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Volume 27 Number 23 December I 2020

## If it's Happening. It's in The BoZone

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2020 December Number əmuloV

#### MOR's Season of Light unearths history of year-end festivities

Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies is once again offering its educational and visually stunning Season of Light in the Taylor



Planetarium as 2020 draws to a close. Yule logs, Christmas trees, the Hanukkah Menorah, luminaries, and Santa Claus were all taken from different cultures to fill the dark months of the year with more light. Learn about the many holiday customs that make the winter more festive!

Season of Light shows daily at 11am and 3pm, as well as a 1pm matinee on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, through December 31st. These screenings are included with Museum admission or membership. Please note: the Museum will close at 3pm on Dec. 24th (11am screening only) and will be closed on Christmas Day.

On display through Dec. 31st are exhibits Thomas D. Mangelsen: A Life in the Wild and Seven

Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints. Both are included with Museum admission or membership.

And coming in the new year, a marine-based showcase of creatures past! Savage Ancient Seas opens January 23rd. Walk beneath what must be the fossil version of the Loch Ness Monster; a 42-foot-long Elasmosaurus. Dive into an ancient underwater world 70 million years ago when carnivorous fish and giant sea reptiles swam a vast, shallow sea spanning North America. See more than 50 prehistoric marine skeletons, many on display for the first time in Montana! While dinosaurs ruled the land, these strange, spectacular creatures ruled the sea. Stay tuned for additional exhibit details.

Give the gift of membership this holiday season! Share all that you love about MOR with friends and family. Members have the opportunity to experience diverse changing exhibits, the famous Siebel Dinosaur Complex, absorbing planetarium shows, as well as various programs and classes throughout the year.

Please note: Because admittance is limited, MOR encourages visitors to make advance reservations. Walk-ins admitted if availability allows. Facecoverings are required for entry into the Museum and Planetarium.

MOR is now open from 9am-4pm daily. For more information about these exhibits, gift membership and to make a reservation, visit museumoftherockies.org.

The 40th Annual

Christmas Stroll

Reimagined 2020

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IN DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN

#### Spirit of the season kept alive with week-long Stroll events

Like most events proceeding in 2020, the annual Christmas Stroll will look quite a bit different this year. Though there will be no celebration on Main Street, the holiday season will still delight in Downtown Bozeman! Residents and visitors are encouraged to celebrate the spirit of the season and strength of our community in new ways.

From Wednesday, December 2nd to Saturday, December 5th, join the Downtown Bozeman Association and gracious presenting sponsors for the "Christmas Stroll 2020 Reimagined." Participants can expect to see many of their favorite Christmas Stroll mainstays and new activities:

Parade of Lights & Window Decorating Contest (Dec. 2-5) at various locations with People's Choice voting in 7 festive categories.

Gingerbread House Contest (Dec. 2-5) from 10am-6pm at 424 East Main. Public display from 10am-6pm. Social distancing and masks required.

Restaurant Give-Back (Dec. 2-5) at many downtown food and drink establishments supporting area nonprofits in the spirit of the season.

Elf on the Shelf (Dec. 2-5) posted at 10am daily on Downtown Bozeman social media channels. Images will show her hiding in different places around downtown guess where to win fabulous prizes!

Virtual Lighting Ceremony of famous Downtown Bozeman Holiday Spiders (Dec. 5) Posted at 5pm on DBA social media pages, when the traditional Santa Parade gets kicked off.

6th Annual Santa Run for Education (Dec. 5 from 8am-2pm) virtual 5K & in-person race with staggered start times.

Intermountain Opera Bozeman Choir, Holiday Playlist (Dec. 5 at noon) posted with 20+ holiday carols available at no cost.

Stroll Holiday Concert with Kate & The Alley Kats (Dec. 5 at 2pm) available to stream through Downtown Bozeman social media pages.

Chief Joseph Choir Holiday Concert (Dec. 5 at 3pm) posted online, ahead of the Santa Parade and Lighting Ceremony

The Christmas Stroll 2020 Reimagined Button is now available for purchase at area grocers and downtown retailers. Prizes and promotions include Bridger Bowl Ski Passes, Downtown Dollars packages totaling \$500, a Family Photo package from 406 Photo and discounts at Billion Auto, Action Lighting and Sweet Pea Festival and more.

The winner of the Christmas Stroll 2020 Reimagined poster has also been announced. This year, a time-appropriate design by

Congratulations to Brook Froelich for her time-appro-

priate design. For MUCH more information about Christmas Stroll 2020

Reimagined, button purchase options and links to all virtual events listed above, visit www.downtownbozeman.org/stroll2020. •

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#### **Orphan Girl presents virtual** radio play based on 'Twas the Night

Butte's Orphan Girl Children's Theatre will present multiple stagings of **The Wondering Eye of** Christmas by Cole Cunningham this holiday season. Sponsored by NorthWestern Energy, these performances will be streamed virtually for audiences around the Treasure State and beyond.

Join for this new radio-style play, inspired by the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The race to save the Christmas Spirit is on, but will they save it or will Christmas be lost forever?

Presented live, the streamed performances will be accessible via Zoom on Friday and Saturday evenings, December 11th-12th and 18th-19th at 7pm. Sunday matinees on Dec. 13th and 20th will begin at 2pm and include Talk Backs with Cole Cunningham. The playwright will discuss his new play and

answers questions from the Orphan Girl panel.

These shows are FREE and family friendly. Please watch and support the hard work of these local artists. Visit www.orphangirl.org to reserve your complimentary tickets. Thank you to NorthWestern Energy for helping share this show with the community.

Note: Due to the rising cases of COVID-19 and the theatre still being closed, all shows will be performed as a live streamed event during the run of the show. All rehearsals were conducted through Zoom and we were able to provide all participants with set pieces, props and lighting elements to create their own show space. Orphan Girl Children's Theatre will remain in compliance with state and local health directives. •

#### MSU students raise funds for local nonprofits through entrepreneurial challenge

by Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service

Teams of Montana State University business students turned \$50 each into more than \$1,900 in just three weeks, and the students then donated those funds to three local nonprofit organizations this fall.

The students were participating in Venture Time, part of an upper-division class on entrepreneurship offered by the MSU Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship. As part of the course - taught by instructor Brandt Williams and Trevor Huffmaster, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU - interdisciplinary student teams were given \$25

on the team. Another team, Cats Against COVID, created COVID-19 awareness stickers. The team partnered with MSU's University Printing Services and leveraged word-ofmouth advertising to create and launch the MSU co-branded item. In addition to business students, students from the College of Arts and Architecture were on the team.

A third team of business students made and sold stylish chain face mask holders to keep masks in place, similar to something used for sunglasses or reading glasses, while a fourth team of business students offered and marketed socially disnumber of learning opportunities.

"The learning outcomes come from rapid ideation, testing the ideas and succeeding or failing fast," he said. "Assumptions are proven and disproven and the holes in the process are uncovered very quickly. We want to accomplish a couple of things - uncover hidden biases and assumptions, realization that not all ideas are worthy of businesses and accomplishments come in many forms not just monetary success."

He added that there are a number of benefits to the project.

"Community engagement is rich in quick projects like this," Williams said. "The students interact with a

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www.sclhealth.org/ Members: Included with membership. I Non-Members: \$25 This event will follow Gallatin County's COVID guidelines:

Masks to be worn indoors \* Social Distancing \* No greater than 25 will be in attendance

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in startup capital, with the option to add in \$25 of their own funds, to launch real businesses that were as profitable and impactful as possible. All proceeds after paying back their investors then went to local charities of the students' choice.

Twelve student teams raised funds through a variety of creative ventures. One team, EcoBox, took used pallets and created indoor and outdoor planters, embracing the idea of taking a waste stream and repurposing it into a useful product. A student from MSU's sustainable food and bioenergy systems program joined the business students

tanced photography sessions.

Students donated their proceeds \$1,944 total – to Eagle Mount, Heart of the Valley and the Bridger Foothills Fire Relief Fund through the Greater Gallatin United Way.

Williams said he was proud of the students for their efforts and results.

"It is always rewarding to see students find their creativity, use their energy and work together to build something that's fun, interesting and makes a positive impact," Williams said.

Williams noted that Venture Time provided students with a



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variety of participants. (They) learn a lot about the audience, demographic and tolerance of their community by the ideas and products they serve."

Perhaps most important is the hands-on experience Venture Time provides for students, Williams said.

"The biggest success comes from a deeper understanding that ideas can be incubated, tested, adjusted and relaunched in rapid fire with little capital," Williams said.

Venture Time was previously known as the Entreprentice Challenge, which launched at MSU in 2011. Since then, MSU students collectively have raised nearly \$40,000, which has been distributed among 21 nonprofits.

Students who are interested in entrepreneurial projects like Venture Time are encouraged to consider MSU's new master's program in innovation and management, said Mark Ranalli, dean of the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

"We are excited to now offer a graduate program that will, among other things, expand upon the skills and engagement found in the Venture Time project," Ranalli said. "We want to take the passion and creativity from the undergraduate level and elevate it, because innovation and entrepreneurship both are critical across most professional fields."

The MSU Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship offers four undergraduate options of study accounting, finance, management and marketing - as well as five minors - accounting, business administration, entrepreneurship and small business management, finance, and international business. It also offers a master of professional accountancy degree, a master of science in innovation and management, a business certificate and entrepreneurship certificate. This fall, the college reported an enrollment of 1,569 students.

#### BFS lets viewers bring new independent film home

The local movie theater is closed for the time being, but Bozeman Film Society continues to virtually stream independent titles for cinephiles. Watch safely at home with new films added weekly. Streaming sales directly support BFS. Here's a look at a few December options.

Finn Cole and Margot Robbie star in **Dreamland**, available until Dec. 3rd. Eugene Evans dreams of escaping his small Texas town when he discovers a wounded, fugitive bank robber Allison Wells hiding closer than he could ever imagine. Torn between claiming the bounty for her capture and his growing attraction to the seductive criminal, nothing is as it seems, and Eugene must make a decision that will forever affect the lives of everyone he's ever loved. Rated R, the film runs 96 minutes.

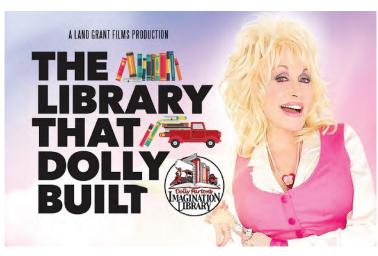
Available through Dec. 10th is **Coded Bias**. The documentary reveals the groundbreaking research of MIT researcher Joy Buolamwini, proving that facial recognition algorithms have the power to disseminate racial bias at scale. In June 2020, IBM, Amazon and Microsoft said they would pause the sale of facial recognition to police. In a pivotal moment for racial equality, and a decisive moment for how big tech will yield power, *Coded Bias* is a trailblazing film for public understanding and engagement with the algorithms that impact us all. The film runs 90 minutes.

Radium Girls is also available until Dec. 10th. Based on true events, teenage sisters Bessie (Joey King, The Act; The Kissing Booth) and Jo (Abby Quinn, I'm Thinking of Ending Things; Landline) paint glow-inthe-dark watch dials at the American Radium Factory in 1920s New Jersey. When girls at the factory mysteriously begin to fall ill, Bessie uncovers a corporate scandal and fights back in a radical coming-ofage story. The notorious case ultimately led to a lasting impact in workplace health and safety as well as the study of radioactivity. The film runs 102 minutes.

Music documentary **Zappa** is available through Dec. 17th. With unfettered access to the Zappa family trust and all archival footage, the film explores the private life behind the mammoth musical career that never shied away from the political turbulence of its time. Alex Winter's (Bill & Ted) assembly features appearances by Frank's widow Gail Zappa and several of Frank's musical collaborators including Mike Keneally, Ian Underwood, Steve Vai, Pamela Des Barres, Bunk Gardner, David Harrington, Scott Thunes, Ruth Underwood, Ray White and others. Not Rated, the film runs 129 minutes.

Born to Be is also available through Dec. 17th. The film follows the work of Dr. Jess Ting, a plastic surgeon at the groundbreaking Mount Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery in New York City – where, for the first time ever, all transgender and non-binary people have access to quality gender affirming health and surgical care. With extraordinary access, this feature-length documentary takes an intimate look at how one doctor's work impacts the lives of his patients as well as how his journey from renowned plastic surgeon to pioneering gender-affirming surgeon has led to his own transformation. Not Rated, the film runs 92 minutes.

**Mayor** opens Dec. 4th and is available until Christmas Eve. The documentary highlights the real-life political saga following Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, during his second term in office. His immediate goals: repave the sidewalks, attract more tourism, and plan the city's Christmas celebrations. His ultimate mission: to end the occupation of Palestine. Rich with detailed observation and a surprising amount of humor. Mavor offers a portrait of dignity amidst the madness and absurdity of endless occupation while posing a question: how do you run a city when you don't have a country? Presented in English and Arabic, the film is



Not Rated with a runtime of 89 minutes.

Opening Dec. 11th, The Library That Dolly Built will be available through Dec. 31st. Directed and produced by journalism professor and director of Land Grant Films Nick Geidner, and narrated by Danica McKellar, the film goes behind the scenes of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It shows how one of the most famous and beloved performers in the world has partnered with thousands of local community organizations to develop an efficient and effective program for spreading the love of reading. The film is Not Rated and runs 70 minutes.

Finally, thriller **Parallel** opens Dec. 11th and streams through year's end. A group of friends stumble upon a mirror that serves as a portal to a 'multiverse.' They soon discover that importing knowledge from the other side in order to better their lives brings increasingly dangerous consequences. The film runs 104 minutes.

Cost and rental period vary per title. Public film screenings at the Ellen will resume when large gatherings can be safely scheduled. Follow BFS on social media for updates. Visit **www.bozemanfilmsoci**ety.org for film previews and further information – and "Keep 'Em

### minutes. Flickering!" •

#### Jewish Film Fest offers hopeful respite

Bozeman's sixth annual **Jewish Film Festival** continues this month with a trio of virtual titles. *Witness Theater* is next up on December 3rd, followed by *Leona* on Dec. 10th and *Redemption* closing out the 2020 slate on Dec. 17th. All will

premiere at 6pm and be available to stream for 72 hours from the start time. Admission is free with donations appreciated.

From Oren Rudavsky, *Witness Theater* follows 88year-old Aron, Eazek, 94, and Claudine, 89. Over seventy years ago, although they lost their entire families, they survived the holocaust and resettled in New York City. Now they're

sharing their stories in a unique program led by a drama therapist with high-school students in Brooklyn. The hope is that this sharing will sensitize the students and give some closure to the adult survivors after all these years. The Witness Theater workshop they participate in culminates in the performance of a play based on Survivor stories. The documentary is presented in English with a runtime of 74 minutes.

Leona is an intimate, insightful, and moving film that tells the story of a young Jewish woman from Mexico City who finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love. Ripe with all the drama and interpersonal conflicts of a Jane Austen novel, watching her negotiate the labyrinth of familial pressure, religious precedent, and her own burgeoning sentiment is both

painful and beautiful – there are no easy choices to be made and the viewer travels back and forth with her as she struggles with her heart to take the best path. Directed by Isaac Cherem, the film is presented in Spanish with English subtitles and runs 95 minutes.

Redemption tells the story of Menachem, a former front man for a rock band, now religious, and a father to a six-year-old. When his daughter is diagnosed with cancer, he must find a creative solution to fund the expensive treatments. He reunites his band for one last tour. The journey to save his daughter exposes old wounds and allows him to reconnect with his secular past. Menachem understands that only a new connection to his past and to his music can pave the road to his own redemption. The film is presented in Hebrew with English subtitles and runs 104 minutes. Directed by Joseph Madmony and Boaz Yehonatan Yacov.

The Jewish Film Festival is organized and sponsored by Congregation Beth Shalom, along with MSU's Jewish Student Association, MSU Diversity and Inclusion Student Commons, and private donors. Learn more and find streaming links at www.bethshalombozeman.org

/community/#specialevents. •

#### MBC reimagines annual *Nutcracker* performances

This year, Montana Ballet Company presents *Nuteracker* **REIMAGINED 2020** as a complimentary virtual event for the community. MBC has teamed up with Wimberg Productions to create an innovative one-hour *Nuteracker* using the medium of film, hoping to share this cherished holiday ballet with everyone from traditional patrons to audiences across the country.

This virtual event will include "best of" performance film, new reimagined footage, special interviews and more:

– Archived film from Acts 1 and 2 with highlights from the party and battle scenes. The famous Snow pas de deux featuring special guests from Atlanta's Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre, Rachel Van Buskirk and Christian Clark.

- Select Act 2 divertissement and the Sugar Plum pas de deux performed by acclaimed New York City Ballet dancers, Indiana Woodward and Sebastian Villarini. – Reimagined select *Nutcracker* choreography from Acts 1 and 2 will debut during this one-hour event. Filmed by Wimberg Productions and arranged by MBC Artistic and Executive Director, Elizabeth DeFanti, Ballet Mistress, Melinda Delgado and Educational Engagement Coordinator, Karen Smith.

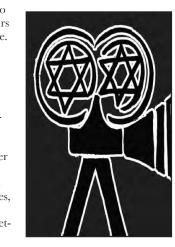
- There will also be special interviews with Ms. Woodward (Sugar Plum Fairy, 2019), Ms. Van Buskirk (Snow Queen, 2018), Mr. Clark (Snow King, 2018), and Maestro Lee Mills. Long-time cast member, acclaimed writer, and actor Soren Kisiel (Drosselmeyer) will join in the fun.

- Audiences will also enjoy a few surprises to delight the whole family.

*Nutcracker* **REIMAGINED** 2020, will air on Saturday, December 5th at 6pm. Please register in advance and consider adding a donation at www.montanaballet.org. •

Marie Gary Agengy: Community Involvement

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#### Montana musicians gift a 'Heigh Ho Holiday' to local audiences

Baroque Music Montana and Bozeman Symphony partner to present **"Heigh Ho Holiday,"** a concert of seasonal gems from centuries past. The online event is set for Saturday, December 12th at 7pm. This free holiday concert streamed on Bozeman Arts-Live celebrates varied instrumental colors with Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*, Albinoni's Oboe *Concerto in D minor* and Holborne's *Heigh Ho Holiday*.

Join local musicians for an evening of seventeenth-century Celtic to Venetian splendor, featuring Concertmaster Carrie Krause, Principal Oboe Sandy Stimson, Principal Trumpet Sarah Stoneback, Cellist Julia Cory Slovarp, Violinists Natalie Padilla and Cade Fiddaman, Violist Amy Letson, and Organist Ilse-Mari Lee.

As the holidays quickly approach, Bozeman Symphony Concertmaster and Baroque Music Montana's Artistic Director Carrie Krause felt it was necessary, this year more than ever, to share the power of music this season. "Through these strange times, I have been hearing how much we all love and need to hear music, especially celebrating community or personal connections, and especially how this is true around the holidays," said Krause. "Hearing the sound and celebrating the traditions feeds our souls.3

Event organizers are pleased to provide a way to celebrate the season merriment safely at home.

"Live music, even if experienced virtually, has ripple effects via the musicians given the opportunity to work hard towards a goal and to be inspired by each other, through those musician's students and their families, out to listeners, donors, volunteers, and board members who care for culture and creation," said Krause.

This program is Baroque Music Montana's first foray into holiday music, and realizes a many-year dream for Krause of collaborating with historically informed chamber music. "I have beyond prodigious excitement for this repertoire," said Krause. "The shutdown has given me a new appreciation for varied instrument colors, and this concert celebrates, albeit on the small scale that is our current option, the timbres of brass, woodwind, keyboard, and strings." The Heigh Ho Holiday concert will stream at **www.bozemanarts-live.com** on Dec. 12th at 7pm. During the free livestream performance, viewers will have the opportunity to donate to Bozeman Symphony and Baroque Music Montana online with a virtual "tip jar." For more information about the livestream holiday concert, please visit **www.bozemansymphony.org.** •

PUBLIC RADIO

**MSU 97.1 / BOZEMAN 91.9** 

**BIG SKY 91.9 / HELENA 89.1** 

**BIG TIMBER 90.5** 

**GARDINER/MAMMOTH 107.1** 

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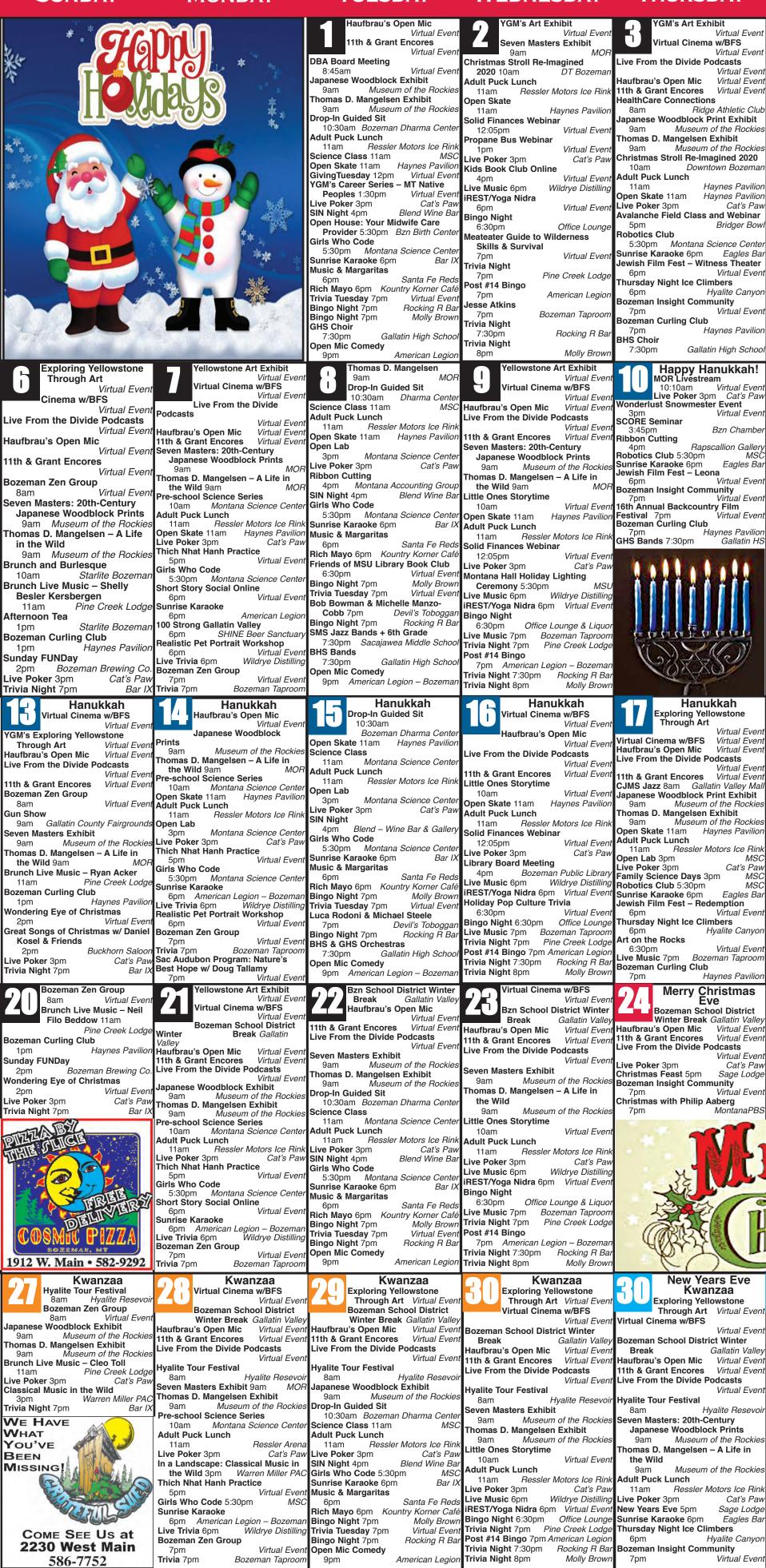
#### SUNDAY

#### MONDAY

#### TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

#### THURSDAY



#### Friday

#### SATURDAY







December 01, 2020

The BoZone • Volume 27, Number 23

**MUSIC IN AND AROUND THE BOZONE** 

#### Live music & arts highlight WMPAC's hybrid festivities

Big Sky's Warren Miller Performing Arts Center continues its hybrid programming with a concert by **Bobby Conte Thornton** on Saturday, December 5th at 7pm. Run time is one hour. Tickets range \$10-\$15.

A Broadway star and part-time Big Sky resident, the evening will feature audience favorites and newly arranged classics. Thornton's Broadway debut came in *A Bronx Tale*, directed by Robert De Niro and Jerry Zaks. He has also appeared on television's *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and *Madam Secretary*. Thornton will perform a selection of Broadway tunes and be accompanied by Broadway music director James Sampliner on piano and Michael Steele on standup and electric bass.

An additional night of hybrid stage entertainment follows with **Manual Cinema's** *Christmas Carol* on Saturday, December 12th at 6pm. Run time is one hour. Tickets are \$15.

In this world premiere online event created for audiences of all ages, interdisciplinary performance collective Manual Cinema takes on Charles Dickens's holiday classic with a visually inventive adaptation made to broadcast directly to your home. An avowed holiday skeptic, Aunt Trudy has been recruited to channel her late husband, Joe's, famous Christmas cheer. From the isolation of her Chicago apartment, she reconstructs his annual Christmas Carol puppet show – over a Zoom call while the family celebrates Christmas Eve under lockdown. But as Trudy becomes more absorbed in her own version of the story, the puppets take on a life of their own, and the family's call transforms into a stunning cinemat-



ic adaptation of Dickens' classic ghost story.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks presents *Hamlet:* A Radio **Play** on Saturday, December 19th at 7pm. Run time is 105 minutes. Tickets are \$10. This live broadcast will be accessible to virtual audiences only.

Often considered Shakespeare's best work, *Hamlet* is a tragedy of

madness, ghosts and jealousy, whose enduring question of "To be, or not to be?" has proven timeless. Witness the live broadcast featuring the talented actors of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks undertaking a dramatic reading of the play.

Finally, *In a Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild* is set for December 27th and

28th. Show time is 3pm on Sunday, followed by another 3pm matinee

and 8pm show on Monday. Run time is one hour. Tickets range \$10–\$25.

Staged in the heart of Big Sky's cross country ski trail system on the Resort golf course's driving range, patrons will ski or snowshoe into a labyrinthine track custom-designed for this event. In the center of the track, award-winning concert pianist Hunter Noack performs on a 9' Steinway grand piano as he presents In a Landscape. Each guest of the performance will be given a custom set of high-quality wireless headphones that broadcasts the hourlong live performance as they explore Big Sky's stunning landscape by ski, snowshoe, or foot. As Noack said, "the music becomes a soundtrack to your experience in the landscape."

Note: Warren Miller events may be experienced as part of a limited in-person audience or by way of virtual broadcast. Details vary by performance.

For further information or to purchase tickets for these performances and other upcoming events, visit www.warrenmillerpac.org. •

### Holiday edition of 11th & Grant features works by Philip Aaberg

Philip Aaberg will bring his original holiday music and spirited Christmas favorites to 11th & Grant with Eric Funk on MontanaPBS, infused with his expressive sound. Special encore airings of "Christmas with Philip

**Aaberg**<sup>**''**</sup> are set for Saturday, December 19th at 9:37pm and on Christmas Eve at 7pm.

The holidays are a special time for Aaberg. "The Christmas Eve of my childhood was full of wildness and excitement, wonder and reverence, peace and awe," he says. "Music was a huge part of that. The traditional carols in this recording live on for a very good reason, and I tried to re-imagine the melodies and go deeply into the lyrics to make them live anew." Aaberg opens up pristine silences and melodically inventive expanses that paint an audible portrait of the sweeping Montana landscape.

Although classically trained, Aaberg celebrates many traditions with his compositions. He weaves strains of blues and bluegrass as well as rock and new music throughout his melodic tapestries. Besides playing piano with the Boston Pops and participating in the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival, Aaberg has appeared with Peter Gabriel, Elvin Bishop and the Doobie Brothers.

MontanaPBS will feature additional airings on Dec. 18th at 2pm and Dec. 28th at 2am. The episode is available anytime on the program website or official app.

11th & Grant with Eric Funk is the premier outlet for music performance in Montana, seeking out the state's most acclaimed, accomplished, and pioneering talent. The Emmy®-winning performance series also devotes significant time to each artist's personal story, insights into their music and their approach to life, ultimately providing a deeper experience than a seat at a concert. Accomplished composer and musician Eric Funk serves as host and artistic director, hand selecting each performer from communities around the state to form a diverse series featuring genres from jazz to classical, country to zydeco, and rock to fusion.

Previous episodes of 11th & Grant are available to stream anytime at **www.11thandgrant.com** or on the 11th & Grant app. •



#### Unwrap weekend tunes at bountiful Pine Creek brunch

Though the days are short and nights cold, Pine Creek continues to host indoor entertainment with its Brunch Live Music Series on select Saturdays and Sundays this off-season. The tunes begin at 11am and run until 1pm.

**Cole Decker** opens the month on December 5th. The Mississippiborn singer/songwriter pulls from his musical roots of old school country. He draws influence from the likes of Waylon Jennings and newer artists including Chris Stapleton, Brent Cobb and Jason Isbell.

**Shelly Besler Kersbergen** follows on December 6th. The Livingston-based singer/songwriter counts Patty Griffith, Wilco and Katie Herzig among her influences.

**Ryan Acker** returns on December 13th. He's the guitarplaying, banjo-plucking songwriter of the Minneapolis-based Americana band The Last Revel. Acker plays a healthy blend of acoustic versions of the full band's songs, one or two fun covers, and some originals.

#### **Neil Filo Beddow** performs December 20th. He plays original folk rock for the soul, and describes his guitar style as the "West Dakota stutter." His lyrically scrambled iambic pentameter can be politically bent, spiritually seeking, and tongue-in-cheek humorous with just a twist of serious.

**Cleo Toll** is set for December 27th. He's a member of dynamic four-piece Doublewide Dreams, known for its original, driving, melodic yet irreverent sounds. Fans of good ole, homegrown Western Americana and rock can expect a stripped-down, one-man show of a similar variety.

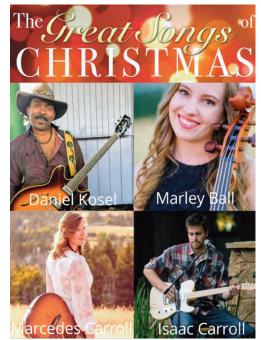
These shows are FREE of admission, but space is limited. Current health guidelines will be observed in the dining area. Performance dates subject to change.

Please visit **www.pinecreek**lodgemontana.com to learn more about these and other upcoming events. Pine Creek hosts Trivia on Wednesday nights and Open Mic Fridays at 7pm. •

#### Festive foursome perform for limited Buckhorn audiences

Kara Peltier Farmers Insurance Agency will present holiday showcase **"The Great Songs of Christmas"** on Sunday, December 13th. Created by local musician **Daniel Kosel**, the back-to-back concerts will feature the talents of **Marley Ball, Marcedes Carroll** and **Isaac Carroll**. Tickets are now available for the 2pm matinee and 7pm show. Both will be held at the Buckhorn Yellowstone Saloon in Livingston.

Produced by Kosel, these festive concerts are designed to show off renditions of favorite holiday tunes from the golden era of Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Burl Ives, Nat King Cole and Andy Williams, as performed by an all-Montana cast of artists. The 70-minute Christmas extravaganza stars the sultry baritone-bass vocals and guitar stylings of Daniel Kosel, the elegant symphonic cello of Marley Ball, the



lovely alto vocals and acoustic guitar of Marcedes Carroll, and the beautiful guitar work of Isaac Carroll. The stunning Montana foursome delivers an emotionally gripping, acoustically powerful live show series exclusively held at select venues in Montana.

These shows are limited to 50 guests on a first come, first serve basis. Current health guidelines will be observed. Admission is \$30. Visit

#### https://buytickets.at/tgsoc to

purchase tickets. The Buckhorn is located at 5237 US Highway 89 S in Livingston. •

## Year's final ACL airings span the genres

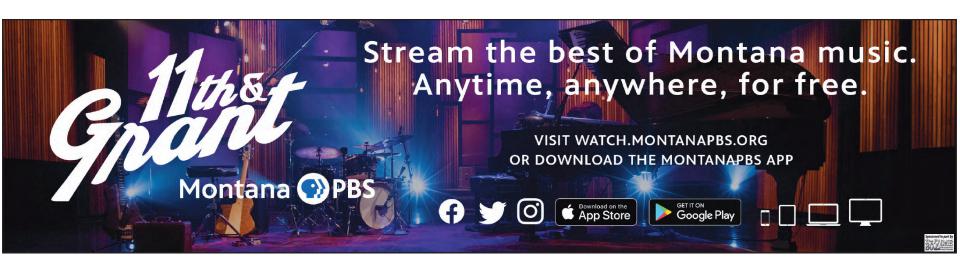
Austin City Limits is keeping the show rolling as working musicians continue to find innovative ways to share their art. Though music fans missing the thrill of live performances will have to hang in there, episodes of the popular program are airing on MontanaPBS to serve as a hold-over until venue stages are lit once again. Here's who's featured this month.

Next up is **Khalid** and **Mac DeMarco** on Saturday, December 19th. Enjoy an hour of contemporary R&B and indie rock as El Pasoan Khalid performs songs from his Grammy-nominated debut, *American Teen*. Canadian DeMarco plays tunes from his acclaimed LP *This Old Dog*. The episode airs at 10:35pm.

**Gary Clark, Jr.** follows on Saturday, December 26th. Thrill to an hour with the Grammy-winning blues-soul rocker. The Austin singer, songwriter and guitarist performs songs from his highly acclaimed album *This Land*. The episode airs at 10:10pm.

Please note: check MontanaPBS listings in the case of schedule changes. Air dates and times subject to change.

The longest-running music series in American television history, Austin City Limits showcases popular music legends and innovators from every genre. In addition to being honored by the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a rock n' roll landmark, ACL is the only television program to ever receive the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest award for artistic excellence. A spinoff event, the annual Austin City Limits Festival has become a favorite for live music fans around the country. Learn more about the landmark series at www.acltv.com. •





December 01, 2020

The BoZone • Volume 27, Number 23

#### **ENVIRONMENT • HEALTH • IN AND AROUND THE BOZONE**

#### **Backcountry Film Fest proceeds with virtual watch parties**

Montana Backcountry Alliance presents the 16th Annual Backcountry Film Festival in an online format on December 10th and 11th. These back-to-back watch parties kick off the month-long festival with the Best of Fest on Thursday and the regular Film Fest selections on Friday. Both begin at 7pm.

This year's goal is to gather our community over two nights, watch each film lineup from the safety of viewers' homes and get stoked for the season! But don't worry if you can't make it for the watch party the films will be available until Jan. 10th.

The Film Festival screens documentaries and ski movies about athletic pursuit in the mountains, artistic vision, friendship, and how the snowsports community is adapting



to a changing environment. A collage of human-powered stories and backcountry-inspired experiences, the Fest produces wild conversations and inspires action to communities that celebrate the present while looking toward the future. To make it more of an "event," event hosts will be posting photos of individual viewers and families watching the films to their Instagram feed during each virtual watch party. So, send them a photo between 7 and 10pm on either night and they'll share it for all to see! Plus, you'll be entered for a chance to win an MBA t-shirt. Five shirts will be given away to powder hounds who send a photo during either watch party. Just

snap a shot of you watching the films and send it to montanabackcountry@gmail.com.

MBA will be watching the films

along with local audiences and posting all the great shots on Instagram (@montanabackcountryalliance). They'll randomly pick 5 winners on Monday, Dec. 14th and reach out via email. If you don't want your photo posted, make note in the email and you'll still get a chance to win a shirt.

Film Fest tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$30 for a household. Purchase through www.montanabackcountry.org. These events raise funds to help plow Hyalite Canyon Road in Bozeman and also maintain access to Gash Point and plowing for the parking area at West Twin Creek in Missoula. MBA has also donated \$1,000 to both the Missoula and Gallatin County Avalanche Centers this year as their main fundraising events have been cancelled due to COVID. •

#### Plan a family outing to pick out a tree!

With many annual festivities altered or postponed, locating the family tree is a great chance to keep the spirit alive. Christmas tree permits are available online this year at **recreation.gov/tree-per**mits (search 'Custer Gallatin' or 'Montana'). Limit of three.

Those with a permit may cut a Christmas tree anywhere on the Custer Gallatin National Forest except at cabins, campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, wilderness or riparian areas, natural landmarks, timber sales and areas where trees have been planted for reforestation purposes.

General guidelines for cutting a tree include:

Stump height: 6 inches maxi-



mum (lower the better) Do not remove the top of the tree; cut down the entire tree

No cutting of 5 needle pines (i.e. 5 needles in one cluster) Limber Pine and White Bark

from around the stump so you can accurately measure the stump and tree height

> Be Alert! There are many dead and dying trees that could fall at the slightest disturbance

Trees help protect watersheds, provide habitat for wildlife, and contribute to beautiful scenery; keep

these values in mind when selecting

After cutting your tree, attach the purchased permit to a lower limb near the trunk for transporting home

A permit can also be purchased for gathering personal-use boughs, but no cutting from Hemlock or Cedars. Permits, maps, forest road access updates and more are available through the website

When preparing for the day, dress in layers for changing weather conditions, grab a snack and water, always let another know where you are headed and enjoy spending time outdoors with friends and family

For more information, please contact any Custer Gallatin National Forest office. For general forest information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin.

#### Sac Audubon hosts author & native landscaping advocate

Sacajawea Audubon Society and the Valley of the Flowers chapter of Montana Native Plant Society will co-host a special virtual holiday program featuring bestselling author Doug Tallamy. "Nature's Best Hope: Sustaining Plants & Animals That Sustain Us" will

we can enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them. If we do this in half of the area in America we now have in mowed lawns, we can create a newHome-grown National Park - a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting

Our Gardens was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. The Living Landscape, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014. Doug's new book Nature's Best Hope, released by Timber Press in

#### **Bring BYO Bag for a Change** to your grocery store

If snow

remove it

from Wren Kilian I am a grandmother on a wide effort where all local stores adopt these programs, and instead of 100,000 fewer bags used and \$5,000 raised in 5 years, we will be raising that in 5 weeks or even 5 days. Building community through sustainability, networking and collaborating to help us be the best stewards possible of our last best place is a vision I am asking for your help in bringing to Bozeman. Will you ask stores to join the BYO Bag for Change and Boomerang Bags Bozeman community, one that cares and is making a difference one bag at a time all the way to a zero waste, sustainable Bozeman? Bozeman High School Solar Schools Club is the current recipient of proceeds from reusable bag sales through Feb. 2021. Please support students' efforts to bring solar panels to local schools. Strengthen bag sales, increase local funds, and help a movement grow. Use your voice. Ask a store.

be held Monday, December 14th at 7pm. Tallamy will discuss findings from his latest book, Nature's Best Hope, and share simple steps that each of us can - and must take to reverse declining biodiversity in our world.

Mr. Tallamy brings a new approach to conservation that starts in our own yards. By landscaping with native plant communities that sustain food webs and biodiversity,

the few natural areas that remain. Advance registration for this vir-

#### tual event is required through www.sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. His book Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in

February 2020, is a New York Times Bestseller.

Sacajawea Audubon Society programs are free and open to the public. The events feature a special guest speaker the second Monday of each month, September through May. The organization's mission is to build on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education and action. •

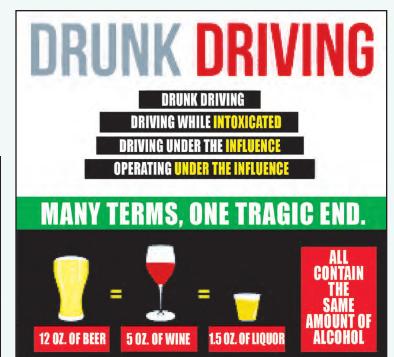
#### mission to help Bozeman become a more sustainable community through the work of the Valley of the Flowers Project, a grassroots nonprofit.

Valley of the Flowers Project has 2 programs in Bozeman BYO Bag for Change and Boomerang Bags - that are showing how small actions can make a big difference when many people are involved. Just like bees combine the efforts of many to create an abundance of honey, so too can many folks who BYO Bag and donating their \$.05 refund. This will create an abundance of funds for sustainability groups working to bring more community gardens, recycling/compost bins, youth nature programs, and even solar panels and trails.

Thanks to Heeb's for leading the way to show that customers who care at one "little big store" can raise \$5,000 in 5 years through bag sales and \$.05 reusable bag refund donations.

I have envisioned a community-

Sincerely, Wren Kilian Valley of the Flowers Project, Founder/Director



#### Can the Griz collects more than 150,000lbs. of food for local families

#### from MSU News Service

Weeks of generous donations from Montana State University and the Bozeman community collected the equivalent of 403,183 pounds of food this holiday season for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and MSU's Bounty of the Bridgers food pantry as part of the 21st annual Can the Griz food drive.

Can the Griz – and the corresponding Can the Cats food drive in Missoula - is an off-field competition between MSU and the University of Montana to see which school can collect the most donations for its local food bank. This year, the University of Montana and Missoula community won the contest.

MSU and the Bozeman community donated 150,290 pounds of food and \$252,893 to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, according to Miranda Roy in the MSU Office of Student Engagement, which coordinates Can the Griz. Pounds and dollars are added together for the contest, resulting in a total of 403,183 pounds for the Bozeman community. The Can the Cats food drive in Missoula brought in the equivalent of 671,707 pounds of food for the Missoula Food Bank, Roy said.

Last year, MSU and the Bozeman community donated

206,550 pounds of food plus approximately \$230,715 to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, while donations from UM and the Missoula community totaled 213,412 pounds of food plus approximately \$208,447

Bozeman and the MSU community have won the competition 17 out of the 21 years it has been held.

"Although we didn't pull off the win this year, we are still proud of the MSU and Bozeman communities and the work they did," said Roy, who noted that the equivalent of more than 1 million pounds of food was donated for Bozeman and Missoula. "The money raised and food donated still does a tremen-

dous amount of good for the families in need in the area, and we are grateful for their help and compassion."

The donations from Can the Griz will help the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, as well as the Bounty of the Bridgers food pantry, provide food for families in the community through the spring and summer. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is one of the HRDC Food and Nutrition Programs' Initiatives. The Bounty of the Bridgers, housed in the Office of Health Advancement, is a student-driven initiative to combat food waste and food insecurity on the MSU campus for students, faculty and staff. •







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HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

#### HRDC veteran reaches milestone as org's community efforts diversify

by John Kirk Vincent

December 01, 2020

It's a sunny day, the first since the season's inaugural snow, and there's a hint of optimism in the air. The rays have unwittingly fueled a positivity, at least on this particular afternoon, that's been more difficult to manifest in recent months and months. Between contention over racial equality, stark political ideals and a most prominent public health crisis, what was meant to be the hopeful dawn of a new decade will be forever known as the year that upended American life from mountains high to valleys low.

I've met with Heather Grenier, who's not averse to praise but prefers the focus be kept on the work of the Human Resources Development Council, known to most as **HRDC**. She has spent the last twenty years toiling for the local nonprofit in various capacities, now serving as its CEO, and was recently acknowledged for her commitment by its governing body. She's "not a big celebrator," but humbly receives the recognition.

We're sitting in the cozy, sunlit library that overlooks Babcock and the downtown post office, ready to solve the world's problems. Or at least take on the battles Bozeman citizens and those of neighboring communities face every day.

Everyone has had to adjust some component of their lives around COVID, but an operation at the helm of such a broad portfolio of services in Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties had a bit more to consider. Luckily, HRDC has been able to modify its operations to accommodate evolving health protocols.

"It's a moving target, every day," she says. "We have been able to, for the most part, adapt every program or service delivery in some way, shape or form to make sure it's still available on the ground."

The Food Bank has shifted to curbside pickup, Head Start took the virtual learning approach – as 3 and 4-year-old attention spans would allow - and has since moved to a hybrid model, and the Streamline busses kept running with added sanitation measures in place. While some were able to speak with HRDC tax whizzes, the free filing program so many depend on was unable to proceed during the rise of social distancing last spring.

The most difficult issue to maneuver has been sheltering those in need. When the pandemic hit, CDC guidelines didn't allow the Warming Center to continue operating in its usual capacity. The demand remained. HRDC leased a hotel and were able to provide that refuge to seeking individuals and families during the entirety of the initial shutdown. They would eventually lease, then purchase another hotel to provide shelter-inplace space for the high-risk population. As the weeks progressed, this space would also become a supplemental resource for the health department and those needing a place to isolate.

Grenier adds, "We're actually managing,

tain air, scenic beauty and the like. Paired with Bozeman's just-modern-enough appeal that satisfies an appetite for amenities makes settling here a fine alternative to urban life. Now considering the emergence of remote business, something that was already taking shape pre-pandemic, an ongoing migration to the Treasure State is a no-brainer. No, this isn't revelatory but too often overlooked by many who have gotten used to living with these perks. We've been *discovered* and the influx of outside money is outpacing many of our community members' ability to win the housing race.

HRDC has prioritized being a part of the solution to affordability, but it's a tall order. When asked to clarify why it's such an issue

here, Grenier searches for a tidy summation, only to remember it's not something that can be easily condensed for a half-hour meeting.

"There's no silver bullet, no one solution," she says. "It's a combination of policy, appropriate economic development planning for growth and mobilization," among other things.

A born and raised local herself, she explains the allure of Montana life is layered with additional obstacles like space limitations

due to surrounding Forest Service lands, vacation rentals sitting empty for portions of the year, as well as a huge disparity between earnings and actual cost of living for residents. Wages have increased 26% in the last 17 years, she says, but rent has rocketed 71% in that same frame. Minimum wage employees would have to clock two full-time work weeks in the span of 7 days to afford a basic rental, according to the Montana Budget & Policy Center. HRDC programs, the Food Bank included, exist to help fill that gap, but aren't end-all solutions.

"We have to make sure that, as a community, at least the basic needs for folks can be met. Without those, we can't build a foundation to have any path to stability and financial independence."

Adding to the economic imbalance,

to make sure they were able to stay there."

HRDC continues to tackle the juggernaut that is the affordable housing crisis through other avenues like the Housing First Village, which will be Montana's first and only tiny home community and plans to be housing residents next summer. There's also the Scattered Site Land Trust, their marquee program that works to maintain a reasonable dollar amount for home ownership and keeps the cost of land off the family or individual.

Asked what the community can do to help weaken that barrier, "I always say sell your home at an affordable price," she says with a laugh. And though it feels like a big ask, she notes there are ways to work with

> their program to limit the eventual sales price of a

home to make sure it's affordable for someone who lives and works in the Bozeman area.

There's a common misconception that the people looking for affordable housing, utilizing the Food Bank or Fork & Spoon, HRDC's pay-what-you-can restaurant, are folks trying to live off a program. Grenier stresses that so many of these hardworking neighbors are just attempting to sustain themselves and their families in a place where cost has vastly overtaken earnings.

COVID is exacerbating issues that, like affordable housing, existed before its global takeover. The nonprofit relies heavily on community support through business partnerships, individual gifts and fundraising events.

Cornerstones like Huffing for Stuffing have been reworked so they can proceed virtually, tough still face the potential for lost revenue. People might be a little more hesitant to make contributions due to economic uncertainty, but HRDC services are more important than ever to those who rely on them.

'We're seeing a lot of new hardships from folks who were previously not experiencing hardship, and we have fewer opportunities to be out there in the public to generate excitement or revenue to cover those costs. Programs including the Food Bank and Warming Center rely entirely on community support to operate - there's no grant or funding source behind them. "If that's what's important to the community," she says, "we can be the vehicle that makes that happen."

If you're, understandably, not ready to

when I was our Food Bank director in my early years. I was working on a grant proposal and there was someone knocking at the door," she says. "It was a young lady who was just at rock bottom - she was crying, starving and didn't know what she wanted, didn't know where to go. We set her up with a bunch of food and sent her on her way. I didn't see her for a couple years and I ran into her at the grocery store. She approached me and said, 'I don't know if you know this, but you saved my life that night. I was at the end of my rope; I don't know what would have happened if you hadn't given me food and the opportunity to feel like there was hope for moving forward."

Grenier goes on to explain that making sure people have food can get lost in the dayto-day but has long-lasting effects, though she's not so often afforded the opportunity to witness those people find the light at the end of the tunnel. The work of prevention is critical, even in those off days where it might feel thankless.

"There are long-term successes that we celebrate and love and adore, absolutely, but there are also everyday things that we sometimes don't even know the impact we made."

Access to a necessity as basic as food and a literal helping hand is sometimes all it takes to turn a life all the way around. Few know that better than two current employees of the Warming Center, who just last year were guests. They know how people want to be treated, how hard it is to show up and ask for a place to stay. They'll be able to provide a customer service experience like none other because they've lived it. Another guest, who spent the whole of last season enveloped by a workers' comp dispute, returned the favor with a generous donation to a Warming Center facing the surging pandemic and dropping temperatures.

The future is bright for HRDC, its clientele and community of support.

People have become familiar with the services that focus on securing basic needs, but the nonprofit has begun to spotlight its next undertaking in the Financial Opportunities Center. This effort will provide resources and tools so individuals can make specific goals and forge career pathways to financial independence.

"It's whole, wrap-around support where your basic needs have been met or your housing has been stabilized, now let's make a plan of how we can avoid repeating the circumstance or being in the situation again," she says.

Along with helping residents map out career paths based on personal interests and projected income, HRDC is set to break ground on Griffin Place, a complex whose daily operations will focus on hunger and homelessness. When complete, the Food Bank, Fork & Spoon and Bozeman's first year-round emergency shelter will be housed under one roof.

Giving an "oh my gosh" and quick sigh, Grenier almost seems overwhelmed by the twenty-ish projects in the works. She doesn't actually get there and offers some reassurance that they'll make it happen with the backing of the community. "The exciting piece is that there are starting to be larger-base conversations. People are starting to come to the table with more solutions. I think this community really cares about people, and they want the people who work here to be able to live here. I feel optimistic about the future on that front, although it's not a little hill. Because the community is growing so quickly, it's getting unmanageable really quickly. That means we need to do some bold things, and I think we can."





Grenier #MasksUp in HRDC library

in a very challenging environment, both keeping people who are high risk for COVID safe and separated from people who have been exposed and are quarantining." With spiking cases and winter's most frigid months ahead, confronting the foreseeable future is daunting but doable for this team of dedicated people who think best on their feet.

Our conversation inevitably segues to a topic that lives in infamy among native Southwest Montanans and working-class residents looking to simply enjoy the fruits of laboring here: affordable housing. The subject long predates COVID-19 and will no doubt be the talk at dinner tables after the vaccine is distributed.

There are numerous contributing factors for that reality. Our area is desirable largely for its natural assets - public access to outdoor recreation, space to roam, clean moun-

MONTANA STATE UNIN

infrastructure also cannot keep up. "Communities are growing so fast, basic water, street and other components the community need for that growth to expand just aren't there," she says.

The organization has put most of its energy toward preserving subsidized properties in place of ground-up development, the Boulevard and Darlington Manor apartments being a pair of recent purchases. These sorts of acquisitions preserve existing, irreplaceable subsidies, but are also far less costly than building. It's also difficult to convince a seller to hold out for a grant to come through when a well-to-do buyer is ready to close.

"We were grateful for the Boulevard Apartments, that the owner was patient because he knew the tenants, he'd spent his lifetime taking care of them, and he wanted sign over the deed to your acreage, Grenier and the some two hundred team members she oversees are always appreciative of gifts large or small.

Apart from the food and monetary donations, HRDC also owes a debt of gratitude to its volunteer force. Over 3,500 banked volunteer hours last year, breaking down to about 17 full-time staffers. "That is a remarkable show of how committed this whole community is to helping each other.'

Hardship of any kind is tough to talk about at length, so our discussion shifts to an anecdote that affirms Grenier's two-decade commitment. She's asked to share an example of an individual or group of customers whose life or lives have been enhanced by an HRDC service in that time and recalls a chance encounter at the supermarket.

"One of things that's kept me here was

Learn more about HRDC's many programs and make a contribution at thehrdc.org. •



call 406.994.6054, email members@montana.edu, or online at museumoftherockies.org/gift.

museumoftherockies.org | 406.994.2251 | 600 W. Kagy Blvd.

