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Community Journal

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Week of August 10, 2025

Plein Air Painting on the Yellowstone at the Livingston Center for Art and Culture



Plein Air Kids Activities at the Livingston Farmers Market

Since 2009, the Livingston Center for Art and Culture has proudly hosted Plein Air Painting on the Yellowstone. This year, a gathering of 35 talented artists will converge to capture the breathtaking beauty of Park County, culminating in a stunning Wet-Paint Gala on August 8th that is open to the public.

Kurt Benson is a participating artist who says, "Growing up in the rural west, my ap-

preciation of nature and its dazzling color palate came easily. Moving to Montana 25 years ago, I discovered a way to bring art and nature together. Plein air hooked me."

Sandra Newman is also a participating artist that shared, "Painting, especially plein air, has become a spiritual event for me. If I can capture the feeling of a particular subject and convey that to the viewer, I

[See Plein Air, Page 2](#)

Get Ready for the 49th Annual Shields Valley Old Settler's Days

The annual Old Settler's Day Festival must be near when the summer temperatures are cooling, it's time to shop for back-to-school supplies for the kids, and the leaves are starting to turn. The two-day festival is Saturday and Sunday, August 23rd and 24th. The theme is "Teams, Trains & Trucks."

The small town of Clyde Park, a farming and ranching community on U.S. Hwy 89 North about 20 miles north of Livingston hosts the celebration. "Many established families have been in this area since 1877," said Dolores Davis, past president. This year marks the 49th anniversary of the first Old Settler's Days event.

It starts off with the **Firemen's Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday morning at 8 am, followed by the **Ranch Run** at 9 am. Registration for the Run is at 8:30



am. The run has 10k, 5k and 1-mile walk/run options. The **Old Settler's parade** starts at 11 am, but lineup at the school (for judging) begins at 10 am. Grand Marshalls are Doe Stafford along with Lyle and Myrt Woosley.

Saturday is packed with activities. There are arts and crafts vendors offering their wares. The FFA has a **corn-hole tournament** and their sale of rubber duckies (to be personalized) is under-

[See Old Settler's Days, Page 2](#)

Bulk Water Battle of Big Timber

Big Timber—An estimated 70 residents were present during the public hearing and regular city council meeting scheduled for Monday, August 4th located at the Carnegie Library on 314 McLeod Street in Big Timber. The meeting, led by Mayor Greg DeBoer, primarily concerned resolution #1044, an amendment to the city's budget for fiscal year 2024 – 2025. However, the proverbial elephant in the room sat quietly in anticipation, noted by Mayor DeBoer as he remarked, "It's like you guys are waiting for something," shortly after proceedings commenced.

Reports have surfaced that the City of Big Timber is now selling an average of 100 thousand gallons of water daily (initially reported



Tony Crowder
Managing Editor

at 27,000 gallons, though since clarified by Big Timber Public Works Director Kris Novotny to the infamous Crazy Mountain Ranch (CMR) amidst a controversial water rights dispute in the Shields Valley, recently settled through a lawsuit filed by the Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC) upon receiving a flurry of complaints from neighboring ranchers claiming misuse.

CMR had, for nearly two years, appropriated water resources in order to irrigate an 18-hole private golf course currently under construction, eventually discontinuing irrigation just one day prior to the DNRC filing the lawsuit which alleged illegal water use—initially refusing to comply with a preceding cease-and-desist order.

In the weeks leading up to the lawsuit, CMR approached Big Timber Municipal about regularly purchasing bulk water supplies to compensate for this loss, an arrangement facilitated by Bullock Contracting LLC, a general contracting company based in Big

Timber. Owner-operator Buster Bullock and his crew employ a small squadron of tankers to transport treated water to CMR each day—extracted from the nearby Boulder River.

The arrangement between Big Timber municipal and CMR, documented in part by the *Montana Free Press Association* since mid-July, has allegedly unfolded over several weeks, amounting to a barrage of complaints from locals denouncing it as patently immoral in light of water rights violations committed by the now notorious organization, as well as increases to commercial and residential water rates (historically inexpensive yet recently and necessarily adjusted to account for inflation).

Following monthly reports from the Sheriff's and Public Works department, public



Photo Credit: Jacob Schwarz—schwarzcaptures.com

commentary at the meeting began with opening statements by DeBoer, who would persistently reiterate on several occasions that the city, well within it's rights as a municipality (a notion later questioned during public commentary and confirmed by City Attorney Jim Lippert with consultation from

[See Bulk Water Sales, Page 4](#)

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Plein Air

from page 1



Plein Air Réception 2024 Photo by Henry Harrison

feel I've been successful."
On Wednesday, August 6th, you can

catch many of the Plein Air artists at the Livingston Farmers Market. It's an excellent chance not only to see their artistry in action but also to enjoy engaging activities for kids hosted by the Center.

Plein Air Painting on the Yellowstone will be on display at the center from August 8th to September 6th. In addition to the Gala on August 8th, mark your calendars for an additional Reception during the Livingston Art Walk on August 22nd, from 5:30 to 8 pm.

Visit us at the Center, located at 119 South Main Street in the heart of historic downtown Livingston. For more details, reach out to us at (406) 222-5222 or explore our offerings



Plein Air 2024 David Narvaez

at <http://www.livingstoncenter.org>. Don't miss this vibrant celebration of art!

Old Settler's Days

from page 1

way for their Sunday Rubber Ducky race. There is also a **quilt show**, the *Wheels Along the Shields car show*, a **rifle raffle**, games in the street, a **silent auction**, a **pie auction**, conversations with old-timers, and a museum display featuring Montanans who have been inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame. There will be plenty of fun activities for youngsters of all ages to enjoy. Live music in the afternoon with Meyer'd Down.

Event festivities are up and going again with a barbeque with Jeff Sarrazin at 6 pm. Festivalgoers may then enjoy a dance from 7 to 11 pm, with more live music from Meyer'd Down.

Sunday gets started at 9:30 am with the **Rubber Ducky Race** at the Shields

River Bridge. Next up is an old-fashioned, outdoor (weather permitting), **church-community service**, which is non-denominational in Holliday Park at 10:30 am, followed by a **potluck picnic** in the Clyde Park community hall at 12 pm to honor the Grand Marshalls of the parade.

There's something very special about spending time with our elders, and hearing stories about their hardships and victories. Last year, proceeds from the events were donated to the Clyde Park Community Hall, both the Wilsall and Clyde Park Fire Departments and scholarships for

seniors graduating Shields Valley High School. This festival is about celebrating community!

For more information about Shields Valley Old Settler's Days, call Jeff Sarrazin at 406-220-1951 or Lacey Arthun at 406-788-3676.



Shields Valley Old Settler's Day Parade

Check Your Schedule and Save The Date for the "Forget Me Knot Music and Art Fest"

Looking for a fun weekend escape? Want to go to the mountains and see something new? It's time to take in the third annual "FORGET ME



KNOT MUSIC & ART FEST" in Cooke City on August 15th and 16th. Seven singer/songwriter musicians from across the Northern Rockies will perform in a unique setting nestled between the soaring peaks in Cooke City. Add in area artisan booths, a fun raffle and silent auction plus food and beverages to complete the fun.

Music groups scheduled to appear are: A Brother's Fountain, Kalyn Beasley, Lost Canyons, Satsang, Ella Cole, Lena Marie Schiffer, and Parker Brown. Art Vendors will be present with a wide variety of artistic endeavors for sale. In addition, an onsite silent auction and raffle on Saturday, will include matted photographs and original art prints, jewelry and belt buckles, restaurant meals, vintage Yellowstone photo posters and lots more. For some specialty items and original framed art, check out the online advance festival auction available at <https://forgetmeknotfest.org/product-category/auction-items/>.

For more information and to purchase tickets for the festival, visit <https://forgetmeknotfest.org>.

The Forget Me Knot Music and Art Fest is a comprehensive initiative of the Colter Pass, Cooke City and Silver Gate Community Council and has been planned to 1) showcase the best in regional art and music talent against the breathtaking mountain town backdrop of Cooke City, 2) help transform the vision of the Cooke City/Silver Gate area from simply a gateway community to a destination location, and 3) foster a sense of community, fun, and adventure in support of a lively and aesthetic region. For 20 years, the Colter Pass, Cooke City and Silver Gate Community Council has been a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to advancing the area.


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OP-ED

by Patricia Grabow

How Much Fake Can Authenticity Take?

Opinion Editorials state the views solely of the author and do not reflect the views of the Community Journal.

The fight to save Montana's authentic character has been an uphill battle for decades, though to Livingston's credit, we've managed to safeguard a lot of it. Not all, and it's always been a struggle, but a lot, most of the downtown included. And now we face fresh assaults.

For exhibit A, drive with me for a minute out to Springdale, which most of you knows is a basically pleasant Montana town. However, few know it and the Hunter's Hot Springs site have apparently been more or less acquired (like you might buy a historic souvenir postcard from Ebay) by yet another non-native with absolutely more money than God, who's apparently decided to turn it into the facade of a gated community but without the gated community actual purpose. This small, rural town now has a series of new expensive high brick walls, obscuring Montana views while basically adding no security, and placed as erratically as dropped Legos.



You almost have to see it. If you're going to Californicate a Montana town, at least do it credibly, this is not even half convincing. And I guarantee you those gigabucks were made somewhere very far from Springdale.

It almost drips contempt for anything native or authentic or respectful of the Treasure State's naturally evolved beauty, simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and roots in agriculture, ranching, or tourism, which stretch back to the days when Hunter's was still a stop along the Northern Pacific mainline.

It's been hits and misses back here in town, and our Historic Preservation Commission has mostly done its job. But it seems that there is a behind the scenes effort to undermine 46 years of work to keep Livingston from being the historic icon it, in fact, is. Which brings us to Exhibit B.

There actually exist people who think bulbouts all throughout our historic downtown are a good idea. Anyone remember seeing these oddities in old photos over at the Gateway Museum ever? Me neither.

And let's add quickly, they are incredibly unintelligent. They steal so much space that delivery trucks, which pump the downtown's lifeblood, can't get around them. When we put millions into our streets and sidewalks in 2012, the then Public Works director wanted permanent bulbouts, which is how the one at the library happened. But we chose not to do them, not just for historic preservation, but because

the permanent versions are much harder to keep snow-free in winter and just imagine snowplows having to deal with them. But even as just a "temporary" summer thing they are just as hard on local businesses.

Bulbouts are a literal direct assault on your freedom to drive where you need. People who don't have to earn real livelihoods could only ever have designed them. Arguments like the Crescendo firm made that "Oh, but everyone else is doing them!" are foolish.

So for an idea as bad as this, do you announce it so people can find out, or do you sneak it in the back door? Well, ideally the back door - but you must first claim it was only a "trial." But if the idea was dumb and destructive in the first place, why else would you trial it at all?

And I am skeptical that the current commission and staff really place respecting our authentic character high on their priorities list. Remember people always got rid of our most beautiful historic buildings (possibly by questionable means), like the Canyon Hotel in Yellowstone, or, according to my late historian friend Warren McGee, the magnificent Grand and Albemarle hotels here in Livingston, for, in addition to being where someone wanted parking lots, not being faddish and "modern" enough. Sometimes you have to tell peer pressure to go fly a kite.

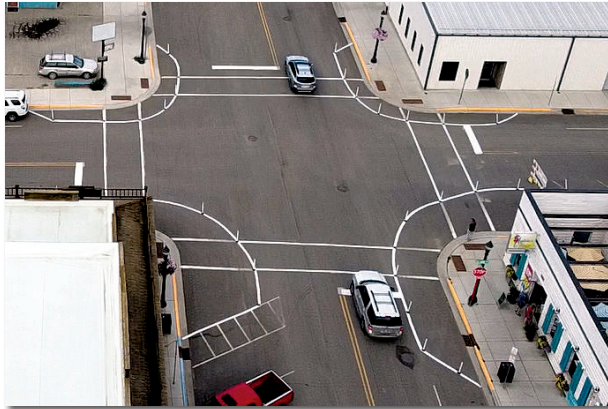
I have been following comments given on Facebook and almost universally, the citizens of Livingston are against them and want them taken down yesterday.

Why would we destroy our authentic character when we could even, as I have argued before, possibly qualify as a "UNESCO World Heritage Site" as the original rail entrance to the first national park in the world, just south of here, which you may perhaps have heard of. (For you wannabe modernizers out there, a hint: it starts with a Y.)

We have stood against many planning idiocies from elsewhere before (remember their one-way streets schemes?), and we can do so again. Common sense is rarely that common.

The reality is, a small elitist group, with a well-oiled political machine behind it, feels entitled to dominate those whom they dismissively call "locals," in disrespect to the fact the rest of us are fully entitled citizens. It's gotten where I'm even suspicious now of that sign saying "Enjoy Livingston like the locals!" Is that urban saviourism trying to creep in somewhere?

But we seriously do have to keep watch.



I've seen condescensions out of people at city meetings that would sink their campaigns if many voters besides yours truly had been actively watching. I am all for common ground—but slipping things in on the sly lest the "local yokels" take notice is the exact opposite of how to seek that.

Livingston has what *Architectural Digest* called "One of the Most Beautiful Main Streets in America" by evolution and preservation, not by the Music Man. It has taken 46 years of work to preserve what was always beautiful to begin with. One milestone along the way was the Herculean effort called the "Historic Resources of Livingston" approved in June of 1979, when the architecture firm of Kommers, McLaughlin & Leavengood, put over 400 sites in Livingston on the National Register of Historic Places collectively. With the help of the local HPC supposed to uphold that, the National Historic Preservation Commission, Livingston has made sure that what you see today stays true to the authentic character that dates to the turn of the century (you know which one I mean). Why cave now?

So, while poor Dillon, Montana, was allowing things like mansard roofs on storefronts, for

the last 46 years our members of our Historic Preservation Commission managed to mostly say "No."

I could tell you many stories about "rules for thee but not for me." Reportedly the Legislature's action against the Montana Historic Preservation Commission's local officers grew out of a disgruntled Missoula woman's offense at actual restrictions. What an unbelievable price to pay to the selfish. It echoes the familiar assaults on the Growth Policy (have I ever mentioned that?)

Of course, the City Commission can reinstate the roots of our local Historic Preservation Commission and give it the power it deserves. But the real question is, are they trying to sneak in their pet anti-historic projects in first to end-run real process? You watch—they will first try to claim the non-concrete temporary version was "uncontroversial." As the saying runs, nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program.

This line must be held, or I guarantee more will follow. It is not just the bulbouts that alarm meeting-attending policy wonks like me. If you read the entire *Livingston Master Plan* created by this city commission with the Crescendo consulting firm, the insults threatened against our beloved authenticity in this beautiful, historic Montana town are legion.

It's on the city website and worth reading to learn all they are really planning on the sly. Not only have they not said how the Livingston "Master Plan" will be implemented, but as if bulbouts weren't delusional enough, they've even suggested cordoning off Main Street and making it—I am not making this up—a walking area. What literal planet are these clowns (sorry about that, to the actual clowns out there) from? Does nobody there actually have to earn a real-life living?

You can bet the M.O. will once again be a stealthy, unannounced rubberstamped approval. For evidence, look to the bulbouts.

If you want to stay less fake than a snake oil salesman in \$50,000 crocodile cowboy boots, it may be time yet again to get out of the saddle and stamp your foot down hard. Because when the few feel entitled to sidestep public opinion, it usually takes nothing less.

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OP-ED

by Sam Byrne

Crazy Mountain Ranch: We Are Committed to This Community

Opinion Editorials state the views solely of the author and do not reflect the views of the Community Journal.

As you may have heard, Crazy Mountain Ranch signed a consent agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation regarding watering its golf course under construction.

On behalf of Crazy Mountain Ranch, I want to apologize to the Shields Valley community for getting ahead of the process for irrigating the golf course.

Since we acquired CMR from Philip Morris in 2021, we have aimed to be good neighbors and stewards of the land.

We remain committed to retaining the unique character of the ranch and continuing the ranch and agricultural operations, but also to ensuring a financially self-sustaining enterprise.

We thought we could water our golf course with our decreed irrigation water while seeking the appropriate change of place-of-use

approvals from the DNRC. I want to apologize for how we handled that. It was based on our understanding of the DNRC's policy historically and was a mistake on our part. We pledge to do better going forward.

Here is some background on who we are. I am co-founder and managing partner at CrossHarbor Capital, an investment firm based in Boston that specializes in real estate. Our projects span the United States. As a developer, we are long-term investors—we don't sell to make a quick profit. We've been active in southwest Montana for 20 years and statewide employ more than 3,000 Montanans and use more than 2,000 contractors and service providers.

When we acquired CMR, it was not a profitable operation. Philip Morris had used the ranch for guests to reward its best tobacco customers.

Our top priority from the outset was to NOT pursue aggressive development. Instead, we decided to continue the historical operation of a guest ranch and add a golf club, with overnight stays instead of private residential development. We could have located the golf course within the existing place-of-use of our irrigation water rights and avoided the DNRC process entirely. But that would have required very substantial changes in the existing landscape, contrary to our firmly held belief that any course must fit the existing landscape and not the other way around.

Longer term, we intend to create conservation easements that would permit continued ranch and ag operations as well as recreational use. Key to this program is adding recreational amenities such as golf to support demand. Amenities will not include ski lifts. We have agreed to not use our decreed

water rights for the golf course until we receive the appropriate authorizations. In the meantime, we are irrigating with water acquired legally from other sources, and DNRC has approved and is monitoring that activity.

Since acquiring the ranch, we have been committed to this community for the long haul—and that hasn't changed. CMR currently employs about 130 people, nearly all of whom live in the area.

We committed \$500,000 to improve the facilities at Shields Valley Public Schools as part of last year's bond measure, which unfortunately did not pass. But we stand ready to make that gift when it does. We donated \$750,000 to help support construction of a recreation center at Katie Bonnell Memorial Park in Livingston. This is just a start, as demonstrated by the significant community efforts we've undertaken with our other projects.

Crazy Mountain Ranch will continue to play an important role in the community. We are your neighbors and we want to be good neighbors. We are committed to discussing how we can collaborate with the community to continue to improve this magnificent place.

Sam Byrne is co-founder and managing partner of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, owner of Crazy Mountain Ranch.

Bulk Water Sales

from page 1

DNRC counsel), had sold bulk water to various entities both private and public for at least 30 years—a decision he vehemently upheld, citing examples of other large-quantity transactions negotiated by the city yet without reproach from residents.

He further clarified that bulk water sales place no undue strain on the city's water supply or system, and that any indication otherwise would warrant suspending such transactions. According to the Mayor, the agreement with CMR is non-contractual and on a limited basis.

Councilman Justin Ferguson indicated that the all-inclusive costs (including water system employee wages and loan payments, amongst other expenses) to process bulk water sold at \$14 per one thousand gallons is roughly \$6. In other words, the city profits virtually \$8 per one thousand gallons sold in bulk, totaling nearly \$800 daily (a whopping \$24,000 monthly) as a result of its current arrangement with CMR.

Several residents then took to the podium to express indignation and demand answers

for questions regarding the legal ramifications and financial implications of this decision—specifically how bulk water sales rates are determined and whether profits are being used to benefit the community. Many speakers suggested raising rates or adding surcharges to offset controversial increases to water costs and repair city roadways.

DeBoer explained that profits procured through bulk water sales are stored in coffers reserved for ongoing maintenance of the city's water system, including replacing aging water lines and repairing facilities and equipment in accordance with a set budget. He clarified that progressively rising usage rates (now approximately equivalent to the state median) are independent from bulk water sales and that profits may not be used for purposes other than to support existing water system infrastructure if and when necessary—aged and aging, increasingly costly and unpredictable, requiring both major investments and precautionary funding.

To this point, commissioner Leonard Woehler explained that repairing damaged water and sewage lines indirectly benefited city roadways and that such projects had been



Photo Credit: Jacob Schwarz— schwarzcaptures.com

mental increases over the years to compensate for wearing infrastructure. Though recent progress has been made, the city is continuously seeking funding for long overdue repairs and other measures to expand and improve its water and sewage systems.

"This is a great opportunity to bring in additional funds for [improving] infrastructure without raising [usage] rates," said Woehler, who attended the meeting virtually.

The bulk rate, according to notetaker Hope Mosness, was established in 2008 and, at that time, increased from \$10 to \$14. Increasing the rate arbitrarily, according to DeBoer, is not an option—instead, he discussed drafting a new bulk water sales policy, the need for which is unprecedented after 30 years.

He stated, "We want to make sure we have a sustainable, valid policy grounded in facts and reason," stressing that indiscriminately increasing rates without developing and implementing a new policy may constitute discrimination, resulting in a potential lawsuit. "We're not subsidizing wealthy people," said DeBoer, who assured attendees that public input would be considered during this process, though without interjecting moral judgment into the finished product.

Other recommendations expressed

during public commentary regarding the policy included but are not limited to annual incremental rate adjustments and rate differentiation for private/public sector and local/non-local entities—the latter of which would inherently affect sales to organizations like CMR, a private corporation located in Park County.

DeBoer stated that the council has begun this process and will continue addressing this issue in the coming weeks. A public hearing will eventually be held to adopt this policy by the council.

Comments furthermore addressed the potential environmental consequences and other ethical considerations of selling bulk water—for example, monitoring water levels of the Boulder River and maintaining a sufficient supply for potential fires and necessary irrigation in light of seasonal restrictions. Novotny insisted that these fears were unfounded, as water levels were assessed regularly to ensure bulk sales did not interfere with the city's water capacity.

Questions also emerged surrounding speculation that CMR had inquired about purchasing bulk water from White Sulphur Springs, offering twice as much money but rejected, raising concerns about the city of Big Timber's values.

Comparing this arrangement and other large-scale transactions conducted with businesses like JKL LLC, one resident said, "CMR is not doing us any good. They provide no public services."

Consistently, the most glaring criticisms concerned the city supporting CMR in their mission—an exclusive club whose management knowingly and intentionally abused water privileges.

"This is a county of ranchers. We know what it's like to support and honor water rights," said another resident.

Republican Central Committee Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 11, 2025
6:30 pm

207 So 2nd St., Livingston

Paid for by Park County Republicans, PO Box 42, Livingston, MT. Kent Hanawalt, Treasurer

ongoing contingent upon funding—otherwise obtained by increasing usage rates for citizens, a decision recently deferred by the council, per DeBoer.

According to DeBoer, water rates in the city of Big Timber were exponentially low with few if any incre-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Opinion Editorials state the views solely of the author and do not reflect the views of the Community Journal.

Red Flags in the Crazy Mountains

Dear Editor,

It's encouraging to see local media shedding light on the water rights dispute surrounding Crazy Mountain Ranch (CMR). Investigative efforts by advocate Keegan Nashan have not only advanced public understanding of the issue but also revealed another layer to the saga: the quiet removal of the Crazy Mountain Access

Project (CMAP) website. To fully grasp CMAP's involvement in this matter, it's essential to first understand the tight-knit connection between the Yellowstone Club and the Park County Environmental Council (PCEC). Mike DuCuennois, named as a defendant in the suit, is the listed contact of all CMR water rights and filed the change applications

to irrigate CMR's golf course. In addition, DuCuennois represents the Yellowstone Club on CMAP, a role he has held since 2020. CMAP is facilitated by the Yellowstone Club and operates under the sponsorship of PCEC. Importantly, DuCuennois also serves as Executive Vice President of Development at Lone Mountain Land Company. This overlap raises reasonable questions about whether PCEC was already aware of development plans involving CMR and its affiliated entities. According to Nashan's publicly available timeline, she called DuCuennois on October 7, 2024. The following day, she called PCEC's Erika Lighthiser (sic) "informing of CMR actions." In the immediate aftermath, the CMAP website went dark. The link now listed on PCEC's website redirects to an Indonesian site promoting football gambling. Based on archived records available through the Wayback Machine (www.crazy-mountainproject.com), this disappearance cannot reasonably be dismissed as the result of a technical error. The timing is too precise.

It appears to be a calculated effort to conceal the ties between CMAP, PCEC, the Yellowstone Club, and other affiliated actors. The website previously promoted its support for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange, an active U.S. Forest Service project in which both the Yellowstone Club and Crazy Mountain Ranch are prominently involved through their respective business affiliates. If CMAP and PCEC are truly advocating for public access and environmental stewardship, then why hide their affiliations with developers who stand to benefit from restricted access and luxury expansion? Why try and erase a public record of these connections now? What does this say about the integrity of the process? The removal of the CMAP site is a red flag, and it demands scrutiny. These connections are not incidental—they are essential to understanding the full scope of this issue. Readers deserve full transparency.

Sheila Royston
Wilsall

UPDATE: The Water Saga of Crazy Mountain Ranch

The story published last week regarding the Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC) and Crazy Mountain Ranch (CMR) has been updated to reflect several important facts pertinent to providing a fully comprehensive and objective overview of the situation still unfolding in the Shields Valley. These updates include but are



Tony Crowder
Managing Editor

not limited to information regarding original water permitting inherited by CMR through purchase from Phillip Morris International, a new Application to Change of Appropriation Water Right submitted by CMR to the DNRC (dated May 23rd, 2025), and correspondences between the *Journal* and Patricia Spencer, Communications Sector Supervisor at the DNRC. Other minor semantic changes have been implemented to enhance overall clarity and depth. All such changes are crucial for fully contextualizing the people, events, and timeline described within the article and should be considered when interpreting relevant



information. Changes may be viewed on the digital version of the article, available on our website at <https://www.pccjournal.com/>

the-water-saga-of-crazy-mountain-ranch/. For further information, please contact tony@pccjournal.com.

Stafford Animal Shelter Announces Promotion of Alicia Davis to Executive Director

The Stafford Animal Shelter is delighted to announce the appointment of Alicia Davis as its new Executive Director as of June 2025. With over a decade of dedicated service to the shelter, Alicia has been instrumental in advancing the mission and programming. Since joining the shelter in 2015, Alicia has held various positions within the organization, including Development Director and Director of Operations. Throughout her tenure, she has demonstrated compassion and commitment to the pets and people of Park County and greater Montana by prioritizing animal welfare, networking and community values. Alicia completed a two-year fellowship with the University of Wisconsin's Veterinary School of Shelter Medicine focusing on improving overall capacity for care, life-saving shelter medicine advancements and operational efficiency. With her guidance, Stafford has made cutting-edge changes to operations including managing intakes, offering pet retention resources for pet owners and following latest recommendations for shelter medicine protocols. President of the Board of Directors, Gwen Strachan says, "During Alicia's time with us, she has overseen progressive changes and strengthened our community connections. She has also experienced the heart break of hoarding cases, a flood that destroyed our



Photo courtesy of Maeve McGrath for Stafford Animal Shelter June 2025: "Alicia Davis, Executive Director of Stafford Animal Shelter in Livingston, with her alumni dog Cider".

shelter and increases in surrenders due to housing and economic challenges that face Livingston. Through it all she has remained a positive and practical member of the team focusing on successful outcomes for families and pets in need. She continues, "Animal welfare is a constantly evolving field and we need a leader with an open mind and willingness to change with it. The Board and I believe Alicia will lead our team in a positive direction and build on our reach and services." Alicia says, "I am honored that the Board has entrusted me to oversee Stafford Animal Shelter, what I consider to be the 'Best Little

Shelter in the West.' Before starting on staff here ten years ago, I was a volunteer, foster and donor—the mission of our shelter is ingrained in me, I live it and believe in it wholeheartedly. It goes far beyond a job, it's my calling and my community and I'm proud to work with a team who feels the same way. We are passionate about advocating for animals and our neighbors, and working to make a lasting difference in their lives." She continues, "With the help of our supporters, I am committed to ensuring Stafford is sustainable, successful, safe-haven for years to come." In the past year, Stafford Animal Shelter has taken in over 1,200 animals and helped countless families with financial resources



and supplies in order to keep their pets. The shelter is a 501c3 non-profit and relies on the financial support of individual and business donors to continue its lifesaving mission. Stafford's priorities are preventing animal distress, facilitating adoptions and reunions, minimizing pet overpopulation, pioneering humane education & community outreach. The shelter also offers safety net services to community members through their "Friends for Life" program such as a free food pantry, pet supplies, emergency boarding, financial assistance for medication and veterinary care. If you would like to donate to help their programming or help a shelter animal please contact Alicia at ADavis@staffordanimalshelter.org

Meals for
August 11th - 15th

Mon., Aug. 11th - Liver & onions, mashed potatoes, peas, banana, milk

Tues., Aug. 12th - Clam Chowder, breadstick, celery sticks, oranges, milk

Wed., Aug. 13th - Chicken enchiladas, refried beans, Spanish rice, cake, banana, milk

Thurs., Aug. 14th - Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, carrots, gravy, applesauce, milk

Fri., Aug. 15th - Tortellini primavera, zucchini & yellow squash, garlic bread, cake, pineapple, milk

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Where Little Minds Grow Up With Big Ideas

Do You Know What Teaching Method Aligns with Your Lifestyle?

Melissa Whithorn, Program Director, Future Promises

Teaching children under the age of five represents a crucial phase in their educational journey. During this stage, children are incredibly receptive, eager to learn and explore their surroundings. Educators have developed specialized approaches to support the developmental needs of young learners effectively.

One prominent method is the **Montessori Method**, which prioritizes hands-on learning, independence, and personalized education. This approach employs carefully designed environments and child-sized furnishings to promote autonomy and

focus, with teachers serving as guides to facilitate exploration rather than direct instruction.

Another practical approach is the **Reggio Emilia method**, which encourages creativity and self-expression through collaborative exploration and artistic endeavors.

This philosophy views children as competent individuals, allowing them to articulate their thoughts and ideas through various forms of expression, including art and storytelling.

Additionally, **play-based learning** recognizes the significance of engag-

ing, playful activities in the learning process. This method aligns with the understanding that children often learn best when they are actively involved and having fun.

These educational strategies share fundamental principles, such as respecting a child's natural curiosity, promoting active engagement, and supporting social-emotional development. By implementing these methods, educators can help cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills from an early age. Furthermore, these practices foster positive social interactions and emotional resilience.

Overall, acknowledging the importance of tailored teaching strategies during these formative years underscores their profound impact on a child's academic achievement as well as their overall growth and well-being. Here are four great questions to help you learn what your current or future center teaches.

1. What is the core educational

philosophy or approach of your center?

(e.g., Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Waldorf, play-based, faith-based, nature-focused)

2. How does your philosophy influence daily activities, interactions, and curriculum planning?

(Ask for specific examples of how their approach is reflected in the classroom environment and routines.)

3. How do you support individual differences (such as learning styles or cultural backgrounds) within your philosophical framework?

(This helps you understand how they embrace diversity and personalized learning.)

4. What values and goals do you aim to instill in children through your philosophy?

(For example, independence, creativity, moral values, and environmental awareness)



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8 A.M. - 4 P.M. QUILT SHOW

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8:30 A.M. - REGISTRATION SVOS RANCH RUN

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Lacey Arthun 788-3676

SVOS RANCH RUN

10K STARTS 9 A.M.

5K STARTS 9:15 A.M.

1 MILE WALK/RUN 9:30 A.M.

Start/Finish at Holliday Park in CP

RIFLE RAFFLE

Jeff Sarrazin 220-1951

10 A.M. PARADE LINE UP

Line up at SV High School

11 A.M. PARADE (NO ENTRY FEE)

1st Place - \$150

2nd Place - \$100

3rd Place - \$75

Children's Best of Theme - \$50

Businesses Best of Theme - \$50

Horse Best of Theme - \$50

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Doe Stafford

Lyle and Myrt Woosley

12 P.M. NOON LUNCHES

Clyde Park Tavern

Rosa's Pizza

1 P.M. FFA GAMES IN THE STREET SV FFA CORNHOLE TOURNAY

Behind Community Center

ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF CAR SHOW

2:30 PIE AUCTION

Teresa Lehman 220-2958

3-5:30 P.M. DANCE ON THE PATIO TO MEYER'D DOWN

Sponsored by Clyde Park Tavern

3 P.M. SILENT AUCTION CLOSSES WINNERS ANNOUNCED 4:30 P.M.

6 P.M. SVOS BARBECUE BY JEFF SARRAZIN

At Community Hall

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8-11 P.M. DANCE AT THE ANTLER BAR WITH MEYER'D DOWN

SUNDAY

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by Bracketeer 4-H Club

10 A.M. COFFEE BAR

CP Community Hall

10:30 A.M. CHURCH SERVICES

CP Community Hall

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12 P.M. POTLUCK PICNIC

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by Dalonda Rockafellow
doTERRA Wellness Advocate



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- **Skin Care:** Are you suffering from skin infections, acne, burns, eczema or skin irritations?

Thyme's natural cleansing properties can help!! Try this: Dilute and apply to the affected area for gentle, soothing relief.

- **Energy Boost:** Feeling run down or battling fatigue? Thyme can invigorate your adrenal glands and help fight chronic tiredness.

Try this: Add a drop or less to a hot bath for some much-needed rejuvenation.

- **Emotional Healing:** Thyme doesn't just work on your body—it's a balm for your emotions, too. It helps release bitterness and grudges,

paving the way for love, forgiveness and emotional balance. It helps to revive and strengthen both body and mind. Try this: Dilute one drop with a carrier oil and apply on chest, over lower stomach or on bottom



of feet.
Thyme is also a long-established culinary herb. Its fresh, herbaceous flavor seasons meat and vegetable dishes with deliciousness. Try this: Dip a clean toothpick into your Thyme oil bottle, swirl it in your favorite culinary oil then rub onto

the meat or vegetable of your choice.

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- Glass roller bottle

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Thyme has been treasured for centuries. The Greeks loved using it in baths for its refreshing and rejuvenating properties. Now, you can enjoy its benefits for modern-day wellness. Good luck in your journey and reach out if you have any questions or if I can help in any way!!

Dalonda Rockafellow has been using and educating about health and doTERRA essential oils for 10+ years. She maintains a website and has an active Facebook page; Lavender, Lemon & Learning that she uses to keep people up to date on the benefits of using CPTG (Certified Pure Tested Grade) essential oils for their health and well-being. You can contact her at dalonda@bigskyoils.com or mydoterra.com/dalondarockafellow or text 406-220-4449.

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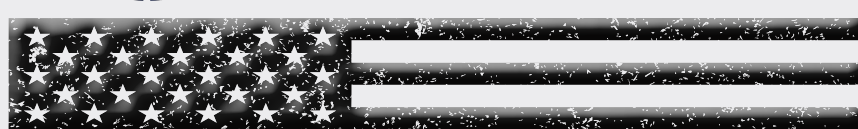
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Your Ageless Wellness Column

Garrick Fulmer-Faust, Executive Director, Park County Senior Center

Polarization Part 2: Two Wings, One Bird—Why Division is Making Us Sick



Welcome back.

In our last column, I ended with a bit of a teaser—one that may have raised a few eyebrows, “The left and the right wing are part of the same bird.”

I wasn’t just talking politics. I was talking about a pattern that shows up *everywhere*: in how we govern, how we’re treated, how we’re marketed to, how we heal—or don’t heal. This column is about wellness, yes—but you can’t talk about true wellness without also talking about wholeness. And the systems around us aren’t designed for *wholeness*. They’re designed for division.

As Above, so Below. As Within, so Without.

These old phrases aren’t just spiritual sayings. They’re patterns. The polarization we see out in the world—left vs. right, this team vs. that one, this news channel vs. that one—is the *same kind of fragmentation* that’s happening inside our bodies... and inside our minds.

In the world of medicine, for example, we’ve been trained to isolate. We treat the heart *separately* from emotions. We treat the gut *separately* from the mind. We cut, medicate, and manage one part without truly understanding the whole system. That’s not healing. That’s symptom control.

And guess what? That system *profits* from our fragmentation. If we stay split, we stay dependent.

Now zoom out: our political and media systems work the same way. They don’t show the full picture—they highlight the most extreme parts of either side. They turn complex issues into binary choices. Us vs. them. This vs. that. Left vs. right. But it’s all the same bird.

And the more divided we feel—whether it’s in our beliefs or in our bodies—the more powerless we feel. The more we seek outside fixes. The more we get stuck managing symptoms rather than getting to the root.

Division Creates Dis-ease

Let’s bring this back to your body for a minute. When you’re constantly absorbing conflict, argument, fear, and outrage—your body doesn’t know it’s “just news.” Your

nervous system reacts as if you’re in danger. Over time, that chronic stress becomes inflammation. Poor sleep. Digestive issues. Fatigue. Resentment. Disconnection.

Internally, we do the same thing:

- We judge part of ourselves as “lazy” or “weak” without seeing the whole picture.
- We treat symptoms but don’t ask what’s beneath them.
- We say, “I just don’t feel like it” when maybe our spirit is tired, or our heart’s been wounded.

That’s polarization. Inside the body. And wellness—real, lasting wellness—requires reintegration. It means making peace between the parts.

What Happens When We Step Back?

The first step is awareness. To realize that reacting to every extreme story, every headline, every opinion... is draining you.

The second step is wholeness. To zoom out, and ask, *what’s the full picture?* To see your body as a system, not just parts. To see your community as humans, not sides. To stop being pulled to one wing or the other, and instead say, *where is this bird actually going?*

When we stop flapping from side to side and start thinking for ourselves, we get out of reaction mode and into regulation.

And that’s when real wellness begins—not just in our bodies, but in our minds, our relationships, and our communities, too. The bird doesn’t say to the left wing: your wrong, I’m going to ignore you, or to the right one: the left wing doesn’t agree with you, so we are just not going to fly! Rediculous, right? (pun intended). The bird will remain on the ground where predators will consume it.

All Healing Begins In the Mind.

The mind must be peaceful and balanced to create space for healing. Do you want healing? Treat your body as a whole—one system, working together. It’s not as hard as it sounds.

If we want our **community** to heal, we must do the same thing: treat it like one body. Focus on what nourishes the whole. What’s good for everyone.

As above, so below. As within, so without.

How we treat the body mirrors how we treat the body politic.

In modern medicine, we often isolate parts. Heart over here... gut over there. Emotions? Not our department. We chase symptoms and miss the system. That’s a kind of **polarization**. The left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing.

Our political and media systems do this too. They spotlight extremes, crop the picture tight, and sell us outrage in daily doses. We end up reacting to fragments, not seeing the whole.

Who profits from division? In healthcare, fragmentation keeps us coming back for more “management.” In media and politics, division drives ratings, clicks, donations, and power. If we stay split, we stay dependent.

Are you at peace when you hear the news? Pay attention to your body in those



moments. What do you experience?

- Shoulders hike up. Jaw tightens.
- Breath gets shallow.
- Heart rate and blood pressure rise.
- Sleep gets choppy.
- Digestion stalls or flares.
- Pain sensitivity goes up.
- Cravings, anxiety, and irritability creep in.
- You withdraw from people—or pick fights you don’t even care about.

That’s not just “being informed.” That’s your nervous system living in fight-or-flight. Chronic stress becomes inflammation. Inflammation becomes symptoms. Symptoms become labels. And around we go.

Two wings, same bird—so what’s the bird?

The “bird” is the system of incentives that feeds on attention and division—in media, in politics, and yes, sometimes in healthcare. It’s the whole machine that keeps us reacting instead of reflecting.

AS LONG AS WE STAY DIVIDED WASTING OUR TIME TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH WING IS

WRONG OR RIGHT, WE WILL NEVER LEARN TO FLY.

So how do we step out of the split? Think whole. Act small. Repeat.

1. Tend your state first.

Two minutes of slow nasal breathing (in for 4, out for 6) tells your body, “We’re safe.” Calm body, clear mind.

2. Choose a news diet.

Set a daily window for headlines (15–20 minutes), then stop. Replace doom-scroll time with a walk or call a friend.

3. Speak whole-person language.

Swap “What’s wrong with me?” for “What is my system asking for?” It changes the plan you make next.

4. Link movement to mood.

Feeling spun up? Five to ten minutes of easy walking or gentle mobility. Movement tells the nervous system to stand down.

5. Integrate your care.

When you see a provider, share the full picture—sleep, stress, digestion, mood, and movement. Ask, “How do these connect?” Make them look at your body as a whole.

6. Seek common good locally.

Think of your town as a body. Where’s the inflammation? Where’s the circulation? Volunteer, meet your neighbors, and build the tissue that heals everything.

7. Use better inner words.

“I don’t feel like it” is a fast track to nowhere. Try, “Ten minutes is enough to start,” or “I can do this gently today.”

Bottom line: Division creates dis-ease.

Wholeness creates healing. When we stop reacting to the wings and pay attention to the **WHOLE** bird, we reclaim our peace. We get off the ground. And maybe even start flying. When we treat our bodies—and our community—as single, living systems, we start to thrive.

We have just begun to explore this subject. There is so much more to say and I will continue this in part 3 in next week’s article.

Want support? At The Hub fitness center, we coach the whole person: how you move, how you eat, and how you think. If you’re ready to step out of the split and into balance, we’re here.

Garrick Fulmer-Faust, CPT, is the Executive Director of The Hub at PCSC located at 206 S. Main St. in Livingston. The Hub is a wellness and fitness center designed for seniors and mobility-challenged individuals. Contact 406-333-2276 or garrick@parkcountyseniorcenter.org

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Planning Your Business Exit: Start with the End In Mind

If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers. But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80% to 90% of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70% to 80% of businesses

put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies, management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind—a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal

goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cellphone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too... what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could sell for. If so, don't panic. You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save

more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

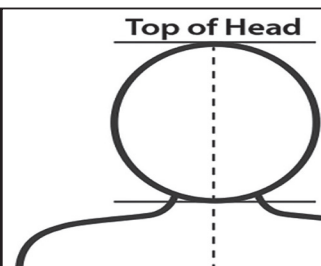
Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

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

Edward Jones, member SIPC

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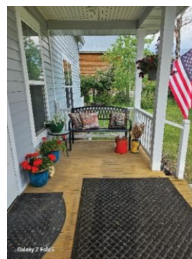


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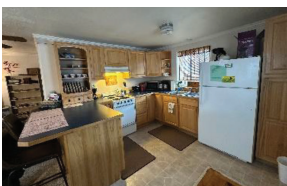
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Drink in a Little Sunshine and Brighten the Day at Sunflower Coffee in Livingston

Simone Davis-Watts opens her labor of love where you can buy a great cup of coffee. The infectious smile and friendly banter is free!

Park County Dugout - August 5, 2025
TheParkCountyDugout.substack.com
By: Jeff Schlapp

It's well established that I am a coffee connoisseur. Well, connoisseur might be the wrong word, too French. More like a junkie. A bona fide coffee freak. If I've only had one cup of Joe by the afternoon, my eyes begin to gleam with a wild and ravenous light.

I had my first cup of coffee in Bootcamp at Naval Station Great Lakes in 1979 and haven't looked back. In Livingston, I can be found visiting Perk on Park, Tru North Cafe, and Coffee Crossing to get my fix, but to date, Silo Espresso has my favorite pour for a black coffee.

In Bozeman, I enjoy Wild Joes Coffee Spot and Wild Crumb Bakery, and in Belgrade, it's Revamped Coffee Co.

I don't like iced coffee or any coffee drink that includes more than one name, unless that name is black. At home, I absolutely love instant coffee. I used to be a Sanka fan, but I've graduated to Taster's Choice, mainly because it's sold at Costco and convenient.

If nothing else, I'm a man of simple needs.

So imagine my excitement when the coffee kiosk on Highway 10 in Livingston, between the Spurline and Base Camp Construction, was painted a bright, cheerful yellow a couple of months ago, and a new deck/patio was added on—a

sure sign that it would be open for business soon. I kept driving by until a sign was put up announcing the opening of **Sunflower Coffee**. So I stopped by on Saturday and saw two young women outside spiffing up the coffee hut, and set up an interview on Monday.

Now I set many interviews a few days away after meeting someone whose story I want to

tell. Some people remember my name, and another group even recalls the interview date. However, I was particularly impressed by Simone Davis-Watts, the owner of Sunflower Coffee, who greeted me on Monday by name.

She's only 21, and the owner of a business! Friendly, polite, and chatty, with a great sense of humor, and inquisitive. Davis-Watts is the perfect Coffee shop owner!

And why wouldn't she be? She's the daughter of Colin Davis, one-time owner of Chico Hot Springs and Co-Founder of the Yellowstone Film Ranch, and an environmental activist. Her mother is the well-known journalist and published author, Seabring Davis.

A little tidbit which Davis-Watts didn't share with me that she is the daughter of famous parents until I asked her parents names, about 20 minutes into our interview.

I admire humble folks. Besides, Davis-Watts wants to make it on her own through her hard work.

"This is my first business and my first time working in the coffee industry," Simone Davis-Watts told me. "My family has always been involved in the service industry, and I gained a lot of valuable experience working with my Dad. I used to roast coffee with my him in our garage and sell the coffee at farmers' markets, which was a lot of fun."

As a first-time business owner, Davis-Watts is acutely aware of the old saying, *"location, location, location,"* a well-known real estate mantra emphasizing the importance of property location in business.

"I believe this is a perfect location and set-up," Davis-Watts explained. "We're ideally located between the Spurline, Basecamp, and Wood Rose Market. All three are established businesses, and I think we have a great little community here."

Sunflower Coffee added a patio with tables and chairs for people to sit at and enjoy their coffee, and a flower bed full of what else—Sunflowers.

Wood Rose Market and Spurline, like Sunflower Coffee, are women-owned and operated businesses, Davis-Watts was quick to point out. She believes the location on the road leading in and out of Livingston will attract customers coming and going.

Showing insight beyond her years, Davis-Watts and her mother (who will help out from time to time) flew out to Seattle, the home of coffee, for a week to learn how to pour the perfect cup of coffee.

Sunflower Coffee offers an extensive menu of coffee drinks, as well as Lotus-style energy drinks.

Starting your first business can be intimidating, exciting, and nerve-racking. However, when I walked away from our time together, my first thought was how intelligent Davis-Watts was, and she seemed so business savvy.

She has seen a steady flow of customers since opening on Wednesday and admitted to being nervous on her first day, but has already grown into a groove that most baristas have—like their own little coffee dance.

Within a few weeks, *Sunflower Coffee* will hire its first employee, Davis-Watts told me as she prepares for a busy fall season.

She has already begun to involve Sunflower Coffee in the community, as it is a sponsor of the Livingston Community Choir. She plans to undertake more charitable efforts and sponsorships in the future.

When you pull up, don't be surprised to see a yellow VW Bug with an awesome Sunflower logo parked nearby; it's Sunflower Coffee's company car! And when you drive away, Davis-Watts will hand you a savings-punch card and a pouch of sunflower seeds—for planting.

I believe in the spirit of Entrepreneurship. Starting a business from scratch and being



Sunflower Coffee owner Simone Davis-Watts opened her new coffee kiosk recently on Highway 10 West in Livingston. Open from 6:30 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

your own boss is liberating in a sense. Making your hours and doing what you love is most folks' dream. Davis-Watts told me she's willing to put in the time and hard work that she knows it will take to make Sunflower Coffee a success.

I think she'll do great. With a passion for customer service and a million-dollar smile, folks will visit and then come back for more. Sunflower Coffee will be open year-round and is open every day except Sunday. Stop by Sunflower Coffee today and sip local, and invite a little sunshine into your day at **Sunflower Coffee**.

For more photos and great articles, check out TheParkCountyDugout.substack.com.

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Dolly trick riding on Sunny Boy in 1927.

In the Shadow of Sagebrush

by Mary Williams

I had only one chance to meet my Aunt Dolly. It was 1973, and I was still in high school. My mother, her younger sister, told me she wanted to visit Dolly alone, without distractions. I understood. But I've spent decades wondering how my life might have changed had I met her face to face. Maybe I would've ended up back on her ranch in New Mexico, mending fences, raising calves, learning the art of animal husbandry—not from textbooks, but from her hands-on knowledge.

Instead, I inherited her story piecemeal through my mother's recollections, the pages she left behind, and the uncanny echoes I later discovered in my own life. We never met, but I lived her footsteps without knowing it.

Born Eleanor McClintock in Pittsburgh in 1906, Aunt Dolly was raised on expectations from her upper-class family—social graces, parochial education, polished manners, which Dolly loathed. Her high school years at Westover School in Connecticut taught her to curtsy and

host tea, but Dolly's real education came each summer at Dot-S-Dot Ranch in Big Timber, Montana. That's where she first heard the West call her name.

She wrote, *"The smell of sagebrush actually does something funny to my heartstrings every time a whiff of it comes my way."* That sentence stuck with me. It's tattooed on the way I live. I now reside just thirty miles from that ranch, a log cabin surrounded by sage. And when the wind shifts and the fragrance hits—I feel her there.

After studying art at Carnegie Tech, Dolly headed west to wrangle horses and work in Yellowstone in 1925. She rode with the head wrangler through Hayden Valley at dawn, pulling pranks with her family's McClintock flair. My favorite was when she and a roommate raided a guest's box of chocolates that was left on a dresser. To cover up their folly, they staged the room to look like a bear had ransacked it. The guest bragged in the lobby about his "brush with wildlife." Dolly was bold even then.

Dolly lived fully and impulsively. In 1928,

she eloped with a rodeo cowboy named Walter Heacock after watching him perform in the bull-dogging event at Madison Square Garden. They joined a Wild West show bound for Chile. On the ship, Walter taught her trick riding. When the show collapsed and the managers disappeared, the couple hitchhiked their way home on a Japanese cargo vessel. Broke but undeterred, Dolly began writing Western fiction to support herself.

Dolly rodeoed, ranch-worked, and trick-rode in scarlet costumes across dusty arenas. Her beloved horse, Sonny Boy, was family—once stabled in the guest room across from Dolly's bedroom, when the barn wasn't ready. Her ranch in Quemado, New Mexico, became a haven for music, laughter, and occasional outlaws. There's legend of her letting fugitives pass through—only if they posed for a portrait.

She raised five children across three marriages. When money ran out, she drove the school bus and refused to beg her wealthy family for help. "I'd rather eat cornbread and beans," she wrote, "than let them manipulate me." I admire that integrity.

She demolished buildings while six-months pregnant. Hosted bluegrass jams in a home she built herself. Painted weathered faces that the Albuquerque Museum displayed in 1981. She was wild. Defiant. Brilliant. She was fire.

I didn't become a trick rider, but I raced barrels once—at one single rodeo. I didn't win. But I did it. And when I burst from that gate, I felt the pulse of something older than myself. My horse was strong, the crowd loud, the dust rising. For twenty seconds, I was not Mary. I was an echo.

In 1979, the year Dolly died, I began listening to country-western music. It was a strange shift for someone surrounded by pop and rock & roll. But I found myself tuning in to Seattle's KMPS, laughing with Ichabod Cain and The Waking Crew. Slowly, the sparkle of city life dimmed. Bellevue's ritzy lifestyle began to feel hollow. Cocktail parties. Name-dropping neighbors. Pretentiousness masked as charm. I wanted grit. Stories. Truth. Dolly had rejected that life before I even knew I wanted to.

In 2011, I moved to Montana. I live in a log cabin now, much like hers. I've hosted folk musicians in my living room. She

played banjo. I played guitar. Both of us learned to make music before we knew each other's songs. Both of us endured three marriages—and the pain that came with them. We experienced abuse that society never documented, but our scars kept score. We made art. We loved horses. We survived.

Her family scorned her for independence. Mine did the same. She was labeled a rebel. So was I. And though she never saw that barrel race of mine, I like to think she'd be proud. Even one loop around the cloverleaf was enough to feel her spirit galloping beside me.

Dolly's story is more than family lore. It's a compass.

She wrote her truth when no one asked her to. She defied tradition with riding pants and a scarlet costume. She lived without apology: raising children, marrying for love (and sometimes escape), feeding her community, and painting humanity into history one outlaw at a time.

When I moved to Montana, I didn't just follow a dream. I followed hers.

Her journals don't end with conclusions. They end with resolve. *"We feel we must plan for a future and believe in it,"* she wrote, *"even though [financial] security is an unknown quantity just now."* Those words could've come from my own journal.

I never met her. But I live her legacy: In the smell of sage, in the beauty of wild landscapes, in the romance of riding horses, and in the howl of the timber wolf. The love for real people and real lives.

She was labeled the black sheep of her family. So was I. But black sheep run free!



Dolly at the Long Table, 3rd from right at Dot-S-Dot Ranch, Big Timber, MT in 1925.

Grillin' & Chillin at Church

Free burgers and live music! You can't go wrong with that combination late on a summer afternoon in Livingston. St. Andrews Church, at the corner of Third and Lewis Streets, is hosting their annual "Grillin' and Chillin" event, free to the public, on Saturday, August 16th, from 4 to 7 pm.

The music will be the local Bluegrass, crowd-pleasing, **Benson's Landing String Band**. Bring your own lawn chair or enjoy seating on the grass.

This year St. Andrews will also celebrate the dedication of the rebuild of the neigh-

borhood playground in the churchyard. Local resident Josh Olsen was instrumental at the inception, planning, and completion of this project. Many students of the now closed Educatio School also assisted with the design of the park, as well as helping to build the playground equipment. The funding for the playground came partly from a donation from Community Closet, from St. Andrews and generous members of the parish. All are

welcome to enjoy this playground including canine friends as long as the owner cleans up after them. The playground is part of the



church's outreach to the neighborhood and the community.

Call Laura at 406-224-5598 with any questions.

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Portraits of People, Pets and Wildlife

That's a Wrap on the 2025 Summer Outdoor Concert Season at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts

The Shane Center wrapped up another fantastic Summer Outdoor Concert Season (SOCS), drawing in music lovers of all ages for nine unforgettable evenings of live performance in the Henry E. Blake Pavilion. "We welcomed more than 4,000 people over the course of the season," said Executive Director Erika Adams. "Our biggest night was the return of Swamp Dawg and we're already planning to bring them back next year!"

Across the series, concertgoers enjoyed approximately 25 pounds of popcorn, 20 gallons of lemonade and concession sales were up about \$1,500 year over last year. Local food vendors this season included Cinful Nachos, Two Scoop Saloon, Hot Dog Champion, Funk Family Foods, Piece of Crêpe, and Bad

Burger.

The fourth season of SOCS included a dynamic mix of artists with performances by the Fossils, John Roberts y pan Blanco, Tsunami Funk, the Bo DePeña Trio, www. Twang, the Two Tracks, Swamp Dawg, Release the Squirrels, and Tom Catmull's Last Resort.

"We heard from so many attendees that they enjoyed the variety in music this year," added Artistic Director Russell Lewis. "There was something for everyone—familiar favorites alongside exciting new acts. It's very fulfilling to see people show up each week with their friends and family ready to spend a summer's evening in the Pavilion."

SOCS is a free community series made possible by Marcia Bull McCrum in memo-

ry of Bliss McCrum, Livingston HealthCare, and Erin Denton O'Brien.

The Shane Center isn't slowing down—five incredible events are coming to the Pavilion in late summer and early fall:

Spotlight Gala - Saturday, August 23rd at 5:30 pm

Enjoy dinner from Follow Yer' Nose BBQ, beverages from the Office, the season showcase revue, live music from Yellowstone Country's Got Talent Grand Champion winners by Meridian, and the official announcement of the 2026 Community Theatre season. "It's the best party in town and a fun night of dancing, dinner, and community all for a great cause," says Development Coordinator, Kate Britton.

One Love Livingston – Friday, August 30th at 6 pm

This world music festival promoting harmony will feature Mighty Mystic and the Hard Roots Movement, Sean Devine and the Stars and Anguilla and Foreshadow. It's going to be a fun night of rhythm and good vibes and is sponsored by American Bank, Lionheart International, Pine Creek Lodge, and Key Property MT.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks – Thursday, September 5th at 6 pm.

Their 53rd summer tour brings Henry V to the Blake Pavilion. This riveting drama is free and open to the public. Bring a chair and come enjoy this free production.

Shane Center Presents: John Roberts' Soul Skillet – Friday, September 6th at 7:30 pm

"For the first time, we're moving The Shane Center Presents show outside into the Pavilion," said Adams. "Soul Skillet's

mix of soul, blues, and jazz needs room to groove and the Pavilion is perfect for dancing." Featuring powerhouse vocals, a killer rhythm section, the mighty B3 organ and horns, this will be a night to remember.

Livingston Bluegrass Festival – Friday & Saturday, September 19th – 20th

The first Livingston Bluegrass Festival brings top-tier talent to the Blake Pavilion, featuring Grammy and IBMA winning artists Crying Uncle, Stillhouse Junkies, Nick Dumas & Branchline along with local favorites Bridger Creek Boys and Benson's Landing String Band. Single day passes and two-day passes are available with free admission for kids 13 and under. The weekend will also include a guitar flatpicking contest sponsored by Music Villa of Bozeman, delicious food from Follow Yer' Nose BBQ and local brews from Neptunes Brewery, and Katabatic Brewing Company. "It's going to be a spectacular celebration of bluegrass music at its finest - with BBQ and brews!" says Adams.

"Of course, we couldn't make any of this happen without the incredible support of our community," says Britton. "Huge thanks to our music booking partners at Mighty Fine Time Live Events – Joanne Gardner and John Lowell, and our season sponsor the Yellowstone Valley Lodge and Grill."

Tickets and event details can be found at www.theshanecenter.org. The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is located at 415 E. Lewis in Livingston, MT. For more information on sponsoring a musical event, please contact Kate Britton at (406) 224-6055.

A Commonplace Bookmaking Workshop at Wheatgrass Books

Come on over to Wheatgrass Books located at 120 N. Main St., in Livingston, on Sunday, August 17th from 1 - 3 pm and meet Natalie Jackman.

What is a commonplace book, you ask? A commonplace book is a way to gather everything in one spot. Thoughts, ideas, keepsakes, journal entries, lists, brain dumps, pressed leaves, business cards, that one joke you don't want to ever forget, the random sequin you found on the porch that has to be a sign from the universe (yes—I have one of these in my commonplace book), the notes you take during the documentary on the microbiome that you don't have any place else to put, your list of suspects and clues that you know will solve that cold case from 1905. Anything! Everything! With a table of contents, glossary, and index, you'll never misplace these important items again.

Here is what Natalie has to say, "Please join me for this commonplace book workshop! As a lifelong notebook and journal collector, I have been searching for the perfect journaling method. I've tried it all—guided journals, stream of consciousness, bullet journals, scrapbooks, digital journals, even Tumblr! None

of these methods clicked for me. Instead, I created a looming stack of nearly empty notebooks that had been 'ruined' (or completely empty ones that were too perfect for me to use). Little did I know, John Locke—yes, ye old 17th century John Locke, had solved my problem 400 years ago with the commonplace book."

For the workshop, you'll want to bring a new notebook. All other supplies will be provided, but you can start gathering items you want to save in your book like: thank you notes, newspaper clippings, new-to-you vocabulary words, favorite quotes and poems, etc. Natalie says, "You don't need to bring any of these items, but you might get more out of our time together. Not only has this method simplified my life, but it has given me a safe space to be creative and curious."

So, grab that beautiful notebook that you love but have been too afraid to use, and let's get common placing! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me beforehand at 406-823-0112.

Wheatgrass Books is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. They can be reached by email at wheatgrassbooks@gmail.com, by phone at 406-451-1066 or you may follow them on Facebook or Instagram.

SHIELDS VALLEY Upcoming EVENTS

August 10th Wilsall Ranch Rodeo at 2 pm

- At the Wilsall Rodeo Grounds
- \$10.00 admission; children 10 and under - free
- Bar and concessions on site

August 11th Farmers Market from 4:30 to 7 pm

Location: Holiday Park in Clyde Park
Food: Follow Your Nose
Music: Paul Lee Kupfer
Kids Activity: Yoyos and Cannon Ball
Sponsor of the Week: Livingston HealthCare and the Clyde Park Tavern

August 12th Booster Kick-off Dinner and Parents Athlete Meeting at 6 pm

August 13th School Board Meeting at 7 pm

August 15th High school football and volleyball practice starts

August 18th Junior high football and volleyball practice starts

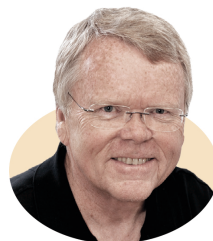
August 20th First day of school

Save the dates. More details coming soon.
August 23rd – 24th — Shields Valley Old Settlers Days; Theme: "Teams, Trains & Trucks"



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

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Bozeman Symphony Welcomes New Board Leadership and Members

The Bozeman Symphony is proud to announce new leadership within its Board of Directors, along with the addition of two accomplished community leaders.

Ken May has been named Board Chair, with Skye Raiser elected as Vice Chair. Former Chair Ben Phinney will continue his service as Chair Emeritus. In addition, Nina Jaeger and Mark Juranek have been elected to serve three-year terms on the Board, effective July 1st.

Nina Jaeger is the retired Director of Development at the Montana State University Alumni Foundation. Mark Juranek brings extensive business and financial expertise to the Board, having held leadership roles at Amazon Music, Starbucks, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, as well as experience as a certified public accountant.

"It is an incredible honor to serve as Board Chair of the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra," said Ken May. "I have deep respect for the extraordinary talent of our musicians, the

visionary leadership of our Board, and the exceptional artistry of Maestro Norman Huynh, whose passion and creativity continue to inspire us all. I'm also grateful for the outstanding work of our Executive Director and dedicated staff, whose behind-the-scenes efforts make everything possible. The Symphony is not only a source of world-class music but a vital force that enriches lives and brings our community together. I'm especially thankful to Ben Phinney for leaving the Symphony in such a strong position and for his willingness to remain on the Board to help guide this transition."

"I'm extremely pleased to welcome our new



Ken May & Jacob Blaser

Board leadership and two outstanding new members," said Executive Director Jacob Blaser. "Their leadership, professional experience, and passion for music align perfectly with the Bozeman Symphony's strategic growth plan. Their collaboration will be essential as we continue to inspire diverse audiences. I also want to express my gratitude to Ben Phinney for his exceptional leadership over the past six years, including three as Board Chair—helping guide the Symphony through transformative changes, from navigating the pandemic to conducting a national search for a new Music Director."

The Bozeman Symphony is governed by

a 13-member Board of Directors dedicated to advancing its mission: to engage, unite, and uplift the human experience in Montana through music and the arts. Board members serve as goodwill ambassadors and play a critical role in the organization's long-term sustainability and success. Their support is reflected in active event participation, personal financial contributions, and advocacy for the Symphony's programs and impact.

Jaeger and Juranek join a distinguished group of directors, including Architect Paul Bertelli, retired Journalist Tom Bray, retired Chief Science Officer Gary Kunis, Asset Manager Liz Richards, retired Surgeon Dr. Charles Rinker, Insurance Industry CEO Robert Ritchie, Financial Advisor Michael Schmidt, and Higher Education Consultant Sara Jayne Steen.

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

"Shane Center Presents" Offers Soul Skillet in the Blake Pavilion

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is changing up their popular *Shane Center Presents* program by moving the September 6th program from the Dulcie Theater to the Henry E. Blake Pavilion.

John Roberts' Soul Skillet is a vibrant, vocal-led soul and blues project that fuses the rich sounds of traditional Soul, NeoSoul, Blues and Jazz, creating a musical experience that resonates with all audiences. Led by Roberts (songwriter, lead vocalist and B3 organist) the band is known for its energetic performances, heartfelt lyrics, and original compositions that draw inspiration from

legendary artists.

"John Roberts blew the roof off the Pavilion this summer at our SOCS concert with his Latin salsa band," explained Erika Adams, Executive Director of The Shane Center. "So many people were dancing, and we realized the pavilion is the perfect place for this show. We'll be able to seat more people and leave lots of room for a dance floor."

Formed in 2024, Soul Skillet consists of a talented rhythm section and dynamic horn players, each musician bringing their unique influences and styles to the table. Their sound is characterized by soulful

melodies, tight arrangements and powerful instrumental solos, influenced by a deep respect and love for bands like Ray Charles, the O'Jays, Chaka Kahn, Al Green, Bobby Womack and the Temptations—many that Roberts has performed with.

Tickets are available at The Shane Center box office or at www.theshanecenter.org. All Season tickets and previously purchased tickets will be honored at the



Pavilion, which will be set up with chairs for this event.

Bozeman Symphony Presents Symphony Storytime Featuring the Steel Pan Drum

The Bozeman Symphony invites children and families to a special Symphony Storytime featuring the steel pan drum on Wednesday, August 13th, at 10:15 am at the Bozeman Public Library. Presented in partnership with the Library's Toddler and Preschool Storytime, this free, interactive program blends lively storytelling with the wonder of live music, creating a joyful experience especially for children ages 3 to 5.

The morning's adventure will feature Bozeman Symphony percussionist Kris Olsen and Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Associate Artistic Director Riley O'Toole as the guest reader. Together, they will bring a story to life through the magical combination of



Kris Olsen, Percussionist
Photo Credit: Jimmy Michaels

words and music. Following the reading, Olsen will introduce children to the unique

sounds of the steel pan drum with a short, hands-on performance.

Families can also mark their calendars for the next Symphony Storytime of the season on Wednesday, September 17th, at 10:15 am

at the Bozeman Public Library.

For more information about Symphony Storytime and other education and community engagement programs, visit www.bozemansymphony.org or call 406-585-9774.

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Zucchini varieties

EVER BEEN ZUKED?

When the Squash Fairy Comes a Calling...

by Jill-Ann Ouellette

I admit I've been zuked—and been the zucker—many times. Don't know what being zuked is?

Most of us know people who love to cook, bake or can foods. They might be your friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member. Perhaps they don't or can't have a garden of their own. Well, when the zucchini harvest arrives, there's usually no way a gardener can use all of it when it's perfectly ready, so... they go "zukuing." As the "zukee," you find an unexpected large bag or box of zucchini squash on your doorstep, usually with no note or idea who "zuked" you. Personally, I am always excited to be zuked, as I only grow one or two plants and can always freeze any extra to use in baked goods. But in years past, as a newbie gardener growing 12 zucchini plants, I became the "zucker." Let's get a tad more serious...

Zucchini, a member of the squash family, is a versatile and nutrient-dense vegetable that has been a staple in many cultures for centuries. It is a variety of summer squash that is harvested when its seeds and skin are still tender and edible.

It's used in a variety of dishes, both savory and sweet, as well as in baked goods. While it is often thought of and used as a vegetable, zucchini is technically a fruit. It is part of the same food family as winter squash, watermelon, pumpkin, and cucumber. Just like other summer squash, it is harvested and eaten while immature. This sets it apart from other types of squash, as does its soft rind.

A Brief History • The origins of zucchini can be traced back to the Americas, where it was cultivated by indigenous civilizations as early as 7000 BC. It was later introduced to Europe by Spanish and Italian explorers in the

16th century, where it gained popularity for its ease of growth and culinary versatility. Today, zucchini is a common feature in gardens and on dinner tables and it's cultivated worldwide.



Black Beauty Zucchini

Common Varieties • While the most common zucchini variety is the dark green, cylindrical "Black Beauty," there are many other types to explore. Some popular varieties include:

- **Yellow zucchini:** Similar in taste and texture to the Black Beauty, but with a sweeter flavor and a higher beta-carotene content.
- **Pattypan squash:** A small, round, disc-shaped zucchini that is perfect for stuffing and baking.
- **Eight-ball zucchini:** A globe-shaped zucchini that is often used in pickling and canning.
- **Cocozelle:** A long, slender zucchini with a subtle, nutty flavor.

Health Benefits • Zucchini is packed with essential nutrients that support overall health and wellness. It's low in calories, fat, sugar, and gluten free to boot! Here are some of its key health benefits:

1. **Rich in Nutrients:** Zucchini is packed with vitamins and minerals, including Vitamin A, which supports the immune system and good vision. It's also high in fiber, promoting healthy digestion. It's a low-calorie vegetable that is a great choice for those watching their weight,

- and an excellent source of vitamins C and K, as well as iron, magnesium, calcium, folate, and lots of potassium.
2. **High in Fiber:** Zucchini is high in both soluble and insoluble fiber, which supports digestive health, helps control blood-sugar levels, and promotes feelings of fullness. Replacing refined foods such as pasta, rice, or crackers with zucchini can be an easy way to add more fiber to your diet.
3. **Hydrating:** With a high water content, zucchini helps keep you hydrated—crucial for maintaining optimal bodily functions.
4. **Anti-inflammatory:** The compounds in zucchini, including vitamins C and A may help reduce inflammation in the body.
5. **Promotes Heart Health:** The potassium in zucchini can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease.
6. **Supports Skin Health:** The vitamin C and beta-carotene in zucchini can help promote skin health and combat signs of aging.



Zucchini noodles

Popular Ways to Prepare Zucchini • Zucchini's mild flavor and versatile texture make it an excellent addition to a wide range of dishes. Here are some popular and delicious ways to prepare zucchini:

1. **Stuffed Zucchini Boats:** Hollow out zucchini halves, fill them with a mixture of cooked grains, vegetables, or protein, then bake until tender.
2. **Zucchini Noodles (Zoodles!):** Spiralize zucchini into noodle-like strands and use them as a base for pasta dishes. They're low in calories and high in fiber, making them an excellent choice for those watching their waistline. You can use a mandolin to make lasagna noodles.

3. **Zucchini Bread:** This classic, quick bread is moist, flavorful, and a great way to use up surplus zucchini (if you've been zuked). Add blueberries, raisins, dried cranberries, pistachios, or any other nut to create different textures and tastes.
4. **Zucchini Pancakes:** Grate zucchini into a batter, add some flour and eggs, and cook the mixture in a pan like you would regular pancakes. Serve with a dollop of sour cream or your favorite topping.
5. **Use as an Add-in:** Use in stir fries, quiche, in your smoothie, grated in with your burgers, sautéed with onions as a side dish, or placed directly on your grill for your next barbecue. The options are endless!



Zucchini lasagna

Can you eat raw zucchini? In a word, yes. Raw zucchini is actually more nutritious than cooked. A word of caution, though—zucchini and other squashes contain a substance called cucurbitacin, which produces a bitter taste to keep insects away. In people, cucurbitacin can cause digestive difficulties and even vomiting when eaten in large amounts. Not to worry, grocery-store zucchini typically doesn't have enough cucurbitacin to cause digestive issues. If you're growing it yourself, you may want to take extra care when eating raw zucchini. If your zucchini tastes bitter—cooked or raw—don't continue to eat it. (Gardener's note: don't let them get TOO big—the bigger the bitterer!)

With its impressive array of health benefits and endless culinary possibilities, zucchini is more than just a vegetable; it's a testament to nature's bounty and a powerful tool for supporting wellness. So, get creative, get cooking/baking, and let the zukuing begin! And remember, if you have an overabundance of any produce at harvest time, you can always zuke the extras at your local food pantry!

Recipe by
Carla Williams

RECIPE CORNER

Thick n' Chewy Peanut Butter COOKIES!



Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt

Instructions:

1. Cream together the butter, peanut butter, white sugar, brown sugar, egg and vanilla.
2. In a separate bowl, sift together remaining ingredients.
3. Mix dry ingredients into wet mixture gradually.
4. Using a medium cookie scoop,

- separate into mounds on parchment lined baking sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 10 to 12 minutes (depending on size).
6. Allow to cool five minutes before removing to wire racks.

Notes: A batch makes 24 cookies using a 2 tbsp cookie scoop.



Photo Credit: cookerycrafters.com



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Mondays - Weekly

WEEKLY PINOCHLE at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St. Mon. & Wed. evenings at 6:30 & Tues. at 1 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

Tuesdays - Weekly

WEEKLY PINOCHLE at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston. On Tuesdays at 1 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

WEEKLY MEDITATION at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Lvg. Every Tuesday at 1 pm. Free to everyone.

WEEKLY PINOCHLE at the Shields Valley Senior Center in Wilsall, 202 Elliot Street, every Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

CAREER ASSISTANCE - Livingston Chamber of Commerce and Job Services of Bozeman are providing on-site career & employment services once a week in Livingston, at the Chamber. Workforce consultants will be available from 9 am to 3 pm at 303 East Park St. Contact Leslie at the Livingston Chamber (406) 222-0850 or Ellen at Job Service Bozeman (406) 582-9237 for more info.

Wednesdays - Weekly

FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHT - 49er Diner at 404 E. Park Street is hosting Family Karaoke night from 6-8 pm. More info, 406-222-8204.

WEEKLY PINOCHLE at the Park County Senior Center, 206 S. Main St., Livingston at 6:30 pm. Free for members, \$2 per afternoon game for non-members.

Thursdays - Monthly

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP - Livingston HealthCare (LHC) is offering a free adult diabetes support group, for Type 1 or Type 2, on the first Thursdays of each month in the LHC Conference rooms, 320 Alpenglow Lane, at 5:30 pm.

August 9-10 - PARK COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE PARK

Family fun for all ages at the Park County Motor Vehicle Park MudBog and Tuff Trucks event in Livingston, Exit 337

then follow the signs. Kids dash for cash, raffle baskets, and vendors on site. Bleachers available, chairs welcomed. For more information go to ParkCountyMVP.com.

August 10 - VEGAN 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. Sharing delicious food and recipes with fun people who care about their health, the planet and most of all—the animals!

August 15-16 - 2025 FORGET ME KNOT FEST - Community Benefit Music & Arts Festival in Cooke City. For more information and to purchase tickets online visit www.ForgetMeKnotFest.org.

August 16 - GRILLIN' & CHILLIN - St. Andrews Church, at the corner of Third and Lewis Streets, is hosting their annual "Grillin' and Chillin" event, free to the public, from 4 to 7 pm. The music will be the local Bluegrass, crowd pleasing, Benson's Landing String Band. Bring your own lawn chair or enjoy seating on the grass.

August 16, 23, 30 - EMIGRANT PEOPLE'S MARKET located at 8 Story Road, Emigrant, on the lawn of St. John's Church, Saturdays 9 - 1 pm. June -October, weather permitting. Locally created goods, local honey, jams and eggs, eclectic curated items. New vendor inquiry please email emigrantpeoplesmarket@gmail.com for information.

August 16-17 - CALAMITY'S CLASSIC RODEO - Gates open 5:30 pm on Saturday for the 7 pm rodeo, and at 3:30 pm on Sunday for the 5 pm rodeo at the Park County Fairgrounds, 46 View Vista Drive. Mutton busting each night before the rodeo starts. For tickets, visit Calamity's website (<https://calamitysrroughstockclassicrodeo.com>), the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce, Murdoch's (all locations),

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.

and The Spur Line. For information, call 406-220-6214 or email info@calamitysrodeo.com. Also, check them out on Facebook and Instagram.

August 19 - CASTING FOR RECOVERY - Fundraising event at Sage Lodge in Pray beginning at 5:30 pm. Casting for Recovery will host the Fly Fishing Film Tour free of charge and designed specifically for women at any stage of breast cancer treatment or recovery. For more information, to make a contribution, or to sponsor the event, please contact them by email at tiffany.greene@castingforrecovery.com or call (413) 672-1297.

August 22 - ART WALK - Downtown Livingston Art Walk, galleries stay open late, offer light appetizers, socializing, and a lot of great art from 5:30 to 8 pm.

August 23 - ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT GALA - The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts invites you to their annual Gala with an evening of dinner, dancing and community celebration starting at 5:30 pm in the beautiful Blake Pavilion at 415 E. Lewis. Reserve your seats today by calling The Shane Center box office at (406) 222-1420. Tickets are \$125 per individual or \$675 for a table of six. Please RSVP by August 13th as tickets are limited and expected to sell out quickly.

August 23 & 24 - 49TH ANNUAL OLD SETTLER DAYS Taking place in Clyde Park. This year's theme is Trains, Trucks & Teams. Enjoy the following: Fireman's breakfast, coffee bar, vendors, raffle, pie auction, silent auction, Ranch Run, cornhole competition, parade, car show, Sarrazin's BBQ and live music on Saturday. On Sunday, they begin with the rubby ducky race and community church service followed by the potluck beginning at noon, where the grand marshalls will be honored.



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

Montana Fun Facts!

Montana holds the record for the **all-time coldest temperature in the Lower 48 at -70°F set at Rogers Pass on the Continental Divide on January 20, 1954.** It may have been colder than that, but that was the lowest temperature reading on the thermometer. Montana's record high is 117°F, for a temperature range of 187 °F. **No other state has a larger temperature range than that.** North Dakota comes in second place with a range of 181°F and Alaska is third with 180°F.

July 2007 was the hottest month ever recorded in Montana.

ACROSS

- 1. Remove
- 5. Hospital area
- 9. Scurried
- 12. Formerly
- 15. Whitewall, e.g.
- 16. Protected, at sea
- 17. Fruit cooler
- 18. Young chap
- 19. Draw wages
- 20. Busy spot
- 21. Shake
- 23. 7th Greek letter
- 24. Astute
- 25. Motion of the ocean
- 26. Fixed habit
- 27. Tender meat cut
- 28. Clod
- 29. Very fine rain
- 33. Diamond
- decision
- 35. Extremely thin
- 37. Aboard
- 38. Aretha Franklin wanted it
- 41. Siamese or tabby

- 42. Track broker
- 44. Correct
- 47. Dollar division
- 48. Day's beginning
- 49. Milk sugar
- 51. Scoop
- 52. Entrance
- 53. Ricelike pasta
- 54. Yeast, e.g.
- 56. Uneath
- 57. Insect's feeler
- 59. Burning substance
- 61. Threaded fastener
- 63. Data
- 66. Bill of fare
- 67. Lived
- 68. Matterhorn's range
- 71. Before of yore
- 73. Ten-four buddy
- 75. Cherish
- 76. On the _____
- 77. Forbidding

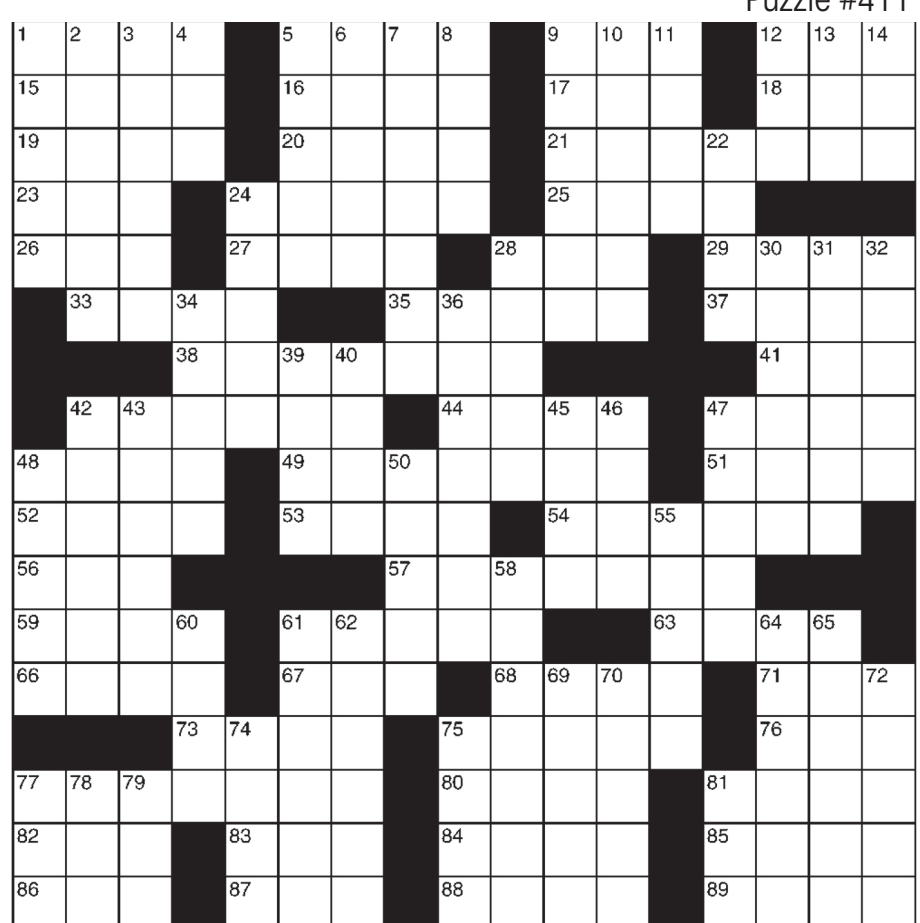
- 80. 1601, to Caesar
- 81. Sink one's teeth into
- 82. Glide over snow
- 83. "_____ of Destruction"
- 84. Word of regret
- 85. Promptly
- 86. Scope of knowledge
- 87. Apiece
- 88. Sulu's station
- 89. Geek

DOWN

- 1. Oversee
- 2. Break
- 3. Boo-boo list
- 4. Animal's home
- 5. Mackerel
- 6. Court excuse
- 7. Retribution
- 8. Buck or doe
- 9. Wicker material
- 10. Untethered
- 11. "We _____ a Little Christmas"

CROSSWORD

Puzzle #411



- 12. Clerical garment
- 13. Lassie
- 14. Poetic work
- 22. Notation
- 24. Streamlined
- 28. Trounce
- 30. Provoke
- 31. Flower part
- 32. Indian pole emblem
- 34. Foreground
- 36. Volatile solvent
- 39. Grain-storage tower
- 40. Bosc or Bartlett
- 42. Dress part
- 43. Beginning
- 45. Land surrounded by water
- 46. Numerical
- ending
- 47. Settee
- 48. Woman's title
- 50. Despots
- 55. Licorice flavoring
- 58. Silly talk
- 60. Channel
- 61. Deviate
- 62. Profession
- 64. Catlike
- 65. Eloquent speaker
- 69. Not widespread
- 70. Light bender
- 72. Fix text
- 74. Pager sound
- 75. Asian nanny
- 77. Grill
- 78. Maui strings
- 79. Serious offense
- 81. Enjoin

Sudoku

Puzzle #146

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

Sudoku - #145

SOLUTIONS

Crossword - #410

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

BATT	OHM	TAME	NOW
ECHO	TEA	AXIL	IRE
RHEO	STAT	RILL	CAD
GEM	PEDESTAL	RANG	
	MARS	HALE	EDGE
ICON	TSAR	TAT	
BRAT	CRAW	BRAG	
ROBE	HOLLOW	BOSOM	
INA	PINT	KALE	PSI
MINCE	GYRATE	KISS	
CARE	EPEE	IRIS	
	ERR	LAIR	STEP
ABLE	EPIC	PATH	
TRIP	LETHARGY	BEE	
TIC	DINT	COLESLAW	
ANI	NENE	ROE	ROSE
RGT	AFAR	EFT	ITER

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Stunning Wedding Dress - Champagne color, white lace flowers, long, see-thru sleeves, custom lace-up back, size 16. Worn only once, \$50. 406-581-3012.

M&S Cooper CSS Grand Touring Tires 225/60 R17. Like new, \$250 for set of four. Call 406-223-4444.

MOVING SALE

Moving Yard Sale
5116 Hwy 89 South (2 miles south, watch for sale signs)
Saturday, August 9th
8 am - 2 pm

Tools, western art, miscellaneous

HELP WANTED

St. Mary's Catholic School is hiring a full-time **Preschool Teacher** with benefits for the 2025-26 school year. Please contact Melissa Beitel at (406) 222-3303 or mbeitel@stmaryscatholicsschool.net

Shields Valley School District is now accepting applications for **two High-Needs Paraeducator** positions, beginning August 18th, 2025.

Position Overview:
Are you passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of students? Shields Valley School District is looking for dedicated, compassionate individuals who are excited to support students with diverse academic and behavioral needs. In this rewarding role, you'll go beyond traditional paraeducator duties by providing focused, one-on-one support that truly impacts a student's daily success. Comprehensive training will be provided to ensure you feel confident and equipped to meet the unique needs of each student you work with. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow professionally while making a lasting difference!
Schedule: (as outlined in the board-adopted academic calendar)
• Up to 9 hours per day, Monday

through Thursday
• Occasional Fridays
Starting Wage: (Includes single health insurance)
• Applicant with a HS Diploma or equivalent: \$15.36
• Applicant with an Associate's Degree or equivalent: \$16.41
• Applicant with a Bachelor's Degree or higher: \$17.47
Effective: August 18, 2025
Closing Date: until filled
For applications, please contact Danny Johnston at djohnston@shieldsvalleyschools.org or 406-578-2535. Access the Classified Application Packet at www.shieldsvalleyschools.com.
Shields Valley School District is an equal opportunity employer. Job-specific training will be required as a condition of continued employment.

The Gardiner School is searching for the following **coaching positions** for the 2025-2026 school year.
• **Junior High Football (Head and Assistant)**. August 15th - Oct 15th
General duties for the coach.
a. Create and implement practice plans for the team.
b. Communicate regularly with school administration, athletic director, families, the public, and players.
c. Participate in parent meetings, senior night, and awards ceremonies.
d. Have an understanding of the game of basketball and a good working relationship with athletes.
e. Maintain the values of the Bruin athletic program.
f. Must complete the state required coaching classes: MHSA rules clinic (HS), Concussion in Sports (HS and JH) and Fundamental in Coaching (HS), First Aid and CPR (HS and JH)
Please contact Jeannette Bray or Carmen Harbach at the Gardiner school. 406 848 7563. jbray@gardiner.org, or carmen@gardiner.org
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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.

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!

Einstein's Learning Center is accepting applications for **substitute teacher, part-time assistant teacher, full-time lead teacher and part-time support staff**. We are not just coworkers; we are friends and family. We laugh together, cry together, and have fun together! To apply, please fill out application and state paperwork that is provided on our website at: <https://einsteinlearningcenter.com/> employment. We look forward to speaking with you!

Airport Facilities and Maintenance Technician
The Airport Board is looking for a Facilities and Maintenance Technician to assist with upkeep and




various duties at the Mission Field Airport.


Library Board of Trustees – Volunteer Opening
The Livingston Park County Public Library is seeking a dedicated volunteer to join its Board of Trustees. The Library's mission is to enrich the community by providing access to information, content, and collaborative spaces consistent with people's needs.
How to Apply:
Interested individuals are encouraged to submit an application to the City Clerk.
Help us continue to build a strong, vibrant Library for our community.

Mobile Crisis Response Program Manager
Do you have a passion for community mental health? The **City of Livingston, Montana**, is seeking a highly motivated, caring individual for a rewarding opportunity to serve as the Mobile Crisis Response Program Team Manager. In this role, you will support our community-based, collaborative crisis response team. This position reports to and works under the direction of the Fire Chief.
The Program Manager is responsible for developing and maintaining the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) and its program. Key responsibilities include managing the annual budget, securing funding through Medicaid reimbursements and grants, and creating program policies and procedures that align with Medicaid and City of Livingston policies. Additional duties include participating in staff hiring, training, scheduling, and performance management. The Program Manager will also develop data tracking systems to produce program statistical reports and maintain clinical records.
This role requires the ability to build strong relationships and collaborate effectively with law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, schools, hospital emergency departments, and social service community agencies.
To apply, please send the following items to HR@LivingstonMontana.org:

Sheriff Deputy
Are You Trustworthy, Self-Motivated and Community Minded? The **Park County Sheriff's Office** is looking for one new full time team member interested in a career in a law enforcement capacity in service to Park County residents and visitors. Open until filled.
To apply, please download the application from jobs.parkcounty.org, print it out and submit with your updated resume and cover letter by mail to:
Park County Human Resources
414 E. Callender St.
Livingston, MT 59047

Park County Road Department is looking for an **Operating Engineer** full-time. Apply now!
Position is responsible for the operation and maintenance of county roads and bridges. Works along with the other team members on projects and the Shop Mechanic to assist in the repair and maintenance of the vehicle/equipment fleet. Position is subject to the DOT federal drug testing requirements for a Commercial Vehicle License including a two-year clean testing history. You must have a valid license to operate equipment. If necessary, Park County will facilitate driver to obtain Commercial Vehicle Driver's License. Please apply online at jobs.parkcounty.org.





For Need to Know Information During a Disaster or Emergency Sign Up for Nixle

Text Your Zip Code to 888777 or Sign Up Online at www.parkcounty.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

Emigrant People's Market, located at 8 Story Road in Emigrant on the lawn of St. John's Church. Every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm June through October, weather permitting. Locally created goods, local honey, jams and eggs, eclectic curated items. New vendor inquiry please email emigrantpeoplesmarket@gmail.com for information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HELP WANTED



PEER-SUPPORT RECOVERY SERVICES



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CERTIFIED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST (CBHPSS)

To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to director@pcdropincenter.org

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2616 Meriwether Drive S
3 beds 2 baths | 1,614 sq ft
#404513 | \$570,000
Swanson Team | 406-220-2045



98 Miller Drive
5 beds 3 baths | 3,352 sq ft
#400605 | \$834,690
Tom Gierhan | 406-220-0229



2221 Willow Drive #201-B
2 beds 2 baths | 1,156 sq ft
#403269 | \$376,500
Robin Nelson | 406-600-9034



416 N 3rd Street
4 beds 2 baths | 2,074 sq ft
#403314 | \$559,000
Deb Kelly | 406-220-0801



1115 Ridgeview Trail
3 beds 2.5 baths | 1,758 sq ft
#399280 | \$585,000
Baylor & Carolina Carter | 406-223-7903



9 Grizzly Meadow Road
4 beds 3 baths | 20+ acres
#400644 | \$2,450,000
Tom Gierhan | 406-220-0229



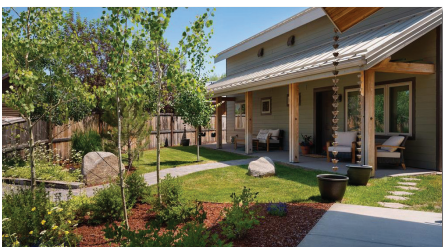
726 US Highway 10 W
4 beds 3 baths | 3,277 sq ft
#401505 | \$782,000
Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



329 S B Street
Commercial Sale | 9,652 sq ft
#401553 | \$1,650,000
Theresa Coleman | 406-223-1405



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



216/218 Little Creek Bend
Multi-Family | Home w/Apartment
#403832 | \$1,100,000
Deb Kelly | 406-220-0801



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



28 W Grannis
3 beds 2 baths | 9+ Acres
#401255 | \$870,000
Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



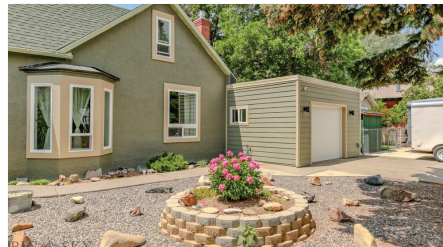
107 Elliot Street N
1 bed 1 bath | 704 sq ft
#398098 | \$600,000
Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



7 Aquila Lane
Land Listing | 2+ acres
#394836 | \$244,000
Deb Kelly | 406-220-0801



425 N 7th Street
4 beds 2.5 baths | 1,726 sq ft
#401573 | \$599,000
Theresa Coleman | 406-223-1405



606 W Gallatin Street
3 beds 1.5 baths | 1,819 sq ft
#403418 | \$509,000
Jon Ellen Snyder | 406-223-8700

Meet the Team...

Baylor was born and raised in Livingston, attending the public schools and enjoying the lifestyle provided by rural Montana. Weekends were spent at the family homestead cabin up Mill Creek assisting his grandparents with ranching duties and sharing Sunday dinners. One of his greatest joys and

accomplishments has been playing music with his wife over the years. Music has led him to both coasts and included two separate stints in the northeast, living in New York City and Cambridge, MA. The scenic beauty as well as the slow paced and spacious

Baylor Carter

Sales Associate

Distinctive Properties

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quality of life has always brought him back to his home state. He gains much satisfaction with a career that allows him to share his knowledge and appreciation of his lifelong home with others.

"Patient, knowledgeable, caring, and responsive. I've been working as a real estate lender for 30 years. We chose to work with Baylor because of his professional yet friendly personality. He was always responsive, took care of every situation right away and removed all of the stress. We highly recommend working with Baylor!" - Loren Z.



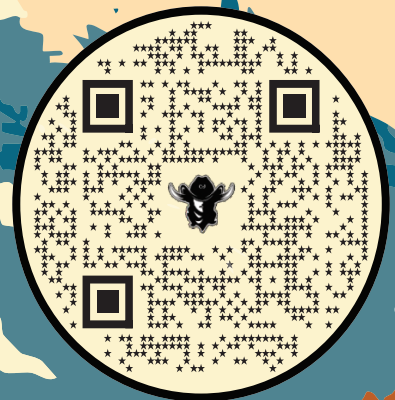
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2025 **AUGUST 16★17**

**NRA PLATINUM
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