Lost and Found: Native Fun and Games

Social media is full of memes and viral images of babies, kittens and puppies. They epitomize fun and games, and it would appear that this is not a new phenomenon.

Read more, page 10

Playing Mind Games

Open your heart and write a poem. Then sing it out loud!

Maybe put it in your back pocket, carry it around till it starts to break down like that picture of your lover or your kids or your mother.

Read more, page 14

Sarah Aswell: Standing Up

You want comedy to be experimental. You can only practice comedy in front of people, right? So the next logical step is you’re going to make mistakes.

Read more, page 8

Deadline Aug. 1 for Cultural Trust Grants

Cultural Trust Guidelines are now posted on the Montana Arts Council's website. The application deadline is Aug. 1, 2022, for the July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025 grant period.

For information and guidelines, visit art.mt.gov.
Art is often serious work and serious business.

But nearly all art begins with a sense of play. As children, we’re given crayons and Play-Doh and toy guitars, and we’re given the freedom to create and explore to our hearts’ content. We dance silly dances and sing at the top of our lungs. It’s only later that we learn rules and structure. And while discipline and planning and forethought are all important to creative expression, that sense of play—of fun and games—can easily be lost. Jim Henson once said, “The most sophisticated people I’ve ever known had just one thing in common: they were all in touch with their inner children.”

In this issue, we’re looking at how play and fun (and our inner children) help us make art. In film, fun and games find their way on screen in classic Montana pictures such as A River Runs Through It, where there’s no clear line between religion and fly fishing (or horseshoes); Jimmy P, in which Native stick games and round dances provide expression and healing in the story of a troubled veteran; and the promise and pain of six-man football forms a backdrop for coming of age in The Slaughter Rule.

Laughter isn’t just the best medicine, of course; it’s a lively and engaging art form in the hands of standup comedians, and for Missoula’s Sarah Aswell, it’s a wry, thoughtful means of entertaining a crowd while provoking thought through a point of view that can’t be delivered any other way.

In Poet Laureate Mark Gibbons’ hands, word play and mind games combine in a reverie about work and connection and empathy; the need to understand and communicate and make up the rules of poetry as you go. For former poet laureate M.L. Smoker and writer Natalie Peeterse, a graphic novel uses the conventions of comic books to tell the story of a young Lakota girl searching for her roots. Thunderous, with interior art by Dale Deforest and cover art by Oriol Vidal, moves the story forward in a way that words alone cannot, making Native history and modern life accessible to young readers.

Indigenous arts involving play are centuries old, in fact. Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse presents a deep history of Native dolls and other toys, which encode a rich legacy of cultural heritage while illuminating the traditional lives of young Indigenous people.

At the far end of that spectrum lies a playful art form which Smithsonian likened to “watching cave painting become Impressionism in just a few decades.” By which it meant video games. The combination of the visual and performing arts, interactivity, storytelling and world-building makes the video game a unique medium for expression, from the simplicity of Pac-Man to the deep immersion of Minecraft. And a few great game creators can be found right here in Montana, in our piece by Tracy Sullivan.

So look to the lighter side of the arts, where innovation and experimentation have free reign, where having fun is half the point of creative expression, and culture combines with craft to show us who we are through how we play.

MAC is excited to announce the recipients of the ARPA Artist and Organization Grants.

Made possible by $754,000 in federal funding allocated via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), these one-time grants will boost Montana’s creative economy as it continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA Artist grant is a project-based grant with a maximum award of $10,000, to support the creation of new artwork that will reach new audiences. The ARPA Organization grant provides to support the creation of new artwork that will reach new audiences. The ARPA day-to-day operating costs for Montana 501c3 arts organizations. Both processes are now closed.

For a full list of grantees, go to art.mt.gov/arpa.

As children we’re given crayons and Play-Doh and toy guitars, and we’re given the freedom to create and explore to our hearts’ content.
MAC Celebrates Five Outgoing Council Members

The Montana Arts Council would like to recognize the contributions of five stellar Montanans whose service on the Council has recently ended. Each of these individuals has contributed profoundly to supporting and promoting the arts in Big Sky Country. Please join us in celebrating their work and careers as members of your state arts agency.

Liz Albers

Liz Albers is the American Heart Association State Government Relations Director for Montana and North Dakota. Prior to joining the American Heart Association, she worked on political campaigns at all levels from municipal to senate. In 2019, she worked in the Montana Legislature as a legislative aide, where she fell in love with the legislative process and the work that goes into getting policies passed. Most recently, she was the executive director of the Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG), where she worked with young people to teach them politics and the legislative process. Liz originally hails from the Boston area and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Maine School of Law.

“Serving on the Montana Arts Council was a great experience. Not only did I get to serve Montana and its artists, I met some pretty spectacular folks in my fellow council members. I look up to them all so much and it was a pleasure getting to know them in my time on the council.”

Cyndy Andrews

Cyndy is a member of the Bozeman City Commission, currently serving in her second term as mayor. She is one of only four women to serve as mayor and is the recipient of the 2018 Bozeman Business and Professional Women, Woman of Achievement Award. She has served on the city commission since 2010. Cyndy is an active community member, an ardent supporter of the arts, and has worked in the tourism industry for over 25 years. She was the governor-appointed chair of the Montana Arts Council and serves on the board of trustees for the Western States Arts Federation. She is a former board member of the National League of Cities and the past chair of the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, where she served 10 years. Cyndy is married to Brady Wiseman (former Montana legislator) and has a lifelong passion for travel, culture and the culinary arts.

“Serving as a member and chair of the Montana Arts Council over the last 18 years has been a highlight in my life. The programs and services the council provides to artists and art organizations across Montana are some of the best in the country. The council staff are some of the most capable and talented people I know. The creativity and energy they bring to their work is truly inspiring. It has been an honor to serve the state of Montana on the Montana Arts Council.”

Dr. Renée Westlake

Renée has degrees and certificates through Montana State University, University of Montana, University of Oregon and University of Wisconsin. She completed doctoral coursework and recently defended her dissertation in educational leadership. Renée advocates for the importance of the arts and health enhancement in the education of the child and in preparing citizens for college, career and lifelong learning. Renée is a recipient of the Lowell Mason award for lifetime achievement, NAfME’s distinguished service award and Montana State University’s Centennial Alumni award.

A lifetime educator in the Bozeman Public Schools music and fine arts department, Dr. Westlake has taught beginning band, elementary music, middle school world music, high school jazz band, high school flute choir, AP Music Theory, and was the Fine Arts Supervisor for the school district for 13 years until her retirement in 2015. She teaches private flute lessons and played in the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra for nearly three decades.

Dr. Westlake has been an active clinician throughout music education conferences in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, and is an adjudicator at district and state music festivals. She’s married to a grain farmer and has two grown daughters who are professional dancers, two sons-in-law, one granddaughter and one grandson.

“My favorite memory, hands down, was my trip to Capitol Hill in 2017 with Co-interim Executive Director Cinda Holt. The process of talking arts with our Montana senator, representatives and their staff was thrilling. Mr. Tester was once a fellow music educator with me, Mr. Daines was my trumpet student when he was a little boy, and Mr. Zinke had close family connections to the arts. All three asked great questions and gave Cinda and me insight into their processes for supporting the many causes that enhance life in Montana.”

Tracy Linder

Tracy Linder is a visual artist, and her work is rooted in an agricultural way of life, drawing on iconic symbols and photographic images that both honor and memorialize the changing place of the family farm in America.

Tracy’s sculptures and installations address our integral connection to the land, the sanctity of our food sources and the innate survival skills of all species. Tracy grew up on a family farm and now lives on the vast windswept prairie of southcentral Montana, where she continues to find source material. Tracy uses organic materials such as bone, leather, seeds, leaves, grasses, often combined with resin and beeswax.

Tracy was recently awarded a Tawkins Art 2021 Artist Grant. Tracy’s work is the subject of a feature article in the Nov/Dec 2020 issue of Sculpture Magazine, interview by Ann Landi.

Linder’s works have been shown nationally and extensively in Montana, Colorado, Wyoming and North Dakota. She has had numerous solo shows including: Missoula Art Museum, MT; Nicolaysen Art Museum, WY; OK Harris Works of Art, NYC; Fort Collins Museum of Contemporary Art, CO; Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis; Gallery 210, St. Louis; Holter Museum of Art, Helena; Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City; Prescott College Art Gallery, AZ; and Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings.
In 1989 and has since worked as a lighting designer and director on projects throughout the country. If it was filmed in Montana, chances are, Filmlites and JP were some part of it. Aside from the Montana projects, JP worked under prestigious lighting designer Allen Branton, as a lighting director for the 63rd Primetime Emmy Show, the MTV Movie Awards, the MTV Video Music Awards, and the LD for Miss America for 11 years. A particularly ambitious project was lighting the Colosseum in Rome for an opera concert on Great Performances PBS.

What began as a single truck in the Big Sky country Montana, has grown into the only camera, grip, lighting, full-scale equipment-rental company in the area. JP continues to work out of Bozeman with a highly experienced staff of seasoned professionals. Filmlites is also supporting annual Montana music festival events much as Red Ants Pants, Moonlight Music Fest, Sweet Pea and Google’s annual party at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky. Filmlites Productions shoots television commercials as well.

Montana has for a long time been a popular backdrop for large film productions. JP worked with Governor Steve Bullock to pass the Media Act in July of 2019, which offers a 20-35% transferable tax credit to producers shooting projects when they use local Montana film companies.

“I enjoyed my time on the Montana Arts Council over the years because of the high caliber of people that were on the Council with me and the excellent hard-working staff that worked tirelessly behind the scenes making us look good. It was also very encouraging as a new member to find out the staff and members all had great senses of humor; it made for an enjoyable time when doing tasks that would normally be pretty mundane and clerical. Important work with enjoyable people. That is an art form in itself.”

Larry Woiwode
October 30, 1941 – April 28, 2022

Larry Woiwode, whose 1975 novel, Beyond the Bedroom Wall, a multigenerational saga about a Midwestern family, acclaimed as one of the finest works of fiction of its era, died April 28 at a hospital in Bismarck, N.D. He was 80.

Mr. Woiwode grew up in North Dakota and Illinois, the two primary settings of Beyond the Bedroom Wall, and emerged in the 1960s as a young writer of enormous promise. He published short stories in The New Yorker and Esquire, and his debut novel, What I’m Going to Do, I Think, brought Mr. Woiwode sandwiches—sometimes his only meal of the day—encouraged his writing and published more than a dozen of his stories in The New Yorker.

Mr. Woiwode taught literature and writing throughout his career, including at Wheaton College and the University of North Dakota. In the mid-1980s, he headed the writing program at Binghamton University in New York. In recent years, he lived in Jamestown, N.D., where he was a writer-in-residence at the University of Jamestown. His honors included two Guggenheim fellowships and an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for “distinction in the art of the short story.”

Survivors include his wife since 1965, the former Carole Peterson; four children; two sisters; a brother; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Read the full story at https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2022/05/16/novelist-larry-woiwode-dies/

The “Saddle of Honor” Award
By Derrick Calhoun, Star staff writer

Courtesy of the Miles City Star

Miles City’s Wallace Kirk “Wally” Badgett will receive the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame “Saddle of Honor” award on Aug. 20.

Badgett, 70, is a cowboy cartoonist known for his Earl comics. He will be the third person given this award, the others being Western artists Charles M. Russell (2018) and Jay Joseph Contway (2019).

The award will be given at an open-to-the-public event hosted by the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame at Montana ExpoPark in Great Falls. The event will be held in the Paddock Club.

Badgett was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame in April of this year.

The award being given is a bronze sculpture of Charlie Russell’s saddle—the last new bronze created by Jay Contway.

From exceptional guest artists to living composers to masterworks known around the world, the 2022-2023 season has something for everyone.

“The 72nd season of the Billings Symphony brings an incredible opportunity to expand our musical offerings and community engagement programs in the Billings area and beyond,” says Executive Director Ignacio Barrón Viela.

Last season, the Billings Symphony presented 25 performances—doubling the number of concerts presented in a pre-pandemic season. This season, the organization brings 30 performances and special events to 13 venues across Billings, in addition to the more than 100 community engagement and educational outreach events planned by the organization.

“We live our mission by bringing people together around music, but also around our community’s priorities,” says Barrón Viela. “The role of music is beyond generating sales and entertaining. We are here to help make our community a better place, and this season goes beyond the theater. It is relevant to the people who live here. Our role is to keep inspiring, sharing and healing through music experiences.”

The 2022-2023 season, under the direction of Maestra Anne Harrigan, brings musicians from around the world to Billings, offering vibrant music that sparks connections and conversations. New compositions are brought to the stage by living composers who are reshaping and re-imagining the world of symphonic orchestras.

Harrigan, who celebrates her 18th year with the Billings Symphony, describes this upcoming season as a prolific and dynamic collection of music, showcasing not only the skill of the orchestra players, but the robust offerings of the growing organization.

“We have an exciting and mixed program of classical favorites and new works. Music lovers will appreciate the diversity, but you don’t need to know this music to be energized by the programs and the collaborative work that is going on behind the scenes.”

The Classic Series, sponsored by The Oakland Companies, brings a collection of masterworks, ballet and even a concert musical to the stage. The Classic Full Season includes eight concerts and is complemented by the Sukin Series. Sponsored by Sibanye-Stillwater, the seven concerts of the Sukin Series focus on international artists, chamber groups and small ensembles. The series is named after the Sukin family, who generously donated the building where the Billings Symphony is headquartered.

With family-oriented programming that is accessible to all, the Billings Symphony is also bringing a new generation of music lovers to the symphony. This season, the Billings Symphony presents a free family series, sponsored by Kampgrounds of America. Free family concerts and the annual Symphony in the Park help ensure that all community members can enjoy symphonic music regardless of ability to pay.

The organization also partners with the Billings Youth Orchestra to offer two donation-based concerts and expand its educational and family offerings to several free events, including Adventures in Music at Billings Public Library and M is for Music, hosted at Lincoln Center Auditorium.

Visit billingsymphony.org or call (406) 252-3610 for details.
Love is like a summer day. We eagerly await its arrival and hope it never ends. In Montana, we know the value of the season and eagerly count down the days as they lengthen. For most, summer means no school, no homework, a time for swimming, hiking and fun in the sun.

For some adventurous, musical kids in Flathead County, summer also means it’s time for Music and Nature Day Camp. A unique experience created in partnership by North Valley Music School and Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center, this yearly tradition combines two wonderful, essential pathways to fun and play: music and nature. Here, creativity abounds, and the birds aren’t the only ones making songs out in the Montana forests during summer.

Built on the routines of nature connection Ravenwood is known for, the camp infuses North Valley Music School’s high-level music instruction into focused-skill time each day. There are three music sections to choose from: strings, percussion and ukulele. Young musicians enjoy group activities, games, songs, crafts, wilderness skills, stories and nature connection time. There are also breakout times for music creation, plus preparation for a finale concert for friends and families to attend at the end of the week.

Strings explore a wide range of music from Irish fiddle to classical to nature-inspired improv. Percussion romps through the forest to the roots rhythms from around the world, drumming to the beat of the heart. Ukulele learns that listening is key to any musician’s journey and a secret to memorable songwriting. All students expand their music and awareness skills and find their creative voice as music and nature helps campers connect, create and contemplate.

If you’re lucky enough to be in Northwest Montana in August, you might catch the sound of violins, cellos, ukuleles and drums wafting through the air around Whitefish and wonder if it’s really happening. It is! “Thanks again for offering such a great program for our kids and all the hard work that goes into it,” an anonymous parent shared. “Not only does this benefit our community, it benefits the world when children have these opportunities and foundation. I am so grateful.”

Music matters and nature holds us in a sacred space where we can truly be wild and free. Let’s play!

Discover more at:

ravenwoodolc.org
northvalleymusicschool.org

Open for enrollment

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MAPS Media Institute Summer Classes are open for enrollment in Ravalli and Lewis and Clark County!

- These classes are for both new and returning students
- All classes are FREE OF CHARGE
- Classes are for eighth- to 12th-grade students
- Students may enroll at any time
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CALL: 406-594-2827
Ting! Ting! Ting! It’s a warm summer day in the 1920’s, picnic in full swing. Norman Maclean drives into a lively game of horseshoes, is immediately asked to join in—a subtle test to see how much he’s changed by being away at college.

It’s a small but telling moment about the simmering conflict in their family, things they can only touch at the surface, camouflaging the deeper issues rubbing at their family foundations. *A River Runs Through It* takes these series of leisure activities, trout fishing the most evident, stacking and layering them throughout the film. It’s about the moments between work—the life they are living in post WWI here in Montana. Preaching, newspaper reporting and working for the Forest Service may be their jobs, but they are only incidental to their lives this one fateful summer.

Montana, having sent a higher proportion of able-bodied men than any other state to WWI, had a young, active population and was receiving an influx of homesteaders, miners and business startups who had the time and energy to, well, party. Picnics, dances, gambling and illegal drinking did not deter these characters, and the legacy of horseshoes and fishing continue to this day. Horseshoes as a scored tournament game was first done in Bronson, Kansas in 1910, and the rules we know today were set and organized by 1923. Fly-fishing went up by a reported 60% the year the film was released, and remains incredibly popular to worldwide guests who come to Montana.

Jumping ahead to WWII, the lead character in *Jimmy P*, played by Benicio Del Toro, suffers from a strange malady that leads him to a hospital in the Midwest, to begin treatment with a Frenchman, who has ideas from anthropology research that are unconventional to his fellow physicians.

They begin an unlikely friendship and examine the visions that haunt Jimmy Picard. In a disorienting set of dreams and flashbacks to his younger life on the Blackfeet reservation, he sees a series of dances and stickgames from his youth in Browning.

At the time the film was made in 2013, research on traditional Indian games had been part of the Indian Education for All curriculum in Montana, with a new revision in that year. The filmmakers also worked with the cultural department to set up a winter round dance in one of the few round dance halls still standing and performed extensive repairs to the log structure in Heart Butte while filming.

Round dances are held in the winter as a way to bring community together, to share songs and stories and have fun. The round dance consists of a group of hand drummers standing in the the center singing songs while groups of people dance in a circular movement around the drummers. The Heart Butte Society Healing Celebration holds an annual celebration in the fall, where visitors are encouraged to attend.

“WHO’S GOT THAT RENEGADE PRIDE?!” is the rallying cry of the beleaguered six-man football team shouting through the cold wind on the frozen football playing fields surrounding Great Falls in 1999. The Renegades are a motley assortment of football players brought together by a down and out coach (David Morse) and his star player, a young Ryan Gosling. Having just lost his father, burning with rage and grief, football becomes his dysfunctional family.

Six-man football started in 1934 during the Great Depression, as a way to allow smaller schools to field football teams. Thirty-two teams competed in Montana during 2019/2020 from all over the state, sometimes combining three neighboring schools to field a team. The place with the most six-man football teams is Texas, with over 250 teams.

*The Slaughter Rule* film title takes its name from the 45-point rule. If one team scores 45 points over the other, the game is called for the winning team. It’s also called the mercy rule in other states. The film worked on location during a crushingly cold fall and winter in the Great Falls area, blending the rich history of six-man football into the plot.

Montana’s love of fun and games means that you can learn horseshoes, Native American games, play some football and go fishing all summer long!
Sarah Aswell: Standing Up

By Eric Heidle

Sarah Aswell is telling a joke:

“I thought I was a feminist until the last time I flew in a plane. The captain came on the intercom and it was a woman. And I was like, ‘Wow, that is super awesome! A woman pilot! The world is indeed changing for the better!’ But then the co-pilot came on, and it was also a woman. I was like, ‘So there are no men up there at all? Like, I am woke but only up to 10,000 feet.’ I told that joke once, and a woman came up to me after the show and told me it was sexist. And I had to explain that it’s about internalized sexism, something that we all struggle with, even me. Because of the way I was socialized I still have these thoughts, and I will always have to fight against them. I can’t believe she didn’t get it—but then I remembered: women are dumb.’"
The joke is long and complex; it’s longer still in the full telling, but that would give away some laughs you should hear for yourself. Sarah’s delivery on a recent evening at a Helena brewpub frames a number of fascinating topics she raises in conversation before going onstage. “When you’re a standup comedian, they say you need to get one out-loud laugh every 15 to 20 seconds,” she explains. “And to do that, you really have to have everything honed pretty perfectly.” And how do comics get to that point of refinement? Sarah explains: “There’s two types of comedians—there’s editors and clowns. Clowns are like Jim Carrey or Robin Williams.” Unlike those wildly improvisational, manic personalities, though, Sarah says she’s an editor. She works meticulously on new material, recording herself as she performs in front of crowds; later, she’ll either punch up promising bits till they shine or discard them if they just don’t work. On the page, she’ll highlight every line that gets a solid response till all the “laughs deserts” disappear. But Sarah cautions it’s not a foolproof formula, noting the scary feature that sets the art of comedy apart: “You can only practice standup when you’re doing it live.”

Even the most polished routine won’t please everyone, of course, and the tail end of her pilot joke is a prime example. One tipsy lady (who also happened to be a pilot) did in fact confront Sarah after a show, genuinely upset that it seemed to be at women’s expense. In standup there’s always a line: One person’s belly laugh might be another’s sore spot. (The anecdote ends on an uneasy laugh about pilots with liquor.)

The pilot joke highlights another key feature of standup: Sarah explains that much humor is built around setting up and dispelling narrative tension. Her excitement at realizing the pilot is a woman creates an expectation that’s soon undermined in a funny way when she learns the co-pilot is, too. The further genius of the joke is that she fools us into thinking it’s over when she goes into the story about the angry woman from the crowd. The “women are dumb” zinger strikes like a kind of comedic cruise missile: without warning. Sarah’s precise delivery helps it arrive. Unlike Carrey or Williams, she is not zany. She does not cajole or browbeat her audience into laughter. Her voice is understated and controlled, and the stillness of her presence on stage invites the crowd to lean in. You’re already laughing when you stop to ask, “Wait...she said that?”

The way the full joke fuses these elements—subversion of gender expectations, building in real-world feedback, nuance layering—seems to prove Sarah’s point about being an editor. This seems fitting, as that’s also her day job: senior editor at Scary Mommy, an online parenting magazine tackling motherhood, culture and politics all at once. Her work spans a wide range of subjects, from profiling her membership in Missoula’s “Worst Wives Club”—a group of moms who provide each other mutual support and camaraderie—to participating in a roundtable Q&A with Vice-President Kamala Harris. “I didn’t get to ask her a question, though I wrote some,” Sarah admits. But don’t worry; she’s still getting killer scoops: “I recently interviewed the least popular Jonas brother, for example. It’s just, you know...the glamour.”

There’s been a little glamor in Sarah’s standup career, too. The culture site Thrillist has called her one of the best undiscovered comedians in America. “So I say it’s one of those insults that sounds like a compliment. Why am I not trying to be discovered? Usually, when you get pretty good, you move away.” That’s not Sarah’s goal. “Yeah, it’s weird. I have little kids, and I’m a single mom, so basically touring is out of the question for me completely. I love Missoula. I don’t want to move to L.A. or anywhere.”

Which doesn’t mean Missoula’s a bad place for a fulfilling comedy career—it just means you have to know your audience. “I did a show recently at the Union Club,” she explains, “I was sitting in the bar and I noticed that about 40 percent of the room was this huge group of middle-aged men with steel-toed boots on and hoodies and beards. So I go up to one of them and I’m like, ‘What’s happening?’ It turns out the entire Pipefitters Union was in the crowd. ‘I went up and I was like, ‘Oh, you know, the Pipefitters Union is here tonight. This room looks like an illustration of me swiping left on Tinder.’ You make fun of them, but that pulls them closer. And then you have the room for the rest of the night.”

Choosing to poke gentle fun at a big chunk of your audience has something in common with the pilot joke, too: knowing where funny ends and hurtful begins. Sarah says it this way: “It’s a really hard line to walk, right? You want comedy to be experimental. You can only practice comedy in front of people, right? So the next logical step is you’re going to make mistakes.”

She gives an example: “I think the second time I went on stage ever was at an open mic and I was all excited about this new joke I was going to do. And the punch line had something to do with someone with a peg leg, right? And I was all excited about this joke and I was in the front row and there’s a guy without a leg sitting in the audience, and that hit me like a ton of bricks.” Sarah didn’t tell the joke. “There are so many jokes. You don’t need to hurt people, right?”

Recognizing the range of what comedy can be is tricky, too. Hannah Gadsby’s groundbreaking standup special Nanette, which deals with deeply traumatic events in Gadsby’s life framed in an unusual narrative structure, comes up in the discussion as an example of something that doesn’t feel like standup. Sarah pushes back at that idea. “I think Hannah Gadsby represents what comedy could be if way more voices were heard. It is outside of the box, but it’s still her on stage with a microphone making you laugh and think. And that’s what standup comedy is.”

This leads to another of Sarah’s passions: teaching comedy to others, and helping them understand what comedy can be. “A lot of times I talk to women, even women who take my workshop, they’re like, ‘I don’t really like standup comedy!’ But then, it’s not that they don’t like stand up comedy. They don’t like the standup comedy that they see.” And it’s not just the comics. “We don’t just have to change the performers. We have to get a new audience too—we’re really excited because I think that as more different people get on stage, the definition of standup comedy is going to expand and elevate and be so much more interesting.”

Another key element Sarah teaches and talks about is vulnerability. “The things that you think are only your problem are universal. And I think comedy really shows that every time. You can tell a whole room full of people.” She reinforces the idea by paraphrasing Jerry Seinfeld: “I’m telling this to all of you because I can’t talk to just you.” elaborating, “I don’t think I’m a comedian who aren’t working through trauma. It’s like exposure therapy or something, right?”

Teaching comedy, writing about motherhood, politics and culture, and telling jokes close to home proves to be both therapeutic and satisfying for Sarah Aswell, as it turns out.

“You know the end of Charlotte’s Web where all the spiders fly away on their webs, all but three spiders? So I’m like one of those three spiders,” she explains with a last laugh. “That’s okay.”
American stereotypes of Native peoples, including children, have been characterized by depictions of stoic, humorless people; cardboard dolls devoid of affect or affectation. This cruel construction is rapidly reconfigured with a few well-placed questions, such as... Would you be smiling if you were sent to boarding school when you were five? Was anyone still smiling when the shutter finally clicked on the endless exposures of 19th-century cameras? Would you be cracking jokes with those irritating settler colonists with their cameras, intrusions and expropriations? Probably not. Away from prying eyes, Native peoples have a long history of fun and games that has endured through the attempted cultural erasure of 19th- and 20th-century assimilation efforts. At first glance, the subject of Native American children’s material culture and play activities would seem to be a simple one. However, it is one of complicated relationships between children and their objects, and adults and models that look quite similar to children’s toys.

Social media is full of memes and viral images of babies, kittens and puppies. They epitomize fun and games, and it would appear that this is not a new phenomenon. Richard Harrington lived among the Padleimut Inuit for a period of Native American children’s material culture and play activities would seem to be a simple one. However, it is one of complicated relationships between children and their objects, and adults and models that look quite similar to children’s toys.

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This kind of cultural knowledge drain became increasingly common during the 20th century, as many tribes became increasingly reliant on the tourist economy. The export of tribal knowledge and material culture, amplified by the antiquities auction market, continued unabated until the federal legislation of NAGPRA—the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act—passed in 1990. NAGPRA forced an immediate and robust inspection of museum and institutional collections, requiring the return of human remains and objects of patrimony. Despite many loopholes, NAGPRA and the American Indian Arts and Crafts Act, also passed in 1990, were a great help in reinforcing an awareness of tribal sovereignty regarding traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights.

Institutions such as the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and the Institute of American Indian Art and its affiliated Museum of Contemporary Native American Art have created an opportunity for another turn of this material-culture spiral through time. Native artists such as Emil Her Many Horses are again turning to creating dolls and miniature tips—but instead of manufacturing work for collectors, they are creating radical affirmations of sovereignty and robust culture. Her Many Horses’ tableau “Honoring Our Lakota Vietnam Veterans” commemorates a nearly invisible class of heroes, bringing a traditional war tipi into modern times with helicopters rather than horses (Fig. 13).

Contemporary Native doll artists such as Rhonda Holy Bear and Jamie Okuma were showcased for the exhibit Gone. Possession: Dolls from the Chiricahua and Valerie Diker Collection. Holy Bear's “Maternal Journey” is a remarkable paean to Apsáalooke women, and her attention to detail is breathtaking (Fig 14). Jamie Okuma is better known for her landmark beadwork, such as her beaded helicopters rather than horses (Fig. 13).

books. However, her family group is extraordinary both in her attention to cultural and familial detail and nuance, and also because the revisits and incorporates very traditional doll cloths such as the undamaged faces ready for the imagination of a child (Fig 15). Holy Bear and Okuma help to draw this spiritual sovereignty through another turn because through their work is collected by major museums and collectors, it is also collected and highly prized within Native communities where it can inspire the next generations.

And, another turn for a full circle bring children into art, and art home to Native communities. Wendy Red Star has formed a “mother/daughter artist collaborative duo” with her daughter Beatrice over a number of years in work such as their 2015 collaboration, “Apsáalooke Feminist,” (Fig. 16). Both are garbed in beautiful modern elk-tooth dresses and beaded headbands, and Beatrice is seated with an array of five hand-made Native dolls, clearly not disowned. She also skillfully reimagines the Native child as an integral part of living culture. And finally, returning art to the community landscape: The Bozeman arts group Mountain Time Arts commissioned a highly anticipated and attended artwork—seven illuminated tips to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day. This is art and cultural celebration that is fun, playful and coming home.

**Bibliography**


**Fig. 12** Keeper Tune Model: "Bird Picture-tip model created for sale—impressed with rainbow bands in green, yellow, red and blue near bottom and top, row of green dots outlined in red, two white dots outlined in red, below lower rainbow, right side of midsection covered with green, four pointed tips, and a band with salis of pink, black, blue and red. Montana Historical Art Museum: Material: hide, pigment, quill, wood, bamboo, sticks. Smithsonian: Tips-315-991; pole L:5 WH:5 H:5 (in) American Museum of Natural History. Catalog No: 11-1040.

**Fig. 13** "Honoring Our Lakota Vietnam Veterans" Creator: Emil Her Many Horses. "This tableau won the Governor's Best of Show Award at the Northern Plains Tribal Arts Show in 2002. Emil Her Many Horses created it to honor Lakota Vietnam Veterans. The mabloy dolls can be America Flag, POW Flag or a rifle. They wear bead-inlaid moccasins. Two of the women carry bird-wings fans, and two are wearing white handkerchiefs. The tipi is adorned with two long feathers, a eagle feather on top of the military or accompanying a native eagle feather, then female relatives had right to acknowledge the honor by waving their handkerchiefs, or handkerchief or fan at the art. (since 2004). p. 115.

**Fig. 14** Maternal Journey/Rhonda Holy Bear. Chiricahua River Sisus and Lakota. 2015. Wood, glass, paint, clay, cotton, wool, glass micro-beads, beaded tassels, beads, textiles, fur, feathers. 31 x 42 inches. Collection of Charles and Valerie Diker. Photograph by Craig Smith.


Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock


**Fig. 17** Mountain Time Arts has commissioned seven illuminated tepees to be raised on the south end of Peets Hill Oct. 8-18 in celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day this year. The tepee lodges will be raised by the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council and the Poetry Shelf Foundation. They will honor the contributions of American Indians to our community, landscape and rich culture. The tepees will be installed on the ancestral land of the Blood Firstot, Piegan (Dakota, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne, Cross, Chipewyan-Cree, Assiniboine, Gary Vetter, Oster, and other Indigenous Nations of this region."

IndianCountryToday.com
Across
3. Ski Resort- ______ Sky
4. A River Runs Through It
6. State Animal
8. Glacier Park Lake
10. A North American Indian ceremony involving feasting, singing and dancing.
16. Rod and _________
20. Gibson acoustic guitars are manufactured here.
21. Underground Caverns near Three Forks
24. MT Highest Peak
26. Giant metal horses grazing on a hilltop near the Montana highway.
27. First official photographer for Yellowstone National Park
29. The earliest known form of writing; can be seen at Middle, and Ghost Caves.
30. Montana Congresswoman
32. Montana’s legendary art pioneers Bob and Gennie ______.
35. “River” author- ___________ Maclean
36. One of 2 active drive-ins in Montana.
37. Montana artist- CM ___________
38. Montana’s capital

Down
1. State Flower
2. MT largest freshwater lake
5. A winter sport
7. Ride in Helena and Missoula
9. Artist known for painting Montana’s rainy mornings and hazy sunsets
11. Art Center that hosts classical chamber music and exhibits large-scale, outdoor sculptures.
13. State Bird
14. Montana’s leading cash crop
15. J.P. Kelley, Cowboy Artist and Cartoonist is being exhibited here.
17. Madison County Seat- __________ City
18. Musician from Butte Montana. Tim _____.
19. Garden of One Thousand ______.
22. Billings Mansion
23. The first building in Montana to earn LEED Platinum certification: American _______ Hall.
28. State Tree
31. Montana’s current poet laureate.
33. Flathead cherries
34. Largest National Park in MT

Word Bank
Chatham Ranch Pictograph Tippet Moss Buddhas Hockaday Bleu Bitterroot Carousel Virginia Paris Granite reel
Helena Norman Russell Meadowlark Blackfoot bing Deweese Gibbons Glacier ski Haynes Indian McDonald Flathead Lewis and Clark Grizzly Montana Ponderosa Powwow Big Rankin Bozeman wheat Silverbow

Yellowstone Art Museum, April 29
Frank J. Haynes, Yellowstone Falls, photograph
Nancy Cawdrey, Forever Glacier: Ursus arctos
At Cawdrey Gallery & Lounge

At Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, starting July 1

Artist Josh DeWeese
At Holter Museum of Art, Helena, permanent collection
At Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, starting July 14

Robert Royhl, Walking Along Yellowstone Lake

36. One of 2 active drive-ins in Montana.
37. Montana artist: CM __________
38. Montana's capital:
39. Down
40. State Flower
41. Montana's largest freshwater lake
42. Montana's leading cash crop
43. Montana's capital
44. Montana artist- CM __________

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18. Montana artist known for painting Montana's rainy mornings and hazy sunsets
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20. Gibson Square.
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22. Billings Mansion
23. The First building in Montana to earn LEED Platinum certification: American _______ Hall.
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Word Bank
Chatham Ranch
Blew
Helena
Gibbons
Lewis and Clark
Bozeman
Ranch
Bitterroot
Norman
Glacier
Montana
wheat
Pictograph
Carousel
Russell
ski
Grunzly
Montana
Silverbow
Tippet
Moss
Buddhas
Hockaday
Virginia
Paris
Granite
reel
Meadowlark
Blackfoot
bing
Indian
Powwow
Big
Billings Mansion
Rocky Boy Powwow, Havre
playing mind games

Oh, the games people play, now
Every night and every day, now
Never meaning what they say, now
Never saying what they mean

By Mark Gibbons

Joe South’s simple lyric resonates with everyone of us. It’s poetry. Music and truth. Like John Lennon’s “Mind Games” is poetry, language packaged to deliver entertainment and joy, along with a personalized message just for you, the one you manufacture from experiencing the art of Love is the answer...Yes is the answer...Love is a flower / You gotta let it, you gotta let it grow. It’s the poet’s job to keep delivering that message.

I love poetry, but I choose to quote lyrics here because I came to poetry through song lyrics, through music, and the feeling of love blossoming in my chest. George Jones defined country music as three chords and the truth. So what is the truth of our existence? We’re working on that. In the meantime, all we can really hang our hat on is one of two pegs: love or death. They are the truths of our existence and therefore the two great themes of poetry.

The effort to recognize truth takes some work, some effort: observation, experience and education, reserving judgments, putting ourselves in others’ shoes or trying to. That’s how we develop empathy which is essential to the survival of a democracy.

Always listen to your heart, look for love, don’t give into fear. Fear leads to more fear which often incites anger which turns to panic and violence, fight or flight. Why not trust in love? Why not choose kindness? Why not share, take care of each other and appreciate this miracle of consciousness! We are here, alive, and trying to communicate with one another. This existence is incredible. We’re all different, but for the most part, we’re all the same or in the same boat. So on that note: rock the boat or don’t, laugh out loud, be humble, be proud, be who you are, a mind guerrilla...a Druid dude lifting the veil. Live life aware in the moment. Be a poem. Poetry is a game, and you can make up the rules.

Open your heart and write a poem. Then sing it out loud!

Maybe put it in your back pocket, carry it around till it starts to break down like that picture of your lover or your kids or your mother. Then replace it with another like this one Lennon wrote again and again: Make love not war, I know you’ve heard it before. Or maybe it might be like this one I penned.

It’s a game you can play by yourself until you show it to someone else when it becomes a new game, theirs.
another day
another job
another delivery

you smile
politely inquire
about where
to place the order
or pick up the return
ask for a signature
thanking along the way
so thankful
you thank again
as you leave
your smile
behind

but once in awhile
the routine
snags on a sour mug
with shifting eyes
the disapproving stare
aversion maybe
even a fear
of contamination
unknown possibilities
requiring the necessity
to disassociate

or sometimes
there's a voice
that grabs your attention
like a warm bath
it pulls you in
to the eyes

that say
I love you
and swallow your
hurry-up work pace
you stop
literally
figuratively
park your ass
in awe of
a fully present
human being

and you know
this is the true art
of living
of being
alive
at any moment
when each encounter
is felt
shared and lived
as if it were
the last one
and then
miraculously
you watch them
do it again

no applause
no roses at their feet
like the sand mandala
you're blown away
– Mark Gibbons

Montana Native Stories through Graphic Novel

The Lakota storytelling of Thunderous seeks to honor Indigenous traditions.

Thunderous is about a Lakota teenager from South Dakota who yearns to fit in. The main character, Aiyana, worries that what makes her different—her Lakota heritage and connection to her previous home on a reservation—are what she needs to hide. And despite loving her family, she pushes them away to seek acceptance among her classmates. Not long into the story, Aiyana is transported into a world of talking animals and a special quest that will transform her. The characters, themes and lessons of the story are rooted in Lakota storytelling, and while Aiyana is not a hero with superpowers in the Marvel sense, her journey has a classic hero's-origin-story flavor. “It’s a story about a really reluctant hero,” says Thunderous co-author M.L. Smoker. “She’s got to figure things out for herself to be the hero of her own story and to really begin to think about others.”

“As a poet, I was apprehensive about writing dialog and characters in this new setting,” Smoker says. “But I knew I wanted it to be funny. We got through the pandemic together with our families with a sense of humor and appreciation for one another. I knew it would be fun to collaborate.”

Recently, the authors applied for and received an ARPA grant through the Montana Arts Council which will fund the Thunderous book tour, designed to reach 5th-grade students in small, rural portions of Indian country in Montana. The authors will visit schools in Dixon, Frazer, Heart Butte and Box Elder to present the book, share their creative process and distribute copies of Thunderous to students who will no doubt find a connection with Aiyana’s struggles to find a balance between her cultural identity and peer pressure.

“Anybody can write a story about Indigenous kids, but how you represent them and their culture and identity is really, really important,” Smoker says. “So we spent a lot of time talking about that and working through it and just hoping that people see that intent, and that they are appreciative and like it.”

Read the full MTFP article below:
https://montanafreepress.org/2022/05/02/montana-poets-represent-native-culture-in-new-graphic-novel/
New Grass on the Golden Sunlight Mine

by Noelle Sullivan

Winner of the 2021 Open Country Chapbook Contest

The earth—and all the light and dark and in between—watches our lives unfold. We die, we drop off the edge towards heaven, we cling to the promise of being remade, transformed. Noelle Sullivan’s collection, New Grass on the Golden Sunlight Mine, braids moments of contemplation and self-discovery on the landscape with a dire need for belonging and home. These poems, also as dreams and totems, show us the way through luminous imagery: the osprey’s magic, animal paths, willow swamp and the bottomland feeders. The effect is profound. And the movement and light of these poems is captivating.

—M.L. Smoker, author of Another Attempt at Rescue

A Black Woman’s West: The Life of Rose B. Gordon

by Michael K. Johnson

Montanan Rose B. Gordon lived an ordinary life in terms of day-to-day struggles, but her experiences were extraordinary in their sum. A new book by the Montana Historical Society by Michael K. Johnson provides insight into her remarkable life. Born in the Barker Mining District of central Montana Territory, Rose Beatrice Gordon (1883-1968) was the daughter of an African American chef and an emancipated slave who migrated to the West in the early 1880s. “This forthcoming book will tell the story of the Gordon family—John, Anna, Robert, Rose, John Francis Jr., George and Taylor—and pays tribute to Rose, who lived most of her life in White Sulphur Springs,” said Diana Di Stefano, who manages the book publishing branch of the Montana Historical Society. In her youth, Rose Gordon excelled academically and distinguished herself as a musical performer. As an adult, she established her economic independence as a restaurant owner, massage therapist and caregiver.

Find the new book at the Montana Historical Society’s store in Helena or order online at https://app.mt.gov/shop/mhsstore/a-black-womans-west-the-life-of-rose-b-gordon.

The Art of Monte Dolack: Vision • Myth • Mystery

Introduction Essay by Todd Wilkinson

This collection of works from the iconic artist Monte Dolack contains paintings spanning the last two decades. Known for his distinctive style that has drawn admirers worldwide, Dolack selected this collection to encompass the beauty, whimsy and ironic twists that make his work legendary.

Through the Basement of Time

by O. Alan Weltzien

As one who pays close attention to landscapes and braids human stories with those inspired by them, poet O. Alan Weltzien has just had his second chapbook of poetry published, this time by Finishing Line Press. David Fenimore states, “Alan Weltzien attends fiercely to what [poet Mary] Oliver calls our ‘wild and precious life.’” Writer Paul Lindholdt believes Weltzien’s poems “follow lines carved by John Wesley Powell, Ed Abbey and millennia of nomadic Indigenous before them.”

This small collection follows two full-length collections, The Snowpeaks and Rembrandt in the Stairwell, and precedes a big new collection, On The Beach: Poems 2016-2021.

Weltzien retired two years ago from the University of Montana West, capping a 40-year career as an English professor. During that time, he received two Fulbright Fellowships and two University of Montana International Faculty Awards. He has published four chapbooks and 11 books including the memoir A Father and an Island. He’s served as a judge in Montana district Poetry Out Loud competitions and been nominated as Montana’s Poet Laureate.

The cover photograph is one of hundreds taken in the Grand Canyon by Jon Payne.
Hidden Treasure in Montana

Story and photos by Jeffrey Conger

Ryan Turner
Family-owned Gallery

Brilliant images that go beyond landscape photography is the best way to describe the stunning artistic creations by Ryan Turner at the Art Gallery of Big Sky. Walking into the gallery, it’s easy to see this is a family-owned business, with his wife Angi often found at the desk greeting patrons and shoppers, and their daughters, Elia and Lily, who’ve helped since they could stand at local art fairs, farmers markets or festivals.

Growing up in the Midwest, Ryan was fortunate to have over 2 ½ years of photography instruction before leaving high school. Then, after college, inspired by great image makers like Gordon Wiltsie, he decided to take a chance on the West and landed in Montana.

Starting his career as an adventure photographer that led to legendary days with legendary people, he now makes contemplative fine art landscapes and spontaneous wildlife images. Known for his iconic images of Lone Peak, the gallery offers a wide selection of prints, note cards and new photographic acrylic blocks.

So, the next time you’re in the meadow in Big Sky, be sure to visit them at 76 Town Center Avenue, Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 to 5:00. Simply look for their memorable square sign with the large letters “ART” across the street from the Lotus Pad restaurant. You can also find them at www.ryanturnerphotography.com and on social media or give them a call at (406) 580-5130.
Meet Taylor Burby,
Folklorist for the Montana Arts Council

by Eric Heidle

Taylor Burby is looking at a small map of Montana and planning a road trip. A recent graduate of the University of Oregon’s folklore and public culture master’s program, Taylor speaks passionately about the process of finding, connecting and celebrating folk arts being made in Montana today. What she’s talking about is outreach, and in Montana that means windshield time.

Taylor explained this outreach in detail at MAC’s recent Council meeting in Whitefish, with a presentation brimming with enthusiasm for the work. She notes that the initiative has its basis in the Council’s founding legislation and mission statement, saying “MAC intends to serve all Montanans who contribute to the great cultural heritage of our state.” Doing that means participating in the cultural lives of small and rural communities where folk arts are so frequently found. “Building a strong folk and traditional arts program will advance the goals referenced in the Council’s mission statement,” Taylor explains.

“Being reflective of the overall Montana way of life, with special consideration and attention to those members living on reservations, rural areas, impoverished areas, etcetera, who are severely underserved. The work of a public folklorist is to reach into these areas, engage communities and build the trust that other council programs and projects can’t.”

West Fork Mountain Crafts Gallery Celebrates
20 years in Business

Conner Montana

Open House Aug. 16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Shirley Anderson Sylvester
Exhibition and Demonstration

Born in the Bitterroot Valley, Shirley and her family live on a cattle farm. Being raised in rural Montana, old homesteads and barns have strongly influenced her work. Shirley states, “When I paint the old buildings, I imagine the people that lived and worked there. They built our country and represented the heritage of our nation’s history.” Because of her love for Montana, her portfolio includes mountains, streams and lakes. Often while enjoying her work, other observers can be overheard saying things like, “I remember standing right there,” or, “I remember when we fished in that stream.”

Shirley’s career in art began in 1985 with oils and grew to include watercolors in 1995. A long-time participant in the annual art show in Virginia City, as well as the Bitterroot Art Guild shows in the Bitterroot Valley, her work is the highlight of many homes in Montana.

Early in her career, her interest in Native American culture and their pictographic history led her on endless travels. A true understanding of the pictographs was obtained during this time, and many have been included in her paintings. She considered serving on the Board of Montana Archaeology a sincere privilege. Visiting cultural sites gave her the knowledge needed to paint many of her teepee scenes in a respectful manner, with historical accuracy. One of the thrills of her career was recording Native rock art in Montana and Idaho.

Her work can be viewed at Art City in Hamilton, the Choteau Arts gallery, and now in West Fork Gallery in Conner. She participates in other shows around the state, as well as in Artists Along the Bitterroot. Home visits can be arranged and are welcome.
Sunburst Arts
Eureka Post Office **Art Shows**

**featuring Montana Artists’ photographs, small quilts, woodblock prints, collages and fiber art**

It all started about six years ago, when a group of Sunburst Arts volunteers in Eureka had the idea to hang a rotating art show in the town’s post office.

We went through the proper channels to get the idea approved, put out the word to local artists, and got started.

**Every month, we hang about eight to ten pieces of art which, over the years, have ranged from paintings to photographs, small quilts, woodblock prints, collages and fiber art.**

**A few years back, people in Trego and Fortine (two smaller towns south of Eureka) asked if they could possibly have art in their post offices as well. So we recruited another volunteer and expanded the rotating exhibit to include those spaces. Of course this meant that the artists lending their work would have it on display for two months (one month in Eureka and then the show is divided between Trego and Fortine), but they’ve been very understanding and cooperative. It’s been a great way to bring some beauty and culture into our little corner of the world.**

**The rotating Art shows feature local artists who display and sell their work. The gallery is open to all artists, regardless of their experience or background.**

Prices are not posted on the artwork, but interested buyers can contact the artist directly. This concept seems ideal for small towns that don’t have a gallery, or for places that have galleries but which might not work for all artists. The rotating art shows provide a unique opportunity for local artists to showcase their work, and it also helps to support the local economy.

If you are interested in submitting artwork for consideration, please contact Sunburst Arts at: https://www.facebook.com/MTSunburst/events/?ref=page_internal

Story and photos courtesy by Sunburst Arts

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**Taylor Burby’s year-long work with the Arts Council will be to survey our own archives. “That’s the real haunted basement of the Montana Arts Council knows that there are boxes upon boxes of archival material,” she jokes.**

“**I think that it would be really significant to take inventory of the archives and determine the scope of archival material. Follow this by rehousing it and allowing it to be utilized; it can be put into museums and exhibits accessible to the public.”**

**Taylor’s skills in ethnographic research and data analysis will help the Arts Council tie all these approaches together so that we can better support those working in traditional arts in every corner of the state, whether they’re Indigenous craftpeople, musicians preserving traditional instruments and playing, visual artists working with local materials, or those who preserve our linguistic and cultural heritage.**

We’re lucky to have Taylor Burby on board, and we can’t wait to share the results of her efforts.
The Art of Video Games

by Tracy Sullivan

Video games have come a long way from the simple graphics and sounds of *Pong*.

Today, they entertain us with more sophisticated forms of art—sculpture in the form of 3D modeling, illustration, narrative arcs and dynamic music. They are one of the only forms of art that allows us to personalize the experience without compromising the authority of the creator. Although often debated, video games are an integral part of the art world both as an art form and as a training tool for creative problem-solving, teamwork and developing imaginations.

**Video games gained popularity in the late 1970s and early 1980s** during the golden age of arcades. Perhaps like me, you have many fond memories of playing *Asteroids*, *Pac-Man*, *Donkey Kong* and *Frogger*, to name a few. But have you ever given any thought to how they were created?

**In the early days of development**, even with simple graphics, objectives and sounds, much creative deliberation was required. The creative team for *Pac-Man*, led by Toru Iwatani and nine others, spent a year and a half developing a maze action video game to appeal to a "non-violent" audience, particularly women, with its use of simple gameplay. The cute, attractive, character designs were debated; should they be colorful and what about expressive blue eyes? Each of the ghosts were programmed to have their own distinct personality and strategy for tracking down Pac-Man: Blinky always chases Pac-Man, Pinky tries to get ahead of him, Inky uses a more complicated strategy to zero in on him, and Clyde alternates between chasing him and running away. To add to the entertainment, humorous intermissions featuring Pac-Man and Blinky were included. And then there are the iconic sound effects, created by Toshio Kai to imitate sounds Iwatani made by noisily eating fruit...can you hear it?

**Today, the video game market has estimated annual revenues of $159 billion.** This is three times the size of the music industry and four times that of the film industry. And with this growth, we’ve seen video games evolve in their artistic complexity.

**The simple squares and circles** of *Pong* are now three-dimensional characters interacting with their environment. Nothing goes unnoticed, not even their reflections in puddles. Chris Melissinos, guest curator of *The Art of Video Games*, an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, likened it to “watching cave painting become Impressionism in just a few decades.”

Today’s video-game artists create photo-realistic environments, develop alternative character representations and even commission original scores.

**Video game development teams can vary from three to 100 or more members**, depending on the game’s scope. The most represented are artists, followed by programmers, then designers and finally, audio specialists, with one to three producers in management. Many teams also include a dedicated writer with expertise in video games.

The game artist is a visual artist whose job may be 2D or 3D oriented. 2D artists may produce concept art, sprites, textures, environmental backdrops, or terrain images and user interface. 3D artists may produce models or meshes, animation, 3D environment and cinematics.

**Sound engineers are technical professionals responsible for sound effects and sound positioning.** They are sometimes involved in creating haptic feedback or overseeing voice acting and other sound asset creation. Composers who create a game’s musical score also comprise a game’s sound team.

**Video game artists are required to study several mediums.** Formal training in a major such as art, graphic design, game design or a related area focusing on 3D modeling and animation, color theory, typography, composition, interface design, level design, scene design and illustration are all included. They must also know imaging software such as Photoshop, Illustrator, Animate and Maya to name a few (and as I write this, the list of software is probably already outdated).

**Technological advancements have given us 4K resolutions** and smoother performance, opening a door for more and more to be packed into a single game. In 2010, *Call of Duty: Black Ops* took up about 12GB of hard drive space. In 2019, the remake *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare* clocked in at an astounding 175GB.

And as technology continues to develop with mobile applications and virtual reality, we also see opportunity for smaller, independent developers like Trevor and Josh Hughes from Great Falls who run their own video game studio called Add-A-Tudez Entertainment Company. They’ve put Montana on the map by opening up the state’s first PlayStation-certified studio called Team KAIZEN where they are dedicated to making games that combine the best of western and eastern design, producing extremely exciting, addictive and inclusive games.
As more independent developers join the industry, games are showing more diversity in artistic expression. Different stories and voices. How characters look—more skin tones, hair choices, clothing, or even that the main character doesn’t have to be male (an idea that was still new back in 1987 where the only females were damsels in distress).

Video games have had an influence on other media, like television shows, films, comics and novels. Games are in many respects converging with movies (which, in their infancy, were also belittled as non-art), Video-game-based films such as Mortal Kombat (1995), Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001), Detective Pikachu (2019), Sonic the Hedgehog (2020) and most recently, Uncharted (2022) have been highly successful at the box office.

A larger appreciation of video game music has also evolved, ranging from chiptunes composed for limited sound-output devices on early computers and consoles, to fully-scored compositions for most modern games. Such music has frequently served as a platform for covers and remixes, and concerts featuring video game soundtracks performed by bands or orchestras. Video games also frequently incorporate licensed music, particularly in the area of rhythm games, furthering the depth of which video games and music can work together.

Like many new mediums, video game art has taken a while to earn its artistic cred, but it's getting there. In 2004, the annual Into the Pixel art exhibit began highlighting video game art selected by a panel of both video-game and art-industry professionals.

In 2012, the Museum of Modern Art collected 14 video games (from Pong to Minecraft) to celebrate gaming as an artistic medium. And in 2021, the Tribeca Film Festival, while it had featured video games in the past, offered its first Tribeca Games Award.

And yet, we still like to debate if it’s ruining our brains. To that I say, “Ikdarg;jdraf;gkadj.”
Artists in Schools and Communities Grants Provide Funding Support for Arts Learners of All Ages and Abilities

The Montana Arts Council’s Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program has provided a continuum of support to the arts learning ecosystem in Montana for nearly 50 years, though it’s evolved over time to meet our state’s changing needs. Under the umbrella of AISC, two separate processes have combined to provide for needs in arts education over the past year: AISC Residencies and AISC Experiences.
AISC Residencies supports opportunities that pair professional artists with learners of all ages and abilities through short-term or long-term residency activities.

The range of grants awarded under this category is $2,500-$10,000 and a 1:1 match is required for all returning applicants and Class B or above schools. The AISC Residencies process accepted 22 applications through its annual March deadline this year; those applications were panel-reviewed in early May and approved by the Council at its June 10 meeting.

AISC Experiences, a new process launched in November 2021, covers those needs in arts education that the Residencies program does not: tools, supplies and equipment for new media and technique exploration, transportation to enable engagement with art and artists, and direct learning experiences with artists, with or without a hands-on component, whether held in person or virtually.

The range of awards in this category is $250-$2500 and no cash match is required. Through two AISC Experiences deadlines in the current fiscal year, one in December and one in March, a total of 46 applications were received and reviewed by members of the Council’s education committee.

To learn more or to discuss your project with MAC’s Arts Education Director, Monica Grable, contact her via email at Monica.Grable@mt.gov or by phone at (406) 444-6522.

Pablo Student’s Photo Included in Getty Museum Show

Katie Medicine Bull was a new student to the Two Eagle River School’s photography program in fall of 2021. She was also a new student to the school and described as shy and reserved. But she got very excited about photography and became engaged, doing work and coming back with new pictures each week. When the school heard about a national call for high school photographers, Katie was asked by her teacher, David Spear, if she’d be interested in entering. She thought about it over the weekend and on Monday said yes. She eventually submitted a portrait of her sister Lily Blossom wearing Katie’s jingle dress (which she made herself and outgrew) at a setting in the Mission Mountains. From among 1,700 photographs submitted to the competition nationwide, Katie’s was one of 20 chosen to be included in an exhibition at Los Angeles’ Getty Museum which opened in June 2022.

It’s an extraordinary honor and an affirmation of Katie’s talent as well as the value of the program initiated by David Spear and Two Eagle River School. Funded in part by an AISC grant, the program is one example of the value of investing in school and community-wide programs to advance the arts—especially in underserved communities.

Photograph by Katie Medicine Bull, Portrait of Lily Blossom, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washoe Park</td>
<td>Art in the Park</td>
<td>July 15-17</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cvmac.org/events">www.cvmac.org/events</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear Dance</td>
<td>Flathead Lake Biological Station</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.openairmt.com">www.openairmt.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Belt</td>
<td>Belt Performing Arts Center</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beltp%D0%B5%D1%80formingartscenter.com">www.beltpерformingartscenter.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings</td>
<td>Billings MetraPark</td>
<td>Aug 5-6</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>$17.95</td>
<td><a href="http://www.magiccityblues.com">www.magiccityblues.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Downtown Billings</td>
<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>5:00 PM-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.artwalkbillings.com">www.artwalkbillings.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crooked Line Studio</td>
<td>July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crookedlinestudio.com">www.crookedlinestudio.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mixed Media Meet Up</td>
<td>July 7, 14, 21</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Painting with Carolyn Thayer</td>
<td>July 7, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kids Camp</td>
<td>July 11-14, 25-28</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Watercolor Wednesday with Dan Granger</td>
<td>July 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Experimenting with Collagraphy with Isabel Bonilla</td>
<td>July 13, 30</td>
<td>6:00 PM &amp; 10:00 AM</td>
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<td>Open Oil</td>
<td>July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
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<td>Nature Artist with Carolyn Thayer</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Pacific Coconut Octopus with Isabelle Carroll</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<td>Friday Painters with Carolyn Thayer</td>
<td>July 22, 29</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<td>Beaded Buggy Brooch with Jenn Asher</td>
<td>July 22, 23</td>
<td>6:00 PM &amp; 10:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leaping Lily Pads with Britney Hernandez</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>$42</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Craft Local</td>
<td>July 12, 26</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.billings565.com">www.billings565.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alive After 5</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Favorite Sons</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole &amp; The Thomases</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. John's United Concert Series</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.billings565.com">www.billings565.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle Shote &amp; The Walk Em Boys</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young Dublins</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Every Brothers Experience</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Jimmy Carpenter Band</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rob Quist</td>
<td>Aug 11</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ZooMontana</td>
<td>July 8, 22, Aug 19</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.zo%E8%92%99ana.org">www.zo蒙ana.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marshall Tucker Band at ZooMontana</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$49.50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Midland at ZooMontana</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$44.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atmosphere at ZooMontana</td>
<td>Aug 12</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$43.50+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. Burns Red: Through the Thorns Tour</td>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$33.50+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shavake Graves at ZooMontana</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$39.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bigfork Summer Playhouse</td>
<td>July 1, 7, 12, 22, 29</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bigforksummerplayhouse.com/">www.bigforksummerplayhouse.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guys &amp; Dolls</td>
<td>July 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 27</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mamma Mial</td>
<td>July 4, 8, 13, 16, 21, 26, 30</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Full Monty</td>
<td>July 6, 14, 19, 22, 28, 31</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Benefit Revue</td>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Freaky Friday</td>
<td>Aug 3, 6, 11, 16, 19</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guys &amp; Dolls</td>
<td>Aug 2, 9, 13, 18</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mamma Mial</td>
<td>Aug 4, 10, 14, 20</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Full Monty</td>
<td>Aug 5, 8, 12, 17</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Hits</td>
<td>Aug 15-27</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Broadway in Love</td>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Hits</td>
<td>Sept 1-3</td>
<td>2:00 PM &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>$19+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Big Sky Town Center</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>9:00 AM-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bigskyarts.org/artisan-festival/">www.bigskyarts.org/artisan-festival/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: The New Orleans Suspects</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: Chancey Williams</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: Will Hoge</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: Southern Avenue</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bravo! Big Sky Music Festival</td>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: Tommy Castro and the Pankkillers</td>
<td>Aug 11</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Wood Burning with Rike Zumbrennen</td>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>10:00 AM-3:00 PM</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Encaustic Workshop with Jodi Reeb</td>
<td>July 9-10</td>
<td>10:00 AM-4:00 PM</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: The Nth Power</td>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: The Last Revel</td>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music in the Mountains: Pinky and the Floyd</td>
<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Art for Everyone</td>
<td>Sept 3-5</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fleet Foxes</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
<td><a href="http://www.logjampresentes.com">www.logjampresentes.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Crow Medicine Show</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joe Russo’s Almost Dead</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpet &amp; Ladder Days Tour</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dispatch &amp; O.A.R.</td>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$36+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Punch Brothers + Watchhouse</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$33+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Decemberists</td>
<td>Aug 3</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$36+</td>
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### State of the Arts • Summer 2022

**Bozeman**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museum of the Rockies</td>
<td>Apalalooke Women and Warriors</td>
<td>May 28-Dec. 31</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>$10.50+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bozeman Art Museum</td>
<td>“Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Yellowstone Park”</td>
<td>June 2-Aug 6</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Everman Tribute</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 16-Sep. 3</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Birds in Art</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 15-Dec. 15</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reynold Recital Hall</td>
<td>2022 Montana Chamber Music Festival</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$10+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Pea Festival</td>
<td>Sweet Pea Festival</td>
<td>Aug 5-9</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>$5+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td>Downtown Bozeman</td>
<td>Downtown Art Walk</td>
<td>July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9</td>
<td>6:00 PM-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Elm</td>
<td>The Mexiks</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<td>Old Crow Medicine Show</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<td>MarchForth</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>Martin Sexton</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Cooper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>Little Feat</td>
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<td>Aug 3</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Dacus</td>
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<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$20+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amsa Lee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 11</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Built to Spell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 12</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>AII</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$18+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Collective</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<td>The Posh Ambassador</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umphrey's McGee</td>
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<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$35.75+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$15+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory of A Deadman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
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**Timeworks Art**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</td>
<td>July 14-16</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daughter of a Lost Bird</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on Origin Stories</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert in Asterisks Room</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art and Design Expo</td>
<td>Aug 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE Neighborhood Walking Tour</td>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring your own Art Show</td>
<td>Sept. 2, 3</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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**Browning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North American Indian Days</td>
<td>July 7-10</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Butte**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana Folk Festival</td>
<td>July 8-10</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Crow Agency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crow Fair</td>
<td>Aug. 19-23</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</table>

**Ennis City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madison Valley Arts Festival</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Emigrant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamey Johnson</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midband</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaky Graves</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$35+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dead South</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reckless Kelly with Josh Meloy</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike and the Moonpies w/ The Wilder Blue</td>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Rogers Band</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>$30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Eureka**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Rhythms Indian Music Concert</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Floyd rocks Sunburst Summer Series</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Rivers Music</td>
<td>Aug. 14</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Great Falls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Russell Sale</td>
<td>Aug 18-21</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>$60+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modest Yet Masterful</td>
<td>March-Sept.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>$4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ArtsFest Montana</td>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana ExpoPark</td>
<td>Dino and Dragon Stroll</td>
<td>Sept. 3-4</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big River Rockus</td>
<td>Aug. 11-13</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>$33+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruz Contreras Band</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Koch: The Book as a Work of Art</td>
<td>June 10-Oct. 5</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts on Fire</td>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legends West Art Show</td>
<td>Aug. 18-21</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Trees, Montanah Early Development</td>
<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>1:00-3:00 PM</td>
<td>$15.50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music in the Library Park - Lucky Valentines</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music in the Library Park - Tracy Williams July 19 7:00 PM Free
Music in the Library Park - Savvy July 26 7:00 PM Free

The Newberry
As I Lay Dying July 11 7:00 PM www.thenewberryamt.com/events/ $36+
Allah-Las with Michael Rault July 12 7:30 PM $25+
Mondo Cozmo July 15 7:30 PM $52+
Tyler Fan July 17 7:30 PM $32+
Scooter Brown Band July 20 6:00 PM $20
Hayes Carll July 21 7:30 PM $25+
Ashland Craft July 23 7:30 PM $19+
Sakura July 31 7:30 PM $25+
Reckless Kelly Aug. 5 7:30 PM $27+
Lilac Aug. 7 7:30 PM $18+
Buckwheat Aug. 9 7:30 PM $35+
Downtown Summer Jam Cooper Alien Aug. 10 6:00 PM $20+
Aug. Burns Red: Through the Thorns Tour Aug. 12 6:45 PM $35+
Jordan Davis Aug. 19 7:30 PM $45+
High Valley Aug. 21 7:30 PM $29+
Asleep at the Wheel Aug. 23 7:30 PM $36+
Tantric & Smokey Joe July 27 7:30 PM $22.50+
Ladies Night out with Taylor Dayne & Jennifer Paige Sept. 9 7:30 PM $36+

Harlowton
Harlo Music Project Concert Harlo Music Project Concert Aug. 13 2:30 PM www.harloomusicproject.com/ $40

Helena
Holter Museum of Art Walter Pien Artist Talk April 28-July 7 Daily www.holtermuseum.org ?
Bray Fellowship Artists Exhibition June 3-July 31 Daily Free

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
2022 Montana Chamber Music Festival July 11 7:00 PM www.montanachambermusicociety.org Free
Artist Exhibition The Bray Resident June 23-July 30 Daily Free
The Bray Fellowship June 3-July 31 Daily Free

Tango Helena
Tango Classes Sept. 10-Oct. 15 6:15-7:30 PM www.tangohelena.com $50

Havre
Havre Festival Days Havre Festival Days Sept. 17-19 Daily www.havrichamber.com Free

Katepoll
Arts in the Park July 15-17 10:00 AM www.hockadaymuseum.com $5+

Lewistown
Main Street Checkers Festival Sept. 10 Daily www.enjoylewistown.com Free

Creecyside Park Centerfield Aug. 6 12:00 PM www.centerfieldmt.com $35+

Livingston
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts Summer Concert Series - Growling Old Men July 7 5:00 PM www.theshanecenter.org Free
2022 Montana Chamber Music Festival July 8 7:30 PM www.montanachambermusicociety.org $10+
Summer Concert Series - Tintin! July 14 5:00 PM www.theshanecenter.org Free
Summer Concert Series - Dueling Pianos July 15-16 5:00 PM www.theshanecenter.org $25
Summer Art Classes - Zelda and the Paper Doll Project July 18-21 3:00 PM www.theshanecenter.org $80
Summer Art Classes - For the Love of Books July 19-21 10:00 AM www.theshanecenter.org $60
Summer Young Actor’s Workshop Aug. 1-13 9:00 AM www.theshanecenter.org $520
Summer Art Classes - The Art of Found Objects Aug. 1-4 3:00 PM www.theshanecenter.org $80
Summer Art Classes - Identity Sculpture Aug. 4-24 10:00 AM www.theshanecenter.org $60

Lolo
Travelers’ Rest State Park Angela Cieslewicz-Pierson (painter) Aug. 4 4:00 PM www.orenaartm.com Free
Dunrovin Ranch Equee Art Extravaganza Aug. 21 10:00 AM www.friendsofdunrovin.org $30

Waterworks Art Museum The Big and the Small of It June 10-July 29 Daily www.waterworks.org
47th Annual Art Auction Exhibit Aug. 6-Sept. 24 Daily www.waterworks.org

Missoula
First Friday Art Walk Blackbeard the Pirate July 1 5:00 PM www.artsmissoula.org Free
Pinocchio July 15 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM www.mctinc.secure.force.com $5+
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs July 8, 29 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM $5+
Missoula Childrens Theatre Performing Arts Skills Camp July 31-Aug 6 www.mctinc.org $550
Performing Arts Camp July 31-Aug. 14 $1,000

Todd Forsgren: The World is Round June 14-Sept. 10 Daily www.missoulartmuseum.org Free
Re-Imagining Landscape June 21-Oct. 15 Daily www.missoulartmuseum.org Free

Missoula Art Park Contemporary Folk Animals May 13-Oct. 8 Daily Free
Payne Family Native American Center Stella Null (multimedia) July 22 4:00 PM Free

26 State of the Arts - Summer 2022
Missoula Public Library  Cat Finley (sculptor)  July 25  4:00 PM  Free
Emlen Biology Lab  Jessi Harvey (musician) and Julyn Wildman (dancer)  July 27  4:00 PM
Moon-Randolph Homestead  Grace Borgen (interdisciplinary)  Aug 2
Dana Gallery  20th Annual Paint Out!  July 14-16  Daily  www.danagallery.com/  Free
Thom Ross  Aug. 13  Daily  Free
Garth Williams and Anna Moore  Sept. 1-30  Daily  Free
Big Sky Brewing Amphitheater  The Axtell Brothers  July 19  8:00 PM  www.bigskybrew.com  $42.50
The Dead South  July 28  7:00 PM  $32.00
Whiskey Myers, Shane Smith & The Saints, Winchester  Aug 4  7:00 PM  $39.50+
Maren Morris: Humble Quest Tour  Aug 20  8:00 PM  www.marenmorris.com  $49.50+
Chicago  Aug 30  7:30 PM  $49.50+

Paradise Valley
Pine Creek Lodge  Live Music Weekly all Summer  July 1-Sept. 8  6:00 PM  www.pinecreeklodgemontana.com  $30+
Philipsburg Theatre  Growling Old Men  July 20  7:00 PM  www.philipsburghteatree.com  Free
Bill Bowers presenting “Mime Workshop”  July 23  7:00 PM  Free
Caleb Rauder Band  Aug 8  7:00 PM  Free
Playboy of the Western World  Aug. 12-14  7:00 PM  Free
Artfest  Fine Art, Music, Craft Beer & Wine  Aug. 14  11:00 AM - 5:00 PM  www.philipsburgarts.org/arts-fest-philipsburg
Philipsburg Theatre  Children’s Theatre Camp  Aug. 22-26  7:00 PM  www.philipsburghteatree.com  Free
Children’s Theatre Performance  Aug 26  7:00 PM  Free

Polson
Sandpiper Art and Gift Gallery  Majestic Montana  May 18-July 8  Daily  www.sandpiperartgallery.com  Free
Red Lodge
Broadway Street  Red Lodge Art Walk  July 9, Aug. 13, Sept.10  3:00 PM  www.rlacf.org/red-lodge-art-walk  Free

Rexford
Abayance Bay Events  Steve Earle & The Dukes with The Whitmore Sisters  July 9  8:00 PM  www.abayancebaymarina.com  $35+
Queenmary  July 30  8:00 PM  $30+
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band  Aug. 19  8:00 PM  $30+
BC/DC  Aug 26  8:00 PM  $20+
CMR Stampede  Quick Finish Art & Auction  July 22  5:30 PM  www.cmrstampe.com/  Free

Three Forks
Headwaters Country Jam  Aug. 18-20  Daily  www.headwaterscountryjam.com/  $150+

Vallely
First Peoples Buffalo Jump  Round Dance  July 1 - Aug. 2  8:00 AM  www.fpmp.gov  Free
Buffalo Kite Festival and Native Craft Fair  July 8-9  10:00 AM  www.fpmp.gov  Free

Virginia City
The Elling House  Growling Old Men  July 6  7:00 PM  www.ellinghouse.org
Mark Gibbons, Montana Poet Laureate  July 30  7:00 PM
Wilson and McKee  Aug. 13  7:00 PM
Virginia City Players  The Canterville Ghost  June 24-July 31  2:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM  www.virginiaicityplayers.com  $15+
Christmas in July  July 18  7:00 PM  $15+
The Curse of Alder Gulch  Aug. 2-Sept. 4  2:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM  $15+
Piper’s Opera House  Lecture Series: “Turned up & Twisted Cowboy Poetry*  July 14  7:00 PM  www.pipersoperahouse.com  $10
An Awkward Inheritance  July 15-17  8:00 PM  $30
Lecture Series: “Around the world in 80 movies”  July 28  7:00 PM  $10
Lecture Series: “Mark Twain’s Nevada Part 2” By McAvoy Layne  Aug 11  7:00 PM  $20
Dirty Cello  Aug. 27  7:00 PM  $15
Lecture Series: “Victorian Theaters in the American West”  Sept. 8  7:00 PM  $10
Lecture Series: “US Indian Agent Franklin Campbell”  Sept. 22  7:00 PM  $10

Whitefish
The Market Beautiful  The Market Beautiful  July 29-30  Varied  www.themarketbeautiful.com
North Valley Music School  Camp Festival Amadeus  Aug. 7-12  Varied  $400
Drumming Camp  Aug. 8-11  10:00 AM  $145
Bluegrass Fiddle Jam  June 14-Aug. 16  6:00 PM  Free
Adult Guitar Camp  July 18-21  10:30 AM  www.nvms.asapconnected.com  $90
Adult Ukulele Camp  July 18-21  11:30 AM  $90
Music Together Camp  June 24-Aug. 19  9:30 AM & 10:30 AM  $100

Whitefish Performing Arts
Broadway Concert Series  July 26-30  8:00 PM  www.atpwhitefish.org  $20+
Here Comes the Sun: A Celebration of the Beatles  Aug 19-22  8:00 PM  $39
Copper K Barn  Copper K Fibre Festival  July 16, 17  9:00 AM  www.copperkbfestival.com/  Free

White Sulphur Springs
This issue: Summer Art and Games

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SUMMER ARTS CALENDAR
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