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Livingston's glassybaby Announces Expansion of Production and Doubling Jobs in 2025

By: Lyndsey Medsker, Park County Dugout

Livingston - glassybaby, the renowned artisan glassblowing company, is proud to announce a major expansion of its Livingston, Montana hot shop. By 2025, the company will double its production capacity and workforce, creating new opportunities in the local creative economy. This significant growth underscores glassybaby's commitment to nurturing the arts in Montana while delivering its beautifully crafted products to a broader audience.

Currently employing 45 people in its Livingston facility, glassybaby is growing and investing in the future of Montana's creative industries. Through partnerships with the University of Montana Western and programs like Accelerate MT, the company is actively training the next generation of glassblowing artisans, welcoming individuals with no prior experience and teaching them the intricate art

of glassblowing.

Adam Burgess, Plant Manager at the Livingston facility, highlighted the company's dedication to cultivating new talent: "At glassybaby, we train people from the ground up, even if they've never blown glass before. Seeing someone come in with curiosity and obtain a new skill and passion for the craft is incredible. This expansion means more opportunities to transform lives through creativity."

Spotlight on Local Talent: Taylyn Dukart
A Montana State University graduate with a degree in Art Education, exempli-



glassybaby Founder Lee Rhodes

fies this approach. Raised on her family's ranch in Baker, Montana, Taylyn's journey to glassblowing began at glassybaby and showcased the diverse paths Montanans often take before finding their creative calling.

From working at a grocery store in Bozeman to flagging for road construction, Taylyn entered glassybaby's training

program with no prior experience in glassblowing. Now a skilled artisan, Taylyn inspires others to explore Montana's growing arts and crafts industries.

"Taylyn's story is a perfect example of what's possible here," Adam added. "She brought her dedication and creativity to the table, and we provided the tools and training to help her thrive in this art form."



A post shared by @langlasconstruction

Park Local Development Corporation - Helping Local Businesses to Thrive

By Tony Crowder,

Livingston City Manager Grant Gager once said during an interview with the Journal that the success of a township or municipality can be measured by the health of its business community. When local businesses flourish, each individual within the community is a beneficiary. Prosperous businesses distribute goods and services that help consumers meet their needs, generate revenue for proprietors to recirculate through continued investment and offer a source of income for local employees



to combat increasing cost of living and maintain their livelihoods.

The Park Local Development Corporation (PLDC) is a non-profit organization tasked with helping local businesses thrive by facilitating human and material resource management and optimization through contextually specific solutions. Founded in 2019, the corporation, says co-executive director Trent Balestri, "breaks down barriers for businesses by providing consulting services, educational programs, and

financial assistance contingent upon each business' unique needs." Park Local's governing body comprises two executive directors, a loan committee and a board responsible for administrative policy. Though based in Livingston, it serves the Park County community at large with a focus on the private sector.

Balestri explained that local businesses unable to secure a bank loan may apply to receive financial assistance of up to \$200,000 through Park Local's revolving loan fund—mon-

ey held by the City of Livingston and Park County managed by Park Local to maximize community-level impact in perpetuity. The revolving loan fund was initially held in Bozeman and has since returned to Park County for management by Park Local.

As is the case for a bank loan, businesses seeking assistance must undergo an application process which requires owners to submit three years of personal tax returns, business plan or a business narrative, personal financial statements, other various documents and \$250 non-refundable application fee. PLDC staff are available to assist applicants with completing this process. Application materials are then reviewed

[See Helping Local Business, Page 7](#)





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Unique Holiday Shopping at St. Mary's Christmas Market

The St. Mary's Catholic School Parent Teacher Organization presents the annual Christmas Market on Dec 14th from 9 am to 1 pm in the gymnasium located at 511 South F Street in Livingston. The market is a great local option for unique holiday gifts.

Please bring a canned good for dona-



young and old with masterful arts and crafts including jewelry, blankets, wall art, soaps, lotions, essential oils, hats, t-shirts, sweets and treats, and St. Mary's gear. Fun for the whole



tion or \$1 entry for adults, children are free. An eclectic variety of local artisans



family including kids crafts, the 8th grade Cake Walk fundraiser for their class trip and more. Food vendors inside the market and food trucks will be in the parking lot like Perk on Park, Old Faithful Franks and more.

If you are interested in being a vendor (space permitting) contact kesweets406@gmail.com.

Mountain Lion Population Monitoring Planned for Eastern Pioneer Mountains and Highland Mountains

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists and experienced houndsmen will be conducting field work this winter in the Eastern Pioneers and Highland Mountains south of Anaconda and Butte to help estimate the number and density of mountain lions in the area. The work is part of a statewide research strategy to monitor and manage Montana's lion populations.

The research is scheduled to run from December 2nd through mid-April 2025, and is part of FWP's mountain lion monitoring and management strategy adopted in 2019, using genetic samples to make periodic population



estimates of lions in different management ecoregions of the state.

FWP is in its sixth year of this new population monitoring strategy, and this year's work will be the second of two estimates conducted in the southwest lion ecoregion, focused in southwestern Montana.

To collect data, FWP biologists and local houndsmen use trained dogs to track, tree and dart mountain lions to take DNA samples that will be combined with other information to help biologists estimate lion numbers. In an effort to improve population models, FWP will also put collars on 10 individual lions this winter as part of the genetic-based monitoring project.

Hunter harvest data, including DNA from lion management units 211, 213, 214, 215,

270, 302, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 331, 340, and 350 will also be collected this winter. Hunter-harvested lions taken from one of these areas will have genetic samples taken when the lion is checked in by FWP.

Over time, FWP will be able to use these population estimates, along with more than 25 years of field research data and annual harvest information to guide lion management decisions. This new monitoring program will improve Montana's ability to understand the effects of lion harvest and help biologists manage lion numbers at levels that maintain viable populations and remain in balance with other wildlife species and various public interests.

For more information, contact FWP field research lead, Ashley Hodge at ashley.hodge@mt.gov.



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City of Livingston Launches 2025 Downtown Alley Improvement Project

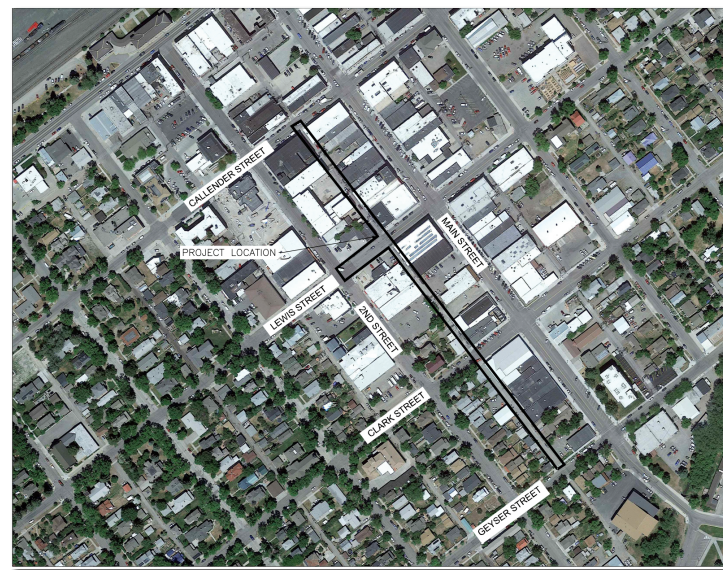
The City of Livingston is preparing for the 2025 Downtown Alley Capital Improvement Project to upgrade critical infrastructure in the alley between Main Street and 2nd Street, from Callender Street to Geyser Street. Planned upgrades include replacing water and sewer mains, adding storm drains, repaving, installing new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, and moderniz-

ing street lighting.

Property owners in the project area are encouraged to replace aging galvanized or copper water service lines with durable CTS polyethylene lines. The City is also offering opportunities to upsize water services or add fire service lines. Sewer connections will be inspected for proper integration with new mains, with recommen-

dations for replacements if needed.

Public input is a key part of the process, with two meetings scheduled at the Livingston Library basement conference room on December 4th and again on December 19th.



ference room on December 4th and again on December 19th.

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Consider These Year-End Financial Moves

As we enter the holiday season, your life may well become busier. Still, you might want to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Review your investment portfolio.** As you look at your portfolio, ask these questions: *Has its performance met my expectations this year? Does it still reflect my goals, risk tolerance and time horizon? Do I need to rebalance?* You might find that working with a financial professional can help you answer these and other questions you may have about your investments.
- **Add to your 401(k) and HSA.** If you can afford it, and your employer allows it, consider putting more money into your 401(k) before the year ends —

including "catch-up" contributions if you're 50 or older. You might also want to add to your health savings account (HSA) by the tax-filing deadline in April.

- **Use your FSA dollars.** Unlike an HSA, a flexible spending account (FSA) works on a "use-it-or-lose-it" basis, meaning you lose any unspent funds at the end of the year. So, if you still have funds left in your account, try to use them up in 2024. (Employers may grant a 2½ month extension, so check with your human resources area to see if this is the case where you work.)
- **Contribute to a 529 plan.** If you haven't opened a 529 education savings plan for your children, think about doing so this year. With a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax deferred, and your

withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses — tuition, fees, books and so on. And if you invest in your own state's 529 plan, you might be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or receive a state tax credit.

- **Build your emergency fund.** It's generally a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your retirement funds to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car or home repair.
- **Review your estate plans.** If you've experienced any changes in your family situation this year, such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child, you may want to update your estate-planning documents to reflect your new situation. It's also important to look at the beneficiary

designations on your investment accounts, retirement plans, IRAs and insurance policies, as these designations can sometimes even supersede the instructions you've left in your will. And if you haven't started estate planning, there's no time like the present.

- **Take your RMDs.** If you're 73 or older, you will likely need to take withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA. If you don't take these withdrawals each year, you could be subject to penalties.

These aren't the only moves you can make, but they may prove helpful not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

July Hardesty | Financial Advisor | Edward Jones
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Offering strategies based on what's important to you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Happening Around Town...



I'm hearing about roundabouts...Is the city installing roundabouts on Park Street?

No, the City has no plan to study or implement roundabouts on Park Street. Not only is Park Street a State-owned route but the railroad crossings would make a

traffic circle difficult to implement.

The roundabout hullabaloo started with a well-intentioned social media post on April 1st and gained steam earlier this week.

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Economic property—How is Park County Doing?

By Tony Crowder

Livingston’s vibrant economy showcases a diverse spectacle of opportunity for residents and visitors alike. Though current data on economic growth in Livingston is somewhat sparse, Data USA reports a 5.97% increase from 2021 to 2022 with major sectors including construction, manufacturing, and healthcare and social assistance. Nonetheless, lodging and accommodation are by and large the predominant economic category in Park County, as leisure and hospitality account for 30 percent of annual average employment—economic prosperity in Livingston therefore relies heavily upon the tourism industry.

One non-profit responsible for perpetuating economic development is the Explore Livingston Coalition, a tri-fold organization comprising distinct, yet symbiotic entities snared in a multifaceted web of independent boards, regulations and funding sources purposed with creating and maintaining a sustainable year-round economy to improve quality of life and quality of experience for locals and tourists, respectively. The Coalition’s three boards preside over the work of executive director Kris King.

In an interview with the Journal, King explained that the complex nature of the organization’s structure and misinformation regarding who is responsible for what within the community warrants further clarification as to how entities function independently and in unison.

The Explore Livingston Coalition commenced in July 2020. Prior to its initiation, the City of Livingston sought a non-profit organization to oversee the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) and Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB/DMO) when an independent committee of community and business leaders reviewed the applications for a Request of Proposal and recommended the Livingston Business Improvement District (LBID) take charge as the administrative organization, a role previously held by the Livingston Chamber of Commerce.

The Coalition and each of its aforementioned components, governed by separate boards and funded independently, collaborates with various government agencies and other non-profit organizations within state law to achieve the mission of each group and the conglomerate’s collective objective. All three organization’s annual plans, budgets and board members are overseen by the Livingston City Commission and the Destination Management Organization (DMO), formerly called a CVB, is subject to regulation by the Montana Tourism Advisory Committee. The coalition promotes the hospitality industry and the LBID supports all downtown businesses without requiring paid membership or city resident taxes, as they are funded by visitor bed tax dollars or downtown building owners through annual tax assessments.

The stated mission of the superseding LBID is “to aid in the facilitation and strengthening of commerce, provide maintenance assistance, beautify, and enhance streetscapes, improve security and safety, and stimulate development and vitality in Livingston’s historic downtown district.” Accordingly, LBID maintains



downtown district flowerbeds, light pole snowflake décor and garbage and graffiti removal, as well as wayfinding signage posted near city limits.

As the overseeing non-profit organization, LBID also generates annual reports, prepares budgeting and presents information to city board members, often joining forces with the Commission to enhance Historic Downtown’s appeal and economic viability through shared resources and planning activities.

The organization is funded through commercial property tax assessments paid by each business owner within the district (from Park to Geyser and between 2nd and B streets). Non-profit organizations are exempt from paying such taxes yet are included in promotional efforts.

Though rising property values in downtown Livingston have recently increased taxes, the LBIDs budget remains fixated, stifling future projects in response to a concurrent increase in contracting costs. The budget could be modified in light of these changes upon LBID’s renewal in eight years. Meanwhile, whether these projects are fully realized is contingent upon external funding.

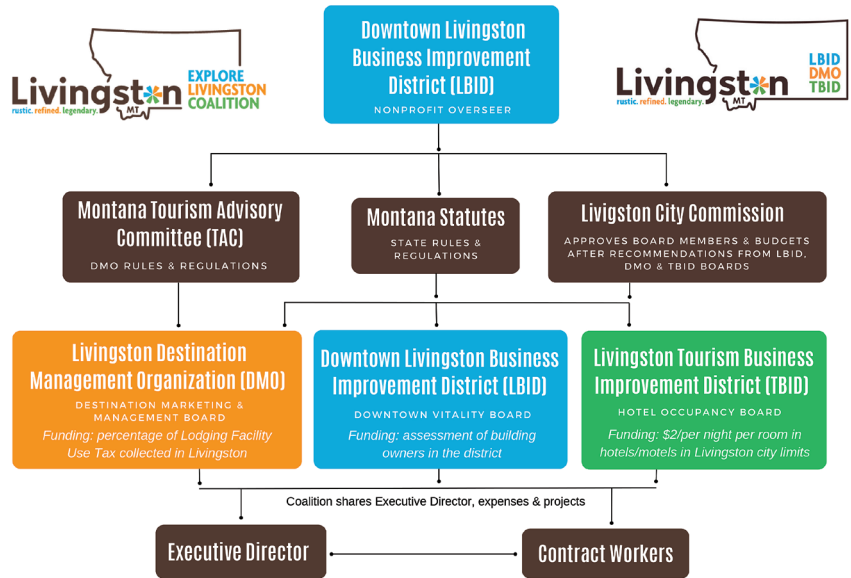
TBID, on the other hand, aims to “enhance the economic vitality of Livingston by generating room nights for the city’s lodging facilities through effective sales and marketing schemes, building partnerships and promoting Livingston as a year-round visitor, convention, and event destination.” TBID collects \$2 per room for nightly accommodations in hotels located within Livingston city limits to fund its operations, which includes granting funds for various events and projects and employing tactical marketing to increase lodging occupancy during the cooler season, a primary goal of the Coalition.

King further explained that TBID primarily achieves its mission through strategic marketing at the local and international levels—distributing monthly community events posters, continuously updating the events calendar and business listings, and placing advertisements in travel magazines, websites, radio, newspaper, and digital media—specifically, intended to increase tourism during the cold season with a focus on the arts community and numerous holiday events. King says, “We’ve only ever done paid marketing during the cool season,” a tactic used to direct the flow of tourism in Livingston while benefiting locals through information and free events.

Other opportunities to boost visitation to the area include the booming local film industry (presently in danger due to limited film tax credits), destination weddings and arts festivals.

The Destination Management Organization (DMO/CVB) is charged with “informing, inspiring and educating visitors about exploring the Livingston area, promoting stewardship of our destination, and strengthening the year-round local economy and cultural assets.” Funding, a percentage of the Lodging Facility Use Tax, is used to promote and manage tourism and recreation in Livingston, in partnership with the Yellowstone Country Tourism Region—one of four major tourism regions established by the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, the governing body responsible for allocating bed tax funds. The Livingston DMOs responsibilities are seasonally dependent with a focus in destination

EXPLORE LIVINGSTON COALITION ORGANIZATION FLOW CHART



education and management during the warm season, and destination marketing in the cold seasons.

The DMO seeks grant opportunities, utilizes tourism data and engages with the State and regional tourism groups to help meet community needs related to tourism.

Overall, King says, “[the Coalition] is focused on strategies and partnerships to take action to solve problems

sometimes invisible to citizens,” cooperating with business support groups like Prospera and Park Local, hosting the former on the third Friday of each month as just one more approach to propelling Livingston’s economy into the future, a worthy cause King believes is only attainable through cooperation. She says, “I personally want no credit for the work that we do. This is about everyone else involved and our community.”

Recipe by
Carla Williams

RECIPE CORNER

Homemade Cherry Mash Bars

Ingredients

Cherry Layer:

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- ⅔ cup evaporated milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 12 large marshmallows
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 6 ounces cherry chips (or substitute with 6 ounces white almond bark, 1 teaspoon cherry extract, and red food coloring)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (omit if using cherry extract)

Chocolate-Peanut Layer:

- 12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup salted peanuts, crushed

Directions:

Prepare the Pan:

1. Grease a 9×13-inch baking dish with butter or non-stick spray.

Make the Cherry Layer:

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine granulated sugar, evaporated milk, salt, marshmallows, and unsalted butter. Stir continuously until the mixture reaches a gentle boil.
2. Once boiling, continue to cook for 5 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent burning.
3. Remove the saucepan from heat. Add cherry chips (or prepared substitute) and vanilla extract. Stir until the mixture is smooth and the chips are fully melted.
4. Pour the cherry mixture into the prepared baking dish, spreading it evenly. Allow it to cool and set.

Prepare the Chocolate-Peanut Layer:

1. In a double boiler or a heatproof bowl set over a pot of simmering water, melt the



Food Photo Credit: gurleysfoods.com

semi-sweet chocolate chips, stirring occasionally until smooth.

2. Add creamy peanut butter to the melted chocolate, stirring until fully combined.
3. Fold in the crushed salted peanuts, ensuring they are evenly distributed.

Assemble the Bars:

1. Once the cherry layer has set, pour the chocolate-peanut mixture over it, spreading evenly to cover the entire surface.
2. Refrigerate the assembled bars for at least 2 hours, or until fully set.

Serve:

1. Once set, cut into squares and serve chilled. Store any leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Yield: Approximately 24 bars

Tips:

Substituting Cherry Chips: If cherry chips are unavailable, melt 6 ounces of white almond bark, stir in 1 teaspoon of cherry extract, and add red food coloring until the desired hue is achieved.

Cutting the Bars: For clean cuts, use a sharp knife warmed under hot water and wiped dry before slicing through the chilled bars.

Looking Back *with Lindie*

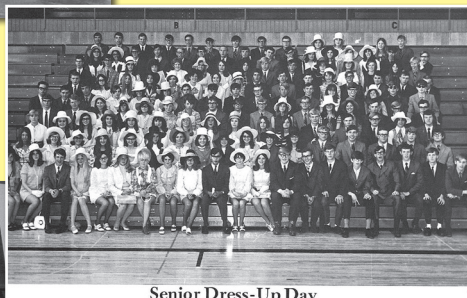


The Class of '69 at Winans school. Front row: Dave Kalitowski, Tom Norman, Tom Hagg, Bruce Pearson, Bob Pierce, Bob Gilman, Dennis Berglin, and Tom Kitts. Back row: unnamed, unnamed, Linda Lovely, Corrine Boland, Becki Stebbins, Lynn Patrick, unnamed, unnamed, Linnea Larson, Debbie Brooks, Donna Worthington, Lee Beatty, unnamed.



(Left) The southeast corner of Main and Callender Streets - where the Frame Garden is now.

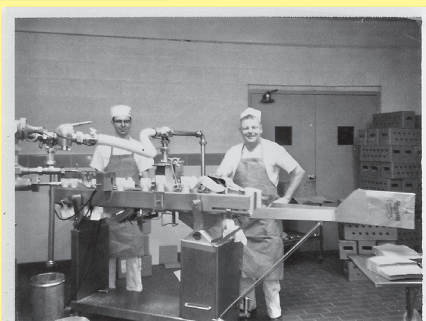
(Right) One of Livingston's icons, and our oldest living Veteran, as well as our oldest living Classmate, Ken Spalding, is celebrated his 100th birthday on December 3rd. Please consider sending him a belated birthday card, and let's let him know that Livingston Classmates remember him. His address is: Ken Spalding, 109 W Lewis Apt 3-6, Livingston MT 59047.



The H street bridge is the last surviving bridge of Livingston's original bridges connecting Livingston proper with our 6 islands on the south edge of town. It is now at home on Hwy 89 North just a couple of miles north of the I-90 Interchange on the east side of the hwy. It was moved and re-located here in 1972, because it was no longer needed to connect McLeod Island to Livingston because Fleshman creek was low enough that a large culvert pipe could be used...



Girl's Pitch - In group from 1962 Back row, left to right: Carol Livingston, Billie O'Roarke, Barbara Adams, Cynthia Patterson, Bette Hale, Bonnie Miller, Marie Mikesell, and Kendra Ebert Front row left to right: Linda Versland, Norma Faure, Judy Taylor, and Collette Morgenson



Marvin Dennyson and an unidentified man at the Wilcoxson's ice cream plant in 1962.



Marvin Dennyson, Dick Wright, Wally Case, and an unidentified worker in 1962.



Portrait of the first women of the Yellowstone Club women standing on steps in front of the Talcott mansion around 1930.

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Regional Water Project

The City is taking an important first step to improve municipal water services in the Montague, Sleeping Giant and Green Acres area by conducting a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to study a water extension. This report lays the groundwork for enhancing water infrastructure and ensures reliable service for current and future needs.

Green Acres, already served by City water, faces challenges with aging pipes that are undersized and lack looping for adequate fire protection and system redundancy. Sleeping Giant and Montague, recently annexed into the City, currently rely on shared wells for water. Once the project is complete, these existing wells will be repurposed for irrigation use, marking a significant upgrade in service reliability for



residents.

The PER serves as a critical planning tool, enabling the City to engage residents and secure funding opportunities to offset construction costs. Public input will be vital to shaping the project, and the City encourages community members to participate in the upcoming meetings to learn more and share their perspectives.

Public Meeting Schedule

Join us at the Community Room to stay informed and provide feedback:

- **1st Meeting:** December 9, 2024, at 6 pm
- **2nd Meeting:** December 18, 2024, at 6 pm
- **3rd Meeting:** January 22, 2025, at 6 pm

BIG CHANGES IN 2025 R_x PLANS!!

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Upcoming

EVENTS

- **December 9th** JH/HS Winter Band and Choir Concert 7 pm
- **December 9th** Town of Clyde Park Council meeting 7 pm
- **December 11th** BPA regionals in Livingston 1 pm
- **December 11th** School Board meeting 7 pm

- **December 12th thru 14th** JH Girls Basketball tournament at Sleeping Giant Middle School Livingston
- **December 12th** Elementary School Winter Program 6:30 pm
- **December 13th thru the 14th** HS Basketball tournament in Manhattan

If anyone has any news, events, etc. please let me know at Shieldsvalleynews@gmail.com

Helping Local Business

from page 1

by the corporation's loan committee to determine eligibility. Loans are stipulated at a slightly higher interest rate (roughly one percent) than the prime rate established by Wall Street, though, Balestri stressed that, as responsible financing stewards, the corporation prioritizes reducing any potential burden imposed on businesses through careful underwriting.

Park Local's Business Consulting and Resiliency Team affords clientele up to three hours of free consulting services (grant sponsored), tailored to the needs of each participating business, and the corporation as a whole delivers a variety of educational programs and classes intended to teach technical skills related to increasing revenue and decreasing costs by addressing various human and material resource deficits.

Consultants examine and dissect the idiosyncratic needs for each business before determining the appropriate course of action for proprietors to consider—potential expansion, changes in organizational structure, employee mediation, suspending operations and other important business-related decisions. Consultants are often successful business owners or have extensive professional experience in areas like marketing, accounting and financial analytics, among other areas of technical expertise.

Many educational programs and classes are free of cost and teach knowledge and skills essential for en-



2023 Leadership 49 class visiting the Clovis burial site in Wilsall. The only known Clovis burial site outside of their ancestral grounds in New Mexico.

hancing organizational adaptability and development. For instance, the PLDC is hosting a class on December 11th in Gardiner on using social media for business purposes, which will include group learning and individualized sessions with each participant. The organization also hosted a QuickBooks training in Livingston during the month of September, one of many classes provided to the Park County business community.

Park Local also partners with MSU Extension to host Leadership 49, a nine-month leadership development program during which participants meet on the second Friday of each month at various venues located in communities throughout Park County to learn a variety of skills both practical and interpersonal (emotional intelligence, conflict cycles, managing

generational differences in the workplace, etc.). Attendees from all walks of life reside in and travel to places like Gardiner and Wilsall to learn a diverse curriculum through community-based experiences designed to foster a better understanding of each community and develop relationships across the county. Potential participants must apply for the program and, if accepted, must pay \$350 with meals included.

"The overall goal of the program" says Balestri, is to "help build the leadership capacity in the county," emphasizing that "one in sixteen people in Park County will need to serve on a local government board, not including non-profit organizations and the private sector."

Though Park Local prioritizes

internal and cost-free resources, recommendations for alternatives means external to Park County and referrals to entities like the Small Business Development Center or other consulting agencies may be prudent at times. The corporation also receives referrals from city and county governments throughout Park County.

Finally, when asked to elucidate Park Local's purpose, Balestri expressed that, developing relationships with and facilitating connections between businesses is their primary concern—a testament to the important role this corporation plays in driving the Park County community forward to achieve economic viability and prosperity.



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Dec 20 th - Dec 21 st (Fri-Sat)	THE DIRTY SHAME	Outlaw Country
Dec 27 th - Dec 28 th (Fri-Sat)	ROADRUNNER	Jerry Garcia Band Tribute
Dec 29 th (Sun)	BRIAN KASSAY	Solo Musical Mad Man - 7pm
December 31 st (Tues)	New Years Eve THE DIRTY SHAME	Outlaw Country
January 3 rd - 4 th (Fri-Sat)	JACKSON HOLTE & THE HIGHWAY PATROL	Rock & Roll
January 10 th - 11 th (Fri-Sat)	UNDER THE BLEACHERS	Rock & Roll
January 17 th - 18 th (Fri-Sat)	EL WENCHO	Red Dirt Rock, Blues, Country, Americana
January 24 th - 25 th (Fri-Sat)	TRENT BROOKS BAND	Outlaw Country

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Riding the Big Wave II

by Joyce Johnson

Honolulu a lifetime ago:

The guy had to carry the huge traditional wood surfboard down to the shore for me. It was the only one left to rent. I got on and paddled out over the gentle swells, then caught a slow one, stood up and rode it for about **3 long seconds**. Then, I lost balance and fell off, but at least I met the challenge and told everyone for years: "Yeah, I surf." [once, for 3 seconds] But, as a girl loving the sea and surf to the moon, I became a skilled, belly-raft surfer in So. Calif., which was great fun, and way less, gulp, life challenging. But I still to this day, feel the huge thrill watching the big wave surfers in vids. They defy death and dance on those surfboards, and holy cow, do they know how to take a tumble. Yes, high adrenaline, but also



metaphysical. Soul stuff I think.

I experienced that thrill once and here it is again briefly from a column years ago: I had paddled out beyond the breakers, on my tough little torso raft, and was floating blissfully around when I saw the huge swell approaching on the horizon. I was afraid. I had to choose whether to try to beat it to shore or dive under, get seriously tumbled, or, paddle out to try and get over it.

It happened in my heart: I just began to paddle powerfully with all my being, and locked contact with the wave, as though the meeting was meant to be. It eventually pulled me up into it's "heart" ... or the upflow pulled me quickly up into the face of the swell, but I didn't make it over. It began to break. My wave tossed me above it's crest for a moment as I wrenched my little raft around to face the shore just in time to fall before the crashing foam. It didn't crush me, nor bury me but pushed me ahead. The roar was deafening. I did not look back. But—I got a thrilling, bouncing ride that gently deposited me on a pile of

seaweed up on the now flooded dry sand. People couldn't believe I had rode it in. Neither could I. *My big wave had like a soul: it communicated it's respect for the little bikini-clad human who dared to paddle like heck up to it with such courage. That was my feeling, seriously.*

Nature,

the heart of our sacred Earth, at one with us, deserves our great respect and love, stewardship, joint maintenance, sharing and caring for life... as apposed to "man's" conquering exploitation, pollution, weapon abuse and poisons that are destroying Her, and us. Alright? But such dark thoughts and behavior, most



amazingly create sparks of the opposite. Have you noticed yet? Those sparks are as old as God: selfless defense of life, heart-powered courage, love, honor, and honesty. It's happening everywhere now. I think we are facing the Big Wave. But I will wrap this up now, and just grin and say, with faith: "Touche'!"

Montana Ranked Eighth in Nation for Volunteering

Today, AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism named Montana as the eighth ranking state for formal volunteering in the nation as highlighted in the latest Volunteering and Civic Life in America research.

Montana's formal volunteering rate has increased more than six percentage points in just two years. In 2023, 343,982 state residents volunteered through an organization, contributing \$843.4 million in economic value.

Other Montana highlights:

- **98.9 percent** of residents talked to or spent time with friends or family.
- **68.0 percent** of residents informally helped others by exchanging favors with their neighbors.
- **79.1 percent** of residents had a conversation or spent time with their neighbors.
- **29.9 percent** of residents belonged to an organization.
- **60.5 percent** of residents donated \$25 or more to charity.

"Montana represents the best of America. Montanans should feel proud to know that their neighbors

and friends are looking out for their community, providing invaluable support by serving those in need," said Michael D. Smith, CEO, AmeriCorps. "We can all learn a thing or two from Montanans."

"Community volunteerism in Montana is a way of life," said Sarah R. Sadowski, Director, Montana Governor's Office of Community Service. "From helping a neighbor when the opportunity arises, to serving our many common good and youth organizations, it is an honor to all of Montana to be recognized for our civic engagement and collective impact."

Every two years, AmeriCorps partners with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct the most robust survey about civic engagement across the United States and over time. The data informs AmeriCorps' Volunteering and Civic Life in America research, a comprehensive look at how Americans make a difference in their communities and promote the common good. The latest research examines trends in formal volunteering, informal helping, and other civic behaviors.

The national volunteering rate has increased more than 22 percent in just two years. This is the largest expansion



AmeriCorps

of formal volunteering AmeriCorps has ever recorded and truly showcases the spirit of volunteerism is on the rise in America.

Formal volunteering involves helping others through organizations. Through local nonprofit and community-based organizations, Americans are afforded new ways to engage with their communities and foster a sense of constructive action, civic participation and belonging. Volunteers support American schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, food banks, and civic, nonprofit, tribal and faith-based organizations across

the country.

Volunteering doesn't always need to be formal. More than 137.5 million people – or 54 percent of Americans – helped their neighbors informally with tasks like running errands or watching each other's children between September 2022 and 2023. This represents a meaningful three percentage point increase from previous years.

For more information about Volunteering and Civic Life in America, to read the full report, or register for the webinar visit: AmeriCorps.gov/VolunteeringInAmerica.

Merry Christmas and stay safe!



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- BEFORE STRINGING LIGHTS ON YOUR TREE, CHECK FOR CRACKED OR MISSING BULBS AND FRAYED WIRES
- ALWAYS TURN OFF CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE OR GOING TO BED
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(See complete rules on the bottom of this page)



Name: _____
Age: _____
Contact # _____

Official Rules

CATEGORIES:

- 0-7 years
- 8-12 years
- 13-18 years
- 19+ years

WINNERS/PRIZES:

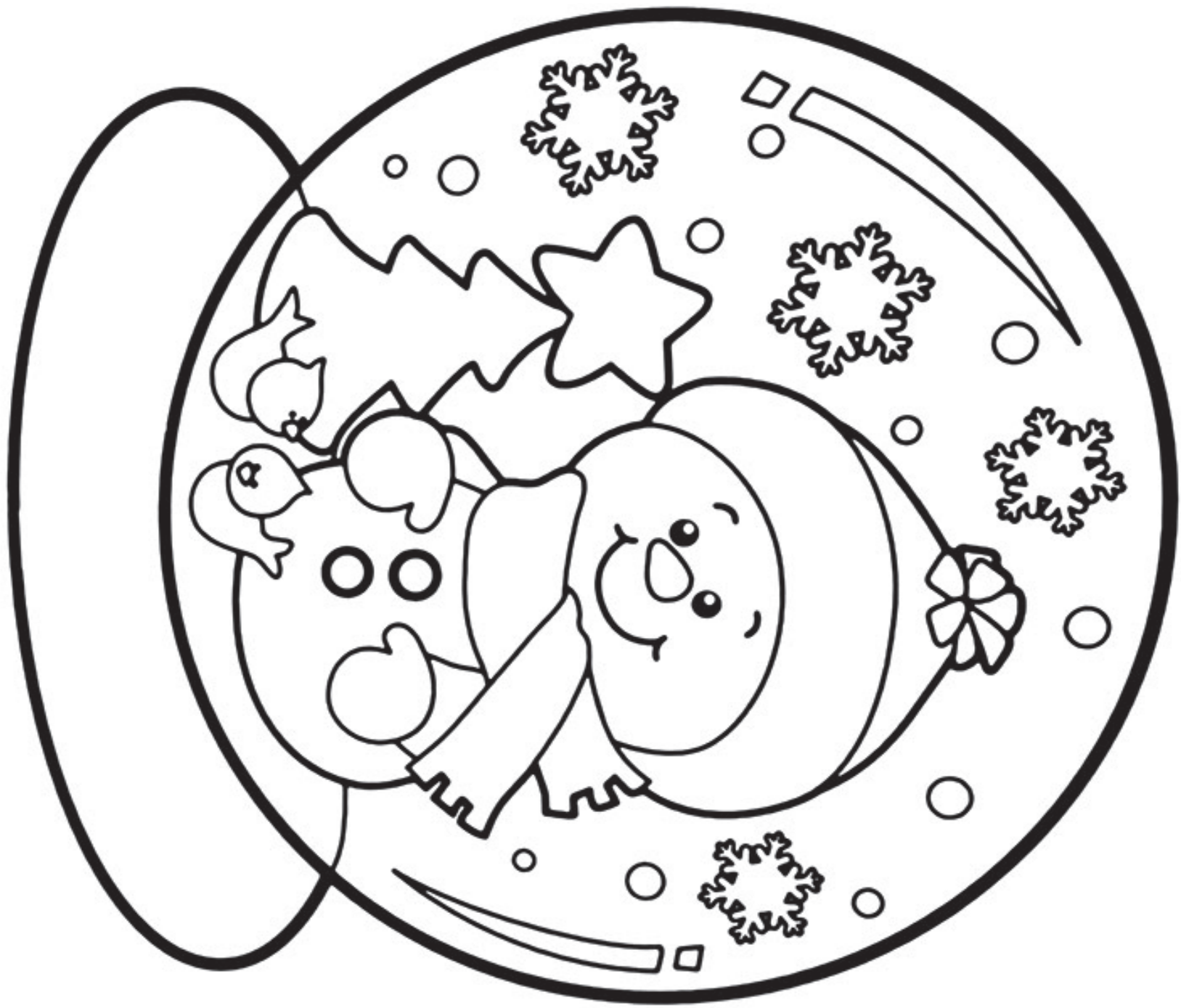
There will be first and second place winners in each category. First place winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate and second place winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

DEADLINE/DROP-OFF:

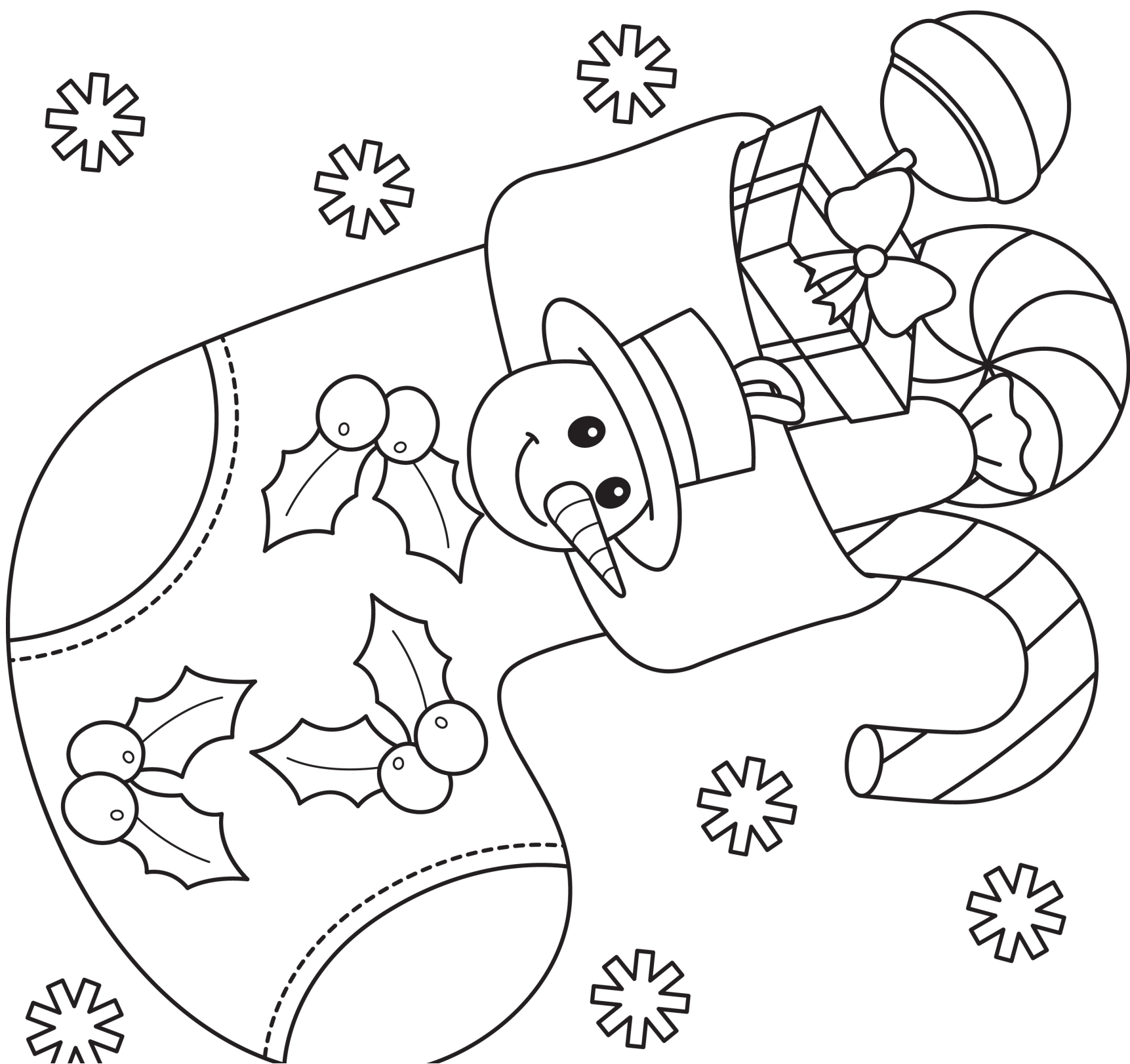
Deadline for entries will be Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Winners will be notified Thursday, December 19, 2024. Drop off entries at either Kenyon Noble service desk, 100 Washington Street, Livingston, or at The Main Print Shop, 108 N. Main Street, Livingston.

One entry per artist please. Must be the work of the person submitting the entry. Email questions to community@pccjournal.com or call 406-220-0919. All entries become the exclusive property of PCCJ and may be printed in upcoming editions with artist name, unless specifically asked not to do so.

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Name: _____ Age: _____ Contact # _____





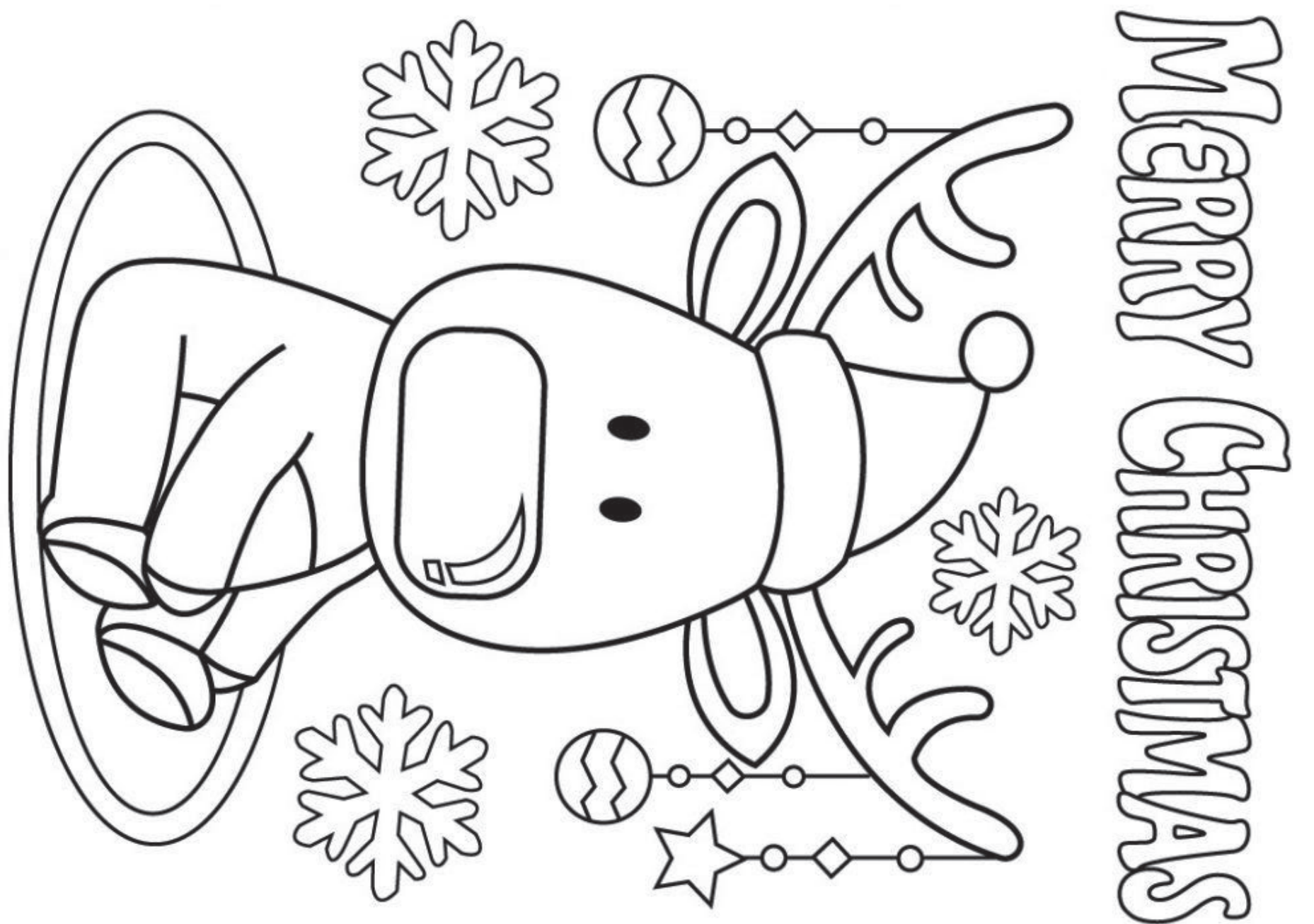
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Modern Nursing

by Nurse Jill

Florence Nightingale is considered the mother of modern nursing. Prior to her heroic moment in the Crimean War, nursing was not considered with high regard or even considered a legitimate line of work.

Prior to Nightingale's footprint on the profession, nursing was a chore of necessity. The infirm who required assistance were aided by either family members or nurses for hire. These nurses for hire were looked down upon in society as women of ill repute. So much so that young ladies who were in society either did not consider it a viable option or were forbidden to step into the occupation.

This was Nightingale's fate. Even though she claimed her calling was from God himself, her parents forbade her to sully her reputation by caring for others in a nurse's role. Eventually, though, they acquiesced, and she began the necessary training at the age of 30. During her era, nurse's training consisted of only a few months and she quickly advanced to a superintendent.

Her talents and abilities were noticed early on, and she was asked to assist in a field hospital which served injured and ill soldiers from the Crimean War and which suffered from 40% mortality. With her small cohort of like-minded nurses, she set to work on the appalling, unsanitary conditions of the hospital. Eventually they effectively

brought the mortality rate down to 2% which was an amazing improvement.

This is where most history books would attribute Nightingale's influence on modern nursing. Many would tell you that her attention to washing hands, cleaning bed linens, changing dressings, and sanitation practices was what spurred on modern nursing. While all of these practices did set a new, long-lasting standard in the medical arena her influence on modern nursing actually goes much deeper than that.

Nightingale didn't just address physical needs of her patients. She knew the importance of treating the whole person and not just their diagnosis.

This was evidenced by Nightingale's nightly vigil among those in her care. These rounds earned her the nickname Lady of the Lamp because of the lamp she carried to light her way through the sick wards. She would stop and chat with her patients, hold their hand, ask if they had any concerns, or if she could do anything additional to ease their discomfort. Nightingale pushed for more natural lighting in sick wards. She pushed for fresh air for patients. She pushed for activities to stimulate the mind as well as heal the body. She embodied what modern nurses today strive to accomplish in each shift: whole person care.

And Nightingale didn't stop at the bedside. She took her observations on caring for patients and presented her findings to Queen Victoria who then funded efforts to improve healthcare in their country. Just as nursing had



suffered a reputation of ill repute so had hospitals in general. And as nursing became more advanced the hospitals also began to rightly earn better respect. Nightingale began what nurses still embrace as a sacred task: advocating for those who are in need of care from others. Nightingale taught others a new way of caring for a patient. She encouraged those in her training to do the same as she. Nightingale was the first big step into a respected, bedside, frontline, educated advocate for patients.

Nightingale had a personal passion to see change in the overall system so that humans would receive better care and have hope of recovery. This deeper motivation was the beginning of modern nursing. This is not to suggest that Nightingale was the first nurse that cared, surely there were countless others who embodied what we would consider modern nursing in their approach to

their tasks. But Nightingale was the one who used that personal passion to educate, train, and inform those around her persistently enough that change began to take place on a wider scale which affected the trajectory of nursing.

Nursing is no longer a necessary, undesired role. Nursing is empowering patients. Nursing is advocating for patients, Nursing is coordinating care of all different varieties for one patient so they can rehabilitate. Nursing is educating. Nursing is informing. Nursing is influencing change based on observation of patient outcomes. Nursing is compassion. Nursing is a million little things that make a difference in a patient's care. Nursing is treating the whole body and not just a diagnosis. Nursing is understanding and translating. Nursing is helping.

This is the modern nurse. And I am proud to be one.

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Meals for December 9th - 13th

Monday, Dec. 9th -
Liver & onions, potatoes, veggie, fruit, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 10th - Chili, cornbread, fruit, milk

Wednesday, Dec. 11th -
Chicken al a king over biscuit, dessert, fruit, milk

Thursday, Dec. 12th -
Meatloaf, gravy, potatoes, veggie, fruit, milk

Friday, Dec. 13th -
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Season Preview Ranger Basketball: It's Coen Brahams Time to Shine



Jon Durgan, Isaac Ramirez, Tristan Watts, and Jaxson White, will be depended on. A healthy Weston Vincent brings an edge to the court

*Park County Dugout
By: Jeff Schlapp*

In January 2023, the Lockwood Lions visited Park High in Livingston to play the Park High Rangers. The Lions would finish their season 15-7, missing out on a state appearance with a season-ending loss to Billings Central 59-50 in Divisionals. Head Coach Bobby Anderson's team was stacked with 6'7" Caleb Cole, 6'3" point guard Tyce Casterline, and 6'5" shooting guard Weston Means. They were good and knew it. They played above the rim - non-stop. And they were cocky.

Lockwood defeated Shepard the night before the Ranger game by 41 points.

The Rangers won their first game against Whitefish in overtime, 75-73, but they would lose the rest of the season. They were 1-7 when Lockwood came to town.

On January 13th, a large crowd crowded into the Park High gym. I recall telling Coach Dickerson it was the largest I had seen. The fans cheered on the Lady Rangers, who lost to the Lady Lions 71-41, and they stuck around for the boy's game, which tipped at 7:30 pm. I recall a feeling of doom as the Lions practiced in pre-game. They were tall, talented, quick, and, well, as I said, talented.

That night, a group of Rangers led by Ryan Brown, Kimball Smith, John King, Calvin Caplis, and Brooks Smith, coached by Kyle Neibauer, fought, clawed, and barked with Lockwood for four quarters. The student section, energized by an early Cole missed dunk attempt, which resulted in a fast break by the Rangers and pullup three by Caplis, screamed with every momentum swing.

With 35 seconds left in the first half, Ryan Brown met Casterline at midcourt, bellied up against him, and hounded the star guard until he picked his pocket and went in for the layup, and the Rangers were down by one at the half.

It was the singular best play I've seen in a Ranger basketball game during my four years of coverage. They would lose that game, but with 48 seconds left, they had the ball looking to take the lead. The Rangers did leave it all on the court that night.

Why go back in time when writing a season preview? The Rangers will need to battle in every game with effort for 32 minutes, like that night on January 2023. They will all need to dig deep, with each player finding that extra reserve, the will and desire that Ryan Brown displayed, deep inside them.

Have faith, Ranger Nation.

Coen Braham will dig deep and find it. So will Weston Vincent. Jon Durgan, yep, he's capable of looking inside himself every night and playing great basketball.

The Rangers lost five players to graduation: Houston Dunn, Alec Dalby, Ryan Miller, Ryan Bauer, and Kimball Smith. They've also lost starting center Liam Edwards, who blossomed last season, to injury for the year.

Braham, a silky, smooth 5'11" point guard who can hit from anywhere, started almost every game last season. Durgan, Tristan Watts, and Ramirez are great shooters, and they saw a lot of minutes and gained valuable experience last year. Vincent, who underwent knee surgery, came on late in the year and is expected to be a key piece to the Rangers moving forward. White is expected to fill Edward's role and start the Rangers fast break.

The Rangers have a new coaching staff this year, replacing Head Coach Scott Rosberg, who moved into the AD role at Park High School. Webster Rhodes, who was the JV coach last year, moves up to the Head Coach's spot. This is the third Head Coach (fourth if you count the coach from Wyoming who was hired but decided to stay in Wyoming) in as many years for the Rangers.

Rosberg is optimistic and looks forward to a year of teaching and learning and, hopefully, some surprises from the young Rangers.

"As a basketball coach for 40+ years, this is always an exciting time of year for me," Rosberg said. "While I'm disappointed not to be coaching this team because I loved coaching these boys so much, I am so excited to watch Coach Rhodes, Coach Kozera, Coach Price, and Coach Leininger lead them to the success that they are all seeking. It will take a lot of work on everybody's part to develop the skills, discipline, and commitment to the team and focus on the team's Core Covenants for them to become the team and program they want to become. But I am confident that with the leadership they have in place and the



Park High Junior Coen Braham will help lead the Rangers, hoping to grow under a new coaching staff.

number of players who have the hunger and desire to do so, they will take the necessary steps to do just that."

The schedule for the Rangers includes their first four games on the road, starting with a rematch with Sweet Grass at Big Timber on Tuesday, December 10th, which the Rangers beat for their only win last year, 43-22.

Big Timber finished the 2023/2024 season 5-17, but three of their wins came in the MHSAA Class B District, where they took fourth place.

The Rangers have back-to-back home games to take them into the Christmas break. They host the East-West Tip-off Tournament, with games against Polson (2-17 last season) on Friday, December 20th, at 7:30 pm and against Corvallis (8-12 last season) on Saturday, December 21st, at 4 pm.

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



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Elk River Books Presents an Evening of Film and Poetry

Elk River Books is excited to present "Film and Poetry on Solstice Eve," an evening of poetry performances and short film screenings on Thursday, Dec. 19th, featuring former Montana State poet laureates Melissa Kwasny and Tami Haaland, as well as filmmaker and actor Jenna Ciralli. Guest emcee for the event is Livingston poet and educator Yetta Stein.

Kwasny and Haaland will read from recent publications and Ciralli will screen her short film, *Willow Creek Road*. The evening will also include short films from the *Elemental Dialogue* series that Haaland collaborated on with U.K. filmmaker Anna Cady.

Kwasny is the author of seven books of poetry, includ-

ing her newest collection, *The Cloud Path*. Widely published in journals including Willow Springs, Threepenny Review, Ploughshares, American Poetry Review, Gettysburg Review, Orion, Bellingham Review, Kenyon Review and Boston Review, Kwasny's poems



Melissa Kwasny

and essays are also included in numerous anthologies. She has received many awards including the Montana Art Council's Artist Innovation Award and an Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate fellowship. She served as Montana Poet Laureate from 2019-2021, a position she shared with M.L. Smoker.



Tami Haaland

Haaland is the author of three poetry collections, *What Does Not Return*, *When We Wake in the Night*, and *Breath in Every Room*, winner of the Nicholas Roerich First Book Award. Her poems have appeared in many periodicals and anthologies, and have been

featured on The Writer's Almanac, Verse Daily, American Life in Poetry and The Slowdown. She served as Montana's Poet Laureate from 2013 to 2015 and has received a Governor's Humanities Award and an Artist Innovation Award from Montana Arts Council.

Ciralli is an actor and filmmaker who has trained at the William Esper Studio, NYC, and received a BFA from Willamette University. Her award-win-



Jenna Ciralli

ning film work includes *Home- stead*, *Casting Call* | *The Project*, *Tokyo Cowboy*, *Rust and the Big Sky* Grant recipient, Clara Boone. Local acting credits include

Wait Until Dark, *Angels in America* and *Mary Page Marlowe*.

Elk River Books is located at 122 S. 2nd St. in downtown Livingston. The free event begins at 7 pm, and a book signing and reception will follow. For those who can't attend in person, the event will live-stream at [YouTube.com/ElkRiverBooks](https://www.youtube.com/ElkRiverBooks). For more information, send an email to info@elkriverbooks.com or call (406) 333-2330.

Special Screening of The Polar Express

The Livingston Film Series is delighted to present a free screening of *The Polar Express* on Monday, December 23rd.



- **Location:** The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, Dulcie Theater.
- **Doors Open:** 6:15 pm Elves will be on duty.
- **Train Leaves the Station:** 7 pm

The *Polar Express* follows Billy (Hayden McFarland), who longs to believe in Santa Claus but finds it quite difficult to do so in the face of his

family's dogged insistence that it's all just a myth. Everything changes on Christmas Eve, when a mysterious train visits

Billy in the middle of the night, promising to take him and a group of other children to the North Pole for a visit with Santa. The train's conductor (Tom Hanks) and passengers help turn Billy's crisis of faith into a journey of self-discovery.

Admission to this special screening of *The Polar Express* is free.



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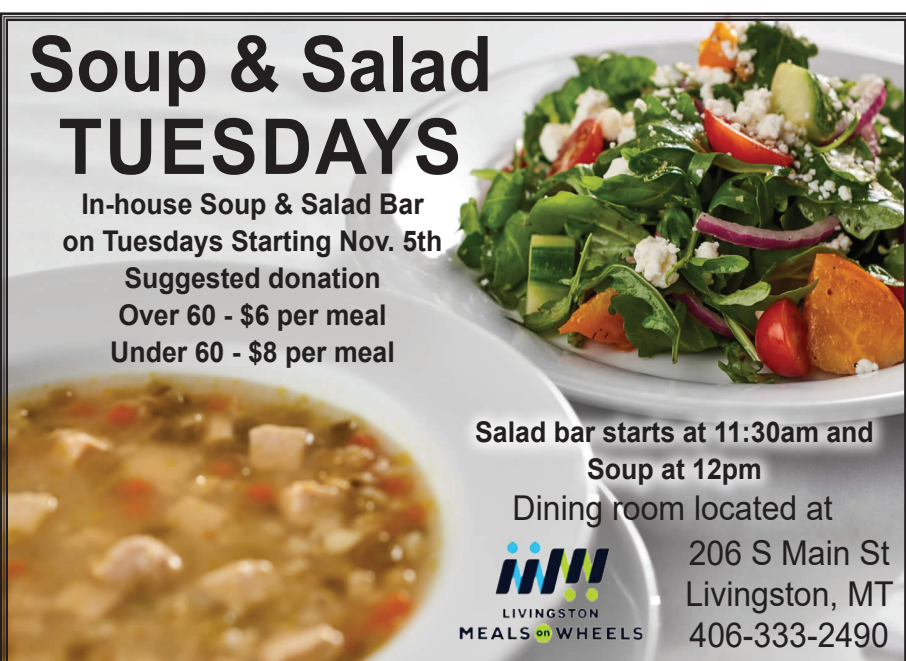
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Kennel Cough - \$20
Feline Leukemia - \$30
Microchip - \$20



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EVENTS



Calendar of Events runs every week. To place your event on the calendar please email the information to 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.

NOW UNTIL DEC. 9TH ANGEL TREE

The Angel Trees are up at Ridley's Market, the Catholic Church and the Community church in Gardiner. We hope you will consider taking an ornament and purchasing a gift. You can return wrapped gifts to Ridley's Market by Dec. 9th. If you aren't a shopper, we are happy to take cash donations and do the leg work! We are hoping for gift cards for "experiences" movie theater gift cards, bowling gift cards, Yellowstone Hot Springs gift cards... If you have any questions, please call Dorothy 406-546-2898, I am happy to come to the Valley to pick up any donations!

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.

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

December 1 - CLYDE PARK CHRISTMAS FAIR - Vendors both inside and outside of the Community hall from noon to 4 pm. Family fun things to do including; seeing the Grinch, Abominable snowman, balloon twisters, face painting, and Elf on the Shelf scavenger hunt. Shields Valley FFA Kids will be selling trees, and a silent auction.

December 1 - THE FESTIVAL OF TREES - Wilsall Foundation's annual fundraiser will be at the decked out dance hall in Wilsall, 105 Clark St. from 4-6 pm.

December 3 - MEDICARE 101 - It's open enrollment - learn about the basics of Medicare and have all your questions answered at the free educational seminar, open to all. Livingston PC Library, 228 W. Callender, 3 pm. For more info call 406-213-8600.

December 4 - TREE OF LIFE - Livingston HealthCare Hospice invites you to the 35th Annual Tree of Life Ceremony at 5:30 pm at the Livingston Depot Center, 217 E. Park Street.

December 5 - GARDINER STROLL/HOLIDAY EVENT - The Stroll sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is from 5:30-7:30 pm. A craft fair at the Yellowstone Raft Company white tent on Park St. from 4-8 pm. Live music & lots of family activities throughout the evening. The Last Best Comedy Improv Show at the Gardiner school at 8 pm.

December 6 - CHRISTMAS STROLL - Downtown Livingston, from 4 - 8 pm. Santa arrives at 4:30 pm, most stores are open late with specials and treats, passport locations in town for prizes, wagon rides, characters in town for pictures, Santa at the Livingston Home Outfitters with gift bags for kids, Frosty at the Lyons Mane Salon and fire pits for warming on Main Street.

December 7 - ANNUAL ELKS CHRISTMAS AUCTION - Proceeds go toward the Christmas Food Baskets for local individuals and families in need of food. Silent Auction starts at 4 pm, live auction with Jimbo Logan starts at 7 pm.

December 7 - POPUP ART SALE, Old Lumberyard Winter Show, 122 North F Street, 11 am to 5 pm, featuring local and regional artists. Unique gift shopping.

December 7 - HOLIDAY BOOK SALE - Join us for our annual Book Sale, 10 am to 4 pm at the Livingston-Park County Public Library, 3rd Street lobby of the library.

December 7 - LIVINGSTON'S HOLIDAY MARKET - at the Livingston Civic Center, 229 River Drive from 9 am to 4 pm! Enjoy handmade crafts, art, baked goods, jewelry, and more from 32 vendors. Admission is \$1 and includes a raffle ticket to win a vendor prize. Don't miss this festive community shopping event!

December 7 - COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAIR - at the Park County Fair Grounds, 46 View Vista Drive, Livingston from 9 am to 4 pm. Featuring local crafters and artists. Additionally, a fundraising breakfast and lunch will be served and Santa's Workshop will be open for youth. Admission is \$1 - \$2, Entertainment, variety of activities, santa's workshop, craft stations, a photobooth & face painting.

December 8 - POTLUCK - The Beaver Creek Community Hall will hold its annual Christmas potluck and quilt raffle at 1 pm. Turkey with trimmings and coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. The hall is located at 651 Swingley Road. The public is invited to attend.

December 8 - VEGAN HOLIDAY POTLUCK - Join them at the Park County Senior Center at 206 S. Main St. at 4:30 pm. You don't have to be vegan, but the food does. Please bring a dish to share that is free from meat, eggs, dairy, honey, and gelatin. You can keep it simple by bringing chips & salsa, fresh fruit, pickles or olives, or a green salad. See you there!

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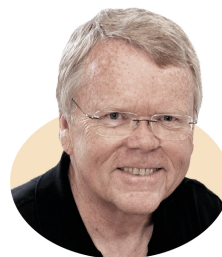
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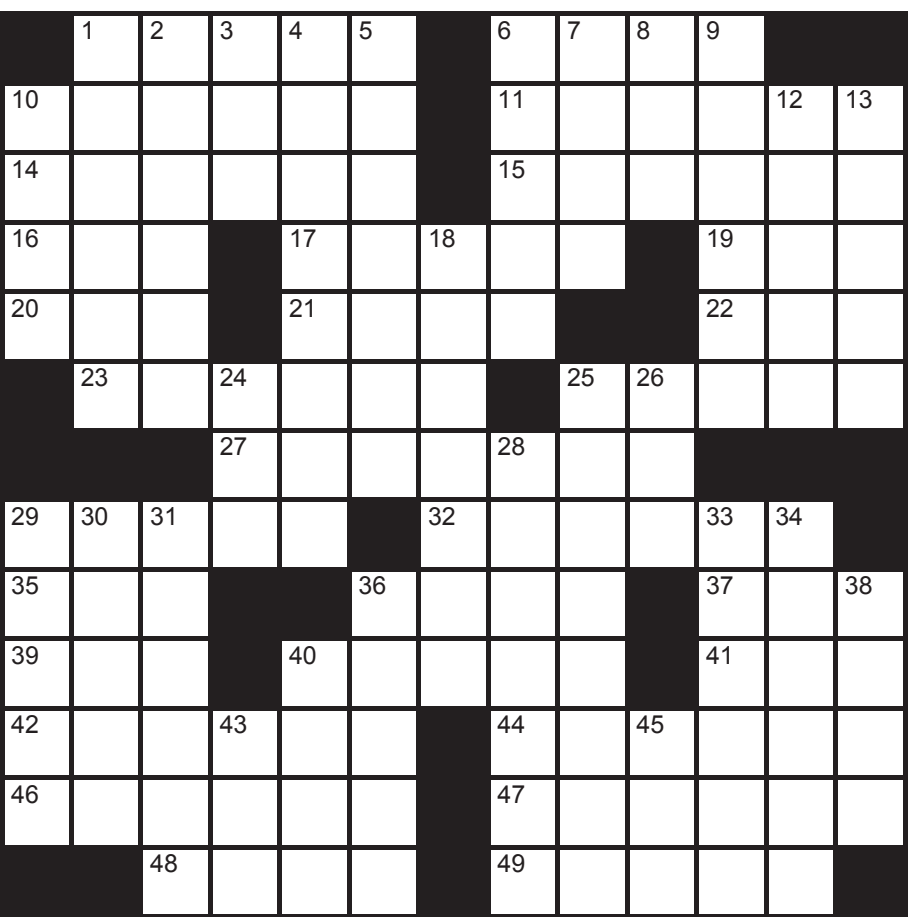
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Crossword Puzzle Number 312



- Across

1 Billionaire philanthropist George ---

6 Summer refreshments

10 Anonymous

11 Type of mutual fund

14 Blood ailment

15 River clearer

16 Menagerie

17 Where the rain falls mainly on the plain

19 Belittle

20 Global currency body

21 Only

22 Moose

23 Uphold

25 What actors must remember

27 To do with plants

29 Include as a bonus

32 "--- number, --- phone (Elvis Presley: "Return to Sender")

35 --- Grande

36 WTO forerunner

37 Tennis high shot

39 Cut

40 Hoard
- Down

41 In the manner

42 Paper boss

44 Completely

46 Despise

47 Required

48 Hell --- no fury like a woman scorned

49 Feminist Germaine ---

1 Wine region west of Napa

2 Unrepeated event

3 Pound

4 Something left out

5 Haven

6 Self-published author

7 Maize

8 Globally calamitous happening

9 Soaking wet

10 E.g. Speer, Himmler

12 Fleet of foot

13 Classroom furniture

18 Annual publication

24 G-men

25 One of an audience

26 Ward for serious cases

28 Zip

29 Ready to go off

30 Rectifier

31 Use

33 Painter ---

Monet

34 Yell

36 Courtyard

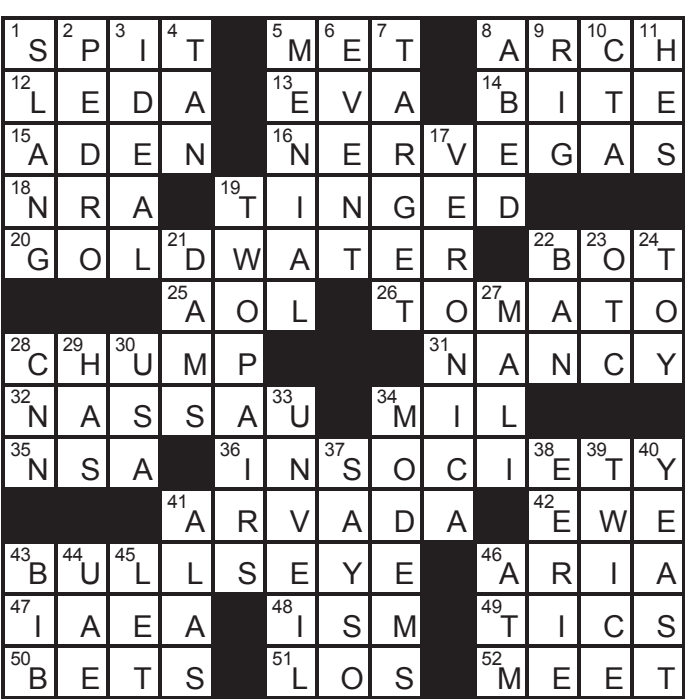
38 Hairless

40 Price

43 It got very wet in Boston

45 Fixed charge

Crossword Puzzle Number 311 Solutions



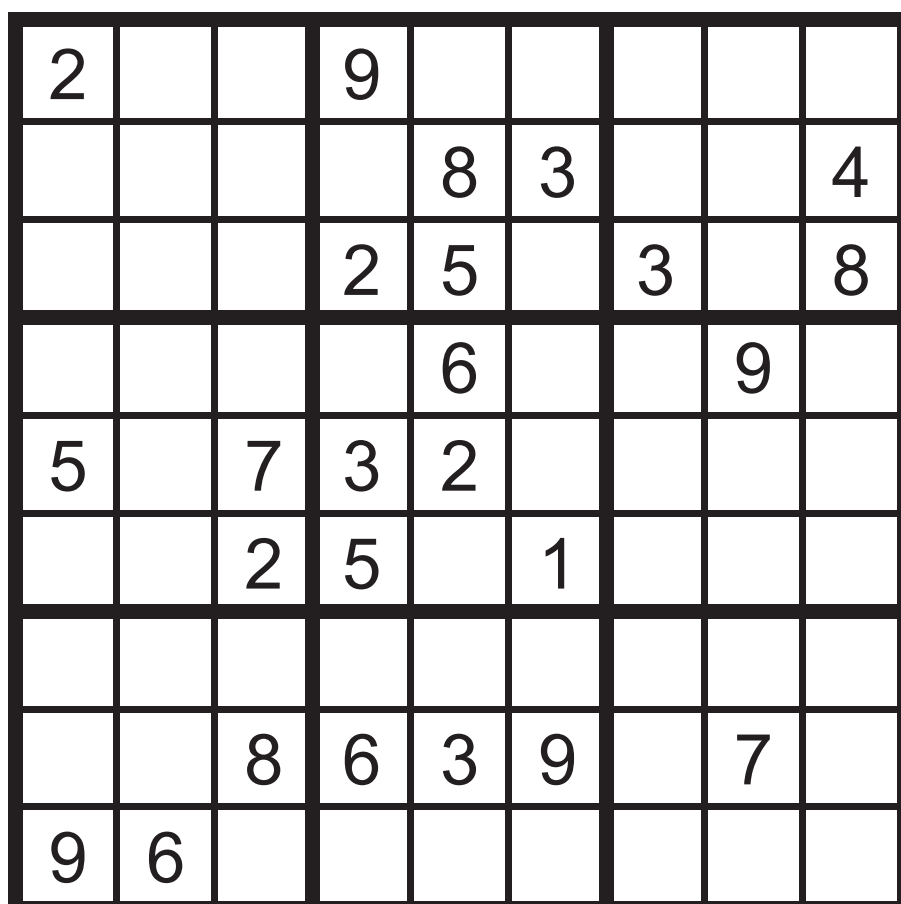
Can You Find What Is Different?



FIND 23 DIFFERENCES



Sudoku Puzzle Number 347 "Medium"



We here at PCCJ love bringing you this outlet where our community can share their ideas, thoughts and events to everyone in Park County.

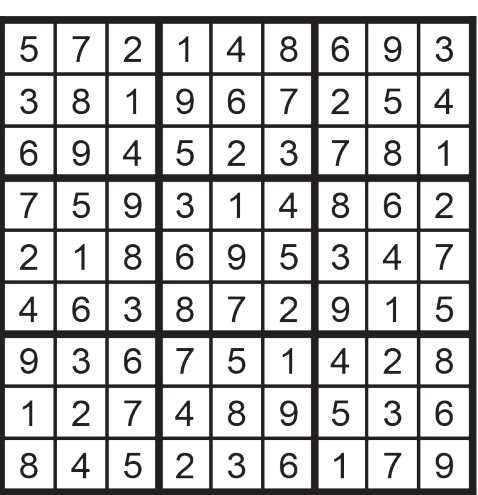
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Sudoku Puzzle Answers 346



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Double-sized sofa bed, like new, \$100/OBO. 406-222-4636

HELP WANTED

- 2024-2025 Vacancies**
Arrowhead School District #75
- **2 Elem Teaching Positions** (1 with P endorsement preferred)
Music and Art Teacher Salary D.O.E., health, dental, and/or vision, certified staff shall be given full step credit on the salary schedule for up to (10) years teaching experience.
 - **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
 - **Bus Driver**
 - **After School Coordinator**
 - **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 wheel chair 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!

School Bus Driver – Arrowhead School is looking for an individual who will be responsible for transporting students safely to and from school. Personal characteristics should include sound judgment, responsibility, calm, self-assured, and likes working with children. Hours are four hours per day, mornings and afternoons, Monday – Thursday with occasional Friday's. Wages start at \$35 per hour. Other requirements include: MT Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with an School Bus "S" and Passenger "P" endorsement, ability to lift 50 pounds, first aid/ CPR, current medical exam, must complete State of Montana annual bus driver training, regular drug testing, driving record release. For more detailed information and job applications go to: <https://www.arrowheadk8.com/job-openings>.

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.

The Gardiner Public School is searching for an assistant elementary girls basketball coach. Qualified applicants will assist the head coach during practice and games, and have a sound knowledge of the game. The season is Monday, Oct 21st - Dec 14th. Please contact Carmen at the Gardiner School (406) 848-7563, or carmen@gardiner.org.

Gardiner Public School is looking for a Custodian (part-time, or full-time with benefits). Salary will be based on experience. Applications are available on our website at www.gardiner.org and can be sent to Super@gardiner.org, or you may

apply at the school (510 Stone St, Gardiner, MT, 59030). If you have any questions please call 406-848-7563. RV spot with hookups available for housing.

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

Maintenance 1 Water Department – Public Works
The City of Livingston is hiring a full-time Maintenance 1 team member in the Water Department under Public Works. This entry-level role involves tasks related to the maintenance, repair, and installation of the City water system and infrastructure. The position offers competitive pay, excellent benefits, and opportunities to learn and develop technical skills in various Public Works areas. A valid U.S. driver's license and the ability to obtain a Class B CDL within six months are required. The job posting and forms can be located here:

www.livingstonmontana.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>.


Short-Term Road Worker - Join our dynamic Public Works Department as a short-term Road Worker, where you'll be at the forefront of maintaining county roads and bridges. From operating patching equipment to mowing scenic routes, your days will be filled with diverse tasks. With opportunities to work independently and collaborate with various stakeholders, including the public and governmental agencies, this role offers a blend of autonomy and community engagement. Embrace the challenge and make a tangible impact on the infrastructure that shapes our county's landscape. Apply now to drive change, quite literally, in Park County! There are multiple short term or seasonal positions available and this job will be open until all are filled. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

Road Operator
Are you looking for a hands-on

career where every day brings new challenges and the chance to make a real impact in your community? Join the Park County Road Department as an Operator! You'll work year-round with a dedicated team, operating heavy equipment to maintain and improve our local roads. Whether you already have a CDL or are ready to take the next step, we've got you covered. No CDL? No problem! We provide full training for the right candidate, helping you earn your CDL within 6 months. We're seeking candidates with a clean driving record who are eager to learn and contribute. In addition to competitive pay and benefits, you'll gain valuable experience and skills that will set you up for long-term success. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.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! Apply now—this position will remain open until filled. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.

Detention Officer -- Are You Trustworthy, Self-Motivated and Punctual? The Park County Sheriff's Office is looking for two new full time team members interested in a career in a law enforcement capacity with our Detention Center. Take pride in performing excellent public service to your community thru providing inmate care. Be formally trained in integral aspects of your field such as PPCT-pressure point control tactics, tactical handcuffing and CIT- Crisis Intervention Training. To apply go online to: <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs>.



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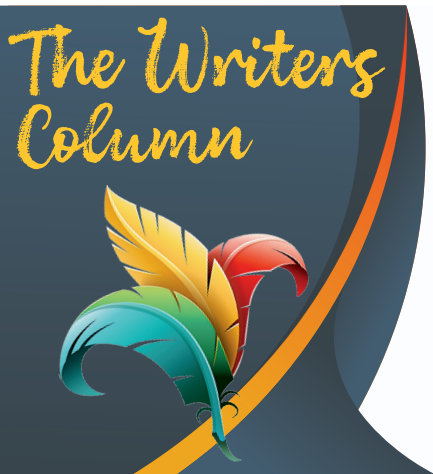
FOR SALE

FOR SALE

SERVICES

SERVICES





by James Kozlik

Marian and I just got back from our third trip to India. We spent the last three days at a quaint hotel in Chennai. It is located in a part of the city where diplomats and other notable people have second homes for when they come to this major city of southern India. There was a whole different ambiance in this area—gated driveways with security guards, garbage cans, less litter on the streets, dog walkers walking labs, poodles and anything but the wild dogs you’d see in other parts of the city. There are actual storefronts instead of street-side vendors.

I could go on but the contrast was quite evident that a caste system is still relatively in place. We exchanged a book from the hotel’s “take one and leave one shelf” located in the lobby.

We exchanged a Bhagavad Gita (basically a Hindu Bible) for a dated book all about the history of India from the Gandhi era until 2011. This book, as we are discovering, is still relevant today. It is revealing the underpinning of a culture very different from ours, yet similar in many of ways. Especially how poverty tends to emerge over time and impacts the future generations of those born into it. Another glaring fact of the greater attention given towards technology and less attention on manufacturing and ignoring the value of agriculture, which may lead to dire circumstances.

As this story progresses I was inspired to bring attention to the small village concept, one that Gandhi preached. The power of sustainability for a country created by caring for its’ food source, rural villages in agricultural regions and equanimity for all. The sequel to this story will be titled “The Journals from India,” which I have just started writing. It will be a fun project and the main characters of this story will continue on forming relationships with the self, others, and God realization! Let’s get back to where we previously left off.

Continuation of “When They Leave” ...

I asked, “How old are you Saadhana?”
 “I am thirteen.”
 “And you go to school?”
 “Yes, and English school to learn your language and ways. The same as Jagadeesh.”

“Your English is very good. Will you help me with some words in your language?”
 “I will, but ours is one of the fourteen hardest languages to learn in the world! And if you are here for a short time you will forget.”

“I can try.”
 She looks at him, gives him a brief smile and nods towards the other bowl with the batter. Harry hands it to her. She takes the ladle and pours some of the batter in the oiled pan. Then she spreads it using the backside of the ladle. Harry watches as it bubbles and fries, “This is Dosa. We eat with it. You will see a lot of Dosa while you are here. Please get water bowl. We will wash hands then eat.”

Harry disappears into the house. Saadhana contemplates her role doing sava. Should I talk to Harry about service? Serving others is good action. Hummm, Aditya has a plan, maybe? He knows that Jagadeesh and

WHEN THEY LEAVE

me will be gone someday, just like Ammaji’s daughter, Saashini.

Harry returns with a bowl of water, and three round metal plates that have a raised rim. “I did not find any forks or spoons.” I have watched Indies eat with their fingers. In the city many eat with forks and spoons.

“Do you know Ayurvedic wellness?” “It’s a preventative medicine.”

“And more than that, it is how do you say it... a lifestyle? We use fingers to eat. They get all of the chakra systems in the body working.”

“You mean stimulate the endocrine system?”

“You sound like scientist. I learn, stimulate the endocrine. So we use five fingers to gather the food, then two fingers like a fork. Today we use this dosa.” And she plops the first dosa on a platter folds it over and scoops the warmed chutney onto the other side of the platter and hands it to Unique.

Unique smiles, nods and then quietly blesses her food. She breaks off a piece of dosa and scoops some chutney on it. Harry watches as she is relishing the first bite.

“Harry, I leave now. You will take care of Ammaji? Okay?” Saadhana gives him a million dollar smile with her pearly white teeth. Harry bobs his head left to right several times and returns the smile. Saadhana leaves but looks over her left shoulder as she passes the gate to get one last glimpse.

What am I to do now? I might as well join Unique and eat breakfast. Then I will sweep the courtyard. And settle into my room. “Harry, marina dayacesi,” Unique nods towards the chutney and batter.”

“More?”
 “Yes.”

He puts together another helping of food for Unique. I wonder if she said more please? “Marina dayacesi, more please?”

Unique bobs her head. Harry serves himself and they finish eating. Unique is smiling at him and observes as Harry gathers things to clean up. He looks at Ammaji. She points to a small trough with a water faucet. It’s on the outside between both rooms. There’s a shelf with cleaning rags, soap, and scouring pads. He finishes the task and looks around. Unique is gone. He looks in her room, nobody there. He goes to the front gate and looks down the street. He sees her walking in the direction of the small temple.

The village has woken up. Now I think I will unpack and get my room comfortable. I wonder what is expected of me? This reminds me of the time in Germany, when I spent a week with a mother and her two daughters. The one daughter was an exchange student in New York and wanted to live in the US.

The mother tried to coerces me under false pretenses. Knowing I would not marry. Hell, I was too young and the girl was not my style.

Not that the previous experience has anything to do what is going on now. But maybe it does? In a way? Am I here for a purpose? I better pay attention, because the sense I have right now is that there is an underlying expectation of me. And how do I say no, I don’t want to be a caregiver? And can I? My attitudes are so different now. After all these years of maturity, I see life unfold differently. Isn’t that why I chose to come to India? Discover a new personal identity? What am I seeking anyway? Perhaps to be a kinder person? Maybe become more compassionate?

Harry opens the amore, there are two beautiful saris hanging up inside.

Oh, who’s saris are these? The daughter’s? Probably. I wonder if she comes to visit. I wonder where she is now. Why she left the village and her mother. Who’s the father and why isn’t he here?...

To Be Continued...



Landmark

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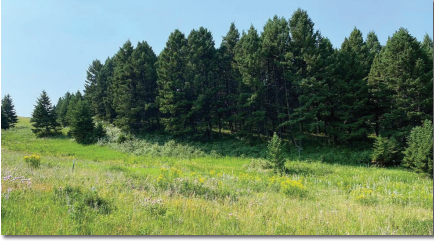
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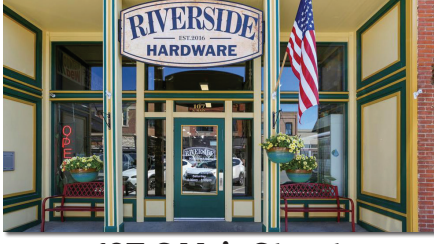
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 Robin Nelson | 406-600-9034



30 S Woodard Ave, Absarokee
 Commercial Sale | 2,560 sq ft
 #388822 | \$223,000
 Jessie Sarrazin | 406-223-5881



TBD Moose Meadows Rd
 Land Listing | 19+ acres
 #394183 | \$395,000
 Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



107 S Main Street
 Commercial Sale | 7,061 sq ft
 #395132 | \$1,950,000
 Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



16 Wild Horse
 3 beds 2 baths | 2,016 sq ft
 #390156 | \$1,400,000
 Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



759 Castle Mountain Rd
 3 beds 3 baths | 2,772 sq ft
 #397719 | \$849,000
 Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



102 Elliot Street S
 Commercial Sale | 5,676 sq ft
 #397924 | \$1,500,000
 Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



107 Elliot Street N
 Comm: 3,104 sq ft # 398072 | Res: 704 sq ft #398098 | \$600,000
 Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



1112 Pritchard NW
 3 beds 1 bath | 1,104 sq ft |
 #397220 | \$179,000
 Rachel Moore | 406-794-4971



618 E 2nd Avenue
 3 beds 1.5 baths | 1,439 sq ft
 #397694 | \$330,000
 Deb Kelly | 406-220-0801



325 N 3rd Street
 Multi-Family | 5+ Units
 #394662 | \$829,000
 Gillian Swanson | 406-220-4340



49 Two Dot Highway
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 #389858 | \$300,000
 Rachel Moore | 406-794-4971

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Candlelight Tours Offered at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park will once again host candlelight tours of the entire developed cave route.

This special event allows visitors to see and enjoy the caverns by the warm, festive glow of candle lanterns—the same way the first explorers viewed them. Participants must make a reservation and purchase tickets prior to their tour.

Tours will be offered from Dec.

20th - 22nd and Dec. 27th - 29th.

The starting times of these tours will vary, depending on park staffing for the day.

Park staff will provide tour guides, candles, lanterns and hot drinks. The cost for this unique event is \$25 for

visitors ages 15 and older, and \$15 for visitors ages 5 to 14. All participants must be at least 5 years of age. Nonresident visitors must pay an \$8-per-vehicle entrance fee as they enter the park.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and must be purchased online or by phone starting Dec. 2nd at 8 am.

To purchase tickets, go to <https://montanastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 1-855-922-6768. No tickets will be sold at the park visitor center.

What to expect

Candlelight tours follow the entire developed cave route, with a ¾-mile uphill walk on a potentially icy and snowy path to reach the cave entrance. Visitors must complete

this within 30 minutes to be eligible for the tour. Participants are encouraged to be prepared for winter conditions on roads and trails at the park.

Walking the ¾-mile underground trail involves turning, bending, duck

waddling and a slide. The first half will use the cave lights, and the second half will use the glow of candle lanterns. The tour provides an intimate look at cave formations, known as speleothems. Visitors will visit Decision Rock, the Cathedral Room, the Pit, Garden of the Gods, the Brown Waterfall Room and the Paradise Room. The tour concludes with a flat, half-mile



Photo Credit: lewisandclark.travel



walk back to the visitor center on a potentially icy or snowy path. The total walking distance is 2 miles.

During the tour, visitors will pass near hibernating bats. White-nose syndrome, a fungus that affects bats but not people, has reached Montana. Bat mortalities from the disease have exceeded 80 percent in some areas. Managers are requiring precautions from visitors to reduce additional stressors to this fragile cave resource. Visitors cannot bring any clothing or other items that have been to another cave or mine in the past five years.

All tours are by a trained guide. No self-guided tours are available. The

cave has an average temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit and over 90 percent humidity year-round, regardless of outside weather. Most areas are dimly lit, and some are narrow and enclosed. Visitors should consider bringing a warm jacket, good walking shoes and bottled water. Pets, strollers, backpacks and purses are not allowed.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is about 15 miles southeast of Whitehall, along Montana Highway 2. For more information about the park, go to <https://fwp.mt.gov/state-parks/lewis-and-clark-caverns> or call 406-287-3541.

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December 3rd	15% Off	Reclining Furniture
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