parts it takes, and how much diversity it requires, to make our community thrive.

I also spent five years as a multi-line claims adjuster with Cincinnati Insurance, handling property, auto, and liability claims, and had

the privilege of helping at my husband's family business, Keenan Jewelers, where I saw firsthand the pride and dedication it takes to run a small local business.

Each of these experiences, whether in restaurants, large companies, small businesses, or community events, has shaped how I work today: with attention to detail, problem-solving skills, resilience, and a people-first mindset. Real estate and Joybulation allow me to pull it all together; helping people, strengthening community, and leaving things better than I found them.

Community & volunteer activities

Community has always been at the heart of what I do. Out of Covid came JoyFit406, a fitness business I created to remind people (and myself) that movement, laughter, and connection are essential, especially when the world felt heavy. It started with free classes in my garage and on Zoom, then in the Hillcrest parking lot, and eventually grew into a full schedule of Oula dance fitness, cycling, and strength classes at the KC (Knights of



Columbus). JoyFit became less about working out and more about creating a space for people to gather, release, and connect.

LEE, continued on Page 18



Congratulations, Quincy Lee
on being honored as an outstanding community member!
Your Engel & Völkers Butte Team

ASHLEIGH PRESTON

Age: 32

I was born and raised in Butte. I have one son named Daxtyn who is 9 and another boy on the way (arriving any day).

Occupation

I am working at Big Sky on Waterford as the Wellness Director. I have been here over 4 years and absolutely love it. I love the relationships I have made with all of my residents and their families over the years. I currently oversee both Memory care and Assisted Living ensuring that the resident's needs are met. I also lead a team of med techs and caregivers. I started my journey in healthcare in 2011 when I received my CNA

license. I started as a CNA, working my way up to medication assistant, Memory care coordinator and now the Wellness Director.

Community & volunteer activities

I have volunteered in lots of different fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. I also run the youth bowling leagues at Star Lanes where I have over 200 youth bowlers. I volunteer on the Board of Directors for the Butte USBC and volunteer with local tournaments. I am very involved in the youth bowling program in Butte and helping grow the sport to our youth.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

Butte has always been home to me. There is no community quite like it. I love how much our community will come together during the worst and best of times, rallying to help our own.

What else should people know about you?

Family always comes first. My boys are my life and I would do anything for them. Outside of work, you can often find me at the bowling alley. I have been bowling since I could walk and was the first female in Butte to bowl a 300 at Star Lanes. Bowling is very big



in our family. I enjoy sharing my love of bowling with both my son and also my little sister. I took over the youth program in Butte 3 years ago and have enjoyed meeting and sharing my love of bowling with so many youth in Butte. Growing up, I also raced motocross across our beautiful state.

LEE

continued from Page 17

That time cemented my belief that community isn't just important, it's everything. Today, I carry that forward by teaching weekly dance fitness classes through Butte-Silver Bow Parks & Rec where classes are free where donations are accepted to support the Butte Parks and Trails Foundation.

I've also had the chance to host special fundraiser dance classes and joyful community events like the Spring Soirée, Barbie Party, and Rudolph's Rendezvous. As a past board member of the Butte Carousel, I was also able to contribute to their Mardi Gras Gala. These gatherings not only brought people together in fun and creative ways, but they also raised money for causes like Orphan Girl Children's Theatre, Friends of Stodden Park, Ability Montana, Special Olympics, Safe Space, Pride, Action Inc. (Mining City Christmas), the Butte Food Bank, and Toys for Tots.

I've been fortunate to grow up in a big, supportive family and to have friends who show up for me in big ways. But I realize not everyone has that, and that's why I think community is so vital. Everyone deserves to feel like they belong and to have people who cheer them on, even if they aren't family.

To me, being part of a thriving community doesn't mean you have to spend your life savings or dedicate every spare moment. It means doing what you can, when you can. Shovel a neighbor's sidewalk. Pick up trash when you see it. Volunteer once a month. Many hands really do make light work, and when we each contribute in our own way, the whole community benefits.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

What I love most is the people. Butte is tough and resilient, but also deeply loyal and generous. When our community rallies behind something, it's powerful, you can feel it.

I also love how creative, diverse, and talented people here are. I'm a social creature, and when you take the time to get to know someone, you discover incredible stories, skills, and quirks. That's one of my favorite parts of being involved in the community; I get to learn about people's journeys, their passions, and their gifts. Those face-to-face conversations put the humanity back into everything, you see people for who they really are, in all their strengths and struggles. It reminds you that we're all so much more alike than we think, all just trying to make it through the best way we can.

What else should people know about you?

You don't have to have a fancy title or be the CEO of a major company to make things happen. What you need is the willingness to get uncomfortable, the resilience to hear "no" more times than you'd like, and the creativity to pivot and keep going until you find a way forward. I'm passionate and a little Type A, so when I'm told "no," I don't stop. I just find another way to make it happen. That persistence has shaped me.

At my core, I'm a connector and a doer. I believe in leaving people, places, and projects better than I found them, and I try to in-

fuse joy into everything I do, whether that's through real estate, community events, or teaching a fitness class. I'm proud of my roots, grateful for the people who shaped me, and committed to helping Butte thrive for the next generation.

And as the youngest of seven... let's just

say I learned early how to make sure my voice is heard. I love to dance, sing, and sprinkle in a little silly goosery in everything I do, because joy is meant to be shared, and at the end of the day, we're all just trying to navigate the short time we have together in this silly little life.



CONGRATULATIONS *Ashleigh Preston*

We're proud to celebrate Ashleigh Preston, Wellness Director at Big Sky on Waterford, who has been recognized by

the *Montana Standard* as one of the top community leaders under 40. For over four years, Ashleigh has been a steady source of compassion and professionalism, helping residents thrive with dignity, independence, and joy. She leads her team with empathy and excellence, fostering an environment built on trust and respect. We are truly grateful for her dedication and proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition.



BIG SKY ON WATERFORD
Senior Living and Memory Care
Caring people | Serving people | Improving lives

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Butte, MT 59701
406-494-4900
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JONATHAN DUPUIS

Age: 28

My family moved to Butte, from Bozeman, when I was one. They shortly moved out to Divide when I was three. Our family has been in Divide since the early 1900s, and we still have an old homestead where their mining claim was. I attended Divide for K-8th. After that I attended Butte High School and graduated in 2014. I earned my B.S. in Professional and Technical Communications in 2017 from Montana Tech. After graduation I worked for the Bureau of Mines and Geology for several years as an Archivist specializing in digital preservation and restoration. I briefly moved away to Minnesota, but you know what they say about Butte, you can stay away. I moved back in 2022 and have been printing ever since!

Occupation

I am currently the proud owner of Park Street Printers. I opened the doors on August 1st of 2024 after purchasing the existing print shop. If there is a product you're looking for that has ink on it, we can handle it. Whether that's simple flyers and office printing, full-service mailing and design services, or adhesives and permanent outdoor signage. I love being able to beautify

Butte and help create lasting visual updates to business, both inside and out. We service a large portion of southwest Montana as well, from Phillipsburg, Ennis, Whitehall, Deer Lodge, and Anaconda and all the towns in between.

Community & volunteer activities

I spend most of my volunteer time serving the Church. For the past several years I have been volunteering with Montana Tech Chi Alpha, a campus ministry. The biggest piece of that for me is being able to mentor and build relationships with college students. Those relationships continue past their graduations, and I can watch them pursue and succeed at their dreams. I also serve as deacon at Butte Community Bible Church where I respond to the needs of the community in varying ways. Whether that's moving someone into new housing, providing rides from the Butte Rescue Mission, or providing gas and meal cards to those in need. If I'm needed, I'll be there.

Q&A

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the area?

Butte will always be home for me, and I love

this city. Butte has such a strong character and is setting itself up for tremendous growth. I've loved watching Butte both embrace its history and desire a better tomorrow for the next generation. Between the accessibility to the outdoors, the festivals, and major growth just around the corner I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Owning a business uptown has been an incredible experience. This city is so community focused and tight knit that it feels more like working with family and friends, rather than customers. The relationships I've built here extend far beyond the workplace and it truly feels like we are all working on bettering Butte together.

What else should people know about you?

As someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment, I find most of my hobbies revolve around movement as well. It doesn't matter if I'm snowboarding, longboarding, mountain biking, or motorcycling, as long as I'm going somewhere. I also enjoy photography, especially landscape photography. I've always said that I could never paint, but since God has done all of the hard work, all I have to do capture it.



20 UNDER FORTY

Thank You!
to our wonderful community
for nominating outstanding
individuals for our
20 under 40!



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