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Week of February 23, 2025

# WSE's Livingston Farmers Market Opens Vendor Registration

Western Sustainability Exchange's Livingston Farmers Market summer season will run every Wednesday, from June 4th through September 17th, at the Miles Band Shell Park, rain or shine, EXCEPT for July 2nd due to the Livingston Roundup Rodeo Annual Parade.

The Livingston Farmers Market is excited to announce that vendor registration for the upcoming season will officially open on March 1st. Local farmers, artisans, and food vendors are invited to secure their spots and be part of one of the area's most beloved community events. The market, known for its fresh produce, handcrafted goods, and vibrant atmosphere, provides an excellent opportunity for vendors to showcase their products and connect with the commu-

nity. Whether you're a returning vendor or new to the market scene, we welcome you to apply and join us for a season of local shopping, live entertainment, and community engagement.

Interested vendors can find more information and complete their registration online at [www.LivingstonFarmersMarket.org](http://www.LivingstonFarmersMarket.org). Early registration is encouraged, as spaces are limited and tend to fill quickly. Registration will close on April 15th and may open again later, depending on availability.



In addition to vendor registration, sponsorship opportunities are available. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Livingston Farmers Market relies on

the generous support of local businesses and community members to keep this cherished event thriving. Sponsorships help fund market operations, entertainment, and special events while providing businesses valuable

exposure to a broad local audience. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please visit [www.LivingstonFarmersMarket.org](http://www.LivingstonFarmersMarket.org) or contact Shannan



Mascari at [info@westernsustainabilityexchange.org](mailto:info@westernsustainabilityexchange.org) to customize your package or make a general donation.

Stay tuned for the full calendar of special events and entertainment coming soon! For more information or questions, please contact Shannan Mascari at 406-222-0730 ext. 1.

# Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and the Atlanta Falcons Continue Their Support for Girl's Flag Football in Montana for 2025

Park County Dugout  
By: Jeff Schlapp

Montana high schools that did not offer flag football in 2024 can be considered for a grant of \$45,000 total over three years to launch a new girl's flag football program.

Arthur M. Blank has changed the landscape of high school girls' sports in Montana with his introduction of Flag Football to the MHSAA. As a result, the Montana High School Association last April voted to approve girls' flag football as an "emerging sports" pilot program for two years.

Three years ago MHSAA classified girls flag football as a pilot program "non-sanctioned MHSAA activity." Three teams, Kalispell Flathead, Kalispell Glacier, and Butte, participated in the first year. Lockwood and St. Ignatius joined in and competed in 2023.

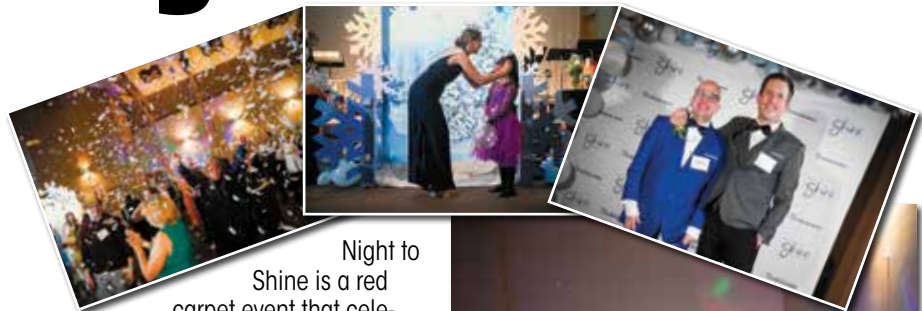


With Kalispell Glacier winning the mythical state championship the first two years.

Last September at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman 17 high school teams and some 400 athletes (Absarokee, Butte, East Helena, Frazer, Glendive, Hamilton, Hardin, Huntley Project, Jefferson, Kalispell Flathead, Kalispell Glacier, Lockwood, Poplar, Roundup, St. Ignatius, Three Forks, and Wolf Point) played a two-day double-elimination tournament

See Flag Football, Page 8

# Night to Shine



Night to Shine is a red carpet event that celebrates those with special needs. The Livingston Christian center had 52 honored guest and about 90 volunteers. The night was full of love, laughter, and pure joy. God's presence was surely in the room! All of our Kings and Queens had a great night busting a move on the dance floor and walking the red carpet! Thank you to everyone who volunteered there time to help make this night such a great success!



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### TESTIMONIAL



Jesse Logan, Emigrant, MT

I have had hearing aids for several years but wore them only inconsistently. They were uncomfortable and really didn't work all that well. My wife, tired of ineffective communication, made an appointment for me with **Bear Hearing**. I was skeptical, to say the least. Once again, Catherine's judgment was vindicated. All my dealings with Bear Hearing have been better than I could have imagined. Super helpful, knowledgeable, courteous and efficient. The kind of service that was common years ago but seems in short supply these days. My hearing has improved dramatically and so has my quality of life. My highest recommendation for the local business, **Bear Hearing**.

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## Park County Community Journal

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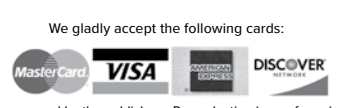
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 Scott Rosberg, Coach's Corner  
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Published weekly on each Sunday of the month.  
**Disclaimer:** While attempts are made to ensure the accuracy of all information, errors will occur. Independently verify all vital information before events.



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# City Manager Grant Gager's Salary Increase Approved

The Livingston City Commission, during a regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, unanimously voted to increase City Manager Grant Gager's salary from \$160,000 to \$180,000 (a 12.5 percent increase) supplemented with an added \$15,000 in November. The controversial decision was defended by all five members of the commission though several community members voiced frustration prior to and during the meeting.



**Tony Crowder**  
Managing Editor

Gager, who was appointed to his position by the commission in November 2022, had not yet received a salary increase during his nearly three-year tenure as City Manager, a prosperous era in the Livingston community, relatively speaking, and contingent on who you ask.

In an article published February 14th, Sean Batura of the Livingston Enterprise initially reported that Gager was anticipated to receive a sizable raise pending approval by the City Commission, an arrangement vaguely labeled Agreement 20156 on the agenda at Tuesdays meeting.

The article then surfaced on social media, drawing a wave of criticism reflected online and during public commentary at the poorly attended meeting (presumably due to weather conditions affecting city roadways, an irony exploited by at least one speaker who suggested taxpayer dollars instead be used for snow removal rather than to increase Gager's salary)—exemplified in part by an alarming poverty rate at 15.1%, as reported by the US Census Bureau; a statistic amongst many not referenced by any one commissioner as the committee deliberated, though some members expressed empathy for their constituents and reluctance at granting Gager a seemingly excessive salary accentuating wage disparities in Park County.

Albeit marginally, the same data indicates Livingston's poverty rate exceeds that of Kalispell (10.3%), Helena (9.1%), Missoula (12.8%), Billings (10.6%), Bozeman (14.8%), and Great Falls (14%). Except for Great Falls and Kalispell, the other communities listed either match or exceed the median household income in Livingston from 2019 to 2023.

Whitefish, in comparison, has a similar population (9,163 per the US Census Bureau) and economic landscape (tourism-led), yet with a poverty rate of 8.9 percent and median household income of \$71,110—roughly \$6,000 higher than for Livingston residents (\$65,187; a figure that, noted by Commissioner James Willich, has risen substantially since 2020—though not necessarily nor directly attributable to policies developed and implemented by Gager, as the former seemed to imply with his statements—correlation and causality are only synonymous in light of regression data).

Among the aforementioned municipalities, only Butte, boasting a relatively high 3.4% unemployment rate (slightly surpassing Livingston at 3.2%), has a higher percentage of citizens living below the poverty line at 16.1%. Others like Great Falls, Billings, and Bozeman feature rates of 2.8%, 2.8% and 2.0%, respectively—townships with disproportionate population sizes to Livingston—a factor Commission Chair Quentin Schwarz deemed negligible when drawing comparisons between City Manager salaries throughout the state.

Though Gager clearly possesses a superpower for social engineering, each municipality represents a uniquely intricate and complex system with idiosyncratic tax bases from which city governments are differentially funded contingent upon the county's distribution scheme—with nuanced implications translating directly to the varied responsibilities of a City Manager.

The most populous city in Montana, Billings, hosts 120,864 people, a median household in-

come of \$71,855 (per the 2023 Census) and a tax base of 305 million dollars. City Administrator Chris Kukulski earns a salary of \$212,628, comprising 3.5% percent of the total dollar amount (60.35 million or 19.7%) distributed to city government by Yellowstone County. The city commission, in November 2024, voted to postpone an increase in Kukulski's salary following his most recent performance evaluation, saying it would "send the wrong message to the public while discussions surrounding the city's water bills are ongoing," according to KTVQ.

Furthermore, Willich reported that Bozeman Interim City Manager Chuck Winn and his assistant are earning a quarter million and two hundred thousand dollars, respectively—managing a city with tenfold the population (including the University) supported by a tax base valued at 325 million (15% of which is distributed to city governments, including Belgrade) according to the Montana Department of Revenue (compared to Park County's 35-million-dollar tax base, 11.6% of which is distributed to City Government). According to an ABC affiliate, the eight-month severance package offered to former City Manager Jeff

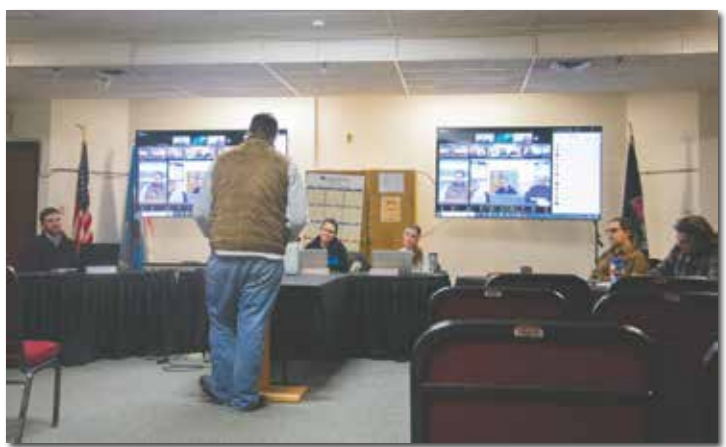


Photo Credit: Jacob Schwarz

Mihelich following his resignation in February 2024, amounted to 171,824.64, equivalent to an annual salary of \$257,736.

Greg Doyon of Great Falls, City Manager since 2008, now earns \$197,747 (up from roughly \$183,000 in 2022 and 161,500 in 2020) following a favorable performance review conducted by the city commission. Doyon manages a city department responsible for a declining population of over 60,000 people whose average household income approximates \$63,934.

In February 2023, the Helena city commission selected City Manager Tim Burton, who had previously served in the position from 2000 to 2009 and is now paid \$180,000 annually on a 3-year contract. Helena, the county seat for Lewis & Clark, has a population roughly four times larger than Livingston with an equivalent unemployment rate (3.2%). The city government receives 16.18 million dollars of the county's 138-million-dollar tax base.

Other municipalities like Missoula (population 77,757) employ a Chief Administrative Officer (i.e., Dale Bickell) who serves the mayor performing duties resembling those of a city

manager. According to govsalaries.com, the highest employee salary in Missoula during 2023 was at \$163,534. Missoula County's tax base reached \$273 million dollars in the same year.

And still others, namely Butte, Red Lodge and Virginia City, are under either mayoral or Chief Executive jurisdictions—an observation considered by community members regarding Gager's salary increase, a decision executed by the commission responsible for hiring him, who then addressed this fact at a surface level—that the city manager is not an elected official—in response to criticisms regarding the exorbitant raise given his role as a public sector employee.

As indicated by Commissioner Karrie Kahle during Tuesday's meeting, the state constitution guarantees citizens' rights to privacy, applicable to government officials and their annual performance reviews—information presumptively used to inform administrative decisions related to the compensation of civil servants, yet in this case willfully (and rightfully so, technically speaking) concealed from the public by Gager and the commission, the latter of which touted

the former's efforts to increase government transparency as one of many reasons for endorsing his salary increase—a figure computed by, according to both Kahle and Schwarz, a consulting agency contracted by the city.

The group of consultants conducted a collaborative performance review (in conjunction with the commission) and a compensation analysis, the results of which were used in tandem to determine and justify his salary increase.

Though the criteria used to evaluate Gager's performance are unknown, Vice Chair Melissa Nootz praised the city manager for lowering taxes, increasing compensation for city employees on two occasions (with exceptions for some under union contract), balancing the city's budget and improving organizational culture and morale. She said, "There are staff who have been working at the city for decades who talk about how nice it is to be personally recognized by the city manager," also disparaging inflammatory comments hurled by disgruntled citizens, labeling them dehumanizing and pleading for sympathy on Gager's behalf.

She also claimed that Gager's mediatory involvement in lawsuits filed against the city prior to his tenure saved taxpayers 16 to 20 million dollars within the past six month alone, mentioning this accomplishment while also trivializing challenges faced by the city's public works department to remove snow from roadways—"there are bigger problems [within this community] than snow on the streets," Nootz opined. The issue of Gager's salary increase as a "kickback" for saving city taxpayers money had been proposed during public commentary.

Other considerations for increasing Gager's salary included inflation, something

See City Manager, Page 3



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# Do I Need a Will? "Legacy Giving" Free Event Organized by Park County Community Foundation

On Monday, March 3, 2025, the Park County Community Foundation's Legacy Giving Program will host a free event from 9:30-11 am in the Bev Stevenson Room at the Livingston Public Library which will feature as presenter Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist Marsha Goetting. The presentation will invite Park County residents to consider "Do I Need a Will?: Be in Control of Your Legacy."



Dr. Marsha Goetting

themselves, their family, and still leave a lasting legacy for your community. This workshop will provide some surprising information about when wills are or are not sufficient to take care of your affairs," said Tricia Erikson, PCCF Philanthropy Director. "This is the second in a series of events that will offer information to residents about different ways to give that fit their circumstances."

"Our Legacy Giving Program organizes educational events that help Park County residents learn ways for them to take care of

In 2023, presenter Dr. Marsha Goetting received the Distinguished Service Ruby Award. In 2024, she received the Community Partner Award from AARP-Montana. Dr. Goetting is a member of the Montana Alzheimer's and Related Dementia's Coalition. She has been appointed to the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education. She received her PhD from Iowa State University and her master's and bachelor's degrees from Kansas State University.

"As our local community foundation, we are committed to building a stronger Park County for generations to come. Showing residents ways to leave a legacy for their family and their community is one of the ways that we do that," said Gavin Clark, PCCF Executive Director.

to Philanthropy Director Tricia Erikson at [tricia.erikson@pccf-montana.org](mailto:tricia.erikson@pccf-montana.org) or 406-224-3920.

Park County Community Foundation is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which believes that Park County's challenges can be addressed best with local, collaborative solutions. PCCF inspires a culture of generosity and leadership by partnering with donors, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to invest in nonprofit programs that build resident communities, while honoring our heritage and uniqueness of place.

Coffee, tea, and pastries will be provided for attendees. RSVP is required due to the room size and to provide enough refreshments. Please RSVP or address any questions

FMI: [www.pccf-montana.org](http://www.pccf-montana.org). Park County Community Foundation's office is open at 104 S. Main Street in Livingston Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

## City Manager

from page 2

Commissioner Willich himself had personally researched. In his calculations, Gager's \$160,000 salary as of February 2025 amounts to roughly \$127,000 in November 2019. Willich, like the other commissioners, emphasized paying Gager a competitive salary to retain his talents, expertise and experience—quoting salaries of \$198,000 and \$203,000 for the Whitefish and Belgrade city managers, respectively, in an effort to further contextualize Gager's salary increase.

"Given the value that Mr. Gager provides the community, this pay [raise] is reasonable and commensurate," said Commissioner Lyons, echoing Willich's sentiment that the current City Manager has more to offer the community relative to the cost of his salary.

Chair Schwarz, speaking last amongst the commissioners, stated that his only regret was

not paying Gager, who has met and exceeded expectations since being hired, more to begin with, saying, "Livingston is a community of diverse opinion. He [Gager] has done remarkably well in an impossible job and should be fairly compensated."

During closing statements, Gager thanked the commission and expressed that, "it is a privilege and pleasure serving the Livingston community."

Gager provided additional commentary in an exclusive interview with the Journal just prior to publication, revealing that shortly following the discussion regarding his salary increase, an alleged member of the Livingston community posted threatening comments potentially referencing violent behavior recently aimed at United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson, resulting in his untimely murder, and included the manager's home address. The Park County Community Journal condemns senseless violence and instead encourages compassion and tolerance for others.

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# Champions Crowned In Elks "Hoop Shoot" State Competition

On Saturday, February 8th, three girls and three boys, ages 8-13, were crowned Champions at the Montana Elks State "Hoop Shoot"® free throw contest, which took place at Park High School in Livingston, MT. District Champions from the five districts in Montana competed for the State Contest crowns.



What are the rules of this free throw contest? Each contestant is given 25 opportunities to shoot a basket for score from within the free throw circle and behind the free throw line (except for 8-to-9 year-old contestants, that shoot 4 feet in front of the regulation foul line).



First, second and third place trophies were awarded to each boy and girl in three categories: ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13.

It's a bit of a journey for youngsters to compete in the Hoop Shoot. The 27 state finalists began competing in the fall of 2024. Starting with a preliminary contest held in many communities, the Hoop Shoot season kicks off with a school, YMCA or community-hosted feeder contest. Winners then have a chance to compete at a local Lodge Contest. By winning their Lodge Contest, they advance to their District Contests where they earned the title District Champion, allowing them to travel to Livingston, MT to compete at the State Contest.

### State Champions Crowned in Elks "Hoop Shoot" State Competition

- Girls age 8-9** Ava Jurenic Butte Lodge #240 with 16 out of 25 baskets
- Boys age 8-9** Braxton Pickering Missoula Hell Gate Lodge #383 with 23/25
- Girls 10-11** Jerzi Nichols Butte Lodge #240 with 12/25
- Boys 10-11** Tre Estes Anaconda Lodge #239 with 20/25 and 4/5 to break the tie
- Girls 12-13** Pressley Neuman Missoula Hell Gate Lodge #383 with 22/25
- Boys 12-13** Maverick Murphy Sidney Lodge #1782 with 22/25

These six first place winners from the State contest will hit the road again as a regional semi-finalist—staying the weekend in Rapid City, SD on March 8th and competing against winners from North Dakota and South Dakota. The top regional winners go to

the National finals in Chicago, IL, on April 26, 2025, where 72 National finalists compete. The top three boys and girls become National champions and have their names inscribed in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

### Other local contestants placing in the top three of their category:

**Girls 10-11** Delaney Harper Placed 2nd Livingston Lodge #246 with 11/25

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the sponsor this program. It is endorsed by hundreds of school systems around the country. The Elks fund the program primarily through its National Foundation and the support of the local lodges and state associations. The Elks pay travel and lodging expenses for the contestants and their parents.

The Elks "Hoop Shoot"®, began as a local program by Corvallis Oregon Elks in 1946 and is in its 53rd year of national competition. Over one million boys and girls are expected to participate this year. For more information on the Elks National "Hoop Shoot" Contest, visit [www.elks.org/hoopshoot](http://www.elks.org/hoopshoot).

At your local Elks Lodge "Family is first." They sponsor many youth services and events including the annual "Hoop Shoot," a free throw program. This competition builds self-esteem and promotes lifelong values such as integrity, hard work and good sportsmanship. Their Drug Awareness Program takes action against youth substance abuse. They provide a number of large- and medium-sized

youth scholarships.

The National Elks have been serving our communities and neighbors since 1868. Do you want to help? Smiling faces and warm welcomes await you. Your local Elks Lodge is located at 120 South 2nd Street in Livingston. They can be reached at 406-222-2511, and you can find them easily on Facebook.



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# OP-ED

by Patricia Grabow

## Yellowstone and Its Gateway Businesses Face an Uncertain Future

In a recent interview, the Senior Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, Michelle Uberuaga said that the federal hiring freeze, even for seasonal workers has hit Yellowstone hard. She said that this is the time we would be hiring staff and without those people there is going to be a serious impact on Yellowstone and thus Livingston and Park County.

Like other federal workers, those in Yellowstone got "the memo" offering a job buy-out or an uncertain future. As with other

national parks across the county there have been employee shortages in Yellowstone for decades and now this.

And the timing could not be worse—this is hiring time. Yellowstone hires between 300 to 350 workers starting last September. The hiring process is long for a national park. There are background checks and because of federal rules, it is an extensive process.

But there is hope. If the freeze is limited and we start back up where we left off, back in September, then there is still time to hire

people for the summer season. If the records are scratched and we are starting back from zero, then there is not going to be enough time.

Uberuaga also said the impact on the gateway communities to Yellowstone will be especially hard hit. She cited the University of Montana Institute for Tourism and Recreation where they found that Park County alone has a \$500 million tourist economy and that economy is dependent on Yellowstone.

Non-residents of Montana spent \$5.46

billion dollars in the state in 2023. The tourism institute research group estimated that 4.4% of the money taken in by Montana is spent on outdoor recreation—that is the most spent in any state.

"It is a way of life," said Uberuaga.

People are not doing it for the money. We don't call it Yellowstone. We call it the Park. It's our backyard and it is deeply personal to people who spend their lives committing their careers to Yellowstone, to potentially have it end and not in a good way.

## Statewide Theatre and Public Dialogue Tour Visits Livingston

The University of Montana's Co-Lab for Civic Imagination brings its exciting theatre program State of Mind to Livingston, February 26th and 27th. State of Mind is a unique and engaging theatre and public dialogue event that is touring to over twenty (primarily rural) Montana communities from September 2024 to May 2026.

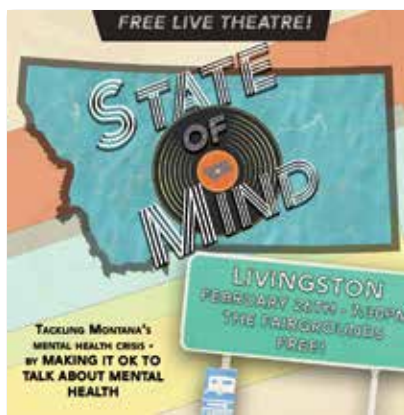
The project consists of a free theatre performance for the general public, and workshops for local students, school faculty & staff, and local health providers. The performance will take place on February 26th at The Park County Fairgrounds in the dining hall, with workshops taking place at Park High School earlier that day. The workshops will inspire a portion of the performance, ensuring that Livingston's residents' voices and ideas are a part of the performance, thereby providing a unique experience for each community that State of Mind visits.

State of Mind has been developed over two years by a group of professional Montana artists, facilitators, and mental & behavioral health professionals in response to the troubling trends in Montana's behavioral and mental health outcomes. In Montana 35% of adults report symptoms of anxiety or depression, and Montana ranks in the top five states for highest rates of suicide

across all age groups. With so many Montanans living in rural areas, it can be challenging to connect with professionals like psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, or addiction counselors in times of crisis or just for regular counseling support.

Health providers and policy experts believe that in addition to having more professionals around the state, we also need to change how we talk about mental health with one another—neighbor to neighbor, Montanan to Montanan. If someone has an accident on the ranch or the job site, we know how to get them the medical help they need, but if someone's struggling with addiction or other mental health crisis, sometimes it's less clear how to help. And that's where State of Mind comes in.

State of Mind director Michael Rohd says, "The arts are a powerful way to not just share stories, but to gather and imagine the futures we want to see and build together. State of Mind's goals



include tackling stigmas around seeking help, making local resources more visible and contributing to local capacity for community care. We aim to bring diverse Montana voices into health policy & resource conversations across our state, and to make opportunities for those with local knowledge to lead the way as Montana continues to battle our behavioral

health crisis."

State of Mind tours at no cost to the communities they visit. The Livingston event is being organized by a dynamic coalition which includes LiveWell 49, the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, L'esprit Health, Park County Community Foundation, SW Montana Prevention, and the Park County Drop In Center.

Laurie Bishop, LiveWell49's lead facilitator states, "Normalizing talk about mental health with compassion for ourselves and others is a top priority for LiveWell49. We love the creative way

that State of Mind engages the community in this discussion, and are most excited for Park High students to speak to their needs in their own voice."

After the Livingston engagement, State of Mind will be heading to Helena, Anaconda, Butte, Thompson Falls, among others. See the full tour calendar here: <https://www.umcivicimagination.com/tour-calendar>

For more information about State of Mind and the people involved, visit: <https://www.umcivicimagination.com/> or follow them on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556751081311>

Contact:

- Josh Aaseng, Producer of Community Partnerships - [josh.aaseng@umt.edu](mailto:josh.aaseng@umt.edu)
- Michael Rohd, Director - [michael.rohd@umt.edu](mailto:michael.rohd@umt.edu)

For more information about State of Mind's local community partners, please visit their websites:

- LiveWell49 - <https://www.livewell49.org/>
- Park County Community Foundation - <https://www.pccf-montana.org/>
- L'esprit - <https://www.lespritmt.com/>
- Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch - <https://www.ybgr.org/>

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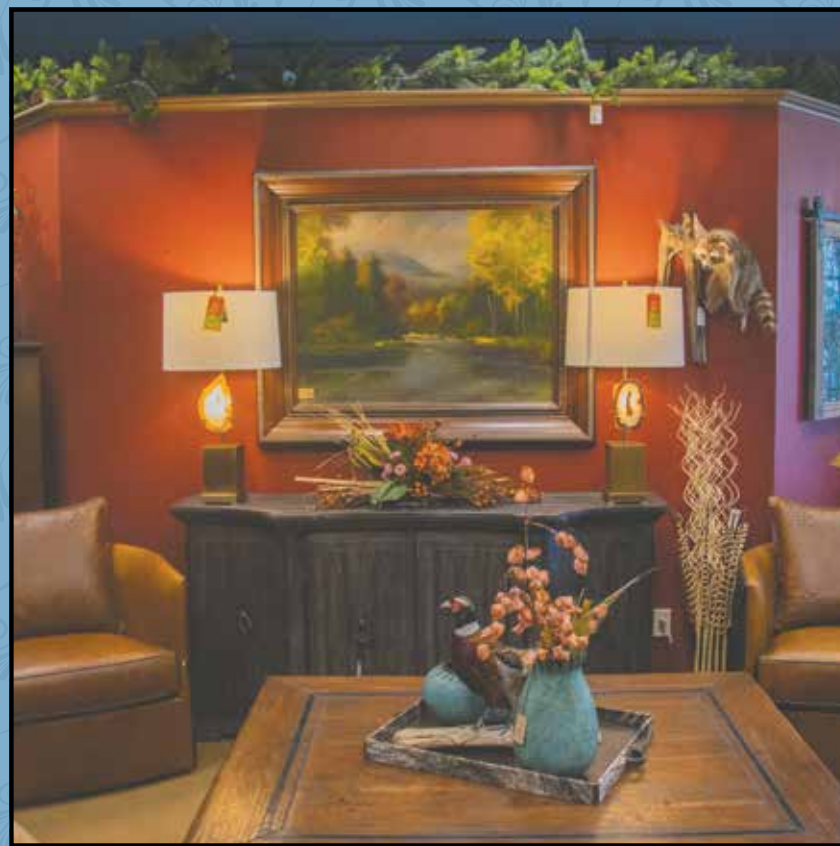
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# S.N.O.W. Rant and Duke the Community Dog

by Joyce Johnson



**T**hat' does it! I'm awake at 4:30 am, Tues., Feb. 18th, and its still snowing. That's the last straw! I mean snowflake. Patience is kaput! I can't remember when it wasn't snowing! My artist's block thing is over. I'm kicking it out; no more waiting for it or the snow to go away. I'm going to just spill and break the ice... so to speak. I have a wonderful list of people to interview and share with you here, but I have been blocked, words not coming, like my door frozen closed yesterday, with a malicious looking three foot icicle hanging right in my face when I finally wrenched the door open. I broke off that thing and threw it like a lance into the mountain of snow about six feet away. Kinda fun. And there was another one right above the doggy door! It's getting mean out there. It's supposed to stop by tomorrow, so if when you read this, and it's a blazing heat wave of 17 or something, please overlook my drama. I'm still from the West coast where there is no weather in my DNA.



initiation in that epic flood a couple years ago, I say. Okay, I meet your bet and raise you with this: I have been here 40 years almost and don't remember a local snow buildup this thick and long term. If y'all long-time locals are honest, you will say same.

Paradise Valley normally doesn't get the temps and precipitation that our Montana North and Northeast gets. Bless those in our upstate, and their domestic stock and wildlife because they have been dealing with sub zero temps in the 30s and more, throughout all this. Our county plows and emergency vehicles have been in demand, and busy. Trucks "tiptoe" over the pass when it's open. Our local plow man is in a hurry, not waving at us like past years, his truck arriving is an event that breaks the monotony. I like to watch. The suspense of his not running over my rock garden which busted a plow one year. Then I saw a neighbor so suited up, and padded I didn't recognize who, walk past with a small dog and thought, "I salute her and will do that too, maybe..." I am scared of falling even in the soft snow. I will wear my boot cleats... as the sneaky ice lies beneath the snow... [Insert soundtrack of "Jaws."]

**My neighbor came over to talk rock portraits.** She dug out of her house and made it to

my place, yesterday, laughing at me as I wrenched the ice-jammed door open.

I began my anti-snow whine and she interrupted me with "eh! I lived in Alaska, and then Wyoming. This is nothing." I was silenced. I boiled water for a tea party. Another friend who lives high up a creek road from E. River said the same thing lately: "Eh!" is all, when I said "I can't believe you came down the mountain in these road conditions!" My cheeks get pink, because though I would with pride call myself a Wannabe Montanan, sometimes the SoCal Beach Bum Me slips out and whines. But I'm not done yet.

My boots aren't high enough this year, and when I step in a drift and the snow dives into my boots—I sneer. Ron wears athletic shoes out there. [Really, he scares me sometimes. But then he's from New Jersey.] The paths we cut outside with that big, wide shovel keep getting reburied. And I peek out now at 7:50 am and the snow is burying them again! Worse, reburying the little American flag I freed from the great wall yesterday. See photo please.

**Where's Paradise Valley?** Both our humble vehicles have disappeared as well as the cords of wood, and so has the creek, the road, the mountains, and the Yellowstone River. The deer are so hard up they are eating pine needles. Some are pregnant with spring babies. Hard not to feed them. My house guest, "Duke," a senior border collie, is dreaming of sheep to herd(?) and bored with herding me down the hall in slow walking laps inside? Another neighbor, Monica, a trainer who owns the same breed, took me, and Duke out on a real long lead last week to give him an exercise break, lucky pup. She dropped the lead and he ran 200 yards on a snow packed dirt road at about 40 mph in about seven seconds. We got a glance of him yonder trying to herd our neighbor, author Dennis Briggs, who was out shoveling snow. We jumped up



and down, yelled, "Duke!", and flapped our arms, and he appeared to laugh. (Dennis too) and ran joyfully back to us. Thank goodness. That breed is stunningly fast and hard working, born to run long distances, and "Duke" at ten!, still a runner, might have just kept going after shut in so long, and missing his master, and we'd have had to go after him in the car? But the neighbors say he always comes back, eventually. He is also very gentle, loving, and an incurable people-pleader.

We have Community here. Sadly, Duke's former master had a serious stroke recently, and neighbors stepped up to support her and home and pet. She is in hospice now, however as I write, and soon will be free of suffering. *May the angels carry you peacefully Home, dear friend (and long time valley resident Tanya Baker). And don't worry, Duke is in good hands. We are softened by him, and sorta healing now, by that same extraordinary loving presence that he gave you, and he continues to give to your friends and neighbors.*

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# Nutrients: You Are What You Eat!

by Jill Ann Ouellette

They say, "You are what you eat... so DON'T be fast, cheap, easy, empty, or fake!"

Let's take a look at the different types of food. Did you know there are more than 40 different nutrients in food? Often, I write about foods and include nutrition values as being part of a healthy diet. Many of us remember the food pyramid that we learned in school—it doesn't hurt to review the components of our diet—and memories can fade. I suspect a new model will be released in the coming years with the new administration's MAHA efforts. Nutrients can generally be classified into the following seven major groups:

- Carbohydrates
- Proteins
- Fats
- Vitamins
- Minerals
- Dietary fiber
- Water

**Why are They Essential to our Body?** Each of the seven major groups of nutrients performs different and unique functions in our body, which are all essential in a balanced diet because they work together and contribute to our



good health. The main functions of these nutrients can be summarized below.

**Carbohydrates** are a major source of energy for our body, and they come mainly from grains, such as rice, crackers, breads and noodles. In addition, other foods such as fruit, root vegetables, dry beans and dairy products also contain carbohydrates. The healthiest carbs



are whole grains, plain fruit and veggies and beans.

**Proteins** are meat, fish, seafood, eggs, dairy products; Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, etc. dry beans and bean products are good sources of protein. Its major functions include building, repairing and maintaining healthy body tissues.

The king of healthy protein is chicken breast, which is also low in calories.

**Fats** can be found in foods such as meat, dairy products, nuts, seeds and edible oils. Fats serve as a kind of energy source. They prevent heat loss in extreme cold weather and protect organs against shock. They are responsible for making up part of our body cells



and transporting fat-soluble vitamins such as vitamin A, D, E and K. The best oil you can use in your diet is avocado, also good is single-source extra virgin olive oil.

**Vitamins** come in many kinds from various food groups and they participate in different body metabolism such as maintaining overall health and well-being. They support healthy skin and hair, building bones, preventing excessive bleeding, protecting cells and releasing and utilizing energy from foods. Vitamins



can be classified into water-soluble and fat-soluble vitamins.

**Minerals** are a group of essential nutrients found in soil and absorbed by plants, which we then consume. They regulate many body functions such as fluid balance, muscle contraction, and transmission of nerve impulses. Some minerals are structur-



al component of the body, such as calcium in bones and teeth.

**Dietary fiber** is crucial for maintaining a healthy digestive system. It adds bulk to stool, helps regulate bowel movements, and prevent constipation. It is the indigestible part found in plants. If you think about eating celery sticks. You can chew for a while and then you end up with a mouth full of pulp. It helps stabilize blood sugar, promote gastrointestinal



nal health. Dietary fiber can be classified into soluble and insoluble fiber.

**Water** is the most abundant substance in human body and is also an essential nutrient to maintain our health. The major functions of water include carrying nutrients to cells and removing cell waste. It also is responsible to regulate of body temperature.

Each nutrient performs different functions in our body; they all work together and contribute to your good health by having a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle. Remember, you become what you eat... so DO be worth the time and investment (of good quality ingredients), wholesome, healthy, and real!

Recipe by  
Carla Williams

## RECIPE CORNER

### Slow Cooker Cowboy Casserole

**Ingredients**

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 can 10.75 oz condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 can 15 oz kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can 14.5 oz diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cups sliced potatoes about 1.5 pounds
- 1 cup shredded cheese (cheddar or your preference)



Cookie Photo Credit: cheffrecipes.com

**Instructions**

1. In a skillet over medium heat, cook the ground beef with chopped onion and minced garlic until the meat is browned and the onions are soft. Drain any excess fat.
2. Transfer the beef mixture to your slow cooker. Add the cream of

mushroom soup, milk, kidney beans, diced tomatoes with green chilies, corn, chili powder, salt, and pepper. Stir everything together.

3. Add the sliced potatoes, ensuring they are well coated with the beef and bean mixture.
4. Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours or on high for 3-4 hours, depending on your preference.
5. In the last 20 minutes of cooking, sprinkle the shredded cheese on top and let it melt before serving.



Upcoming

## SHIELDS VALLEY EVENTS

**February 25th**

Park County Spelling BEE

**February 26th**

Beyond the Fit Academy  
Our 10-week Boot Camp Challenge starts February 26th in the Wilsall Gym at 6 pm. Registration starts today! Please sign up at either school office or call/text DeeDee at 406-570-8718 or email deede@beyondthefit.com to sign in.

*We are so excited to see all of you and get started with this fun challenge. All fitness levels and ages are welcome!*

**February 27th thru March 1st**

Western C Divisional Basketball Tournament in Butte Montana

**Shields Valley Mobile Pantry**

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If anyone has any news, events, etc. please let me know at [Shieldsvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:Shieldsvalleynews@gmail.com)



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# Flag Football

from page 1

with the title game played under the lights with Kalispell Glacier beating Huntley Project, 18-13, with a goal-line stand and completing their 3-peat.

Last Wednesday, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics made a recommendation that Divisions I, II, and III sponsor legislation to add flag football to the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program.

Flag football has been one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. At least 65 NCAA schools are sponsoring women's flag football at either the club or varsity levels this year, with more slated to join in 2026.

Flag football also has been added as a sport for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

All goes to show the emerging popularity of girls' flag football in high school.

John Deighton, Senior Manager, Executive and Enterprise Communications AMB Sports and Entertainment / Blank Family of

Businesses announced recently that the Atlanta Falcons in partnership with the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, are continuing their support for girls' flag football in Montana for 2025. Montana high schools that currently do not have a girls' flag football program are eligible to receive a grant to help launch a program this fall.

**Montana high schools that did not offer flag football in 2024 can be considered for a grant of \$45,000 total over three years to launch a new girls' flag football program.**

In an email to the Dugout, Deighton wrote:

*In 2018, the Falcons launched a girl's flag football pilot program in 19 high schools in Georgia's Gwinnett County. Following the success of the program, Georgia became the fourth state to sanction girl's flag football as an official high school sport in 2020. This past year, nearly 300 Georgia high schools offered girls flag football as an official sport for their student-athletes with the state championships taking place at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in December.*

*The Falcons have been at the fore-*

*front of growing girls' flag football in Montana over the past few years given Falcons Owner and Chairman Arthur M. Blank's longstanding presence and love for Montana, a place he considers his second home.*

*Three schools participated in the inaugural season in 2022. That number jumped to five schools in 2023 and 17 schools this past fall. Additionally, the Falcons have held annual girls' flag football clinics throughout the state over the past three years.*

In Livingston, Montana, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation has sponsored the **Livingston Rec Falcons Youth Flag Football League** for three years as a way to introduce youngsters to the game in a safe format.

The program participation has grown from 65 in the first year to over 150 boys and girls from Livingston, Shields Valley, and Big Timber. The leagues' primary goal is to

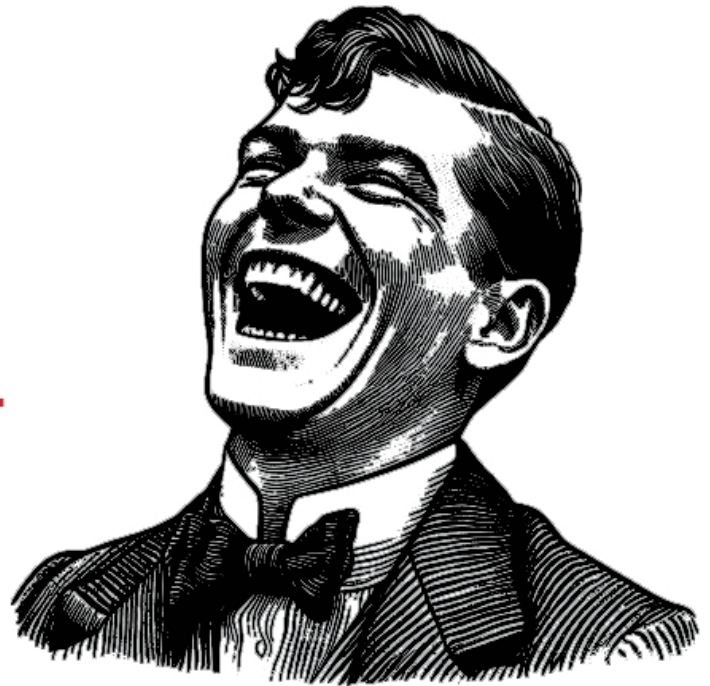


create a positive, inclusive, and enjoyable environment where players can learn the fundamentals of football, develop teamwork skills and most importantly—have fun.

The interest form for schools to receive a grant application can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2hRawRLc6Uis2NOp2vipsu6Cd4RgP-25Bh2rjrch6aStUQU9aVjhZSTRlTVhNSTBH-MU1NTOIYMEQyNC4u&route=shorturl> and will remain live until Friday, March 7th.

*For more photos and great articles, check out the ParkCountyDugout.com.*

My wife said I should do lunges  
to stay in shape.  
That would be a big step forward.



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# Saying Goodbye and Thanks to a Legend Basketball Referee - Kevin Harrington—Simply the Best!

Park County Dugout  
By: Jeff Schlapp

**High School Roundup - Senior Night at Park High. Manhattan Christian upends Three Forks at home, Gardiner beats West Yellowstone as Parker Wyman scores 20, and Lady Rebels win final game.**

Saturday night, the crowd at Park High in Livingston said goodbye to 20 seniors, nine basketball players, a team manager, and ten members of the Ranger band. Park High's Activity Director, Scott Rosberg, also announced before the Lady Rangers game that long-time referee Kevin Harrington was retiring. He paused for a few moments so Harrington could be recognized.

Harrington is a legend in Montana High School basketball. He's been a referee for 33 years calling grade school, middle school, and high school games. Coaches throughout the state that I've talked to always enjoy seeing Harrington in his striped shirt on the sidelines before their game knowing that they are in store for a fair game.

"I started coaching 11 years ago and Kevin (Harrington) was one of my first referees," Lady Ranger Head Coach Matt Schad told me. "I think Kevin's reputation as one of the best has been well deserved. He's always teaching the game to the kids at the lower level while refereeing. When he makes a call he explains it to the player, when asked, what he did and why he can't do it. The same with us as coaches. He's very respectful, and patient, and he explains his calls in detail to us. He's going to be missed, there's not many officials with his experience."

I've always been happy as well to find him officiating a game when covering it. Once when I first was writing, I had a game in Shields Valley. A ref called a technical on a Rebel player, I didn't see the call and asked him at halftime who and why he called it - he blew up and threatened to throw me out of the game. I wished then and still do that he'd retire.

Harrington - I'm going to miss him. He's the fairest and best official I've seen call a game. Always wore a smile and was quick to ask how other teams that the Dugout covers were doing. One of the Good Guys.

On Saturday, it was an all-senior squad on the court as the Park High Rangers hosted the



Rangers Isaac Winfrey (#23), Tristan Watts (#24), and Isaac Ramirez are in action on Saturday against Lockwood at Park High in Livingston.

Sestrich is part of the nicest family of kids including his twin sister Sophie and younger brother Carter whom I've always enjoyed interviewing. A tenacious defender, Cameron's final home game won't be the last Rangers fans will see him as he is a star in track and field.

Durgan is a gifted athlete and one of those rare kids who excels in all sports, basketball being his favorite. Coach Coate, the Ranger's Head football coach told me once that Durgan would have attracted scholarships from colleges if he had played all four years - I agree.

Watts and Jaxson are a couple of fierce competitors that I'll miss watching get after it.

You just can't teach height in basketball and the Rangers played every game as the shorter team.

The Rangers have a final game at Billings Central as they wrap up their season on Tuesday.

The **Lady Rangers** (2-14) played the afternoon game and didn't fare much better than their Ranger classmates as the **Lockwood Lady Lions** (13-4) led by Dani Jordan's 23 points knocked off the Rangers 70-25.

The Rangers will be at home Tuesday as they host the Lady Rams of Billings Central at 7:00 pm for their final game of the year.

In other action on the hardwood, the **Manhattan Eagles** got some level of revenge as they defeated the **Three Forks Wolves** 69-57 holding Aaron

DeFrance to 15 points for the night (he scored 24 in the team's first meeting a 71-62 Wolves win) while Isaac Hoekema scored a season-high 25 points, 5 blocks, and 4 steals.

The Eagles took a one-point lead into the locker room at the half but outscored the Wolves 41-30 in the second half for the win over the #4 ranked team in Class B.

Christian Triemstra played the entire game and finished with 22 points, 3 steals, 2 blocked shots, and 3 rebounds. Jack Scott scored 13 points for the second consecutive night to go along with 8 rebounds and a steal. Carter Van Dyken had 4 steals, 2 assists, and collected 2 free throws. Andrew Kimm contributed with 5 points, 1 assist, and 2 steals in 20 minutes of action while Rance Hamilton added a bucket, steal, and an assist for the night.

**Scobey defeated Lustre Christian** 59-46 so Manhattan Christian should move up one spot when the rankings come out to number three just before District begins on Thursday.

The **Manhattan Christian Lady Eagles** got a career-scoring game from Bella Triemstra who poured in 34 (14 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block, and 4 steals) for the night as the Eagles beat the **Phillipsburg Prospectors** 53-39 off the strength of a 19-3 first quarter.

Emily Straatman scored 13 points and pulled down 16 rebounds in support of Triemstra. Isabelle Dawe netted 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, and a steal while Madelyn Skillman added a basket, 5 rebounds, and a steal. Brook Leep had 6 rebounds while

Sam Veltkamp contributed with 5 rebounds, 1 assist, and a steal.

Manhattan Christian boys and girls varsity teams have a makeup game with White Sulphur scheduled for Monday which will be their last regular season game.

In Gardiner, it was senior night as Ellie Reinertson and Fiona Roberts were honored for the **Gardiner Lady Bruins** (who lost to the Twin Bridges **Lady Falcons 47-25**), and Parker Wyman, Tyler Stermitz, and Noah Herrera were honored for the Bruins (6-10, 4-6).

After, the Bruins went out and got after it as Wyman scored 20 and Cayden Hoppe had a season-high 13 points in a 69-46 win over the Falcons. Braden Tuning finished with ten points on the night. Now the Bruins and Lady Bruins



After 33 years Kevin Harrington made his final appearance at Park High on Saturday night and will hang up his whistle after the MHSAs playoffs.

await to see who their first-round opponents are on Thursday at districts which take place at Manhattan Christian.

And the **Lady Shield Valley Rebels** completed their remarkable turnaround season from 4-16 last year to 14-4 this year with a season-ending win over the **Joliet Lady J-Hawks** 57-21. The Rebels jumped out to a 34-6 halftime lead and cruised behind Kassandra Rock's team-high 12 points. Nicki Swindal added 9 points and Gaige Taylor had 6 points. Kaitlin Anderson saw some minutes off the bench and was able to add 6 points on the night.

The Rebels should receive a first-round bye on Thursday at the start of districts. If Manhattan Christian beats White Sulphur Springs on Monday all three teams, Manhattan Christian, West Yellowstone, and Shields Valley will have two losses in conference play but the Rebels have beaten the Lady Wolverines twice this year.

Back to the Rangers game to wrap it up. Shay Carter and Lily Morie were Little Rangers for the night (Mrs. Rike and Mrs. Johnson's second-grade class).

### Game Notes from Park High:

The Booster Club purchased the goodies that went into the Gift Bags for the seniors and the PHS Activities bought the seniors flowers.

And the games can't happen without announcers, stats keepers, and someone to run the shot clock.

My thanks to Becky Wyman, Pam Lay, Libby Triemstra, Megan Burns, and Joe Schutter for sharing stats with me after the games this season. And thanks to ADs, Carmen Harbach, Greg Sager, and Scott Rosberg for all their help.

See you at the beginning road to the state tournament.

For more photos and great articles, check out the [ParkCountyDugout.com](http://ParkCountyDugout.com).



Park High Lady Rangers, Landess O'Dea, Qunci Wood, Alivia Duffy, and Annie Keyes watch the final minute of the game against Lockwood on Saturday at Park High School in Livingston.

4th-ranked Lockwood Lions (15-2). Cameron Sestrich, Isaac Winfrey, Tristan Watts, Jon Durgan, and Jaxson White were each announced as starters.

The Rangers put up a fight during the first quarter but the Lion's length and speed eventually wore the Rangers down and they lost 66-27. The Rangers (1-15) to their credit have stayed together as a team, credit I would surmise is due to their senior leadership.

I've covered Durgan, Sestrich, and Winfrey for four years across three sports and they are a group of winners that may have had a rough patch on the basketball court but not in life. They will each go far and become community leaders, family men, and leaders in their vocation.

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# Elk Captured in Crazy Mountains Test Negative for Brucellosis

HELENA – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff recently captured elk in the Crazy Mountains northwest of Big Timber as part of a multi-year targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project. All blood samples collected from 52 captured elk tested negative for exposure to brucellosis.

"Test data from live elk captures inform brucellosis management decisions in Montana," said State Veterinarian Tahnee Szymanski.

"These negative test results are valuable to Montana's livestock industry as they help provide confidence to our trading partners about the quality and strength of our state program."

Capture operations in the Crazy Mountains were conducted in late January. Sixteen elk were outfitted with GPS collars that will be active for one year to help wildlife managers better under-

stand their seasonal ranges, migration routes and potential mixing with other elk herds. The goal of these operations is to evaluate the presence and understand the movement of brucellosis in Montana's elk populations. The surveillance also helps wildlife managers and animal health officials understand the overlap between elk and livestock on the landscape.

"We understand that helicopter capture is unappealing to many landowners, and we sincerely appreciate those who took the time to consider our request for capture access," said FWP Research Technician Jenny Jones.

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that can infect humans, cattle, bison and elk and can result in abortion or the birth of weak calves. The disease is primarily transmitted through contact

with infected birth tissues and fluids. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) administers a brucellosis surveillance program for livestock in an area of southwest Montana called the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA). Requirements within the DSA protect the state and national livestock industry from the inadvertent spread of brucellosis through livestock movement. Livestock within the DSA are at risk of exposure to brucellosis from infected wildlife and are therefore subject to additional brucellosis testing requirements for movement and change of ownership, as well as additional traceability requirements.

Live elk captures in and around the perimeter of the DSA inform decisions on boundary adjustments by DOL. The Crazy Mountains are located outside of the DSA. The recent

test results from the Crazy Mountains provide support for keeping the current DSA boundary unchanged. Montana's targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project is a joint effort between DOL and FWP, with support from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In addition, this project and capture operation would not be possible without the support and permission from landowners to capture elk on their property.

More information about the surveillance project can be found online at [fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management/elk](http://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management/elk). For more information about how brucellosis is managed in Montana livestock, visit [liv.mt.gov/Animal-Health/Reportable-AnimalDiseases/Brucellosis](http://liv.mt.gov/Animal-Health/Reportable-AnimalDiseases/Brucellosis).

# Montana, BNSF Railway Partner on Plan to Enhance Grizzly Bear Conservation Efforts

KALISPELL — Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, in partnership with BNSF Railway and Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation, is proud to announce the completion of a plan to enhance grizzly bear conservation and conflict reduction efforts in northwest and north-central Montana.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently approved BNSF's proposed Habitat Conservation Plan submitted as part of the company's application for an Incidental Take Permit. This landmark plan, developed in collaboration with FWP and others, outlines measures BNSF will take to reduce potential impacts to the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear population from human-related mortalities. BNSF will provide \$2.9 million to support personnel, equipment and education to reduce human-bear conflicts and grizzly

bear mortalities in the ecosystem.

## Key components of the plan include:

- **Conflict Response and Reduction:** BNSF will provide funding for additional seasonal grizzly bear technicians employed by FWP. These technicians will work throughout the NCDE on public outreach, conflict response and attractant reduction programs. The funding will provide for additional equipment such as electric fences and bear resistant containers to reduce human-bear conflicts.
- **Monitoring Equipment:** BNSF will fund additional equipment, such as radio collars and remote cameras, to aid in monitoring bears and reducing conflicts.
- **Waste Management:** BNSF will fund efforts to improve waste disposal areas and otherwise reduce attractants on

public and private property.

- **Livestock Conflict Reduction:** BNSF will fund measures to reduce livestock depredation and human-bear conflicts.
- **Community Engagement and Education:** BNSF will provide funding for conflict mitigation efforts in the NCDE through education and outreach efforts, including events and information on living and recreating safely in bear country, reducing attractants, and how to use bear spray.

Since 1991, BNSF has collaborated with tribal, federal, state and local government agencies, conservation groups and industry to address and mitigate concerns about grizzly bear mortality incidental to railroad operations. These efforts include agreements to implement programs and measures to minimize bear and train conflicts, primarily by identifying and removing attractants from the right-of-way and installing deterrents when needed in high-risk areas. As part of this, BNSF has implemented a rapid-response program for grain spills, historically a primary attractant for bears to railways, and expanded bear education for railway employees.

The habitat conservation plan formalizes these ongoing efforts by BNSF to promote grizzly bear conservation by supporting wildlife agencies' management and monitoring programs.

"BNSF is grateful for the insight provided by stakeholders in this process," said John Lovenburg, BNSF VP of Environment & Sustainability. "We look forward to working with

federal, tribal and state government partners and Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation to ensure the effective implementation of the measures set out in the HCP, as well as the permit issued by USFWS."

Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (MOLF) will oversee the mitigation funds, directing resources to high-priority conservation projects.

"We are working to implement solutions that support both wildlife and communities," said MOLF Director Mitch King. "This funding will help expand conflict prevention programs and support the work of localized bear specialists."

The NCDE is home to one of the largest grizzly bear populations in the contiguous U.S., with an estimated 1,100 bears in the region. The area spans Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, and surrounding tribal, public and private lands in northwest and north-central Montana. The habitat conservation plan aligns with broader efforts to maintain habitat connectivity and ensure the species' continued recovery under the Endangered Species Act.

"This plan represents a significant partnership and step forward in our continued efforts to bolster grizzly bear recovery and conservation in northwest and north-central Montana," said FWP Director Christy Clark. "Funding from BNSF will support boots on the ground and benefit public safety and grizzly bears. We commend BNSF Railway for working with us on this plan."

# Requirements for Food Storage Reinstated March 1, 2025

Bozeman, MT, — Starting March 1st, the food and attractant storage order is back in effect on the Bozeman, Hebgen Lake, Gardiner, Yellowstone, and Beartooth Ranger Districts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The order helps ensure safe coexistence between people and bears by reducing food-related encounters. The food and attractant storage order will be in effect through December 1, 2025.

According to the food and attractant storage order, all unattended food, trash, and other attractants must be stored in one of the following approved methods:

- In hard-sided vehicles or enclosed trailers;
  - In bear-resistant containers or other approved products. A list of approved bear-resistant storage products can be found at [www.igbconline.org](http://www.igbconline.org); or Suspended at least 10 feet above the ground, and 4 feet away from adjacent trees/poles, out of the reach of wildlife.
- "Reinstating the food storage requirements is a crucial step towards protecting both wildlife and humans. Bears and other animals are incredibly adaptive and drawn

to human food sources, which can lead to conflicts. By following these regulations, we not only safeguard our wildlife but also ensure a safer and more enjoyable experience for all visitors to the Custer Gallatin National Forest," said Custer Gallatin National Forest Wildlife Biologist, Josh Hemenway. "Remember, a clean camp is a safer camp—let's work together to minimize human-wildlife conflicts and preserve the natural beauty of our forest."

Individuals who violate the food storage order may be issued a violation and held civilly liable for any damages resulting from non-compliance. For your safety, the safety of other Forest visitors, and bears and other wildlife, it is always a good idea to keep your camp tidy and to store food in a manner that is not accessible to animals.

Please visit Custer Gallatin National Forest - Outdoor Safety & Ethics ([usda.gov](http://usda.gov)) for more information on bear safety and food storage protocols. Please visit [www.igbconline.org](http://www.igbconline.org) for more details on Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee approved products.

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## Meals for Feb. 24th - 28th

**Monday, Feb. 24th** - Sweet & sour chicken over rice, eggroll, oranges, milk

**Tuesday, Feb. 25th** - Ham & bean soup, cornbread, applesauce, milk

**Wednesday, Feb. 26th** - Beef pasties, gravy, peas, mandarin oranges, cake, milk

**Thursday, Feb. 27th** - Biscuits & gravy, eggs, sausage links, grape juice, applesauce, milk

**Friday, Feb. 28th** - Ham, roll, potatoes, green beans, peaches, cake, milk



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Livingston, MT 59047  
406-333-2490

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Livingston Meals on Wheels

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**SUGGESTED DONATION \$6 PER MEAL IF OVER AGE OF 60 NO MEMBERSHIP NEEDED \$8 if under 60**

Salad bar included in meal price  
If you would like a to-go meal please call before 9am

# Blue Slipper Presents Pinter's "Old Times"

Livingston's Blue Slipper Theatre continues its 2024/2025 MainStage season with Harold Pinter's brooding classic Old Times, directed by Marc Beaudin and featuring Valerie Kinley as "Kate," Hugh Kinslow as "Deeley" and Sherry Pikul as "Anna." Performances run from March 7th through 16th, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 pm, and Sunday matinees at 3 pm.

First produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in June 1971, and hitting Broadway later that year, Old Times has continued to enrapture audiences and critics alike. The Independent called it one of Pinter's "most haunting and unnerving pieces," and named it as one of the 40 best plays ever written. The Observer de-

scribed it as, "wonderfully taut, comic and ominous."

In the 80-minute play (with intermission), Deeley and his wife Kate are visited by Anna, a mysterious friend from Kate's past. What begins as a trip down memory lane quickly becomes something more, as long-simmering feelings of fear and jealousy begin to fuel the trio's passions, sparking a seductive battle to define the past and control the present, as well as a contest for Kate's love. Through conversations and reminiscences, their histories and personalities are exposed, but



it seems unlikely that everything we hear is accurate, as many of the accounts contradict each other. The question arises about whose memories, if anyone's, are actually true.

"The first play I ever directed was Pinter's Betrayal," notes Beaudin. "And it's so wonderful to return to this profoundly subtle playwright's work after nearly a quarter century. Pinter is among the best at pulling the facade from our lives and revealing the truths and falsehoods we work so hard at to keep hidden."

This production features original music created by Ted Robinson, special lighting effects by Charlie Newsome, costumes by Brynn Nieuwenhuis, and scenic design by Beaudin.

Beaudin explains, "For the look and feel of this show, we're creating a unified yet boundless entity of sound, light and nebulous physical features that surrounds and responds to the apparent realism of the characters' world. It's like real life: mysterious and perhaps a little ominous."

Tickets are \$20 for regular admission or \$15 for students and seniors and may be purchased at blueslipper.org. For more information call (406) 222-7720.

## Kate Kammeyer Joins Bozeman Symphony as Development Director

Kate Kammeyer has joined the Bozeman Symphony as Director of Development. In this role, Kammeyer will establish and lead the Symphony's development department, working to secure essential funding that supports the organization's mission to engage, unite, and uplift the human experience in Montana through music and the arts.



to grow contributed revenue and strengthen the Symphony's financial foundation.

Kammeyer joins the Bozeman Symphony from the Berkeley Symphony in California, where she served as Executive Director. Her career includes leadership roles with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Longy School of Music, and Los

Angeles Chamber Orchestra. She has also held key positions at the Manhattan School of Music and renowned summer music festivals, including Interlochen, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

A classically trained oboist, Kammeyer holds degrees in oboe performance from the State University of New York at Purchase, the Hartt School, and the University of Iowa. She also earned a certificate in Change Management from Cornell University.

For more information about the Bozeman Symphony and its upcoming performances, visit bozemansymphony.org.

## Community Art Show Livingston Center for Art and Culture

The Livingston Center for Art and Culture will celebrate the artistic talents of Park County residents with the annual Community Art Show from February 11th through March 8th. This is the Center's longest running show, that premiered 25 years ago. Featured will be artwork from seasoned artists to budding creative novices and include painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelry makers, fabric weavers, and more. For Hilary Honadel, a participating artist and printmaker from Livingston, exhibiting alongside fellow artists reinforces the essential role of shared creative spaces and environments. "This exhibition serves as a vital forum for artistic engagement, highlighting the creative expression within

arts. It's an honor to contribute to this milestone event and to be part of a space that continues to support and uplift artists across disciplines and backgrounds." The public will have the opportunity to meet participating artists at a



Reception on February 21st from 6 to 8 pm. The Center is located at 119 South Main Street in historic downtown Livingston. To learn more, contact the Center at (406) 222-5222 or visit <http://www.livingstoncenter.org>. Come see what your neighbors have been creating.

our community while celebrating the Center's long-standing role in fostering meaningful connections through the



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**Soup & Salad TUESDAYS**

In-house Soup & Salad Bar on Tuesdays Starting Nov. 5th

Suggested donation  
Over 60 - \$6 per meal  
Under 60 - \$8 per meal

Salad bar starts at 11:30am and Soup at 12pm

Dining room located at

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### Mondays

**WEEKLY GAME OF UNO** at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston on Mondays at 1 pm. Free for members, \$5 per game non-members.

**WEEKLY PINOCHLE** at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston. On Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Tuesdays at 1 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

### Tuesdays

**WEEKLY PINOCHLE** at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston. On Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Tuesdays at 1 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

**CAREER ASSISTANCE** - Livingston Chamber of Commerce and Job Services of Bozeman are collaborating to provide on-site career and employment services once a week in Livingston, MT at the Chamber. Workforce consultants will be available Tuesdays from 9 am to 3 pm in the Chamber's Conference Room at 303 East Park Street. Contact Leslie at the Livingston Chamber of Commerce (406) 222-0850 or Ellen at Job Service Bozeman (406) 582-9237 for more information.

### Wednesdays

**BINGO NIGHT AT THE OFFICE** - The Office Lounge at 128 S. Main Street is hosting Bingo, 6:30-9:30 pm.

**FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHT** - 49er Diner at 404 E. Park Street is hosting Family Karaoke night from 6-8 pm. For more information call 406-222-8204.

**WEEKLY PINOCHLE** at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston. On Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Tuesdays at 1 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

### Mondays-Fridays

**DAILY COFFEE WITH FRIENDS!** Open to all ages 9:15 am to 12:15 pm. Free. Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston. ParkCountySeniorCenter.org

### Saturdays

**FREE YOUTH ICE FISHING** Ages 8-16, one adult per 3 children needed. Every Saturday from 9 am - 12 pm, weather permitting, on Daily Lake. To sign up go by Yellowstone Sporting Goods at 1106 W. Park St. #22, 406-222-5185, or Hatch Finders Fly Shop at 5237 US Hwy. 89 Suite 12, 406-222-0989. All other inquires can be made with Brewer at 410-919-3391 or Eric Strader at 816-591-3535. Free Youth Ice Fishing is sponsored by the Living Life Fund mentors and fishing guides.

**February 24 - CRAFT MOVIE NIGHT** - This unique series invites community members to gather with us and combine their love for crafting and cinema in a welcoming and creative setting at the historic Empire Twin Theatres. Attendees are invited to bring their stitching, knitting, or other portable craft projects. Craft Movie Night welcomes all, from seasoned crafters to anyone looking for an enjoyable night out. Admission is \$10. Presale tickets are available now at cactusblossomcollective.com. The film for this night is Legally Blonde starting at 7 pm. For additional information, please get in touch with Emily Johnson at director@empiretwintheatre.com.

**February 28 - VETERANS FREE STEAK DINNER** at the Livingston Elks Lodge #246 located at 130 S. 2nd St. Seating times are 5 pm, 5:30 pm, 6 pm, 6:30 pm. The full menu is ribeye steak, baked potatoes, salad bar with fresh baked rolls and a dessert bar. Veterans and their spouses eat free. Make reservations by calling 406-220-9963 and reserving your preferred seating time.

Calendar of Events runs every week. To place your event on the calendar please email the information to [community@pccjournal.com](mailto:community@pccjournal.com) or drop off your information at the PCCJ office at 108 N. Main Street.

Cost is \$8/week for up to 50 words, 51-100 words is \$10/week, maximum word count is 100 words please. Deadline is Monday's at 5:30 pm for the following issue that will hit the streets on the following Friday.

### March 1 - 18TH ANNUAL WINDBREAKER SWAP MEET

at the Park County Fairgrounds, 46 View Vista Drive, from 9 am to 2 pm. Free event admission and parking. Join us for great vendors, good food and fun for the whole family!

### March 1 - LEARN TO SKATE WITH SCOTT

at the Park County Fairgrounds, Steer Barn at 46 View Vista Drive, from 4 - 5 pm on Saturdays and Thursday, just come on down!

### March 4 - MANAGING RODENT PESTS

in your Lawn & Garden with Stephen Vantassel from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office at 119 S. 3rd St., Livingston. This training addresses management techniques for voles, northern pocket gophers, and Richardson's and Columbian ground squirrels. Participants are eligible to receive 1 CEU towards their pesticide applicator license. Please RSVP to 406-222-4156 or [park@montana.edu](mailto:park@montana.edu).

**March 4 - SILENT BOOK CLUB** Livingston now has its own official Silent Book Club Chapter! Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 pm, at Unwinded Bar & Casino, 218 S. Main St. This gathering of local book lovers has no pressure. Just bring a book to read, maybe talk about it a little, and have an evening dedicated to the joy of getting lost in a book, with others!

### March 15 - 10TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

with the American Legion Riders, Chapter 23, 112 N. B St. from 5 pm until all the food is gone. Tickets are \$10 per plate, kids 10 and under \$5. Live music by Davy Jones Locker, raffle basket and 50/50 raffle.

### March 27 - COMPOSTING PANEL

- Whether you are a farmer, backyard gardener or growing in pots come join our lively discussion! Get your questions answered from people with lots of composting experience! Plant-based snacks provided. This free event will take place from 6 - 7:45 pm at the Livingston Library, 228 W. Callender Street. Sign up at [ParadisePermaculture.org](http://ParadisePermaculture.org) or call Mona at 406-222-9999.

# Consider a Sponsorship of the Community Journal

The *Park County Community Journal* is seeking help from our followers to continue its mission: promoting positivity in the local community. We do this by publishing stories about the people, organizations, businesses, and events that represent Park County, often times at request, and most importantly, to shine light on what makes this community special.

We promote local businesses and encourage their support; honor non-profit organizations dedicated to philanthropy; celebrate our vibrant arts community by showcasing its contributors and their work; praise the achievements of students and children in sports and education; recognize major developments in municipal and county government; and cover local events to spur participation and advance the concept of community.

Knowledge as power, though a cliché, is undeniably true, and our intention is to inform readers about the community so as to inspire positive change through mutual support and understanding.

The *Journal* currently publishes 2,000 copies weekly for distribution throughout Park County. In response to incoming tourists, this number will rise in the early spring to 2,500 and to 3,000 by summer 2025. Park County depends on tourism to thrive, and the newspaper has a role in sharing information with visitors about what our community has to offer through advertising and editorials

on businesses and events. In addition to compensating staff, this increase in printing is expensive (\$0.45 per copy; total annual printing expenses amounting to roughly \$50,000 contingent upon need), but our goal is to help the community flourish without placing a burden on our readers.

Up until now, the newspaper has been free of charge—a service provided to the community not intended to generate income through our consumers, much like a non-profit organization. Our desire is to continue this tradition via advertising fees, the *Journal's* current business model, and by exploring new avenues for raising money to fund operating expenses without shifting costs to readers. For example, we are currently working alongside non-profit organizations like Prospera and Park Local to consider and develop new strategies for increasing revenue, such as adjusting advertising rates for local businesses through the cool season. However, as we are not technically a non-profit organization, our options are somewhat limited.

We are therefore asking you to please consider the value of our newspaper to this community and to support our cause by making a donation that will be used to extend our outreach and impact to locals and visitors alike. Donations may be made once or on a recurring basis, if possible.

Because we are not a charity organization, your gifts are not tax-deductible. However, any donation, small or large, helps us in our effort to shape this community for the better. Even just two dollars each from a few thousand individuals would be extremely helpful in keeping this newspaper free as we continuously strive to benefit the community.

Thank you for considering a donation to our newspaper. If a gift falls within one of the following sponsorship levels:

**Bronze: \$250 • Silver: \$500  
Gold: \$1000**

Donors will be recognized monthly in the newspaper. Qualifying business donors will be awarded discounted advertising rates during the warm season (June – September.)



Donations can be made using the QR code or mailed to PCCJ, PO Box 1851, Livingston, MT 59047. Thank you for your consideration in helping us to continue our mission!

# BREAK *time*

# CROSSWORD

Puzzle #386

## Montana Fun Facts!

Montana is the 41st state to be formed in the U.S. preceded by South Dakota and succeeded by Washington. It was incorporated into the union on November 8, 1889.

Montana is the only state that is exactly one time zone wide. The state's eastern border marks the line of Central Time and the western boundary marks Pacific Time. Montana is entirely within the Mountain Time Zone.

Montana is one of twelve states with a single area code for telephones. 406 covers the entire state.

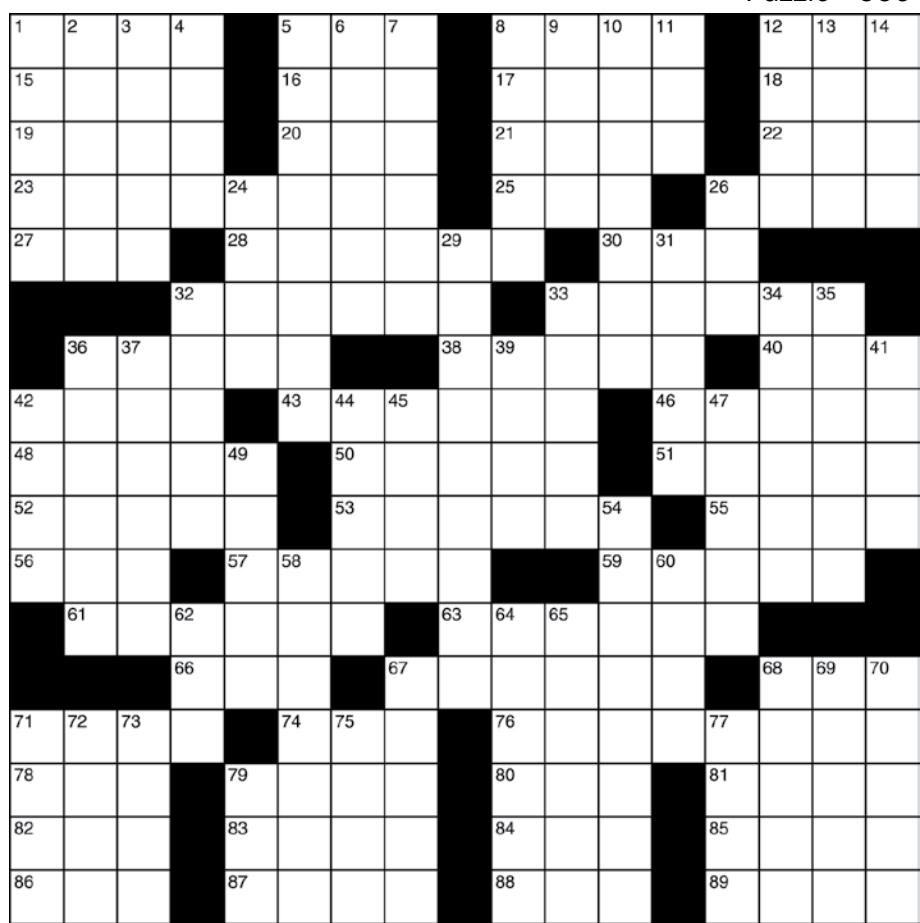
### ACROSS

- 1. Mark permanently
- 5. Label
- 8. Humid
- 12. Craze
- 15. "A Horse With No \_\_\_\_"
- 16. Unclose, to a poet
- 17. Like a villain
- 18. Dollar bill
- 19. Above
- 20. Take the gold medal
- 21. Nosegay
- 22. Pleased Julia Child
- 23. Famous
- 25. Night animal
- 26. In the company of
- 27. Physics unit
- 28. Mountain-climber's coup
- 30. Snake shape
- 32. Hold fast
- 33. Nautical unit
- 36. Diameter components
- 38. Doctrine

- 40. Defective
- 42. Sculpt
- 43. Minister
- 46. Bizarre
- 48. Abundant
- 50. Gaucho's tool
- 51. Brownish gray fabrics
- 52. Sales pitch
- 53. Join
- 55. Cheat
- 56. Scope of knowledge
- 57. Mushrooms, e.g.
- 59. Senseless
- 61. Eye section
- 63. Put in order
- 66. Conjunction
- 67. Duelist
- 68. Beret
- 71. Which thing?
- 74. Ma that baas
- 76. Collection of clothes
- 78. Pronoun
- 79. Fortitude
- 80. Nipper's master
- 81. Concluded
- 82. Openings
- 83. Not a pretty fruit
- 84. Outward appearance
- 85. Tree of India
- 86. Disorderly crowd
- 87. Informed
- 88. Remit money to
- 89. West Pointer's team

### DOWN

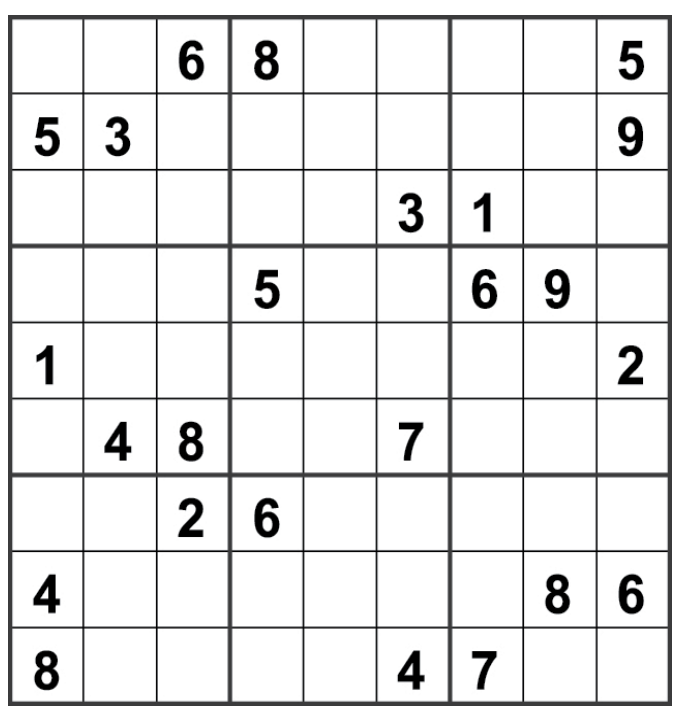
- 1. Pitfall
- 2. Indulge, with "to"
- 3. Surrounded by
- 4. Default result
- 5. Small city
- 6. Each
- 7. Sex
- 8. Station
- 9. Frankly declare
- 10. Delude
- 11. Fabric layer
- 12. Bubbles
- 13. Dissenter



- 14. Ownership document
- 24. Dry watercourse
- 26. Hearth residue
- 29. Juicy fruit
- 31. Got up
- 32. Mix up
- 33. Untamed
- 34. Procure
- 35. Agate
- 36. Tot's garment
- 37. Type of skiing
- 39. Printing method
- 41. Student's furniture
- 42. Halloween attire
- 44. Sporting facility
- 45. Emulate Elvis
- 47. Citified
- 49. Pixieish
- 54. Bookish
- 58. Experience
- 60. Techie
- 62. Make doilies
- 64. Envelop
- 65. Locust, e.g.
- 67. Stinking
- 68. Cloak
- 69. Crosswise
- 70. Cheerful
- 71. "For \_\_\_\_ the Bell Tolls"
- 72. Submarine sandwich
- 73. Bedouin
- 75. Determination
- 77. Roster
- 79. Destroy the interior of

# Sudoku

Puzzle #122



Sudoku - #121

## SOLUTIONS

Crossword - #385

8	5	1	7	4	6	2	3	9
9	2	6	5	8	3	4	7	1
3	4	7	9	2	1	8	6	5
5	7	8	6	1	2	3	9	4
6	1	3	4	9	5	7	8	2
2	9	4	3	7	8	1	5	6
7	8	5	1	6	4	9	2	3
1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7
4	3	9	2	5	7	6	1	8

E	R	S	T	S	H	A	L	T	O	C	T	A	L		
R	E	A	R	S	T	U	P	O	R	P	L	A	N	E	
G	A	L	A	H	E	R	E	T	O	E	U	B	I	E	
O	M	E	N	A	R	T	T	U	N	N	E	L			
		S	I	G	N	I	O	T	A	E	G	O			
A	S	P	I	C	U	R	N	R	E	T	A	I	L		
S	A	L	T	Y	M	E	T	R	E	B	O	U	N	D	
E	M	U			A	E	R	O	S	O	L				
A	E	G	I	S	S	T	R	E	W		N	E	W	E	L
		D	E	S	P	A	I	R		A	L	E			
E	M	P	O	R	I	A	O	A	R	P	A	G	A	N	
B	A	L	L	E	T	R	N	A	E	M	E	N	D		
B	R	A		A	L	P	S		D	A	R	N			
		C	O	R	R	A	L	S	I	N	E	W	E	R	
A	G	A	V	E	M	U	S	C	A	T	S	E	R	A	
P	A	T	E	N	A	S	T	U	T	E	T	R	A	M	
T	R	E	N	D	S	H	A	D	E	Y	E	L	P		



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## HELP WANTED

**Two Carpenters** (\$35 plus an hour) and one **laborer** (\$20 plus an hour) needed for full-time, year-round positions with benefits. Must have own 4x4 transportation. Contact Rudy Greger for interview at 406-222-6506 or 406-220-1703.

**Arrowhead Elementary School** is looking for a Food Service Cook. Hours are eight hours a day, 4 days a week, with some Fridays. Starting pay is \$20/hour.

- Experience with Commercial food preparation (Menu planning, Food Production, Serving Food (offer vs serve)
- Point of Service, Purchasing/ Procurement, Receiving and Storage, Food Safety and HACCP
- Ability to complete state/federal reports
- Attend State meetings
- Focus on using healthy fresh sustainable products
- Montana Driver's License
- Lift 50 pounds
- Honest, organized, reliable, self-motivated

Submit district application, resume, criminal background investigation form, Equal Opportunity Employer form, and fingerprints to Johanna Osborn, Principal, P.O. Box 37, Pray, MT 59065 or email to josborn@arrowheadk8.org. Application materials may be requested by contacting the District Clerk at 406-924-6865 or cself@arrowheadk8.org.

## 2024-2025 Vacancies Arrowhead School District #75

- **Paraprofessional** Monday-Thursday some Fridays, \$18/hour, health, dental, and/or vision
- **High Needs Paraprofessional** Monday-Thursday some Fridays, Hourly Wage D.O.E., health, dental, and/or vision
- **After School Assistant**

More details and Applications for all vacancies may be picked up at the Arrowhead Elementary School in Pray, or visit our district website at: Arrowheadk8.com. Questions please reach out to Johanna Osborn, Principal 406-333-4359 or josborn@arrowheadk8.org.

**Key Insurance in Livingston** is looking to hire a **Licensed Insurance Agent** to our team. We are dedicated to providing individuals, families, businesses and their employees with the very best in supplemental benefits. Working hand-in-hand with our customers, our dedicated sales force provides personal face-to-face service that is almost unheard of in today's business world. We are committed to providing our

clients with the right protection, customized to their needs. We offer \$55K to start depending on qualifications. Please contact Alice at 406-222-0944 to schedule an interview or email resume to alice@montanainsurance.net.

## Non-Emergency Medical Transport Driver

Careway Shuttles is looking for individuals to drive wheelchair capable minivans. Full-time, part-time, and weekend positions. Call 406-206-0888 or email carewayshuttles@gmail.com to apply or request a ride! Like us on Facebook @ Careway Shuttles!

## Come Join Our Kenyon Noble Team!

Kenyon Noble Lumber & Hardware's Livingston location is currently accepting applications & hiring for Warehouse Associates and Delivery Drivers. No experience necessary—we will train! Offering competitive wages and great benefits packages. For more information and to see the complete job listing visit us at kenyonnoble.com/jobs. You can also apply online!



**Gardiner Public School** is looking to hire a **Physical Education (PE) Teacher**, school days are Mon - Thu, part-time for approximately 6 hours a day. Position is exempt, salary DOE with a full benefit package. A bachelor's degree or higher with a major in physical education or a related degree with a physical education student teaching experience is required. Candidates must be certified in the State of Montana or be able to become certified. Candidates interested in this position should contact Jeannette Bray, Superintendent at jbray@gardiner.org or call 406-848-7563.

**Gardiner School** has openings for the following coaching positions for the fall of 2025: **Head Jr. High Volleyball, Assistant Jr. High Volleyball, Head Jr. High Football, Assistant Jr. High Football**. The coach's responsibilities include developing practice plans and leading practices, providing motivation and advice during competitions, and fostering good mentorship with the Bruin athletes and staff. Outstanding candidates are highly motivated, committed, disciplined, and patient. Please send a letter of interest to Carmen Harbach at carmen@gardiner.org or call the Gardiner School at 406-848-7563.

**School Bus Drivers Needed.** Gardiner Public Schools is seeking applicants for School Bus Route Driver Substitute and Activities Bus Driver for the 24/25 school year, with potential for a Regular School Route

Driver position for the 25/26 school year. Substitute position is responsible for being on call to drive a morning and afternoon bus route. Activities bus driving would include weekends and evenings or nights on an on call basis. Position requires background check, and drug testing. The school district will assist individuals with training to obtain appropriate licensure. The licensing process is very long and should be started as soon as possible. Individuals must hold a Class B license with a school bus endorsement after training. Individuals interested in the position should fill out the general application for employment on the schools' website, and contact Jeannette Bray jbray@gardiner.org. Application materials may also be picked up at the school district main office.

## Firefighter/Paramedic – Full-time

To apply, send an updated resume, a cover letter with your interest in LFR, a completed City of Livingston Application and a copy of your certifications to HR@LivingstonMontana.org. The City of Livingston, Montana is seeking a highly motivated individual to perform the role of Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic within the Livingston Fire Rescue (LFR). This is a full-time, benefit eligible role in LFR with the primary duty assignment in a shift staff role participating in and making a positive contribution to the operations of your assigned shift. This position reports to the Shift Captain, under the direction of the Fire Chief and helps with cross staffing and performs other duties as assigned. Livingston Fire Rescue is a unique fire department nestled in the mountains of Southern Montana with one of the most advanced EMS systems in the state. We are a growing city situated along the Yellowstone River with our own unique challenges in the Montana rural/urban interface. We offer structural fire suppression, all-hazard rescue response, advanced EMS (Critical Care Paramedic and Community Paramedic services), technical rescue opportunities, airport ARFF, HAZMAT, and wildland response teams. Come join our team and live and work in one of the most beautiful places in America. Less than one hour from Yellowstone National Park and the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. For outdoor enthusiasts this is an amazing destination for hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing and other outdoor winter or summer sports!

## Engineer/Firefighter/Paramedic – Full-time, Year-round

The City of Livingston, Montana is seeking a highly motivated individual to perform the role of Engineer Firefighter/Paramedic within the Livingston Fire Rescue (LFR). This is a full-time, benefit eligible role in LFR with the primary duty assignment in a shift staff role participating in and

making a positive contribution to the operations of your assigned shift. This position reports to the Shift Captain, under the direction of the Fire Chief and helps with cross staffing and performs other duties as assigned. Performs as lead paramedic in most medical situations, directing crews for proper treatment and triage. Operates all vehicles and pumps, aerial ladder devices, and technical rescue equipment. Livingston Fire Rescue is a unique fire department nestled in the mountains of Southwestern Montana with one of the most advanced EMS systems in the state. We are a growing city situated along the Yellowstone River with our own unique challenges in the Montana rural/urban interface. We offer structural fire suppression, all-hazard rescue response, advanced EMS (Critical Care Paramedic and Community Paramedic services), technical rescue opportunities, airport ARFF, HAZMAT, and wildland response teams. Come join our team and live and work in one of the most beautiful places in America. Less than one hour from Yellowstone National Park and the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. For outdoor enthusiasts this is an amazing destination for hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing and other outdoor winter or summer sports! The job posting and forms can be located here: [www.livingstonmontana.org/jobs](http://www.livingstonmontana.org/jobs)

## Angel Line Relief Bus Driver

Join our dynamic team as a Relief Driver with Angel Line Transit at Park County, where you'll have the rewarding opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our community's seniors and individuals with disabilities. As a key part of our Angel Line service, you'll provide safe, dependable, and friendly door-to-door transportation, ensuring our passengers maintain their independence and mobility. This flexible role offers a unique chance to step in and support our full-time drivers during their absences, making every shift an important one. If you're looking for a fulfilling role with occasional hours and the chance to give back to your community, this is the perfect opportunity! To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

## Windrider Transit Relief Bus Driver

Park County is seeking a Transit Relief Bus Driver to join the Windrider Transit team. This part-time position (10-15 hours/week) involves safely operating buses, providing excellent customer service to passengers, and ensuring compliance with safety regulations. Ideal for those who enjoy interacting with diverse community members. Candidates must have a valid Montana driver's license and will be subject to comprehensive drug testing. Join us in serving the community with friendly, reliable transportation services! This job will be open until filled with priority given to applications received by

July 2, 2024. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

**Registered Sanitarian** - Become a vital part of the Park County Health Department Team as a Registered Sanitarian! Under the guidance of the Health Department Director, you'll play a crucial role in safeguarding public health and the environment. From conducting compliance inspections to responding to emergencies, we're looking for someone who can apply their expertise in regulatory oversight and meticulous attention to detail. If you're a Montana Registered Sanitarian with a passion for environmental protection and public health, apply now to make a difference in your community! This position will be open until filled. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

## Administrative/Legal Assistant

Are you ready to make a difference in your community? This position at the Park County Attorney's Office offers a unique opportunity to play a crucial role in supporting justice and serving the public. You'll work closely with a dedicated team of attorneys, ensuring that legal processes run smoothly, from preparing essential case documents to assisting the public with professionalism and care. If you're organized, motivated, and passionate about making a positive impact, we want to hear from you. Join us in this rewarding and dynamic environment—this role will be open until filled! To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

## How to Place your Classified Ad!

We have three classified ad packages to choose from, your ad will be displayed for 7 days, will also be added to the Park County Community Journal website.

1-40 words \$10 • 41-50 words \$12 • 51-70 words \$15

To place your ad go online at [www.pccjournal.com](http://www.pccjournal.com) or email [community@pccjournal.com](mailto:community@pccjournal.com) and someone will call you back for payment.

If you need more space, please call Steph at 406-220-0919 or email Steph at [community@pccjournal.com](mailto:community@pccjournal.com) for more information on placing a larger classified ad.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## ANNOUNCEMENT

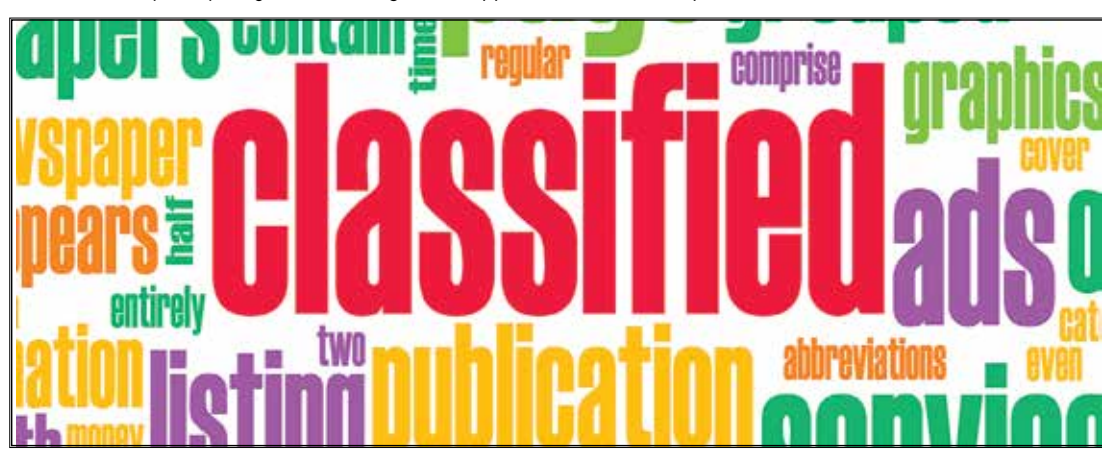
# Arts & Crafts Spring Fling

## VENDORS WANTED for the Arts & Crafts Spring Fling

Big Timber, MT • April 26th, 2025 • 9 am - 3pm

Contact Becky by email at: [becky.todisco@ceterawealth.com](mailto:becky.todisco@ceterawealth.com) or call 406-930-1880

P.E.O. chapters support the educational and charitable funds of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, but are not classified as charitable by the IRS. Therefore, donations to individual chapters do not meet the IRS requirements for a charitable income tax deduction. P.E.O. shall not be liable in any way for any goods and services supplied by third-party vendors or public establishments.





# Landmark REAL ESTATE

Your Local Real Estate Market Experts

## FEATURED LISTINGS

ERALivingston.com | 406.222.8700



**Sun, Feb. 23rd • 1-3pm**

### 1115 Ridgeview Trail

3 beds 2.5 baths | 1,758 sq ft  
#399280 | \$599,000

Baylor & Carolina Carter | 406-223-7903



### 619 N 12th Street

Multi-Family | Duplex  
#398691 | \$685,000

Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



### 115 5th Street W

Land w/Structure  
#394276 | \$320,000

Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



### NHN High Ground Ave.

Land Listing | 0.33 acres  
#395419 | \$200,000

Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



### 331 S 7th Street

3 beds 1.5 baths | 1,340 sq ft  
#394563 | \$559,000

Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



### 27 Royal Wulff

3 beds 2.5 baths | 2,668 sq ft  
#390722 | \$1,794,000

Swanson Team | 406-220-4340



### 30 S Woodard Ave, Absarokee

Commercial Sale 2,560 sq ft  
#388822 | \$223,000

Jessie Sarrazin | 406-223-5881



### 759 Castle Mountain Road

3 beds 3 baths | 2,772 sq ft  
#397719 | \$810,000

Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



### 107 S Main Street

Commercial Sale | 7,061 sq ft  
#395132 | \$1,950,000

Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



### 49 Two Dot Highway

2 beds 1 bath | 1,160 sq ft  
#389858 | \$300,000

Rachel Moore | 406-794-4971



### 320 S C Street

1 bed 1 bath | 440 sq ft  
#385422 | \$300,000

Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



### 107 Elliot Street N

Comm: 3,104 sq ft | Res: 704 sq ft | Comm:  
#398072 Res: #398098 | \$600,000

Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



### 512 Miles

Also RES #389813 | Commercial Sale  
4,212 sq ft | #389433 | \$495,000

Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



### 28 W Grannis

3 beds 2 baths | 9+ Acres  
#390575 | \$875,000

Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



### 1116 Ridgeview Trail

3 beds 3.5 baths | 2,280 sq ft  
#399026 | \$699,000

Swanson Team | 406-220-2045



### 1296 US Hwy 10 W

Commercial Sale | 10,160 sq ft  
#397843 | \$2,500,000

Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231

## Meet the Team...

Aurora has a great affinity for the state of Montana; specifically, Livingston and surrounding areas. She lives for time spent with her husband and daughter; off-roading, rafting, camping, and

snowboarding. Beyond outdoor recreation, Aurora finds joy in crafting/DIYs, reading/writing, and, most of all, cooking for other people. There is no

### Aurora Fritz

Sales Associate

406-224-2501

[aurora@eralivingston.com](mailto:aurora@eralivingston.com)

greater reward for her at the end of crafting a meal than seeing folks with a full belly and joyful hearts.

"Aurora was fantastic! We were moving to Montana from out of state... which came about during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving cross country is stressful enough but to add all the extra stressors of a pandemic, made it seem impossible. However, Aurora stepped up to the plate! She was more than willing to jump right in and arrange live video tours for our family to visit all the properties that we were interested in purchasing. She showed us a property that completely suited our family's needs. We were very impressed with Aurora's timeliness, how she listened to our many needs and dug right in to find listings, she was able to take care of all the paperwork and so many things unique to all the COVID delays and changes. Would definitely recommend giving her a call! - The Patrick's



## REALTORS® in Livingston, Bozeman, Big Sky & Ennis

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406.222.8700 | 215 S. Main Street | Livingston, MT

Robyn Erlenbush CRB Broker Owner | Each office independently owned & operated.

# Local State Farm Agents Award \$25K Gift to Shane Center

In a historic gesture, local State Farm Agents have made a significant donation, awarding The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts \$25,000. This generous contribution comes from agents: Sarah Skofield (Livingston), Dan Rust, Brad Daws, Dusty Daws, Jeff Weedin, Larry Bitterman, Bethany Lentz (Bozeman), Ty Elliot (Belgrade), and Daniel Corbin (Four Corners). The funds will be instrumental in completing some of the necessary infrastructure for Montana's newest performing arts venue, the Henry E. Blake Pavilion.



K-12th grade students taking part in the 23rd Annual Summer Young Actors' Workshop, held in the newly opened Blake Pavilion. Photo Credit - Larry Stanley Photography

especially resonated with our local group of agents."

Executive Director, Erika Adams remarks, "This group's investment into our community is such an affirmation of the important role The Shane Center plays. We are so grateful for such a remarkable donation."

The Blake Pavilion has expanded the Shane Center's reach in the community with last year's Young Actors' Workshop performances, by providing a space for community events, and with our free summer outdoor concert series, which drew over 7,000 attendees. The Blake Pavilion will host a variety of new events this year, including a multi-day Bluegrass Festival, live concerts, and a regional talent show. Stay tuned for a State Farm sponsored summer announcement!

Adams reiterates, "Every donation, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference to our organization and allows us to continue to serve the community we love."

Newly hired Development Coordinator, Kate Britton states, "The Shane Center is experiencing an exciting period of growth. Contributions like this are vital for our organization, helping us maintain the level of excellence the community has come to appreciate, as well as assisting in our continued expansion. We appreciate State Farm for recognizing our impact and believing in our mission of Strengthening Community through Participation in the Arts!"

Shane Center Board President and Livingston State Farm Agent, Sarah Skofield, is proud to contribute "to such a worthy cause. We felt like supporting an arts organization is important because it brings a diverse group of people together and helps bridge divides. The Shane Center's focus on education and youth programming

# You're The One That We Want: Shane Center Hosts Upcoming Teen Theatre Auditions for GREASE!

This Spring Grease is the word! The Shane Center travels back to the 50s for this blast-from-the-past musical that is sure to have everyone dancing in the aisles! Are you born to hand-jive? Want to be a part of the Pink Ladies or dawn a T-bird jacket? Come on down to audition and be a part of the most popular movie musical of all time! Warning: Grease contains adult content.

Open auditions for this teen theatre production will be held Tuesday, March 11th at 7 pm in the Dulcie Theater. Auditions are open to all students, homeschoolers, and recent high school graduates ages 13-18. No prepared material or prior experience is necessary. Rehearsals start Monday, May 17th at 7 pm. Performances are May 2nd - 18th, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 3 pm with a special Pay What You Will performance Thursday,

**CALLING ALL TEENS!** \*contains adult themes\*

**GREASE**  
The Musical

**OPEN AUDITIONS!**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 7 PM**  
Roles available for ages 13 - 18

Be a part of the most successful movie musical of all time.

No prepared material or prior experience necessary!  
Performances May 2 - 18,  
Fridays and Saturdays @ 7:30 PM, Sundays @ 3 PM  
Special Pay What You Will performance  
Thursday, May 15 @ 7:30 PM

Learn more:

415 E Lewis St. Livingston, MT 59047 (406) 222-1420

May 15th at 7:30 pm. Our education programming at The Shane Center aspires to provide an opportunity for self discovery: of personal creativity, confidence, talent, and value as an individual no matter the age. Swing on by auditions March 11th at 7 pm to discover the magic of theatre for yourself.

## We Can't Wait To See You at Auditions!



# NOW SHOWING



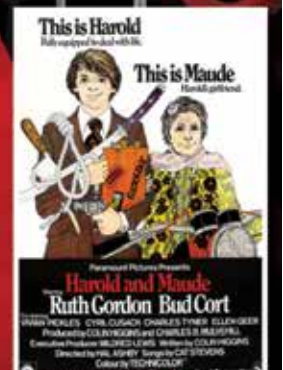
## SHOWTIMES

**CAPTAIN AMERICA**  
Friday, February 21st - Thursday, February 27th  
4:15 pm and 7:15 pm

**PADDINGTON IN PERU**  
Fri., Feb. 21st - Thurs., Feb. 27th 4:30 pm & 7 pm  
EXCEPT  
MON. 2/24 4:30 pm only  
WED. 2/26 4:30 pm only

**LEGALLY BLONDE**  
Mon. Feb. 24th 7pm Only  
Craft Movie Night

106 North 2nd Street  
Livingston, MT  
406-222-0111  
livingstonmovies.com



**HAROLD & MAUDE**  
Wed. Feb. 26th 7pm Only  
Rom-Com Wednesday

thelivinglifefund.com

Free  
**YOUTH ICE FISHING**

Ages 8-16, no cost. One adult per 3 children needed.

Sponsored by the Living Life Fund mentors and fishing guides.

**EVERY SATURDAY 9 AM-12 PM (WEATHER PERMITTING)**  
**DAILY LAKE**

To sign up go by Yellowstone Sporting good, or call them at 406-222-5185 or sign up with hatch finders at 406-222-0989

all other inquiries please contact Brewer at 410-919-3391 or Eric Strader at 816-591-3535