



MAPS Students  
Win Regional  
Emmy Awards  
Page 7

Summer 2019 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

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## Applications open July 15 for Artist's Innovation Award

Applications will be available online July 15 for the Montana Arts Council's Artist's Innovation Program Award.

In order to foster environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated, this program rewards Montana artists who have demonstrated:

- Innovation in their work and artwork;
- Originality and dedication in their creative pursuits;
- A capacity for self-direction.

### How we define innovation

Innovation is the act of introducing something new or different to further an artist's vision and practice. This can mean new methods, applications, perspectives, elements, forms, materials, technology integration, project concepts and/or processes that result from study, experimentation or experiences. Innovation can be from any era of an artist's career, and can be a personal evolution, or an evolution for the field, or both. Innovation is applicable to traditional art and contemporary art.

### Awards and Application Deadlines

Up to six awards of \$5,000 each will be distributed for this cycle.

The deadline to submit applications is **Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019**. Learn more at [www.art.mt.gov](http://www.art.mt.gov).

## Colin Meloy's "Wildwood" makes world premiere at Grandstreet Theatre

By Marga Lincoln  
for the *Independent Record*,  
June 6,  
Reprinted with permission

So, what do you do when your baby brother is kidnapped by crows?

Well, if you're Prue McKeel, you leap into action and go right after them.

Even if it means entering the dreaded Impassable Wilderness.

Thus, unfolds the high adventure tale of "Wildwood."

The best-selling novel, written by Helena native son Colin Meloy, made its world premiere in an adaptation by Jennifer Schlueter June 6-16 at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena.

Not only is "Wildwood" full of "woods magic," but the very fact it's appearing on Grandstreet's stage is quite the fantastic tale.

Indie rock star Meloy of The Decemberists is a former Grandstreet kid, and thus Grandstreet miraculously got first dibs on staging a production. It appears courtesy of Laika Pictures, which has optioned the novel for the screen.

But back to the baby-saving heroics.

Just as Prue (Candace Hatten) is plunging into Wildwood, classmate Curtis Mehlberg (Kai Moser) follows hot on her heels, admonishing her about assorted rules she's breaking and homework that's due. But both abandon all caution to save Baby Mac.

They will confront the murder of crows that just stole Mac, but also meet a troop of sarcastic, saber-wielding coyotes in uniform, squirrels in three-piece suits, Wise Owl Regina, a Dowager Governess, a bevy of blundering



Prue (Candace Hatten) is about to lose Baby Mac (Gracie Fay Petersen) to the Wildwood, and embark on an epic journey to retrieve him.

(Photo by Thom Bridge/Independent Record)

bureaucrats and a band of bandits.

They'll also learn who they really are and what they're capable of.

This is a mere glimpse of the fun oddities in this swash-buckling and witty adventure.

"It's very whimsical, playful and fun," says guest director Sarah Butts. "It's funny and has moments of great heart."

There's plenty of mystery and menace as well.

"There are elements of danger," adds education director Marianne Adams, the show's producer. "It takes place today in a magical world of Wildwood, which is its own magical universe."

This is a world where kids – nerdy, book-loving kids – take charge.

See Wildwood, page 5

## handMADE Montana opens in Polson

By Kristi Niemeyer

Two weeks before she opens the doors of handMADE Montana Retail and Production House to the public, Carol Lynn Lapotka is relaxed and gregarious, even though her to-do list seems insurmountable. A crew of carpenters is in the attic, repairing broken trusses in her 110-year-old building on Polson's Main Street. A new employee is painting the inside of drawers and organizing inventory.

At the same time that Lapotka puts finishing touches on the shop/production space, she's organizing the upcoming Summer MADE Fair, June 23 at Caras Park in Missoula. And buying a house.

"I work fairly well in intensity," she says.

### More talent than we can contain

For Lapotka, her new 2,000-square-foot space is the logical next step in a business that's been bustling almost since its inception. She graduated from Edgewood College in Madison, WI, with a degree in fine arts, graphic design and environmental studies. Those passions meshed in REcreate Designs as she began "foraging" for fabric in thrift stores and at rummage sales, and crafting unique clothing from her finds.

She worked in her basement until she and her husband moved to Missoula in 2007 so he could attend law



Carol Lynn Lapotka in her new handMADE Montana Retail and Production house, opening July 1 on Polson's Main Street.

school. Then her business occupied the second bedroom of their rental until she found a studio space at Zootown Arts Community Center.

When her husband took a job with the Lake County Attorney's office and they moved to St. Ignatius in 2010, she worked in a 600-square-foot studio at the end of their driveway. At the same time, the MADE fairs were expanding.

See handMADE Montana, page 5

## Mary Agnes Roberts (M.A.): A Remembrance

When Mary Agnes Roberts (fondly known as M.A.), passed away on March 18, 2019, she left behind a rich history representing 60 years of dedication, involvement and love for the Great Falls Symphony and the arts in the state of Montana, and beyond.

In 1959, M.A. was a driving force behind the establishment of the Great Falls Symphony. From then until her death at 97 years of age, she was a musician, advocate, fundraiser, benefactor, board member and staunch supporter of symphonies and the arts on a local, state and national level. In the late 1970s M.A. had a dream that the Great Falls Symphony would become home to a professional string quartet whose members could serve not only as principal string players in the orchestra, but be involved in the community and state as private teachers and provide education and outreach to Montana's rural communities.

Encouraged by her vision, the board of directors hired the first professional string quartet in 1979. From 1979 until 1986 she served as the volunteer manager of the quartet, traveling thousands of miles with the ensemble to bring them to rural communities across the state. On a state-wide level, M.A. was again instrumental in 1981 in the establishment of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, a statewide consortium represented by the seven major symphony organizations in Montana.

See M.A. Roberts, page 2



2

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Tatiana Gant, Executive Director**  
tatiana.gant@mt.gov



Photo by Czelsi Gómez

### Inspiration abounds in new fiscal year

While Jan. 1 signals the beginning of a new year, July 1 kicks off the Montana Arts Council (MAC) fiscal year. At this writing, we are just back from an engaging Council meeting in Lewistown. With only two a year, this meeting was packed with weighty business.

The Council approved the FY 2020 budget, acted on grant funding recommendations, and made important decisions for programs and services. With its diverse mix of perspectives, the Council is committed to the mission and dedicated to making the best decisions for the people of Montana.

Heading into the new fiscal year, MAC is inspired. Governor Bullock is considering the recommendations for the next Poet Laureate,

and we are anxious for his announcement. The Montana Artrepreneur Program will establish new learning cohorts this summer. Artist's Innovation Awards, accepting applications this fall, will embrace the fluid interaction of artistic fields by moving away from restrictive discipline categories. Folk arts programs, chiefly the Montana Circle of American Masters, will benefit from additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA.)

Congress's budgetary increase to the NEA translated into an extra 1% in MAC's annual Partnership Agreement. The small uptick makes a big difference in MAC's bottom line. With state funds for next biennium

only increasing as required by law, MAC is struggling to keep up with demand. In one grant program, 30% of the applicant pool was first-time submissions. MAC is walking a fine line to maintain consistent funding to established institutions while investing in budding programming.

### Gratitude for Montana's robust offerings

As this issue demonstrates, the arts are thriving in Montana. It is especially evident in the glorious summer when we are out enjoying our communities and resources. As you take in the highlighted events, pay attention to who is making them possible. Notice the sponsors and donors that share your values for arts, entertainment and engagement. Appreciation and patronage keep the cycle of support viable.

Pay attention to Montana's investments as well, be it through MAC, the Office of Tourism, or Montana State Parks. Communicate to your elected officials when it matches your priorities and why. Most of all, appreciate the staff and volunteers. Much like my Council, they are committed to doing the best for the people of Montana.

### Sign up for MAC's eNews

Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists' eNews
- Arts Educators' eNews
- Arts Organizations' eNews
- Public Artists' eNews

If you'd like to sign up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you'd like to receive at: art.mt.gov/enews or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov.

## Felton & Ferguson Woodworking: A dream realized

Montana Arts Council members and staff toured Felton & Ferguson Woodworking during the council's June meeting in Lewistown.

Harry Felton is a traditional woodworker and Jessica Ferguson has a background in interior design. Together they collaborate on furniture that incorporates contemporary design and traditional craft. Their one-of-a-kind originals have been showcased at the Western Design Conference in Jackson Hole, WY.

Their use of native reclaimed woods of the West, including chokecherry, black hawthorne and red fir, gives a unique geographical flavor to their furniture. They also embrace hand tools instead of machines.

Felton made several points to MAC members during their visit. His eloquent comments could apply to all artistic pursuits:

- "Each piece of wood, each work of art, has something to teach me ... What does being a working artist have to teach me? That I must have courage to begin and I require integrity to see it through."
- "Standing in front of a blank canvas, blank tree or slab of wood, can be a crushing pressure. I must take risks and execute them with honesty and skill."
- "The history, symbols, tradition and con-



Harry Felton and Jessica Ferguson: "Traditional woodworking is a forgotten craft in our world." (Photos by Czelsi Gómez)

text of my field must be known to me."

- "With each piece I am speaking to an audience: I must challenge them, I must meet them halfway; how much to placate/ how much to inspire?"
- "Traditional woodworking is a forgotten craft in our world. Our work is functional, by definition. It is also highly sculptural."
- "My work as the craftsman is not in the perfection of the final piece, but in my integ-

... I will know when I have stopped short or cut a corner. I must do each task, even the tedious or repetitive ones, to my full ability and standards."

"In my mind, Harry and Jessica have what so many want ... A dream realized," said Tom Cordingley, vice chairman of the Arts Council. "These two build furniture from scratch and it is obvious they love it. And they aren't afraid to show you how they do it."

See examples of the artists' work and their collaborative process at [www.jiferguson.com](http://www.jiferguson.com).



## M.A. Roberts (from page 1)

She served two terms as president, and received the organization's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award in 2000.

In 1991, she was recognized and awarded the Montana Governor's Award for Statewide Service to the Arts. As a result of her impact on symphonic music, M.A. was invited, and served two years on the national board of directors of the League of American Orchestras.

In the early 1990s M.A. took on the demanding challenge to establish and fund a GFSA Endowment. She was chair of the Endowment Committee for a number of years, and during her tenure, over \$1 million was raised for the organization.

In 2004, M.A. again had a dream, and was unrelenting in her determination to bring world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma to Great Falls as part of a celebration of the Cascade String Quartet's 25th anniversary. As a result of her efforts, Yo-Yo Ma became the first of a number of internationally known artists, including Itzak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori and others, who came to Great Falls in the ensuing years to perform.

M.A. was a performing member of the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra for 50 years. Earning a music education degree from Northwestern University, she was originally trained as a violinist, but studied both viola and cello in later years, in order to move into those sections as the orchestra needed players.



Mary Agnes Roberts

The Great Falls Symphony has established a memorial fund in honor of M.A. Roberts. Anyone who would like to honor her vision and belief in the importance of the arts may call the Great Falls Symphony at 406-453-4102.

— Carolyn Valacich (retired executive director of the Great Falls Symphony)

## STATE OF THE ARTS

*State of the Arts* is published four times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

*State of the Arts* welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

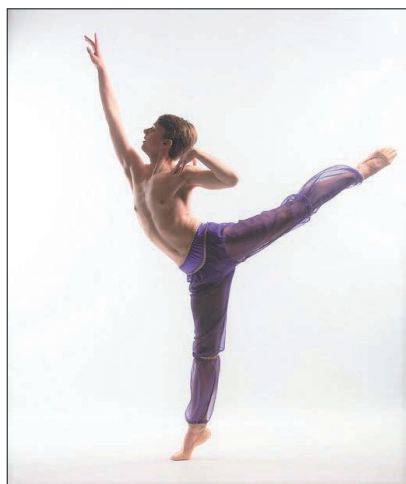
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**Next Deadline:** The deadline for submissions is September 4 for the Fall issue (October-December). Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov).

**Subscriptions:** *State of the Arts* is available free of charge upon request as a public service of the Montana Arts Council. To subscribe, call 406-444-6430, or update or sign up online at [art.mt.gov](http://art.mt.gov).

# CONGRATS TO ...

Helena High sophomore **Josh Fisk**, 16, who has accepted a place at the elite English National Ballet School in London, and will move there in September to train for three years. Last fall, with the help of ballet instructor Campbell Midgley, the artistic director at Queen City Ballet Company, Fisk submitted a video application to ENBS and in early winter received an email inviting him to attend a preliminary audition in London on March 14. After the two-hour audition that day, Fisk was handed an envelope



**Josh Fisk**

that invited him to the final audition the next day, where he competed with boys from all over the world, including London, Tokyo, Sydney and New York. With just two-and-a-half years of ballet under his belt, and no previous dance or gymnastics experience, Fisk was the least experienced candidate – most of the boys had been dancing 5-10 years. According to the school director, more than 500 dancers worldwide applied for a spot. Ultimately, 15 boys and 15 girls were offered a place at the three-year school, Josh among them. While continuing their studies of all the core disciplines, students will also rehearse, perform, and tour with English National Ballet, take classes and receive coaching from eminent guest teachers and dancers, and learn and perform historical and current repertoire by renowned international choreographers. Students are entered for a diploma in professional dance at Level 5 or 6, validated by Trinity College London. Following graduation, students have the opportunity to convert their diploma into a bachelor of arts degree in professional practice by undertaking an 18-month distance learning course at Middlesex University. “Josh is beyond a rarity,” says Midgley. “Simply stated, he is one of the most talented and naturally gifted dancers I’ve had the opportunity to work with.” She adds that his acceptance into this elite program “is a strong indication that he is likely to succeed in the highly competitive world of professional ballet upon graduation.” According to his mom, Julie Burk, her son watched a ballet dancer on TV three summers ago and “mumbled” something about ballet to her. She scheduled a lesson with Queen City Ballet “and Josh was hooked.” Fisk wants to pursue a professional career in ballet in Europe when he graduates from ENBS.

**Larry Stanfel** of Roundup, whose prize-winning fairytale, “The Princess of Evighet,” was transformed into a ballet by the Coastal Ballet Academy of Foley, AL, and staged at the George C. Meyer Performing Arts Center in Gulf Shores May 17-18. Coastal Ballet is directed by Madame Rio Cordy Barlow, a former student at the Royal School of Ballet, London, and soloist with the Miami Ballet. A ballet student for 17 years, Stanfel was out of action after open-heart surgery in 2010. His teacher suggested he write an original story on which a ballet could be based. He chose a fairytale as the medium, and “Princess” won the December 2013 prize at fairytalemagazine.com. Madame Barlow read the story in December 2017 and immediately decided to produce it. “Evighet” is the Norwegian word for eternity.



**Leslie Budewitz**

Bigfork author **Leslie Budewitz**, whose historical short story, “All God’s Sparrows” (*Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, May-June 2018), won the 2018 Agatha Award for Best Short Story. The Agatha Awards are given at the Malice Domestic convention, a celebration of the traditional mystery held in May in Bethesda, MD. “All God’s Sparrows” features real-life historical figure Mary Fields, also known as Stagecoach Mary and Black Mary, who came to Montana Territory in 1885 and worked for the Ursuline Sisters at St. Peter’s Mission outside Cascade; she later lived in Cascade

and died in Great Falls in 1914. In the award-winning story, Mary encounters a young mother of white and Blackfeet Indian descent and her daughter in a desperate situation. Mary is determined to intervene and with the help of Sister Louisine, a fictional young nun at the mission, devises the perfect solution. A second Stagecoach Mary story will be published by *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* later this year. Budewitz also won the 2018 Derringer Award from the Short Mystery Fiction Society in the long-short category for “With My Eyes,” published in *Suspense Magazine*, Jan-Feb 2019. In the tale, a Seattle banker falls for a beautiful Greek woman and sees what he wants to see, until he takes an eye-opening trip to Athens.

**Haley Teske**, Montana State University graduate architecture student, whose imagined design to transform an Italian city’s dilapidated train station into a cultural site has won her a place among the top finishers in a national student design competition. Torre Annunziata, Italy, is half a world away from Montana. Yet Teske’s design for the train station landed in the top 10 out of more than 500 entries in the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment Top 10 for Students competition, also called COTE. Her project envisions an upgrade of the run-down railway station and the addition of a repository, or antiquarium, to display artifacts found in Villa Oplontis. The improvements are intended to help attract visitors

to the economically depressed Italian community. Villa Oplontis is a luxurious Roman villa destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 which is located in Torre Annunziata. Teske, who grew up in Columbus, completed the design for a studio class taught by MSU architecture professor Bradford Watson. The institute’s COTE contest



**Haley Teske**  
(MSU photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez)

recognizes sustainable design solutions to climate change and the response to its projected impacts. Teske was the only single winner in this year’s competition. The other nine winners were group projects. Jurors for the contest said that Teske’s project “is a compelling urban design proposal that brings a different approach to viewing sustainable living within an existing, and historic, urban fabric. The design promotes public access to cultural heritage and fragile sites, while also acknowledging a dense streetscape and urban scale ...”

Members of the **Flathead Ellington Project**, who took their passion for jazz to New York City May 8-12 to perform at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. The Flathead Ellington Project is the brainchild of multi-instrumentalist Erica von Kleist, a Juilliard graduate who moved from New York City to Montana after an extensive career in jazz. She created it out of a desire to foster more serious study of jazz in the Flathead and to pay-forward some of the gifts she has been given. “My whole life has been a product of studying this music,” von Kleist told the *Daily Inter Lake*. “I’ve had so many life experiences because I’ve dived deep into this music and I want to give that to the students here.” Participants had to already be part of the jazz ensemble at their respective high schools, had to audition and make a recording, and had to commit to practice every Sunday and to engage a private tutor; the rhythm and horn sections each had to schedule periodic practice sessions. Of the 12 students who were initially accepted, the final number that traveled to New York with von Kleist and three Flathead band directors was nine. The performance on May 10 also featured tap-dance phenom Dewitt Fleming Jr., a mentor to the group.

– Excerpted from the *Daily Inter Lake*, April 14

**Big Sky Documentary Film Festival**, which was selected for a fourth year by *MovieMaker Magazine* for its list of Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee. The list, created annually to help guide filmmakers contemplating their festival strategy, points out the unique merits each festival offers to help a film find its next opportunity, such as pitch forums or distribution deals, and to help filmmakers navigate their career trajectory. “Industry recognition from this particular publication, independently created and curated by filmmakers, is especially meaningful to us,” said BSDFF director Rachel Gregg. “It is further proof that Big Sky is not just another forum for exhibition, we’re fostering a vital community for documentary filmmakers.” Big Sky programs more than 90% of its selections from an open call with discounted entry fees for students, Native filmmakers and Montana-made content. Submissions for the 2020 festival are open now.

Montana artists and Governor’s Arts Award recipients **Deborah Butterfield** and **John Buck**, who were named 2019 Honorary Award Recipients by the Kansas City Art Institute (Buck’s alma mater). Butterfield also displays new sculptures May 17-Aug. 9 at Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago, which also hosted an exhibit by the Bozeman couple’s son, **Hunter Buck**, titled “Impression & Memory” April 5-June 15. “I have long had the feeling that Butterfield could make one of her sculptures out of any material that you could give her – she is that masterful,” writes critic John Yau.

**Karen Leigh** of Kalispell, whose painting, “Hidden Meanings,” was recently selected for the prestigious Northwest Watercolor Society’s 79th annual International Exhibition. Her mixed media piece is inspired by doors and graffiti found in Brasov, Romania. Nationally known watercolor artist and workshop instructor Don Andrews, juror for the exhibition, chose 60 paintings from more than 350 entries submitted from around the world. The exhibition is on display until July 11 at Shoreline City Hall (just north of Seattle) in Shoreline, WA.

Whitefish artist **Shawna Moore**, whose encaustic paintings are part of a group show, “How the West Was Woman,” on display June 28-July 25 at Telluride Gallery of Fine Art in Colorado, alongside works by five other women painters “who work in and learn from the western landscape.” Gallery MAR in Park City, UT, hosts her most extensive solo show to date, “Wayfarer,” beginning July 26. The artist also teams up Montana artist **Michael Haykin** for “Time and Place: New Works by Moore and Haykin,” on display July 5-30 at Underscore Art in Whitefish, with a reception 6-9 p.m. July 11. The artistic peers and friends, who exchange ideas on art and an occasional studio visit, bring to this exhibition paintings that are autobiographical, with each artist exploring their chosen materials of oil on canvas for Haykin and encaustic on panel for Moore.



“Hidden Meanings” by Karen Leigh



Encaustic painting by Shawna Moore



## Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o Kristi Niemeyer, 207 6th Ave. E, Polson, MT 59860; or better yet, email kristi@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it’s at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for State of the Arts



4

### Jaune Quick-to-See Smith exhibit on display in Tacoma

“Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: In the Footsteps of My Ancestors” opened March 9 at Tacoma Art Museum, and was on display through June 30. The exhibition was organized by the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Montana.

Quick-to-See Smith, recently named a recipient of Montana’s Governor’s Arts Award, is considered one of the U.S.’s finest indigenous talents. The mature artist has extraordinary aesthetic, intellectual, and curatorial achievements to her credit.

She mines her cross-cultural experience and Salish-Kootenai identity, and spans cultures with powerful, idiosyncratic results of high aesthetic caliber.

The exhibition examines themes that perennially recur in her work, including conflict, compassion, peace, the cycle of life, irony, and identity. Smith has always operated on a cusp – culturally, temporally, aesthetically, and from a gender perspective – which gives her work an attention-getting vitality, originality, and relevance.

## More Congrats to ...

Helena artist **Karen Luckey**, whose painting, “Window to the Past” (Bannack State Park), was juried into the 69th annual National Exhibition of Traditional Realism, on display June 2- 23 in Vernon, CT.



“Window to the Past” by Karen Luckey

Recipients of the 2019 Montana Tourism Awards, given during the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, held April 14-16 in Butte. Among this year’s honorees: **Darby and Hamilton**, which were named Film Community of the Year for their roles in supporting the production of “Yellowstone,” a TV series created by Taylor Sheridan and John Linson and starring Kevin Costner, that premiered in June 2018; and **Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild** in Lincoln, which received the Heritage and Cultural Tourism Award. This rural sculpture park celebrates the industrial, environmental and cultural history of Montana. The park invites international sculptors to create site-specific work made of locally harvested material, uniquely inspired by Montana.

**Zootown Arts Community Center** in Missoula, which recently received a \$400,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, of which \$200,000 is dependent upon a one-to-one match. That means that every donation to the building/renovation project counts for twice as much. Additionally, due to some cost-saving decisions and in-kind support, Zootown has reduced the project budget for its new building from \$4.25 to \$3.5 million. After 10 successful years in a leased space on Missoula’s Northside, ZACC plans to move into the Historic Studebaker Building on West Main Street in September. The larger, more accessible space includes a black-box theater, more classrooms, artist studios and practice rooms, a community art gallery, children’s creative center and a free community arts-supply closet. Visit [newzacc.org](http://newzacc.org) to learn more about the project.

## CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of **Kris Williams** of Bozeman. The accomplished cellist passed away peacefully in the loving arms of her husband on March 20 on their 35th wedding anniversary, after a fierce battle with brain cancer. Williams was born Oct. 23, 1950, in Seattle, to Gloria (Tilden) and Jim Gunn. She fell in love with music and playing the cello, and at 14 years old began earning college credits while attending the University of Washington’s chamber music program under Emanuel Zetlin. Later she attended UW as a cello performance major and was awarded the prestigious Brechemin Award Scholarship for excellent performance for two consecutive years. Accepted into a graduate program as a freshman, she became a member of the UW String Quartet, and studied for two years with the Philadelphia String Quartet, performing in concert with them. Williams attended Juilliard in New York, was invited to attend the Music Academy of the West and became Gabor Rejto’s student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She formed a string trio, the Trio D’Amore, and was principal cellist of the Debut Orchestra. She also attended the Claremont Music Festival and won a national audition for a string quartet residency in New York. She became a member of the Acadia String Quartet, studied chamber music with the Lenox Quartet, was principal cellist with the Tri-Cities Opera Co. and gave a world premiere for solo cello by Michael Convertino. After returning to Seattle, she formed a piano trio with Serge Kardalian, former concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony, and Beverly Hamway, pianist of the Seattle Symphony. She found a passion for teaching and developed a private studio of students. After breaking her back in a hiking accident, she moved to Bozeman with her husband, and eventually decided to re-teach herself cello. She gave recitals, played with the Billings Symphony, and was a member of the Bozeman Symphony at the time of her death. She also loved playing with the Intermountain Opera Association, the Montana Ballet Company, and for various musicals at the Ellen Theater. She had a private cello studio and adored her students. On March 24, 2018 Williams and pianist Stefan Stern performed at the Cikan residence to a standing-room only crowd, shortly before she was diagnosed with brain cancer.

– from the *Bozeman Chronicle*, March 31

The family and friends of Great Falls artist and former state legislator **Jean Louise Langenheder Price**. She was born Sept. 13, 1943, in Grand Island, NE, and passed away at the age of 75 on March 25 after a valiant fight with cancer. Her life and legacy were celebrated June 8 with a memorial at Great Falls High School and a memorial art reception at Paris Gibson Square for an exhibit of her work and collection, titled “Jean Price: Heart to Hands.” Price graduated from

Hastings College in Nebraska with a bachelor’s in art in 1965. She then attended graduate school at Fort Hays State College in Kansas, where she received her masters in sculpture.



Jean Price with her installation at Paris Gibson Square, “2000 and Counting” (Photo by Rion Sanders/Great Falls Tribune)

Price taught art in Kansas, Oregon, and Montana for 35 years, including a stint at the University of Great Falls. In 1984 she took a sabbatical to attain her MFA in Fiber Arts at Southern Illinois University. Price was elected into the state House of Representatives in 2010 and served four terms. The piece of legislation that she was extremely proud of was her bill that provided grants for towns to acquire accessible equipment for playgrounds. She served on the interim education committee where she fought to ensure that strong arts programs, services for students with special needs (including the gifted and talented), and opportunities linked to greater student success were protected and expanded. Gov. Steve Bullock told the *Great Falls Tribune* that Price was an inspiration to her students and Great Falls. “In the Legislature, she always led with the care of others in mind – whether it was making playgrounds more accessible for kids with disabilities or supporting key measures that helped veterans, seniors and students,” he said in an email. “Jean was a good friend and a great servant. Her passion for service and indomitable spirit will be deeply missed.” Price loved art, made art and collected art. She launched the Urban Art Project, and for the past 14 years coordinated three exhibits a year in the windows of a downtown parking garage. She served on the board of Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art and has donated her collection to the museum. She was also an avid hiker, biker, skier and kayaker, and a longtime supporter of the symphony and other performing arts.

– From the *Great Falls Tribune*, March 31

The friends and family of conductor and Billings Symphony founder **Robert Staffanson**.

He died April 27 in Bozeman at 97. Born in Sidney on Nov. 11, 1921, Staffanson was the son of George and Julia Staffanson. Raised on a cattle ranch near Deer Lodge, he trained in music at the University of Montana. In 1945, he wedded his hometown sweetheart from Deer Lodge, Frankie Ann Smith. They were married 71 years. Staffanson founded the Billings Symphony, and was subsequently tapped to lead the Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts based on the recommendation of acclaimed violinist Eugene Ormandy, then conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. During Staffanson’s tenure in Springfield, he became friends with many classical music giants, including Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and Arthur Fiedler. In the prime of his career, Staffanson gave up conducting and moved back to Montana, where the couple welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Kristin Staffanson Campbell, whom they considered “the brightest light in their lives.” Appalled by the treatment of indigenous people, Staffanson worked closely with tribal elders to found the American Indian Institute. Over the years, he became a tenacious and formidable advocate for Native rights and cultural preservation and implored society to recognize the ancient wisdom of indigenous people. When he was 94, Staffanson penned a three-part tome, *Witness to Spirit: My Life With Cowboys, Mozart & Indians*, which chronicled his life as a rancher’s son who underwent several phases of reinvention. In a rave review, veteran journalist Ed Kemmick from Billings posed the question, “Is Staffanson the most interesting man in Montana?” And added that, after reading the book, he was prepared to answer “yes.”

– From the *Billings Gazette*, May 5



Robert Staffanson

## TRANSITIONS

Welcome to two new members of the Glacier Symphony team: **Ron Osterbauer**, the new director of operations and development, and **Laura Kraft**, patron services manager. Osterbauer brings over 40 years of non-profit experience that has included positions as CEO, executive director and development director for various nonprofit organizations in Minnesota. He and his wife, Peggy, relocated to the Flathead Valley to be near to family. “I’m looking forward to working together with Music Director John Zoltek, the staff and board to continue to build the Glacier Symphony into an even more effective musical organization,” he says, adding that he looks forward to meeting supporters and developing new community relationships. Kraft moved to the Flathead Valley last fall with her fiancé. Her role as patron services manager is to coordinate volunteers and help manage symphony events and soirees. She comes with a background in museum exhibit development and anthropology, and says music has been a constant in her life since childhood. She grew up playing the French horn, attended a music camp as a teenager, and recently helped her fiancé bring his drum invention to market. She also loves to sing and is learning to play the ukulele. “I’m very excited to make the Flathead Valley our long-term home, meet the members of the community, and work with such a great organization,” she says.

# handMADE Montana (continued from page 1)

Back in Wisconsin, Lapotka had retail experience, which included helping to organize an event that attracted 20,000 people over three days, and participating in an array of “indie craft fairs.”

“I was aware of what it took – the process of gathering people and organizing things,” she says.

When she moved to Montana, she found a dearth of holiday fairs. “I’m a starter, so I made one,” she recalls.

Eventually the show landed at the Adams Center. It was hard, at first, to envision a market of handcrafted wares occupying a multi-level gymnasium. But she saw the potential, and 12 years later the two-day fair fills all three levels with vendors and shoppers. And still, she says, “we have more talent than we can contain.”

She added a summer show at Caras Park 10 years ago, and in 2017 expanded to Helena with a holiday show at the fairgrounds. Last year, she added two more:

the MADE fair Marketplace during the Western Montana Fair, and a fall fair at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman.

Organizing the state’s largest art and handcrafted markets seems to come as naturally to Lapotka as stitching together a whimsical skirt. “Most artists aren’t very good at floor plans,” she observes. “My brain can switch from being creative to being more structural.”

She describes organizing the fairs as “a one-woman show with really strong side-kicks.” In particular, she mentions Missoula artist Courtney Blazon, who helps with marketing, communications and reaching out to sponsors.

Still, as Lapotka points out, “A show can only happen if you have artists who want to sell stuff and people who want to buy.”

Both converge in the handMADE markets. “We have a reputation for being lucrative for the artists, well organized and very well attended.”

Last year, when the handMADE fair expanded to Bozeman, Lapotka explored a variety of venues before settling on Montana State University’s fieldhouse. “It was either go bigger or go home,” she says.

She invited 100 artists to sell their wares, and her own business had its best two sales days ever. Already, this fall’s show is attracting lots of applications from new artists.

## Making simple, deliberate choices

A panel of artists and a few consumers help jury applicants for the five handMADE fairs using Submittable, an online service headquartered in Missoula, which allows jurors to look at applicants individually and share their notes. She tells jurors, “If you know someone you think should be in the show, but their pictures don’t measure up, let me know.”

“Some people’s pictures, and how they present themselves are not their strong suite,” she adds, which brings Lapotka to the other arm of her business: providing resources and

education for artists and makers.

Her shop in Polson furthers that goal by having the space to offer workshops and an in-house photography studio to help artists take the kind of professional photos that will help them get into more shows and galleries.



A little whimsy and a lot of work are about to begin at handMADE Montana’s new headquarters, located in a former shoe store.

“There are so many talented people I’ve seen out there who just need a little help,” she says.

She also plans to bring in accountants, and people with social media and marketing expertise to offer classes.

“Simple, deliberate choices can make the difference,” she says. “There’s a lot of psychology involved in how people shop, how they perceive things.”

The 400-plus artists who participate in the MADE fairs are all ages and work in a wide range of media. The common thread is their ability to offer a modern twist to time-honored crafts, from sewing, woodworking and soap-making, to jewelry, printmaking, photography and ceramics.

“So many of the artists I work with have gone from doing it as a little side hustle to really doing it full time,” she says. “That’s pretty gratifying.”

She often asks artists what it would take to turn their art into their career. “The answer is always, ‘a steady paycheck.’”

Over the years, about 25% of the artists she works with transformed their craft into a full-time business. “Some have even hired their husbands,” says Lapotka.

## Building community from within

As for the local reaction to her new business, Lapotka describes herself as “curious beyond containment.”

She and her husband chose to move north to Polson instead of south to Missoula for several reasons. One is employment – her husband enjoys his job as chief deputy county attorney – and Polson has a good school district for their two kids, ages 5 and 9. Plus, commercial space and housing were more affordable.

The business community has welcomed her venture with interest and enthusiasm. She received a grant from the Polson Redevelopment Agency to help remodel her building, as well as a USDA grant to help pay for insulation and energy-efficient windows.

Lake County Community Development was instrumental in helping her refine her business model and apply for financing.

Lapotka hopes HandMADE Montana and REcreate Designs contribute to the revitalization of downtown Polson, a business community that thrives during the summer months, but struggles the rest of the year.

“I’m not building this shop for people who travel through in the summer,” she says. “I’m building it for the people who live here day to day.”

She points out that several new businesses “are already doing great things,” and looks forward to adding her own spirit and experience to the mix. “I see a lot of potential here,” she says. “A slight shift has to happen, but I don’t think it’s gonna take much.”

Brodie Moll, a city commissioner and member of the Polson Redevelopment Agency, calls Lapotka a welcome addition to the downtown.

“She’s hardworking and creative. She has real positive energy and wants to build the community from within ... She’s not necessarily looking for tourists to save us.”

## Connecting to the creators

The Polson store and production house is clearly a labor of love and ingenuity. Her display cases are doors, tipped on their sides, fronting kitchen cabinets, with windows as shelves. Wide fir planks that once held shoe inventory, shelves from the old Kalispell library, a nail bin from a hardware store, an ironing board, metal milk crates, a vintage toolbox – all are put to new use, reinforcing her “recycled aesthetic.”

Big bags stuffed with shirts, skirts, and suit coats wait to begin life again in one of Lapotka’s creations.

“I love finding treasures,” she says.

As though this isn’t enough – opening a new store and production studio, and organizing five MADE fairs a year – Lapotka also hopes to find time to launch Grove Outdoors, her new line of active wear for adults and kids. Instead of recycled material, Lapotka will create her outdoor adventure wear from “dead stock,” or the fashion industry’s cast-offs – primarily leftover wool and Polartec fleece.

Expanding production “is my January project,” she says.

Her shop, once a popular shoe store, is an expansive room, with retail in the front and production tables in the back where she and a small cadre of seamstresses will make her clothing.

The potential distraction of making art in public doesn’t worry her much. Lapotka describes herself as “super gabby – I thrive off other people.”

She hopes when customers begin to walk in the front door July 1, “you’ll see something you love, something that makes you happy.”

And that something is sure to have a story behind it, a connection to its maker. “I consider that creative. I consider that art.”

# Wildwood (continued from page 1)

“We get to see kids taking on big challenges and big problems and acting in really courageous ways,” says Butts. “It resonates with the current times. ... We’re seeing kids do just that – taking on these huge causes ... and organizing.”

In the play, Prue is one of those heroes.

“Prue has a really huge goal of finding her brother,” says Hatten of her character.

The CR Anderson eighth grader says one of her biggest challenges in this adventure is just keeping a straight face. “There’s a lot of funny parts in the show and keeping a straight face is a little difficult.”

She likes that the two main characters are very confident kids who aren’t afraid to tell grown-ups who’s boss, and they have to make a lot of big decisions.

“The writing of the play is really cool because it’s not everyday language,” Hatten says. “There’s a lot of large words young kids say.”

She also likes the fantasy elements using imagination. “There are funny bird-like objects. There are a lot of animals, but they’re sort of half-human.”

Moser, a Helena Middle School seventh grader, loves both the story adventure and the stage magic.

“The stage is really neat and it’s going to be super cool,” he says.

His character, Curtis, is seen by others as annoying and snooty, but is actually just curious.

“He wants to be friends with people but doesn’t know how to do it,” Moser said.

Moser is particularly excited that Colin Meloy was once a Grandstreet kid just like them and that he gave Grandstreet exclusive permission to do the play.

The whole show is an invitation to both kids and adults to use their imaginations both on stage and in the audience. And if you use yours, you just might see an 11-year-old Colin Meloy, who as a child loved to don a cape and play super heroes, flashing his saber and charging across the stage.

And a few in the audience might spot him one night (in his adult form) actually sitting in the audience to watch.

“It’s a great adventure to start your summer,” says Adams. “Who doesn’t dream of going into the woods and ... finding a magical place?”



## Clay Tour and Archie Bray’s Brickyard Bash

The Montana Clay Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 27-28, takes visitors to the studios of several working ceramic artists in the Helena area.

The annual tour is hosted by a collective of Montana-based clay artists committed to cultivating the appreciation of contemporary ceramics. The tour’s objective is to showcase the talent and diversity of Montana’s ceramics community by inviting the public to engage with the artist in an intimate studio setting, to facilitate meaningful connections and enrich the local community.

For more information and a list of participating artists, visit [www.montanaclaytour.com](http://www.montanaclaytour.com).

The tour coincides with the Archie Bray Foundation’s annual **Brickyard Bash and Benefit Auction** on July 28. The bash, which features music by the Big Sky Mudflaps and members of Salsa Loca, began in 1984 to celebrate the purchase of the brickyard and thank the community for its support. The silent, live and cup auctions are the foundation’s biggest fundraiser of the year and help support the Bray’s residency program.

Learn more at [archiebray.org](http://archiebray.org).

## ARTS EDUCATION

## Evolution of a STEAM School

### Chief Charlo takes beginning steps in dance integration

By Karen Kaufmann  
Director, Creative Pulse Graduate Program

University of Montana

Chief Charlo Elementary in Missoula serves as a statewide model for arts integration as the principal and teachers commit to integrating the arts into science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Julie Robitaille, executive regional director of Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS), worked closely with Chief Charlo Elementary principal Vinny Giammona as the school implemented a STEAM model to include arts integration. To support their efforts, 20 K-5 teachers experienced a series of after-school professional development sessions in creative dance, taught by UM professor Karen Kaufmann.

They explored movement strategies for classroom teachers, body/mind integration approaches, and dance and math integration ideas. Teachers became animated and engaged while dancing the curriculum, which led to brainstorming about how they could implement dance and movement into their classrooms.

Individual coaching with grade-level teams followed, where teachers brainstormed creative dance ideas they could implement in winter and spring curriculum topics. Soon, grade-level teams began developing original dance lessons into math, science and social studies. Kindergarten danced number lines; third grade developed geometric shape dances; and fifth grade teachers taught Colonial Dances.



Chief Charlo teachers explore geometric shapes and angles using elastic bands in an after-school professional development session on dance and math. (Photo by Sienna Solberg)

One team participated in a Learning Walk – a brief classroom visit utilizing a research-based tool that provides opportunities to reflect on what students are learning, and the learning strategies in place.

Chief Charlo teachers developed a variety of arts lessons for parents for the April STEAM Night, demonstrating their creative processes. School-wide bulletin boards and movement charts visually demonstrated artistic process/product throughout the building.

According to principal Giammona, “As a staff, we have put an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math (STEAM), to create learning opportunities and pathways to best meet the needs of every student. Through these engaging experiences, students work through dynamic learning environments which support a deeper understanding of the skills and standards at grade

level and ultimately better support student growth.”

“I am excited to share with others the success the Chief Charlo school community has experienced throughout this process of becoming a STEAM School,” said Robitaille. “We are creating a model for professional learning as well as student and family engagement.”

“At Chief Charlo, I have observed teachers, students and families all taking pride in, and ownership of this work, and the positive results in achievement, engagement and school climate are evident,” she added.

The district intends to replicate aspects of this model in all of its nine elementary schools.

SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning, Missoula’s Kennedy Center Any Given Child Initiative, is committed to ensuring equal access to the arts

for all K-8 students. SPARK! Arts works in collaboration with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and University of Montana’s College of Visual and Performing Arts to expand professional development that provides MCPS educators with strategies to integrate the arts with other content areas.

This arts integration professional development is provided by the 21st Century Learning Grant, funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and administered through UM’s College of Education School of Visual & Performing Arts and MCPS. SPARK! Arts professional development committee has developed a long-range plan to build on Chief Charlo’s success, using it as a model for additional arts-integrated schools.

For more on SPARK! Arts, visit [www.sparkartslearning.org](http://www.sparkartslearning.org).

## Artists in Schools and Communities grants go to 30 organizations

The most recent round of Montana Arts Council’s Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program saw yet another marked increase in the number of applications submitted, including 13 by entirely new applicants.

“The depth and breadth of this year’s awardees is a remarkable representation of the excellent work being accomplished by organizations and teaching artists on behalf of fortunate arts learners of all ages,” says Arts Education Director Monica Grable.

Supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and State of Montana funds, \$150,915 has so far been granted to awardees in two of three AISC categories: Arts Learning Partners and AISC Grants \$1,500-\$5K. A third category – AISC Grants Under \$1,500 – is scheduled to be awarded by late June.

### Arts Learning Partners

- MAPS Media Institute, Hamilton:** \$8,000 for the Media Institute
- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman:** \$8,000 for Montana Shakespeare in the Schools tour of “Romeo and Juliet”
- SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning, Missoula:** \$7,200 for SPARK! Arts CoMotion Dance Project
- A VOICE, Pablo:** \$7,000 for Our Community Record Two Eagle River School
- Missoula Writing Collaborative:** \$6,000 for Young Poets of the Garden City
- Holter Museum of Art, Helena:** \$6,000 for Artist Encounter: Community
- Montana Repertory Theatre, Missoula:** \$6,000 for a statewide educational outreach tour of “Love That Dog”
- WaterWorks Art Museum, Miles City:** \$6,000 for Bonny Beth Luhman
- Art Mobile of Montana, Dillon and state-wide:** \$6,000 for touring services

### Artists in Schools & Communities, \$1,500-\$5,000

- Bigger Sky Kids, Inc., Wolf Point:** \$3,900 for Studio Mastery for Beginning and Intermediate Artists
- Billings Symphony Society:** \$5,000 for Tutti Behind Walls
- Bitterroot Baroque, Inc., Hamilton:** \$5,000 for artist residencies with the Bitterroot Baroque Chamber Orchestra
- Bozeman Art Museum:** \$5,000 for art for Gallatin and Park county schools and home school students
- Cohesion Dance Project, Helena:** \$4,620 for multi-disciplinary Resonance School Residencies
- Conservatory ASL Northwest, Great Falls:** \$4,755 for ASL CAN Film Camp
- Creative Writing Center, Montana State University Billings:** \$1,800 for writing at Orchard Elementary School
- Discovery Developmental Center, Kalispell:** \$3,630 for an artist residency program
- East Side School, Livingston:** \$3,910 for fifth grade artistic field journals
- Great Falls Symphony:** \$5,000 for Sound Foundations
- Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center, Helena:** \$5,000 for Isolation and Connection: A Journey through Taiko
- Liberty Place, Inc., Whitehall:** \$4,985 for collaboration with Jill Collier Warne and Cameron Blake



A student engaged with guest artist Ilgaz Ulusoy Casey in an AISC-supported educational outreach program through the Myrna Loy Center in Helena, 2018. (Photo by Jason O’Neil)

- Lowell School Parent Teacher Association, Missoula:** \$3,960 for poet residency at Lowell Elementary School
- Missoula County Public Schools:** \$3,900 for Bare Bait Dance’s Model Dance Education Program
- Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation:** \$5,000 for Pedal Power!
- Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls:** \$5,000 for Art for Survival
- Park High School, Livingston:** \$5,000 for the 2019 Livingston Jazz Festival
- Russell Elementary, Kalispell:** \$3,465 for artist-in-residence
- The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, Livingston:** \$5,000 for education programs
- World Language Initiative – Montana, Bozeman:** \$1,790 for World Language Art & Culture K-5 Education Celebration
- Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings:** \$5,000 for YAM’s Art Suitcase for educators and students



6



### Poetry Out Loud begins again Sept. 1

Montana Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students, will launch its 2019-’20 program year beginning Sept. 1.

To learn more about the program, contact Monica Grable, MAC’s Arts Education Director, at 406-444-6522 or at [monica.grable@mt.gov](mailto:monica.grable@mt.gov).

The website, [poetryoutloud.org](http://poetryoutloud.org), offers student tips on recitation and looking for poems, and gives teachers ideas about how to teach Poetry Out Loud in their classroom.

# ARTS EDUCATION

## MAPS students win big at regional Emmy Awards

Students from MAPS Media Institute won three High School Student Production Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter with “Browning Rising Voices” and “Art for Survival” tied in the Short Form Non-Fiction category and “Aisitsimsta/Imagination” taking top honors for Short Form Fiction. The awards were presented during the Northwest Regional Emmy® Awards Gala held June 8 at the Fremont Studios in Seattle.

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) is a professional service organization dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. NATAS membership consists of over 15,000 broadcast and media professionals represented in 19 regional chapters across the country.

The High School Student Production Award competition received a record number of entries this year from high schools across the chapter’s five-state region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington. Industry professionals judged and critiqued the entries, which showcased a wide range of talent from these future broadcasters and media producers.

“Student work continues to impress the judges and the level of competitiveness significantly increases each year,” said Clare Ann Harff, MAPS executive director. “To have MAPS students win three awards is a tremendous honor and a testament to the next generation of Montana’s filmmakers. MAPS is proud to mentor these dynamic young artists and provide the creative opportunities and professional experiences to help bring their stories to life.”

MAPS, a free-of-charge media arts program based out of Hamilton in the Bitterroot Valley, has been serving students in grades 8-12 since 2004. Classes include filmmaking, graphic design, music production, new technologies and social entrepreneurship. In 2017, MAPS was one of the top 12 arts creative youth development programs in the U.S. to be honored with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. In recent years, MAPS has broadened its geographical scope to teach in other rural communities across Montana, including Browning, Harlem, Poplar, Helena, East Helena, Ronan and St. Ignatius.

Both “Browning Rising Voices” and “Art for Survival” were part of the MAPS Media Lab, the organization’s statewide



Browning students film “Aisitsimsta/Imagination.”  
(Photo courtesy of MAPS Media Institute)

educational outreach program directed by award-winning filmmaker Dru Carr.

“MAPS is so proud of the students who contributed their hard work and creative skills to these films,” said Carr. He noted that filmmakers from Browning High School were the production crew behind “Browning Rising Voices” and “Aisitsimsta/Imagination” and the teen artists from the Holter Museum in Helena were the crew for “Art for Survival.”

“We want to thank the Northwest Chapter of NATAS for the opportunity to showcase the powerful work MAPS students are producing,” he added. “It’s truly an honor to be a part of what they create.”

“Aisitsimsta/Imagination” is a narrative film created from start to finish in five days by Browning Middle and High school students

as a part of the MAPS – Montana GEAR Up filmmaking workshop on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

“Our message was to inspire not only ourselves about thinking about our futures but for other students to never stop dreaming,” said director Mecca Bullchild. “In working with MAPS, I learned about all of the different roles in filmmaking – like director, actor, and scriptwriter. My favorite part was learning about the cameras, because I like photography and realized how important they are to making movies, like having the right angles and lighting.”

“Art for Survival” is about an after-school program at the Holter Museum of Art that provides a creative community for teens to engage with visual artists and writers to explore ways that art can help them navigate life. In this short documentary, students express what it’s like to be a teenager in contemporary society, investigate the stresses that can lead to anxiety and depression, and learn how to safely share powerful emotions in a communal setting.

“Browning Rising Voices” tells the story of an extraordinary poetry program at Browning High School on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. Students write and perform original spoken-word literary pieces. In this mini-documentary, students filmed their writing process and performances, and directed “vignettes” to accompany their poetry. The film artfully demonstrates the strength and importance of their stories. As student Hailie Hendersen wrote for the film, “The Seventh Generation is here, and coming on strong.”

“All of MAPS projects, especially these films awarded by NATAS NW, are a lens into the hearts and minds of the next generation. They have powerful stories to share and MAPS is dedicated to helping Montana’s students build the skills to bring them to life,” said Harff.

For more information, please visit [mapsmediainstitute.com](http://mapsmediainstitute.com) or MAPS Media Institute’s YouTube channel to view the award-winning films.



Members of Browning Rising Voices poetry club – the subject of an Emmy-winning mini-documentary.  
(Photo courtesy of Browning Rising Voices)

## MAC & OPI name new MTLA candidates

By Monica Grable  
Arts Education Director

Montana Arts Council and the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) recently announced candidates for the upcoming fourth cohort of the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (MTLA) program. This incredible year-long program develops teacher leaders who can support other teachers statewide in integrating the arts into their classrooms.

Begun in 2015, the MTLA program trains cohorts of educators to serve as coaches, mentors and advocates in their schools and communities with an arts-integrated approach to teaching and learning through a culturally sensitive lens.

The program consists of a week-long residency at the Salish Kootenai College, completion of a field project (including a \$300 materials reimbursement for their projects), and a final Capstone weekend in Livingston in April 2020. Funded by an NEA Artworks Grant and a partnership between the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Arts Council, this program is beginning its fourth year of providing high-quality professional learning and leadership for teachers across Montana.

Candidates selected for participation are:  
**Kathryn Coyle**, Ennis Institute of the Arts  
**Ciara Everett**, Clinton School District  
**Heidi Foreman**, Capital High School, Helena

**Marianne Filloux**, Monforton Elementary, Bozeman  
**April Fox**, Turner Public Schools  
**Katie Knight**, Helena School District  
**Laurie Lutgen**, Cayuse Prairie School District  
**Connie Michael**, Crow Agency Public School  
**Cindie Miller**, Thompson Falls (retired)  
**Keely Perkins**, Miles City Schools  
**Marlene Schumann**, Sacajawea Middle School, Bozeman  
**Becca Stevens**, Chief Joseph Middle School, Bozeman  
**Christine Tharp**, Sunburst Schools  
**Julynn Wilderson**, Cohesion Dance Project



### Teaching Artist Companion

Americans for the Arts’ new publication, the *Teaching Artist Companion to Aesthetic Perspectives: Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change*, shares how teaching artists, and the programs and institutions that support them, embody and activate the values in the Aesthetic Perspectives framework.

The publication was written by Den-nie Palmer Wolf and Jeannette Rodríguez Pineda with contributing teaching artists.

Teaching artists are engaging a next generation in making art as a way to ask questions, imagine new possibilities, and promote action for positive change in their communities. Such “Arts for Change” requires the development of cultural competencies, responsive teaching strategies, and skills in community-based and socially engaged artistic practices.

The Companion offers:

- Examples of creative projects with youth and questions to guide teaching artists’ practice;
- Examples of the work of program designers, organization leaders, and evaluators who support those working in the arena of Arts for Change; and
- An observation rubric for assessing processes and quality practices.

Download the Companion for free at [www.AnimatingDemocracy.org](http://www.AnimatingDemocracy.org).

## NATIVE NEWS



8

## Wendy Red Star: A Scratch on the Earth

The most comprehensive exhibition of Wendy Red Star's work to date, and the Montana-raised artist's first solo museum exhibition on the East Coast, "Wendy Red Star: A Scratch on the Earth" opened Feb. 23 at New Jersey's Newark Museum, and continued through June 16. This unprecedented show featured 60 works by Red Star, including loans from museum collections throughout the United States, and highlighted 15 years of her studio practice, from 2006-19.

In a story about the exhibit, *Vogue* praised Red Star as "a smart and ironic but always beautiful multi-media artist, one who is flipping tropes with pictures and annotations and even textiles that often use Crow colors (among others) to converse with the past in a way that is fluent in today's cultural landscape."

Bringing the historical details of Crow and colonist history into the Technicolor present, Red Star uses photography, textiles, and mixed media installation to explore themes of Crow history, the indigenous roots of feminism, and contemporary life on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana where she was raised.



"Um-basax-bilua, 'Where They Make the Noise' 1904-2016" by Wendy Red Star (Newark Museum)

An enrolled member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Tribe who now lives in Portland, OR, Red Star works across disciplines to explore the intersections of Native American ideologies and colonialist structures, both historically and in contemporary society. Drawing on pop culture, conceptual art, and aspects of reservation life and Crow traditions, she pushes photography in new directions – from self-portraiture to photo-collage and altered historical photographs – often incorporating photography with textiles and fashion as bearers of tradition.

At the heart of the exhibition, visitors

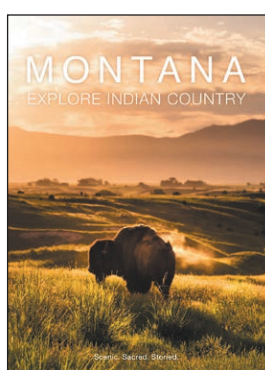
experienced a new immersive multi-media installation, co-directed by Red Star and Amelia Winger-Bearskin, artist and Google VR JUMP Start creator. Titled "Monsters," this five-minute video was screened inside a simulated sweat lodge. It documents the Montana landscape in a 360-degree format, bringing to life aspects of Crow mythology related to the landscape.

The title of the exhibition, "A Scratch on the Earth," (or Annúkaxua in Apsáalooke) refers to a period after 1880 when U.S. government policy prioritized keeping the Crow people on their

reservation.

A review of the exhibit in *The New York Times* discusses "one of the most engrossing works in the exhibition": "Um-basax-bilua, 'Where They Make the Noise' 1904-2016" (2019), a roughly 130-foot long timeline of photographs from Crow Fair. Jillian Steinhauer writes, "Ms. Red Star turns public history into a personal project, which she then returns to public view. In the process she drives home the timeless lesson that matters of government policy are also matters of people's lives."

For more about the artist and her work, visit [wendyredstar.com](http://wendyredstar.com).



The Department of Commerce has published a new visitor guide to Indian Country, an early success of the recently formed Indian Country Tourism Region. The guide will be distributed through visitor information centers across the state and is available as a digital download at [visitmt.com](http://visitmt.com).

## Native fashion on display at Yellowstone National Park

By Eric Tegethoff, Public News Service  
Reprinted from [publicnewsservice.org](http://publicnewsservice.org)

Indigenous designers and artists from across the West converged on Yellowstone Park June 11-14 for the first Yellowstone Tribal Marketplace and Fashion Show, which showcased the arts and culture of the Northern Plains Native people.

One of the featured designers was Della BigHair-Stump of Crow Agency, owner of Designs by Della. She describes her work as fashion meeting culture and includes designs from her native Crow, or Apsáalooke Tribe, in gowns, dresses and active wear.

BigHair-Stump says Native American designers are gaining recognition nationwide.

"At first it was probably just a handful of designers from here, from the Plains and then down to the Southwest," she says. "But it is getting its popularity throughout Indian Country and also the non-Indian communities as well."

BigHair-Stump knows something about the growing popularity of Native American

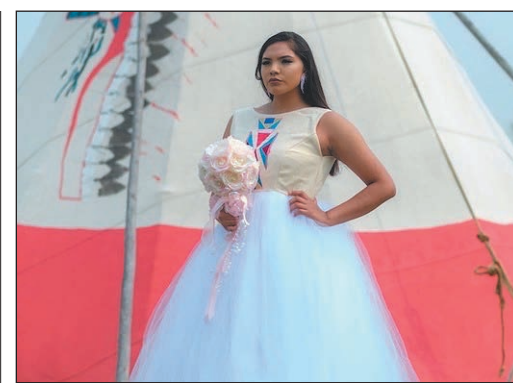
designers. Earlier this year, she traveled to Paris to be part of International Indigenous Fashion Week.

The Yellowstone fashion show took place June 11 at the Old Faithful Inn, and the marketplace continued through June 14 with displays and demonstrations. Representatives from the American Indian College Fund and Montana Department of Commerce planned to attend.

Carrie Moran McCleary, a designer from the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, showcased designs from her brand, Plains Soul. McCleary says it's a big deal that Yellowstone is hosting Native American artists.

"We're excited about the park recognizing that, as tribal nations, we are still here," she says. "Originally, the park is Native land. The Nez Perce people, the Nimiipuu people, were hunting, gathering and camping in the area that is now Yellowstone National Park."

McCleary says acceptance of indigenous people in the park has fluctuated over the



Designs by Della is the brand of Crow designer Della BigHair-Stump

past century.

In addition to BigHair-Stump and McCleary, participating artists and designers included Traci Rabbit, Rose Williamson, Danetta Old Elk, Joanne Brings Thunder, Samuel Jaxin Enemy-Hunter, Scott Frazier and Cedar Rose Bulltail.

## POWWOW CALENDAR

**Arlee Powwow Esyapqeyni (Celebration):** July 3-7 at the Powwow Grounds in Arlee. The 121st annual gathering is the premiere annual celebration of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille tribes, and includes traditional dance competitions, singing and drumming and a Fourth of July parade. Vendors offer handmade beaded crafts and food, including Indian tacos. Visit [www.arleepowwow.com](http://www.arleepowwow.com).

**Northern Cheyenne 4th of July Powwow:** July 5-7 at the Kenneth Beartusk Memorial Powwow Grounds in Lane Deer. Activities at the largest powwow on the reservation include fun runs and health walks, the Princess Contest, dancing contests, gourd dancing, and traditional feasts. Visit [www.cheyennation.com](http://www.cheyennation.com).

**North American Indian Days:** July 11-14 in Browning. The 68th annual celebration and the largest and most impressive of Blackfoot tribal events hosts Native Americans from every region of the United States and Canada. Featured events include traditional drumming and dancing contests, the crowning of Miss Blackfeet, a parade, fun run, PRCA rodeo events and more. Learn more at [blackfeetcountry.com/powwows](http://blackfeetcountry.com/powwows).

**Standing Arrow Powwow:** July 18-21 at the Powwow Grounds in Elmo. The 42nd annual celebration, organized by the Kootenai Culture

Committee, brings dancers, drummers, vendors and visitors from many states, including Canada, to Elmo the third weekend in July. Visit [www.csktribes.org](http://www.csktribes.org).

**Milk River Indian Days:** July 26-28 at the Fort Belknap Powwow Arbor. Spirited and colorfully clad Native American dancers are the highlight of this 55th annual celebration, which includes drummers, and music in a spectacular display.

**Wadopana Celebration:** Aug. 1-4 in Wolf Point. The oldest traditional powwow in Montana includes special ceremonies for naming individuals and honoring family members. It opens Thursday with camping day and a community feast; Saturday brings games, run/walks, and outdoor activities for youngsters. Visit [www.fortpecktribes.org](http://www.fortpecktribes.org).

**Rocky Boy Powwow:** Aug. 2-4 at Rocky Boys Agency in Box Elder. The 54th annual celebration is the largest event hosted by the Chippewa Cree Tribe. For one weekend every August, Rocky Boys Indian Reservation jumps in population while hosting a lively celebration of Native American culture. Visit [www.facebook.com/ChippewaCree](http://www.facebook.com/ChippewaCree).

**Crow Fair and Rodeo:** Aug. 14-19 at Crow Agency. The 101st gathering of the Apsáalooke Nation is considered the largest modern-day American Indian encampment in the U.S. with approximately 1,200

to 1,500 tipis, earning it the title of "Tipi Capital of the World." Many cultural activities take place throughout the celebration, including parades, a four-day powwow, a rodeo and horse races. Visit [www.crow-nsn.gov](http://www.crow-nsn.gov).

**Little Shell Powwow:** Aug. 24 at the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park in Ulm. The Little Shell Chippewa powwow features drumming, dancing, and traditional dress, crafts, children's activities, exhibits and Native food. Call 406-315-2400.

**Fort Kipp Celebration:** Aug. 23-25 in Poplar. Celebration of native culture and traditions includes dancing, food, crafts and fellowship. Call 406-768-2102 for more information.

**Metis Celebration and Powwow:** Aug. 30- Sept. 1 at the Fergus County Fairgrounds in Lewistown. The annual celebration features Native fiddlers, dancers, singers, and crafters from across the United States and Canada. Call 406-868-7980.

**Ashland Labor Day Powwow:** Aug. 30-Sept. 2 at the Arbor in Ashland. Drummers and dancers from many tribes participate in this annual celebration, featuring giveaways, gourd dancing and hand games. Visit [www.CheyenneNation.com](http://www.CheyenneNation.com).

**Last Chance Community Powwow:** Sept. 27-28 at the fairgrounds in Helena. The 21st annual powwow's theme, "Honor the Children," reflects the mission to teach youth the many traditions of Native American culture. Children are involved in drumming, singing, dancing, regalia-making and fundraising. Visit [www.lastchancepowwow.com](http://www.lastchancepowwow.com).



# ABOUT MUSIC

– By Mariss McTucker

## Daniel Kosel: *More Than Enough*

Minstrel Daniel Kosel of Roberts has a third album out. It's a solo endeavor, recorded live at Kirk's Grocery in Billings and chock-full of original songs and great pickin'.

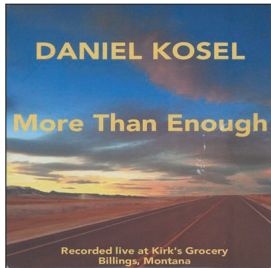
Kosel describes his style as "robust vocals within an eclectic blend of country, rock, and blues," or "Crues Music." The poet and songwriter possesses nimble digits and a resonant baritone that is also at home in the deep bass realm. He moves easily in that range, all the while playing tasteful chords or tearing up fleet-fingered electric guitar notes.

His 15 compositions cover many emotions. Kosel is at war with himself at times, having overcome life-shattering bereavement along with a gambling addiction, and he sings about the pain he carries from that prior life. The musician wants his poetry and songs to help people find peace, triumph over their hardships, and treat others well. He feels music can heal.

The first song, "Mississippi Jackson," is the tale of a man from long ago. It's da blues, man! Kosel growls and croons, and sends his voice down lo-ow before snapping out a wicked solo. The title song, "More Than Enough," starts with the guitar nuances of "Summertime"; it's got a swampy, spooky ambience, and Kosel sometimes whispers lyrics, and throws in some spoken-word lines.

"Get By Today" is a slow rocker with a fuzzed-up guitar intro. Kosel laments losing a paramour, and feels "caught up in a loveless Hell." Later he cuts loose on "Common Man Blues," pouring out his emotions with fiery fretboard pyrotechnics on the souped-up instrumental.

"Street Poem" is a keeper. A snooty, elitist woman haughtily ignores a street person, but her blinged-out "candy canine" runs right up to get petted. It's, as Kosel opines, "the simple exchange of a mutual kindness seldom assigned its true worth." Spot on!



## Jason Wickens

Bozeman guitarist and songwriter Jason Wickens has his first CD out, an eponymous collection of original music that mines American roots genres: country, rock, blues and folk among them. You may recognize Wickens as the producer and host of "Live from the Divide" on public radio. The show features Americana artists, many who influenced the artist's songwriting on his own album.

Musicians joining this venture are Bob Morrissey and Ryan Engleman, lead and rhythm guitars; Gabriel Pearson, drums; Grammy-nominated producer Wes Sharon, bass; Hank Early, steel guitar; and Kate Dinsmore, harmony vocals.

Wickens celebrates the vast prairies of the Treasure State in "Hi Line." In a burly baritone he sings about getting back home to ground himself. Dinsmore accompanies him on the chorus, and liquid electric guitar and pedal steel spice up the arrangement.

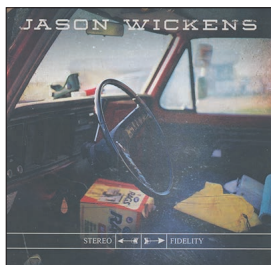
In the shuffly "I Know You Don't," Wickens is hurt by his woman, who lies about where she's been; it boasts a catchy accompaniment, with the singer's voice breathy on the vowels.

"Be Just Fine," co-written with Kalya Beasley, has country-folk nuances, and "Traveling in My Mind" takes off with a cool finger-picked intro. Dinsmore joins Wickens to sing harmony, and she matches the inflections of his voice perfectly.

"Knob Hill," with its biting guitar riffs, finds young fellas drinking beer with a colorful old guy. "Fordyce Lane" is a rockabilly dancer with wailin' guitar that's bound to get dancers on their feet.

The twangy and rockin' "Get to Work" has a "Polk Salad Annie" feel; Wickens chastises clueless kids today for being Internet addicts, with no time to accomplish anything. He admonishes them to "put your hands deep down in that dirt, shut your mouth, and get to work." Ha!

Wickens is an adept singer and writer, and these songs would definitely be fun to dance to.



## Jessica Eve: *Next Train Home*

Jessica Eve Lechner, a singer/guitarist from Billings, has released her first full-length album following her self-titled solo EP. Several of the songs on that recording appear here, fleshed out for a fuller sound this time around with terrific musicians that assist her.

Contributing lead guitar are Chad Gerber and Elliot Jason. Parker Brown plays harmonica, Brian Wetzstein, pedal steel, Greg Thomas bass, and Chad McKinsey, drums and percussion. Thomas, McKinsey, A.J. Sheble, and Phil Griffin add harmonies to this well-produced effort.

Eve, an alum of the Jaded Ladies and winner for three consecutive years of Best Female Vocalist at the Magic City Music Awards, pours her heart out on her all-original material. She sings ballads, soft rockers, some country-rock, and a folk song or two, and has a knack for gracefully bending notes and elongating phrases.

On "You're Here," a slow ballad with smooth pedal-steel tones, she sings, "when I hear the geese fly over my head," with "head" gaining extra syllables and the word "radio" becomes a sustained "ra-dee-o-o-oh."

"Here Comes the Train" has kickin' harmonica and a stutter-step beat that mimics the rolling of the rails. The words "chug-a-chug" and "choo-choo" are repeated rhythmically to accentuate that clickety-clack sound; Eve wails some harmonized "woo-woos" to finish it up.

The countrified title tune, "Next Train Home," is pretty and swingy, with an infectious hook. "There's no need to scream and shout, I heard you when you didn't make a sound," Eve sings, as she pleads for a lover to stay put, she's headed back home.

In a nutshell, Eve has a feel for thoughtful lyrics and lovely melodies.



## Mighty Big Jim and the Tall Boys: *Diamonds and Tears*

Wibaux guitarist Jim Devine leads his usual cadre of music-makers on their second album, made up of original, rough-hewn roots-rock. Besides Devine on vocals and guitar, the expert crew includes Casey Malkuch, guitar, harmonica and vocals; John Redlin, bass; and married couple Jayson Eslick, drums and percussion, and Katelynne Eslick, vocals. Steve Williams guests on keyboards.

Devine's stamp is on the songs, some co-written with other band members. Influences like the Allman Brothers and Springsteen infuse the material. It's driven by FX-laden guitar salvos between verses that punctuate growly vocals.

"When You Come Around" opens with animated drums and bass; soon guitars crank up, munching raucous chords as Devine sings about a woman he's smitten with. Katelynn Eslick's harmony vocals tightly mesh with Devine's lead.

Devine's "Play Me Some Petty" is an easy-going tribute to the late Tom Petty, another inspiration. It's got interesting chord progressions, and Eslick sings on the pretty chorus.

The bass shines on the hard rockin' "Find My Way to You," with its fuzzed-up guitars and impeccable drum beats. This raucous jammer is heavy on instrumental work and sports a nifty ending.

Mysterious atmosphere surrounds "Mendocino Girl"; in it, our protagonist is mesmerized by a woman on the prowl. "She's animal crackers and beer," he sings, amid spooky minor chords and twangy guitar.

Eslick takes the lead on "Take My Pain Away," singing over wailin' guitars. Cool chorus here! The rock-steady "Just Take a Picture" has a world-weary frontman singing about long nights on the road.

The band likes messing with tempos, too, thanks to killer drums by Jayson Eslick. "Diamonds and Tears" has amped-up guitars and a quirky, intensifying beat. Lots of dancers and some belt-buckle shiners here – rock out with these folks!



9

## Wailing Aaron Jennings

Missoula guitarist yodeler "Wailing" Aaron Jennings has a self-titled album out, recorded live by Travis Yost, who also plays bass and drums on it. Jennings says he wanted to create an "audio snapshot" of his music as you would hear it in person. Other contributors are fiddle player Grace Decker and John Rossett on mandolin and mandola. Besides his own gigs, Jennings plays pedal steel with Tom Catmull.

Jennings has an authentic old-time country style, which is experiencing a resurgence today. He'd have been comfortable in the early 20th century, too. He's been playing for about 14 years, originally dabbling in punk. He took to traditional music after finding inspiration in a book of songs and poetry written by his great-grandpa, singing cowboy and yodeler Jim Jennings, who entertained across the West in the '20s.

After seeing the words "yodel here" in one of the songs, Aaron taught himself to yodel, taking seven years to perfect the difficult technique. Yodeling is executed in the falsetto range, which is hard for anyone to do, but especially so for a man with a deep baritone voice.

Amid his originals on the CD, Jennings wrote music to two of his great grandfather's compositions: "Wild Roses" and "Charlie Russell Waltz." The waltz is spare, with guitar, bass and a nice fiddle break. Jennings' voice has that old-time radio sound, and he trills some acrobatic "oh-lay-ee-hees" in a few spots. Sheesh!

Chunky instrumental breaks populate the peppy "Missoula Valley Yodel," along with some kickin' "low-ee-yay-del-ay-ee-o-ohs." And there's the humorous "Dish Doin' Mama" ("you only do them when you wanna"). Ha!

One final note: Jennings is grateful for the mentors he's found in music, and pays tribute to one with the "Brian Hall Blues" – a salute to the late radio host and fine mandolinist, who died too young last year.



## Love Is a Dog from Nebraska: *No Excuses*

Missoula multi-instrumentalist Travis Yost, aka "Love Is a Dog from Nebraska," has released his third full-length album, another solo effort of originals. He played all instruments and recorded it in his home studio. Yost is a sought-out talent for other musicians, performing on their works and producing them, too.

Here, Yost examines his "fight or flight response" to relationships. He decided writing about running away made for better storytelling than chronicling one's downfall. He opted for simpler production this time, and because he plays oodles of instruments and knows how to use effects, he comes out with a band sound that isn't cluttered. He uses acoustic and electric guitars, drums, Rhodes, Wurlitzer, and electric pianos and synth. And he does all voicing.

The catchy "Landed" has guitar on the backbeat, and piano arpeggios. Our protagonist is skittish about getting close to someone, and wants to bolt. And only 34 seconds long, "Our Place" is infectious with its pop-rock tempo, memorable melody, and people sounding like they're having a good time. Yost writes commercials and film music, and this one spoofs '90s sit-coms like "Friends."

"Then There's Now" is gorgeous. Yost's accomplished voice falls somewhere between baritone and tenor, and boy, can he hit the high notes. He drives by the house where he and his ex lived together, thinking about the bad times. The chorus soars with three-part harmonies, and there's even a nifty xylophone interlude. Methinks there's a hit here!

Yost wrote the lovely instrumental, "Ice Church," for Amy Martin's podcast on the Arctic. With bowed double-bass and electric guitar played through gizmos, it drips with melting, morphing chords that slide around like syrup on a plate, resolving to harmony. What a unique sound. Yost puts out another winner!



## State of the Arts welcomes CDs

State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs recorded within the past 12 months, with cover art and liner notes. Reviews also appear at [livelytimes.com](http://livelytimes.com), Montana's statewide source for arts and entertainment.

Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to CD reviewer Mariss McTucker, P.O. Box 81, Dixon, MT, 59831.

# ABOUT BOOKS

## Non-fiction/Memoir

### *Grain by Grain: A Quest to Revive Ancient Wheat, Rural Jobs, and Healthy Food*

By Bob Quinn and Liz Carlisle

When Bob Quinn was a kid, a stranger at a county fair gave him a few kernels of an unusual grain. Little did he know, that grain would change his life.

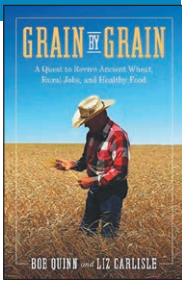
Years later, after earning a doctorate in plant biochemistry, he returned to his family's farm in Montana, where he began experimenting with organic wheat. In the beginning, his concern wasn't health or the environment; he just wanted to make a decent living.

As demand for organics grew, so did Quinn's experiments. He discovered that through regenerative farming practices like cover cropping and crop rotation, he could produce successful yields – without pesticides. He even started producing his own renewable energy. And he learned that the grain he first tasted at the fair was actually a type of ancient wheat, one that was proven to lower inflammation rather than worsening it, as modern wheat does.

Ultimately, the farmer's forays with organics turned into a multimillion-dollar heirloom grain company, Kamut International.

In *Grain by Grain*, Quinn and cowriter Liz Carlisle (author of  *Lentil Underground*) show how his story can provide the antidote to stagnating rural communities, degraded soil, and poor health.

"A compelling agricultural story skillfully told," writes *Kirkus Reviews*.



### *The Kemptons: Adventures of a Montana Ranch Family, 1880-1964*

By Trudy Kempton Dana

In its day, the famed Kempton Ranch of eastern Montana was one of the largest horse and cattle operations in Montana, selling mounts to armies and polo-playing royalty alike. The Kemptons themselves were a storybook family – descended from Mayflower pilgrims, Sioux Indians and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Their own exploits make for a larger-than-life Western epic.

Meet Joseph Kempton, a whaling ship captain who becomes an early Colorado pioneer; JB Kempton, the first to ship cattle on the Northern Pacific rails; and his son, Berney, a trick roper with Doc Carver's Wild West Show, hotelier, and a friend to British earls and President Theodore Roosevelt.

Trudy Kempton Dana mines her family's lore for salt-of-the-earth true stories of these and many other characters to reveal a family of rare vision, grit and integrity.

The 304-page book, published by Farcountry Press, is lavishly illustrated with photographs, artifacts and manuscripts, all contributing to a rich portrait of a fascinating family.

"A quintessential piece of American history as gripping as the Lewis and Clark journals," writes Ken Stuart, founder and editor-in-chief, Schirmer Books, Macmillan Publishing Co.



### *Slaughter on the Otter: The Kendrick Sheep Raid*

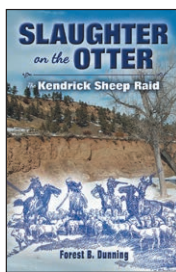
By Forest B. Dunning

Montana native and retired rancher Forest B. Dunning dives into the local history of a little known standoff between Montana ranchers, since dubbed "a conspiracy of silence."

In mid-November 1900, a herd of sheep crossed a plowed furrow "deadline" that had separated cattle and sheep public ranges for many years. Early on the morning of Dec. 28, 1900, a determined group of cattlemen led by a future Wyoming governor and U.S. senator destroyed a band of 2,113 head of sheep that had "invaded" their range.

The story was cloaked by a conspiracy of silence for nearly 75 years, until almost 40 years after the senator's death. Even then, the facts and motivations remained shrouded. In his meticulously researched book, Dunning sheds light on the massacre of young ewes.

Dunning, who lives in Sheridan, WY, was raised in Birney, near the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. He has been a student, cowboy, soldier, financial advisor, purebred cattle rancher and cattle buyer. His love for Montana and Wyoming history and historical fiction are reflected in his new book, and a previous work of fiction, *Between Two Tribes*.



## Poetry

### *Ragged Anthem*

By Chris Dombrowski

Poet, author and fishing guide Chris Dombrowski's new collection displays the same inimitable voice and unflinching gaze that made him a Poetry Foundation bestseller and silver medal winner of *Foreword Reviews'* Book of the Year Award in poetry.

As in his previous books, *Ragged Anthem* authentically evokes the natural world. Written from the speaker's midlife, the poems delve into the transformation of family, childhood tragedies and politics. Dombrowski also lifts the veil on imbecilic bureaucracies – those on Capitol Hill and in faculty meetings – that often help shape our fates.

His "borrowings" – allusions to such figures as American painter Mark Rothko and Saint Francis of Assisi, and language from song lyrics – evoke the original source while transforming it into something new.



Fellow poet Kevin Goodan says the book is like "staring at the sun and then looking away. Whatever is seen next is informed and haunted by that light. Dombrowski's poems are that clear, that powerful."

Dombrowski is the author of two previous books of poetry, *By Cold Water and Earth Again*. His essays and poems have appeared in over 100 publications and his nonfiction debut, *Body of Water: A Sage, A Seeker, and the World's Most Alluring Fish*, was praised by *The New York Times* and received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*.

The author lives in Missoula where he works as a fly-fishing guide and directs the Beargrass Writing Retreat.

### *Ground-truth*

By Molly Damm

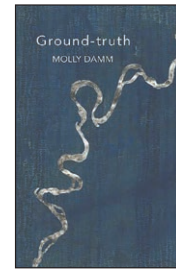
Bozeman poet Molly Damm's first collection offers a field guide for anyone who feels "the loneliness of being tethered/ here on earth, our island home."

The *Bozeman Chronicle* notes that Damm's book "speaks to her love of maps, with cartography references peppered throughout and a title referencing the relationship between our outer and inner worlds."

Ground truth, in scientific terms, refers to information collected on location, as opposed to information gathered from afar. True to the title, "each poem is a signal fire, the poet's imagination soaring where the grounded body cannot go," writes Lisa Russ Spaar, author of *Orexia*.

The author, a native of Detroit, attended the environmental studies program at the University of Montana before veering toward poetry. She earned an MFA from the University of Virginia, where she was a Henry Hoyns Fellow in Poetry, and secured a second master's from Montana State University in marriage and family counseling. Her writing has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Collagist*, *Sou'wester*, and *Western Humanities Review*, among others.

Paul Guest, author of *Because Everything is Terrible*, praises *Ground-truth* for its "ravishing physicality" and "indelible" images that "burn in the light of the precisely seen and the deeply felt."



### *Breath*

By Robert Lee

Missoula writer Robert Lee's first complete collection of poetry was released by Foothills Press.

"Robert Lee's poems take us into intimacy between friends, between lovers, between life's sweetness and unavoidable loss," writes Jennifer Finley. "This collection of poems bravely faces the impermanence we all breathe together, 'until/ one by one/ the ones I know and need/ stop breathing.'"

Lee is the author of *Guiding Elliott*, published in 1997 by Lyons Press and reissued in paperback by Mountain Press in 2013. His poetry chapbook, *Black Bear Holds a Hole in His Paws*, was inspired by three autumns spent as writer in residence in Hyaburg, Alaska for the Missoula Writing Collaborative, which he has taught with for nearly 20 years. His work has appeared in the anthologies *New Montana Stories* and *Poems Across the Big Sky I & II*, *Montana Magazine*, and in numerous literary journals.

"Elegiac, death defying, hard earned truth in this collection," writes former Montana Poet Laureate Sheryl Noethe. "All along, a wit as dry as ice: The force of his language comes up behind you and you jump, and you're glad you did, and feel the better for it."



## Fiction

### *A Job You Mostly Won't Know How to Do*

By Pete Fromm

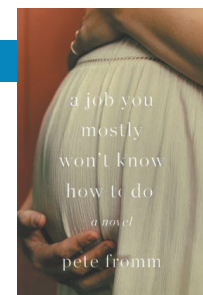
Taz and Marnie: Such a pair! He's good with wood, bad with checkbooks. She's feisty, smart and pregnant. Together they're building a life for themselves and baby Midge ("just this tiny thing," Marnie explains of her unusual naming, "that sort of holds the whole deal together").

Except that Marnie dies while giving birth to her daughter, and the whole deal falls apart. Taz is left with a half-remodeled house, a brand-new baby who doesn't sleep much, and occasional visits from his mother-in-law, sunk in her own grief.

Fortunately for all survivors, his best friend Rudy, "the international man of mystery," swoops in to change diapers and make sure Taz keeps it together enough to raise Midge. When Taz is forced to return to work as a cabinet maker and carpenter, Rudy finds Elmo, a red-head with her own brand of feisty, to tend Midge.

*A Job You Mostly Won't Know How to Do* navigates the rocky terrain of love, tragedy and courage with humor and compassion. As in Pete Fromm's last novel, *If Not For This*, the only villain here is the uncertainty of life itself. His dialogue rings rich and true, his characters are people you know (or want to know), and the landscape – Missoula and the Blackfoot River – have the detail and luster that can only emerge from a skillful writer who knows and loves a place.

– Kristi Niemeyer



### *Home Everywhere*

By Megan McNamer

The Missoula author's second novel, *Home Everywhere*, is a suitcase full of souvenirs scavenged from lives liberated, briefly, from the cares of the world.

A random collection of tourists embarks on a 10-day budget trip to parts unknown. The parts are destined to stay that way, while the tourists fixate on the actions and trappings of being alive. In the tradition of pilgrims across the ages, they seek spiritual salvation, physical healing, alluring accessories, and good bargains. Soon their sacred places emerge as elusive versions of home.

(Continued on next page)



10

## How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book published in the past 12 months by a Montana author for inclusion in the About Books section of *State of the Arts*, email the following information to [kristi@livelytimes.com](mailto:kristi@livelytimes.com) or [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov):

- Title, author, publisher and month/year published;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf or jpg format;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted at Lively Times.com.

“... A gleaming cloud chamber of a book ... satisfying on many levels and telling in every tongue,” writes Michael Martone, author of *The Blue Guide to Indiana*.

“Megan views contemporary life as we are living it and sheds light on the expectations of being ‘here’ and not ‘there’ and how dreams and desires sought in strange places are more confined to home than we realize. She is writing about us and we need to heed her words. More wisdom from an enlightened author,” writes Grady Harp in the *San Francisco Review of Books*.

McNamer’s first novel, *Children and Lunatics*, won the Big Moose Prize from Black Lawrence Press.



**The Behavior of Love**

By Virginia Reeves

Virginia Reeves turns her prodigious writing talent to a challenging time and place: the 1970s and the Boulder River School and Hospital, a state institution that houses 750 people with disabilities.

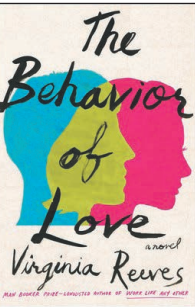
Psychiatrist Ed Malinowski was recently hired as superintendent – a responsibility he relishes. He and his wife, Laura, moved to Helena from Michigan, where he’d been involved in transferring people out of institutions into group homes and assisted living facilities. He hopes to oversee the same transformation here, despite a stifling bureaucracy and reluctant legislators.

But aspirations and reality are worlds apart. And so, increasingly, are he and his wife. As the author nimbly switches narratives between the couple, we hear tensions escalating. He’s too devoted to his job, thinks Laura, and to one patient in particular, the lovely and gifted Penelope, whose only crime is epilepsy.

Dr. Ed, the behavioral psychiatrist, seems oddly unable to manage his own impulses – he drinks too much, cares too deeply for Penelope, and is wed to his job.

The author writes so knowingly about marriage – the intimacy and estrangement that can happen almost simultaneously, how commitment can linger long after a divorce. And she jarringly evokes a time, a half century ago, when booze and cigarettes were a staple of Montana culture (even for pregnant women) and when developmentally disabled people were stored out of sight, out of mind in a decrepit building full of “soot and sadness.”

The author’s debut, *Work Like Any Other*, was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. *Esquire.com* describes her latest as “even-handed and sensitive” while *Publishers Weekly* calls it a “crisp, powerful novel.”



– Kristi Niemeyer

**The Blizzard of '32**

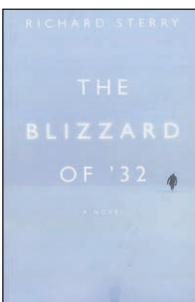
By Richard Sterry

Adelia Anderson struggles to raise her two youngest children on the meager stipend she earns as a schoolteacher on Montana’s Hi-Line. Come Christmas, son Will reluctantly joins the pastor on a Christmas-tree expedition to the Sweetgrass Hills. Meanwhile her youngest, Viola, imagines herself the star of the upcoming Christmas party with her mastery of the Charleston.

A mean blizzard brings deep snow and punishing winds, trapping Will and his cohorts beneath their upturned wagon. Adelia’s estranged husband, Swan, reappears from his job selling Baskin’s Kitchen Products; her oldest son, Edward, is headed home from prison; and wayward Rubyann returns from working in Havre’s booming bootleg district. The unexpected reunions – like the raging blizzard – create a turbulent swirl of emotions in the tiny teacherage.

Author Richard Sterry was raised on a Hi-Line wheat farm and taught high school English in Chester, before earning a master’s degree and doctorate, and teaching at universities in Idaho, New Jersey and Japan. He knows the harsh, isolated terrain of north-central Montana well, and deftly captures the Depression-Era desperation that undercuts his characters’ dreams.

Sterry also wrote a novel, *Over the Fence*, and a memoir, *Far Out: My Life on the Edge*. David McCumber describes his new work as “a crackling good story with an irresistible setting of time and place.”



– Kristi Niemeyer

**Heirloom China**

By Jan Elpel

Jan Elpel’s third in a series of historical novels unfolds across Montana Territory to Harvard University and engages Patrick Colter, a young law clerk, and his loyal rancher friends in an effort to solve a murder mystery and bring law and justice to the territory.

Colter’s wife, Shelley, and her controversial friends, a street woman and a liberated female physician, set their bonnets for women’s right to vote. Shelley becomes a rising star in the movement for women’s equality, which threatens her husband’s sense of a man’s place and position.

Along with tensions surrounding the drive for Montana statehood, the story portrays attitudes and relationships during a unique period of Butte’s mining boom, 1877-1879, after the Silver Bow gold rush and prior to the copper kings.

“Jan Elpel’s expertly-researched Montana tale, *Heirloom China*, brings with it danger, intrigue, courage and hope ... Jam-packed with adventure and fascinating history, this book will capture you from the very first page,” writes Rachel Phillips, author of *Legendary Locals of Bozeman*.

Elpel is a journalist and author of historical novels *Berrigan’s Ride* and *Healers of Big Butte*.



**Young Adult & Children**

**Howl: A New Look at the Big Bad Wolf**

By Ted Rechlin

In *Howl*, readers are introduced to Lobo, one of the West’s most notorious outlaws. Not a bandit or a gunslinger, Lobo is a wolf on the run. Artist and author Ted Rechlin offers readers an exciting, full-color, illustrated tour through North America’s complicated history with this apex predator.

From the wolves’ near extinction in New Mexico’s Old West to their reintroduction into the Yellowstone ecosystem, *Howl* demystifies human’s rocky relationship with this often-misunderstood creature.

Aiming to engage and educate, *Howl* is an exciting, science-based graphic novel for readers 6 and up.

Rechlin, who resides in Bozeman, has been drawing pictures and telling stories since he was 3 years old. While his drawings have gotten much better, his stories haven’t really changed much. They’re still about superheroes, bears, wolves, sharks, monsters, and lots of dinosaurs.



11

**Round Trip**

By Stephen Ore

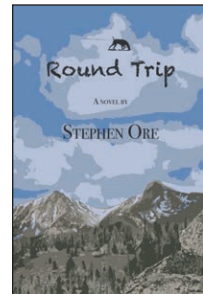
Set in Montana’s Tobacco Root Mountains, Stephen Ore’s debut novel takes readers into the heart and mind of an honest, adventurous and naive teenager as he runs for his life.

Matt Lewis spends summers working on J.P. Pickett’s “hobby farm,” earning money for college, until he discovers a dangerous secret that leads him to suspect that his employer is a big-time drug dealer.

When the Picketts realize Matt knows too much, they order their so-called personal assistant – a brawny, armed, former member of the army special forces – to eliminate the problem. Matt takes to the hills, confident that he can lose anyone in his rugged, familiar backcountry. His hope to escape plummets when he realizes a tracker with a hound is in hot pursuit.

“With beautiful scenery and compelling characters, *Round Trip* ratchets the action with relentless pacing that the young adult reader will adore,” writes Craig Johnson, author of the *Walt Longmire Series*.

Ore was born on Montana’s Hi-Line and spent his formative years in the foothills of the Tobacco Root Mountains. A graduate of Montana State University, he now runs his own construction business and spends any free time immersed in Montana’s backcountry.



**Self-Published**

**The Bozeman Coloring Book**

By Megan Coburn and Grace Johnson

Two women, each with deep affection for Bozeman, teamed up on this coloring book for children and adults.

Designer Megan Coburn is a Bozeman native and Google local guide who wanted to share a piece of her hometown. She reached out to Grace Johnson of Artfully Educated who spent most of her 20s in Bozeman to create a coloring book that depicts their favorite parts of town. Johnson supplied illustrations while Coburn seasoned the pages with quotes from Google reviews and historical tidbits.

Landmarks range from popular local businesses and hangouts, like the Pickle Barrel, Cactus Records, Bangtail Bikes and the Western Café, to historic landmarks, including the Ellen and Rialto theaters, the fire department, courthouse, Holy Rosary Church and Willson School. A to-do list includes Music on Main, the Sweet Pea Festival, skiing at Bridger Bowl, hiking nearby mountains, and fly-fishing the area’s many rivers.

Coburn hopes the book “helps you remember some of the magic of Bozeman and encourages you to bring your own color to our wonderful city.” Order the book online at [www.thebozemancoloringbook.com](http://www.thebozemancoloringbook.com).



**Steve’s Story: The Life of a Polish Orphan**

By Jackie Van Dyke

A young woman and a young man left their villages in Poland in 1907 and joined the throng of immigrants pouring into the United States at that time. They met in Philadelphia and married soon after. Within 15 years, hard times and a household of seven children led to bootlegging and arrests, and finally a family breakdown, with the children placed in an orphanage.

This is the story of how one of those children, Steve Chapla, ran away from foster care and eventually reconnected with his family.

After serving in the army in World War II, he was finally free to marry his sweetheart and lead a more adventurous life, which included raising five children. At 80, he made a trip to Poland to discover his Polish family and ancestral roots.

Author Jackie Van Dyke is his oldest child and lives in northwestern Montana. Visit her at [www.jackievandyke.com](http://www.jackievandyke.com).



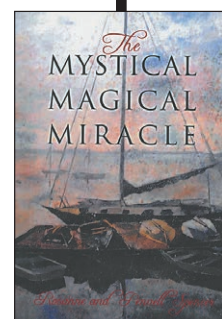
**The Mystical Magical Miracle**

By Rosanne and Pennell Spencer

Montana artist Pennell Spencer and his first wife, the late poet Rose Liberte, pair poetry and art in this collection that explores “the tangible and intangible intelligences of our existing creation.”

Spencer’s impressionistic, sometimes surreal portraits and landscapes accompany poetry by both, with a metaphysical bent. According to a press release, Pennell found inspiration in the works of Gustave Doré; at the same time Rose Liberte was writing angelic-in spired poems. The two blended their efforts in this hardcover book, which may be ordered online from Amazon.

Spencer currently lives off Brackett Creek in Montana where his paintings are inspired by the natural world.



**Nominations open for Center of the Book Prize**

Humanities Montana is now accepting nominations for the annual Montana Center of the Book Prize. Up to five award-winning programs will receive \$1,000 cash in recognition of their creative and wide-reaching literary programming such as family reading groups that promote youth literacy, reading series that encourage active engagement with the literary arts, or high school workshops that support student participation.

Nominees do not need to be non-profits to qualify for the MCB Prize. Any organization or group with a literary program will be considered. In awarding the prize, the Montana Center for the Book will prioritize geographic diversity with a special emphasis on organizations that reach rural populations.

The deadline to submit nominating letters is July 15 (only one letter is required).

See the list of past winners and get more information about the nomination process at [www.humanitiesmontana.org/centerforthebook](http://www.humanitiesmontana.org/centerforthebook).

# SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

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12



**Magic City Blues and Livingston Hoot:** Texas boogie-woogie pianist Marcia Ball

## Symphony Under the Stars: Aretha!

The music of the Queen of Soul comes to the Queen City July 20 for the Intrepid Credit Union Symphony Under the Stars. The free concert begins at 8:30 p.m. at Carroll College Quad Hill in Helena.

Although Aretha Franklin died this past August, her legacy lives on in her music. She recorded 112 charted singles on Billboard, and is one of the best-selling music artists of all time – selling more than 75 million records worldwide.

The Helena Symphony launches one of the first symphonic tributes to Franklin, featuring the orchestra replete with rock band, backup singers and members of the Symphony Chorale. Renowned guest artists, Grammy-nominated R&B singer Ryan Shaw and Broadway star Capathia Jenkins, join the orchestra in performing Franklin's top hits as well as music from other R&B legends, including Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder.

Call 406-442-1860 or visit [helena-symphony.org](http://helena-symphony.org).

## Billings & Eastern Montana

### Roundup Independence Days Extravaganza (R.I.D.E.)

– July 4-7 at Roundup City Park and downtown; fun four-day event features concerts by The Georgia Satellites and Jason Larson on Thursday; High Country Cowboys on Friday; and Lonestar on Saturday (all at 7 p.m.). Festivities also include a 5K Run/Walk, parades, rodeos and kids' activities. Call 406-323-4163 or visit [www.roundupindependencedays.com](http://www.roundupindependencedays.com) for details.

**Magic City Blues Festival** – Aug. 2-3 on the 2500 Block of Montana Ave. in Billings; Montana's urban music festival attracts thousands to the historic downtown for two nights of blues and rock. Now in its 18th year, the festival opens at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with a free, all-ages show on the Stillwater Stage, featuring Chubby Carrier and The Bayou Swamp Band. Appearing Friday on the Budweiser Stage are Hawthorne Roots, Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, and

George Thorogood and The Destroyers; Mudslide Charley, the Nick Schnebelen Band and Marcia Ball perform on the Stillwater Stage. Arterial Drive, Little Hurricane and Postmodern Jukebox are Saturday's headliners; the Stillwater Stage features Not Your Boyfriend's Band, Josh Hoyer and

Soul Colossal and Kalo. Call 406-534-0400 or visit [www.magiccityblues.com](http://www.magiccityblues.com).

**Miles City Bluegrass Festival** – Sept. 20-22 at the Eastern Montana Fairgrounds in Miles City; the 22nd annual "Music on Wings" bluegrass festival boasts a slate of top-notch bluegrass bands, including The Buckleys, Song Dog Serenade, the Edgar Loudermilk Band featuring Jeff Autry, Cotton Wood, Lockwood and Milestown. Call 406-234-2480 or 853-1678 or visit [www.milescitybluegrassfestival.com](http://www.milescitybluegrassfestival.com).

## Bozeman & Big Sky

### Peak to Sky Festival

– July 5-6 at Big Sky Town Center; curated by Mike McCready of Pearl Jam, the inaugural festival offers world-class rock under the backdrop of 11,166-foot Lone Peak. The Friday line-up includes an opening set by local favorites Dammit Lauren and The Well, followed by headliner Thunderpussy, a Seattle-based female rock 'n roll quartet. Earlier in the day, McCready and Kate Neckel will perform a segment from Infinite Color & Sound, their collaborative art and music project. Saturday's lineup features Grammy Award-winning artist Brandi Carlile followed by All Star friends McCready (Pearl Jam), Chad Smith and Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Duff McKagan (Guns N' Roses) and Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters). Bozeman-based Paige & The People's Band opens the evening's performance. Visit [www.peaktosky.com](http://www.peaktosky.com).

**Livingston Hoot** – 4 p.m. Aug. 8 on Main Street in Livingston; community festival returns with food vendors, non-profits, a kids' area, and top-notch musical talent on the big stage. Opening the show this year is The Western Flyers, a western swing trio, followed by Texas boogie-piano queen Marcia Ball, accompanied by blues vocalist/legend Tracy Nelson. Admission is free; learn more at [www.livingstonhoot.com](http://www.livingstonhoot.com).

**Big Sky Classical Music Festival** – Aug. 9 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, and Aug. 10-11 at the Town Center Park Center Stage in Big Sky; the ninth annual festival opens Friday evening with a ticketed event featuring acclaimed clarinetist Jonathan Gunn, along with Angella Ahn and Friends at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The festival continues Saturday at Town Center Park with Dallas Brass, one of America's foremost musical ensembles, and Sunday with the Big Sky Festival Orchestra, with Maestro Peter Bay and guest artist Jonathan Gunn in a performance that includes works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Ravel. Call 406-995-2742 or visit [bigskyarts.org](http://bigskyarts.org).

**Moonlight MusicFest 2019** – Aug. 16-17 at Moonlight Basin Resort in Big Sky; enjoy two days of stellar music, surrounded by views

of Lone Mountain and the Spanish Peaks. This intimate outdoor festival features performances by Trampled by Turtles, Blackberry Smoke, The Record Company, The Wood Brothers, St. Paul and the Broken Bones, Josh Ritter and the Royal City Band, The War and Treaty, Satsang and Dusty Pockets. Call 617-909-6062 or visit [moonlightmusicfest.com](http://moonlightmusicfest.com).



**Red Ants Pants Festival:** Rockin' 'til the cows come home.

## Butte & Southwest Montana

### St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival

– 4 p.m. Sundays, June 30, July 14 and 28, and Aug. 11 and 25 at St. Timothy's Chapel above Georgetown Lake; the festival begins with the always entertaining **Wylie and The Wild West**, who have delivered their refreshing blend of cowboy, western swing, old school country, and yodeling music worldwide. **The Montana Chamber Society with Muir Members and Guests** return to the chapel July 14; this year's performance includes the premiere of an original composition commissioned by patron of St. Timothy's and former Butte resident, Dianne Kimball. Concert pianist and singer **Karen Herrin** returns to the St. Timothy's stage July 28 with young guest artists Marin Sewell and Nora Spring. Herrin is a soloist with extensive training in multiple genres of music including pop, opera, jazz, folk, gospel and classical. **Jim Salestrom**, a Colorado musician and songwriter who has performed on-stage, "sat in" or recorded with such diverse performers as Dolly Parton, John Denver, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Livingston Taylor, Kenny Rogers, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Ozark Mountain Daredevils, plays Aug. 11; and the season wraps up Aug. 25 with Bozeman-based **Montana Manouche**, a quartet inspired by the repertoire of famed Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt and French jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli. Call 888-407-4071 or visit [sttimothysmusic.org](http://sttimothysmusic.org).



**Montana Folk Festival:** Spicy Cuban sounds of Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros

### Montana Folk Festival

– July 12-14 in Uptown Butte; three-day celebration of traditional music, dance, arts and ethnic cuisine offers continuous performances throughout the weekend. More than 20 of the nation's finest musicians and dancers appear on six stages, including a dance pavilion, a family stage, and the Original Mine Yard. A sampling includes bluesman Eddie Cotton, bluegrass by David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, Cuban music by Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros, dancehall Cajun by Kyle Huval and the Dixie Ramblers, hip-hop by Rahzel, and gospel by Cora Harvey Armstrong. Rounding out the free festival are dozens of artists, demonstrators, instructors and performers in two Arts Markets, the Family Area and Montana Folklife Area. Visit [www.montanafolkfestival.com](http://www.montanafolkfestival.com) for details.

**Rockin' the Rivers** – Aug. 8-10 at The Bridge in the Jefferson River Canyon near Three Forks; Montana's original homegrown rockfest for 18 years features more than 30 bands including Dead Fervor, Saliva, Warrant, Cheap Trick and Pinky and the Floyd on Thursday; and Nova Rex, Adelitas Way, Dokken, Zakk Sabbath and Whiskey River on Friday. The festival closes Saturday with Comatose Posse, Hinder, The Guess Who, Lou Gramm and Hot for Teacher. Call 866-285-0097 or visit [rockintherivers.com](http://rockintherivers.com).

**An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival** – Aug. 9-11 at the Original Mine Yard in Butte; founded by the Montana Gaelic Cultural Society to promote and preserve Gaelic culture through language, music and dance, this free festival brings Ireland to the Mining City. Music begins at 2 p.m. Friday and noon on Saturday;

performers include The Whileaways, Evans and Doherty, Tom Sweeny, Kevin Doyle, the McLean Avenue Band, Dublin Gulch, the Trinity Irish Dance Company and the Tiernan Irish Singers. The annual celebration also features Montana and Irish authors, art, crafts, food, and children's activities. Call 406-498-3983 or visit [mtgaelic.org](http://mtgaelic.org).



**Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Western Music Rendezvous:** The Bellamy Brothers

## Central Montana

**Red Ants Pants Music Festival** – July 25-28 at the Jackson Ranch in White Sulphur Springs; the festival starts downtown with a free street dance at 9 p.m. Thursday, featuring Tris Munsick and The Innocents, and runs through Sunday with live music at the festival grounds. Headliners include Patty Griffin, Shakey Graves, Bobby Bare, Colter Wall, Valerie June, Suzy Bogguss, The White Buffalo and Darrell Scott. The line-up also includes Mipso, The Steel Wheels, The Waifs and Dustbowl Revival, as well as The East Pointers, William Prince, Lilly Hiatt, Bo DePeña, and many more. The festival is designed to bring people together and support the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which is dedicated to women's leadership, working family farms and ranches, and rural communities. Offerings also include agriculture and work-skill demonstrations, a yodeling contest and the annual Beard and Moustache and Cross-Cut Sawing competitions, plus local food, beer, wine, art and crafts. Call 406-547-3781 or visit [redantspantsmusicfestival.com](http://redantspantsmusicfestival.com).

**Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous** – Aug. 15-18 at Fergus High School in Lewistown; a slew of cowboy poets, western musicians and artists convene at the 34th annual festival to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of the cowboy lifestyle. The Bellamy Brothers headline Saturday's stage show. Other highlights are Friday night's Jam 'n Dance; and Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. The festival also includes hourly sessions of cowboy poetry and western music, a western art and vendor show and workshops. Call 406-538-4575 or visit [montanacowboypoeetrygathering.com](http://montanacowboypoeetrygathering.com).

**Boulder Music and Art Festival** – Sept. 7 at Veteran's Park in Boulder; enjoy a weekend of music, food, art and fun during the free end-of-summer festival, now in its 12th year. Call 406-465-7282 or visit [www.bouldermtchamber.org](http://www.bouldermtchamber.org).

## Flathead & Mission Valleys

**Under the Big Sky Music and Arts Festival** – July 13-14 at Big Mountain Ranch in Whitefish; inaugural festival presents stars from across the spectrum of Americana, folk and alt-country on a 350-acre ranch near Glacier National Park. Headliners include Nathaniel Rateliff and the Band of Horses, Dwight Yoakam, Jenny Lewis, Cody Jinks, Elle King, Jamestown Revival, Ryan Bingham and a slew of other musicians, including Corb Lund, Bones Owens, and Justin Townes Earle. Accompanying the musical programming is a rough stock rodeo, trail riding and food and beverage vendors. Visit [www.underthebigskyfest.com](http://www.underthebigskyfest.com).



**Festival Amadeus: Violinist William Hagen**

**Festival Amadeus 2019** – Aug. 2-11 at the O’Shaughnessy Center and Whitefish Performing Arts Center and Aug. 9 at St. John Paul II Church in Bigfork; Montana’s only week-long summer classical music festival kicks off Aug. 2 at the O’Shaughnessy Center with “It’s a String Thing,” featuring the Cascade String Quartet from Great Falls, and continues Aug. 3 with “A Gala Evening of Voices,” featuring the six-member cast of Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte.” Tre Virtuosi, featuring violinist William Hagen, flutist Mark McGregor and pianist Jed Moss, offer the third chamber concert, Aug. 7 at Whitefish Performing Arts Center and Aug. 9 at the St. John Paul II Church in Bigfork. The first orchestral concert on Aug. 6 at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center is “Flute, Fire and Idomeneus” featuring flutist McGregor; the second, on Thursday, Aug. 8, is “Turkish, Hebrides, Beethoven 4” with violinist Hagen. The festival concludes with “Cosi Fan Tutte (or “The School for Lovers”)” – one of Mozart’s greatest comic operas, Aug. 10-11, at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center. Call 406-407-7000 or visit [www.gscmusic.org](http://www.gscmusic.org).

**Riverfront Blues Festival** – Aug. 9-10 at Riverfront Park in Libby; 11th annual blues bash by the Kootenai River offers two days of top-notch entertainment that spans a wide range of blues styles. The festival kicks off Friday with CD Woodbury, Skyla Burrell and Duwayne Burnside; Saturday’s line-up includes Terry Robb, Carl Rey Trio, Sara Brown, Corey Dennison and Zac Harmon, culminating in an all-star jam. Call 406-291-0185 or visit [www.riverfrontbluesfestival.com](http://www.riverfrontbluesfestival.com).

**Flathead Lake Blues and Music Festival** – Aug. 16-17 at Regatta Shoreline Amphitheater at the Polson Fairgrounds; ninth annual event kicks off Friday with music by Jordan Albert, The Kelly Brothers, Moneypenny and Ocelot Wizard. Saturday’s diverse lineup includes Blue Moon, the Bobbie Patterson Band, the Zach Cooper Band, the Michelle Taylor Band, and the Stacy Jones Band. Visit [flatheadlakebluesfestival.com](http://flatheadlakebluesfestival.com).

**Missoula & Western Montana**

**The Bob Marshall Music Festival** – June 28-29 in Seeley Lake; this year’s line-up includes Shinyribs, The Black Lillies, Tony Furtado Band, John Roberts y Pan Blanco, Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, The Artisanals, Dodgy Mountain Men, Hawthorne Roots, and more. Call 406-442-5960 or visit [www.thebobmusic.com](http://www.thebobmusic.com).

**Chamber Music Montana Summer Festival** – July 5-6 in Missoula, July 7 in St. Ignatius and July 8 in Glacier National Park; the festival opens at 7:30 p.m. July 5 at the plaza adjacent to the UM Music Recital Hall in Missoula with wine, cheese and music (\$25). The Sapphire Trio with pianist Barbara Blegen, Duo del Sol, the Jenhankinson Duo, Duo Nyans, Flute Duo Extraordinaire and the Post-Haste Reed Duo offer **Chamber Music Favorites**, 7:30 p.m. July 6 at the UM Music Recital Hall; **Music at the Mission**, 1 p.m. July 7 at the St. Ignatius Mission Church (a benefit for the historic church’s Mural Restoration Project); and **Chamber Music in the Park**, 6:30 p.m. July 8 at Many Glacier Hotel near Babb. Call 406-243-4581 or visit [www.chambermusicmt.com](http://www.chambermusicmt.com).

**Lost Trail Fest** – July 12-13 at Lost Trail Powder Mountain in Sula; performers include Dead Floyd, The Higgs, Rotgut Whines, Skurfs, Tiny Plastic Stars, Letter B, Double Dirty Ocelot, Straw Hat Riots, Why We Came West, Dammit Lauren and The Well, Westfork, Annalisa Rose and Lonesome Gold. Alongside live bands, the event boasts an adventure hike, live art show and morning yoga. Call 406-821-3211 or visit [adventurecrewrepresents.com](http://adventurecrewrepresents.com).

**Montana Baroque Music Festival** – July 16-18 at Quinn’s Hot Springs in Paradise; enjoy three nights of classical music by world-renowned musicians during this 16th annual event. Themes are “Baroque Masters” Tuesday; “Mozart for Andre” Wednesday; and “Faux Baroque” Thursday. Call 406-826-3150 or visit [www.quinnshotsprings.com](http://www.quinnshotsprings.com).

**See Music on next page**

**SUMMER ARTS FESTIVALS**

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**Billings & Eastern Montana**

**Art in the Park** – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 29 at the Northeast Montana Veterans’ Memorial in Fort Peck; artists and artisans sell their fine art, fine crafts and home businesses wares. Food, entertainment and a Bouncy House for kids are also part of the event, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Historic Fort Peck Summer Theatre. Call 406-230-0148 or visit [Wheatgrassarts.com](http://Wheatgrassarts.com).

**Art in the Beartooths** – 9 a.m.-9 p.m. July 13 at Lions Club Park in Red Lodge; the Carbon County Art Guild’s 46th annual even helps the organization continue providing arts programing throughout the year. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. when 25 artists will join Signature Artists Sonja Caywood, Terry Cooke Hall and Marcia Selsor to create art for the live auction in the evening. The ticketed part of the event opens at 4 p.m. in Lions Park with an art preview, cash bar and live music, followed by dinner, silent and live auctions and a raffle. The arts guild also hosts the annual **Labor Day Arts Fair**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 2, which showcases the art and fine crafts from more than 90 artists. Call 406-446-1370 or visit [www.carboncountyparkdepotgallery.org](http://www.carboncountyparkdepotgallery.org).



“Prairie Herald” by Sonja Caywood, one of the Signature Artists at this year’s Art in the Beartooths.

**Summerfair 41** – July 12-14 at Rimrock Mall in Billings; the Yellowstone Art Museum’s event features more than 100 of the region’s best artists and craftspeople, plus community groups and food vendors. Summerfair Eve launches the 41st annual event Friday at its new venue with a concert in the parking lot. The event typically attracts more than 10,000 people over three days. Vendors offer painting, pottery, art from nature, glass, wood, metal, fiber art, photography, body products and artisan foods. Call 406-256-6804 or visit [www.artmuseum.org](http://www.artmuseum.org).

**Sunrise Festival of the Arts** – 8 a.m. July 13 at Veterans Memorial Park in Sidney; the festival connects local and regional artists, craftspeople, and authors with shoppers and arts enthusiasts. Call 406-433-1916 or visit [sidneymt.com](http://sidneymt.com).

**Mexican Fiesta** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 20 at South Park in Billings; Mary Queen of Peace Parish sponsors the 66th annual celebration, which includes an authentic Mexican meal, kids’ games, a silent auction, craft and food vendors, dancing, singing and music. The 23rd annual Fiesta Car Show attracts more than 100 classic, stock and custom cars (406-628-8872). Festivities continue at 8 p.m. at the Billings Hotel Ballroom with a dance, featuring music by Tejano Outlaws. Call 406-670-7667 for details.

**Central Montana**

**Choteau Summer Festival** – 9 a.m. July 3 in the Choteau City Park; annual art-in-the-park affair, sponsored by the Choteau Soroptimists, features dozens of fine art and handcrafts vendors, along with lively entertainment and a duck race. Call 406-466-2706 for details.

**Chalk Up Helena! Sidewalk Chalk Art Event** – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 20 on the Trolley Block of the Walking Mall on Historic Last Chance Gulch; fun, art and prizes for artists of all ages and levels (amateur to professional) abound at the 12th annual event, sponsored by the Helena Public Art Committee. Call 406-443-8493 or visit [www.helenapublicarts.com](http://www.helenapublicarts.com).

**Flathead & Mission Valleys**

**Summer ArtFest at Whitefish** – June 28-30 at Cypress Yard in Whitefish; mingle with artists from across the West, watch a live Quick Draw, listen to panel discussions and participate in a live auction featuring famed auctioneer Troy Black during the inaugural event. Call 406-755-2727 or visit [summerartfestwhitefish.com](http://summerartfestwhitefish.com).

**Artists and Craftsmen of the Flathead Summer Show** – July 5-7 at the Flathead County Fairgrounds in Kalispell; local artists and crafters join cohorts from western states in the 36th annual show. Call 406-881-4288 or visit [artistsandcraftsmen.org](http://artistsandcraftsmen.org).

**Whitefish Arts Festival** – July 5-7 at Depot Park in Whitefish; artists from around the Northwest sell high-quality art and fine crafts during the 40th annual fair, sponsored by the Whitefish Christian Academy. Call 406-862-5875 or visit [www.whitefishartsfestival.org](http://www.whitefishartsfestival.org).

**Arts in the Park** – July 12-14 at Depot Park in Kalispell; more than 100 local and visiting artists and craftsmen offer a vast array of unique, high-quality works at the Hockaday Museum’s 51st annual juried event. Call 406-755-5268 or visit [www.hockadaymuseum.org](http://www.hockadaymuseum.org).

**Artists in Paradise** – July 18-20 at the Paradise Center; The Sanders County Arts Council’s sixth annual event features new and returning artists, plus exhibits and demonstrations. Call 406-826-8585 or visit [www.sanderscountyarts.org](http://www.sanderscountyarts.org).

**Flathead Lake Festival of Art** – July 27-28 at Sacajawea Park in Polson; the fifth annual juried show features original fine art and craft by talented artisans from Montana and beyond. The Sandpiper Art Gallery also sponsors the 48th annual Sandpiper Art Festival, 10 a.m.-5

p.m. Aug. 10 on the shady lawn of the Lake County Courthouse; browse original works by artists and artisans from around the region, while musicians and dancers entertain. Call 406-883-5956 or visit [www.sandpiperartgallery.com](http://www.sandpiperartgallery.com).

**Huckleberry Days Arts Festival** – Aug. 9-11 at Depot Park in Whitefish; more than 120 vendors of handmade fine art and crafts, a huckleberry dessert bake-off contest, and community entertainment are part of the 30th annual festival. Call 406-862-3501 or visit [www.whitefishchamber.org](http://www.whitefishchamber.org).

**Missoula & Bitterroot Valley**

**Art in the Park** – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 27 at American Legion Park in Hamilton; the park overflows with handmade wonders during the Bitter Root Arts Guild’s annual art and craft show. Call 406-381-3240 or 360-6670.

**MADE fair Marketplace Western Montana Fair** – Aug. 7-11 at the Western Montana Fairgrounds; more than 65 artisans per day share their creations in the historic commercial building. The revolving collection of artists encourages those visiting the fair to come back and see which new artists are being showcased. The fair also highlights a local non-profit and an artist in residence, and hosts a Make and Take Zone for kids. Call 406-214-9078 or visit [handmademontana.com](http://handmademontana.com).

**Bozeman & Southwest Montana**

**Festival of the Arts** – July 2-4 at Depot Rotary Park in Livingston; nearly 100 fine artists and artisans share handcrafted wares during the Livingston Depot Center’s annual juried show. Food, fun, and the famous Depot pie booth are also part of the annual affair, which coincides with the popular Livingston Roundup rodeo and the downtown parade. Call 406-222-2300 or visit [livingstondepotpark.org](http://livingstondepotpark.org).

**Art in Washoe Park: 40-year Blowout** – July 19-21 in Washoe Park in Anaconda; annual juried art show, sponsored by Copper Village Museum and Arts Center, brings 85 juried art and crafts booths to the scenic park. Ethnic foods and professional entertainment are offered all three days, including the Ken Rich Band and Tim Montana on Friday; Tom Catmull and the Last Resort, Wayne Bother and The Night Life and Steve Kelly and Cherry Cherry Band on Saturday; and Shodown on Sunday. Call 406-563-2422 or visit [cvmac.org](http://cvmac.org).

**Virginia City Art Show** – July 26-28 at the Community Hall in Virginia City; see art displays from across Montana and around the Northwest during the annual juried show. Saturday night brings the ever-popular Quick Draw, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Elks. Call 406-843-5555 or visit [virginiacity.com](http://virginiacity.com).

**Sweet Pea Festival** – Aug. 2-4 at Lindley Park in Bozeman; giant arts festival boasts music of all genres, performances by local theatre and dance troupes, workshops, family-friendly entertainment and activities, a flower show, beer

**See Arts Fests on next page**



**Summerfair moves to new venue**

The Yellowstone Art Museum’s Summerfair, July 12-14, moves to a new setting this year: Rimrock Mall in Billings. Vendors, food trucks, and entertainment will take place just outside the main entrance of the mall in the northeast parking lot, with educational programs and artist demonstrations inside the mall at center court and other open spaces.

The Summerfair Committee made the decision to relocate the popular festival in response to years of survey and feedback. The new venue provides substantial parking opportunities, as well as increased security and accessibility for vendors and patrons.

Summerfair kicks off Friday night from 4-9 p.m. with a concert in the parking lot. The fair is open 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, and includes museum-inspired hands-on artmaking in the center court of Rimrock Mall at the Children’s Art Activity Booth. Artist demonstrations and entertainment are on tap throughout the weekend.

Summerfair is one of the largest annual fundraising events for the museum’s education programs and yearly operating costs.

For details, call 406-256-6804.



14



**Sweet Pea Festival: Music, theatre, dance and art in the shady environs of Lindley Park.**

### Arts Festivals (cont.)

and wine gardens, and over 100 arts and crafts vendors. Pre-festival events include **Chalk on the Walk** July 30 and **Bite of Bozeman** July 31. Call 406-586-4403 or visit [sweetpeafestival.org](http://sweetpeafestival.org).

**Summer SLAM Festival** – Aug. 3-4 at Bogert Park in Bozeman; artists from across the state exhibit their work while performers grace the stage at the ninth annual family-friendly event. Visit [slamfestivals.org](http://slamfestivals.org).

**Madison Valley Arts Festival** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 10 at Peter T's Park in Ennis; the Ennis Arts Association's 24th annual event features 48 juried artist booths, live music, food, face painting and an art raffle. Learn more at [ennisarts.org](http://ennisarts.org).



**International Choral Festival: Mxolisi Magagula of South Africa leads the Kocopelli Choir from Edmonton.** (Photo by Tom Bauer/Missoulian)

### International Choral Festival

The International Choral Festival, July 17-20 in Missoula, features more than 400 singers from around the world.

Choirs are coming from Germany, Estonia, Catalonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Finland, Paraguay, Indonesia and China. These international guests will be joined by three U.S. ensembles – a girls' choir from Arizona, an adult choir from California, and the University of Montana's own premier vocal group, the UM Chamber Chorale.

The festival opens July 17 during Out to Lunch at Caras Park, with free performances by many of the guest choirs; five youth choirs perform that evening at Bonner Park with the Missoula City Band. Both events are free.

A conductors' symposium, a "choir crawl" and a massed-choir finale (over 600 voices!) are among the offerings Thursday-Saturday.

Festival buttons cost \$20 and are available at several locations. For details, call 406-721-7985 or visit [www.choralfestival.org](http://www.choralfestival.org).

### Music Festivals (cont.)

**Symes Hot Springs Blues Festival** – July 26-27 at the Symes Hotel in Hot Springs; the tenth annual festival features music by Kevin Van Dort and Full Grown Band on Friday and the Pleasure Kings and Mudslide Charley on Saturday. Call 406-741-2361 or visit [www.symeshotspringsbluesfestival.com](http://www.symeshotspringsbluesfestival.com).

**Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival** – July 26-28 at 163 Forest Hill Road in Hamilton; celebrate the sounds of traditional bluegrass music at the 11th annual event with concerts, competitions and lots of jamming. This year's roster includes 10 bands and five featured pioneers. Call 406-821-3777 or visit [hardtimesbluegrass.com](http://hardtimesbluegrass.com).

**Big Sky Blues Festival** – Aug. 2-4 at Pilgrim Creek Park in Noxon; the 10th annual festival kicks off Aug. 3 with a pre-party on the big stage at the festival site. The weekend line-up includes Amanda Fish, Stacy Jones, Franco Paletta and The Stingers, StepBrothers Band, Bryan Warhall, Randy McAllister, Dean Haitani, Mark Dufresne, Robin Barrett with Tiphony Dames and Coyote Kings, Cros, Jimmy D. Lane, and L.A. Smith. Call 406-827-4210 or visit [bigskyblues.com](http://bigskyblues.com).

**Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering** – Aug. 17-18 at the Daly Mansion in Hamilton; the 10th annual gathering is filled with Highland games, dancers, music and pipe & drum bands. Festivities also include dog-herding and hurling demonstrations, kids' activities, a clan gathering, history and cultural displays, and a concert Saturday night. Visit [www.begg.org](http://www.begg.org) for details.

**River City Roots Festival** – Aug. 23-24 in downtown Missoula; the community's signature celebration draws more than 15,000 people to the heart of Missoula for a variety of fun activities and exceptional music. Headlining Friday night's line-up is the Honey Island Swamp Band, delivering "Bayou Americana." Leftover Salmon, considered the architect of what's become known as "jamgrass," headlines Saturday's Music on Main. Other performers include Moneypenny, Ashleigh Flynn and The Riveters and The Black Lillies on Friday; and The Whizpops, Cascade Crescendo, a Guy Clark Tribute by Shawn Camp and Verlon Thompson, and the Acoustic Syndicate on Saturday. The Roots Fest also features a Family Fun Festival, juried art show, food vendors and a fun run. Call 406-543-4238 or visit [rivercityrootsfestival.com](http://rivercityrootsfestival.com).

## SUMMER THEATRE

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### Southwest Montana

**"Newsies"** – 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, June 28-July 21, at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts in Livingston; set in New York City at the turn of the century and based on a true story, this musical tells the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of "newsies" who takes a stand for what's right. Call 406-222-1420 or visit [www.theshanecenter.org](http://www.theshanecenter.org).

### "Damn Yankees"

– 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, July 26-Aug. 11, at the Ellen Theatre in Bozeman; enjoy a grand slam score performed by a powerhouse cast of singers and dancers, all backed by a sparkling 20-piece live orchestra. Call 406-585-5885 or visit [www.theellentheatre.com](http://www.theellentheatre.com).

### Brewery Follies

– 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays and 4 and 8 p.m. Thursdays-Mondays, through Aug. 25 and 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 28-Sept. 21, at the H.S. Gilbert Brewery in Virginia City; the Follies deliver another summer season of belly laughs, celebrity impersonations, sketch comedy, and plenty of music. Call 800-829-2969, ext. 3 or visit [www.breweryfollies.net](http://www.breweryfollies.net).

**Virginia City Players** – 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 7 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, at the Opera House in Virginia City; the Players season opened with the thrills, romance, and excitement of **"Zorro,"** through June 30. Joy, merriment, and puppetry will titillate and intrigue audiences of all ages as they tumble down Lewis Carroll's rabbit hole with **"Alice in Wonderland,"** July 2-Aug. 4. Finally, in honor of the 70th anniversary of the beloved theatre, the company presents **"The Stygian Amulet"** Aug. 6-Sept. 1. In this original work by Judith Ferree, who directed at the Opera House from 1970-1979, a curse has been held over the Braithwin estate for generations. Following the death of patriarch Anders Braithwin, the family descendants, doctors and lawyers all gather in the creepy old manor, in search of the missing Stygian Amulet, which holds the family under its spell. Strange characters, an ancient housemaid, and ghosts haunt the stage in this true Virginia City classic. Don't miss Vaudeville Variety Acts after every melodrama. Call 800-829-2969 or visit [www.virginiacityplayers.com](http://www.virginiacityplayers.com) for details.

**"The Music Man"** – 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, through June 30 at the Cutler Brothers Theater in Deer Lodge; the summer season kicks off with this beloved musical about con-man Harold Hill and prim librarian and piano teacher Marian. The crew also stages **"The Complete History of America (abridged),"** which dashes through 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds, July 4-Aug. 4; and **"The Chopping Block,"** a comedic musical written by Kelly and Matthew Cutler, July 12-Aug. 2. Call 406-846-4096 or visit [www.cutlerbros.com](http://www.cutlerbros.com) for details.

**Playmill Theatre Season** – 6 and 8:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 2, 6 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, through Aug. 31, at the theatre in West Yellowstone; this season's offerings include **"The Music Man,"** **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"** and **"The Foreigner."** Call 406-646-7757 or visit [www.playmill.com](http://www.playmill.com) for details.

### Flathead & Mission Valleys

**"The Sunshine Boys"** – 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, July 5-14 at the Theatre on the Lake in Polson; the Port Polson Players launch "a kind of sentimental season, laced with humor," opening with Neil Simon's comedy, performed in honor of its author who passed away last August. The Polson Players have produced 15 of his comedies and look forward to shining a light once again on Simon's story of two aged vaudeville performers. The second summer show for the Players is also a revival, **"Tonight on Wild Horse Island."** Local attorney and playwright John Mercer wrote the musical comedy 18 years ago and has updated the dialogue and added a few new songs. The show, staged July 18-Aug. 4, honors Polson's late Jean Turnage and Ronald B. MacDonald from Butte, who worked together

to make Flathead Lake's largest island a state park. The season wraps up Aug. 8-25 with **"The Savannah Sipping Society"** which centers on four middle-aged single Southern women, drawn together by fate, a little yoga, and the occasional liquid refreshment. The Players perform at 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays at Polson's historic 1938 Theatre on the Lake. Go to [PortPolsonPlayers.com](http://PortPolsonPlayers.com) or call 406-883-9212 for info or reservations.

**Dare to Dream: The Road to Broadway** – 8 p.m. July 20 and 26-27 at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center; Alpine Theatre Project's

one-night-only concert on July 20 explores the talent, passion and commitment it takes to make it on Broadway with seven actors who did just that. A week later, July 26-27, two performances celebrate the passion and dreams of the next generation with Broadway Summer Training Camp students taking the stage alongside their Broadway mentors. Call 406-862-8640 or visit [atpwhitefish.org](http://atpwhitefish.org).

### "Boeing, Boeing"

– 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, Aug. 14-24, at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish; it's the 1960s, and swinging bachelor Bernard couldn't be happier: a flat in Paris and three gorgeous fiancées, all flight attendants that he's managed to separately juggle with a well-planned schedule and the reluctant assistance of his housekeeper. But Bernard's perfect life gets bumpy when his friend Robert comes to stay and a new and speedier Boeing jet throws off all of his careful planning. Call 406-862-5371 or visit [www.whitefishtheatreco.org](http://www.whitefishtheatreco.org).

### Central Montana

**"Footloose"** – 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, July 11-27 at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena; kick off your Sunday shoes and get ready for one of the most beloved movie musicals ever to hit the stage. Based on the 1984 Kevin Bacon film, "Footloose" tells the story of out-of-towner Ren, who moves from big city Chicago to small town America and sets out to bring forgotten joy to the town. Rock to the Oscar- and Tony-nominated top 40 score and soundtrack that reached number one on the Billboard charts. Also on stage this summer is **"Sister Act,"** Aug. 2-17: when wannabe disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a crime, the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look – a convent! Featuring original music by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken, this uplifting musical is filled with toe-tapping songs, show-stopping dancing and a moving story about the universal power of friendship. In **"The Cake,"** Sept. 5-15, Della's life in her North Carolina bakery appears to be sugary sweet. When her late best friend's daughter returns home to reveal that she's engaged and is marrying another woman, Della must decide if she will make a wedding cake for a friend she loves like family. Call 406-447-1574 or visit [grandstreettheatre.com](http://grandstreettheatre.com).

**"She Kills Monsters"** – 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, July 25-Aug. 3 at MSUN/MAT Theatre in Havre; in this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres and '90s pop culture, acclaimed young playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all. Call 406-945-0272 for details.

### Missoula & Bitterroot Valley

**"The Little Prince"** – 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 16-23, at the Hamilton Playhouse; charming play, based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is a timeless story of an unlikely friendship between an aviator who crashes in the Sahara Desert and the innocent yet wise Little Prince who has fallen from the sky. Call 406-375-9050 or visit [hamiltonplayers.com](http://hamiltonplayers.com) for details.

**"Go. Please. Go."** – 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 28-Sept. 8, with an additional matinee Sept. 7, at UM Masquer Theatre in the PARTV Center in Missoula; a couple decides: This isn't working. He says he'll leave, and then he doesn't. He stays and stays, through 70 years of marriages, bar mitzvahs, baptisms and funerals. Montana Rep's season opener asks what it means to love somebody for a lifetime, and what a lifetime even means. Visit [montanarep.com](http://montanarep.com).



**The Illustrious Virginia City Players celebrate 70 years with another season of melodrama and vaudeville.**

# Summer on Stage

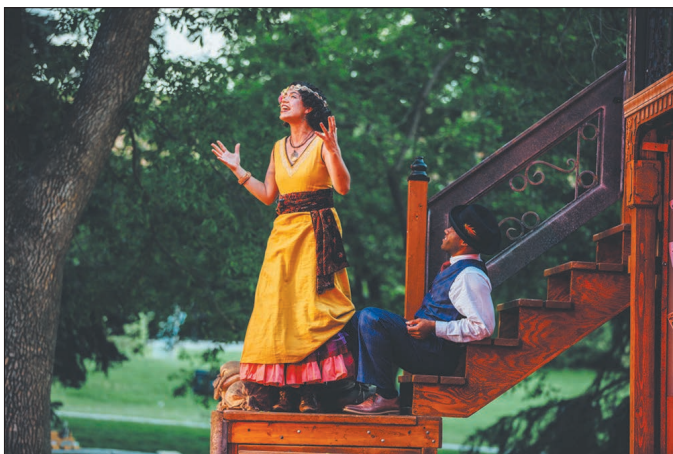
## MSIP stages “Henry IV” and “Merry Wives of Windsor”

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will tour performances of Shakespeare’s “Henry IV, Part I” and “The Merry Wives of Windsor” this summer to parks and public spaces across Montana and adjacent states.

The company will travel over 7,000 miles during the season, which runs June 12 through Sept. 3, performing in 61 communities in five states including Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington. All performances are offered free and are accessible to all.

Kevin Asselin, executive artistic director, directs “Henry IV, Part I” while Chicago-based Marti Lyons directs “The Merry Wives of Windsor.” The 11 professional actors touring with the company were chosen out of a highly competitive pool at auditions in Bozeman, Chicago, Minneapolis and Houston.

Lyons returns as guest director after having worked at such notable institutions as the Goodman Theatre (Chicago), The Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.



Isabella Reeder is Poins and Domonique Champion is Prince Hal in Montana Shakespeare in the Parks’ production of “Henry IV, Part 1.” (Photo by Adrian Sanchez Gonzales)

The recent centennial of WWI inspired Asselin to set “Henry IV, Part I” in that era. “The play has such a deep relationship with the true meaning of honor. Shakespeare gives us multiple viewpoints on what honor means to us as individuals,” he says.

“And it has a great relationship to Montana,” adds Asselin. “If you look at the veteran

population through the past 125 years, Montana leads the nation in terms of veterans per capita. I felt the connection would be exciting for us to explore.”

It’s a “Summer of Falstaff” with one of Shakespeare’s most popular characters featured prominently in both plays. The drunken knight is a foil to Prince Hal in “Henry IV” and he figures as the catalyst for the comic action in “Merry Wives.” Returning actor Steve Peebles (seen in “Bard in the Backcountry”) will play the old, fat scoundrel. Rumor has it that Queen Elizabeth herself commissioned “Merry Wives” because she wanted to see the “fat knight in love.”

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is an outreach program of Montana State University’s College of Arts and Architecture. Grants, corporate sponsorships and hundreds of individual donors support the free performances.

For more information on the plays and an up-to-date tour schedule, visit MSIP’s website at [shakespeareintheparks.org](http://shakespeareintheparks.org).



15

## Bigfork Summer Playhouse celebrates 60th season

The Bigfork Summer Playhouse – known affectionately as the “theatre by the bay” – offers its 60th season of live professional theater.

Each year, the playhouse – under the direction of producers Don Thomson, associate producer Jude Thomson, and associate producer Brach Thomson – recruits a talented cast of Broadway-caliber actors and actresses from across the country.

According to Don, the theatre embarks on its sixth decade “in building mode,” with several recruits in their early 20s, anxious to build resumes. The theatre employs up to 55 actors, directors, set and costume designers and choreographers, although once the season is in full swing, the number drops to around 35.

This year’s season offers shows to suit every taste, beginning with “**The Totally Radical ’80s Musical Revue.**” Four repertory productions follow: the perennial favorite “**Oklahoma!**” is the first collaboration of famed partners Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II; “**Seussical – the Musical**” brings the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss to life; “**Catch Me If You Can**” takes the

audience on a lively romp with a veteran con artist; and “**The Wedding Singer,**” opening July 9, pokes fun at all things ’80s.

The season wraps up in late August with another musical extravaganza, “**Hits From the ’50s, ’60s, and ’70s.**”

Thomson – who describes his role these days as “gofer” – is a steadfast fan of “Oklahoma!” because it’s a classic. “We could do it every year and still fill the seats,” he says.

He predicts the season’s sleeper will be “Catch Me If You Can,” with “fun, jazzy music,” and a plot based on the true story of conman Frank Abagnale Jr., who worked as a doctor, lawyer and airline co-pilot, all before his 18th birthday.

Grown-ups will find plenty to enjoy in the imaginative “Seussical.” “It’s not just for kids,” he says.

Jude and Don Thomson’s own kids, Brach and Gavin, grew up in the theatre. “We told ‘em both to stay out of the arts, and they went right in,” says Don.

Brach now manages BSP, and oversees Bigfork Playhouse Children’s Theatre during the school year. Gavin spent two decades in Las Vegas, working back stage on major productions.

BSP, founded in 1960, is a past recipient

of the Montana Governor’s Arts Award. Oscar-winning actor J.K. Simmons is among BSP’s alumni; he spent seven years with the playhouse, acting and directing. Broadway actor and opera singer Curt Olds and Joseph Jefferson Award-winning performer Michael Buchanan are also veterans of the BSP stage.

Meet this year’s company at the popular **Benefit Revue** on July 28. Proceeds go toward the BSP scholarship fund.

Show times are 8 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, with matinees at 2 p.m. Sundays, July 14 and 21 and Aug. 11 and 18. For tickets and reservations, call 837-4886 or visit [www.bigforksummerplayhouse.com](http://www.bigforksummerplayhouse.com).

– Kristi Niemeyer



“Seussical – the Musical”: “It’s not just for kids,” says Bigfork Summer Playhouse producer Don Thomson.

## Alumni gather for Fort Peck’s anniversary salute

Fort Peck Summer Theatre celebrates 50 seasons this summer, and alumni from far and wide are gathering to pay homage to “The Jewel of the Prairie.”

Fort Peck alumni Neal and Karen Lewing of the Port Polson Players were asked to orchestrate the anniversary show, “50 Years of Fort Peck Summer Theatre,” 7:30 p.m. June 29. The performance includes a 45-minute version of “Oklahoma!” According to Karen, “many of the people who performed 50 years ago will be back in the saddle again.”

Andy Meyers, the theatre’s current artistic director, wanted as many of the alumni as possible from the company’s first major musical to return to the stage.

“So we’ve been researching and digging up old names,” says Lewing. “It’s truly going to be an amazing tribute.”

First of all, Dave Bunes, who played Curly, the romantic lead, 50 years ago, is playing the same role again. He’s now 81. And his wife, Faye, 75, plays Laurey. “They are both from Helena and are still pitching hard on the performing arts scene,” says Lewing.

Cathy Larish who played opposite Bunes as Laurey in that original production also returns to the stage as part of the ensemble.

Don and Libby Torgerson, now in their 70s, are reprising their roles too as the origi-

nal Jud Fry and Aunt Eller from 50 years ago.

The first FPST artistic director Carl Darchuk will return from North Carolina to kick off the evening, with his former wife, Patti Penner Darchuk. Together, they’ll sing and run through two minutes of dialogue from the first show Fort Peck produced in 1970, the two-person musical, “I Do! I Do!” They also both appear in “Oklahoma!”

Jon Wheeler, the first president of FPST’s board of directors, returns to the stage too as Pa Carnes.

And Karen’s husband Neal, who played Peddler Ali Hakim a half-century ago, will team up with his wife “who couldn’t say no.” Karen reports that she first met her future husband at Fort Peck 40 years ago, when they played a revival of “Oklahoma!” for the 10th anniversary season. “We shared our first kiss – a stage kiss – as Ali Hakim and Ado Annie.” The couple, now in their 60s, are some of the younger performers in this celebratory extravaganza.

Several more of the old guard, from other and later seasons, will appear in “Oklahoma!” or in the audience. Former MAC director Arni Fishbaugh, who appeared in a few Fort Peck shows including “Little Mary Sunshine,” declined a role in the revival but promises to be in the audience, “cheering the team on.”

“So the old timers are returning to revive

the young-uns they originally played in the show,” says Lewing. “The excitement for this thing is beyond electric. What a hunk of Montana history!”

Meyers, who plays Will Parker, has wrangled a younger batch of actors from the 2019 company to perform as well.

The anniversary season opens with “**Mamma Mia!**” which continues through July 7; the jukebox romantic comedy boasts an irresistible score featuring songs from the 1970s’ band ABBA.

“**The Marvelous Wonderettes,**” July 12-21, features pop songs from the 1950s and 1960s; and “**Peter Pan,**” July 26-Aug. 11, is the charming musical based on the play by Sir J.M. Barrie. The season wraps up Aug. 16-Sept. 1 with “**On Golden Pond,**” a classic American comedic drama that’s every bit as warm and witty today as when it debuted off Broadway in 1978.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays; call 406-526-9943 or visit [www.fortpecktheatre.org](http://www.fortpecktheatre.org) for reservations.



An original painting by Wolf Point artist Virginia Dusenbury portrays Dave Bunes and Cathy Larish (Vickers) as the original Curly and Laurey in Fort Peck’s first production of “Oklahoma!” 50 years ago.

## MONTANA ARTS NEWS

## North by Northwest: 11 days of Billings cultural events

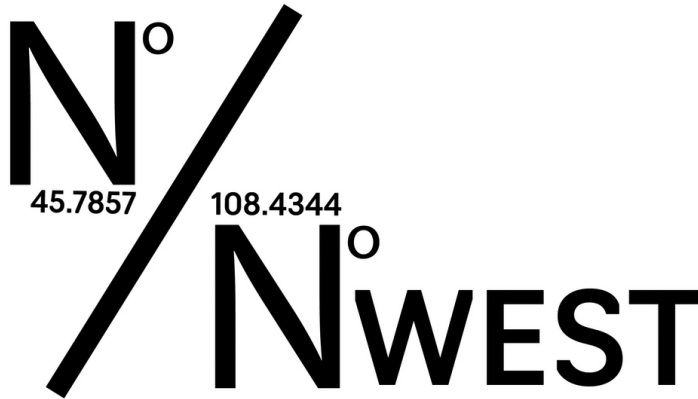
The Billings Cultural Partnership (BCP) will highlight 11 days of cultural events Sept. 12-22 with North by Northwest.

According to Bryan W. Knicely, executive director of the Yellowstone Art Museum, the inaugural event offers a “sampling of the outstanding cultural programs and events that the BCP organizations have to offer each year,” ranging from art to film and music to theatre.

BCP was founded in 1997 and is a future-focused consortium of cultural organizations in the greater Billings area. With more than 30 members, including schools, government entities, and organizations serving the arts, history and natural science, BCP’s goal is to strengthen each of the partners through the power of collaboration, marketing and annual community projects such as North by Northwest.

“The collaboration is a strong one between BCP partner organizations and has been for 20 years,” Knicely notes.

The title, North by Northwest, represents both the geographic location of Billings as well as the BCP’s position as “the cultural



center of the northern high plains” region, says Knicely.

It’s also the title of an inaugural juried art exhibit at the YAM featuring 55 artists from 18 states, selected from a pool of nearly 300 entries from 43 states. The works chosen by juror Julia Andrews, director of the Corral Springs Museum of Art, run the gamut from traditional oil on canvas paintings to avant-garde interactive sculptural pieces.

The public is invited to vote for their favorite piece in the exhibition through Sept. 11 with the winner receiving the People’s

Choice Award at the reception, 5-8 p.m. Sept. 12; the Juror’s Choice and Purchase Award winners will also be named. The exhibit is on display July 18-Oct. 10.

Other North by Northwest events include: the Billings Symphony’s Whiskey and Wine, 6-9 p.m. Sept. 12 at Henry’s Garage, and an orchestra rehearsal, master class and concert, Sept. 18-20 at the Lincoln Center; “The Other Mozart,” the first show in the Alberta Bair’s season, 2 and 8 p.m. Sept. 14 at MSU-Billings Petro Theater; Evening Under the

Big Sky, a fundraising dinner and auction, Sept. 14 at the Montana Audubon Center; the SCRaP in Billings Art Show and Sell, Sept. 13-14; and the Mint Film Festival, Sept. 19-22. Films at Art House Cinema, nature journaling at the Audubon Center, a lecture at the Western Heritage Center, and the “Stories in Stained Glass” exhibition at the Moss Mansion are also among the offerings.

The event is an invitation to the community and the rest of the region “to join in” the cultural cornucopia. For more information on the BCP, visit [billingsculturalpartners.org](http://billingsculturalpartners.org).

16

## Bill Bowers is All Over the Map

Missoula native and Hellgate High School graduate Bill Bowers has been to “places so unbelievable, they could only be true.” An award-winning actor, writer, teacher and mime, Bowers will share those adventures at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts, Tuesday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. with his original show, “All Over the Map.”

The hour-long performance recounts Bowers’s international adventures that include “50 states, 30 years on the road, 2 hookers, 1 bunny, and a mime.” It’s a PG-13 performance that *The New York Times* praised as “zesty and entertaining.”

“All Over the Map” colorfully illustrates how alike we all are, no matter where we are, or who we are. “The only thing that makes us different,” says Bowers, “is how we treat each other.”

“All Over the Map” is a fundraiser for scholarships to MCT’s Next Step Prep, a summer musical theatre training program for high school students.

Tickets are available at [MCTinc.org](http://MCTinc.org) or by calling 406-728-PLAY (7529).

## The show must go on: ABT finds other venues for season

“The show must go on,” says Ron Bates, incoming chair of the Alberta Bair Theater board. “We are committed to our mission of bringing the excitement of the performing arts to Big Sky Country – even while our beloved, historic theater is under construction.”

The theater, which closed in April to undergo a \$13.6 million expansion and renovation, is taking the 2019-2020 season to a variety of venues, including Petro Theatre on the campus of MSU Billings, Babcock Theatre, Lincoln Center, and First Interstate Arena. The Valley Credit Union Student Matinee Series will be held at Lincoln Center and will serve more than 15,000 students.

“The upcoming season has been thoughtfully programmed to showcase the artistry that is the cornerstone of Alberta Bair Theater,” says programming director Jody Grant. “With a show nearly each month from September to April, we’ve got something to inspire everyone.”

In addition to the Broadway musical



Alberta Bair’s season kicks off with “The Other Mozart,” about Amadeus’s amazing sister, at MSU-Billings Petro Theatre.

“Finding Neverland,” productions include Montana Repertory Theatre’s “The War of the Worlds,” dance by Chicago-based Hiplet Balletinas, and music by masters of their crafts. The ABT will also launch a premier speaker series by National Geographic Live.

The season kicks off Sept. 14 with two performances of “The Other Mozart,” the true

and untold story of Nannerl Mozart, the sister of Amadeus – a prodigy, keyboard virtuoso and composer who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim. “Strikingly beautiful,” writes *The New York Times* of the play.

The National Geographic Live! series begins Oct. 12 with Steve Winter’s “On the Trail of Big Cats,” and continues with lectures in January and March. “Finding Neverland,” which tells the moving story behind one of the world’s most beloved characters, Peter Pan, comes to the First Interstate Arena at MetraPark April 2.

This year’s concerts include International Guitar Night Feb. 15, and the Joe Alterman Trio April 25. “Pianist Joe Alterman pulls off one of the rarer feats in modern jazz,” says *Downbeat Magazine*, “he swings – hard.”

Tickets for all shows go on sale Saturday, July 13 at [www.albertabairtheater.org](http://www.albertabairtheater.org), and by phone, 406-256-6052.

## Ballet Beyond Borders premieres in Los Angeles

Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre of Missoula recently announced the Los Angeles/Westchester premiere of its signature Ballet Beyond Borders dance challenge, festival and diplomacy exchange. Ballet Beyond Borders will be held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center Aug. 7-10 with special performances at the Los Angeles International Airport as well as collaborations on the Loyola Marymount University campus.

Originally launched at the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre headquarters in Missoula, Ballet Beyond Borders is a global festival that provides a cultural, educational and diplomatic exchange to further human understanding and spark vital communication.

“Due to heightened international interest and demand, we’re proud to bring the Montana-born Ballet Beyond Borders to Los Angeles, which is a global hub for the exchange of artistry, dance and diplomacy,” said Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre artistic director and Ballet Beyond Borders executive director, Charlene Campbell Carey. “Dancers are natural diplomats and through Ballet Beyond Borders, they can elevate their artform and serve as a catalyst for promoting cooperation, easing conflict and creating mutual understanding.”

## About Ballet Beyond Borders

BBB is open to professional and amateur dancers and students from all around the world and offers daily workshops, unique performance experience, cultural programs and a diplomacy conference in addition to the competition. BBB presents classical ballet and all genres of dance, from folkloric and Native American traditions to hip-hop, tap and contemporary choreography.

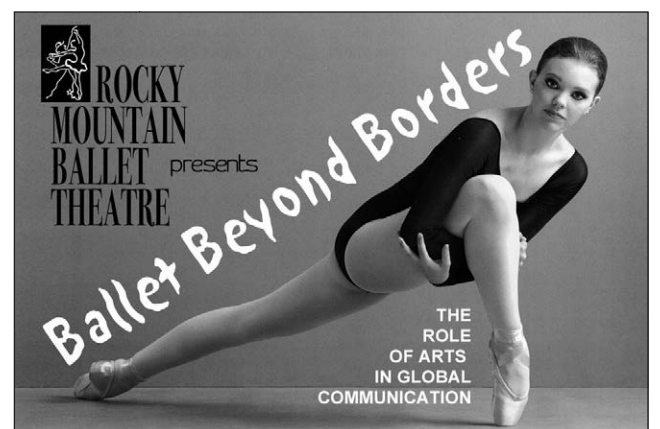
The BBB dance challenge will be held at the state-of-the-art Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center. The master classes, special events, film screenings and “Cultural Diplomacy in a Changing World” conference will take place on the Loyola Marymount University campus.

**Prizes, Scholarships & Education:** Prizes will include cash, scholarships, and awards to prestigious programs in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to first, second and third place in every category, special recognition prizes will

be awarded from the distinguished international jury panel.

All amateurs, students and professionals of all nationalities are eligible and encouraged to apply for the BBB dance challenge. Participants will also have the opportunity to express themselves and compete in an essay contest reflecting on the mission of Ballet Beyond Borders.

For registration information and official Ballet Beyond Borders Dance Challenge Rules & Regulations, visit [www.rmbt.org/bbb-index](http://www.rmbt.org/bbb-index).





# ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

## Bobbie McKibbin: The Yellowstone Series

Through July 6 at Radius Gallery, Missoula

Artist's website: [bobbiemckibbin.com](http://bobbiemckibbin.com)

Master pastel artist Bobbie McKibbin has been toiling over an ambitious new body of work based on her love for, and repeated visits to, Yellowstone National Park. Her new studio works are on display at Radius Gallery in Missoula through July 6.



"Yellowstone Steaming Pool, Orange" by Bobbie McKibbin

McKibbin's new drawings are based on images gathered last year when she took part in the Yellowstone Forever Invitational Plein Air event in 2018, where she was awarded one of the coveted ribbons for Excellence in the Arts. She's been sharpening her chalks for another Yellowstone trip this September as one of 16 artists invited to participate in this unique opportunity in the internationally celebrated park.

The mystery and tenuous beauty of Yellowstone puts McKibbin in her element – recording the often overlooked and fleeting moments of natural phenomena.

McKibbin taught art-making at Grinnell College in central Iowa for 31 years and now lives in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, where she continues to depict, document and illuminate the landscapes that surround her. She has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and her artwork has been collected by the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution, the Des Moines Art Center, and the Missoula Art Museum.

## Lynn Cain, Raising Cain Studio

Through July at Gallery 16 in Great Falls

Artist's website: [lynncainart.com](http://lynncainart.com)

"Few things are as satisfying to me as creating a moment in time for someone else to enjoy," writes artist Lynn Cain. "Striving to find the essence, the mood, and the story behind my inner vision is what drives my desire to create art."



"Boiling Point" by Lynn Cain

Born and raised in Townsend, he witnessed Montana's ranching, farming and mining lifestyles first hand. "This dramatic, sometimes harsh, but always beautiful landscape, its wildlife, and the people who work and play here inspire the stories I create with pencil, paint and clay," he writes.

Cain's favorite medium is graphite. He deploys a handful of drafting pencils to create complex images. "Graphite reveals emotional qualities from subject matter in a very subtle way," he writes. He believes these gray-scale images can offer "a more intimate view of the world around us, without the distraction of color."

The artist's work has been featured in *Southwest Art*, *Western Art Collector* and *Studio Visit* magazines. He was a contest winner in *Studio Visit* magazine and was selected twice as a staff favorite in the Bold Brush contest of Fine Art Studio Online. Cain has also been the featured artist at art shows in Virginia City, Great Falls, Townsend and Cheyenne, WY.

## Nicole Keintz, "Unlimited: Healing Light"

June 28-July 27 at the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell

Artist's website: [www.nicolekeintzphotography.com](http://www.nicolekeintzphotography.com)

Helena artist Nicole Keintz created the photography in this exhibit after her second brain surgery in August 2016, capturing each image at sunrise, using a slow shutter speed and intentional camera movement. As she brought a work of art to life, she was bringing herself back to life too.

Keintz fell in love with photography after graduating from high school. She found the courage to follow her passion after having surgery to remove a benign brain tumor in 2009. With a renewed appreciation for life, she worked hard at her craft, and her career was just starting to take off when a check-up MRI in May 2016 revealed that the tumor had grown back. She had surgery again and faced another long recovery.

The surgeries robbed her of 25% of her eyesight and caused many physical and cognitive challenges, including seizures. Keintz continued to create during her recovery and credits her art as an essential ally on her path to wellness.

Keintz recently embarked on the next step of her journey as the co-creator and director of the Holter Museum of Art's new Healing Arts Program, which partners with local healthcare organizations to bring artwork and free art activities into the patient-care environment. Keintz says she's excited to share her experiences, positivity and the healing power of art with those who need it most.



"Beyond" by Nicole Keintz

## Carol Hartman, "Defying the Odds"

Aug. 1-31 at MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney

Artist's website: [www.carolhartman.biz](http://www.carolhartman.biz)

Large, colorful oil landscape paintings by Carol Hartman depict the overland and waterway trails taken by settlers of the MonDak region of Eastern Montana. "I am quite proud of the early history of the region and of the many pioneers involved in its development," says Hartman, who was born and raised in Sidney. "This exhibition is created to honor that history and that incredibly beautiful and remote landscape."

The artist received her formal art training from Montana State University in Bozeman and California State University, Fresno. After teaching at CSU and exhibiting both nationally and internationally for many years, she returned to Montana 10 years ago to paint full time.

She has spent the last few years searching for various overland and steamboat trails that Montana settlers used more than a century ago. She took a painting excursion in May and June along the Oregon Trail from western Wyoming to Independence, MO, where she attended the Paul Artspace artist residency, and returned along the Missouri River to Fort Union.

Hartman says her recent purchase and retrofitting of a camper trailer enables her to camp next to significant markers along the route, wake up early in the morning, and paint as the sun spreads across the landscape.

"We are but passing pages in the history of this land," says Hartman. "Pockets of memories made while growing up in rural Montana provide a critical connection to the past."



"Lone Guardian of the Pass" by Carol Hartman

## Heidi Marie Faessel: Sensing the Wild

Aug. 1-31 at Walking Man Frame Shop and Gallery in Whitefish

Artist's website: [www.heidimariefaessel.com](http://www.heidimariefaessel.com)

Heidi Marie Faessel's organic abstractions weave together her background in textile and graphic design with her passion for nature and her deep curiosity about the experience of life.

"I see the world we live in, filled with mystery, magic and higher intelligence. My work is born from this place of deep reverence," says the Whitefish artist. By synthesizing organic shapes, energetic brushwork, expressive line and movement, she strives to "reflect the life-force energy that I experience in nature."

Faessel unites experimentation, imperfection and exploration with deliberate editing. "I am driven by the spirit of discovery and find deep satisfaction and unlimited potential in the creative process."

She grew up in Southern California and lived in New York City for a decade, where she earned a BFA in textile/surface design from the Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Since moving to Montana in 2002, she has continued her education, studying a diverse range of visual arts. Locally, she attended the graphic design program at Flathead Valley Community College, and studied with Hamilton artist Pamela Caughey.

For many years, she has worked professionally as an independent designer in Whitefish, helping local businesses develop their branding and marketing materials. Currently, she is transitioning to a career in fine art and has shown her work in Whitefish and Missoula galleries.



"Red Rain" by Heidi Faessel

## Ann Franke, "More Than Words"

Sept. 1-30 at the Artists' Shop in Missoula

Artist's Website: [annfranke.com](http://annfranke.com)

Ann Franke was introduced to the lettering arts 32 years ago while studying graphic design in college and was immediately hooked. She continues to study with many national and international calligraphers.

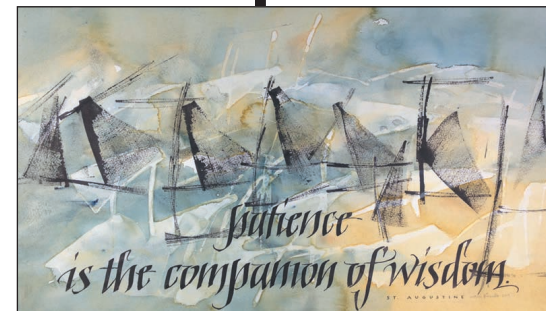
"There is so much to explore in the world of contemporary calligraphy – creating new letterform variations and experimenting with different writing tools, mediums and surfaces," she says.

Her exhibit at the Artists' Shop showcases contemporary calligraphic artwork using ink, gouache and watercolor on a variety of papers and fabric.

"When I tell people I'm a calligrapher, a common response is 'Isn't that a dying art?'" says Franke. "Quite the contrary – lettering artists all over the world are passionately creating unique, modern works of fine art based on the letters of the alphabet."

Franke strives to make her own lettering feel traditional and contemporary at the same time. When designing her work she may combine lettering with illustrations or painterly backgrounds or make a collage. She letters mainly with metal pen nibs, flat and pointed brushes, and occasionally basket reed and balsam wood.

Her work has appeared in exhibitions in Missoula, Helena, Butte and Billings. She also offers calligraphy and hand-lettering services for private and commercial purposes, teaches calligraphy classes and produces work for retail sale.



"Patience" by Ann Franke

About Visual Artists is compiled by Kristi Niemeyer



## Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit in Montana (on display during some portion of the three months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi and 500kb);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Date range and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Submissions for the Fall issue (October-December) are due Sept. 4; please send ingredients to Kristi@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.



18

## “Under the Big Sky” wins regional Emmy Awards

The Montana storytelling series “Under the Big Sky” recently won three Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter at the Emmy Gala June 8 in Seattle.

The series earned recognition in three categories: Historic/Cultural – Program for “Under the Big Sky – Episode 5,” Arts/Entertainment – Program Feature/Segment for “Live from The Divide,” and Photographer – Program, with an individual craft award going to series cinematographer Matthew Wheat.

“We really feel fortunate to be able to showcase these remarkable stories with an emphasis on stunning visuals and first-person storytelling,” says Shawn Newton, executive producer on the series.

The team previously received an Emmy Award for Promotion – Campaign for the same series.

“Under the Big Sky” premiered in February 2017 and features stories with dynamic people and organizations across Montana. Episode 5 of the series featured Eugene’s Piza, a small-town pizza shop on the Hi-Line; Yellowstone Grassfed Beef, an innovative ranching operation near Two Dot; and Supaman, a Native American hip-hop artist in Billings.

All current stories are available at [www.underthebigsky.com](http://www.underthebigsky.com).

## New Tax Incentive helps tell Montana stories in Montana

By Allison Whitmer

Montana Film Commissioner

The film industry produces something different every day. Movies and TV shows represent all varieties of genres and styles. Some may be three-hour epics, while others may be only a few minutes. They’re distributed through different methods, from major theater releases to YouTube uploads.

Regardless of the differences, one thing you’ll always see is a sequence to credit the people, and indeed the places, responsible for the production. Credit sequences are determined by contracts, unions and tradition. As a result of financial incentives, the filming location is often represented too.

If you’re a fan of the Marvel films, then you’re probably used to waiting until the end of the credits to see a teaser scene for the next sequel. You might also be used to seeing the logos of various state film offices, often one of the last things before the credits stop rolling.

States with financial incentives attract hundreds of productions, although the filming location is often different from the setting of the movie or TV show. That’s why a project like “Wildlife,” which is set in Great Falls, filmed in Oklahoma instead of the Electric City.

During the 2019 Legislature, lawmakers



Film crew shoots “Mickey and the Bear” in Anaconda.

passed and Governor Bullock signed House Bill 293 to establish the Montana Economic Industry Advancement (MEDIA) Act, Montana’s first film tax incentive since the Big Sky on the Big Screen Act sunset in 2015.

With the MEDIA Act, the state has a tool to help get Montana stories told in Montana – and to help get the economic impact as well.

Film is a powerful tool for promoting Montana. Filming movies, TV shows and commercials in Montana elevates the awareness about our state and pumps outside dollars into our stores, hotels, and to 600 or more industry professionals.

The MEDIA Act provides for a 20 percent production expenditure tax credit, with addi-

tional components that can increase the transferable credit to a maximum of 35 percent of total base film production investment. Those add-on incentives can include:

- 25% of compensation for Montana resident crews
- 15% of compensation for non-Montana resident crew
- 30% of compensation paid to students
- 20% of above-the-line compensation per production or television series season, with ceiling
- 15% of compensation paid to actors
- 10% of payments to Montana colleges or universities

- 10% of all in-studio facility and equipment rental expenditures
  - 5% of expenditures in a high-poverty county
  - 25% of post-production wages (not effective until 2021)
  - 5% for Montana screen credit
- The incentive will become effective July 1, 2019. Watch for updates at our website, [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com).

Montana is already the ultimate location for filming movies, TV shows and commercials. This incentive will allow us to better compete with other states and countries. We’re excited to see the Montana logo appearing more often at the end of films and TV shows!

## “Zulu Summer”: A quirky cultural exchange

By Annie Pentilla

Reprinted with permission from the *Montana Standard*, May 17

When you speak with anyone who’s been involved in the making of “Zulu Summer,” they all tend to say the same thing: The summer that an emissary from South Africa visited Butte, Montana, was something they’ll never forget.

It was a summer of cultural exchange, they say, but more than that, it was proof that curiosity and people’s innate sense of humanity can thrive even during politically tumultuous times.

“Zulu Summer,” which had its hometown premiere May 18 at the Mother Lode Theatre, is a documentary that depicts the summer that Prince Siboniso Zulu (Prince Sbo for short) and his colleagues Nkokhelo Msomi and Mokai Malope spent several weeks in Butte.

For filmmakers Eric Schrader and Joseph Litzinger, who co-directed the documentary, the film is far from a reel of the prince’s summer vacation.

“It’s a pleasurable movie that gives hope,” Schrader said.

Schrader and others interviewed for this story said what led to the making of the film was a series of unlikely events.

It all started when Dark Sevier — who was then a DJ and the music director of KBF, Butte’s indie, low-power radio station — received a curious email from the other side of the world. The emailer declared that he was a Zulu prince and that he operated an independent radio station in Nongoma, South Africa, and wanted to connect.

Prince Sbo landed in Butte May 19, 2017. Schrader and Joseph Litzinger caught the moment on film. In the scene, Sevier is driving to the airport in his car discussing the upcoming visit as the plane descends on the runway in the distance.

Schrader, who spoke to the *Standard* by phone from Los Angeles, said he wasn’t sure what to expect that day.

For him, the decision to travel from Los Angeles to Butte to film the trip was a bit of an impulsive move.

He and Litzinger heard about the visit from their colleague, Havva Eisenbaum, who had attended the Covellite International Film Festival in Butte.

Today, Eisenbaum is a producer on the documentary. Don Arangio is also a producer.

When he first heard of the story, Schrader thought it was “too crazy to even fathom” — so naturally, he was interested.

The two were actually working on another documentary at the time, but when they heard

with the *Standard* via Facebook from Tembisa, South Africa. Malope described the reception at the airport as “overwhelming” and “humbling.”

“I don’t think there is anything as pleasing as that. That was a good moment because people there didn’t even know us, but then they just welcomed us with opened arms,” said Malope. “We had a warm feeling. We felt like we were home.”

Malope, a volunteer at the Nongoma radio station, is actually a member of a different cultural group called Pedi.

He said that when he set out on his journey, his first concern was that he would be cold in the northern state of Montana.

His second concern was what the people would be like. He wasn’t used to being a minority (everyone’s black in his hometown), and he had heard that Montana was a conservative state.

But more than anything else, he was looking forward to the trip.

“I was very excited. It was my first time out of the country, my first time in America,” he said.

He added that his favorite parts of the trip were those times he got to sit down and talk with locals.

“I think the people of Butte, they are really my highlight,” said Malope.

Schrader and Litzinger couldn’t be in town during the emissary’s entire trip, so they entrusted locals, including Covellite Film Festival organizers, to film important moments when the two had things to attend to back in LA.

In the weeks that followed, the three South African men packed in more experiences of Butte and the surrounding areas than most Montanans do in a lifetime, as reporter Susan Dunlap put it in a 2017 article.

The three men got to meet Sen. Bernie Sanders as he campaigned for congressional hopeful Rob Quist. They also met Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney. They attended a presentation on the history of American dolls, visited the Berkeley Pit, shot guns for the first time, saw how Americans vote, and wielded hammers against the ringing rocks near Whitehall.

**Zulu Summer continues on page 20**



Nkokhelo Msomi waves to parade goers during the annual Fourth of July parade. (Courtesy of the *Montana Standard*)

a Zulu prince was going to visit a small town in Montana, the story was too good to pass up. It was like the real-life version of “Coming to America,” Schrader said. So he and Litzinger decided to do what few have done or would want to do: They took on two feature-length documentaries simultaneously.

Before the South African men landed, Schrader was unsure of what kind of story he and Litzinger were going to tell, or even if the visit was a story worth telling. But when Prince Sbo, Msomi, and Malope stepped off the plane, he knew he and Litzinger had stumbled upon something incredibly unique.

“I was just in shock, thinking ‘this is going to be so good,’” said Schrader.

About 30 DJs stood waiting to greet the emissary, cheering and clapping as the three South African men came dancing out of the gate, clad in traditional clothing and singing a song, which roughly translates to:

“Do you know who the Zulus are? Do you know who the Zulus are? The Zulus have arrived.”

That’s according to Malope, who spoke

## LITERARY LANDSCAPE

# Festival explores “Writing the West: The Way Forward”

The third In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Festival takes place Sept. 13-15 in Seeley Lake and Missoula. This year’s festival highlights authors who have “followed in the footsteps of Norman Maclean” as they address the impact of western expansion, resource extraction, treatment of native peoples and modern-day questions of how western literature addresses these issues.

The festival theme, “Writing the West: The Way Forward,” is reflected in the entire body of work of keynote speaker Michael Punke. Best known for his novel, *The Revenant*, which chronicles the life of mountain-man Hugh Glass and the role of the fur trade in early western settlement, Punke also wrote two non-fiction histories that illustrate how the West was plundered by the railroad and mining barons, how native tribes were suppressed and their livelihoods deliberately destroyed.

Although much of this year’s festival takes place in Missoula, Seeley Lake also has a role to play. The Friday line-up includes tours of Maclean’s “neighborhood” in Seeley Lake by the Seeley Lake Historical Society and the fabled author’s favorite fishing holes on the Blackfoot by the Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper.

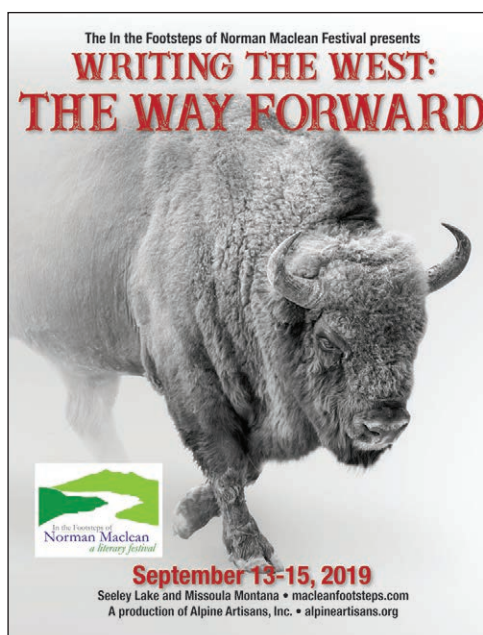
Beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, John N. Maclean and Peter Koch will present the re-print-

ing of Elers Koch’s book, *40 Years a Forester: 1903-1943*, at the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula; the book was originally published in 1953. Peter Koch is the grandson of Elers Koch, one of Gilbert Pinchot’s original “Young Men” and a master forest manager; author John Maclean is the son of Norman Maclean.

Punke’s keynote, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts, will set up the themes to be presented by many notable writers who have followed in Maclean’s footsteps. Saturday’s highlights include Debra Magpie Earling and Peter Koch presenting their collaboration, *The Last Letters of Sacajawea*, and a talk by Peter Stark, the author of *Astoria* and most recently, *Young Washington*. Rick Bass will explore how 20th century western literature reflects western experience, along with authors Judy Blunt, Annick Smith, Richard Manning and Dan O’Brien.

Sunday morning’s program will feature clips and a presentation from the production team for the upcoming “Perma Red” TV series, based on the novel by Earling. Team members include Johnny Arlee, Maya Ditloff, Ivy McDonald and Ivan McDonald.

A screening of “A World Unseen,” a documentary about the making of “The Revenant,” sets the stage for the afternoon’s program.



Beginning at 1:30 p.m., Mark Smith, screenwriter for “The Revenant,” joins Punke to discuss how his novel was brought to the big screen; a screening of the film follows.

For more information, visit [www.macleantfootsteps.com](http://www.macleantfootsteps.com), email [jenny@alpineartisans.org](mailto:jenny@alpineartisans.org) or call 406-754-0034.



19

## Montana Book Festival returns in September

The fifth annual Montana Book Festival is Sept. 12-15 in downtown Missoula.

The confab of lit-lovers includes panels, workshops, parties and readings with authors of the American West, including Shonda T. Buchanan, author of the memoir *Black Indian*; Chris Dombrowski with his new poetry collection *Rugged Anthem*; and Stephanie Land, author of *New York Times* bestseller *Maid*. Many, many more writers add their voices to the event.

Admission is \$15 for a festival button (with discounts to local stores, breweries and coffee shops) and \$100 for an exhibitor table.

For more information or to volunteer, check [montanabookfestival.com](http://montanabookfestival.com).

## MONTANA POET LAUREATE

# Poet Laureate, what’s that?

By Lowell Jaeger

Two years as Montana Poet Laureate and I’ve learned this: the Treasure State is rich with surprising landscapes and richer still with welcoming towns and lively minds. Each byway and back road leads to aesthetic pleasures of its own – antelope nesting in prairie grass while horses graze nearby, whitewater singing and cascading beneath thorny devil’s club, breath-taking vistas of massive granite slabs aspiring skyward.

So many Main Streets – some bustling with ranchers loading pickup beds with fence poles and spools of barbed wire, some crowded with souvenir shops and tourists sipping lattes and licking gelatos, some drowsy and half dreaming with dusty curbsides and empty storefronts and outlaw tumbleweed forever blowing in and out of town – but each of them with a poster in the hardware store or the post office or the pub inviting townsfolk to meet the Montana Poet Laureate for an evening of cookies and laughter and thoughtful conversation.

My mind has been educated, my heart enriched, by shaking hands and listening to strangers’ stories and sharing tales of my own. People asked, “Poet Laureate, what’s that?” I’m an ambassador for the arts, I told them.

We need food and shelter and occupa-

tion, I’d explain; these we need to survive. But we also need to nourish our hearts and minds with the arts; these we need to truly thrive. Sure, that answer sounds high-falutin’. Reader, don’t underestimate whatever it is within each of us – across race, gender, age, rank, and economic status – that which looks up into the night sky and longs to understand the stars.

Ask anyone who is willing to sit with you awhile, “What does it mean to be human?” Even grade-schoolers want to know. Now offer them a poem. Offer them a painting. Offer them music, dance, and a chance to shape clay with their hands. Whatever it is in each of us that longs for more than digging roots and keeping the cave lit with fire ... well, that’s where art comes from.

One inquisitive face or another asked me, “What is poetry?” In my younger days I’d parry the question by telling the story of Louis Armstrong. “What is jazz?” someone asked him. He famously responded, “If you need to ask that question you’ll never know the answer.”

For years I considered this a wise and witty retort, but now as Poet Laureate, I looked into sincere faces asking an honorable question, and the Armstrong anecdote no longer served. I wanted to let people in, not lock people out. I was stung, a bit tongue-tied, to realize I had no worthy reply. In this way my audience educated me, prompted me to reflect and grow.



Montana Poet Laureate Lowell Jaeger

Poetry, I learned to say (with a nod to Sir Ken Robinson) ... is an anti-anesthetic. Of course we need anesthetics now and again for surgeries and other emergencies to numb the senses and dull the mind. Poetry (and all the arts!) strives to do the opposite: poetry wants to enliven the senses and awaken the mind. This became my main message.

I named my Poet Laureate project “Poetry 101” and vowed to bring poetry to 101 venues across Montana in two years. I’ve completed 148. I’ve served many eager audiences. And that’s what it’s all about, isn’t it? Service. I’ve been honored to serve.

### Blind Ambition

Mark with an X  
a particular summit on the map.  
Strap your pack at the trailhead  
and go, crunching boot heels, climbing  
into the horizon’s early glow.

Let’s not ask why you need to get there.  
And, when you arrive, sweat-sopped, panting ...  
it’s only human to bask in the quaver  
of blood-rush, muscle, bone.

Behold, if you can bear it,  
far-off peaks and purple vistas  
shimmering in the midday haze.  
Clusters of X’s to mark on the map,

a lifetime of excursions,  
a galaxy of destinations.

Now, you make your way back down  
same way you came,  
no longer blinded with ambition,  
and pause to apprehend  
marvels you’d passed hurriedly, earlier.

An underground stream seeping through granite,  
moist rock greening precarious gardens  
of moss, thread-like runners and miniature fronds  
clinging to decay ... as the flow burbles  
up from darkness, and sunlight sparks

ice blue tongues of flame.

– From *Earth-blood & Star-shine*





20

### Three artists selected for park residency

Three artists have been selected to participate in the 2019 Artist-in-Residence Program at Glacier National Park. Each artist will pursue their work while in the park, and engage and inspire the public through multiple outreach programs.

Artists this summer include:

**Amory Abbott** (June 3-28), whose charcoal landscapes work as imaginative and dramatic reinterpretations of the world around us. Through workshops, material demos and campfire stories, he and park guests will search for deeper connections to the ground under their feet, and ethical paths forward as caretakers of our precious planet.

**Chad Farnes** (July 8-Aug. 2) uses the unique medium of tape, such as duct tape and painter's tape, to create photo realistic images. Farnes plans to recreate images from the park using only tape and to aid visitors in creating their own artwork through a tape-by-numbers system.

**Nic Fischer** (Sept. 3-28) combines field studies with satellite imagery to illustrate backcountry exploration within expansive landscapes. During his residency he will paint from the summit of Edwards Mountain and create the foundation for a large landscape painting celebrating the reopening of Sperry Chalet.

Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## NEH awards three grants for preservation and research

Two Montana organizations and a University of Montana professor received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The **Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana** in Charlo was awarded a "Preservation Assistance for Small Institutions" grant in the amount of \$5,775. This grant will span an 18-month period and allow the museum to contract with Pat Roath of Specialty Museum Services out of Kalispell, to conduct a general preservation assessment of the institution's collection of more than 2,000 objects.

"We have artifacts of local and national significance and we want to ensure we have the highest standards of care so that future generations can continue to enjoy these treasures," says Amy Webster, project director and collections manager at the museum.

The assessment will address the short- and long-term needs of objects in the museum's care and include a five-year conservation preventive plan. The grant will also fund some storage and monitoring materials and culminate with a training and open house to share findings with board and staff, local museums and tribal members.

"This is a rare opportunity for me," said Todd Buffalo, an intern at the museum and Salish Kootenai College Tribal Historic Preservation student. "It's huge because preservation is my passion and this will be a great learning experience for my future career."

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation just 10 minutes south of Ronan on Hwy. 93. It was founded in 1997 by Laurel and Bud Cheff, Jr. who had a strong desire to preserve



Delicate quill-decorated moccasins are among some of the rare objects in the Ninepipes Museum's care that will be assessed by the NEH grant.

the culture and history of early Montana and the Salish, Flathead and Pend d'Oreille Tribes, although the museum holds Native objects from across the nation. Bud Cheff, who was born and raised in the valley, shares Native and historic objects collected over a lifetime. Many other Mission Valley residents have donated items over the last 20 years to make the museum a national treasure.

Jo Cheff, executive director of the museum, said the NEH grant "is one important step needed to ensure good stewardship of our collections as we work toward our goal of becoming a nationally accredited museum."

### Other NEH grants

**Eric Schluessel**, an assistant professor of Chinese history and politics at the University of Montana, received a \$60,000 fellowship from the NEH for an edition and translation of *Tarikh-i Hamidi*, a 19th-century Uyghur

history of Eurasia. The *Tarikh-i Hamidi* was written by a scholar living at the crossroads of Eurasia. Its author Mullah Musa Sayrami (1836-1917) belonged to what is now called the Uyghur people, the Turkic-speaking, Sunni Muslim majority of China's Xinjiang region.

This project will produce a first-ever scholarly edition and English translation of this celebrated work of Uyghur history, which reveals the sociocultural changes that took place in this Muslim society at the turn of the century. The edition will facilitate research on this difficult text, and the translation will bring an eminent Uyghur writer's work to a global audience.

### Ellen Crain, director of the Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) Public

**Archives**, received \$12,000, for All Nations: Preserving the Ethnic Heritage of Butte, Montana. The grant helps fund four two-day digitization workshops to collect local history materials from the Hispanic, German, Finnish, and Jewish communities of Butte.

The archives hosts a series of "All Nations" exhibits to honor the ethnic communities that have shaped the city's history since its founding as a mining camp in the 1860s. In partnership with the Montana Preservation Alliance, the workshops would combine digitization of cultural heritage materials with oral history collection and public programming, to include presentations by a local author and faculty from the University of Montana, Rocky Mountain College, and Montana State University.

The "All Nations" digital collection would be made available for research on the BSB Public Archives website.

For more on NEH programs visit [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

## Return to Calgary exhibit reaches to Canada

With its new exhibit, "Return to Calgary: Charles M. Russell and the 1919 Victory Stampede," the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls reaches into the Canadian borderlands to examine a period of history when the city of Calgary sought to promote its own brand of western heritage.

The year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Calgary's 1919 "Victory" Stampede, which billed itself as the world's championship frontier contest and victory celebration, marking the end of the Great War.

While the event was inspired by a string of Allied celebrations taking place across the globe, the spirit that undergirded it was undoubtedly western American. Taking place Aug. 25-30, 1919, the Stampede was embraced by businesses and residents alike across Calgary and became a means to deliver the West and its cowboys — bronc riders, ropers and steer wrestlers — to audiences across western Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

Already at the apex of his career, Charles M. Russell was invited by rodeo showman and Stampede manager Guy Weadick to mount a fine art exhibition of his paintings



"One of the Rough String" by C.M. Russell is part of the "Return to Calgary" exhibit.

and sculptures at Stampede Park, then known as Victoria Park. It would be the artist's second time to do so, as he had exhibited in Calgary at the 1912 Stampede.

Charles and Nancy Russell shipped north 24 paintings and eight bronzes for the show, nine of which sold before year's end — indicative of the strength of Russell's subject matter and execution during his artistic prime.

With "Return to Calgary" the C.M. Russell Museum extends its reach as a chronicler of western history and American art. The accompanying catalogue, edited by Russell scholar Brian Dippie, serves as a

lasting visual record of Russell's 1919 special exhibition at the Calgary Victory Stampede and underscores the Stampede's importance to the successful marketing and sale of Russell's art abroad.

The seed of inspiration for this project was sown in 2012 at the Glenbow Museum of Art in Calgary, where Russell's exhibition at the first Calgary Stampede, in 1912, was restaged.

Seven years hence, the Russell Museum is leading the effort to produce this major show, celebrating the artist's return to Calgary in 1919. On view in Great Falls from June 7 to Sept. 30, "Return to Calgary" features 22 of the 24 paintings and all eight bronzes that were originally on display, gleaned from 15 public and private collections. The resulting exhibit nearly replicates the 1919 display of Russell's work while adding fresh scholarship and perspectives on many of these masterworks, almost entirely gathered from Russell's greatest single decade.

Concurrently, the C.M. Russell Museum is undertaking a historic partnership with the Calgary Stampede to produce a companion exhibition in giclée of all 24 paintings shown in 1919. The exhibition will be housed in the Western Oasis at Stampede Park throughout the run of the event, July 5-14, 2019.

For more information, visit [cmrussell.org/return-to-calgary/](http://cmrussell.org/return-to-calgary/).

## "Zulu Summer" (from page 18)

They also got to sit as grand marshals of Butte's Fourth of July parade, which Schrader called a proper "story-book parade."

They did mundane things too, such as break bread with people in their homes.

After the prince's visit to Butte, Sevier and others from KBMF took a trip to Nongoma.

Like their counterparts, the group had many fantastic experiences, including meeting the Zulu king, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, and visiting the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, where some

of the earliest hominid fossils have been found — including one famous fossil named Lucy.

But Sevier said the best part of the trip was just connecting with people and finding out about each other's cultures — the "quiet moments," he said.

"Zulu Summer" had its world premiere in February at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, where it was received by a crowd of over 500 during its first screening. Its second screening, at a smaller venue, sold

out. Since then, the film has been picked up by distribution company Gravitas Ventures and will become available on iTunes and Amazon in July.

Sevier saw the film for the first time at the world premiere and took part in a question-and-answer session on stage.

For him, the film bucks the national narrative about division and strife.

"Because this is possible, it makes me wonder what else is possible," he said.

# NEA NEWS

## Montana ranks 10th for arts and cultural growth

The latest data charting the economic impact of the arts and culture sector to the nation's gross domestic product and to individual states' gross state product reveals that Montana is ranked #10 in the country for the fastest growing arts and cultural sector.

This information is gleaned from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Office of Research & Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, which has released the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) which examines economic data from 2016.

Looking at the three-year period of 2014 to 2016, the average growth rate of the arts and culture sector is 5.9 percent nationally. Montana comes in at 6.6 percent.

Among the top arts and cultural industries impacting Montana's gross state product:

- Publishing: This industry includes books, newspapers, art prints, arts-related software;
- Motion pictures: In addition to motion picture production and distribution, this industry includes television show production, cartoon production and distribution, cinemas and film festivals;
- Architectural services, which adds almost \$60 million to the state's gross state product. Independent Artists, Writers and Performers, Performing Arts Companies, Advertising and Interior Design also added to the mix.



### National numbers

The arts and cultural sector contributed \$804.2 billion or 4.3 percent to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016. This represents an increase of .1 percent from 2015 when economists reported that the sector added 4.2 percent or \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy.

The ACPSA tracks the annual economic impact of arts and cultural production from 35 industries, both commercial and nonprofit. The report reveals that five million people are employed in the arts and cultural sector and earned \$386 billion in 2016.

"For the past five years, the partnership between the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts has yielded invaluable information about the economic impact of arts and culture," said Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "The data has consistently demonstrated the value of the arts to the nation, to individual states,

and to the lives of the American people."

Key national findings from this year's ACPSA are:

- Arts and culture play a significant role in the economic activity of the country. The value-added to GDP by arts and cultural production is nearly five times greater than that of the agricultural sector. Arts and culture adds nearly \$60 billion more than construction and \$227 billion more than transportation and warehousing to the U.S. economy.
- Arts and cultural goods create a trade surplus. In 2016, the U.S. exported nearly \$25 billion more in arts and cultural goods and services than it imported, a 12-fold increase over 10 years.
- ACPSA exports are driven by movies and TV programs, advertising, and arts-related software such as video games.
- The average annual growth rate for arts and culture outperforms the growth rate of the total U.S. economy. From 2014 to 2016, the average annual growth rate in the contribution of arts and culture was 4.16 percent, nearly double the 2.22 percent growth rate of the total U.S. economy.
- Consumer spending of the performing arts has risen significantly. Between 1998 and 2016, the rate of consumer spending on performing arts admissions more than doubled, rising from 0.12 percent of U.S. GDP in 1998 to 0.26 percent, totaling \$32.7 billion, in 2016.

View the report online at [www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/arts-and-culture](http://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/arts-and-culture).



21

### Big Read grants go to Helena and Billings organizations

Through support from the National Endowment for the Arts, two Montana organizations are among 78 across the nation that will have the opportunity to come together through the joy of sharing a good book. The latest NEA Big Read grants total more than \$1 million and will support community-reading projects in 31 states taking place between September 2019 and June 2020.

Montana participants are:

- **Lewis & Clark Library, Helena:** \$15,000 for events and discussions pertaining to Hope Jahren's *Lab Girl*
- **The Writer's Voice, Billings:** \$15,000 for events and discussions related to *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems, 1975-2002* by Joy Harjo

The National Endowment for the Arts initiative is a partnership with Arts Midwest, which manages the grant program. Since 2006, more than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event. Learn more at [www.arts.gov/national-initiatives/nea-big-read](http://www.arts.gov/national-initiatives/nea-big-read).

## NEA awards nearly \$1 million to Montana organizations

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced \$80.4 million for 1,114 new awards across the U.S., including \$988,700 to Montana. This is the Art Endowment's second major grant announcement of fiscal year 2019, and these awards continue the Arts Endowment's commitment as the only arts funder reaching the entire country.

Awards from this round of funding come from four categories: Art Works II, Our Town, state and regional partnerships and Research: Art Works, plus a renewal in NEA Research Labs.

"Reflecting the diverse artistic richness of our nation, these Arts Endowment-funded projects are varied in their size, scope, and artistic discipline," said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "The projects also illustrate the unique geographic

reach of Arts Endowment funding, serving Americans in places large and small in all corners of the country."

Montana recipients are:

- **Montana State University, Bozeman:** \$30,000 to support Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' touring productions of William Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Part I" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

- **Art Mobile of Montana (aka Art Mobile), Dillon:** \$20,000 for its statewide traveling exhibition and visual arts education program.

- **Friends of Big Sky Education (aka Warren Miller Performing Arts Center), Big Sky:** \$25,000 to support the creation of a multidisciplinary performance work for chamber choir and film at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

- **Montana Arts Council, Helena:**

\$808,700 to support arts programs, services, and activities associated with carrying out the agency's National Endowment for the Arts-approved strategic plan.

- **Montana Office of Public Instruction (aka OPI), Helena:** \$45,000 to support Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts, a professional development project.

- **Big Sky Film Institute, Missoula:** \$20,000 to support the Big Sky DocShop conference.

- **International Choral Festival, Missoula:** \$10,000 to support the International Choral Festival.

- **MCT, Inc.:** \$30,000 to support Missoula Children's Theatre's national performing arts residency program.

For more on NEA grant programs, head to [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

## Citizens' Institute on Rural Design

### Applications open through July 22 for workshops and learning opportunities

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design™ (CIRD) welcomes applications to the 2019 program through July 22. Since 1991, this National Endowment for the Arts program has offered funding and technical assistance to communities with populations of 50,000 or less to address local challenges related to economic vitality and quality of life through design solutions.

"The National Endowment for the Arts has a long history of funding arts and cultural activities in rural communities," said the NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "This is especially important considering that private dollars routinely bypass rural America. The National Endowment for the Arts, with its state and regional partners, provide funding in 25 percent of the countries across the nation that the top 1,000 private foundations do not."

New this year to the CIRD program is a peer-learning component for rural leaders that features training in design, planning, community engagement, and facilitation techniques as well as support in navigating funding opportunities. The NEA anticipates funding three local design workshops and up to 20 additional communities in the

peer-learning program.

All rural communities of 50,000 or less are eligible to apply for the CIRD local workshop and learning cohort opportunities. Applications from nonprofits, tribal or municipal governments, regional planning organizations, and other community partners are encouraged.

Topic areas for a Citizens' Institute on Rural Design project include challenges such as:

- Historic preservation and adaptive reuse of community buildings;
- Designing quality affordable housing that supports livable and equitable communities, including housing and other amenities that support the elderly and aging;
- Creating public or civic space that supports and integrates cultural expression and local identity and/or play and active recreation;
- Developing recreational trails for mobility, active transportation, and economic development;
- Redesigning Main Street as a local street versus state highway/thruway;
- Improving access to healthy food and

local food eco-systems;

- Leveraging Main Street or local businesses for economic development, including branding, wayfinding, facade improvements, and streetscape design; and
- Integrating cultural identity into the built environment to drive heritage tourism.

To host a local community workshop, successful applicants will receive a \$10,000 stipend, and in-kind professional design expertise and technical assistance. Selected communities are required to provide \$10,000 in matching funds (cash or in-kind services). The workshops include site visits, panel discussions, and presentations led by professionals who have expertise in a range of rural design topics.

The Learning Cohort program will invite rural community leaders from government, non-profits, local business, and civic organizations to gather together for peer learning; training in design, planning, community engagement, and facilitation techniques; and support in navigating funding opportunities to make their community's vision a reality.

Learn more at [www.rural-design.org](http://www.rural-design.org).

# PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS



## The 3 Rs at work in Montana

Public Value Partnership grants between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call “The Three Rs” to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana’s non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people’s lives).

MAC believes that using “The Three Rs” strengthens participation, understanding and support from audiences, donors and funders. We’d like to share some of the best examples of these stories:

### Building Relationships

**Clay Studio of Missoula:** We continue to build stronger relationships by including members in our committees and facility improvement projects. Key decisions in how our space functions and what we offer to our community is largely based on input from our general membership and everyday users of the space.

This past year, we entered the final stages in the rehabilitation of an outdoor garden space. A number of members have been directly responsible for, and involved in, landscaping decisions and development of this native garden area. In the autumn of 2017, one of our members dug up multiple perennials from her garden and worked with a team of members and interns to transplant the plants into our new garden beds. In addition, many individuals in our community donated Caras Bucks, which are used for discounted purchases from a local nursery. With those donated discounts, we were able to purchase young trees at a reduced rate.

Members and residents also contributed sculptures and large vessels to install around the garden, bringing a unique artistic quality to this outdoor area. In Spring 2018, we witnessed for the first time the garden coming to life, with new blooms and growth continuing well into the late summer. Due to a collaborative team effort, this former overgrown storage yard is now transformed into an attractive and pleasant publicly visible area that all members and visitors can enjoy.

Other member-initiated efforts this past year have included working with staff to create seasonal full studio cleanup days, a thorough cleaning and organization of our outdoor kiln yard, and improvements to our front entries with new welcoming door signage on our classroom entry. There are additional projects that our staff and members will be collaborating on in the upcoming year.

The Clay Studio is truly a member-driven

organization. Over the years, decisions that have been made based on member input have been the most constructive in making us more effective. By directly involving members and listening to their needs in order to make improvements and grow, we have succeeded in providing a space that truly serves our community.

### Creating Relevance

**Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls:** Last year, PGS partnered with a local fledgling group named The Storytellers. The Storytellers wanted to produce a show with a cast of children and teach them all aspects of theater. They choose the script “Eurydice.”

During the course of the production many artistic elements were used and taught. PGS’s 2017-2018 Artist in Residence, Sam Krahn, has a doctorate in music. He worked with members of the troupe to create pre-recorded sound to be used during the productions, thus allowing the cast to expand with a Foley artist (someone who reproduces sound effects that are added to film, video, and other media).

The Foley artist chosen for the production was a 15-year-old male, who was autistic and unable to read. Four teenagers recorded a variety of sounds, including dripping water, bangs and clangs from the boiler, and birds. This sound was transferred to audio files and other sound was developed by set props.

The cast received lessons in theatrical make-up design and its application as well as costume design and manufacturing. The set was also built and decorated.

The lead in the play was a talented 17-year-old actress with extensive theatrical background. She was given the task of being a director in this production.

PGS education director Sarah Justice, program coordinator Keern Haslem and executive director Tracy Houck all worked with the cast to develop the artistic skill set needed for this production and future opportunities. The entire production was a learning experience in marketing, ticket sales, rehearsals, tech specs, costumes, make-up and more. The youth were very successful in their project and the show had multiple performances.

### Return on Investment

**Alberta Bair Theater, Billings:** Beartooth Elementary School Principal Travis Niemeyer says there are a multitude of examples of the types of outreach ABT is implementing to create a greater connection within the community to engage a variety of audiences. He believes Project Hip-Hop is one of the most effective outreach programs in Yellowstone County.

The programs consist of local dance teachers and school fitness instructors conducting workout sessions in the school gymnasiums of six Title One schools. Along with the benefits of making regular exercise part of the students’ school routine, the students have the opportunity to train with nationally known teaching artists and renowned urban street dancing companies such as Houston-based Soul Street Dance Company.



Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art teamed up with The Storytellers to produce “Eurydice,” with a cast of children learning a host of design and performance skills.

Project Hip-Hop is aimed at students in schools with larger amounts of poverty in Billings and the surrounding community who have had little exposure to urban-themed music, dance, exercise, and ideals of living a healthy life-style. Dance and music set the stage for students to create, imagine and explore ways in which they can move their bodies to create a mood, evoke emotion, make music, act, work collaboratively and collectively, and prepare for learning through physical movement, musicality and cultural awareness across curricular boundaries.

Prior to Project Hip-Hop, specifically at Beartooth Elementary School, Niemeyer saw students build relationships that had never been considered by the students themselves. “We have seen students that do not play



Alberta Bair Theater’s Project Hip-Hop brings dance teachers and fitness instructors to Title One schools, including Broadwater Elementary (above). The program, says one principal, puts “a fresh spring in their step and the rhythm of community in their heart.”

together on the playground and/or wouldn’t interact in an academic setting, plan, rehearse, and harmoniously dance together in front of all other participants – followed by cheering and jubilation for their combined efforts and achievement.”

The most dramatic of Niemeyer’s examples includes two Newman Elementary students who were from two different Billings gangs. Niemeyer said by the time the Project Hip-Hop classes concluded for the season, the students were talking to each other.

“Even those who won’t speak to each other begin to come together on the dance floor and experience budding friendships that last beyond our sessions of hip-hop. Project Hip-Hop has given the students at Beartooth an experience that moves beyond dance, beyond exercise, and beyond expectation to create a community of students, together, learning, moving, and experiencing the joy of school. It is this program that gets some of our students that are consistently tardy to get up in the morning and run into school in order to get to hip-hop on time each day. Of course, learning can then begin not only on time but with a fresh spring in their step and the rhythm of community in their heart.”



The Clay Studio of Missoula has created a welcoming outdoor space where art and flowers thrive.

### Statewide arts service organizations

Montana has many arts-discipline-specific statewide service organizations. You can find a complete list here: [art.mt.gov/arts\\_service\\_orgs](http://art.mt.gov/arts_service_orgs)

### Montana Arts Council grants, awards & commissions

Visit the Montana Arts Council’s website for a complete listing of grants, awards and commissions:

**Individuals:** [art.mt.gov/gac#ind](http://art.mt.gov/gac#ind)

**Organizations:** [art.mt.gov/gac#orgs](http://art.mt.gov/gac#orgs)

**Schools:** [art.mt.gov/gac#schools](http://art.mt.gov/gac#schools)

**Programs and Services:** [art.mt.gov/ps](http://art.mt.gov/ps)

## STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

# SIG funding helps support new dance work, “The Things”

This May a Strategic Investment Grant from the Montana Arts Council helped support a new production of “The Things” by Kate Jordan and Bruno Augusto of Missoula-based Arts & Above.

The dance and visual piece, created and performed by Jordan and Augusto, was enhanced by costumes designed by fiber artist Susan Gilmore, and lighting designed by artist Katie Thompson. The soundscape, created by Augusto, and the lighting also showcased the newly-installed technical capacities at MASC Theatre on Missoula’s westside.

Outreach efforts to meet that neighborhood’s underserved audience and students across the city were supported by targeted marketing efforts of MASC’s director/owner Sj Beck. The diverse audience of more than 50 included students from the Susan Talbot Home for Girls, members of Missoula’s multiple performing and visual arts communities, including faculty and students, and members of the general public.

“The Things” is a provocative piece performed as a duet with colorful green milk-crates props, configured and repositioned in various combinations during the 40-minute



Kate Jordan and Bruno Augusto in their original work, “The Things.” (Photo by Jennifer Feagles)

production. Augusto’s soundscape of unusual techno features, mixed with texts as mantras, enhanced the mood of inquiry, possibility and interrogation of the intentions of the dancers.

The performance asked the audience to contemplate the things and thoughts that we may collect, build, destroy, hoard, or choose to use in different ways. It asked, “How much is enough? Too much? Isolating? Liberating?” The performance ended with a tower and the humans looking up, leaving the audience with the questions “Is it good? Will it harm? How should I react?”

The audience was invited to discuss their questions with the artists at the conclusion of the performance.

### “Where the Wild Things Move”

“The Things” is the touchstone for Arts & Above’s in-school residency program, available for bookings across the state. Titled “Where the Wild Things Move,” this residency offers schools an interdisciplinary weeklong program with Jordan and Augusto. It exposes students to creative practices and physical training through the use of multi-colored milk crates.

Students engage in group movement assignments with the props, and other experiences intended to build teamwork and problem-solving skills. Each school residency culminates with an informal presentation by the students, showcasing their explorations. This process provides an opportunity for students to tell their stories, develop their individuality, and become comfortable in front of a peer audience.

For information on “The Things” or a school residency of “Where the Wild Things Move” contact [team@artsandabove.org](mailto:team@artsandabove.org) or call 406-880-7968.

## IMTour: Opportunities for musicians

WESTAF’s Independent Music on Tour (IMTour) program was created by musicians for musicians and offers underappreciated artists support in the areas of professional development, exposure to new audiences, opportunities to play shows at new venues, and, most importantly, money! It also offers fresh opportunities for nonprofit presenters to book performers.

With the ability to cycle grant money and artists application fees through the web application, IMTour offers a multitude of financial incentives for both musicians and presenters that have not previously been available.

Montana musicians on the roster include The Hawthorne Roots and John Roberts y Pan Blanco.

Learn more at [www.imtour.org](http://www.imtour.org).

### For Artists

Set up and store a robust and eye-catching electronic press kit (EPK) that allows independent musicians to be adjudicated onto the IMTour roster. Once accepted, musicians may apply for show opportunities in the West. Many of these opportunities are linked to, and qualify for, subsidies.

### For Presenters

Nonprofit presenters ((501(c)3) or the equivalent) in the West can set up a profile, send out calls for bands, and then apply for funding to offset the artistic fees. Presenting IMTour roster artists is a way to bridge the gap between the for-profit and nonprofit worlds, as well as engage with new and developing audiences.



Billings musician John Roberts is on the IMTour roster.

## Public Value Partnerships and grants to Statewide Service Organizations

Public Value Partnerships (PVP) provide operating support for the artistic and educational mission of Montana arts organizations. The program recognizes strong operations, stable management, ongoing engagement, and high-quality programming for the communities being served.

Recipients for 2020-’23 are:

- Alberta Bair Theater, Billings: \$9,000
- Alpine Artisans, Inc., Seeley Lake: \$2,600
- Alpine Theatre Project, Whitefish: \$8,300
- Archie Bray Foundation, Helena: \$9,000
- Art Mobile of Montana, Dillon: \$2,000
- Arts Missoula: \$5,200
- Billings Studio Theatre, Billings: \$6,000
- Billings Symphony Society: \$9,000
- Bitterroot Performing Arts Council, Hamilton: \$5,800
- Butte Symphony Association: \$3,700
- C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls: \$6,000
- Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery, Red Lodge: \$2,400
- Clay Studio of Missoula: \$3,300
- Cohesion Dance Project, Helena: \$4,600
- Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman: \$7,000
- Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc., Fort Peck: \$4,600
- Glacier Symphony and Chorale, Kalispell: \$7,000
- Grandstreet Broadwater Productions, Inc., Helena: \$9,000
- Great Falls Symphony: \$9,800
- Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center, Helena: \$9,300
- Helena Symphony: \$7,000
- Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell: \$5,200
- Holter Museum of Art, Helena: \$7,200
- Intermountain Opera Association, Bozeman: \$6,300
- Living Art of Montana, Missoula: \$3,300

- Livingston Center for Art and Culture, Inc.: \$2,000
- MAPS Media Institute, Hamilton: \$3,400
- MCT, Inc., Missoula: \$10,000
- Missoula Art Museum: \$9,000
- Missoula Writing Collaborative: \$3,500
- Montana Actors’ Theatre, Havre: \$3,400
- Montana Ballet Company, Bozeman: \$4,100
- Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Missoula: \$2,600
- Montana Repertory Theatre, Missoula: \$6,400
- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman: \$9,000
- North Valley Music School, Whitefish: \$3,300
- Northcutt Steele Gallery, MSU Billings: \$2,000
- Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls: \$5,000
- Pondera Arts Council, Conrad: \$3,800
- Southwest Montana Arts Council, Dillon: \$2,500
- Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish: \$2,400
- Sunburst Foundation, Eureka: \$2,000
- Verge Theater, Bozeman: \$6,300
- WaterWorks Art Museum, Miles City: \$5,600
- Whitefish Theatre Co.: \$6,400
- Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings: \$8,000
- Zootown Arts Community Center, Missoula: \$4,200

### Statewide Service Organizations

The following organizations each received \$24,000 from the Arts Council for the 2020-21: the Montana Performing Arts Consortium, Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, Montana Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA), and the Montana Dance Arts Association.



### Strategic Investment Grant funds available

Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) funds are still available for summer and fall projects and professional development.

These grants provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds for professional artists, nonprofit 501(c)3 arts organizations and Preschool-Grade 12 teachers in Montana, and are available in four categories:

- **Professional development grants** help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.

- **Market expansion grants** help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition, performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.

- **Grants for public outreach arts activities** fund ongoing or one-time activities that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.

- **Challenges and emergencies grants** provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede the ability to continue work.

The application deadline is the 15th of the month.

For guidelines and more information visit [art.mt.gov/sig](http://art.mt.gov/sig); contact Kristin Han Burgoyne ([kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto:kburgoyne@mt.gov) or 406-444-6449) for more information.

## INSIDE STATE OF THE ARTS

- 1 "Wildwood" Premiere; handMADE Montana; Artist's Innovation Award; Remembering M.A. Roberts
- 2 From the Director; Felton & Ferguson Woodworking; M.A. Roberts (cont.)
- 3-4 Congrats, Transitions, Condolences
- 5 handMADE Montana and "Wildwood" (cont.)
- 6 Evolution of a STEAM School; Artists in Schools and Communities Grants
- 7 MAPS Students Win Emmy Awards; New MTLA Candidates
- 8 Wendy Red Star Exhibit; Native Fashion at Yellowstone Park; Powwow Calendar
- 9-11 About Music; About Books
- 12-14 Summer Music, Arts Festivals & Theatre
- 15 Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Tour; Bigfork Playhouse's 60th Season; Alumni Gather for Fort Peck Tribute
- 16 North by Northwest; Alberta Bair Season; Ballet Beyond Borders
- 17 About Visual Artists
- 18 Tax Incentive for Montana Films; "Zulu Summer"
- 19 Writing the West; Montana Poet Laureate
- 20 NEH Grants; Return to Calgary Exhibit; "Zulu Summer" (cont.)
- 21 Montana Ranks 10th for Arts & Cultural Growth; NEA Grants; Citizens' Institute on Rural Design
- 22 The Three Rs at Work in Montana
- 23 SIG: "The Things"; IMTour; PVP Grants



## STATE OF THE

# Arts

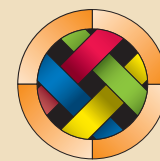


Members of the leadership team of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' Arts Education Working Group visited the Missoula Art Museum in May and were led in a discussion by MAM's educator/coordinator Jenny Bevill (left). Also pictured, left to right, are Susan Oetgen, NASAA; Anastasia Freyer-muth, Arizona Commission on the Arts; Nancy Daugherty, National Endowment for the Arts; and Juli-anne Gadoury, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The Montana Arts Council will host NASAA's Professional Development Institute for state arts agency education directors this fall in Missoula.

(Photo by Monica Grable)

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## Summer Guide to Music & Arts Festivals, Theatre

Pages 12-15

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