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# INSIDE Park County Community Journal

Serving Livingston, Emigrant, Gardiner, Clyde Park, Wilsall & Cooke City

Week of November 23, 2025

## Park County Housing Coalition and Community Members Consider Potential Voluntary Fee Programs

The Park County Housing Coalition, one of many programs hosted by the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), in partnership with Sage Lodge, hosted a community housing fund visioning session on Tuesday, November 18th to explore novel strategies for addressing the longstanding housing crisis plaguing Park County.

The housing conundrum, nothing new to Park County, is by all means a far cry from being solved. Between 2010 and 2022, population figures have steadily increased by 14.1%. As of 2023, an estimated 3% of growth can be accounted for since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. Inevitably, the local housing market—in terms of median home prices and available rental properties—has been impacted



**Tony Crowder**  
Managing Editor

significantly.

The estimated median cost of rent in Park County, configured using a sample of 41 published listings compiled in March, is \$1,590, affordable pricing for households banking approximately \$63,600 annually—\$397 more per month than a median renter can afford, a trend reflected in data provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which indicates a dramatic countywide increase in rental costs across all apartment sizes in 2024. For perspective, the going rate on a two-bedroom apartment in 2025 is \$1,401—a 40% increase from just three years ago, when the same unit rented for nearly \$1,000.

Homeowners, on the other hand, pay on mortgages four times higher than their counterparts did 25 years ago. According to figures provided by the Park County Housing Coalition, the median single family home sale price between January and October 2025 was \$600,487. Assuming these buyers had “excellent” credit and paid 20% down on 30-year-fixed-rate mortgages at a 6.125%

interest rate, new homeowners pay roughly \$3,290 monthly—34% higher than the national median mortgage cost estimated at \$2,172.

Though the median household income has risen slowly since 2010, skyrocketing housing costs simply outpace employee wages. Adjusted for inflation, wage earners, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, pocket \$70,400 per household across a handful of industries prominent in Park County.

Many in the professional and business services sector earn on average \$95,423 annually, yet 28% of the workforce is comprised by members of the leisure and hospitality industry in an economy heavily driven by tourism—earning, on average, \$34,646 annually for just \$16.66 hourly. At an estimated 30% for maximum housing expenses, service industry employees can afford to pay just \$866 monthly with residual income amounting to a mere \$505 weekly—money for food, healthcare, transportation, phone and internet service, childcare, education

and other costs.

“I think we can all agree that housing is certainly an issue,” remarked Sage Lodge General Manager Jon Martin during opening statements at Tuesday’s conference, well attended by several members of the Park County business community, non-profit sector, and school district, among other entities and individuals with a stake in the housing market and local economy. Formal community needs assessments also consistently reveal housing as a persistent challenge.

One potential resolution to this complex issue, according to Park County Housing Coalition Program Manager Katherine Daly, is a flexible, renewable source of funding to close the housing gap for renters and homeowners alike—voluntary fee programs.

“These funding sources are created and administered at the local level to support a variety of affordable housing activities,” she stated, further explaining that such funds may be used to supplement federal grant funding yet without program restrictions and

[See Housing, Page 2](#)

## Shop Local in Emigrant All Month

Twenty-five plus area artisans have combined their handcrafted, original, and printed creations into a collaborative pop-up storefront for the month of December. **The Valley Artisans Shoppe** is located in the prior gift store space next to the laundromat at Emigrant General Store on the corner of Highway 89 and Murphy Lane in Emigrant. The store is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm with extended hours from 10 am to 6 pm on Fridays, beginning Monday, December 1st through the 26th, and will be closed on Christmas Day.

The pop-up storefront features affordable, unique, handcrafted, original, and eclectic artistic treasures including paint-

ings, sculptures, pottery, beadwork, ornaments, photography, quilts, books, frameable greeting cards, one-of-a-kind knives, upcycled vintage clothing,



jewelry and accessories, home décor, wool wares, kid’s keepsakes, and more.

As a collaborative effort, the artists

can retain 100% of their individual sales. Customers are encouraged to shop locally and to please **pay in cash** to keep resources circulating in the area.

The artisans collaborative mission is to offer a local outlet of shared creative skills, to inspire and foster expressed imagination, by keeping the art of handcraft a relevant, viable trade and wholly accessible and alive in all ages.



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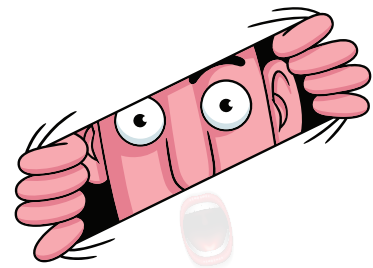
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## Park County Community Journal

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# Housing

from page 1

stipulations—tailored to address priorities and needs specific to each community. The question is whether voluntary fee programs, designed with high degree of variability, are a viable option in Park County.

Plenty of motivation, reasons both personal and professional, for considering this solution surfaced among attendees during a small group discussion workshop, from friends and colleagues jumping ship for more affordable housing markets, to workforce housing shortages and turnover. One Livingston HealthCare employee described how job offers to potential employees are initially considered at length but often declined due to the housing market. Others invoked the housing continuum in Park County, or lack thereof, citing difficulties for aging citizens to downsize or aspiring homeowners to transition out of renting into starter spaces.

Event sponsors invited guest speakers to discuss successful approaches for thwarting these manifold issues, recently designed and implemented throughout the state to pool money for local housing initiatives.

Guest speaker Rhonda Fitzgerald was integral to launching a community support program in Whitefish, where she helped organize a non-profit business collective dedicated to bolstering economic vitality. Initially focused on grant funding and marketing efforts, she and her group eventually sought funding to supplement the state bed tax by instituting a voluntary support fund through tourism promotion fees collected by businesses involved in the local visitation economy—primarily food and beverage, retail, transportation, and lodging.

Member businesses voluntarily charge consumers an additional 1% fee contributed to the fund. Funding is not only used for promoting sustainable tourism via community branding tactics, but financing ongoing program marketing, education and outreach, effectuated in concert with Explore Whitefish and the city government through local media outlets and leadership advocacy. A majority of businesses, she says, have voluntarily joined the alliance, with only a few opting to forego benefits. Guests may also request the additional fee be removed and receive reimbursement, though relatively few such cases exist, according to Fitzgerald.

Half of all proceeds collected by member restaurants—now comprising at least 27 establishments—however, are allocated to a workforce rental assistance program designated for local employees who meet qualification criteria. Applicants must live and work in Whitefish, forfeit more than 30 percent of their household income on rent, and earn below the annual median income. The fund garners nearly \$160,000 annually and those

who qualify may receive up to \$400 in monthly assistance.

Other guest speakers included Ania Bulis, a broker with Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty, and Matt Lovett, Lodging Director for Xanterra. Bulis, former Executive Director of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, organized the non-profit Big Sky Collective, a group of real estate agents and brokers who donate 1% of their gross commission and encourage matching, tax-deductible donations from buyers and sellers to combat the pitfalls of development—a process and problem inherently perpetuated by the real estate industry, she acknowledged.

"We started by reaching out to second homeowners. We really touched on their notions of compassion and empathy for the people that help them daily and whether they were willing to consider giving back to those in need," explained Bulis.

Started in 2021, the group, according to Bulis, has mobilized two million dollars to

promote affordability, sustainability and mental health resilience—the organization's three pillars—by funding medical expenses, affordable housing trusts, food banks and other initiatives for the underserved local workforce—many of which are part-time, seasonal employees who lack health insurance. Though membership numbers often fluctuate, Bulis claims the group generates roughly \$300,000 annually.

The three-and-half hour session concluded with an integrative small-group discussion on structuring a hypothetical voluntary fee program in Park County and how proceeds would be allocated. Program marketing and onboarding, fee structuring, membership recruitment and systemic considerations emerged as central themes.

"When the rent eats first, people go without what they really need to enrich their lives and fulfill themselves. Housing is a smart place to start," said Daly.

For more information, please contact the Daly at kdaly@thehrdc.org or call (406) 723-1941.

## DECODING THE HOWL: And Learning to Talk to Your Dog



December 2, 2025  
6:00 PM

Join us at **The Shane Center** as acclaimed naturalist Jeffery Reed, PhD, pulls back the curtain on the complexity of wolf conversations, with the worlds largest study of wolf communication ever.



YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY  
**MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION**  
PARK COUNTY, MONTANA



December 1, 2025  
5:30 PM

### Groundbreaking Exhibit

Opening at the Museum with reception on December 1st at 5:30 pm, **The Secret Language of Wolves.** With the use of AI and the world's largest study of its kind, Dr. Reed decodes hidden animal communications. Join us at the museum for an immersive, multi-sensory experience and enter into the private world of the wolf.



Presented in association with: Elk River Arts and Lectures, Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition, The Park County Community Foundation Center, Carol Lalani, Yellowstone Forever, Park County Environmental Council and Friends of Park County.



**THE  
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# Local Artist Featured at The Frame Garden—Great Holiday Gifts!



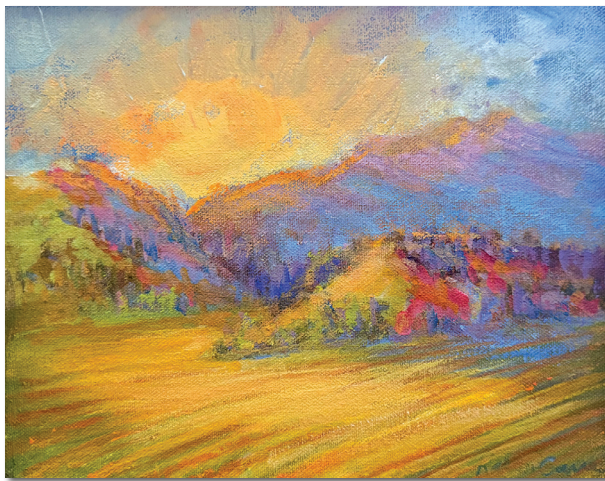
A show of pieces by a collection of local artists, which opened at the recent Art Walk, is being featured through the holidays at The Frame Garden.

Of particular interest are several new pieces from popular artist **Steve Fox**, who has been on a hiatus from painting. His landscapes are primarily of this area including locations such as Swingley Road, Elephants Head, and Tom Miner Basin.

**Karen Garre** is another local artist who has new pieces being featured. A particularly bold palette is a signa-

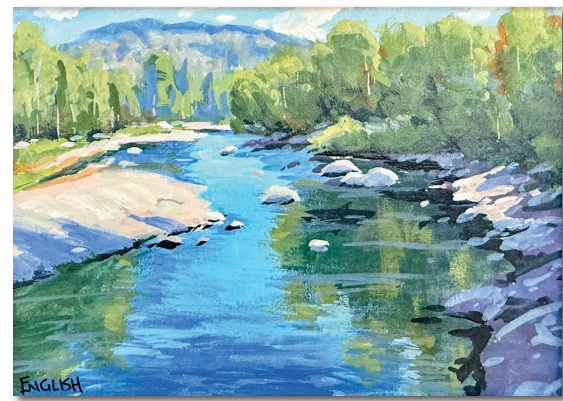
ture of Garre's landscapes.

The distinctive and popular pen and ink washes of wildlife by artist **Robert Spannring** are another of the features.



Prints and original linocuts of **Sarah Angst** hang on one of the gallery walls, as do pieces by **Thomas English** and watercolorist **Brook Laughlin**.

Further artists with pieces on display are **Colin Alexander**, stained glass artist **Susan Alexander**, watercolorist **Lynn Bickerton Chan**, lithographer and painter **Russell Chatham**, painter **Edd Enders**, painter and cut paper artist **Georgia Donovan**, artist wood turner **Frank Horiel**, night-sky photographer **Matthe Jackson**, photographer **George Kalantzis**, potter **Lisa Marshall**, stained



glass lamp maker **Steve Marti**, painter **Aaron Schuerr**, painter **David Swanson**, and painter **James Weikert**. There are also prints by other local artists.

## SHIELDS VALLEY <sup>Upcoming</sup> EVENTS

### November 25th

- Elementary/Junior High Boys Basketball at Big Timber – 4 pm

### November 26th

- Early Release Day
- 5th and 6th Graders to the High School for Shakespeare Play – 10:45 am

### November 27th

- Happy Thanksgiving

### November 29th

- Redneck Christmas Parade in Clyde Park at 6 pm — Calling all folks to come join the fun! Bring your decorated rig (tractors, side by sides, vehicles, semis, etc.). Absolutely no candy throwing. Be ready to go at

the high school parking lot by 5:30 pm. Santa will be looking for you!

- Movie in the Valley – Under the awning at the Shields Valley Community Center – 7 pm

### November 30th

- Shields Valley Christmas Fair at the Shields Valley Community Center from 12 to 4 pm
- Wilsall Foundation 8th Annual Festival of Trees at 105 E. Clark Street from 4 to 6 pm

### December 1st

- Post-Bond Planning Committee – 6 pm

### December 2nd

- Elementary/Junior High Boys Basketball versus Manhattan Christian – 4:15 pm

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



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## FOOD DRIVE for the Food Resource Center, running through the month of November.

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# Melody, Harmony and Rhythm Saddle Conley's Books and Music

By James Fly

Jimmy Conley picked up his guitar and started playing and singing Gene Autrey's "Back in the Saddle Again." A professional guitar teacher for many years, Jimmy admits he can't saddle a horse, but he did hitch up with Nan, a flute-playing horsewoman in 2005, and they've been playing and teaching music together ever since.

Jimmy and Nan own Conley's Books and Music located on the second floor of The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts. In the store's studio they teach and inspire over 40 local students ranging from elementary school- to retirement-age.

Jimmy instructs students in ukulele, acoustic, bass and electric guitar, piano and percussion, while Nan teaches traditional and Native American flute.

Three times a year the Conleys host live gigs during which their students perform classic tunes, covers and original pieces before an audience of enthusiastic family members and friends. Their annual holiday gig will take place in The Shane Center's Dulcie Theatre on Monday, December 15th at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to this free performance.

The second marriage for both, Jimmy and Nan's union has brought melody, harmony and rhythm not only to their students but also to listeners in the many venues in which they have played and continue to play.

The story of Conley's began in April 2002, when Jimmy partnered with the late bookseller, Tim Gable, in a book and music store located in what is now Wolf's Mercantile on Main Street in downtown Livingston. Five years later, Jimmy and Nan, who married in 2006, bought out the ailing Mr. Gable.

In 2017, The Shane Center invited them to move their store and studio to the center's second floor. "We're actually in the former third-grade classroom and I've taught students who went to school here in the 50s and 60s," says Jimmy, his bright Irish blue eyes smiling.

The Conley's built their studio with scrap lumber and 14" sound proofing, which has resulted in no noise complaints from the center's other tenants.

Jimmy grew up in Chico, California, and came to teaching naturally since his father, uncle and aunts were all teachers or school administrators. In the electrified air of 60s San Francisco Bay with bands like Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead and Quicksilver Messenger Service playing, it was a no-brainer for Jimmy to start a band with his friends as a sophomore in high school.

He went on to study drama and music at Chico State College and paid for his education playing area gigs. His agent eventually signed him up to play as a guitarist for a band playing several gigs in Montana. Passing through Livingston on July 2nd for the annual Independence Day Parade and Rodeo, Jimmy went to a couple bars and was invited to go fishing on the Yellowstone River.

Like a rainbow trout lured by a well-tied fly, Jimmy was hooked and never released from the historic railroad town. "I said to myself, 'If I ever settle down, I want to settle down in this town,'" Jimmy says.

Eight years later, he fulfilled that promise to himself. Between 1993

and 1998, he furthered his musical studies at both Montana State University and the University of Montana, serving a graduate teaching assistantship at the latter.

A native of Noblesville, Indiana, Hoosier Nan remembers taking trips with her parents to both Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone National Parks, trips that acquainted her with the vastness of the West. Awarded a scholarship to Butler University in Indianapolis, Nan studied music at the school for two years before quitting college and going to work for the Indiana Highway Department, moving up from flag person to heavy equipment operator.

After developing an allergy to asphalt fumes, Nan was compelled to move to Newport Beach, California, to join her uncle who worked for the police department there. She started out in parking enforcement and retired as a senior



community service officer.

During that time, she had two horses, a relationship that comforted her when her first husband passed away.

"The horse community in Newport Beach was my salvation," notes Nan. After visiting a friend who resided in Livingston, Nan decided to move here with her two daughters and has never looked back.

Today, she and Jimmy, who have two sons, live on a 90-acre ranch located up

Cokedale Road with five horses, three llamas, three dogs and cats and an assortment of chickens and ducks. There's no "partridge in a pear tree," though.

But if you come to the Conley's holiday gig, you just might see and hear some drummers drumming, pipers piping and guitarists strumming!

*James Fly is a co-editor of the Silver Tip, the newsletter of the Park County Senior Center*

## ERA LANDMARK REAL ESTATE'S ANNUAL Gingerbread HOUSE CONTEST

**Enter by dropping off your creation:**  
**December 1-4, 2025 | 8:30 AM -5 PM**  
**ERA Landmark Real Estate**  
**215 S Main Street, Livingston, MT 59047**  
**Questions? Call 406-222-8700**

<p>Open Category</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trophy &amp; \$300</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$150</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$75</p>	<p>Youth Category (12 and Under)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trophy &amp; \$100</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$50</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$25</p>
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SCAN FOR MORE  
**info**



# Nutcracker Rehearsal Fun at YBC

by Joyce Johnson

It was so quiet when I climbed up the strangely quiet, old wooden steps of the Yellowstone Ballet Company (YBC) on B Street. The one with the owner's great ballet paintings on it's east side. A little girl in white leotards and short skirt smiled at me from the top of the steps when I asked if there's a rehearsal here. She nodded and told me they were just changing costumes and things now, so I tiptoed into the small entry area. Two busy young moms, Emily at a sewing machine, who when I asked if she helps with costumes, shyly said she tries. I know the challenge of those machines, so I smiled and nodded. She's mom of the twins, Grace and Rose, who are dancing. The woman at a laptop, whose name is Aurora, was pink-cheeked because she was actually "at work" she said, while her daughter Ava danced.

I looked to the left to see the familiar, brightly lit dance studio with the full room length mirror that made it look huge and twice as busy. I tried to find an empty seat that wasn't for little people. Emily kindly produced a big person's chair for me and

I sat in the narrow hallway near two observing parents. [See photo of little Gracie and her Dad. And Zhavia and her mom, Britney.] Then the music turned on and took over. The studio activities were multiple and all at once... and the dancers, some only 6 or 7 years old, were dressed in half one costume, half of another between scenes. While I watched amused and a bit confused, they morphed from cute little sheep into tin soldiers with tall hats and swords, to brilliant scarlet print oriental dresses with hooped skirts, and

then to a scene of... dancing mice and rats!

**The Soul of the Nutcracker:** Nothing on Earth will ever hold a torch to the singly awesome imagination and music created in this timeless ballet and its charming fairy tale. I listened to the loved and familiar tunes and thought of my friend, Livingston's own composer, Dean Anderson, who expertly interprets and creates the accompaniment for the YBC, now in it's 38th year, and 34th year of *The Nutcracker*, with the additions of impressive professional guest dancers every year.

In the midst of the kaleidoscope of ever changing color, chatter and movement... YBC owner, friend, dance coordinator, and former ballerina, Rakela, who has been teaching here since 1987, moves from one child to another, adjusting a costume here, demonstrating a dance move there, and directing all the action at

the same time. As long as devotees like Rakela, and her artist-husband, Rick, keep creating ballets like *The Nutcracker* and the upcoming spring production of **The Little Mermaid**, we will have this priceless treasure for our children in Park County. Some of those little ones they trained grew up and carry the torch today. Adele is one of them, a young woman who appeared to be an assistant instructor at first, later donned a cape and sword, and

memory of the joy, high vibe, color and movement of the brief but loaded hour I spent there at YBC with parents, kids and all. Ballet is one of the highest forms of human/soul expression that becomes more cherished, I believe, now, in contrast to the discord and "mis-dance" of the world greatly efforting to survive. I noticed the affection between the children and jotted down in my notes, "watch the children here for true heart friendships formed... and perhaps much more."

**Moms and Dads, Aunts and grantees, teachers and friends!**



Rakela fixes costume and twins stand by



Friends

I learned, she is performing too! She said she learned to dance here at YBC. She forgot how young she was. She went to Park High, then college in Maine to study Earth Sciences and Classic Ballet. "Wow, what a curriculum!" I said. Not all dancers just dance. She just smiled. After recently graduating, she returned to Livingston and teaches some of the advanced dancers, but I observed an indispensable, fun, multi-tasking, big sis type studio helper. Like ballet mom Emily Jones, who was back at the sewing machine, her twin girls Grace and Rose play Clara and the Rat Queen, respectively. Both young women dance in many scenes. Emily said, "My girls, and others spend most of their non-school time here at the studio." In the parking lot, I was glad and impressed to see the balance of the ballet arrive: some young boys spilled out of a car and headed for the studio.

**The Heart Knows:** The heart has arms like graceful wings; the children dance the story while the music sings [many in pink satin toe shoes]. I get a lump in my throat as I sit here, predawn writing from



Standing still for once!

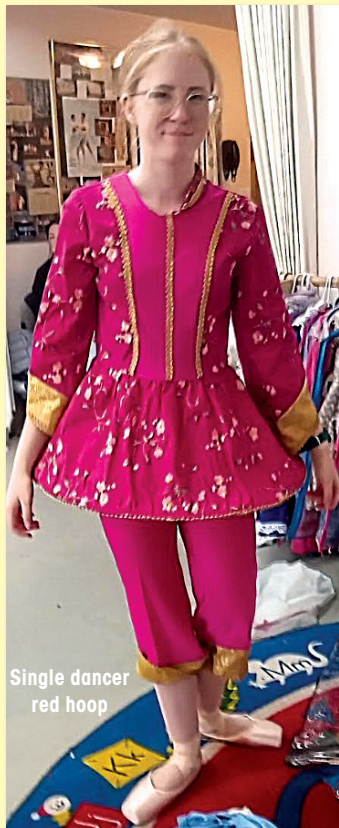


Mamma Bridney and Zhavia

We have this gift of classic dance downtown and walking distance from the schools and many of their homes. New classes are formed regularly. But to most of us, *The Nutcracker* is the Star, like the forever-beautiful Venus, brightly dominating the heavens. No age requirements; loved globally, which defines "Classic."



Clara



Single dancer red hoop



Dad and little lamb



Emilie & Aurora - moms at work

Show times are Nov. 29th and 30th at 2:30 pm at the Willson Auditorium in Bozeman. Costume Contest at intermission with prizes! Go online to hear more and get tickets, and better hurry!

[www.yellowstoneballet.info](http://www.yellowstoneballet.info)

CHILD FREE WITH ADULT

## The Nutcracker



YELLOWSTONE  
BALLET CO.

Nov. 29th &  
30th 2:30p.m.

WILLSON AUDITORIUM  
CHILD FREE WITH ADULT



Child Nutcracker costume contest during intermission! PRIZES!

[YELLOWSTONEBALLET.INFO](http://YELLOWSTONEBALLET.INFO)





# The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts Presents "Timeless Perception" Written and Performed by the Students of the Devised Theatre Initiative.

This weekend, students of the Devised Theatre Initiative will present their original work titled "Timeless Perception" with a talk back immediately following. Performances will be Friday, November 21st at 7:30 pm, Saturday, November 22nd at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, November 23rd at 3 pm. The Shane Center's Devised Theatre Initiative (DTI) allows students ages 13 to 17 to explore contemporary social issues and prepare a collaborative

artistic performance together for the community and their peers, using their own voices. By encouraging students to openly address difficult topics, bridges can be formed that mitigate feelings of social isolation. For the past six weeks, Education Directors, Sarah Kelly and Devon Johnson, have been working side-by-side with a fantastic group to create, write, and build an original show that will address an issue these young folks would like

to share with our community. This year's piece is titled "Timeless Perception" and explores the different futuristic possibilities shaped by the choices we're making today. These young artists have poured their hearts into this piece, and they'd love to have the community there cheering them on.

Tickets will be available online at <https://the-shanecenter.ludus.com/index.php> or by calling the Box Office at 406 222 1420. Education program-

ming at the Shane Center is generously sponsored by the David F. Simpson Scholarship Fund; Chico Hot Springs Resort; the Crazy Mountain Ranch; the GlassyBaby Foundation; the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation; the Casazza Family Foundation; AMB West; and is supported in part by grants from the Montana Arts Council, an agency of the state government; and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Bozeman Symphony Education and Community Engagement Coordinator Cierra Wallace Appointed to National Committee

The Bozeman Symphony Education and Community Engagement Coordinator Cierra Wallace was recently appointed to the League of 'American Orchestras' Education and Community Engagement Leadership Committee.



As a member, she will provide leadership for the fields of education and community engage-

ment within symphony orchestras. Wallace will work with other members to identify and address issues of interest, concern, and exploration for education and community engagement professionals; serve as an advocate for education and community engagement in the industry; establish governing policies for the committee; support recruitment and cultivation of education and community engagement professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds; and support professional development opportunities.

In her role at the Bozeman Symphony, Wallace oversees a diverse range of education-

al programs, including Symphony Storytime, KinderKonzerts, the Fourth Grade Concert, Masterclasses, and Side-by-Side rehearsals. She also coordinates the Symphony's community initiatives, such as Far Afield concerts, the annual Family Concert, concerts in partnership with Befrienders, and the Memory Care and Joy Programs, which bring music to those in need of comfort and enrichment.

A member of the Bozeman Symphony staff for four years, Wallace holds a Masters degree in International and Intercultural Communication (public and cultural diplomacy and

intercultural relations) from American University in Washington, D.C., and has completed further graduate studies in international art management and international development and cooperation at American University and Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, respectively. A Bozeman native, she earned her Bachelors degree at Vanguard University and studied abroad in Europe and North Africa with Semester at Sea.

For more information about Bozeman Symphony's educational and community programs, please visit [www.bozemansymphony.org](http://www.bozemansymphony.org).

## Wheatgrass Books Celebrates Small Business Saturday

**ZERO PROOF, FULL SPIRIT**  
**MERRY MOCKTAILS FOR ALL**  
**W/ JONA & RICK VISSER OF LATENT COMMONS**

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**NOVEMBER 29, 3 PM**  
**AT WHEATGRASS BOOKS**

Wheatgrass Books is celebrating Small Business Saturday, November 29th, with a full day of community, creativity, and local talent. Visitors can meet two Montana authors and take part in a festive, hands-on mocktail workshop—all in support of shopping small and celebrating local arts.

The day begins with award-winning author **Janet Fox**, whose middle-grade novel *The Mystery of Mystic Mountain* was selected as Humanities Montana's 2025 Great Reads from Great Places youth title, representing Montana at the National Book Festival. Fox will be in the shop from 11 am to 2 pm signing copies of *The Mystery of Mystic Mountain* and her other beloved books. The novel is also a finalist for the Willa Award

from Women Writing the West in Middle Grade Fiction/Nonfiction.

From 2 to 5 pm, Wheatgrass welcomes **Edie Vogel**, author of *Blake the Bear*, for a signing and conversation. *Blake the Bear* was created in collaboration with illustrator Sarah Broesder—Vogel's sister and fellow Livingston native. Their stories draw inspiration from their Montana childhood, spent exploring the outdoors with family.

At 3 pm, **Jona and Rick Visser** of Latent Commons will host *Zero Proof, Full Spirit: Merry*

### SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY November 29

#### Meet Janet Fox

Author of *The Mystery of Mystic Mountain*  
11 a.m.–2 p.m.

#### Meet Edie Vogel

Author of *Blake the Bear*  
2–5 p.m.

#### Mocktail Workshop

"Zero Proof, Full Spirit: Merry Mocktails for All!"  
3 p.m.

**Wheatgrass Books**  
Livingston, Montana

*Mocktails for All!* a hands-on holiday workshop celebrating wellness and creativity in every glass. Participants will learn to craft three vibrant, alcohol-free drinks using homemade syrups, aromatic bitters, and festive spices.

Tickets are \$20, and space is limited—

email [WheatgrassBooks@gmail.com](mailto:WheatgrassBooks@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

Wheatgrass Books invites the community to shop local, meet local authors, and toast the season with zero-proof spirit. They are located at 120 N. Main St.

Recipe by  
**Carla Williams**

### RECIPE CORNER Chocolate Pumpkin Cheesecake Recipe

#### Ingredients

##### For The Crust

- 1 package Oreo cookies processed
- 1/2 cup butter melted

##### For The Filling

- 24 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 can pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 3 ounces cheesecake pudding mix

##### For The Chocolate Ganache

- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

#### Instructions

##### For The Crust

1. Combine processed Oreo cookies and butter in a large bowl. Mix until well combined (your mixture should be the consistency of wet sand).
2. Line the bottom of your springform pan with parchment paper. Press the Oreo mixture into the bottom of the pan, being sure to pack it firmly. You can use the bottom of a glass or flat measuring cup to push down on it.

##### For The Cheesecake Filling

1. Add cream cheese to a large mixing bowl. Mix on high speed until smooth.
2. Add brown sugar and mix until well combined.
3. Add pumpkin puree, vanilla extract,



Photo Credit: [goodlifeeats.com](http://goodlifeeats.com)

pumpkin pie spice, sour cream and cheesecake pudding mix. Mix well.

4. Pour 1 1/2 cups of heavy cream into a mixing bowl. Mix on high until stiff peaks form.
5. Fold into the cream cheese mixture.
6. Continue to fold until well combined, then pour the cheesecake mixture over the Oreo cookie crust. Smooth out evenly and refrigerate overnight.

##### For The Chocolate Ganache

1. Place chocolate chips and heavy cream in a microwave safe dish. Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring after each, until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth.
2. Remove cheesecake from the springform pan and pour chocolate over the top, spreading it evenly. I like to spread it to the edge of the cheesecake, letting some drip down the sides.
3. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Enjoy!

#### Notes

- Be sure to use room temperature cream cheese or your cheesecake might be lumpy.
- This recipe could also be made with a Golden Oreo or graham cracker crust.

### Meals for November 24th–28th

**Mon., Nov. 24th** - Sloppy joes on bun, sweet potato fries, fruit cocktail, milk

**Tues., Nov. 25th** - Turkey noodle soup, crackers, peaches, milk

**Wed., Nov. 26th** - Sweet & sour chicken, eggroll, pineapple, cake, milk

**Thurs., Nov. 27th** - CLOSED

**Fri., Nov. 28th** - CLOSED



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# FINANCIAL FOCUS®



July Hardesty

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July T Hardesty  
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## Smart Financial Moves to Make Before Year-End

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider.

- **Don't forget about required withdrawals.** If you're 73 or older, you'll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25% penalty on any amount you

should have withdrawn but didn't. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.

- **Use your flexible spending money.** Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a "use it or lose it" rule. Check with your HR department about your plan's specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts.

Whether it's that dental work you've been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now's the time to use those funds before they disappear.

- **Boost your retirement savings.** Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year, so you won't have to remember to do it later.
- **Share the wealth through gifting.** In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to \$19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to \$38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone's tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.
- **Navigate new tax changes.** The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It's worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.

- **Examine your investments.** Take some time to review your investment portfolio. Ask yourself: Did your investments perform as expected this year? Do they still match your goals and comfort level with risk? You might need to rebalance things to get back on track.
- **Build up your emergency fund.** It's ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.
- **Review your estate planning documents.** This is especially important if you've had major life changes like marriage, divorce, or a new baby. Don't forget to check the beneficiary designations on all your bank and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies—these often override what's written in your will.

Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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

## Arts/Entertainment

# Bozeman Symphony Unveils 2025 Commemorative Holiday Ornament Illustrated by Bryan Schaeffer

The Bozeman Symphony announces the release of its 2025 commemorative holiday ornament, featuring artwork by Emmy-winning illustrator and filmmaker Bryan Schaeffer of SINTR Studios. A Bozeman-based artist and storyteller, Schaeffer has developed a close creative partnership with the Symphony, and his work will once again help support the organization through this special fundraiser. The limited-edition ornament will be available for purchase at upcoming Symphony concerts.

The handcrafted ceramic ornament—the first in a planned annual series—depicts a trumpet player outdoors in the Bridger Mountains, snow drifting softly around him. The reverse side features the Bozeman Symphony logo.

Schaeffer first partnered with the Symphony in 2024, creating an animated video for the organization's annual fundraising

campaign. He also designed the visual artwork for the Bozeman Symphonic Choir's production *The Stones Sang*. This piece quickly became an audience favorite and was later offered as a limited-edition print to benefit the Symphony.

This winter, Schaeffer will introduce his newest creative endeavor, *The Snow Day*, with a special Montana-exclusive "Pray for Snow Edition." The book series blends hand-drawn illustrations with folklore, storytelling, and deep reverence for wild places—inviting readers of all ages to rediscover wonder, curiosity, and resilience in the winter season. The limited edition will be sold at the Symphony's *Holiday*

*Spectacular concerts*, December 12th–14th at the Willson Auditorium.

The "Pray for Snow Edition" features three new titles:

- The Snow Day: A Yellowstone

Adventure (Picture Book)

- The Snow Day Coloring Book
- The Snow Day (Young Adult Novel)

Each limited-edition copy includes a collectible "Pray for Snow" sticker and early access to *Made in Montana*, a short film connected to the series and supported in part by the Montana Film Office's Big Sky Film Grant. The film is scheduled to premiere in Fall 2026.

"The Snow Day is about creativity,

resilience, and that shared spark of wonder we feel when winter transforms the landscape," says Schaeffer. "Launching this series here in Montana is a way of giving back to the community that continues to inspire my work."

Following the local launch, *The Snow Day* series will be released nationwide in March 2026, beginning with select independent bookstores—including Bozeman's own Country Bookshelf.



# Let's BINGO!

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## SHIELDS VALLEY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

### REDNECK CHRISTMAS PARADE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH 6PM

### MOVIE IN THE VALLEY 7PM

CLYDE PARK, MT

### SHIELDS VALLEY CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH 12-4PM

SHIELDS VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

CLYDE PARK, MT

### FESTIVAL OF TREES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH 4-6

DANCE HALL

WILLSALL, MT



# Livingston Songwriter Festival Makes Donation to Park High Music Program

The Livingston Songwriter Festival has made a \$5000 donation to Park High School's Music Department to supplement their music program.

"The Livingston Songwriter Festival has three missions—to promote the art of songwriting and songwriters, to promote Livingston as a destination for music fans—promoting an economic lift to local businesses, and to support music education in our schools," explained Mike Booth, who produces the festival with locals John Lowell and Joanne Gardner Lowell.

tana and across the country showcased their songs and stories in forty shows throughout the weekend. Additionally, eighteen aspiring songwriters attended a two-day songwriting workshop enhancing their songwriting skills. Over 64 percent of ticket buyers traveled more than 100 miles away to attend the festival, and 38 percent were from outside the state of Montana, benefiting the economy with money spent on lodging stays, meals, gas and more."

"By donating this check to Garrett Stannard (with Park High School's music department) we accomplish our third goal," added coproducer John Lowell. "Park High School will use the money to address a significant challenge: limited access to private lesson teachers. These lessons will be conducted in the Park High School music

studio, utilizing tools such as recording equipment and software to facilitate interactive and impactful sessions. By offering group lessons, they will maximize the reach of this investment,

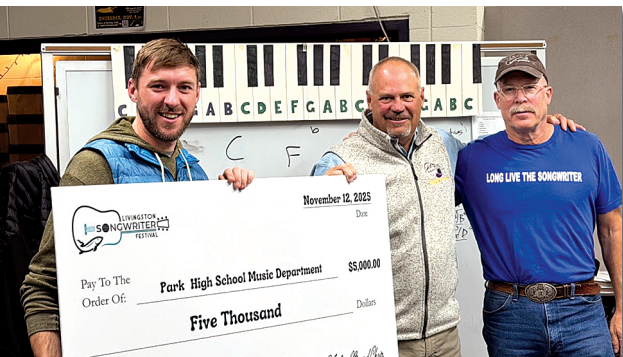


allowing multiple students to benefit from expert instruction."

The Livingston's Yellowstone Songwriter Festival is a production of the Rocky Mountain Songwriters Inc., a 501 c (3) organization and will return October 1 - 3, 2026 with new and returning performers for their third annual event. The lineup and early tickets will be available soon after the first of the year, with opportunities for people to become involved through sponsorships,

becoming patrons, offering housing donations and volunteers.

"We look forward to next year, when we will bring new songwriters to share their songs and stories, attracting more music fans to Livingston, and continuing to enrich the lives of young people through music," added coproducer Joanne Gardner Lowell. "We love how Livingston has embraced this festival and thank everyone who made this donation and this festival possible."



"We're delighted to announce we've accomplished all three after our festival in early October," said Booth. "During the 2nd Annual Livingston Songwriter Festival, twenty songwriters from Mon-

## When Conversations Get Hard

Thanksgiving week brings its own kind of weather.

Outside, snow threatens but doesn't always arrive. Stores glow with early Christmas lights. Inside, kitchens hum, kids are home from school, and families gather... some around full tables, some in smaller, quieter ways. Relatives surround some people. Others are on their own this year, for reasons as personal as life itself.

For a few of us, that gathering feels easy. For others, it brings a familiar tension: what if the conversation turns political, personal, or painful? What if the people we love most are the hardest to talk to?

Wherever you find yourself this week (hosting, visiting, or choosing peace and stillness) one truth holds: how we communicate determines how connected we stay.

### How We Lose Each Other—and How We Don't

Most conflict is not about who is right. It is about whom feels heard. When someone expresses a strong opinion, old stories rise up fast. The nervous system prepares for disagreement. We stop listening to understand and start listening to defend.

That is when a small comment can create a big reaction. It is not the topic itself that breaks connection. It is the fear underneath it.

Resilient communication is not about avoiding tension. It is about staying open long enough to remain human with each other.



### Three Tools for Staying Kind and Clear

- 1. Find Common Ground First** - Before diving into differences, name what you share: *"I'm glad we're together,"* or *"We both care about this."* It softens edges and reminds everyone of the connection underneath the disagreement.
- 2. Use "What I Hear You Saying..."** - When someone shares a strong opinion, reflect it back before responding: *"What I hear you saying is that you're worried about... Did I get that right?"* It shows respect, lowers defensiveness, and often opens space for real dialogue.
- 3. Know When to Step Back** - If a conversation starts looping or heating up, take a graceful pause: *"I value our relationship too much to argue right now. Let's set this aside for today."* Boundaries protect both peace and dignity: yours and theirs.

### Why It Matters in Park County

Here in Park County, we cross paths everywhere; at the post office, grocery store, school events, Civic Center, etc. There is not much room for burning bridges, and that is a good thing.

Strong communities depend on our ability to stay in conversation even when we see things differently. That is what makes this place special: neighbors who still help each other shovel snow after a disagreement or share a table even when the opinions around it do not match.

How we talk to each other matters. When communication breaks down, community weakens. When communication stays steady, even with differences, it strengthens the fabric that holds us together.

This week the 17th Annual Complimentary Thanksgiving Community Dinner at the Livingston Civic Center will welcome anyone from one to four in the afternoon. No reservations needed. For some, that meal will be a lifeline. For others, it will be a place to share warmth and company. Belonging is resilience, and this community has a deep well of it.

I think about this every year at my own family's Thanksgiving. I am a vegan, partly because I cannot shake the feeling that a turkey shouldn't have to lose its life for us to share gratitude. And yet there I am, year after year, welcomed into a big Montana table hosted by my sister-in-law, a fifth-generation Montanan and a lifelong carnivore, who cooks for thirty or more people with joy and generosity. She always makes sure there are delicious homemade vegan dishes just for me. That simple act of care, despite our differences, is one of the ways I see resilience and connection in action. It is not about agreeing. It is about making space for each other.

### The Coaching Perspective

In coaching, we call this conscious communication. It is the practice of staying aware of your reactions, choosing your words with intention, and grounding yourself before the moment sweeps you away.

It is not about agreement. It is about staying steady, curious, and



connected in the midst of emotion. When we communicate from that place, trust grows, even in difficult conversations.

### Your Turn

This week, try one communication reset.

*At the table:* Before responding to something you disagree with, take one slow sip of your drink. That small pause lets your wiser self lead.

*With family or coworkers:* Begin a sentence with "What I appreciate about you is..." and notice how it shifts the room.

*For yourself:* After the meal or the gathering, step outside into the cold air and let your shoulders drop. Gratitude is not only spoken. Sometimes it is simply felt.

Meaningful connection does not require perfect agreement. It requires presence, respect, and the courage to stay kind, even when the conversation gets messy.

Kinerette "Rainy" Martin, SHRM-CP, is a leadership and business coach who helps Park County organizations solve people problems that impact profit, retention, and morale. She also works with individuals navigating personal and professional transitions. Learn more at [coachrainy.com](http://coachrainy.com)





# Your Ageless Wellness Column

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

## Silence: The Doorway to the Real You

Somewhere along the ancient path that led to the Temple of Delphi in Greece, travelers would come across a simple yet timeless command: **"Know Thyself."** It was written not into a scroll or whispered as a secret, but etched into stone—an invitation for anyone seeking wisdom, healing, or clarity.

Most of us think knowing ourselves is about answering big questions... "What do I believe?" "What have I done?" "What should I do next?" But the truth is far quieter—and far simpler. To know yourself, you first must *hear* yourself.

And hearing yourself requires **silence**.

### Why Silence Matters

Silence isn't just the absence of sound—it's the absence of interruption. In silence, the external world falls away, and something deeper begins to speak: your own awareness, your own wisdom, and your own truth.

It's in silence that you notice:

- Your breath, soft and steady.
- Your body, carrying stories it never told.
- Your longings, waiting patiently to be heard.

In quiet stillness, you meet yourself again—not as you've been labeled, but as you are. And from that place, life begins to make sense.

### Technology and the Noise of Forgetting

We live in a time where most of our attention is borrowed. Screens light up, notifications buzz, voices shout, opinions blast. Even when we're alone, we're surrounded by noise.

This constant stimulation keeps us from hearing the quiet voice inside—the one that says, "slow down," "forgive yourself," or sometimes, "you've been carrying this too long."

Without moments of silence, we become strangers to ourselves—reacting to life instead of responding to it.

And when we stop hearing ourselves, we

stop **knowing** ourselves.

### The Sacred Task of Knowing Yourself

"Know Thyself" isn't just ancient wisdom—it's life's purpose. *It's the single most important work we have in this life.*

Because without truly knowing ourselves—our rhythms, values, and truth—we're tossed about by outside forces that know nothing about who we are. Advertising, news media, social pressure, religious rhetoric, and medical authority can all become forms of self-abandonment when we don't have an inner compass.

When we don't know ourselves, we hand our power over—often without even realizing it. But when we do know ourselves, we walk with clarity, confidence, and choice.

We remember that we are *a spark of the One Infinite Source*—the creator looking through human eyes.

To know yourself is to know the Divine. Should I say that again? **To know yourself is to know the Divine.**

To listen to your own voice is to honor your origin. Your origin is Divine.

When you forget yourself, you forget your power. And when you forget your power, you forget your purpose. But all it takes to begin again is a moment of stillness—a breath of silence that turns you back toward the truth you've always carried within.

In silence, we don't escape the world—we remember how to meet it, centered and whole.

### The Benefits of Sitting in Silence

Silence isn't just "quiet time." It reaches into every layer of our being—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual.

#### Physical Benefits

- Reduces stress hormones and inflammation
- Lowers blood pressure and relaxes muscle tension

- Enhances immune function and supports healing
- Improves sleep quality and nervous system balance

#### Mental Benefits

- Increases cognitive clarity, focus, and creativity
- Reduces mental fatigue and racing thoughts
- Restores memory and mental resilience
- Helps reveal unconscious beliefs and patterns

#### Emotional Benefits

- Strengthens self-empathy and emotional regulation
- Provides space to safely process emotions
- Lowers anxiety and reactive overwhelm
- Builds inner calm and acceptance

#### Spiritual Benefits

- Deepens connection to your inner voice and intuition
- Awakens a sense of wonder, gratitude, and awe
- Strengthens the experience of personal meaning and truth
- Aligns you with your core essence — the spark of the Divine within

**Silence isn't just rest — it's repair.** It's remembering. And it brings us back not only to wholeness, but to who we've been all along.

### A Simple Practice: Creating Your Silence Space

Here's a way to bring silence into your daily wellness routine:

- 1. Choose a time and place:** It doesn't have to be long. Two minutes. Five minutes. Just begin.
- 2. Sit without expectation:** You're not



meditating—you're listening.

**3. Notice without fixing:** Thoughts, feelings, memories might rise. Let them.

**4. Come back to the breath:** Let it be your anchor.

**5. Use your name:** Quietly ask yourself, "Garrick... what do you need right now?" Speak your name as a way of being present with yourself.

Make room for silence. Not because life demands it—but because your inner life is longing for it.

We'll talk more about this in next week's article.

**Written by Garrick Fulmer-Faust, CPT, CNC, CLC**

Certified Personal Trainer • Certified Nutrition Coach • Certified Life Coach  
Executive Director of the Park County Senior Center | Founder of *The Hub* at PCSC  
Advocate for senior wellness, self-awareness, and the lifelong journey of wholeness.

Questions? Comments? I appreciate both.  
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A huge **Thank You** to our wonderful community for  
helping us make this special event possible!



# Antibiotic Awareness Week

by Nurse Jill

It is a common story: you feel terrible enough to finally go in to see a doctor and then come away with "nothing." The complaint "they didn't give me anything" is uttered when hopes of health restored are dashed.

In the years following the new technology of antibiotics becoming widely accessible (and affordable), there was a drastic decrease in deaths from infections. It was considered a miracle drug. And it certainly was a miracle to finally have a tool of hope against a situation that was previously considered hopeless. This was good news and health care providers were excited.

The bad news, however, was that in their excitement many prescribers started administering the treatment in a "just in case" or a "might as well try it" attitude. Patients, too, wanted "something" when they felt sick. In the short term, this didn't seem to cause any harm. After all, the drugs themselves were low risk and after having survived through years (decades) of patients dying without antibiotics to treat life-threatening infections, this was considered a path of prevention as well as treatment. What many healthcare providers (or patients) did not clearly foresee was the ability of many bacteria to learn resistance to the antibiotics and become stronger and more resilient to the miracle drug.

New antibiotics had to be researched, trialed, and approved, but a major shift in clinical approach also had to be accomplished in addition to the shift in chemical composition.

Antibiotics had to start being used only when proven effective and needed, not as a "just in case" or a "might as well" card to throw into the ring.

Antibiotics only treat bacteria. If your ailment is from a virus or a fungus, then antibiotics will not help. However, patients over the years had gotten used to getting "something" to help when they were under the weather. Being told that what you suffer from is viral and the only thing to do is support the body while fighting it off feels almost like neglect. But to give antibiotics to a viral or fungal illness is not only not going to help, but could actually complicate your situation rather than improve it.

If a physician assesses your situation and determines that you are not suffering from a bacterial

infection, they are doing you a favor by not giving you that "something" (antibiotics) that many are hoping for. In the United States, 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections happen annually with more than 35,000 people losing their life as a result. It will take responsible use of antibiotics to ensure that the medical community can keep successfully using the miracle drug for years to come.

This is what Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 18th - 24th) is all about. Education for both consumer and providers of healthcare to stop the slow erosion of the effectiveness of antibiotics. The top goals are to communicate the following:

#### Use Basic Germ-Dodging Habits.

Things like washing your hands, covering your cough, and staying home when you're sick can contribute to your overall health in order to avoid illnesses and infections which decreases the need for antibiotics.

#### Take Antibiotics Exactly as Prescribed.

You will feel better before all the bacteria is conquered in your body. If you quit your antibiotics early because you're tired of taking them, then you are giving an open door to antibiotic resistance. Just like a vaccine can stimulate your body to fight off disease, introducing bacteria to an antibiotic without fully killing it off will stimulate the bacteria to learn how to fight off the drug you took. The only way to prevent this is to finish the antibiotic completely.



CELEBRATING  
**HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS**  
By A Practicing **NURSE**

**Don't Save the Leftovers.** There shouldn't be any leftovers if the directions are followed, but more than one person has quit taking their antibiotic early and saved the rest "for later." This encourages antibiotic resistance two-fold: once when the antibiotic isn't finished and again when somebody decides to take a couple of antibiotic pills to see if it helps. A "leftover" dose will not be enough to completely treat the bacterial infection (if that is what it is) which then leads to resistance.

**Get Diagnosed.** Knowing exactly what you're dealing with guides the appropriate treatment. If you self-diagnose and then try to self-treat, you may be unwittingly increasing antibiotic resistance by either treating a non-bacterial issue with antibiotics or by not completely treating a true bacterial issue. Both perpetuate the problem.

#### Be Mindful with Pet Care.

Antibiotic resistance has reached the animal world, and so the same care you take with your own health should be taken with your pets' health. Washing your hands, using antibiotics just for bacterial issues, and maintaining basic pet hygiene are all ways to prevent the problem before it starts.

Antibiotic resistance is a part of our medical world. There is a lot of research dedicated to the problem, but prevention is the best medicine. We all have our part in making sure antibiotics stay a powerful miracle drug for the next generations instead of finding people back in situations without a treatment option.

For more information check out the resources on CDC website.

## U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

November 18-24, 2025 | [bit.ly/USAAW2025](https://bit.ly/USAAW2025)



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[www.chicohotsprings.com](https://www.chicohotsprings.com)  
163 Chico Road, Pray, Montana  
Music starts at 9pm until 1am, unless otherwise noted

Date	Artist	Genre
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> - Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	THE DIRTY SHAME	Outlaw Country
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> - Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	OLD MAN BEN	Banjo Fueled Pub Rock
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> - Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	SHAKEDOWN COUNTRY	Country Western
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> - Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	TRENT BROOKS BAND	Authentic Country
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> - Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	BRICKHOUSE BAND	Rock & Roll
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> (Tues)	BLACKWATER	Good Ole Rock & Roll - New Year Eve Party
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Fri-Sat)	IAN THOMAS & BAND OF DRIFTERS	Modern American Roots
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> - Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	GARY SMALL & COYOTE BROTHERS	Surf Rock & Boogie Blues
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> - Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	EL WENCHO	Red Dirt Rock, Blues, Country, Americana
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Jan 24 <sup>th</sup> (Fri-Sat)	BO PIRRE & OFF THE GRID BAND	Bluegrass



# “Enjoying the Journey”

by Lois Olmstead



Oh, dear friends this downsizing requires courage, stamina and the ability to make choices between what you want and what you need!

Someone told me her parents (at my age) said, “They were ‘Rightsizing’ their lives.” That does sound better, more positive.

When asked how I feel now, at this halfway point, I say, “It feels right. It feels smart. It feels peaceful.” I am so sad about leaving Clyde Park and my friends there. But it will be okay. I still know the way there.

There is a sense of relief as I “write”

the pages of this new chapter in my life. My friend Bruce said, “Lois, you have had a glorious chapter in Clyde Park. You can treasure it. Then look forward to a new glorious chapter ahead. God will be with you there too.” That has helped me.

The move is done. Saturday night a week ago was my first night to sleep in the Yellow House. No way would the super-king-bed He-Who and I shared would fit here. I chose to move the queen bed from upstairs that was in the Clyde Park house when I bought it. I put an heirloom quilt and blanket over the sheets, and climbed right in.

It was a busy day finishing the move, so I went to sleep quickly. I woke up two hours later. The room was toasty warm. The baseboard heat is under

the window. So was my bed. It didn’t start out that way. I got down there again. (Had prayed earlier.) There were wheels on the legs of the bed. It had rolled over to the window.

“That’s not good,” I said to myself. I moved the bed back a couple feet to the west. I turned the heat down a bit, and back to bed I went. Must have slept some. Got up to go to the bathroom. Yup. The bed was back by the window. Evidently, I did more tossing and turning than I thought. I moved it again, farther west, and turned the heat off. Being cold was better than setting Aunt Ola’s quilt ablaze! It was a long night.

The next three nights I slept in my Clyde Park house. A person my age needs their rest. Our big bed stayed in one spot.

“Don’t be stalling. You can do this,” I said to myself. The next night, with roller pads I got at the hardware store,

the bed stayed where it was supposed to. I slept well. I guess I can say I’ve moved to the Yellow House now. It’s been a week. I am feeling good about all this. Really good.

I say I am at the halfway point because my Clyde Park house is still on the market. I will be happy when someone chooses it for their home and loves it like I did.

Yet settling in here, I’m even thinking about taking the owner’s manual out of the oven and trying to bake something. Everything in the Yellow House is new: floors, paint, and appliances. If anyone messes anything up, I’m going to have say “It was me.”

How about a spiritual application to all this? I know, how about my mom’s favorite verse, Galatians 6:9? “And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap a harvest, if we do not give up.” That’s perfect! Thanks Mom!



## Local Church Services

**American Lutheran Church**  
129 South F Street, Livingston  
Pastor Melissa Johansen  
Sunday worship 9 am, elevator avail.  
406-222-0512 • alclivingston.org

**Church of Christ**  
919 W Park St, Livingston  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-222-2017 • church-of-christ.org

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
12 White Lane, Gardiner  
David Gilbert branch President  
Sunday worship 10:00 am  
406-848-7509 • lds.org

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
110 West Summit St., Livingston  
Bishop Trevor Strupp  
Sunday worship 10:00 am  
406-222-3570 • lds.org

**Emmaus Lutheran Church**  
801 East Park Street, Livingston  
Reverend Riley Corrigan  
emmauslutheranmt@gmail.com  
emmauslutheranmt.org

**Expedition Church**  
(at Holbrok Fellowship Hall)  
424 W. Lewis St., Livingston  
Pastor Darryl Brunson  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-224-1774 • expeditionmt.org

**First Baptist Church**  
Crossing Community Church  
202 East Lewis St., Livingston  
Pastor Bryce Maurer  
Sunday worship 10:45 am  
406-222-1603 • fbclivingston.org

**Gardiner Community Church**  
318 Main Street, Gardiner  
Reverend Jeff Ballard  
Sunday worship 10:15 am  
406-848-4060

**Gardiner Baptist Fellowship**  
802 Scott Street, Gardiner  
Pastor Britton Gray  
Sunday worship 11:00 am  
406-223-4478

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
302 South 9th St., Livingston  
Pastor Mari-Emilie Anderson  
Sunday Worship 5:30 pm  
406-222-1041  
www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org

**Holbrook United Methodist Church**  
424 Lewis Street, Livingston  
Sunday worship 11 am  
406-222-1041  
www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses**  
1505 E Gallatin St., Livingston  
Sunday Public talk and Watchtower 10:00 am  
406-222-2012 • jw.org

**Living Hope Church**  
226 South 3rd St., Livingston  
Senior Pastor Shad Durgan  
Sunday worship 8, 9:30 and 11 am  
406-222-1577 • livinghope.church

**Livingston Bible Church**  
329 North 5th St., Livingston  
Pastor Monte Casebolt  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-222-2714 • livingstonbible.org

**Livingston Christian Center**  
(Assemblies of God)  
1400 Mount Baldy Dr., Livingston  
Pastor Dave Brakke  
Sunday worship 10:00 am  
406-222-3144  
livingstonchristiancenter.com

**Livingston Church Of God**  
101 South O Street, Livingston  
Pastor Ed Parrent  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-220-0620

**Mountain Bible Church**  
18 Pine Meadow Rd., Livingston  
(off Pine Creek Rd and Hwy 89)  
Pastor Brandon Reagor  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
406-219-7628 • mtbible.org

**Mount Republic Chapel**  
240 US Hwy 212, Cooke City/Silver Gate  
Reverend Don Taylor  
Sunday worship 9:30 am  
Check the website for seasonal worship times  
406-838-2397  
mtrepublicchapel.org

**Mountain Springs Baptist Church**  
626 North 13th St., Livingston  
Pastor Justin Sutherland  
Sunday worship 11:00 am  
406-222-1240  
mountainspringsbaptist.com

*The Way, The Truth, The Life*

**Paradise Valley Community Church**  
1772 East River Rd., Livingston  
Pastor Andrew Alberda  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-333-4905  
paradisevalleychurch.org

**Pine Creek United Methodist Church**  
2470 East River Rd., Livingston  
Sunday worship 9:30 am  
Pastor Mari-Emilie Anderson  
406-222-1041  
methodistsontheyellowstone.org

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
425 West Lewis St., Livingston  
Sunday worship 11:00 am  
406-222-1175  
www.rclclivingston.wordpress.com

**The Summit Lighthouse**  
Contact us for worship service and conference times  
63 Summit Way, Gardiner  
406-848-9200  
SummitLighthouse.org

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
1 Guthrie Lane, Livingston  
Pastor Rene Marquez  
406-222-7598  
livingstonmt.adventistchurch.org

**Shields River Lutheran Church**  
105 Ordway St. South, Wilsall  
Sunday worship 9:00 am  
406-578-2212  
srcwilsall.wordpress.com

**Shields Valley Bible Church**  
405 Fifth St. West • Clyde Park  
Pastor Glen Helig  
Sunday worship 11:00 am  
406-686-4708

**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church**  
310 West Lewis St., Livingston  
Reverend Kristin Orr  
Sunday worship 10:30 am  
406-222-0222  
saintandrewsepiscopalchurch.org

**St. John’s Episcopal Church**  
8 Story Road, Emigrant  
Reverend Kristin Orr  
Sunday worship 8:00 am  
stjohnspv.org

**St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**  
910 McLeod St., Big Timber  
Fr. Tony Abiamiri, Administrator  
Sunday worship 11:00 am  
406-932-4728

**St. Margaret’s Catholic Church**  
206 1st Avenue North, Clyde Park  
Fr. Tony Abiamiri, Administrator  
Service Saturdays 4:00pm  
406-222-1393  
stmaryscommunity.org

**St Mark’s Church Universal And Triumphant**  
130 South D St., Livingston  
Sunday worship 10:15 am  
406-222-2675

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
511 South F St., Livingston  
Fr. Tony Abiamiri, Administrator  
Saturday 6:00 pm year-round Holding Services since 1891.  
Sunday at 10:30 am April thru Sept.  
Sunday 8:00 am October to March  
406-222-1393 • stmaryscommunity.org

**St Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1116 W Geyser St., Livingston  
Pastor Paul Stern  
Sunday worship 10:15 am  
406-222-3372 • stpaulslivingston.org

**St. William’s Catholic Church**  
705 West Scott St., Gardiner  
Fr. Tony Abiamiri, Administrator  
Sunday worship 8:00 am April-Sept  
Sunday 11:00am October to March  
406-222-1393 • stmaryscommunity.org

**Valley Shepard Church of the Nazarene**  
Services are presently online. Please call for instructions to view a service.  
Reverend Christie American Horse  
Livingston • 406-223-1072

**Wilsall Community Church**  
112 Liquin Hill Rd., Wilsall  
(west of Hwy 89 North; take Clark St to Liquin)  
Pastor Stephen Fanning  
Sunday worship 10:45 am  
406-578-2004 • wilsallchurch.com

**Psalm 100:4**  
4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.



## Realities of Life

Devotion by Billy Graham

NOV 23 Casting down imaginations ... and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

—2 Corinthians 10:5

Thousands of people have made plans to escape from the realities of life. A new word has come into common usage the last few years. That word is “escapism.” The dictionary defines it as “a retreat from reality into an imaginary world.” The escape of imagination. Solomon spoke of the unregenerate heart as one which is inclined to excessive fantasy. The dream world Satan promotes always ends with disillusionment. Thousands of people live in an unreal dream world, while shirking their responsibilities toward their families and toward God. The Bible teaches that with Christ in your heart, you can face the realities of life. Even though they are hard, the grace of God will give you greater joy and pleasure than any dream world to which you try to escape.

**From Day by Day with Billy Graham, © 1976 BGEA**

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Lord, so often my thoughts make a wasteland of what You are wanting to plant there. This day let every one of them be captive to Your leading.







### 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.

**ART & TECH NIGHT** - Every Tuesday from 5:30 – 8 pm and free & open to all! Join us at Studio49 (downtown 129 S. Main St.) for an open, all-ages creative night featuring hands-on art projects, collage materials, sewing supplies and machines, sketching and painting, 3D-printed curiosities, cool tech exploration. Whether you're here to paint, build, design, or just hang out, there's a space for you. Dinner is provided and a knowledgeable staff is on site to assist with projects. Donations are welcome to keep this community night going strong! See you there!

### 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.

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

**CRAFTS (MONTHLY)** on the last Wednesday of the month at the Shields Valley Senior Center in Wilsall, 202 Elliot St., at 1:30 pm.

### 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.

**POTLUCK** at the Shields Valley Senior Center in Wilsall, 202 Elliot Street, every 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 pm.

### November 27th - ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Join us for our 17th Annual Complimentary Thanksgiving Dinner at the Civic Center, 229 River Drive in Livingston. You can come and dine-in with great company from 1 to 4 pm, have a meal delivered or pick up a dinner at the Food Resource Center from 11 am to 1 pm. For delivery, please call 406-223-4951 to make arrangements.

**November 29th - REDNECK CHRISTMAS** - Shields Valley holiday weekend starts Saturday, November 29th with the Redneck Christmas Parade starting at 6 pm followed by a Movie in the Valley at 7 pm in Clyde Park. On Sunday, November 30th, come to the annual Christmas Craft Fair at the Shields Valley Community Center in Clyde Park from 12 noon - 4 pm followed by the Festival of Trees at the Wilsall Dance Hall from 4 - 6 pm.

**November 29th - LIGHT UP LIVINGSTON** - Fun for the whole family, starting at 4 pm enjoy daytime downtown small business shopping passports, candy cane hunt, hayrides, photos with Santa, choir music, free kids' crafts, give-aways and tree lighting at 5:30 pm. For more information go to: ExploreLivingstonMT.com/LightUpLivingston.

**December 2025 - THE VALLEY ARTISANS SHOPPE** located in the prior gift store space, next to the laundromat at Emigrant General Store, at the corner of Highway 89 South and

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

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

Murphy Lane, in Emigrant. Open daily 10 am to 4 pm with extended hours 10 am to 6 pm on Fridays, beginning Monday, December 1st thru 26th, closed Christmas Day. Over 25 area artisans will be featuring affordable, unique, and handcrafted artistic treasures. For more information you can reach out to Monica Anderson at [dflyanderson@gmail.com](mailto:dflyanderson@gmail.com) or Lorinda Parker at [lorindaparkerdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:lorindaparkerdesigns@gmail.com).

### December 1st & 2nd - DECODING THE HOWL

Groundbreaking exhibit, "The Secret Language of Wolves", opening at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, 118 W. Chinock, with reception at 5:30 pm. On December 2nd at The Shane Center, 415 E. Lewis, acclaimed naturalist Jeffery Reed, PhD, will pull back the curtain on the complexity of wolf conversations.

### December 3rd - 36TH ANNUAL TREE OF LIFE CELEBRATION

Livingston HealthCare Home Health and Hospice and the Livingston HealthCare Foundation invited you to participate in a very special tradition to recognize the lives of our loved ones by dedicating a light to shine in their honor or memory. This event will take place at the Livingston Depot Center, 200 W. Park Street from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

### December 5th - 42ND ANNUAL ELKS CHRISTMAS AUCTION

taking place at the Elks Lodge, 130 S. 2nd St, will have food and silent auction starting at 5 pm, and live auction, with Jimbo Logan, begins at 8 pm. Proceeds go toward Christmas Food Baskets for local individuals and families in need.

### December 7th - CALL FOR ELVES

The Giving Tree of Park County invites you to our joyous Gift-Wrapping Event at The Shane Center! Join us from 2 pm to 5 pm to help wrap Christmas gifts for the children in our annual holiday program. We provide the gifts, all the festive wrapping supplies, and a wonderful atmosphere! We just need your nimble fingers and holiday spirit. Come volunteer your "elvish" skills and help make the season brighter for Park County kids!

The Movement Collaborative

## FREE CLASSES THIS NOVEMBER

Come as you are,  
Bring a food or monetary donation

**ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE LIVINGSTON FOOD RESOURCE CENTER**  
We're located at 206 S. 11th Street, Suite 5  
<https://themovementcollaborative.wordpress.com/>

**Quesenberry Insurance Agency**

## LET US HELP YOU PREPARE FOR: MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

**OCT.15 - DEC.7**

Call us @ 406.222.6931  
Mon - Thurs 9am-4pm

**FALL 2025 Checklist**

- ☐ Make appointment to review next years' plan
- ☐ Compare Rx Plans & Medicare Advantage Plans
- ☐ Make changes to my current drug plan

1313 W. Park #9 Livingston info@quesenberryagency.com

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 23**

is taking references for Veteran/Military families for our annual Christmas Food Baskets. Please call Cheryl Kautzman at 406-223-9369 or leave info at American Legion Post 23, 112 N. B Street by December 6, 2025.

PRESENTED BY EXPLORE LIVINGSTON COALITION

## LIGHT UP LIVINGSTON

NOVEMBER 29  
4-7 PM

DEPOT PARK | LIVINGSTON, MONTANA | FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Daytime Downtown Small Business Shopping Passport  
Candy Cane Hunt | Hayrides | Photos with Santa | Choir Music  
Free Kids' Crafts | Give-Aways | Tree Lighting at 5:30 PM

[ExploreLivingstonMT.com/lightuplivingston](http://ExploreLivingstonMT.com/lightuplivingston)



# BREAK time

# CROSSWORD

Puzzle #426

## Montana Fun Facts!

Montana formed a **strong force** in 1884 when the residents of the state grew tired of its lawlessness. **In the first year of its existence, they were able to catch as many as 35 horse and cattle thieves.**

While other states and everyone else around the world would say **pricy** when something is expensive, the Montana people say it differently. They will use the word **spendy** for expensive.

During World War I, approximately 1500 Montanans died and 2437 were injured. Almost 40,000 Montanans volunteered or drafted for the war.

### ACROSS

- 1. Whitish stone
- 5. Candle parts
- 10. Groom's girl
- 15. Food shop
- 16. Hateful
- 18. Acoustic
- 19. HAL info
- 20. Mackerel-like fish
- 21. Sniff
- 22. Honorable
- 24. Hurry
- 26. Pummel
- 29. Not a landlubber
- 30. Matterhorn's range
- 34. Gretzky's org.
- 35. Dog's tether
- 38. Displace
- 40. Weeping
- 42. Fuzzy Wuzzy, e.g.
- 44. Old bronze coloring
- 45. "The Razor's \_\_\_\_\_"
- 46. Military formation
- 48. Butterfly trap
- 49. Cleric in charge

- 52. Slow, in music
- 54. Ballet step
- 57. Eventually
- 59. Bugs
- 63. Antelope
- 65. "Swan Lake" costume
- 66. Emerald
- 67. Scanty
- 68. Indian abode
- 70. Cassowary's cousin
- 71. Rectangular pier
- 72. Kill, as a dragon
- 75. Besmirch
- 77. Give a bagel to
- 78. Sty dwellers
- 80. Low voices
- 84. Hold in a condensed coating
- 86. Festive party
- 90. Open-mouthed
- 91. Of blossoms
- 92. Desktop image
- 93. Type of coffee
- 94. A day's march

95. "\_\_\_\_\_ of Kin"

### DOWN

- 1. Curious
- 2. Certain legume
- 3. High, in music
- 4. Vine
- 5. Teeter
- 6. False god
- 7. Motion picture
- 8. Colorful carp
- 9. Collection of Hindu aphorisms
- 10. Hit hard
- 11. Sugarcane liquor
- 12. Dudgeon
- 13. Indian dish
- 14. Pipe elbow
- 17. Spirit
- 23. Like tanning lotion
- 25. Daze
- 26. Contribute a chip
- 27. Tool hut
- 28. Dross
- 29. Iranian ruler
- 30. Trickery

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		
15					16					17	18						
19					20						21						
			22	23					24		25						
26	27	28						29				30	31	32	33		
34				35		36	37				38	39					
40				41			42			43		44					
45							46				47				48		
				49	50	51				52				53			
54	55	56		57				58					59	60	61	62	
63				64				65					66				
67								68				69			70		
71						72	73	74				75		76			
					77					78	79						
80	81	82	83				84		85					86	87	88	89
90							91							92			
93								94						95			

- 31. Cut of pork
- 32. Cornmeal loaf
- 33. At once, to Howser
- 36. At a right angle, nautically
- 37. Undercover
- 39. Sudden pain
- 41. Race in neutral
- 43. Describe
- 47. Basketball shot
- 50. Capri or Wight
- 51. Roughly textured
- 53. Dollar
- 54. Strong cotton
- 55. Sherman Hemsley sitcom
- 56. Squabble
- 58. Moral obligation
- 60. Field
- 61. Workout sites
- 62. Veer
- 64. Muslim official
- 66. Has-\_\_\_\_\_
- 69. Fit for consumption
- 73. Book page
- 74. Confuse
- 76. Start
- 77. Feudal lord's fee
- 78. Marsh bird
- 79. Mantle
- 80. Poor
- 81. \_\_\_\_\_ of Aquarius
- 82. Animal pouch
- 83. Bottled-water source
- 85. Tippler
- 87. Expert person
- 88. Salmon for bagels
- 89. Picnic intruder

# Sudoku

Puzzle #161

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

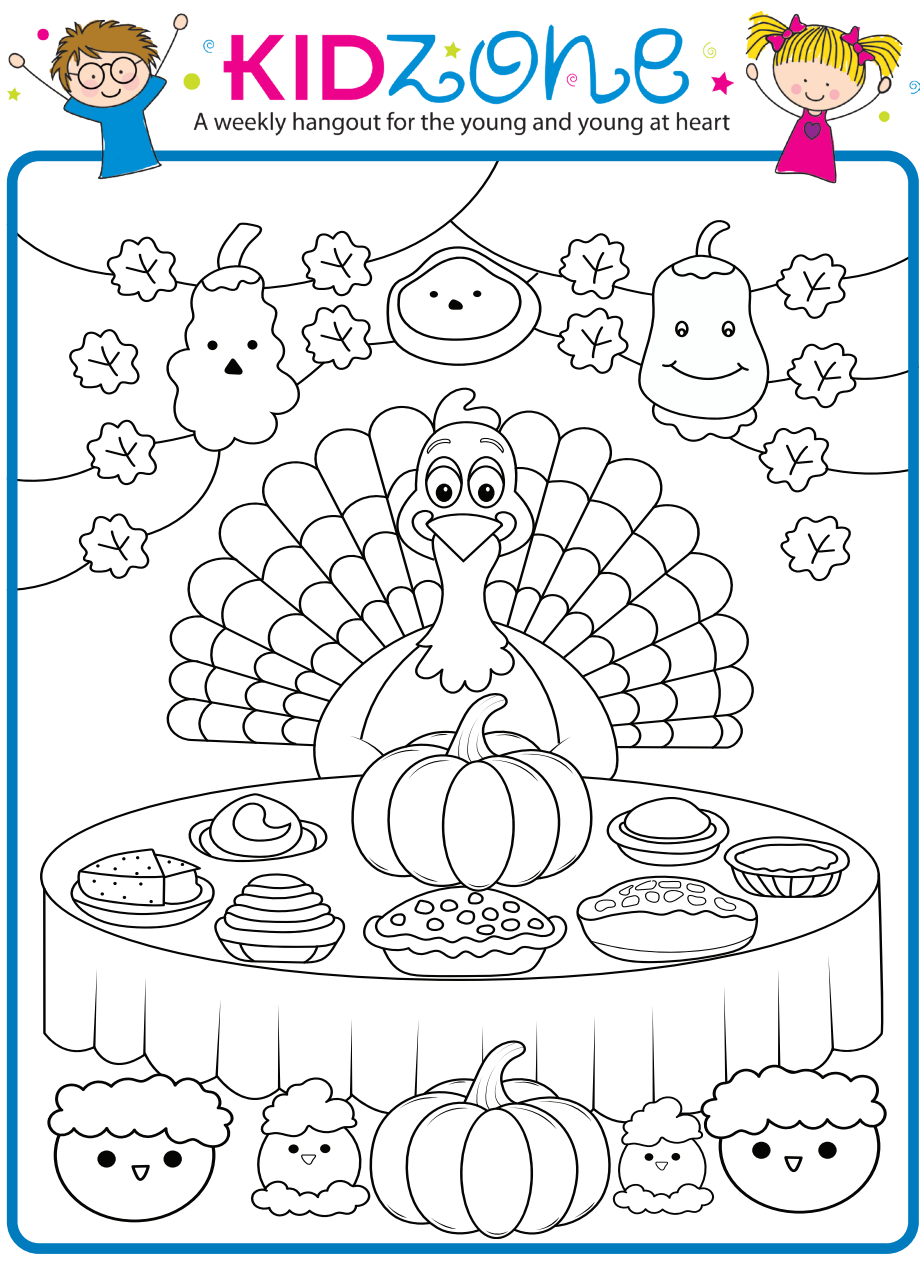
Sudoku - #160

## SOLUTIONS

Crossword - #425

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

GAP	LISP	KEG	EGGS
AXE	ARIL	ORE	CULT
FLAG	POLE	ARM	CHAIR
FELL	NODAL	HORDE	
	ANI	LARGE	DEW
RIDICULE	ERAL		
PATEN	NIP	CUPOLA	
AVAST	INHALE	WANT	
PAL	HOVE	BILK	NOW
AGIO	SERMON	RADII	
ECLAIR	EVE	ORANG	
DEES	AERONAUT		
HAM	GREAT	CAB	
ALIBI	HYATT	LARK	
LONESOME	CHAPERON		
ONCE	VIA	NAVE	USE
SEER	ADD	EWER	MEW



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Montana, will receive applications for the Planning Board. The purpose of the board is to serve as an advisory board to the Park County Commission. There will be three (3) board seats available for a 2-year term beginning in January 2026. Applicants must reside outside of the city of Livingston or Clyde Park. Applications can be picked up at the Commission office or on the county website at [www.parkcounty.org](http://www.parkcounty.org) under departments/county-boards-committees. Application Deadline is Wednesday, November 19th at 4:30pm. Please return applications to Carly Ahern in the County Commissioners office via email, [cahern@parkcounty.org](mailto:cahern@parkcounty.org), or mail to: 414 E. Callender Livingston, MT 59047.

## FOR SALE

**M&S Cooper CSS Grand Touring Tires** 225/60/R17 set of 4 tires for Sale off a Subaru. Like new. Best offer. 406-223-4444

Free-standing **portable air conditioner**, \$75. Please call 406-222-4636.

**Home for Sale** - Newly renovated, large living area, 3 bedr., 2 full bath, fenced yard, new shed, lovely view, many trees in charming mobile home park in North Glastonbury. Call 610-334-0962.

## FREE

Low mileage **winter tires** (2600 miles) and rims. Cooper Discoverer Snow Claw tires, 275/65R18 mounted on Ford 6 hole rims. 406-209-5077.

## SERVICES

**Cleaning Offered** - Residential Efficient, thorough, have references. 406-223-2236

## HELP WANTED

**Community School Collaborative (CSC)** is seeking a **collaborative, visionary Executive Director** to lead youth workforce development programs that prepare tomorrow's workforce and empower youth. Nonprofit leadership and

fundraising experience required. Salary \$70,000-\$80,000. Apply at [www.csc4kids.org/were-hiring](http://www.csc4kids.org/were-hiring).

**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](mailto:djohnston@shieldsvalleyschools.org) or 406-578-2535. Access the Classified Application Packet at [www.shieldsvalleyschools.com](http://www.shieldsvalleyschools.com). Shields Valley School District is an equal opportunity employer. Job-specific training will be required as a condition of continued employment.

**Bus Drivers Needed.** The Gardiner Schools need bus drivers. Our loyal, long term drivers are nearing retirement and we have no replacements. This week, a single driver had to take both the Valley route and the Mammoth route. This adds at least an hour to the school day for parents and students who have to wait for their driver to complete his first route. Some rural schools have been forced to simply cancel morning and

afternoon bus routes. Soon, we may have to ask parents to take athletes to sporting events, and participants to Speech and Drama meets and FFA events. This is bound to cause a lot of hardship and it will certainly lessen the experience of being part of a team. The school provides free training for drivers, and reimburses annual fees required for drivers to stay certified. Driving a bus is a great way to serve your community, get to know our young people, and provide supplemental income. We are happy to facilitate schedules to allow bus drivers to drive to events where their own children are competing. Give us a call at 406-848-7563 if you have any interest and we can walk you through the process of getting certified to drive!

## 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](http://kenyonnoble.com/jobs). You can also apply online!



**Finance Clerk**  
Open and accepting applications The **City of Livingston** is seeking a detail-oriented, full-time Finance Clerk to join our team at City Hall. This public-facing position plays a key role in processing financial transactions, assisting customers with utility billing and payments, maintaining records, and supporting the Finance Department's daily operations. The ideal candidate will be organized, accurate, and comfortable working in a fast-paced office environment with frequent public interaction. This position requires strong communication skills, a high level of proficiency with Microsoft Office and computerized accounting systems, and the ability to manage tasks with efficiency and professionalism. Prior office experience and knowledge of cash handling procedures are preferred. Please see the document for full job details and application instructions




at [https://www.livingstonmontana.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/human\\_resources/page/9137/10.28.2025\\_finance\\_clerk\\_jd.pdf](https://www.livingstonmontana.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/human_resources/page/9137/10.28.2025_finance_clerk_jd.pdf)


**911 Communications Officer**  
The City of Livingston, Montana, is seeking full-time 911 Communications Officers to perform dispatch duties for first responders across Park County. The position offers an hourly rate of \$25.83, with additional pay for nighttime shifts, and requires working variable shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Benefits include paid on-the-job training, state retirement, vacation and sick leave, parental leave, and comprehensive health insurance. Applicants must be high school graduates or equivalent and possess strong communication, multitasking, and customer service skills. Familiarity with Livingston and Park County geography is advantageous, as is prior emergency services experience. Successful candidates must pass a background check and acquire certifications, including Montana Emergency Medical Dispatch, Public Safety Communicator Basic Academy, and Basic Life Support (all employer-paid), within specified timeframes. Applications require a completed form, resume, and cover letter, which can be submitted via email or mail to Livingston's Human Resources Department. Full details and forms are located at <https://www.livingstonmontana.org/hr/page/911-communications-officer-1>

**Detention Officer** -- Are You Trustworthy, Self-Motivated and Punctual? The **Park County Sheriff's Office** is looking for two new full time team members interested in a career in a law enforcement capacity with our Detention Center. Take pride in performing excellent public service to your community thru providing inmate care. Be formally trained in integral aspects of your field such as PPCT-pressure point control tactics, tactical handcuffing and CIT- Crisis Intervention Training. Shifts are bid by seniority, as follows: 7am-3pm, 3pm -11pm, 11pm-7am Benefit package includes Sheriff's Retirement System; 3 vacation weeks, 12 sick days, holidays, Health and Life

insurance, AFLAC, discounted local merchants/vendors, etc. Become part of the Park County Detention Staff and serve the community with compassion and caring in the capacity of a Detention Officer. Click on the Job Description for qualifications and additional information. To apply please download the application package, 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 Applications and signatures MUST be originals for consideration. NO ELECTRONIC, FAXED or EMAILED applications will be accepted. GO TO <https://jobs.parkcounty.org/uploads/files/jobs/37/PCSO-Application-Packet.pdf> TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION PACKAGE You may also stop by the Courthouse HR office for a packet!

**Elections and Records Deputy**  
Step into a role where your work truly matters as an Elections and Records Deputy with Park County! This position offers the chance to be at the heart of critical processes like elections and public records management, ensuring trust and transparency. If you're a meticulous problem-solver who thrives on variety and meaningful work, we want you to join our dedicated team. To view full job details and requirements visit: [https://www.jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs/154/Elections-Records-Deputy-1#job\\_154](https://www.jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs/154/Elections-Records-Deputy-1#job_154)





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

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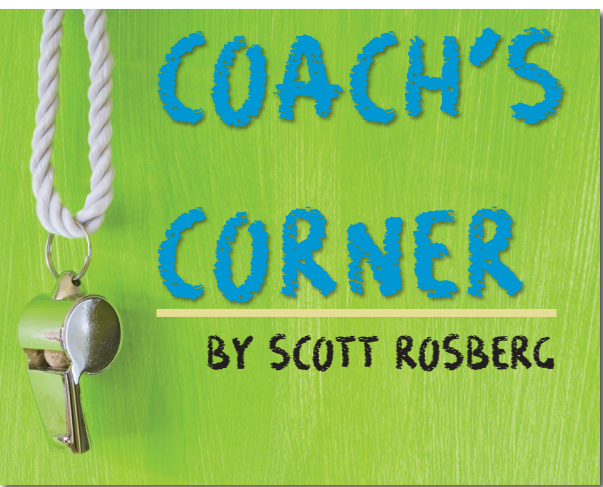


# NOW HIRING

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## YOU GET WHAT YOU EMPHASIZE

In my last column, I talked about the great motivational principle: **"You get what you reward, and it perpetuates itself."** Today, I want to talk about another important coaching, teaching, parenting, and life concept that I heard first in the 1994-95 basketball season that will take the same statement and change the final word: **"You get what you emphasize."**

This concept was first brought to my attention by my, at the time, assistant basketball coach in Darby, MT, Mark Albert. Mark went on to have a very successful career in Hamilton as the cross-country coach and the girls' basketball coach, winning state championships in both. Mark also has the distinction of coaching the Willow Creek team in the year prior to us both going to Darby, where he coached a team of boys that holds the distinction of losing a game by 100 points! If you ever read the book, *Blind Your Ponies*, (a phenomenal book, by the way) Mark's team is loosely based as the foundation for the team in the book.

More than all that, Mark Albert is a great coach because he is as good of a person as you'd ever meet.



He was an outstanding teacher in the classroom, on the court, and in the field. But that is mainly because he is all about kids and wanting to help kids have a great experience. (Check out his TedTalk, and you'll see what I mean.)

Mark and I had never met until we started school that year in Darby. I was hired to teach English and be the boys' head basketball coach. Mark was going to be my assistant, and we hit it off immediately. We had similar philosophies on how the game should be played and what we were here to do to help provide kids a great experience. We also knew we weren't inheriting much in the way of a talented basketball team. The team had not won a game the previous year, and they had only won a couple of games the year before that.

The boys we had were a conglomeration of "Bad News Bears" types of players. We had a talented player who didn't care all that much about team basketball. We had a big boy who would rather fight other players than beat them at the actual game. We had a very athletic sophomore who cared much more about the ski hill than the basketball court. We had Orthodox Russian kids who would not show up for days at a time due to religious and family obligations. We had a mixture of younger and older players who each thought they were entitled to start and/or play a lot because they had done so in the past.

### CULTURE CHANGE

We knew we had our hands full if we were going to try to bring about any type of scoreboard success. We also knew that our first order of business had nothing to do with the scoreboard. We needed to change the culture.

Changing the culture in any organization is not easy. Cultures are cultures for a reason. They have been that way for a while, and people like the comfort of knowing what is expected of them. Unfortunately, the culture of the

team we were coaching was that *nothing* was expected of them. They knew they were not good, and they felt they weren't going to be good.

Mark and I set about creating policies and expectations for the boys based on the tenets of discipline, hard work, and commitment to team. These boys had no idea about any of those three concepts. It was a rude awakening for them, but they slowly started to embrace what was being asked of them. The talented player started buying into team. The fighter started realizing that we meant it that he'll be off the team if he fights. And each of the other players started to develop in a way that showed they had potential for success.

We won our first game of the year! The kids were so excited, you'd have thought we won the NBA championship.

We didn't win again until 11 games later. It was a slog, and it was hard on Mark and me. Even though he had coached that Willow Creek team, he had been part of basketball state championships as a player. I had had my share of success as a head coach in the Chicago area against some of the top players in the country. Neither of us was used to this.

### EMPHASIZE IT

It was in January, in

the middle of the losing, that Mark said something that I will never forget.

We were struggling to rebound the ball well, and it was having a huge effect on our production. One night after another loss, I said, "We just don't rebound the ball! I don't get it!"

Mark turned to me and in a very calm manner said, "Scott, we don't *emphasize* it."

"What?!" I snapped back. "We talk about it all the time. We've done rebounding drills before."

He said, "Talking about it and doing a couple of drills early in a season is not *emphasizing* it. The kids don't think it's all that important because we haven't shown them it's all that important."

I thought about what he said for a few moments and said, "You're absolutely right. We don't *emphasize* it, do we?" I paused and said, "That changes on Monday."

From then on, we made rebounding a major focus. We drilled it, talked about it, emphasized it as a stat, and even gave out an award for it at the end of the year. We won only one more game, but holy cow, what a difference we were seeing in our rebounding, which was leading to us being in every game. People were telling us, "The last few years, we would lose these games by 30. You're losing them by 4, 6, 10 points. You can't believe what a difference this is." But Mark and I could see it. The difference from earlier in the season to now was night and day.

We went into the district tournament as the 8-seed. We played Loyola, the number 1 seed, a team we had lost to by 35 and 20 points during the season (although they were doing that to most teams). We battled them the entire game, and with under a minute left, we were only down by 4 and had the ball. We missed a shot, had to foul them, and ended up losing by 8.

Nobody could believe the strides we had made. That is, nobody except for Mark and me. With the culture change we created early on and the emphasis on rebounding (and a couple of other things) as the season went on, it was obvious we were a much different team than before.

I am as proud of that team from Darby as I am of any team I ever coached. For where we started to where we got to, it was an amazing turnaround. I moved back to Livingston the next year to take over as the head coach, but Mark stayed on as the head coach in Darby. He led them to a .500 season the next year, and a winning season the following year. He then went on to the success at Hamilton that I spoke of earlier.

While I believe it all started with our focus on discipline, hard work, and commitment to team, that success would not have happened had Mark not spoken up about us needing to emphasize rebounding. As the season went on, we kept finding other things we needed to *emphasize*. The more we found, the more we worked on, and the better we got.

Wherever you point your lens, that's where you will devote your attention. When you devote your attention to something, you are able to build on it, develop it, and start to succeed at it.

Figure out what your blind spots are, the things holding you back from the success you are seeking, and then start emphasizing them. The moment you do, you will start to see immediate results.

What do you need to start *emphasizing* with your team or in your life right now?

It's time to get after it!

If you would be interested in having me speak to and work with your team and help you learn the steps to becoming the best team you can be – no matter what kind of team it is – email me at [scott@slamdunksuccess.com](mailto:scott@slamdunksuccess.com), and we can connect to see how I might be able to help you, too.



**SlamDunk Success**

To check out more materials from Scott, go to his website [SlamDunkSuccess.com](http://SlamDunkSuccess.com). You can email Scott at [scott@slamdunksuccess.com](mailto:scott@slamdunksuccess.com).

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# INCREDIBLE

**Finn Schretenthaler Nabs a Top 20 Finish at Acclaimed Nike Cross Regionals Northwest. Addy Boyce, Tate Bekedam, Rio Gaines, and Ryan Kerr Run PRs Against Top Elite Runners From Seven States.**



Recent MSU commit and three-time consecutive MSHA Cross Country state champion Finn Schretenthaler finished in 18th place on Saturday at the Nike Cross Regionals Northwest in Spokane, WA, with a PR of 15:01.8 in the 5,000 Meters Men's Championship. Photo credit: KJ Schretenthaler.

Park County Dugout - November 16th, 2025  
TheParkCountyDugout.substack.com  
By: Jeff Schlapp

On Saturday, at the Spokane Polo Grounds in Spokane, Washington, over 3,700 of the most elite high school cross country runners from seven states (Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming) gathered to compete in the annual 2025 NXR Northwest Regional Championship.

The Yellowstone Running Club of Livingston had ten runners entered in the event (Boys - **Finn Schretenthaler, Devin Earl, Ryan Kerr, Tate Bekedam, Rio Gaines,**

**Chase Van Slyke,** and Girls - **Addy Boyce, Grace Malloy, Siobhan Stevenson, Jude Johnson**) which serves as both a year-end event for high school athletes and one of eight qualifying meets for the national Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) championship for high school cross country runners. It brings top teams and individual runners from seven states to race against each other. Winners and top-five finishers from this regional meet qualify for the national finals.

Three-time Montana State Class A Cross Country

Champion Finn Schretenthaler from Livingston entered the Mens 5,000 Meters Championship ranked 76th in the region. A recent commit to the Montana State University cross country and track teams, Schretenthaler ran the race of his life, finishing in 18th place with a personal record (PR) of 15:01.8.

Cohen Butler (Camas, WA) won the event with a time of 14:36.8, breaking the race record held by Nathan Neil (Bozeman High) set in 2023. Miles Halvorsen (Bozeman), the winner of the 2025 MSHA Class AA Cross Country title, finished in 13th place (14:58.10), and Milo Kauffman (Helena) came in 15th (15:00.30).

For Schretenthaler, the race was his final

high school cross country competition. To finish with a PR that was 28 seconds faster than his previous record, as well as claim a top-20 spot (58 places ahead of where he was ranked) against the best 196 runners in the Northwest, was simply incredible.

To add some context, the top 64 racers in the Mens 5,000 Meters Championship on Saturday ran a faster time than Halvorsen's Class AA state championship time of 15:34.5. Such was the level of competition that Schretenthaler not only faced, but proved himself against.

Yellowstone Running Clubs' Devin Earl, Ryan Kerr, Tate Bekedam, Rio Gaines, and Chase Van Slyke all ran in the 5,000 Meters Open Combined Division on Saturday.

Tate Bekedam (18:43.9, nearly one minute faster than his previous PR), Rio Gaines (20:22.7), and Ryan Kerr (20:41.5) finished with PRs in the race, which featured over 1,200 runners. Chase Van Slyke ran the Spokane course in 18:24.4 and just missed a PR, while Devin Earl crossed the line in 18:40.3. For Kerr and Gaines, both freshmen, this was their first appearance at the Nike Cross Regionals Northwest.

In the Womens 5,000 Meters Open Combined, Livingston's Addy Boyce ran a PR as she finished the race in 22:19.4. There were over 850 girls entered in the Womens 5,000 Meters Open Combined.



Yellowstone Running Club Jude Johnson, Addy Boyce, Siobhan Stevenson, and Grace Malloy in Spokane, WA., on Saturday, at the Nike Cross Regionals Northwest. Photo credit: KJ Schretenthaler.

Seniors Jude Johnson and Siobhan Stevenson finished their high school careers with strong runs as Stevenson finished with a



Yellowstone Running Clubs Chase Van Slyke, Tate Bekedam, Rio Gaines, Ryan Kerr, and Devin Earl in Spokane, WA, on Saturday at the Nike Cross Regionals Northwest. Photo credit: KJ Schretenthaler.

season PR and Johnson finished 22 seconds faster than she did at the MSHA Class A state cross country championship.

And freshman Grace Malloy ran her first race at the Nike Cross Regionals Northwest with an impressive time of 27:39.

## About the Yellowstone Running Club:

Founded in 2024, Yellowstone Running Club began as a small group of parents who wanted to help the Park High running Rangers compete at national competitions. One club goal is to support youth from the surrounding areas to compete at regional and national running competitions. The club also recognized that the Livingston area needed a running club that promoted running and well-being for people of all ages.

## Upcoming Club Events:

Turkey Trot Fun Run  
Get ready to gobble up some turkey with a bit of pre-Thanksgiving fun run! The 5K community event will start at Sacajawea Tennis Courts on Saturday, November 22, at 8:30 a.m. Bring a donation for the food pantry and be entered in a raffle to win a prize. Run or walk-all ages welcome! No Cost, no timing.

To learn more about the Yellowstone Running Club, visit <https://yellowstonerunningclub.org/>.

For more photos and great articles, check out [TheParkCountyDugout.substack.com](https://theparkcountydugout.substack.com).

**Livingston HealthCare**  
Hospice Care

## Honor. Remember. Illuminate.

Each December, **Livingston HealthCare Hospice** and the **Livingston HealthCare Foundation** invite our community to gather for the annual Tree of Life ceremony — a heartfelt tradition open to all.

For 35 years, the Livingston HealthCare Tree of Life has illuminated more than just a tree — it has illuminated hearts. Born from a community's compassion and a promise to bring comfort and dignity to those nearing life's end, the Tree of Life began with the early hospice volunteers whose kindness and dedication shaped Livingston's legacy of care.

Together, we honor that legacy — dedicating lights in memory or celebration of loved ones. Each light shines as a symbol of love, remembrance, and the unbreakable bond that connects us all. The names of those honored and remembered are inscribed on our memorial scroll, a lasting tribute displayed at the ceremony and within Livingston HealthCare throughout the year — a gentle reminder that their light continues to shine.

## Join Us



**Tree of Life Ceremony**  
Wednesday, December 3, 2025  
5:30 – 6:30 PM  
Livingston Depot Center

## To Donate:

1. Visit Donations page
2. Put in desired amount (no amount is too big or too small)
3. Under "My donation is for," select Hospice from dropdown
4. Leave the name of your loved one in comments.



If you would like to dedicate a light in someone's honor or memory — and help the glow of compassion continue to shine for generations to come, please scan the QR code or visit [livingstonhealthcare.org/giving/donations/](https://livingstonhealthcare.org/giving/donations/).

To sponsor this event or volunteer, please email [anita.maxwell@livhc.org](mailto:anita.maxwell@livhc.org).

All proceeds go to support Livingston HealthCare Hospice.

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