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Week of September 7, 2025

## Governor Gianforte Seeks Nominations for 2025 **Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation** October 20th is Deadline for Nominations

Park County Dugout - September 2nd TheParkCountyDugout.substack.com By: Jeff Schlapp

HELENA, Mont. - Governor Greg Gianforte announced he is seeking nominations for the 2025 Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation.

"Montana's veterans represent the very best of our state," Gov. Gianforte said. "Their courage, service, and lasting impact on our communities deserve our recognition and our gratitude. I encourage Montanans to nominate a veteran who continues to make a difference in their community."

No one better embodies our values and commitment to service than veterans. Veterans are a part of the fabric of our state and communities.

Montana's veterans and their families have made tremendous sacrifices in defense of our freedoms and our way of life. Even after their time in military service, many Montana veterans have kept the flame of service burning by helping others in their community.

The Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation recognizes outstanding Montana veterans who have honorably served our nation and continue to serve their communities in meaningful ways. Since the program began when Gov. Gianforte took office in 2021. more than 170 veterans have received the commendation for their lasting impact and service beyond the uniform.

The deadline to nominate a veteran for the 2025 Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation is Monday, October 20th at 11:59 pm MST. The Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation recipients will be announced on Veterans Day and honored in ceremonies across the state in 2026.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

• The veteran must be a current resident of Montana.



- The veteran served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed services.
  - o **NOTE:** Posthumous awards are not available.
- · The veteran has demonstrated service to his or her community.
- · A veteran may not nominate him or herself.

See Governor, Page 2

# **National Suicide Prevention Month** World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th

The National Alliance On Metal Illness (NAMI) has designated September as National Suicide Prevention Month to shine a spotlight on a topic not often talked about...

"Regarding the question of suicide, keep it a question. It's not really an answer." - Peter McWilliams

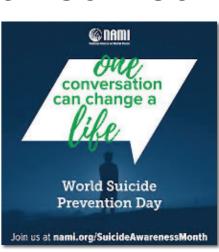
Everyone is affected by suicide, not just the victim. Suicide impacts family and friends long after the loss of a loved one. On average, one person commits suicide every 16.2

minutes. Two-thirds of the people who commit suicide suffer from

"We use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services. It is also important to ensure that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention. NAMI is here to help."

- National Alliance on Mental Illness

One way to help prevent suicide is to increase access to treatment for depression. However, identifying depression can be difficult. Not all people who suffer from depression show signs. The first step in identifying someone who is suffering from depression and contemplating suicide is to see how serious the issue is. Talking to the person involved and asking about their thoughts will decrease the trigger of suicidal action. Suggesting a counselor or treatment See Prevention, Page 2



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#### **TESTIMONIAL**



Debbie Boyd, Clyde Park

"I just love my new hearing aid from BEAR HEARING. I almost feel like I've got my natural hearing back. And Dan got my settings the way I like on the first try. If I had known a hearing aid could be this good, I would have done this sooner. Marge and Dan are friendly, professional and easy to work with. If you've been wondering about trying hearing aids, don't hold off.

Go see Marge and Dan today!"

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Community Journal - 2

Sunday, September 7, 2025

### Index



#### Fare-Free Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride Services.....8

Windrider Transit has successfully provided... 

Community ......2

	Fishing Parially Reopens in Yellowstone Shields Valley Upcoming Events
Art	t & Entertainment
	Livingston Songwriter Festival 6
	<b>ody</b> 5

Fry-tastic Times Ahead: by Jill-Ann Ouellette Recipe Corner by Carla Williams

#### Financial/Business ......7 Financial Focus® EdwardJones Financial Tips for First-time College Students

Health & Wellness Your Ageless Wellness Column	.9
<b>Opinion</b> Livingston Protesters	10
<b>Letter to the Editor</b> Keegan Nashan	11

Calendar of Events...... 12 **Break Time** ...... 13 Montana Fun Facts! Crossword/Sudoku/Kids Zone

Classifieds ...... 14 Best of Park County Ballot ...... 16



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that may be considered offensive, inappropriate, or inaccurate

Governor

#### Past years' recipients include:

- Randy Kemp of Bozeman U.S. Army, 1971-1995
- Len Albright of Bozeman U.S. Air Force, Vietnam
- Eric Craig Bradley of Livingston - U.S. Army, 1989-2016
- Theresa Watts of Clyde Park Montana Army National Guard, 2001-2007
- Nicholas Jones of Belgrade U.S. Marine Corps, 2010-2021
- · Robert Eyman of Livingston -U.S Army, 1952-1974
- · Gregory L. Harbac of Bozeman U.S. Marine Corps, 1978-2002
- James Howe of Bozeman U.S. Army, Vietnam War
- Dallas Warren Thompson of Bozeman – Army National Guard, 1954-1964



 Darren Bergsing of Livingston – U.S. Air Force, 1990-2010

• Edmund Gilbert of Clyde Park – U.S. Army, Vietnam War

To learn more about the commendation and how to nominate a Montana

veteran, visit recognizeveterans.mt.gov.

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

## **Prevention**

from page 1

for depression might also help. Often, people who are depressed need a caring friend. A common fallacy is that people who talk about suicide never act on it. If a friend or loved one is talking about suicide, it's time to get help for that person.

NAMI Livingston is a local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offering support

groups, educational programs, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental illness in Livingston, MT. They provide resources like the NAMI Family Support group for caregivers and the NAMI Peer-to-Peer course for individuals.

The mental health of yourself or a loved one can never be taken too seriously. Whether the weight of a long-term struggle or a crisis weighs you down, allow friends, family or a profession to lighten the burden by finding support. There is no shame in seeking help.

Learning about suicide prevention during the month of September is a great way to educate yourself and others. If you or someone you know needs emergency assistance, contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. Find more help at www.nami.org/ Find-Support.

Use #NationalSuicidePrevention-Month on social media. You can find more information and updates on their local website at namilivingston.



f you are in crisis and want help, call the Montana Suicide **Prevention Lifeline.** 

24/7: <u>NOW DIAL 988</u>

Much more than just a switch to an easier-to-remember number, it represents a holistic revision of the State's suicide prevention and mentalhealth crisis-management system.

Please feel free to download any of the programs and resources on our website:

Dphhs.mt.gov/ SuicidePrevention/ suicideresources

SuicidePreventionLifeline.org

**Dept. of MT DPHHS** MONTANA'S DEPT. OF PUBLIC **HEATH & HUMAN SERVICES** 

### **UPDATE: Fishing Partially Reopens on** Select Rivers in Yellowstone National Park

Effective immediately, select rivers and streams that had been previously closed due to high water temperatures and low flows in Yellowstone National Park will partially reopen to fishing due to recent cooler temperatures and rainfall. Fishing remains closed from 2 pm to sunrise the following day due to continuing warm water temperatures and low river flows.

Water temperatures in select rivers and streams continue to exceed 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius) in recent days, and flows are low. These conditions are lethal to trout, and the partial closure will protect the park's native and wild trout fisheries and will remain in effect until conditions improve.

Staff will continue to monitor the water temperatures. The closure may be lifted if water temperatures adequately cool or be reinstated if temperatures rise.

Which rivers and streams will be closed daily from 2 pm to sunrise the following day?

Water temperatures on the following

allowing for fishing for part of the day: The Madison River and all associated

tributaries The Firehole River and all associated

rivers and creeks cool off at night,

- The Gibbon River and all associated
- tributaries downstream of Norris Campground

#### What will be open?

- Yellowstone Lake and other lakes will remain open to fishing from sunrise to sunset as specified in the 2025 Fishing Regulations booklet
- All other rivers and streams not listed as closed

Anglers: Please fish during the coolest times of day and land fish quickly. Do not play hooked trout to exhaustion. Gently handle fish in the water as much as possible and let them recover before release. Your cooperation will protect the park's fisheries.



Area Deaths

Benny Mariano, Casey Roe, Donald Myers, Clarence Skillman, Mary Ann Mack, Ronald Decorah, Gary Lind

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## "Shane Center Presents" Inaugural **Livingston Bluegrass Festival**



The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is presenting the first ever Livingston Bluegrass Festival in the Blake Pavilion on September 19th and 20th. The high energy event, devoted to one of the true American musical styles invented by Bill Monroe, will feature headliners Nick Dumas & Branchline, Stillhouse Junkies and the Crying Uncle Bluegrass Band. Local favorites Bridger Creek Boys and the Benson Landing String Band will also perform and there will be a flatpicking guitar contest with cash and prizes to the winner.

"Each year at our Summer Outdoor Concert Series, we find that bluegrass music draws fans of all ages," said Shane Center Executive Director Erika Adams, "We featured

the Crying Uncle Band last year and they blew our minds—they're incredibly young and unbelievably talented. An idea was born... and now we've got a chance for everyone to immerse themselves in this music for a weekend this September."

The two-day festival will kick off Friday, September 19th with local beer and BBQ tasting at 4 pm. The first performance by Nick Dumas & Branchline takes the stage at 6 pm, followed by Stillhouse Junkies at 8 pm.

Nick Dumas & Branchline brings a hard-driving bluegrass performance to the stage and has been entertaining crowds across the country since 2021. In 2014, Nick joined Chicago-based Special Consensus

## **Bozeman Symphony Seeks** Volunteers for 2025-26 Season

The Bozeman Symphony is welcoming volunteers to join its team for the 2025-26 season, offering opportunities to support live music and connect with the community in meaningful ways.

Volunteers play a vital role in creating an outstanding concert experience. The Symphony is seeking enthusiastic individuals to serve as concert ushers and greeters, provide box office and concession support, assist with special events,

and open their homes to guest musicians through the musician host program.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of

Shields Valley Adult Education

School board meeting at 7 pm

Fitness Challenge at Wilsall



the Bozeman Symphony," said Amelia Murnane, Front of House Manager. "Their generosity and dedication make it possible for us to deliver the exceptional performances our community loves. We invite anyone passionate about music and the arts to join us this season."

New volunteer orientations will be held on Tuesday evening, September 16th, and Saturday morning, September 20th. To learn more or

Upcoming

sign up, visit www.bozemansymphony.org/ volunteer or contact Amelia Murnane at 406-585-9774.

# SHIELDS VALLE

- JH/Varsity Football at West
- JV/Varsity Volleyball versus

#### Town of Clyde Park council meeting at 7 pm

#### September 11th

September 10th

School Picture Retakes

School at 6 pm

JH Volleyball versus Sleeping Giant Middle School at 4:30 pm

#### September 12th

JH/Varsity Volleyball at Reedpoint/ Raplje at 5:15 pm

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

#### September 13th

- Yellowstone at 10 am
- Lincoln at 3 pm



as one of their lead vocalists and mandolin player. He toured the globe with them and recorded two albums, including one that was nominated for a Grammy and also won three International Bluegrass Music Awards (IBMA's), including the Album of the Year award in 2018.

Acoustic adventurers Stillhouse Junkies explore the worlds between roots, bluegrass, Texas swing, blues, and rock. Their free-flowing musical interplay and improvisation make every show unique as they weave their way through high-energy, intricately composed original songs, never taking the same path twice. Their prolific songwriting, tight vocal harmonies, and blistering instrumentals earned them the prestigious IBMA's "Momentum Band of the Year" award in 2021. As they tour relentlessly across the United States and abroad, Stillhouse Junkies are gaining a reputation as one of the most exciting bands in the acoustic

Saturday, September 20th begins with beer and BBQ tasting at noon. The contestants for the flatpicking contest will gather to draw performance slots at 12:30 pm. The contest will take place on stage from 1 - 3:15 pm and the final three contestants will perform in front of the crowd, where they will be awarded prizes.

Benson's Landing String Band got started in the summer of 2017. They wanted a place-based band name and chose the name of the first establishment in the Livingston area - Benson's Landing, which was a trading post on the banks of the Yellowstone about a mile downstream of the KPRK bridge, and a stone's throw from where the band gather to practice. Historical writings about Benson's Landing suggest it was a place where trappers, soldiers, Indians, and settlers gathered to share friendship, whiskey, and fiddle music. The band plays a mix of bluegrass, country, folk, and Americana. They revere the masters of all those genres, and aspire to deliver vocal melodies, harmonies, and instrumentals that do justice to the history of the music.

The Bridger Creek Boys formed out of chance meetings at Bozeman area bluegrass jams in 2005. Matt Broughton and Jim Dungan remain from the original group, and Scott Stebbins joined the band in 2009. Together the guys have played +1600 shows. From festival stages to fireside singalongs, the music has taken the band to some fabulous events. This will be their first performance at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts.

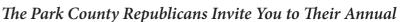
Crying Uncle Bluegrass Band is widely recognized as one of the most exciting young bands in acoustic music that plays a unique mix of bluegrass, Dawg (David Grisman music), jazz, and modern originals. Brothers Miles and Teo Quale are joined by bassist Andrew Osborn and 2023 National Flat Pick Guitar Champion Ian Ly, all outstanding musicians of the vibrant California bluegrass scene. In 2024, the bluegrass band celebrated their debut at the Grand Ole Opry; and in 2023, they received the International Bluegrass Music Association's Momentum Band of the Year award. The band was also honored to perform for the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame's induction of their hero, David Grisman.

"We're really looking forward to hosting the area's only guitar flatpicking contest," added Erika Adams, Executive Director of The Shane Center. "With significant cash awards and a new guitar as the grand prize, we're expecting the finest competitors in the state to throw their hats in the ring. Watching a contest like this, with the judges hidden and unable to recognize anyone, is a thrill. It's based on real talent and there are often surprises. I'd encourage everyone to get here for that contest on Saturday."

Single day and two-day tickets are available. This event is sponsored by Roy and Regina Wunsch, Home2 Suites by Hilton, KGLT Music Villa and the Yellowstone Lodge and Grill in association with Mighty Fine Time Live Events. For more information on tickets, the flatpicking contest or The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, please go to www.theshanecenter. org. The Blake Pavilion is located at 415 E. Lewis Street in Livingston.

There is bike and car parking on site, as well as overflow parking at the Lincoln School at 215 E. Lewis Street. Carpooling is suggested, and bringing a chair is encouraged. Please no outside food or drink.

Livingston, Montana





## **MEET THE CANDIDATES**

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# Bestselling Author Kelly Corrigan to Read at Bozeman Symphony's September Storytime

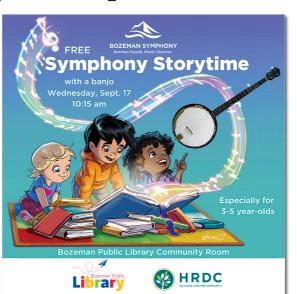
The Bozeman Symphony welcomes New York Times bestselling author and acclaimed podcast host **Kelly Corrigan** as the featured reader for Symphony Storytime on Wednesday, September 17th, at 10:15 am at the Bozeman Public Library located at 626 E. Main Street. Corrigan will be joined by classical guitarist Nora Spielman, who will accompany the program on banjo.

Corrigan is a passionate advocate for early learning and strong families, known for bringing humor, honesty, and humanity to conversations that matter most. She hosts the PBS interview series "Tell Me More" and the podcast "Kelly Corrigan Wonders." Her bestselling books—The Middle Place, Lift, Glitter and Glue, and Tell Me More—explore family life and themes such as love, loss, and resilience.

Dubbed "the voice of a generation" by O Magazine and "the poet laureate of the ordinary" by HuffPost, Corrigan recently co-authored a children's book, Marianne the Maker, with her daughter. The story celebrates creativity, curiosity, and the spirit of lifelong learning.

Featured alongside her for this special program is **Nora Spielman**, a New York native and Assistant Teaching Professor at Montana State University's Honors College and School of Music. An accomplished performer and educator, Spielman

holds a Doctorate in Music with a



focus on classical guitar performance from SUNY Stony Brook. She has com-

missioned new works for solo guitar by female composers and maintains an active career as both a performer and teacher in Montana and New York.

Presented in partnership with the Library's Toddler and Preschool Storytime, this free, interactive program blends engaging storytelling with the joy of live music, offering a delightful experience for children ages 3–5 and their families.

Families can also look ahead to the next Symphony Storytime of the season on Wednesday, October 8th, at 10:15 am at the Bozeman Public Library.

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

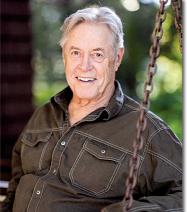
## Fred Haefele Returns to Elk River Books

Missoula author Fred Haefele gave one of the very first readings at the newly established Elk River Books back in 2011. Fourteen years later, he makes his return on Thursday, September 11th, at 7 pm to read from his latest work, The Essential Book of Pickup Trucks. Elk River Books is located at 122 S. 2nd St. The event is free and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

The Essential Book of

Pickup Trucks is a memoir about the complex role pickups have played in Haefele's life and in American culture at large. Growing up near the GM truck plant in Flint, Michigan, young Haefele was delighted by these centaur-like vehicles. In his adult life, pickups bore him through hard times and disaster, high adventure, triumph, and love. Through his tenure with 12 trucks, Haefele recounts his experiences with tree climbing and academia, masculinity and

For Haefele, pickup trucks hold a unique place in the American psyche—equal parts fantasy steed and dray horse, they're avatars of the American spirit. *The Essential Book of Pickup Trucks* is, like his trucks, uniquely free-spirited: love story,



blue-collar writer's tale, and motor-head memoir.

"What better way than a memoir about pickup trucks to forge from steel, rubber, and enamel paint a rumbling portrait of an individual American life," notes Peter Stark, author of Astoria and Gallop toward the Sun. He continued, "This is a brilliant, compelling, and wryly humorous road trip through the

motorized heart of the American soul."

Fred Haefele is a writer, teacher, and retired arborist. He is the author of the award-winning motorcycle memoir *Rebuilding the Indian* and the nonfiction collection *Extremophilia*. Haefele's work has appeared in Outside, Wired, the New York Times Magazine, Salon.com, and Montana Magazine, and he has written documentaries for the PBS American Experience series. He lives in Missoula, with his wife, the novelist Caroline

For those who can't attend in person, the event will live-stream at YouTube. com/ElkRiverBooks. For more information, send an email to info@elkriverbooks.com or call (406) 333-2330.

# The Livingston Fringe Festival Events at Wheatgrass Books

Tessa Welch and Kate Britton created the Livingston Fringe Festival and which takes place September 22th through the 28th. Get tickets or an all-access pass at www.livingstonfringefestival. com for the amazing line-up of shows happening throughout the week at locations all about town. Wheatgrass Books, located at 120 N. Main Street in Livingston, will host comedian Jennifer Jane for two performances, on Thursday the 25th at 6 pm and Saturday the 27th at 3 pm.

### Happy Tea: A wild ride of self-discovery and unexpected lessons.

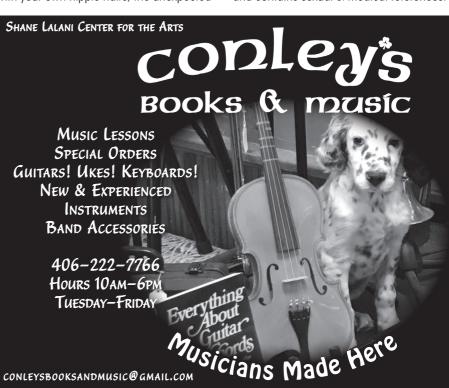
This candid one-woman show brings Jennifer's journey full circle with her debut comedy hour inspired by her experiences chronicled in the multi-award-winning documentary Charged, which follows the absurd true story of her relationship with a charming serially unfaithful boyfriend, whose near-fatal freak hiking accident flipped their lives upside down. It's shocking. It's painfully funny. And it's not the story you think it is. Through biting wit and razor-sharp heartfelt storytelling, Jennifer unpacks the comedy, tragedy, and ultimate redemption in a tale so outrageous it can only be true. She delves into what it's like to become friends with your own nipple hairs, the unexpected



joy of six weeks sleeping in a chair and the room-stopping awkwardness when she asks a medical doctor if she can cook her ex-boyfriend's amputated hand. This is a remarkably honest, deeply insightful look at being a caregiver, trying to do the right thing under weird circumstances and the journey to reclaim her life and confidence.

Disclaimer: This show is for ages 18+ and contains sexual & medical references.





# Fry-tastic Times Ahead: The Air Fryer Revolution!

By Jill-Ann Ouellette

Hello, food enthusiasts! Today, we're going to dive into the crispy world of air fryers and find out if they're truly the culinary superhero they claim to be. So, grab your apron and let's



#### Air Fryers: Most Every Household has this Efficient Kitchen Appliance

Air fryers have taken the kitchen scene by storm over the last decade, promising healthier, less greasy goodies with a simple flick of a knob. So if you haven't already got one on your kitchen counter perhaps you should consider doing so. Can they really replace that ol' faithful, trusty oil fryer? Let's see!

#### A Brief History of Air Frying

Meet the Dutch inventor, Fred van der Weij, who revolutionized kitchen countertops with the first Airfryer in 2005. Van der Weij's innovative, licensed design of Rapid Air Technology (RAT) in 2009 created the perfect circulation of hot air, resulting in crispy, fried-like foods with minimal oil. He then launched the mass production by Philips Manufacturing in 2010. This game-changing appliance quickly gained popularity worldwide, and today, numerous brands offer their own versions of the air fryer. It was also marketed as an emergency preparedness way to cook using a generator drawing less electricity than a conventional stove



Fred van der Weij Air Fryer Inventor

Air Frying vs. Old-Fashioned Oil Frying: The **Healthier Hero?** 

1. Less Oil, More Flavor: Air fryers use hot air to cook food, reducing the need for oil. This means less fat and calories, and more taste-bud-tingling goodness! Using up to 50% less oil

than deep-frying makes it a guilt-free indulgence for those crispy cravings

- 2. Quick and Easy: Air fryers cook food speedily and with minimal effort. Just toss in your ingredients, set the timer, and let the magic happen! Clean up is much quicker too.
- 3. Retains Nutrients: By not submerging food in oil, air frying helps preserve the natural nutrients and flavors of your ingredients.
- 4. Fewer Calories: With reduced oil absorption, air-fried foods typically have lower calorie counts.
- 5. Versatility: From chicken wings, french fries, veggie chips, to baked goods, air fryers can handle a wide range of foods. It's like having a tiny, efficient, and clean kitchen gadget

Material Matters: Teflon, Copper, or

When choosing an air fryer, the material is crucial for both performance and health. Here's the lowdown:

- Teflon Air Fryers: A No-Go: Teflon coatings can break down at high heat, releasing toxins. It's best to avoid Teflon air fryers altogether even though they are the easiest to clean.
- Ceramic-coated Air Fryers: A Better Option: for a safer cooking experience, durability, even heat distribution and easy clean up.
- Copper-Lined Air Fryers—A Good Option! Copper's excellent heat conductivity ensures even cooking. However, copper-lined air fryers might require more maintenance to prevent oxidation. (This is what I have. It cleans easily so far, and I haven't had oxidation.)
- Stainless Steel Air Fryers: The Winner: Stainless steel is durable, non-toxic, and easy to clean (contrary to popular belief!). It's an excellent heat conductor, making it perfect for air frying. To clean your stainless-steel air fryer, simply wipe it down with a soft cloth and mild soap after use. For tougher messes, mix equal parts water and white vinegar in the air-fryer basket and run it at 300°F for 10 minutes. Voilà!

#### Foods that Air Fry Like a Boss...

- Veggies: Think crispy Brussels sprouts, asparagus, and zucchini noodles OR veggie chips like: sliced sweet potatoes, carrots, zucchini or kale as chips.
- Salmon: With a little lemon and dill, it's a delight.
- Chicken: Reduce the fat on the chicken, allowing the excess to drip into the collecting tray beneath.
- Baked Goods: Air fryers can handle pastries, cookies, and even mini pizzas!

Three Top Air-frying Tips from Experts Don't overcrowd your basket: "Air fryers

are designed for the best cooking results when the basket isn't overcrowded or foods are cooked in a single layer," says Melissa Jaeger, head of nutrition at nutrition tracking app MyFitnessPal.

Jaeger explains. "Consider batch cooking to keep meal items in a single layer or shaking the basket at various times while cooking to ensure foods stuck in the middle layer don't result in a soggy mess.'

Use only a light coating of oil: To prevent sticking and achieve a crispy exterior, Gabriella Nowicki, a registered dietitian-nutritionist at Rebecca Bitzer & Associates, suggests using a light coating of oil like avocado oil or canola oil for temperatures over 425 degrees Fahrenheit. "This will reduce oxidation," she says.

Shake the basket: Both Jaeger and Nowicki recommend shaking your air fryer's basket halfway through the cooking process to ensure that everything cooks and crisps evenly.

Here is a tried and true, easy, favorite to fry up as often as you like:

#### **Air-Fried Sweet Potato Fries**

Ingredients:

- 2 large sweet potatoes
- \* 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- \* 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg powder
- Salt, to taste

#### Instructions:

- 1. Preheat your air fryer to 380°F (193°C).
- 2. Cut sweet potatoes into long, thin strips.



- 3. In a bowl, toss sweet potatoes with coconut oil, cinnamon powder, nutmeg powder, and a pinch of salt until evenly coated.
- 4. Load the sweet potato strips into the air fryer basket in a single layer (cook in batches if necessary).
- 5. Cook for 10-12 minutes, shaking halfway through, until crispy on the outside and tender on the
- 6. Serve hot, and indulge in the sweetness!

So, there you have it! Air fryers are a fantastic addition to any kitchen, offering a healthier and more convenient way to enjoy your favorite fried treats in healthier versions. It's a great way to increase your vegetable (fiber) intake when they taste delicious. So what are you waiting for? Get air frying and enjoy the crispy, delicious offerings that this kitchen mainstay offers. If you already have a fryer... step out of your general frying delights and try making a dessert or roasted veggies.



# Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Sliders

#### Ingredients

- 24 ounces ground pork sausage, 2 breakfast sausage rolls, like Jimmy Dean
- 12 Hawaiian buns, or other slider buns
- 8 large eggs, scrambled
- 6 slices pepper jack cheese
- 8 slices American cheese
- 1/2 cup butter, melted • 1/4 cup maple syrup

#### Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2. Warm large skillet over medium heat. Form sausage into 12 patties, slightly larger than one dinner roll. Add sausage to skillet and cook until completely cooked through.
- Meanwhile, using a serrated knife, cut rolls in half lengthwise (without breaking apart). Place bottom half of rolls in 7×10-inch or 9×13-inch baking dish; set tops aside.
- 4. Scoop scrambled eggs onto bottom rolls; top with pepper jack. Place sausage on top of pepper jack and top with



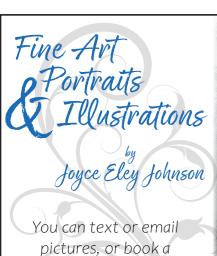
Photo Credit: avarecipes.com

American cheese. Carefully top with top buns.

- 5. Combine melted butter and maple syrup in small bowl. Brush over tops of rolls allowing sauce to drip down sides and into bottom. Use entire amount.
- 6. Bake 15-20 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and melted. Serve and enjoy!
- 7. To make for tailgating, use a disposable foil pan, or wrap sliders individually in foil to keep warm.

Sliders can also be prepared a day ahead and popped in the oven before the big game.





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# Livingston Songwriter Festival to Fill Downtown with Music from October 2nd to 4th

Downtown with Music from October 2nd to 4th

The 2nd annual Livingston Songwriter Festival will fill the streets of historic downtown Livingston with music for two full days and three nights in early October. The festival debuted in 2024 with a single day of music featuring Rising Star songwriters during the day in many locations downtown and two shows of Hit Songwriters in the evening.

"We had a tremendous first year," reports Mike Booth, Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Songwriter Festivals organization. "Livingston is the perfect location for an event like this, and early October gives us the chance to help fill venues and hotel rooms with guests eager for a truly unique musical experience."

Booth is joined in producing this year's events by Livingston event producers John Lowell and Joanne Gardner Lowell of Mighty Fine Time Live Events. "Our evening venues this year are The Attic and the Empire Theatre," added Booth during a walk through Livingston this week. "We have expanded the amount of daytime venues this year with events happening through all of downtown. There will be music everywhere you go on October 3rd and 4th with events open to the public starting on October 2nd."

Venues for the Rising Star showcases during the day include Katabatic Brewing, the Engine Room, Livingston Center for Art and Culture and Unwined. "We made an effort to spread the music into more parts of downtown," said Joanne Gardner Lowell. "Walking from venue to venue connects our guests with the best of what Livingston has to offer, from cafes and restaurants, to

shops, specialty stores, and galleries. Last year, this all happened in one day, now we've expanded to two full days of music, with some extra events happening on October 2nd."

Featured Hit songwriters who will be performing include Beth Neilsen Chapman, Gary Nicholson, Will Kimbrough, Darden Smith, Erin Enderlin, Susan Gibson, and Helen Darling. Concerts featuring these writers in various configurations will take place each evening in different venues. The daytime schedule of Rising Star songwriters includes Mike Blakely, Jeff Plankenhorn (J Plank),

Paige King Johnson, Marcedes Carroll, Chris Haddox, Anthony Garcia, Carin Mari, Imogen Clark, Bo De Peña, Wil Maring, Audrey Hall, Martin Gilmore, and Jackson Emmer.

"The Hit Songwriters are award winners who've written so many songs you'll know," said co-producer John Lowell. "Listening to the stories behind the songs is such a great way to appreciate the songs and where they came from—but spending some time with these Rising Stars is also worth your time, these writers are talented and will dazzle you. This is going to be a great event."

For ticket information and schedules,



please go to www.livingstonsongwriter-festival.org. There are limited VIP passes available, as well as single and two-day passes. Some events are free and open to the public.

The Rocky Mountain Songwriter Festivals organization is a non-profit that has donated more than \$300,000 back into communities to foster music education. Last year's Livingston Songwriter Festival proceeds from the hand painted guitar by artist Robert Spannring brought \$3500, which was used to purchase new drums and percussion for the Sleeping Giant Middle School. This year's

guitar is being painted by renowned local artist Edd Enders and will once again be donated for local music education needs.

"Sponsors and patrons make this whole festival possible," added Booth. "We want to thank our primary sponsors and patrons for their support. This festival also requires a squad of volunteers and each person that works a three-hour shift gets a pass for the rest of the day's musical events. There is info on our website about signing up for a shift. Livingston has rolled out the welcome mat for us, and we're delighted about returning for our second year."

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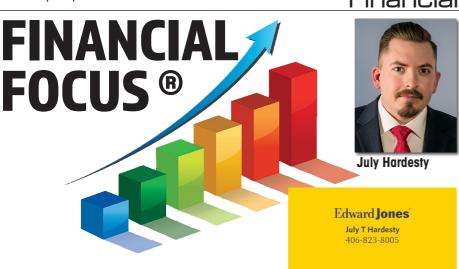
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# Financial Tips for First-time College Students

Sending your child to college is an exciting milestone filled with new experiences, friendships and opportunities for them to grow. For many families, it's also the first time your student will be managing their own money independently.

The good news is that helping your child develop smart money habits doesn't have to be overwhelming. With a few simple strategies, you can guide them to take control of their finances and avoid common pitfalls that trip up many college students.

**Start with a budget**. Creating a budget might sound boring, but it's

instrumental in helping your student take control of their finances. Many people use the 50/30/20 rule, which calls for putting 50% of income toward needs, 30% toward wants and 20% toward savings and other financial goals. So, if your child has \$1,000 per month from financial aid, work or family support, they'd spend \$500 on essentials like textbooks and food, \$300 on fun activities and \$200 on savings or paying down debt.

Encourage them to track their spending and subtract anything they pay out from their total monthly funds. This helps them know exactly how much money they have at any given

time. There are plenty of free apps to help monitor expenses, or they can simply use a notebook to write down what they spend each day.

Guide them toward smart credit habits. That first credit card in college can be both exciting and scary for parents. The key is helping students understand how to use credit wisely by paying off their balance on time every month. This helps build a positive credit history that will help them qualify for better rates on car loans, apartments and eventually a home mortgage.

Make sure your student understands that credit cards aren't free money. It takes discipline to charge only what they can afford to pay off completely when the bill arrives. Otherwise, late fees and interest charges can be substantial.

Pay attention to everyday expenses. College life doesn't have to break the bank. Remind your child to take advantage of student discounts available at restaurants, clothing and grocery stores and entertainment venues.

Help them set spending limits for discretionary categories like entertainment, dining out and personal expenses. Here's where that budget can help set clear limits to prevent overspending. It's easier to say no to that expensive coffee or designer clothing when they know it would put them over their weekly limit.

Think about the future. While it might seem early to worry about life after college, making smart financial moves now can benefit them later. If your student has loans, consider

encouraging them to make small payments while they're still in school, even though they're not required to do so. This reduces the amount of interest that builds up over time.

Encourage an emergency fund, even if they can only save \$25 per week. Having money set aside can give them flexibility after graduation, whether they want to move to a new city for a job, take time to travel, purchase a used car or pursue graduate school.

Teaching your child to manage money in college isn't just about helping them survive until graduation. The habits they develop now will shape their financial future for decades to come. By guiding them to start with a simple budget, use credit responsibly and make thoughtful spending choices, you're helping set the stage for success in college and beyond.

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

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## Fare-Free Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride Services

Windrider Transit has successfully provided free fixed-route services to Park County residents (and some visitors) since November 2017 – a total of over 33,238 through May 31, 2025, averaging 25 passengers per day!

The fixed route services are FREE, with buses running Monday through

Friday from 6:15 am to 6:15 pm, making 136 stops daily! In November 2021, we were able

to add Saturday services from 8 am to 12 pm. We provide rides to elderly, disabled, youth and the general public. Some have no means of transportation, some cannot operate vehicles, some choose not to drive, etc. This important program provides critical social service connections in the community that some citizens might not be able to be part of due to lack of transportation. Public transportation also contributes to both the economical and

physical health of individuals, it brings financial benefits to communities and it provides not only jobs in the industry itself, but is also a key component of a healthy business ecosystem by increasing mobility options for both job commuters and customers alike.

The routes run as far east as Livingston HealthCare and south

near McDonalds and Albertsons with access to nearby shopping, medical, eating provide and ladging establishments.

and lodging establishments. The routes include other fixed stops at the Ace Hardware and Town & Country; Park High School; several downtown locations; and, some stops on the north side of town at Summit Apartments, the North Side Park, NorthTown housing development and the new Community Center near M street.

The half-day Saturday routes with 45 bus stops were originally funded



through a Rural Transit Assistance Program grant and are now (as of 4/1/23) partially funded through a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Extended Services grant. These two grant opportunities also allow us to provide FREE dial-a-ride (DAR) services (we pick passengers up near their house curb) to and from Bozeman twice per week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and around Livingston on Thursdays for medical, dental, vision and/or behavioral health appointments!

In collaboration with our fabulous community partners, Park County has successfully applied for funding through capital and operating assistance grants to implement the Windrider Transit Program. These funding sources are coordinated and administered through the MDT Transit Section through passthrough funding provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Grant funding toward this program covers approximately 55% of our total operating, administrative and maintenance costs per year; we must raise the remaining 45% of funds through our important local partnerships.

In partnership with several local entities and businesses, Park County utilizes operating and capital assistance grant funding from the MDT Transit Program to operate this system. We appreciate our many local community partners for providing additional contributions to help make this program viable and successful. We are proud of our Public Transit Facility which was completed in July of 2023. This ADA accessible, 40' x 50' structure includes two large bays that can hold four 13-passenger buses, a bus wash station, two administration offices, a driver's training area, reception area, bathroom, mechanical and storage rooms. The construction costs were fully funded through a \$1.3 million Federal Transit Agency -MDT Transit Division grant.

Windrider Transit major supporters include Livingston HealthCare, Park County, the City of Livingston, One Health, Town & Country, NorthTown Development, Coffee Crossing, Community Closet, Park County Community Foundation and many extraordinary individuals and businesses who donate through the annual Park County Community Foundation Give A Hoot donation drive!



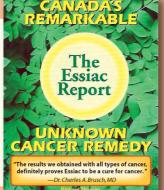
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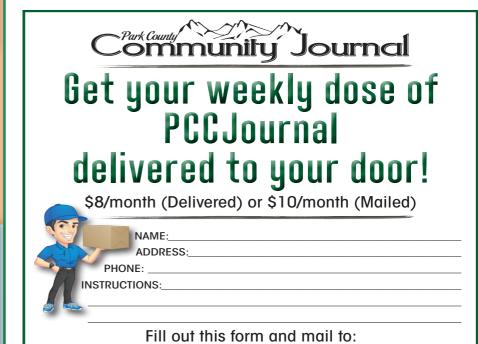
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Garrick Fulmer-Faust, Executive Director, Park County Senior Center

# Rediscovering Purpose After the Kids Are Grown and the Work Is Done

There's a moment many of us don't see coming. The kids are grown, the career that drove our days winds down, and the routines that gave us structure start to fade. For decades, purpose was handed to us: raise the family, keep the household running, show up for work, keep things together, etc.

Then one day we look around and realize—nothing is the same anymore. So, what now?

#### The Quiet After the Noise

At first, the quiet can feel like loss. We miss the demands that once exhausted us, because they also anchored us. The phone doesn't ring as much. The house feels emptier. The calendar is lighter.

But what if that emptiness isn't an ending? What if its space being cleared—for something new?



#### A Story from the Bank

The other day, I was standing in line at the bank. The teller who helped me was young, pleasant, and smiling. We made small talk, and when I asked how her day was going, she said she only had a couple of hours left until her shift was over.

It was clear she'd rather be doing something else, so I asked her a simple hypothetical: "If money was no object, what would you be doing?"

She paused, thought for a while, then looked back at me, puzzled, "I really don't know. I haven't really thought about it."

The answer is more the norm than the exception. Most of us have been programmed to obey the directions on the shampoo bottle: **lather, rinse, repeat**.

Go to work, sleep, repeat. Raise the kids, pay the bills, repeat.

And because of that, we've forgotten how to dream and if we did find time to sneak in a daydream, it was quickly cut short by those all too familiar words, "I can't. I have to work. I don't have time."

But where did those rules even come from? Eight-hour days. Five-day weeks. Two weeks' vacation a year. Who decided this should be the shape of our lives? And more importantly, who benefits from us spending one-third of our lives at work? Institutional Design: Who Benefits from

My conversation with the bank teller wasn't just touching—it was illuminating. Many of us go through decades on autopilot, tied to work schedules that were never meant to support dreams, only production. Let's unpack how that system came to be and who actually benefits from keeping us in that loop.

#### A Brief History of the Eight-Hour Workday

the "Lather, Rinse, Repeat"?

- Early reformers: The eight-hour workday was first proposed by British social reformer, Robert Owen in the early 19th century. His vision? "Eight hours labor, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest." [Wikipedia].
- Labor movement victories: In the U.S., workers began calling for shorter hours during the Industrial Revolution. The National Labor Union passed resolutions in 1866 urging an eight-hour day. Strikes, such as the notable May Day protests of 1886, became flashpoints in the movement. [Encyclopedia of Milwaukee]

#### Federal laws:

- The Adamson Act of 1916 established an 8-hour workday (with overtime pay) for railroad workers.
   [Civics for Life Wikipedia].
- The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 cemented the 40-hour workweek across many U.S. industries, with protections like minimum wage, child labor limits, and overtime pay. [Wikipedia]



#### **Breaking the Spell**

The truth is, much of this was by design. Systems benefit when we identify with our jobs instead of our creativity, our spirit, or our deeper sense of self. We've been taught to believe our worth is in our labor, not in who we are or what we create.

But when the work years fade, and those systems no longer have a grip on our schedules, something extraordinary becomes possible: we can reprogram ourselves!

#### What If I Don't Know My Purpose?

This is the question many people wrestle with, "What if I have no idea what my purpose is?"

The good news is—you don't need a lightning-bolt answer. Purpose isn't always discovered in one big revelation. It often shows up in whispers.

- Start with energy. Notice what lights you up—even in small ways. A conversation, a hobby, an act of kindness.
- Follow curiosity. Instead of asking, "What is my purpose?" ask, "What am I curious about today?" Curiosity often leads to purpose.
- Think in seasons. Your purpose today doesn't have to be your forever purpose. It might simply be to heal, to learn, or to serve.

 Serve in small ways. Purpose often begins by showing up for others, and in doing so; you'll find it points back to you.

### Reframing the Question for This Chapter of Life

The young bank teller's answer, "I haven't really thought about it" is a symptom of systemic conditioning. We awaken to new freedom only when the anchor of "must-do" work fades. Intention and clarity can enter that space again.

But to do so, many of us must unlearn the voice that says: "You should be busy," or "Your value is in what you produce." That inner instruction wasn't yours to begin with—it was inherited. And now? It can be rewritten.

#### **Closing Thought**

After kids and careers, it's not just about finding something to do, it's about remembering how to dream again. The eight-hour grind was built over time, and so is the freedom to choose—a dream you're still fully entitled to.

Garrick Fulmer-Faust, CPT, Certified Nutritionist, Senior Fitness Specialist, Life Coach, and Executive Director of The Hub Fitness Center at Park County Senior Center located at 206 S. Main St., in Livingston. Questions? Comments? Would you like a tour of the center? Contact Garrick by email or phone, garrick@parkcountyseniorcenter.org, 406-333-2276 or 406-333-2107.



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## Livingston Protesters Support "Workers Over Billionaires"

To raise awareness about struggles faced by workers today, Indivisible Park County and the Women's Action Project partnered with a national initiative called Workers Over Billionaires. The two local groups organized a peaceful, nonviolent Labor Day protest on Monday, September 1st from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the corner of 5th and Park Street in Livingston.

An estimated 106 people attended the event. Protesters lined the sidewalk along Park Street with a forty-foot-long sign that spelled out *Workers Over Billionaires*. The theme, the sign, and the protesters received a chorus of supportive honks and many waves as cars passed by.

American workers are being squeezed from all sides, with many household budgets stretched so thin that there's either nothing left at the end of the month or, worse, workers must choose between rent, food, utilities, or other necessities.

Meanwhile, billionaires grow richer. This battle to prioritize workers over billionaires and ensure American workers aren't left behind (as the government shifts priorities and technology renders many jobs obsolete) grows stronger every day.

The Guardian reported that nearly 1,000 rallies and protests were scheduled across the U.S. in every state—a Labor Day week of action organized by labor unions and advocacy groups in opposition to the Trump

administration's policies. The protests come as public support for labor unions remains strong. According to The Guardian, "A national poll conducted by the AFL-CIO and David Binder Research found trust in labor unions is at 55% - larger than the 36% of respondents who said they trusted the Democratic party and the 35% of respondents who said they trusted the Republican party." Workers, whether union or non-union, face numerous threats from various directions.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act puts billionaires over workers through massive tax cuts to wealthy people and big corporations, while crucial programs that help working people are slashed. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that a \$716 billion dollar cut from Medicaid and parts of the Affordable Care Act will result in roughly fifteen million people losing their healthcare. In addition, \$300 billion will be cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps feed approximately forty-two million Americans. Federal student loan programs face cuts, while working students struggle with job demands and family responsibilities.

As new tariffs take effect, prices are expected to rise. The Yale Budget Lab estimates that tariffs will cost the average household an additional \$2,400 this year. To make matters worse for workers, large corporations are slashing jobs. According to Intellinzence, in

the last few months, Microsoft, Intel, Nissan USA, Procter & Gamble, UPS and the Postal Service cut 16,000, 34,000, 11,000, 7,000, 21,000, and 10,000 jobs, respectively—accounting for only a small percentage of total jobs eliminated within the market.

While there are many reasons for those jobs disappearing, analysts

point to corporations replacing workers through the use of artificial intelligence (Al). Newsweek magazine listed more than forty occupations that will see job cuts due to Al, including: cashiers, customer service representatives, teachers, computer programmers, lawyers, paralegals, architects, engineers, financial advisors, mathematicians, technical writers, translators, and graphic designers.

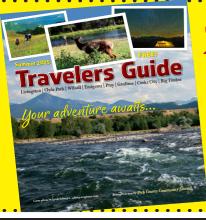
While jobs and services are being cut, the federal hourly minimum wage in the U.S. has been \$7.25 since July 2009. For perspective, the median cost of a home in the U.S. is nearly \$400,000. This combination makes the American Dream of owning a home unattainable for

many working families. Workers face numerous threats from various directions.

STOVER BILLTONAURE

On Labor Day, folks in Livingston and across our country made their positions known about *Workers Over Billionaires*.

About the organizations: Indivisible Park County and the Women's Action Project are all-volunteer, non-partisan, progressive organizations that formed at the beginning of the second Trump administration. The organizations aim to educate and motivate others to protect our communities, constitution, and democracy. The organizers state that a core principle behind this Labor Day protest is a commitment to nonviolent action.



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

Dear Editor,

The question that has plagued me for the past two years is:

How do rural counties and municipalities lay some groundwork to engage with capital investment funds?

Big Timber recently undertook a process that improved communications and policy around bulk water sales in response to purchases made by CrossHarbor Capital Partners, owner of Crazy Mountain Ranch and the Yellowstone Club. Moving forward, the decision to sell municipal water over a certain quantity will no longer be made solely by one municipal official. There are provisions now for community input and notification of the Mayor and City Council.

CrossHarbor, a Boston-based company, which also has stake in Lone Mountain Ranch, Lone Mountain Land Company, Spanish Peaks, Montague, the Villages, the Bozeman Hotel, and other holdings in Gallatin and Madison Counties, has access to resources that far exceed those available to our municipalities. Meanwhile, our towns and counties are being starved

of basic resources.

There are few state-level funds available to update public infrastructure. Families are already burdened with high taxes while wages continue to stagnate, making it harder and harder for people to afford to live here. We are being priced out of Montana. When there are opportunities for communities to benefit from the billionaire's needs, I have no issue with taking their money. We should take more of it.

If a group is purchasing bulk water purely for commercial purposes—say, a private, members-only golf resort—they should be charged more than local ranchers trying to fill a gap during a drought year. If water is being used for infrastructural projects that benefit either the city or the county, rates should reflect this, and maximize public benefit. And, of course, emergency services should be prioritized for the health and well-being of our communities.

Who we sell water to—and what water is used for—matters. Most people agree that protecting our community needs must come first. This necessitates

making a genuine effort to find ways for municipalities and counties to make enough money to provide for the basic needs of our communities. I believe these processes should center on public input and participation.

In Big Timber, one community member collected over 100 signatures in less than a week and clearly demonstrated the community's will to pause bulk water sales until there was a policy in place. This prompted real change and action from the City's officials. I hope this is held as an example of how rapidly local government can actually be moved into action by the participation of 'We, the People.' I also hope Livingston and Clyde Park can be held as examples of how we can open community dialogue in anticipation of these concerns and create thoughtful policy in response.

Conversations about social media and debates about what 'stealing' technically is have a place. I believe our time, attention and energy is best spent fostering civic engagement and deepening community participation in local governmental processes. These policies are breathing documents. They evolve to address changing community needs. That is the beauty—and power—of local control: we can respond directly to our own challenges.

In order to meet these challenges, especially with aging and failing infrastructure, increased usage of these systems, and very little being actually done about the affordability crisis—we cannot ignore the potential benefit and vast impact

of this obscene wealth moving into our communities.

Park County faces a \$500,000 dollar deficit this year. We can't adequately pay our sheriffs' deputies. Our public roads department guy quit so they could finish plowing and grading the roads with his salary this Spring. Several bridges are in serious disrepair, with little funding in sight. We're seeing (again) record numbers of tourists passing through on their way to Yellowstone. \$500,000 dollars is nothing to the ultra-wealthy. Peter Scott, Crazy Mountain Ranch's lawyer said, "the Ranch has millions of dollars invested [in turf] and they don't plan to just sit back and let

The real travesty of this golf course is the opportunity cost. Had CrossHarbor waited a year or two, they would have saved well over a million dollars. The DNRC wouldn't have had to sue because the Ranch violated the Water Use Act. The neighbors wouldn't have had to shoulder the emotional and financial burden of water court battles. Instead, we watch them hop from one struggling small town to another, buying bulk water for a fifth—or even a quarter of what they pay that private company out of Four Corners, then truck that water, sometimes over 100 miles, so they can golf.

Keegan Nashan Montanan, Organizer, Political Scientist

# September is Here Along with Autumn



The ninth month of the calendar year ushers in a host of Autumn loving holidays, beginning in the month of September. Before the Julian and Gregorian calendars, September was the 7th month of the Roman calendar called Septem, which means seven in Latin. At the time, there were only 10 months. In 700 BC, Numa Pompilius added January and February to the calendar. This change more accurately reflected the length of a year on Earth. As a result, September became the 9th

month on the calendar.

the number of outdoorsy days, that doesn't mean you can't get outside and enjoy the waning days of summer. September is the first month of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. September's full moon is appropriately named the Harvest Moon. However, the Harvest Moon occasionally lands in October. After all, it's the closest one to the autumnal equinox in September. When the Harvest Moon lands in October, September's full moon is named the Corn Moon.

Two lesser meteor showers occur in September. The first is the Aurigids and the with the Perseid meteor shower in August).

What's Your Sign? The Earth sign Virgo (represented by the goddess of wheat) and the air sign Libra (represented by scales) are the zodiac signs for September. Two flowers represent September birthdays. The Aster blooms in purple, pink, red, and white. This fall flower blooms in September and attracts migrating butterflies. Another flower representing

September births is the morning glory. It blooms all summer long and up to the first frost. Finally, glittery, blue sapphires are September's birthstone.

#### **Five Fast Facts:**

- 1. If you're born in September, you might share a birthday with: Herman Melville, Gloria Estefan, Keanu Reeves, Salma Hayek, Harry Connick Jr., Lance Armstrong, H.G.
- Wells, or Anne Burrell. 2. September is the only month with the same number of letters in its name as its numerical place on the calendar.
- 3. In 1752, the British switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. The adjustment caused rioting. Why? The change caused the loss of 11 days between September 2 and September 14.
- 4. Only one U.S. president was born
- in September William Taft. 5. Only one president was assassinated in September - William McKinley.

#### Meals for September 8th - 12th

Mon., Sept. 8th - Beef tater tot casserole, roll, green beans, pears,

Tues., Sept. 9th - Corn chowder, ½ turkey sandwich, oranges, milk

Wed., Sept. 10th - Chicken fajitas, fixings, refried beans, peaches, cake, milk

Thurs., Sept. 11th - Meatloaf, gravy, potatoes, peas & carrots, fruit cocktail, milk

Fri., Sept. 12th - Scalloped potatoes and ham, mixed veggies, banana, cake, milk



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#### Mondays - Weekly

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

#### Tuesdays - Weekly

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

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

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

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

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.

Next to Taco Bell & Dominos

406-333-2142

#### 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.

#### September 8-10th - BIG SKY RAIL CONFERENCE -

Leaders, advocates, and communities will gather in Livingston for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority Annual Conference, to celebrate extraordinary progress and chart the next chapter. The 2025 conference theme—Turning Our Voices Into Action—reflects that transformation. Speakers include Tim Sheehy, John Smith, Bruce Agnew, Knox Ross, leaders from Amtrak, AIPRO Rail, regional governments, industry, and communities. Register now at: https://www.bigskyrail.org/summer-2025-newsletter.

## September 12 - DEADLINE TO VOTE IN THE BEST OF It's Time to

THE BEST OF PARK COUNTY

VOTE





#### September 13th - PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

- Please join the Friends of the Library and enjoy an evening of mountain dance music by The Beagles at The Shane Lalani Center's Blake Pavilion located at 415 E. Lewis St. in Livingston from 5 to 8 pm. All contributions go directly toward enhancing library services, children's spaces, the bookmobile, and community-wide programs. Suggested donation is \$15.

#### September 13th - YELLOWSTONE RIVER CLEANUP-

Montana Freshwater Partners invites you to pitch in and keep our playground pristine. Join them as they work to remove trash from the Yellowstone River and its fishing access sites throughout Paradise Valley, and celebrate with them afterwards with food, beer (if over 21 years old), and raffle prizes! There are two locations to choose from Livingston or Gardiner. The Livingston

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

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

event will be based at the band shell in Sacajawea Park. The Gardiner event will be based at Paradise Adventure Co., located at 212 W. Park. Both locations will be open from 9 am -4 pm. You pick: float, boat or walk! River sections will be assigned.

#### September 13th - LINCOLN-REAGAN DINNER - The

Park County Republicans invite you to their annual prime rib dinner and program, starting at 5 pm at the Elks Lodge, 130 S. 2nd Street. Table sponsorships and tickets are available at ParkRepublicans.org or BetterWorld.org. Don't miss out on the gun raffle, 50/50, dessert, live and silent auctions!

September 14th - VEGAN POTLUCK - Join them at the Park County Senior Center at 206 S. Main St. at 4:30 pm. You don't have to be vegan, but the food does. Please bring a fall or harvest season dish to share that is free from meat, eggs, dairy, honey, and gelatin. You can keep it simple by bringing chips & salsa, fresh fruit, pickles or olives, or a green salad. Sharing delicious food and recipes with fun people who care about their health, the planet and most of all—the animals!

September 21st - 30K RUN - Celebrate our public lands with Yellowstone Gateway 30K run below Emigrant Peak in Paradise Valley. Starting line is at the Sage Lodge, 55 Sage Lodge Drive, Pray, and ending at Chico Hot Springs. You can register for the run or sign up to volunteer at Runsignup.com/Race/MT/Pray/YellowstoneCity30K. Runner fee is \$75.

#### September 27th - FINE ART AUCTION - Visit the

Livingston Center for Art and Culture, located at 119 S. Main St., beginning September 9th to preview all the artwork available in the sale, as well as a special artist reception during the final downtown Livingston Art Walk of the season on Friday, Sept. 26th. Live auction will be held at the Livingston Depot Center located at 200 W. Park St. You can explore the featured artworks online, get more information or purchase tickets for the Live Auction at artweekpc.com/auction.

**ALL LOCATIONS** 

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

8<sup>AM</sup> - 12<sup>AM</sup>



SOUTH

20

26

29

42

# BREAK time CROSSWOR

## Montana Fun Facts!

Just over 34 percent of vehicles on the road in Montana are pickup trucks. The only state with more pickup trucks per capita is Wyoming, where it's 38 percent. In 50th place is New Jersey with only 8 percent. The national average is 17 percent.

Chet Huntley, a famous newscaster born in Cardwell, Montana, was the driving force behind the construction of the Big Sky ski resort town, but died three days before the grand opening ceremonies in 1974. Today, Big Sky has more vertical feet of skiing than any other ski area in the nation, with 4,180 feet.

About 65 percent of Montana households have at least one gun, the highest in the nation. Just over 38 percent of residents own firearms suitable for hunting.

#### **ACROSS**

- Skinny one Junk e-mail 10. Ratite bird
  - South American raccoon
- Daze 15.
- Fender flaw
- 18. Promo producers Danger
- And
- Corded fabric
- 24. Is Your Life"
- Unit of length 26. Cat's call 27.
- Feudal lord
- "Home Again" addition
- Mix thoroughly Young fish
- Shopper's bag
- 35 Hurl
- Barnyard sound 36. Roster
- Maui feast
- 39.

- 40. Maidenhair
- 41. Angry
- 44. Coffee container
- Shuttle's domain
- 47. Bro, to Sis
- 49. Creel
- Little bit 51.
- Harmony 53.
- Acquaintances
- Big Band, e.g. 55.
- "Beetle Bailey" superior
- Prudish Pismire
- African animal, shortly
- Take legal action 60. 61.
- Old stringed instrument Gridiron org. 65.
- Skunk's defense
- Ballerina's short skirt 67.
- 71. Off vonder
- Stringed instrument

- Loomed up
- 77. New York
- Intertwine
- Fortress
- 80. Patella location Beginner 81.
- Elaborate display

- Blemish
- Secret language
- Sloped surface
- 4. Enjoyed brunch
- Oriental root Brood
- Play on words
- Disinterest
- Cafe order
- 10. Diet letters: abbr.
- Biker's headgear
- Store, as fodder
- Lagoon's boundary 15. Merganser's kin
- Bridle strap
- 23. Group of whales

72

- 25. Seat for two
- 27. List of activities
- 28 Passing

18

39

44

60

49

- 30. Ad copy
- Woody vine Card game 32.
- Bumpkin
- 35. Winter ailment
- 36. Shelflike bed
- 37. Gaucho's tool 38. Humpback's kin

19

23

24

54

- 40. Shoe fillers **Employ wrongfully**

78

- Peculiar jargon
- With hands
- on hips
- 46. Left, nautically
- 48. Busy one
- 52. Recording 55. Place
- Sea parrot 56.
- 57. Describe
- Jauntily 58.
- Shanty
- 60. Nibble 62. On
- 63. Spring of water

(tense)

67. Cantina meal

69

68. Wail 69. Befuddled

79

- 70. Bouncy
- 72 Kind of bread
- Roofer's caulking material
- 76. Legendary bird



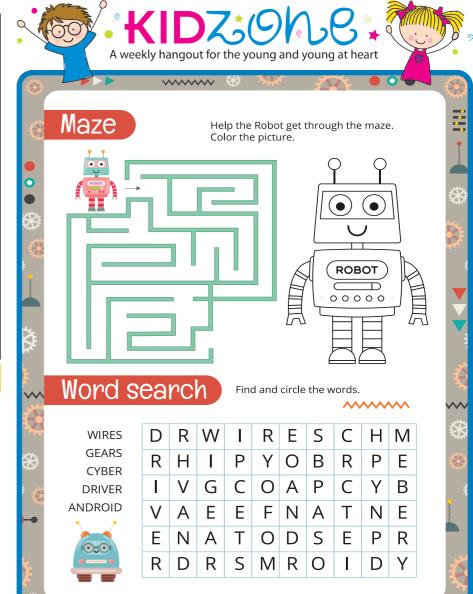


Sudoku - #149

Crossword - #414

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

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# Want to STAND OUT in print?

Our advertising specialists know how to

MAKE YOU SHINE!

Contact Denise today to sponsor this page or reserve your spot in the Community Journal! 406-396-1497

# CLASS IFIED

#### **FOR SALE**

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

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

#### **HELP WANTED**

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

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

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

Schedule: (as outlined in the boardadopted academic calendar)

- Up to 9 hours per day, Monday through Thursday
- Occasional Fridays
- Starting Wage: (Includes single health insurance) · Applicant with a HS Diploma or
- equivalent: \$15.36
- Applicant with an Associate's Degree or equivalent: \$16.41
- · Applicant with a Bachelor's Degree or higher: \$17.47

Effective: August 18, 2025 Closing Date: until filled For applications, please contact Danny Johnston at djohnston@ shieldsvalleyschools.org or 406-578-2535. Access the Classified Application Packet at www.shieldsvalleyschools.com. Shields Valley School District is an equal opportunity employer. Jobspecific training will be required as a condition of continued employment.

#### The Gardiner Food Pantry needs volunteers!

We are looking to add two drivers for our Meals4U program. This program delivers healthy meals to our community seniors. If you can use your lunch hour one day, every two weeks to help us deliver, please contact Kathy at (404) 664-6624. We can't do this program without the help of our wonderful volunteers!

Key Insurance in Livingston is looking to hire a  $\boldsymbol{\text{Licensed}}$ Insurance Agent Key

**Unsurance** 

to our team. We are dedicated to providing individuals.

families, businesses and their employees with the very best in supplemental benefits. Working hand-inhand with our customers, our dedicated sales force provides personal face-toface service that is almost unheard of in todays business world. We are committed to providing our clients with the right protection, customized to their needs. We offer \$55K to start depending on qualifications. Please contact Alice at 406-222-0944 to schedule an interview or email resume to alice@

#### Come Join Our Kenyon Noble Team!

Lumber & Hardware's Livingston location is

montanainsurance.net.



currently accepting applications & hiring for Warehouse Associates and **Delivery Drivers**. No experience

necessary—we will train! Offering competitive wages and great benefits packages. For more information and to see the complete job listing visit us at kenyonnoble.com/jobs.You can also apply online!

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

Public Works Manager - Public Works -Full-time Year-Round

speaking with you!

The City of Livingston Public Works division is seeking a highly motivated customer service focused individual to perform the role of Public Works Manager. This fulltime, salary exempt role serves as the manager for all Public Works field operations and works under the direction of the Public Works Director and alongside the Office Manager and Project Manager. Performs a variety of technical, managerial, operational, and administrative work for the safe, proper, efficient, and effective operation and maintenance of: water, sewer collection, storm water, wastewater treatment facilities, City streets and alleys, solid waste and recycling, parks, cemetery, facilities, equipment and shops. This position supports the Public Works Director and is responsible to provide complex oversight of departmental activities, employees, budgets and ongoing daily and special project management. Full details are located at https://www. livingstonmontana.org/jobs To Apply: Send cover letter and resume to HR@livingstonmontana.org

911 Communications Officer The City of Livingston is seeking full-

time 911 Communications Officers to perform dispatch duties for first responders across Park County. The position offers an hourly rate of \$24.48, 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/911communications-officer-1

#### **Detention Officer**

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.

#### **Sheriff Deputy**

Are You Trustworthy, Self-Motivated and Community Minded? The Park County **Sheriff's Office** is looking for (1) new full time team member interested in a career in a law enforcement capacity with our Sheriff's Office.

#### **ESSENTIAL DUITES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- To enforce State, Federal and County laws and ordinances
- · Candidate must pass written, oral, medical and psychological exams
- To provide customer service and answers inquires via phone, electronically or in person
- To participate, conduct and manage search and rescue activities
- To patrol Park County
- To serve Warrants and civil papers
- Certifiable to use law enforcement weapons is required
- To write reports, testifies in court and conducts investigations
- To assist the public
- To assist any and all Law Enforcement agencies as needed
- To perform other duties as maybe assigned by the Sheriff
- Individual is required to be a union

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 Full details and forms are located at

https://www.jobs.parkcounty.org/jobs/7/

Sheriff-Deputy-JOB-10301019-open-

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

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









Vote online at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYVGSGF or click on the QR code, it is that easy!







# Landmark Your Local Real Estate Market Experts REAL ESTATE

### **FEATURED LISTINGS**

ERALivingston.com | 406.222.8700



1007 E Geyser Street 2 beds 2 baths | 1,584 sq ft #402047 | \$639,000 Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



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



518 W Lewis Street 4 beds 2.5 baths | 4,398 sq ft #403584 | \$1,275,000 Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



903 Meriwether Drive E Land Listing | 0.19 acres #405062 | \$250,000 Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



1296 US Hwy 10 W Commercial Sale | 10,160 sq ft #397843 | \$2,500,000 Ernie Meador | 406-220-0231



305 Lathrop Street W 2 beds 2 baths | 996 sq ft #399947 | \$429,000 Jessie Sarrazin | 406-223-5881



7 Aquila Lane Land Listing | 2+ acres #394836 | \$239,000 Deb Kelly | 406-220-0801



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



3 beds 1 bath | 1,879 sq ft #403239 | \$500,000 Julie Kennedy | 406-223-7753



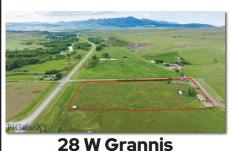
320 N 2nd Street 3 beds 2 baths | 2,267 sq ft #404684 | \$525,000 Baylor & Carolina Carter | 406-223-7903



1115 Ridgeview Trail 3 beds 2.5 baths | 1,758 sq ft #399280 | \$589,000 Baylor & Carolina Carter | 406-223-7903



9848 Durston Rd Unit #A 3 beds 2 baths I 1.732 sa ft #403623 | \$639,500 Jon Ellen Snyder | 406-223-8700



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



107 Elliot Street N Commercial Sale | 3,104 sq ft #398072 | \$600,000 Tammy Berendts | 406-220-0159



425 S 12th Street 4 beds 3 baths | 2,620 sq ft #404838 | \$899,000 Swanson Team | 406-220-2045



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

# Meet the Team...

Kyra's passion for real estate started in 1996 when she worked as a licensed assistant for two brokers in Missoula. While she let her first license expire to chase other goals, her journey has been anything but ordinary. While studying at MSU for her BA in Art and Photography she fought wildland fires for the Forest Service and was a local Livingston bartender. After college, she freelanced as a food and editorial photographer, embraced being a stay-at-home mom, and recently trained as an American Airlines flight

attendant. When her kids were quite young, Kyra dove back into real estate, this time as an investor—over the years she's remodeled several homes; designed, subdivided and labored over a new construction infill project, bought and sold bare land, and purchased, remodeled and managed a VRBO in Great Falls, MT—she's had hands-on experience in nearly every type of real estate transaction.

**Kvra Ames Sales Associate** 406-223-3959

kyra@eralivingston.com

Kyra loves soaking up Montana's outdoor adventures, with a special passion for sailing and traveling with her family. Her proudest accomplishment? Walking 200+ miles along Spain's northern coast with her husband to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Originally from Helena, she's loved raising their two kids in one of the most walkable small towns in America.



## **REALTORS**<sup>®</sup> in Livingston, Bozeman, Big Sky & Ennis

ERA Landmark Real Estate | eralivingston.com 406.222.8700 | 215 S. Main Street | Livingston, MT



The Park County Community Journal (PCCJ) is conducting its annual Best of Park County poll. Voting begins on Wednesday, August 20th at 9 am and will conclude on Friday, September 12th at 5:30 pm. Ballots will be printed in the newspaper each week and can be submitted at the Main Print Shop, located at 108 N. Main Street in Livingston.

The shop will be accepting ballots during business hours from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. You can also mail your ballot to PCCJ at PO Box 1851, Livingston, MT 59047.

PCCJ will be accepting ballots online again this year, which can be accessed by using the QR codes printed on this page, or by going to the

# ONLINE VOTING Vote online at

Vote online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYVGSGF or click on the QR code, it is that easy!



website PCCJournal.com up until the polls close. We ask that each person submit only one ballot and complete at least 50 percent of the form for it to be valid. Results will be published in the edition scheduled for release on Sunday, September 28th in a special edition with exclusive stories on select businesses and people. PCCJ will present winners with award certificates in each category for the 2025 season.

Take a few moments to vote for your favorite folks and businesses in Park County to show your appreciation!

1. Best New Business	13. Best Desserts	25. Best Massage Therapist
2. Best Breakfast	14. Best Caterer	26. Best Auto Repair
3. Best Lunch	15. Best Vegetarian/Vegan/ Gluten-Free Options	27. Best Salon/Barber Shop
4. Best Dinner	16. Best Bar/Tavern/Pub	28. Best Dental Office
5. Best Restaurant Service	17. Best Wine List	29. Best Chiropractic Clinic
6. Best Salads	18. Best Draft Beer List	30. Best Veterinarian Clinic
7. Best Sandwich	19. Best Cocktail Menu	31. Best Art Gallery
8. Best BBQ	20. Best Retail Wine Selection	32. Best Fly Fishing Shop
9. Best Burger	21. Best Retail Beer Selection	33. Best Live Music Venue
10. Best Pizza	22. Best Retail Liquor Selection	34. Best Local Festival/Event
11. Best Coffee	23. Best Hardware Store	

It's Time to VOTE

12. Best Bakery