



REMEMBER: November 3rd is the LAST DAY TO VOTE! Take advantage of early voting... you never know what could happen to prevent you from voting.

In the 2026 midterm elections, 97 percent of eligible American voters will be able to cast their ballots before Election Day. Options to vote early — including in-person early voting and voting by mail — have been shown to increase turnout, shorten lines at polling places, strengthen voter confidence, and mitigate the potential impact of a major disruption on Election Day.

Americans have already shifted toward these voting options: In the last midterms, nearly half (47 percent) of all voters cast their ballots early — including two-thirds (67 percent) of Asian voters and a majority (58 percent) of Hispanic voters. Approximately one-third of all voters (32 percent) did so by mail. This reflects a broader increase in early voting, accelerated by Americans' reliance on mail ballots during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the adoption of all-mail elections (through which all eligible voters automatically receive a mail ballot) by eight states and Washington, DC.

Early voting access continues to grow: In 2026, New Jersey and Virginia both expanded early voting periods and, along with Nebraska, made it easier to apply for and cure mail ballots. It's part of a larger trend, as many states have offered more options for early voting in the last few years. These advancements are being made even amid the Trump administration's ongoing attacks on mail voting, including an executive order that directs the U.S. Postal Service to withhold eligible voters' mail ballots; courts have blocked that provision from taking effect.

As of April 2026, 47 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands offer early in-person voting to all voters (this includes states with all-mail elections). Three states—Alabama, Mississippi and New Hampshire—do not offer early in-person voting,

though they may provide options for eligible absentee voters.

Here are 10 reasons you should take advantage of this option.

1. Someone could come down with the flu and need your care. And chicken soup.
2. You could get to the polling place at the last minute and find out it's not your polling place anymore.
3. Your Republican governor might declare parking tickets a felony and you'll lose your voting rights.
4. Flat tires, fender-benders, misplaced car keys, late bus, dead batteries—the transportation gremlins are real.
5. The dog could eat your sample ballot.
6. What if Republicans decide to enforce a new voter ID law that would require you to produce a government-issued photo ID, a long-form birth certificate, a blood sample and a DNA test?
7. There are widespread reports of birds masing near polling places and Hitchcock-esque music being heard nearby.
8. Potential power outages could turn getting to your polling place a nightmare.
9. Once you vote early, the phone calls stop and no more candidates and volunteers knock on your door.
10. The election is just too important to leave any chance that you might not be able to vote.

**Please share this with others who
are able to vote before Nov. 3.**

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/guide-early-voting#:~:text=In%20the%202026%20midterm%20elections%2C,their%20ballots%20before%20Election%20Day.>

Voter Resources:

<https://www.gallatinmt.gov/380/Elections>

<https://www.voteinmt.org/gallatin>

<https://www.congresscountdown.com/how-to-vote/montana>

<https://my.lvw.org/montana/voter-resources-vote411>

Gallatin County Election Department

311 W. Main St., RM 210, Bozeman, MT, 59715

October 6 through October 30: 8:00 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, November 2: 8 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (noon)

Tuesday, November 3: 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

Contact them at

406-582-3060.



Brick extravaganza makes way for maker

Shop creations from hundreds of regional artists at the annual Bozeman Fall MADE fair at Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

The **Bozeman Fall MADE fair** returns this month, with event organizers excited to connect artists with the Gallatin Valley community once again. The event will take place at Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on Friday and Saturday, October 9th and 10th. Friday is VIP Night from 5–8pm, with early bird admission on Saturday at 9am and general admission from 10am–4pm.

Shop and discover a curated collection of 190+ local and regional artists. You can expect to see everything from affordable, functional works of art to fine heirloom pieces at the show. Make a day of it with your friends and enjoy strolling the aisles and supporting your local artists.

Though entry and parking are free to attendees during the main Saturday event, those interested in a head start on shopping can purchase a \$10 Friday VIP Pass for an exclusive shopping experience from 5–8pm the night before the event opens to the pub-

lic. Beat the crowds with a \$5 Early Bird Pass to gain entry from 9–10am on Saturday. Proceeds will benefit local nonprofit Opera Montana. Attendees: please bring a non-perishable food item to help support the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

Visit www.handmademontana.com for additional details, access to VIP tickets, and to pre-shop all of the participating artists.

The MADE fair is a modern art and handcrafted market featuring local and regional artists and makers. Events are a curated collection of skilled artisans as well as a handful of non-profits. The MADE fair's mission is to increase awareness of handmade goods as an alternative to mass-produced items and support local and regional small craft businesses by providing a place to sell their goods.

handMADE Montana provides opportunities to artists of all levels, from the hobbyist to the seasoned professional. It has been awarded 'Retailer of the Year' by the Made in Montana program. •

Forum reports on statewide ballot initiatives

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Montana State University will host a Friday Forum on October 9th to highlight **proposed statewide initiatives** that will appear on Montanans' ballots this November. The free, public event will be held from noon to 1:30pm online via Zoom.

Bonnie Lorenzen, president of the League of Women Voters of Montana, will present an overview of three initiatives as part of an opportunity for Montana residents to engage in direct democracy:

- Constitutional Initiative 132 proposes amending the Montana Constitution to require that judicial elections remain nonpartisan.
- Constitutional Initiative 133, if passed, would require impartial, predictable, open and timely processes for ballot issues, including approving petitions and ballot statements, resolving legal challenges and verifying signatures. The state would allow ample time for signature gathering and for voters to withdraw their signatures, in addition to prohibiting disqualification of petitions because of minor issues.

- Initiative 194 proposes limiting the powers of artificial persons, which include non-profits, trusts, partnerships, corporations, trade associations and unincorporated associations conducting business in Montana. These artificial powers would not be able to contribute

anything of value to candidate elections, supporting or opposing political parties and state or local ballot issues. Violation of the act would mean forfeiting doing business in Montana, though business privileges could be restored.

More information on the initiatives and other Montana ballot measures is available on the Montana Secretary of State website.

During the forum, Lorenzen will be joined by additional League of Women Voters members and community leaders, including Jeff Mangan, former Montana commissioner of political practices, to answer participant questions on the measures as time permits. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that works to protect and expand voting rights, ensuring that citizens make informed choices at the ballot.

Participants must register for the Friday Forum no later than 11am Oct. 9th and can do so online at montana.edu/olli/offers or online via Zoom. Upon registration confirmation, participants will receive an email with the Zoom link and instructions to join the forum.

OLLI at MSU is a program of Academic Outreach. Friday Forums offer discussions on timely local and regional topics on the second Friday of each month from September to May. •

Indigenous fashion, spooky MOR seasonals

Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies invites the community to take part in an evening of style and recognition. The local venue will host the **Indigenous People's Day Fashion Show** on Monday, October 12th with doors at 7pm.

This inaugural event will showcase Angela Howe, designer of Choke Cherry Creek, whose designs celebrate the beauty, strength and resilience of her people. She is an enrolled member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) and Pikuni (Blackfeet) Nations of Montana. Angela's work blends traditional Indigenous artistry with modern design, creating fashion that tells a powerful story of cultural pride and perseverance.

Also on the runway, fashion designer Rebekah Jarvey shows her work. Jarvey is an esteemed international designer, artisan, Fashion Show Director and model, proudly representing her Chippewa, Cree, and Blackfeet heritage as an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe.

After seeing models walk wearing featured designs, join for a reception that features brand-new exhibit, "Getting Dressed," featuring fashion from MOR's collection and local Indigenous vendors.

Later in the month, MOR creeps into the spooky season with a favorite returning event

for local youth. The **Grossology Discovery Day** is set for Saturday, October 17th with activities from noon–4pm.

Step into a world of scientific wonders and meet real scientists from MSU and other local experts. Pick up your "Grossology Passport" and embark on a journey to observe thrilling chemistry experiments and get up close with creepy, crawly critters. Embrace the challenge by visiting every gross station, and if you can stomach it all, a delicious treat awaits!

It's the perfect setting for a family costume party themed around "mad scientists," ideal for unleashing the inner scientist in all ages. This event is included with museum admission. Secure your spot by pre-registering or simply get your tickets at the door for a spooktacular time.

The local exhibitor has likewise announced the return of spirited seasonal event, **"Pour & Gore: A Haunted Masquerade"** The adults-only event will be held Friday, October 30th at 6pm.

Step into a world of mystery, intrigue, and a one-of-a-kind evening designed for grown ups. This immersive event invites guests to don a mask and explore a variety of haunting experiences throughout the museum. Create

Fundraising Gala benefits Library programs

Books may be at the heart of our local public library, but a special fundraising event is about much more than what fills the shelves. The **Library Gala**, "Black, White & Read All Over," will be held Saturday, October 10th, at 5:30pm in MSU's SUB Ballroom.

Hosted by the Bozeman Library Friends & Foundation, the event brings the community together for an evening of food, drinks, entertainment and fundraising. The annual celebration offers an opportunity to enjoy an evening out while supporting the programs, resources and spaces that help make the library a gathering place for the entire community.

Gala highlights include live auction with Missy O'Malley, a Book Pull activity with a chance at gift cards for local businesses, the Paddle Raise for the Library, and a Big Announcement to be revealed during the event.

More than a place to check out books, the Library provides opportunities for learning, creativity and connection for people of all ages. From children's programming and sum-

mer reading to author events, educational resources and community gatherings, the Library continues to expand its role alongside a growing Bozeman. Funds raised through the Gala help support initiatives that go beyond what public funding can provide, strengthening the venue's ability to serve local residents.

The evening also serves as a chance for supporters, community members and friends to come together and celebrate the institution's impact. As Bozeman continues to change, the Library remains a welcoming place where people can discover something new, connect with others or find a quiet space to read and learn.

Whether you're a longtime Library patron or appreciate the role libraries play in thriving communities, the Gala offers a festive way to give back while enjoying an evening with fellow Bozemanites. It's a celebration of books, learning, community – and the enduring idea that a great library belongs to everyone.

Learn more about the event and its host Foundation at www.supportbozemanlibrary.org. •

BAT delivers Brontë with supernatural twist

Launching its new season, Bozeman Actors Theatre will present stagings of Heather Chrisher's *Haunting Jane Eyre*. Performances will be held October 16th–25th at 406 Cirque. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7pm, with Sunday matinees to follow at 2pm, with direction by Tessa Welsch.

Haunting Jane Eyre is a reimagining of the beloved Charlotte Brontë novel. When Jane Eyre stumbles through a storm and into a strange house, she encounters a mysterious young woman and is challenged to explain her story. As Jane's tale unfolds, the boundaries between time and place begin to blur, and memory intertwines with reality. We are drawn into the familiar world of Jane Eyre, but this time with a new, unsettling perspective.

Advance tickets for *Haunting Jane Eyre* are \$35 for general admission or \$20 for students. Find ticketing access at www.bozemanactorstheatre.org. Tickets available at the door as space allows.

Looking ahead, BAT will present holiday production *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* by Peter Rothstein Dec. 4th–13th and *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen April 2nd–11th. Stay tuned for details.

Bozeman Actors Theatre is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing exceptional, thought-provoking and adventurous live theater to the community. For more information and to preview upcoming productions, please visit the website. Follow on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date performance announcements. •

Anderson plays on campers' worst nightmare

The eerie days of October leading up to Halloween offer locals a fun batch of events to celebrate the season before winter blows in. For more than two decades, the 8th grade class at Anderson School has scared the residents of Gallatin Valley at their annual haunted house.

On Friday and Saturday, October 23rd and 24th, the popular horror show returns with *Haunted Camp Cottonwood*. This season's haunted house will guide participants through a gory woody setting with sinister chills and thrills. Be prepared to scream at the top of your lungs!

As in years past, the kids will transform the Little Red Schoolhouse into a terrifyingly fun

adventure for those who dare to visit. Lights will be ON from 5:30–6:30pm for little ones and the faint of heart. Lights will be OFF from 7–10pm with plenty of frights! Admission begins at \$10 with fast pass and line-skipping tickets available. Purchase advance tickets at www.eventbrite.com.

This is an annual fundraiser for Anderson's 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Hot and cold beverage will be available for purchase while you wait and find the courage to enter. *Haunted Camp Cottonwood* can be found just 5 miles south of Huffine off Cottonwood Rd. at Anderson's Little Red Schoolhouse. •

your own masquerade mask, receive personal tarot and palm readings, enjoy spooky gallery tours, and uncover eerie stories and mysteries during captivating talks in Hager Auditorium.

Guests can also experience a spooky, celestial-themed planetarium show, indulge in treats and cash bar drinks, enjoy classic parlor games, and themed selfie opportunities in the historic 1890 Tinsley House. Whether you're drawn by fortune telling, ghostly tales, masquerade elegance or eerie stargazing, this atmospheric night promises a blend of mystery, merriment and Halloween fun.

Following the event, stay for a screening of *The Phantom of the Opera* in Hager Auditorium. Admission sold separately.

"Pour & Gore" tickets are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Attendees must be 21+. Costumes encouraged, first drink included. Ticketing access may be found through the event host website.

Also at MOR, current changing exhibit *Popnology: Celebrating Pop Culture's Impact on Science & Technology* will be

on display beginning Oct. 3rd and into early 2026.

The traveling exhibit explores the fascinating intersection of pop culture, science fiction and technological innovation. From the gadgets imagined in classic films to today's groundbreaking inventions, this immersive exhibition reveals how the stories we love have inspired the technologies we use every day.

Through hands-on experiences, iconic artifacts, and engaging interactives, visitors of all ages will discover how imagination has shaped, and continues to shape, our future.

Whether you're a lifelong science fiction fan, a technology enthusiast, or simply curious about the future, Popnology offers a fun, thought-provoking experience that celebrates creativity, innovation, and the extraordinary power of imagination to inspire what's next.

MOR is open from 9am–5pm daily. For more information about featured exhibits, membership details and 'Pour & Gore' tickets, visit www.museumoftherockies.org. •

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presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

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THURSDAY



8 **FREE – Hemp In The Built Environment – FREE (RSVP reqrd) 8am IND HEMP Belgrade 4:44 @ 4C – he Picklr 4:44pm**

BZN Film Festival 2016 6pm Dwtwn BZN

Wilmot Collins & Author Daniel

Blake Smith 6pm Country Bookshelf

Kyle Austin 6pm Bridger Pub – 3 Forks

IX Trivia 6 & 8pm 6pm Bar IX

Rockin Bingo 6:30pm Colombo's Pizza

Spirited Trivia 7pm Bozeman Distillery

Mark Spragg 7pm Elk River Books – LV

Jess Allestad 7pm Pine Creek Lodge – LV

Adult Dance Party - Roots Family

Collaborative 7pm Gallatin Labor Temple

Juan M Soria 7pm Bozeman Hot Springs

Bozeman Doc Series: Whispers in the Woods 7pm Emerson Center

LFs presents KISS THE GROUND 7pm Shane Center– Livingston

Vintage Swing 7:30pm La Brasserie

School of Music Guest Artist: Luther Enloe, guitar 7:30pm MSU Reynolds Recital Hall

Izaak Opatz, Junior, and the Sleepless Elite 8pm The Filling Station

Line Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon

Open Mic 8pm Bozeman Taproom

Izaak Opatz 9pm The Filling Station

Backwoods Menace 9pm Haufbrau

Karaoke 9:30pm American Legion – BZN

15

Brendan Nolan and Harpdog John 5pm
Boulder River Roadkill – McLeod, MT

Survival at the Donner Party's Alder Creek
Camp with Dr. Kelly Dixon (Pre Reg Rqrd)
5:30pm *Museum of the Rockies*

Katherine Reay in Conversation with
Country Bookshelf Bookseller China
Reevers 6pm *Country Bookshelf*

Clint Reimann 6pm
Brigder Brewing Pub & Grill – 3 Forks

IX Trivia 6 & 8pm 6pm *Bar IX*

Rockin Bingo 6:30pm *Colombo's Pizza*

Election Forums for HD60, HD65,
HD66 6:30pm Bozeman Public Safety Center

Spirited Trivia 7pm Bozeman Spirits Distillery
Joe Wilkins 7pm Elk River Books – Livingston

Edwin Johnson 7pm Bozeman Hot Springs

MSU Volleyball vs. Utah Tech
7pm *Shroyer Gym*

Downbeat Vintage Swing
7:30pm *La Brasserie*

Line Dancing with Western Roots
8pm *Bourbon*

Open Mic 8pm *Bozeman Taproom*

Connor Brooks 9pm *The Filling Station*

Tom Kirwan 9pm *Haufbrau*

American Thursday Karaoke
9:30pm *American Legion – Bozeman*

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Author Talk with Cara Chamberlain 6pm
Country Bookshelf

IX Trivia 6 & 8pm 6pm
Bar IX

Colombo's Rockin Bingo 6:30pm
Colombo's Pizza

Spirited Trivia 7pm
Bozeman Spirits Distillery

Dustin Tucker 7pm *Bozeman Hot Springs*

11th & Grant with Eric Funk
"Jack Gladstone" 7pm
MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Chnnel 9

Bozeman Doc Series: 7pm
Emerson Center for Arts and Culture

Downbeat Vintage Swing 7:30pm
La Brasserie

The Takes w/ Jampoke 8pm
The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway

Line Dancing with Western Roots
8pm *Bourbon*

Open Mic 8pm *Bozeman Taproom*

Connor Brooks 9pm *Haufbrau*

American Thursday Karaoke 9:30pm
American Legion – Bozeman

29 Guatemala Cathedral Choirbooks
11am *MSU Reynolds Recital Hall*
Will Wright in Conversation with
Liz Fairbank and Joseph
O'Connor 6pm *Country Bookshelf*
IX Trivia 6 & 8pm 6pm *Bar IX*
Rockin Bingo 6:30pm *Colombo's Pizza*
Spirited Trivia 7pm *Bozeman Spirits Distillery*
Betsy Gaines Quammen 7pm *Elk Rvr Bks - 1st*
Charles Ellsworth 7pm *Bozeman Hot Springs*
Downbeat Vintage Swing 7:30pm *La Brasserie*
The Gallatin High School Bands 7:30pm
MSU Reynolds Recital Hall
The Fright Crawl | *Bozeman Halloween*
Bar Crawl 2026 7:30pm *Downtown BZN*
Bobcat Men vs UT Utes 8pm *Fairgrounds*
Line Dancing 8pm *Bourbon*
Open Mic 8pm *Bozeman Taproom*
Cajun Moon 9pm *Haufbrau*
American Thursday Karaoke
9:30pm *American Legion - Bozeman*

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2 3rd Annual Livingston Songwriter Festival 9:30am Downtown Livingston
Huge Rummage Sale 12pm Pilgrim Church
Public Skate 1pm Bottcher Rink – Fairgrounds
Elana Hayden 5pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Me Grimlock, Goners UK 5pm Gallatin Labor Temple
Blake Brightman 5pm Field & Stream Lodge Bozeman
Richard Mayo 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Teton Gravity Research presents: **Actually, It Is**
Rocket Science 6 & 8pm 5:30pm Emerson Center
Sip & Paint – Milky Way Lake 5:45pm Bridger Pub 3 Forks
Black Ram Guitar Music Festival – Climate Aid
7pm Willson Auditorium
Eric Leadbetter 7pm Sawdust & Steel Brewery – 3 Forks
Stand-Up with Dulce Sloan 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Daniel Kosel 7pm Pine Creek Lodge – LV
Clint Reimann Band 7pm The Jump
Icedogs vs Yellowstone Quake 7pm Fairgrounds
Tom Kirwan 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Buen Camino 7pm Verge Theater – Emerson Suite 107
The Burial at Thebes 7:30pm Blue Slipper – Livingston
Josh Sanchez 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Last Wild Buffalo 8pm The Filling Station
Goners U.K., Me, Grimlock, Big Mosquito, Prints & Fake
Victim 8pm Gallatin Labor Temple
Cody Bartels Band 8pm The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway
Bobcats at Idaho 8:30pm BOBCAT RADIO SPORTS NET
Plaza Karaoke 9pm Plaza Bar – Three Forks
Under The Bleachers 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Lena Rich 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Waypoint Karaoke 9pm The Big Sky Waypoint
Jr Karaoke 9pm JRs Lounge
FLAVATOWN 9pm Eagles Bar
Stargazing – Under the Big Sky 9pm Gallatin River Lodge
Brian Kassay 9pm Bozeman Taproom

9 BZN Film Festival 2026 9am Downtown BZN
Virtual Fossil Fridays 9am Virtual Event TOLLI at
PNKBZN Bowling 12:30pm The Bozeman Bowl
Public Skate 1pm Bottcher Rink – Fairgrounds
Cello Masterclass 3pm MSU – SUB
Youth Engagement & Esc Team 4pm Bozeman Library
Lena Marie Schiffer 5pm Field & Stream Lodge Bozeman
Bozeman Fall MADE Fair 5pm Fieldhouse – MSU
Larry Myer 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Birthday Party! w/ WDS 6pm Sawdust & Steel 3 Forks
Art exhibiton featuring Jerry Cook 6pm Old Main Gallery
Dan Dubuque 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Montana premiere of 'Hard Twist': Through the Lens of
Barbara Van Cleve 6pm The Ellen Theatre
Adam Ray at 7 & 10pm 7pm The Elm
El Wencho 7pm The Jump
Brooks Wheelan & Katherine Blanford 7 & 9 Last Best Cmndy
Luke Williams Jr 7pm Norris Hot Springs
The Burial at Thebes 7:30pm Blue Slipper – Livingston
Eric Ledbetter & Martin DeGroot 7:30pm Old Saloon
Symphony Orchestra Concert 7:30pm MSU Reynolds Hall
The Lowest Pair 8pm LFTD – Empire Theater: Livingston
Juice 8pm The Filling Station
Dueling Pianos Road Show 8pm Bourbon
Trent Brooks Band 8pm The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway
Brendan Nolan & Harpdawg John 9pm Bozeman Taproom
BlackWater 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Shake and Bake 9pm Haufbrau
Dilly Dilly 9pm Eagles Bar
Bat Rastard 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Johnny Dango Band 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Stargazing – Under the Big Sky 9:15pm GalRiver Lodge
Austin City Limits "Olivia Rodrigo" 9:30pm
MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9

16 Public Skate 11:15am Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
Bozeman Women's Activity Group Luncheon 12:30pm
Bozeman Public Library
Edis 5pm Field & Stream Lodge Bozeman
Edwin Johnson 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Elana Hayden 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Haunting Jane Eyre – 7pm 406Cirque
Icedogs vs Butte Irish 7pm Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
The Airwaves Belonged to the People: WBCN and the
American Revolution 7pm The Ellen Theatre
Quality Ski Time Film Tour 2026 7pm Emerson Center for Arts and Culture
Stand-Up with River Butcher 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Johnny Dango 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Fusion Fight League 7pm Brick Breeden Fieldhouse – MSU
Susan Gibson, Kelley Mickwee, & Sean Devine
7pm Grand Hotel – Big Timber
Rob Wolf Band 7pm The Jump
Love through the Ages 7:30pm Hope Lutheran Church
Aaron Golay & The Original Sin 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Ryan Chrys & the Rough Cuts (outlaw country) 8pm The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway
Plaza Karaoke 9pm Plaza Bar – Three Forks
El Wencho 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Lost Canyon 9pm The Filling Station
Great Musicians of Our Time "Pinchas Zukerman:
Here to Make Music" 9pm MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9
Michale Mac Country 9pm Eagles Bar
Band of Drifters 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Jack Ooster 9pm Bozeman Taproom
Veridis 9pm Haufbrau

23 Public Skate 11:15am Bottcher Rink – Fairgrounds
"On the Edge of American: Art, Exodusters,
and Expatriates, 1850–1900" 9am MoR
Virtual Fossil Fridays 9am Virtual Event
Haven's Raising Hope Fundraiser 5pm The Rialto
Tyler John Kraehling 5pm Field & Stream Lodge Bozeman
Neil Filo Beddow 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Haunted Camp Cottonwood 5:30pm Anderson School
Edis 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Bobcat Women vs CO State University Rams 7pm GCF
Hope in Harmony: Kostas, Paige & The People's Band,
and Jason DeShaw 7pm The Ellen Theatre
Gabriel Rutledge 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Isacc Green 7pm Norris Hot Springs
MSU Stoke Fest 7pm Gallatin Labor Temple
Shakedown County at The Jump 7pm The Jump
Shrek the Musical 7:30pm Shane Center – Livingston
Meyer'd Down 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Lena Rich – Album Release Show 8pm LFTD – @ Empire
Great Performances "Tammy Wynette: Forever
Yours" 8pm MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9
Blake Brightman Band 8pm The Westerner – Gateway
Macon Mountain Revue – Allman Brothers Tribute
Band 8pm The Attic – Livingston
Trent Brooks Band 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Heavy Diamond Ring 9pm Tune Up Bar
Still Fools 9pm The Filling Station
Veridis 9pm Haufbrau
Frequencies 9pm Eagles Bar
Brendan Nolan 9pm Grey Dog Bar
The Dead Yellers 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Dustin Tucker 9pm Bozeman Taproom

30 Ryan LittleEagle 5pm Field & Stream Bozeman
Maggie Hickman 5pm Sacajawea Bar – 3 Forks
Pour and Gore: A Haunted Masquerade 6pm
Museum of the Rockies – MoR
Cory Johnson 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Warren Miller's Days Off 6pm The Elm
Un/Dead & Un/Forgiven 7pm The Ellen Theatre
Band of Drifters 7pm The Jump
Bobcat Men vs WSt Wildcats 7pm GCF Fairgrounds
Luke Williams Jr 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Shrek the Musical 7:30pm Shane Center – Livingston
Brendan Nolan Blues Trio 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
One O'clock Jazz Concert: 7:30pm MSU Reynolds Hall
Vincent Neil Emerson w/ Dax Lindholm 8pm Westerner
Brendan Nolan and Harpdawg John 9pm BZN Taproom
The Fossils 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
The Fog 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Desperate Electric 9pm The Filling Station
Veridis 9pm Haufbrau
The Love Darts 9pm Eagles Bar
Blake Brightman Band 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Phantom of the Opera Movie 9pm MoR
Warren Miller's Days Off 9pm The Elm

3 Wine Tasting w Chloe Nostrant ALL DAY Wheatgrass Bks LV
Woodturning Dem 8:30am Bozeman High School – BHS
Farmers Market 9am GCF – Gallatin County Fairground
Huge Rummage Sale Pilgrim Church 9am Pilgrim Church
Hidden Gem Fall Market 10am Wild River Thrift
Be Bold. Be Free. A Watercolor Workshop 10am Threlfall Fine Art
Bozeman Sports Cards Fall Show 10am Gallatin County Fairground
Big Timber Fall Fest 10am Downtown Big Timber
Raptor Fest 30 Years! 10am Bridger Bowl
3rd Annual Livingston Songwriter Fest 10:30am Downtown Livingston
SHREDDOBER 2026 11am Kirk Park
Public Skate 12pm Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
MSU Volleyball vs. Eastern Washington 2pm Shroyer Gym
Showcase of Bands Marching Band Exhibition 2pm Bobcat Stadium
2026 Buck & Box 2:30pm Park County Fairgrounds – Livingston
Buen Camino 3 & 7pm 3pm Verge Theater – Emerson Suite 107
Elana Hayden 5pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Ringo Starr 5pm MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9
Tom Susanj 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
The Hooligans 6pm Follow Yer' Nose BBQ – Emigrant
Zach Dobbs 6pm Valhalla Meadery
Red NOT Chili Peppers 7pm Pine Creek Lodge – LV
Stand-Up with Dulce Sloan 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Fan Mountain Frog Dogs 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Bozeman Icedogs vs Sheridan Hawks 7pm GCF Fairgrounds
The Burial at Thebes 7:30pm Blue Slipper Theatre – Livingston
Lee Calvin w/ Brian Wetzstein 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Gannon Fremin & CCREV 8pm The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway
John Roberts Y Pan Blanco 8pm The Jump
Country Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon
Shark in a Pond- by Eli Singleton 8pm 406Cirque
Under The Bleachers 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Brendan Nolan & Mostly Peaceful Looters 9pm Murray – Livingston
Jr Karaoke 9pm JRs Lounge
Still Fools 9pm The Filling Station
Dirt 9pm Haufbrau
FLAVATOWN 9pm Eagles Bar
Latin Night 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Cannery Flats 9pm Bozeman Taproom
"Tedeschi/Trucks 11pm MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9

10 Bozeman Film Festival 2026 9am Downtown Bozeman
Bozeman Fall MADE Fair 9am Fieldhouse – MSU
Farmers Market 9am Gallatin County Fairgrounds – GCF
National Fossil Day 10am Museum of the Rockies – MoR
Read-In for Banned Books Week 11am Country Books
HoV Open House 12pm Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter HoV
Public Skate 12pm Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
Fall Craft Supply Swap!! 12:30pm Park County Fairgrounds – Livingston
Boots, BBQ & Evening Of Hope w/ Rob Wolf Band 5pm Roys Barn
Octoberfest w/ Watson Mills 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Library Gala – NEW DATE 5:30pm SUB Ballroom – MSU
Survivor Stories Gallery 6pm Bozeman Event Space
Luke Flansburg 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Howard and Taylor 6pm Valhalla Meadery
Way Down North 7pm Pine Creek Lodge – LV
Emo Nite 7pm The Elm
Larry Myer 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Pleasure People 7pm The Filling Station
Bobcat Men vs UM 7pm Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
Brooks Wheelan & Katherine Blanford 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Bohemian Fire 7:30pm Willson Auditorium
The Burial at Thebes 7:30pm Blue Slipper Theatre – Livingston
Second Saturday Square Dance 7:30pm Gallatin Labor Temple
Cole Kleinert w/ Johnny Walls 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Will Varley 8pm Live From The Divide @ Empire Theater: Livingston
Country Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon
Kalya Beasley & Honky Tonk Arcade 8pm Westerner – Gateway
BlackWater 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Amis Abyss 9pm Haufbrau
Dilly Dilly 9pm Eagles Bar
2000's Night 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Eric Leadbetter 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Fitzmo 9pm Bozeman Taproom
Austin City Limits "Olivia Rodrigo" 10pm PBS VIRTUAL EVENT Chnl 9
Reprise "Live from the Artists Den | Aimee Mann" 11pm
MT PBS VIRTUAL EVENT – TV Channel 9

17 Fall Health Festival 8am Park County Fairgrounds
Farmers Market 9am Gallatin County Fairgrounds – GCF
Bozeman Photo Expo 9am Hilton Garden Inn
Bridger Bowl Bash w/ Jazz Cabbage 12pm Bridger Bowl
Grossology Discovery Day 12pm Museum of the Rockies – MoR
Indoor Plant DIY 1pm Phoenix Garden Center
Fresh Hop Festival 2pm GCF – Gallatin County Fairgrounds – GCF
Montana Grizzly Encounter 2:30pm The Ellen Theatre
The United States Air Force Band on Tour 3pm Willson Auditorium
Bobcat Football at E. Washington 5pm BOBCAT RADIO
Kulseth's Comedy Record Release 6pm Apres Brewing & Coffee
Elana Hayden 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Hannabelle 6pm Valhalla Meadery
Super Group Tannahill Weavers 6:30pm Pilgrim Congregational
Concert – Tannahill Weavers 7pm Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC
Haunting Jane Eyre – World Premier 7pm 406Cirque
Stand-Up with River Butcher 7pm Last Best Comedy
Jesse Taylor 7pm Norris Hot Springs
MSU Volleyball vs. Southern Utah 7pm Shroyer Gym
Bozeman Halloween Singles Mixer 2026 7pm TBD
Tyler John Kraehling 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Country Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon
Ian Thomas & The Band of Drifters 8pm The Westerner – Gateway
Billy Wayne Davis 8pm Rad Bikes
FOR THE PEOPLE PRESENTS- Carol 8pm Club Zebra
El Wencho 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Scratchin Gravel 9pm The Filling Station
Scavenger 9pm Haufbrau
Michale Mac Country 9pm Eagles Bar
Ladies Night 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Aaron Golay & The Original Sin 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Sunrise Karaoke 9pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Harley Huestis 9pm Bozeman Taproom
Austin City Limits "Ari Lennox" 10pm MT PBS VIRTUAL TV Ch 9
Artists Den | Patty Griffin 11pm MT PBS VIRTUAL TV Channel 9

24 Fall Buddhism Basics 9am Bozeman Dharma Center
Farmers Market 9am Gallatin County Fairgrounds – GCF
"On the Edge of American: Art, Exodusters, and
Expatriates, 1850–1900" 9am Museum of the Rockies
2nd annual Halloween Costume Swap 10am The Refillery
Weber State vs MSU Bobcat Football 1pm Bobcat Stadium – MSU
Spooktacular 2 & 7pm 2pm Petra Academy
Bobcat Women vs CO State Rams 3:45pm GCF Fairgrounds
Steven Stephen 5pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Haunted Camp 5:30pm Anderson School, Little Red Schoolhouse
Paul Lee Kupfer 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Grateful Dead Night 6:30pm Red Tractor Pizza
Ghost Tours at Haunted Masonic Lodge 6:30pm BZN Event Space
Haunting Jane Eyre – World Premier 7pm 406Cirque
Icedogs vs Helena Bighorns 7pm Bottcher Rink – GCF Fairgrounds
Foxy Horror Picture Show 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Colter John 7pm Norris Hot Springs
MSU Volleyball vs. Idaho State 7pm Shroyer Gym
Crazy Mountain Express 7:30pm Music Ranch Montana – LV
Shrek the Musical 7:30pm Shane Lalani Center for the Arts – Livingston
Community Contra Dance 7:30pm Tamarack Ballroom – Senior Center
Downbeat Vintage Swing Fall Ball 7:30pm Hotel Baxter
John Foster w/ Rod Morrison 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
Country Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon
Western Skies 8pm The Westerner – Gallatin Gateway
Trent Brooks Band 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Tsunami Funk 9pm Tune Up Bar
Ashley and the Beekeepers 9pm The Filling Station
Dirt 9pm Haufbrau
Frequencies 9pm Eagles Bar
Emo Rave 9pm Grey Dog Bar
West Dakota 9pm Murray Bar – Livingston
Dustin Tucker 9pm Bozeman Taproom

31 Farmers Market 9am Gallatin County Fairgrounds – GCF
Cal Poly vs MSU Bobcat 1pm Bobcat Stadium – MSU
Monster Mash Bash 6pm Armory Music Hall
Jacob Rountree 6pm Sage Lodge – S of Livingston
Jesse Martin 6pm Valhalla Meadery
Un/Dead & Un/Forgiven 7pm The Ellen Theatre
SoDown with CHOZEN 7pm The Elm
Halloween Dance Party! 7pm Tamarack Ballroom – Senior Center
Bobcat Men vs Utah State Aggies 7pm GCF Fairgrounds
Foxy Horror Picture Show 7 & 9 7pm Last Best Comedy
Eric Leadbetter 7pm Norris Hot Springs
Sinners (2025) Free Movie Night 7pm The Rialto
Shrek the Musical 7:30pm Shane Lalani Center for the Arts – Livingston
Halloween – Emma & The Lodge 7:30pm Old Saloon – Emigrant
The Fright Crawl | Bar Crawl 2026 7:30pm Downtown Bozeman
Monsters and Baddies 8pm The Filling Station
Country Dancing with Western Roots 8pm Bourbon
HALLOWEEN Tanner Laws Band 8pm The Westerner – Gateway
Rot In Hell – Saltlick, Prince Carls, Mittens, D Strange –8pm The Attic
The Fossils Saloon Halloween Party 9pm Chico Hot Springs Saloon
Gooch Slam 9pm Haufbrau
The Love Darts 9pm Eagles Bar
Halloween DJ Party 9pm Grey Dog Bar
Sunrise Karaoke 9pm Sacajawea Bar – Three Forks
Clint Reimann 9pm Bozeman Taproom

The Eagles Club
2/3 - Flavatown
9/10 - Dilly Dilly
16/17 - Michael Mac Country
23/24 - Frequences
30/31 - The Love Darts
KARAOKE WEDNESDAYS... 9pm
New Hours:
Sun: 11-12 • M-W: 12-12:45 • Th-Sat: 12-1:45
316 East Main • Downtown Bozeman

Mellow Mood
We have everything
you need to enjoy
the smoker's
lifestyle!
7 Tai Lane • Bozeman

**BOZEMAN'S BEST
BEST RADIO STATION**
WITH
**BOZEMAN'S BEST
BEST RADIO DJs**
KSKY 106.9
MONTANA'S REAL COUNTRY

BOZEMAN DOC SERIES
WHISPERS IN THE WOODS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th
7pm at the Emerson
The Doc Series returns for a 12th season
and kicks off with a beautiful new
documentary from celebrated wildlife
photographer Vincent Munier as he
invites us into the heart of France's
Vosges forests. A heartfelt ode to the
love of family and the natural world, the
film follows Munier, his father and his
son as they search for the
elusive capercaillie.
tickets and more info at www.bozemandocseries.org

**KGLT RECORD FAIR
& MUSIC SWAP**
Saturday, October 17
10am - 3pm | 9am - 10am Early Bird (+\$)
MSU SUB ROOM 233/235
KGLT! Bringing you the beats since 1968!

**KGLT Record Fair
& Gear Swap
– Oct 17th**
Friends of KGLT are hosting their
biannual Record Fair and Gear
Swap on Saturday, October 17th at
SUB at Montana State University.

**Heart
of the Valley**
ANIMAL SHELTER
Meet Quinn!
• Female
• Domestic Shorthair
• 9 Years Old
Meet Quinn! Quinn is
affectionate, gentle, and
especially enjoys curling up next
to you for a peaceful nap.
Come meet Quinn at
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We're open Tuesday - Sunday,
12 pm - 5 pm for adoptions.
Tuesday through Sunday 12pm and 5:00pm
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frontdesk@heartofthevalleyshelter.org
406.388.9399 Fax: 406.388.2877

IF IT'S HAPPENING...IT'S IN THE BOZONE • SINGE 1993 • OCTOBER 2026

Green ogre dances into Shane

Local thespians return to the Livingston stage with a swampy fairytale this month. The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts invites audiences on a dazzling family adventure with *Shrek the Musical* with performances running from October 23rd through November 15th.

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks animated film, *Shrek* brings the beloved ogre, his wisecracking donkey and a colorful cast of fairy-tale characters to the stage in a hilarious and heartfelt musical adventure. When Shrek's peaceful life in his swamp is interrupted by a banished princess, a demanding ruler and a whole host of unwanted fairytale creatures, he sets off on a quest that takes him far beyond the safety of his familiar surroundings. Along the way, he discovers that first impressions can be deceiving – and that even an ogre might have a heart worth opening.

Packed with big musical numbers, outrageous humor and plenty of fairytale mischief, *Shrek* turns the familiar story into a celebration of friendship, acceptance and being comfortable with who you are. With a score that

moves from energetic ensemble numbers to tender, character-driven moments, the show offers something for audiences of all ages. At its center is a wonderfully unlikely group of heroes learning that happily ever after doesn't always look the way you expect – and that sometimes the most extraordinary stories begin when you stop trying to fit the mold.

Shrek the Musical runs weekends from Oct. 23rd to Nov. 15th. Performances take place in the Dulcie Theatre. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, with Sunday matinees to follow at 3pm. A special Thursday show is set for Nov. 12th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$19 for seniors/students/educators/veterans, and \$13 for youth 17 & under. Make reservations at www.theshanecenter.org or call the box office at (406) 222-1420. Concessions available.

The Lightning Thief is generously sponsored by the Livingston Tourism Business Improvement District, Basecamp Supply & Construction, the Kitchen Shop on Main, Yellowstone Valley Lodge & Grill, and Carol Lalani in Memory of Sal Lalani. •

MBC explores macabre with haunting ballet

Montana Ballet Company begins its 2026–27 performance season with *Un/Dead & Un/Forgiven* at The Ellen Theatre on Friday and Saturday, October 30th and 31st.

The program includes the world premiere of *The Raven*, choreographed by Sasha Janes, *Dracula*, Act II of *Giselle*, and special guest lobby ambassadors from the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, Pilgrim the Turkey Vulture and Bu the Great Horned Owl.

“We are thrilled to open our season with an evening that explores the darker, more mysterious side of ballet. From the world premiere of *The Raven* to the gothic drama of *Dracula* and the haunting beauty of *Giselle*, each work brings a different story to life,” says MBC Artistic Director Melissa Bowman. “This program is a wonderful opportunity for audiences to experience the power of ballet to transport us into worlds that are both beautiful and unsettling... just in time for Halloween.”

Janes, Professor of Music in Ballet at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and Artistic Director of Chautauqua Dance, commented “Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven* is a captivating narrative that delves into the profound human experience of grief. It is a poignant exploration of the consequences of an obsessive fixation on memory and the distortion of reality that ensues when the inability to let go becomes a consuming force. I am thrilled to explore these themes through movement and glorious music.”

Dracula, inspired by Bram Stoker's classic horror novel, brings the world of the legendary vampire to the stage through dramatic choreography, eerie music, and a dark atmosphere. This excerpt follows Dracula and his brides as they seduce and torment their victims, as well as his fateful encounter with Lucy, drawing audiences into the dark and mysterious world of Transylvania and Victorian England. Combining classical ballet with otherworldly movement and dramatic lighting, *Dracula* captures the seductive, dangerous, and supernatural essence of the story.

In Act II of *Giselle*, the heartbroken young village girl returns as one of the Wilis, ghostly spirits of women betrayed before their wedding days. When her former lover, the nobleman Albrecht, encounters the Wilis and faces their deadly revenge, Giselle's enduring love and forgiveness ultimately save him. Blending dramatic storytelling with ethereal choreography, *Giselle* remains one of classical ballet's most poignant and enduring masterpieces.

Un/Dead & Un/Forgiven will run for two performances, Friday and Saturday, October 30th–31st. Purchase tickets at www.MontanaBallet.org or www.TheEllenTheatre.com.

MBC's season will continue December 5th–6th with the 43rd annual *Nutcracker* featuring the Bozeman Symphony and Opera Montana, followed by *Giselle* March 6th–7th, and closing with Montana Mix Vol. 1 April 28th–29th. •

Local, touring acts front last Lodge shows

There's a few lingering chances to catch a show at Pine Creek Lodge before the venue loads in for the season. Here's a closer look at who's performing this month.

Lena Marie Schiffer returns with a Chloe Gendrow-opened show on October 1st. She is a folk singer and songwriter known for her decade-long journey with bluegrass group, Lancy Lou & the Bird Dogs. Driven by a distinctive fusion of folk, indie, and Americana influences, Schiffer writes original lyrics that offer deeply personal reflections and insightful observations of the world. Her debut album, *House of Sky*, is available now.

The aptly named **Red NOT Chili Peppers** take the stage Oct. 3rd. Combining nostalgic hits, full throttle energy, and virtuosic performances, the Red Nots channel the raging party that has given the Chili Peppers international acclaim and regal rock n' roll status. Having performed at many of the country's most prestigious concert halls as well as every major tribute festival, the Red Nots' undying devotion to the classic California sound has filled venues and rocked audiences' socks off all over the country and abroad. With a huge song catalog that spans every era of the Chili's prolific career at their command, every Red Nots show provides a unique live music experience.

Los Angeles project **Wolves of Glendale**

are set for Oct. 4th. The hilarious comedy-rock trio delivers infectious songs, sharp wit and wildly entertaining live shows. Expect clever lyrics, big hooks and plenty of laughs from this rising musical comedy act.

Mid-month sees a performance by **49 Winchester** as part of their “Change of Plans” tour on Oct. 13th with opener Briscoe. Their sound is rooted in Appalachian storytelling, blending country, rock, and folk influences into something distinctly their own. A relentless work ethic and commitment to authenticity has propelled them from front porch jam sessions to major stages around the world, marking them as a band whose breakthrough has been hard-earned and long overdue.

Also at the Lodge, catch a free show on the Beer Garden Stage. Remaining acts include **Daniel Kosel** on Oct. 2nd, **Tyler John Kraehling** Oct. 7th, **Jess Allestad** Oct. 8th, **Way Down North** Oct. 10th and **West Dakota Stutter** Oct. 11th. See host website for additional details.

Advance tickets for these shows are available now. All music begins at 7pm. On-site accommodations and camping available. Please visit www.pinecreeklodgemontana.com to learn more about these and other upcoming events. •

Acclaimed songwriters take over Livingston

The third annual **Livingston Songwriter Festival** kicks off in historic Downtown Livingston on Thursday, October 1st. Headliners for the returning festival include Matraca Berg, Radney Foster, Will Kimbrough, Gretchen Peters, Jim Photoglo, and Kim Richey. They'll be featured in evening shows on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2nd–3rd, at the Livingston Depot and The Attic.

Troubadours will perform daytime shows all over the downtown area on both days, as well as night shows on Oct. 1st and late night shows on Oct. 2nd and 3rd. Troubadour performers include Katrina Cain, Marcedes Carroll, Jackson Emmer, Anthony Garcia, Abbie Gardner, Susan Gibson, Goldpine, Erik Koskinen, Whitney Mongé, Sarah Pierce, J. Plank, Eric Ramsey, David Starr and Erik Stucky.

“The lineup for this festival is absolutely amazing,” said Mike Booth, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Songwriter Festivals organization that co-produces this festival with Livingston producers Joanne Gardner Lowell and John Lowell. “There is truly something for everyone this year, with musicians coming in from all over the country to be in Montana. They can't wait to be in Livingston, and we

can't wait to share them with all of the audiences.”

Between them, the headliners have eight Grammy nominations, three Americana Music Awards, three CMA Song of the Year wins, and accolades including two Nashville Songwriter Hall of Fame inductions (Berg and Peters), one Texas Songwriter Hall of Fame inductee (Foster) and a winner of both the International Album of the Year and International Song of the Year (Peters).

The troubadours include performers/writers from Tennessee, Colorado, Texas, British Columbia, California, Arizona and Montana. There is a two-day “Master Class” scheduled to be taught by Jackson Emmer and Susan Gibson to help interested songwriters polish their skills.

Further information about the festival can be found at www.livingstonsongwriter-festival.org. The nonprofit makes contributions to local music programs each year and donated \$5,000 worth of online music lessons to benefit students at Park High School in Livingston after last year's festival.

“The streets of Livingston will be full of song the first weekend in October, don't miss your chance to enjoy it!” added Booth. •



Indigenous People's Day Fashion Show

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
6 - 9 p.m.
Whole museum
\$20/VIP ticket, \$15/ticket
Registration is required

Discover the artistry of Indigenous fashion as Angela Howe and Rebekah Jarvey share designs rooted in heritage, storytelling, and cultural pride.



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Classical guitarist returns to Montana State

From MSU News Service

Montana State University played a formative role in **Luther Enloe's** development as a guitarist, and the university will welcome his return on Thursday, October 8th, for a concert at 7:30pm in Howard Hall's Reynolds Recital Hall.

Enloe has played the classical guitar across the U.S. and abroad, including performances with Grammy Award-winning vocalist Richard Clement and a tour through Sicily, Italy. Enloe educates the next generation of musicians at the University of North Georgia as a part-time instructor, and he is an artist affiliate at Emory University.

When Enloe arrived in Bozeman in 1991 as a music major from Great Falls, he had no previous experience with the classical guitar, which is played using a fingerpicking technique. At MSU, he began what would eventually become his professional career with the instrument.



His first classical guitar teacher was Mark Tylers, who introduced him to the instrument and its repertoire. Enloe also became deeply involved with jazz guitar, studying with Bozeman jazz guitarist Craig Hall. He later continued his classical guitar studies with Michael Videon, who is now a professor of guitar studies at MSU. While at MSU, Enloe also participated in master classes with classical guitarist Christopher Parkening through the School of Music. Enloe spent two-and-a-half years at MSU.

With his return to the university, Enloe will perform music spanning nearly two centuries and several cultural influences, ranging from Máximo Diego Pujol's Argentine tango to the 19th century Romantic expression of J.K. Mertz. He will conclude the program with two works by Bozeman-based artist and composer Stuart Weber. “The Night Scribe” explores the recurring appearance of Halley's Comet and the passage of time, while “Missouri Breaks” draws inspiration from the Missouri River and north-central Montana landscapes.

Concert tickets cost \$15 for general admission, \$5 for MSU students and are free for those in pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Attendees can purchase tickets at www.montana.edu/music or at the door. Online ticket sales end at noon on Oct. 8th. •

BOZEMAN



SOCIETY

LAUNCHING THE INAUGURAL
BOZEMAN FILM FESTIVAL OCTOBER 8–11

LIGHTS UP!

OUR 2026 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE IS LIVE

BOZEMAN
Film Festival

Musicians, artists unite for climate advocacy

The Montana Project is proud to announce the return of **Climate Aid: Black Ram Guitar Festival** following its Missoula debut. The event will take place Friday, October 2nd, at the historic Willson Auditorium in Downtown Bozeman. Music begins at 7pm.

Building on the incredible momentum of the inaugural festival in Portland, Maine, with Maggie Rogers and Terry Tempest Williams, this high-profile evening bridges the world of the country's finest singer/song-writers with urgent environmental action. Proceeds from the evening will support ongoing regional conservation initiatives and efforts to designate the "Black Ram" region of northwest Montana's Yaak Valley as the nation's first Climate Refuge.

The centerpiece of the evening is the Breedlove Black Ram Guitar – a singular guitar meticulously hand-crafted from a fallen 315-year-old Engelmann spruce salvaged from the Yaak Valley. The guitar carries the literal voice of one of Montana's oldest forests and will be played live throughout the night by a roster of celebrated artists.

The 2026 line-up brings a world-class gathering of talent to the Bozeman stage, featuring:

- Ruth Moody: Acclaimed singer-song-

writer and stunning soprano of the multi-Platinum, Juno Award-winning roots trio The Wailin' Jennys

- Bill McKibben: Globally celebrated author, environmental advocate, and founder of ThirdAct and 350.org
- Rick Bass: Iconic Montana author, activist
- Featured Performers: Folk, blues, and traditional Montana musicians including Pico Alt, Jack Barksdale, Rob Quist, Jack Gladstone, Caroline Keys, Nate Biehl, Gibson Hartwell, Siri Saeteren and Steve Farmer
- Speakers: Leslie Caye, Corwin Clairmont, J.J. Amaworo Wilson
- Award-winning composer Eric Funk, classical guitarist Nora Spielman and French horn player Liz Schmidt

"This is not like any other concert or event you've experienced," notes author Rick Bass. "We're harnessing Montana's artistic leadership in the fight against climate change. Bringing this movement to Bozeman is a natural next step to safeguard our state's most ancient, climate-resilient landscapes."

Doors open at 6pm, with the performance beginning promptly at 7pm. Tickets can be found at www.montanaproject.org and www.blackramguitarfest.org.

Symphony afire with next performances

Bozeman Symphony ignites audiences with *Bohemian Fire*, an expansive program exploring unity, resilience and passion through music spanning generations and continents. Conducted by Bozeman Symphony's Music Director, Norman Huynh, it will feature the Montana premiere of Jennifer Higdon's luminous Cello Concerto, performed by acclaimed cellist and returning audience favorite, Julian Schwarz.

Performances will be held Saturday, October 10th, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, October 11th, at 2:30pm. Both will be held at the Willson Auditorium in Downtown Bozeman.

The concert opens with Valerie Coleman's *Umoja – Anthem of Unity*, a powerful celebration of community and togetherness. Higdon's Cello Concerto follows, showcasing Schwarz's lyrical artistry and extraordinary technical command.

"Julian [Schwarz] has an incredible sound," said composer Jennifer Higdon, "and I really wanted to show off his playing."

Higdon's preparation for composing the work embraced a study of many masterpieces for the cello: "The repertoire has an incredible history, from Bach to the Dvořák concerto, and it all has something to give."

The composer and the soloist emailed each other, maintaining contact through the

composing process: "That's an advantage Beethoven never had!" Higdon said.

Grammy-nominated cellist Julian Schwarz has been heralded from a young age as a cellist destined to rank among the greatest of the 21st century. His powerful tone, effortless virtuosity, and extraordinarily broad color palette are hallmarks of his style. Schwarz previously performed with the Bozeman Symphony and returns to Bozeman for this special performance.

The program concludes with Antonín Dvořák's dramatic and passionate Symphony No. 7 in D minor, a sweeping work filled with intensity, lyricism and Czech-inspired character.

Performances will be held Oct. 10th–11th at the Willson Auditorium in Downtown Bozeman. Individual tickets are available for purchase online at www.bozemansymphony.org or by phone at (406) 585-9774. Tickets at the door based on availability. Tickets begin at \$33 with student-discounted tickets available.

These concerts are made possible through the generous support of sponsors Bob & Donna Ritchie, Bruce & Kimberlie Jodar, Prof. Rob Maher & Ms. Lynn Peterson-Maher, Dr. Jeffrey Barish & Dr. Elaine Best, Keith & Lisa Reed, and Mark & Lori Rosolowsky.

Skeletal All Hallow's Eve caps Saloon spread

All the colors have returned to Treasure State foliage, best enjoyed with a nice drive to take in the view. Take the scenic route with a weekend trip to Chico Hot Springs for a chance to soak the joints, feast on some delicious grub and enjoy live music in the Saloon. Here's what's coming up this month.

Under the Bleachers rock the house October 2nd and 3rd. The band consists of Scott Williams (guitar), Tim Borsberry (drums), and Chris Heisel (bass). They have an intensely diverse song list, a result of their diverse origins. Tim hails from Helena, Chris from Great Falls, and Scott is a transplant from Los Angeles. A look over the band's song list will show they keep up with today's hits – and have been playing yesterday's since they were a 'hit' the first time!

BlackWater Band delivers a pair of performances on Oct. 9th and 10th. The rock n' roll variety group will have you off your feet and on the dance floor in no time, so take a swig of your preferred flavor and get that liquid motivation flowing.

Enjoy the talents of **El Wencho** on Oct. 16th and 17th. The powerhouse duo delivers big sound that relates the Montana lifestyle through immersive lyrics, catchy melodies and

driving rhythms. Their authentic music is an eclectic fusion of genres that draws on sonic elements from red dirt rock, blues, country, Americana and polyrhythmic Latin percussion. Live shows are an experiential combination of their dynamic Montana sound, engaging storytelling and comedic flair.

Performing Oct. 23rd and 24th is the **Trent Brooks Band**. The band delivers on their reputation as an in demand, energetic live act with stunning vocal harmony and stage presence. The frontman's style of authentic originals and outlaw country borrows from the greats, from Williams, Paycheck, Jennings and Jones, to Jackson, Strait, Pardi and Combs.

The following weekend features the return of **The Fossils**, performing Oct. 30th and 31st with a special Halloween party on Friday. Known around town for their authentic hippie music, the band guarantees a rockin' good time. The members have been acquainted for years and are connected by their love of music.

Live Saloon music begins at 9pm. Chico Hot Springs is located in Pray, 20 miles south of Livingston. For more information, visit www.chicohotsprings.com.

Groove for good with adults-only dance

Roots Family Collaborative brings the fun indoors for a special benefit event early this month. The **Adult Dance Party** will take place Thursday, October 8th, and features DJ Don't Wake Daddy. Gallatin Labor Temple hosts the event with the first beat drop at 7pm.

Join for a night of music, dancing and fun in benefit of Roots. Dressing up welcome, but completely optional. Whether you're ready to hit the dance floor or just want to enjoy the music and good company, all are welcome. This is the kickoff event to "Dancing with the Last Best Stars," returning to the Emerson next month.

Advance tickets are \$15 through www.eventbrite.com or at the door. This is an 18+ event. Dance. Celebrate. Support.

Every ticket aids Roots' work connecting families to the support they need.

Roots Family Collaborative is a Bozeman-based nonprofit connecting families with needs from preconception through parenthood in Gallatin and Park counties. Since 2017, Roots has connected parents with peers and professionals through weekly support groups, classes, workshops and community events including "Moms Like Me," while providing a trusted Perinatal Resource Guide.

Through its programming and resource network, Roots raises awareness of perinatal mental health, normalizes the challenges of the perinatal period and strengthens support networks for local families navigating this major life transition.

2nd Street Oktoberfest

The Livingston Tourism Business Improvement District has announced the fourth annual **2nd Street Oktoberfest** to be held on Saturday, October 17th from 4–7pm.

Raise a glass and your spirits at this family friendly harvest fest in the heart of Livingston. Enjoy brews, autumn drinks and foods, live music and kids' activities, or kick off your holiday shopping at great 2nd Street shops. Admission is free and there will be fun to be had for all!

The event will include a lively contests for adults, interactive kids' activities, delicious autumn food & drink specials from local ven-

dors, food trucks with a variety of offerings, live music and a chance for shopping at locally owned small businesses.

Connect with friends and neighbors at the Community Table while soaking in the festive atmosphere. Whether you're downtown for the fun competitions, to sample great food and drinks, or to support local shops, Livingston's Oktoberfest promises something for everyone.

During the event, 2nd Street will be closed to traffic for the block party just past Park St. from the alley near the Owl Lounge and Post Office to Lewis.



Discover Incredible Fossils and Creepy Critters in October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

National Fossil Day

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Whole Museum | All ages

Included with membership/admission

Registration is suggested

Enjoy hands-on activities, expert talks, and exciting discoveries that reveal the incredible diversity of fossils.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Grossology Discovery Day

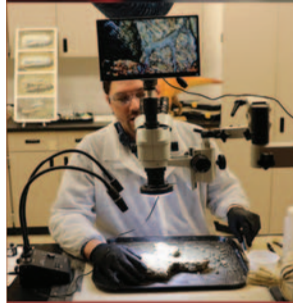
12 - 4 p.m.

Whole Museum | All ages

Included with membership/admission

Registration is suggested

Dive into MOR's grossest family tradition with science stations, creepy critters, and hands-on experiments that reveal the fascinating side of the ickiest science.



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Farmers market season sees no end

With fall harvest abundant, Gallatin Valley-dwellers are thinking about warm, hearty meals for Montana’s most unrelenting stretch. Stock the fridge and pantry with a trip to **Bozeman Winter Farmers’ Market** with the next gathering set for October 3rd. Held from 9am–noon, the events will be held on regular Saturdays at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds into spring.

The winter market comes at that time of the season where summer’s bounty is still available along with all of the fall gems. The markets showcase food and farm product vendors that allow shoppers to cross off everything on their grocery lists. Upcoming events are scheduled for Oct. 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st, with plenty more to follow in the coming months. All events are FREE of admission and open to the public. Visit www.bozemanwintermarket.com for a complete schedule of

events and follow the market on social media for updated information.

Kicking off its new season, the Bozeman Winter Farmers’ Market has grown from the demand for a direct producer-to-consumer experience beyond the traditional summer market season. Why the apostrophe in the name? Because this market was created by farmers, and continues to be operated by farmers, for farmers. The focus is on food and agricultural products. In addition to vegetables, you can find grassfed meats, cheeses, farm fresh eggs, fermented vegetables and kombucha, honey, artisan breads and baked goods, syrups, jams and preserves, grains and oils, wool, locally grown and blended teas, ethically sourced coffee, locally pressed juices, and much more, all under one roof! Learn more through the event website. •

Return of Raptors signal fall’s onset

Entering the cooler days following a scorching summer, many of our avian friends have taken to the big skies for their annual snowbirding adventure. Gliding back into Southwest Montana for its return event, the annual **Bridger Raptor Festival** will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th.

Sponsored by the Sacajawea Audubon Society, events are FREE and open to the public. Raptor Fest centers on the largest known Golden Eagle migration in the United States, with a local raptor migration count taking place every fall at the top of the Ridge.

Raptor Fest activities include two days of live bird talks, nature walks, educational programs, exhibitors and entertainment for people of all ages. Some of the events on this

year’s calendar include “Binocular Blitz,” “Raptor vs Raptor,” “Build a Nifty Nest Box,” “Bear Safety Education” and “Stories from the Ridge” as well as presentations by Zoo Montana and more.

A highlight every year, Raptor Fest will feature an Oktober Fest event from 10am–3pm both days with live music, food and beer in the Jim Bridger Lodge. All skier services will also be open, with discounted pricing on ‘26-’27 season passes through Oct. 31st.

Find a full schedule of Raptor Fest weekend events and learn more at www.bridgerraptorfest.com. The annual celebration promotes an awareness and appreciation for the migration of raptors and other wildlife through the Northern Rockies. •

Winter’s greatest tradition is back

Warren Miller Entertainment presents its 77th annual winter sports film, ***Days Off***, at The ELM in Downtown Bozeman this month. Take part in the global kickoff to winter on Friday, October 30th, with showings at 6pm and 9pm.

This fall, drop in on a new adventure with *Days Off*. Follow host Katie Burrell as the world’s best

athletes show you what they do on their days off – no agenda, no competition... just pure, unscripted joy.

Embark on a global journey from heli-drops in Alaska and high-alpine mountaineering in Chamonix to the legendary powder of Hokkaido, Japan. Take a ride down Banff’s infamous skijoring course, hit the slopes of Deer

Brave Wilderness’ personality presents

Downtown Bozeman’s Ellen Theatre will host wildlife adventurer and internet sensation **Coyote Peterson** on Saturday, October 17th. The single-night experience will feature a presentation by the Brave Wilderness frontman and audience Q&A. Show starts at 2:30pm following a 1pm Meet & Greet.

Known around the world for his fearless wildlife encounters, conservation storytelling, and wildly popular YouTube channel, Coyote Peterson has inspired millions to explore, respect and protect the natural world. From venomous bites and remote jungle expeditions to

unforgettable animal rescues and educational adventures, Coyote’s work has been featured globally and has made him one of the most recognizable wildlife personalities of this generation.

Now, Montana audiences will have the rare opportunity to hear Coyote live and in person as he shares behind-the-scenes stories from his adventures, discusses wildlife conservation, answers audience questions, and brings his passion for the outdoors to the stage in an unforgettable family friendly evening.

Meet & Greet tickets are also available! Join Coyote before the

show for a special pre-event gathering featuring snacks, an exclusive swag bag, and the opportunity to meet Coyote Peterson in person.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the historic Pine Creek School in Livingston, helping fund a much-needed playground revamp for the small rural K–8 school and its students.

Wine, beer and concessions will be sold in the lobby one hour before the event. Ticketing and further information about other upcoming happenings is available at www.theellentheatre.org. For additional inquiries, call the box office at (406) 585-5885. •

Charitable event benefits local survivors

Local nonprofit Haven has announced its special fundraising event will be held against the backdrop of an always radiant autumn. Tinworks at Rialto will host **“Raising Hope”** on Friday, October 23rd. The event begins at 5:30pm.

Join for an evening celebrating what’s possible when survivors have more options. Event organizers will share how Haven is growing beyond emergency response and how this community makes that work possible. Enjoy cocktails, passed appetizers, live music, a live auction, and a

chance to raise hope through our fundraising appeal.

Find ticketing access and additional information at www.haven-mt.org. Festive cocktail attire and comfortable shoes are encouraged for mingling.

This event would not be possible without the support of community sponsors. A big thanks to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties, Bridger Ops, Dick Anderson Construction, First West Insurance, First Western Trust, Forge Fitness, Heyday, Lone Mountain Land Company, Martel

Construction, Millikan Consulting, Squeegie Squad, State Farm Insurance, Toyota, Zoot Enterprises and individual donors.

Haven provides confidential support, survivor legal services, advocacy, counseling, and a safe place to stay for anyone and everyone impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and stalking. Their work empowers survivors, elevates their voices, strengthens our community, holds abusers accountable, and helps stop the cycle of abuse. If you don’t feel respected and safe in your relationship, Haven is a resource for you. •

‘Bowl Bash’ gears up for ski Locals

be open.

Season Passes are on sale now. Enjoy unlimited skiing all season with no black-out dates with the purchase of a season pass. Early purchase rates are as follows: \$1,100 for adults (25-69), \$1,050 for young adults (19-24), \$605 for juniors (13-18), and \$325 for children (7-12). Pre-school aged youth (6 and under) pay only \$15. Senior passes (70-79) are \$605, or \$15 for super seniors (80+).

Adult Midweek Season Passes (19-69) are also available for \$570, or \$450 for seniors (70-79). This will grant access to unlimited skiing Monday through Friday all season. Or get your gloves on the Value

Pass to ski and ride every day excluding blackout dates over busy holidays. These are \$925 for adults (19-69), \$420 for juniors (13-18) and \$265 for children (7-12) through Oct. 31st.

Purchase season passes, upload pass photos, and sign electronic agreements through Bridger’s website. Be “on-line” rather than “in-line.” Go straight to the lifts on opening day! Payment plans and family discounts are available.

The ski area is located on the east slope of the Bridger Mountain Range. For season pass information, visit www.bridgerbowl.com. *Bridger’s projected Opening Day is Dec. 11th.* See you on the slopes! •

Valley, and charge Canada’s finest in Revelstoke, Whistler and Pemberton. *Days Off* captures the

raw, unfiltered heart of mountain culture – a pure celebration of skiing for skiing’s sake and the joy of making time for what matters most.

Since the first film debuted in 1949, Warren Miller has been capturing the stories of skiers and riders across the globe. Each fall, the film tour celebrates the start of the season with the largest gathering of snow enthusiasts.

Advance tickets are \$24 with group discounts available at

www.logjampresents.com or at the door as availability allows. Learn more about this year’s film at www.warrenmiller.com.

Warren Miller Entertainment has been a pioneer in action sports cinematography since 1949. *Days Off* marks the 77th installment of its expansive feature film library. Warren Miller is a division of Pocket Outdoor Media, whose collection of brands serve as a hub for active lifestyle enthusiasts. •

26/27

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The Best of Bozeman 2026

Local faves picked by those who know Best

A subtle southside roar can be heard across town – not from hungry bears wandering the city streets for their fall forage, but from the Bobcat faithful whose roster of student-athletes have returned to the field following a historic Championship win.

This being one of many sounds of the changing season, locals are finding time to enjoy flannel-leaning activities and autumn brilliance while quietly eyeing the mountains, wondering when and how severely the winter hammer will drop.

Prior to a stretch of gatherings among family and friends to a classic holiday soundtrack, the seasonal shift too brings an occasion to celebrate all the reasons we continue to call Southwest Montana home through every turn of the calendar.

The votes have been counted for the annual **Best of Bozeman** community survey, the original roundup of the area's favorite food and beverage destinations, cultural happenings and live music, recreational pursuits and everyday services. As determined by the passionate locals who took the time to weigh in, take a closer look at Bozeman's best.

A piquing interest for indoor entertainment is in the air as the shortened days and lower temps provide a convenient excuse to seek sheltered merriment.

Museum of the Rockies offers an easy way to combine family time with a little education. Visitors can explore the Siebel Dinosaur Complex, catch a show at Taylor Planetarium and take in rotating exhibits, including *Popnology: Celebrating Pop Culture's Impact on Science & Technology* opening this month alongside some spooky events for all age groups. MOR remains the perennial favorite for *Best Place for Family Fun* and *Kids' Activities*.

For a hands-on creative outing, **Arts on Fire** lets visitors turn blank bisque pottery into something considerably more personal. Guests can choose a piece, paint it on-site and have it professionally glazed and fired. Drop-in sessions, parties, specials and events keep the *Best Art or Craft Studio* accessible to all ages and budgets. For those who prefer to make their own masterpieces from scratch, **Hobby Lobby** once again earns *Best Craft / Hobby Store*.

After a celebrated summer run of The Music Man, **The Ellen Theatre** has unsurprisingly been named *Best Live Theatre Venue*. Montana TheatreWorks fills the historic space with productions designed to entertain, educate and inspire while keep-

ing one of Bozeman's landmark stages active. Coming this holiday season, the Ellen stage unwraps Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. Stay tuned for details.

Summer in Bozeman wouldn't feel complete without **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks** making its annual appearance. This season began at the MSU Grove with *The Merchant of Venice* and *Much Ado About Nothing* before the troupe headed out across the 41st and neighboring states. The company continues its mission of bringing professional, free Shakespeare and other classic works to rural and underserved communities.

Bozeman Farmers Market

once again edges out the competition for *Best Local Event*. The weekly summer gathering at Lindley Park brings together growers, artisans, food vendors, nonprofits and musicians for a family friendly evening in the park. A portion of proceeds helps support and improve Bozeman's parks.

Claiming the trophy for *Best Festival* this year is **Big Sky Country State Fair**. The event brings classic Montana summer fun to the Fairgrounds with carnival rides, live music, food, a Biergarten, 4-H and livestock exhibits, a petting zoo and rodeo action. Blending Gallatin Valley's agricultural roots with plenty of summer entertainment, it's a quintessential Bozeman tradition for the whole family.

When the weather turns questionable, **The ELM** provides a reliable roof over the concert crowd. The indoor venue combines strong acoustics, open floor space and balcony views while bringing both touring headliners and local musicians to the stage. The *Best Event and Music Venue* has another busy schedule ahead, including Big Thief, Shovels & Rope, Steel Pulse, Shakey Graves and SoDown.

Fresh off their "Back 2 School" headlining show, **Pinky & the Floyd** have continued reason to celebrate as *Best Local Band*. The popular tribute's performances recreate the sound and atmosphere of Pink Floyd with full albums, deep cuts, elaborate visuals and a large ensemble of musicians and vocalists. The group has its sights set on spring with their "Animals 50th Anniversary Tour" set for March in Missoula and Bozeman.

Of the most significant additions to the local hospitality landscape course been craft libations. For a town surrounded by mountains, rivers and an impressive tolerance for cold weather, it seems only logical homegrown suds and spirits would splash a little something extra on the mosaic.

MAP Brewing once again claims *Best Brewery*, with its Glen Lake location providing one of the better places in town to enjoy both a pint and mountain view. The northside brewery makes its beer on-site, serves scarfable grub and offers plenty of room to spread out. *Best Patio* comes along for the ride, while **Midas Crush IPA** earns *Best Local Beer Flavor*. The brewery's *Tasting Room* also features favorite and rotating *Best Local Beer Crafte* concoctions.

For sheer variety, **SHINE Beer Sanctuary** remains the place to browse the *Best Beer Selection* when choosing what to have poured. The community-minded hotspot offers a deep selection of craft beer on tap, along with cider and wine, while the bottle shop allows customers to continue the experience at home. LaPa Grill & Soup Shack handles the food side of things with tacos, loaded chips, salads and more.

Mountains Walking Brewery pairs its locally crafted beers with a full food menu that deserves plenty of attention of its own. Dishes are made from scratch, with wood-fired pizza, burgers, wings, sandwiches and seasonal specials coming out of the kitchen. The family owned brewery is a go-to for a relaxed meal of the area's *Best Bar Food* and a good pint.

WildRye Distilling brings a distinctly Montana twist to craft spirits, producing small-batch bourbon, rye, gin, vodka and rum from locally grown ingredients. Located in Bozeman's Cannery District, its tasting room offers handcrafted cocktails, flights and bottles to take home. Voted *Best Distillery*, sip on pure bliss with a relaxed, distinctly Bozeman vibe.

The best continues on page 2





The Best
Continues from on page 1

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sweets alongside handcrafted artisan breads. Whether the mission calls for a loaf of bread, homemade pie, cake or a single treat that suddenly becomes three, the returning *Best Bakery* winner has the goods.

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By lunchtime, Bozeman's dining scene has plenty of options for keeping the workday wheels turning. **Revelry** takes over *Best Lunch* this year. Its warm, modern-rustic surroundings provide the backdrop for a social or working meal, with wood-fired pizzas, burgers, pasta and pub-inspired dishes filling out the menu. In and outdoor seating available. Revelry is also your pick for *Best Fine Dining*.

Fink's Delicatessen subs in for *Best Sandwich* this cycle, building on their thoughtfully crafted sandwiches, soups and salads. From classic pastrami and Cubanos to creative vegetarian options, the northside deli also offers a tempting selection of specialty cheeses and charcuterie. It's an easy stop for a quality lunch, takeout or picnic provisions.

Another sammy shop, **Pickle Barrel**, stacks up cold cuts and hot hoagies in halves or wholes, with chips, drinks and desert available for those unwilling to leave lunch at merely one course. Their wallet-friendly menu earns them *Best Inexpensive Restaurant*.

Backcountry Burger Bar operates with a downtown menu built around creative burgers, small plates and salads. Add

something cold from the craft beer selection and you've got a respectable midday recharge. They retain the title of *Best Burger*, with the kitchen serving up its offerings seven days a week.

Cholms Burger keeps things simple with seriously satisfying smash burgers served from its *Best Food Truck* on N 7th. Made with Montana beef and cooked with crisp, seared edges, the burgers come in classic and spicy variations, with beef-tallow fries and fry sauce rounding out the menu. It's casual, no-frills Bozeman burger fare that hits the spot.

Mo'Bowls boxes up your next dash n' dine with *Best Take-Out*. Their menu keeps the mac n' cheese game strong, including a zesty variety that has earned plenty of fans. They sling orders from their brick-and-mortar space in University Square and a mobile unit that pops up at various locations around town.

For a taste of south-of-the-border favorites, **Plaza Azteca** brings a lively taste to the Cannery District. They serve up your *Best Mexican* in the form of traditional plates alongside specialties like birria tacos, ramen, carne asada and fresh tableside guacamole. A full cocktail menu, including margaritas and creative drinks, makes it an easy choice for casual meetings of the mind.

Even though Montana is about as landlocked as it gets, that hasn't stopped Bozeman from developing an appetite for seafood. **Seven Sushi** satisfies the craving with a selection of maki, sashimi and nigiri, often accompanied by sake or Sapporo. The northside restaurant earns both *Best Sushi* and *Place to Eat Seafood*.

Comfortable in its new home, **I-Ho's Korean Grill** continues the family centered tradition established by its founder. Diners can settle in for recipes rooted in generations of cooking while enjoying the casual, welcoming atmosphere. The result once again earns votes for *Best Korean* – a fitting continuation of I-Ho's original vision.

Best Asian goes to **Shan** this year for their marriage of Thai and Chinese flavors using local ingredients. The cozy, dinner-focused spot specializes in flavorful small plates, noodles, curries and barbecue, with area beef, lamb and bison featured throughout the menu. A James Beard finalist a few years back, Shan offers a lively, shareable dining experience with plenty of bold flavors and a distinctly Montana twist.

Pakeezah remains the neighborhood favorite for *Best Indian*. Their menu ranges from flavorful naan and clay-oven specialties to entrées featuring chicken, lamb and goat, with seafood also available. Pair the meal with wine, beer or a traditional Indian beverage and settle in for deliciousness.

Fresco Café is back atop the *Best Italian* category, serving classic dishes with plenty of attention to detail. The intimate downtown setting lends itself nicely to celebrations, date nights or treating dinner as a much more sophisticated affair than the usual weeknight routine. Start with antipasto, select an entrée and leave the bib to its duty.

Sidewinders American Grill continues to be a gathering place for groups, families and anyone looking for straightforward American comfort food. The west end restaurant's roomy setting makes it especially suited to larger parties, while shareable starters help explain its *Best Appetizer* win. It also collects *Best Family Friendly Restaurant* and, as always, supports our brave many service members.

There's a new name on the *Best New Restaurant* plaque, with **Preshift Café & Pizzeria** taking the title in 2026. They bring New York-style pizza downtown, serving whole pies and rotating slices alongside breakfast burritos, smashburgers, sandwiches and salads. House-made dough, quality ingredients and creative specialty *Best Pizza* – including the Proper Pepperoni with hot honey and burrata – make it a versatile stop from lunch hour through late-night slices.

Montana Ale Works continues its reign in the *Best Chef* category, thanks to a kitchen that knows how to give familiar comfort food a little extra horsepower. Housed in a restored freight house, the popular gathering place for *Casual Dining* combines locally sourced ingredients with a substantial Montana craft beer list and lively indoor and outdoor seating. The restaurant also earns *Best Place for a First Date and Restaurant – Dessert*.

Texas Roadhouse wrangles the trophy buckle for *Best Restaurant* in this year's survey. The Western-themed chain has built its following around hand-cut steaks, fall-apart ribs, scratch-made sides and an energetic atmosphere. Judging by the crowds, plenty of Bozeman diners were willing to saddle up. The Roadhouse also claimed the top spot for *Best BBQ* and *Steak*.

There's always room for dessert, especially when **Genuine Ice Cream** is involved. The small-batch creamery makes its ice cream by hand using premium local ingredients and recipes developed in-house. Classic flavors share the case with seasonal experiments and dairy-free selections, earning another *Best Ice Cream Shop* victory. Pick up a scoop at the Peach St shop or hunt down one of those recognizable pink pints around town.

An oldie but a goodie – **The Crystal** is your *Best Bar*. The bona fide Bozeman institution opened its doors in 1933 and has held on to the unpolished character of a classic downtown dive. Known for cheap drinks, quirky décor, strong pours and a lively local atmosphere, the Crystal also features a seasonal rooftop garden that's a popular summer hangout.

Also downtown, **Plonk** continues to attract votes for *Best Cocktails*. The stylish spot pairs an expansive international wine list with creative cocktails, seasonal food and mood enhanced by the space's exposed brick and comfortable seating with plenty of visual appeal. *Best Place for Girls' Night Out* adds another honor to

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On the other side of town, **Granny’s Gourmet Donuts** continues its campaign for the sweet tooth. Traditional glazed rings, rotating specials and other sugary temptations have helped this mom-and-pop operation hold onto *Best Donuts, Pastries & Sweets*. Stop by Friday through Sunday for your fix.

For a breakfast that doesn’t require an Instagram filter, **The Western Café** remains a downtown institution with thanks to its *Authentic Montana Ambiance*. The downtown greasy spoon serves up the sort of substantial American fare designed to fuel a full day of Montana activity. Chicken fried steak and eggs, biscuits and gravy, and Bobcat French toast remain among the draws at the “Last Best Café,” which once again claims *Best Breakfast*.

By lunchtime, Bozeman’s dining scene has plenty of options for keeping the workday wheels turning. **Revelry** takes over *Best Lunch* this year. Its warm, modern-rustic surroundings provide the backdrop for a social or working meal, with wood-fired pizzas, burgers, pasta and pub-inspired dishes filling out the menu. In and outdoor seating available. Revelry is also your pick for *Best Fine Dining*.

Fink’s Delicatessen subs in for *Best Sandwich* this cycle, building on their thoughtfully crafted sandwiches, soups and salads. From classic pastrami and Cubanos to creative vegetarian options, the northside deli also offers a tempting selection of specialty cheeses and charcuterie. It’s an easy stop for a quality lunch, takeout or picnic provisions.

Another sammy shop, **Pickle Barrel**, stacks up cold cuts and hot hoagies in halves or wholes, with chips, drinks and desert available for those unwilling to leave lunch at merely one course. Their wallet-friendly menu earns them *Best Inexpensive Restaurant*.

Backcountry Burger Bar operates with a downtown menu built around creative burgers, small plates and salads. Add

something cold from the craft beer selection and you’ve got a respectable midday recharge. They retain the title of *Best Burger*, with the kitchen serving up its offerings seven days a week.

Cholms Burger keeps things simple with seriously satisfying smash burgers served from its *Best Food Truck* on N 7th. Made with Montana beef and cooked with crisp, seared edges, the burgers come in classic and spicy variations, with beef-tallow fries and fry sauce rounding out the menu. It’s casual, no-frills Bozeman burger fare that hits the spot.

Mo’Bowls boxes up your next dash n’ dine with *Best Take-Out*. Their menu keeps the mac n’ cheese game strong, including a zesty variety that has earned plenty of fans. They sling orders from their brick-and-mortar space in University Square and a mobile unit that pops up at various locations around town.

For a taste of south-of-the-border favorites, **Plaza Azteca** brings a lively taste to the Cannery District. They serve up your *Best Mexican* in the form of traditional plates alongside specialties like birria tacos, ramen, carne asada and fresh tableside guacamole. A full cocktail menu, including margaritas and creative drinks, makes it an easy choice for casual meetings of the mind.

Even though Montana is about as landlocked as it gets, that hasn’t stopped Bozeman from developing an appetite for seafood. **Seven Sushi** satisfies the craving with a selection of maki, sashimi and nigiri, often accompanied by sake or Sapporo. The northside restaurant earns both *Best Sushi* and *Place to Eat Seafood*.

Comfortable in its new home, **I-Ho’s Korean Grill** continues the family centered tradition established by its founder. Diners can settle in for recipes rooted in generations of cooking while enjoying the casual, welcoming atmosphere. The result once again earns votes for *Best Korean* – a fitting continuation of I-Ho’s original vision.

Best Asian goes to **Shan** this year for their marriage of Thai and Chinese flavors using local ingredients. The cozy, dinner-focused spot specializes in flavorful small plates, noodles, curries and barbecue, with area beef, lamb and bison featured throughout the menu. A James Beard finalist a few years back, Shan offers a lively, shareable dining experience with plenty of bold flavors and a distinctly Montana twist.

Pakeezah remains the neighborhood favorite for *Best Indian*. Their menu ranges from flavorful naan and clay-oven specialties to entrées featuring chicken, lamb and goat, with seafood also available. Pair the meal with wine, beer or a traditional Indian beverage and settle in for deliciousness.

Fresco Café is back atop the *Best Italian* category, serving classic dishes with plenty of attention to detail. The intimate downtown setting lends itself nicely to celebrations, date nights or treating dinner as a much more sophisticated affair than the usual weeknight routine. Start with antipasto, select an entrée and leave the bib to its duty.

Sidewinders American Grill continues to be a gathering place for groups, families and anyone looking for straightforward American comfort food. The west end restaurant’s roomy setting makes it especially suited to larger parties, while shareable starters help explain its *Best Appetizer* win. It also collects *Best Family Friendly Restaurant* and, as always, supports our brave many service members.

There’s a new name on the *Best New Restaurant* plaque, with **Preshift Café & Pizzeria** taking the title in 2026. They bring New York-style pizza downtown, serving whole pies and rotating slices alongside breakfast burritos, smashburgers, sandwiches and salads. House-made dough, quality ingredients and creative specialty *Best Pizza* – including the Proper Pepperoni with hot honey and burrata – make it a versatile stop from lunch hour through late-night slices.

Montana Ale Works continues its reign in the *Best Chef* category, thanks to a kitchen that knows how to give familiar comfort food a little extra horsepower. Housed in a restored freight house, the popular gathering place for *Casual Dining* combines locally sourced ingredients with a substantial Montana craft beer list and lively indoor and outdoor seating. The restaurant also earns *Best Place for a First Date and Restaurant – Dessert*.

Texas Roadhouse wrangles the trophy buckle for *Best Restaurant* in this year’s survey. The Western-themed chain has built its following around hand-cut steaks, fall-apart ribs, scratch-made sides and an energetic atmosphere. Judging by the crowds, plenty of Bozeman diners were willing to saddle up. The Roadhouse also claimed the top spot for *Best BBQ* and *Steak*.

There’s always room for dessert, especially when **Genuine Ice Cream** is involved. The small-batch creamery makes its ice cream by hand using premium local ingredients and recipes developed in-house. Classic flavors share the case with seasonal experiments and dairy-free selections, earning another *Best Ice Cream Shop* victory. Pick up a scoop at the Peach St shop or hunt down one of those recognizable pink pints around town.

An oldie but a goodie – **The Crystal** is your *Best Bar*. The bona fide Bozeman institution opened its doors in 1933 and has held on to the unpolished character of a classic downtown dive. Known for cheap drinks, quirky décor, strong pours and a lively local atmosphere, the Crystal also features a seasonal rooftop garden that’s a popular summer hangout.

Also downtown, **Plonk** continues to attract votes for *Best Cocktails*. The stylish spot pairs an expansive international wine list with creative cocktails, seasonal food and mood enhanced by the space’s exposed brick and comfortable seating with plenty of visual appeal. *Best Place for Girls’ Night Out* adds another honor to

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the tally.

Alternatively, **Hide-A-Way Lounge** is a laid-back watering hole offering cold drinks, friendly service and a classic neighborhood bar for your next *Guy's Night Out*. It's a low-key spot to kick back, grab a drink and let the evening unfold.

Brigade brings a little downtown polish to the after-work game, with creative cocktails, good food and a lively Main Street setting. The daily *Best Happy Hour* serves up martinis and draft beers at a discount alongside oysters, starters and shareable plates. It's the kind of place that makes “just one drink” and a quick bite a dangerous promise.

Spectators Sports Bar & Grill is our longtime game-day headquarters, especially for Bobcats fans. With dozens of screens, major sports packages and a menu loaded with wings, burgers, pizza, nachos and other classic bar fare, it's built for settling in and watching the action. The *Best Sports Bar* attracts with daily food and drink specials, full bar and a guaranteed camaraderie for those looking to catch the game with a crowd.

The Jump in Gallatin Gateway is the local destination for country dancing, live music and a healthy dose of Montana tomfoolery. With a spacious floor as the *Best Place to Dance* with regular country bands and DJs, it's the place to pull on the boots, grab a partner and two-step the night away.

Bar IX takes a more specific prize as *Best Place to Meet Singles*. The high-energy downtown bar provides plenty of opportunity for conversation, happy hour mingling and whatever happens after the sun goes down. Add a casual food menu and creekside patio, and the stage is set for a little nighttime socializing. Voters have also settled on Bar IX for *Best Nightlife*.

If singing in public – regardless of any actual ability – is on the agenda, the **American Legion** has you covered. Guided mic nights give aspiring vocalists a microphone and everyone else an opportunity to cheer them on. *Best Karaoke* belongs to the Legion this year.

When last night got a little more ambitious than planned, **Bagel Works** is ready with the *Best Hangover Cure*. Fresh-baked bagels piled with hearty breakfast fillings, sandwiches and plenty of coffee make this standby a reliable destination for shaking off a late one. Put down a bagel and some caffeine before slowly returning to civilization.

For those choosing to responsibly stock their own home bar, **Belgrade Liquor** offers a massive selection of spirits, wine and ready-to-drink options, including plenty of Montana-made choices. Their carefully assembled inventory earns *Best Liquor Store*.

Montana Spirits & Wine offers a different kind of tour – one that requires considerably less travel. With an extensive selection of vino spanning everything from crisp whites and sparkling varieties to robust reds and dessert wines, the shop has an answer for every occasion. Whether you're planning dinner for a crowd or simply looking for something interesting to uncork, this *Best Wine Shop* has you covered.

Cannabis shoppers can find their own version of the local experience at **Collective Elevation**. The dispensary focuses on organic, living-soil-grown cannabis and offers flower, edibles, vapes and concentrates. Two Bozeman locations help make it convenient, while another *Best Dispensary* win confirms that the operation remains a local favorite.

Of course, food, drink and nightlife are only part of what keeps Bozeman moving. Beyond the restaurants and bars is an extensive network of local businesses providing everything from home furnishings and clothing to services that keep residents looking and functioning well.

For something worthy of the wall, **Altitude Gallery** offers an eclectic collection of contemporary work from Montana and beyond. Paintings, pottery, blown glass, jewelry, photography and sculpture fill the gallery, with an emphasis on making original art accessible. The selection earns another *Best Art Gallery* title.

Old Main Gallery & Framing does more than showcase fine Western and contemporary art – it also helps make sure your own treasures look their best. Their custom framing services offer a wide range of styles, materials and finishes, with expert guidance to create a finished piece worthy of the wall. *Best Frame Shop* returns to this local fave.

For treasures with a little more history attached, **Antique Barn** provides plenty of places to dig. Its spacious mall is filled with vendor booths featuring antiques, vintage gifts, custom furniture, yard art and locally made décor. Sales and special events occasionally add to the offerings, while the sheer variety helps it retain *Best Antique Store*.

Sometimes the best furnishing for a room is the one somebody else has already owned. **Used Furniture Store** specializes in clean, quality secondhand pieces, home goods and décor, with thousands of items moving through the store. They also purchase furniture from locals and offer estimates and pickup, earning both *Best Furniture* and *Used Furniture Store*.

A bare table can always use a little life, and **Labellum** is happy to provide it. The modern floral boutique creates seasonal arrangements, carries plants and gifts, and specializes in custom wedding and events. Their work once again earns *Best Florist*.

For those who prefer their entertainment in paperback, **Country Bookshelf** remains the place to browse. The independent bookstore fills two floors with carefully selected titles spanning a wide range of genres, alongside stationery, gifts and

regular author and book-club events. Another *Best Bookstore* win keeps the pages turning.

Musicians have been turning to **Music Villa** since the 70s, and the tradition continues with another *Best Instrument Store* award. The full-service shop carries guitars, amps, drums, keyboards, professional sound equipment and accessories, while repairs, rentals, lessons and in-store performances round out the operation.

Few Bozeman businesses have developed the local cult following of **Cactus Records & Gifts**. Part record store, part novelty emporium and part reliable source of wonderfully weird stuff, the downtown institution stocks new and used vinyl, CDs, cassettes, apparel, gifts and assorted oddities. It remains *Best Record Store* and continues to be a fixture of local Record Store Day festivities.

Somehow, gift-giving season is already knocking on the door, which means **Heyday** shoppers have a head start on finding something that doesn't scream “I bought this at the last minute.” The lifestyle boutique curates home goods, jewelry, stationery, children's items as well as beauty and wellness products, with locally sourced selections mixed among finds from farther afield. *Best Unique Gifts* and *Gifts for Her* both go to Heyday.

For the menfolk, **Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply** continues to be the place to roam. The Western-oriented retailer covers clothing and boots, tools, hardware, sporting goods and outdoor equipment, making *Best Gifts for Him* a natural fit. Murdoch's has also been voted *Best Shoe Store* this year with soles for the whole family.

Reclaiming the crown for *Best Clothing Store* is **EVGREEN Clothing** for their fresh, contemporary edge in Downtown Bozeman's shopping scene. They offer thoughtfully selected apparel, footwear and accessories with an emphasis on everyday style. The fashion-forward needn't look further to add a little personality to the wardrobe without sacrificing Montana practicality.

For jewelry with a little 406 sparkle, **Alara Jewelry** brings together distinctive pieces and ethically sourced materials, including Montana and Yogo sapphires. The downtown gallery also offers custom design, repairs and work produced by its in-house artisans. *Best Place to Buy Jewelry* goes to Alara.

Best Thrift Store **Do Overs** makes the hunt for secondhand treasures part of the fun. The local shop offers a constantly changing mix of clothing, home goods, furniture and other finds, giving savvy shoppers plenty of reasons to browse, dig and see what turns up. It's affordable, sustainable shopping with a little treasure-hunt energy thrown in.

Bozeman Running Company helps locals gear up for miles of Montana adventure, from neighborhood runs to steep mountain trails. The shop carries a carefully selected range of running shoes, apparel and gear, with knowledgeable staff ready to dial in the right fit for whatever terrain you're tackling. They're the *Best Running Shoe Store*.

Once the new footwear is broken in, put it to work on **Peets Hill**, winner of *Best Jogging Trail*. And when spring rolls around, dust off the green gear and join the annual **Run to the Pub**, where runners, costumes, St. Paddy's spirit and post-race beer converge for one of Bozeman's liveliest traditions. It once again earns *Best Timed Foot Race*.

Living in Southwest Montana comes with both reward and complication. As luck would have it, a strong network of local businesses is here to help keep residents supplied, healthy, groomed, entertained and otherwise prepared for whatever the next season throws at us.

For the weekly grocery haul, **Town & Country Foods** stays in the top spot. The employee-owned grocer operates multiple full-service stores stocked with fresh produce, meats, organic and natural foods, plus bakery and deli departments. Their local roots help earn *Best Grocery Store*, while the brew selection brings home *Best Store to Buy Beer*.



The **Community Food Co-op** continues to make shopping with a conscience a

little easier. Its two member-owned locations offer organic, non-GMO and locally sourced groceries, along with a scratch-made deli, bakery and juice bar. Their bulk offerings and sustainability-minded approach help secure *Best Eco-Friendly Products*.

For serious meat procurement, **Daniels Gourmet Meats & Sausages** remains a cut above. Premium beef, poultry, wild-game processing and a full grocery department make it a one-stop shop for carnivores, earning *Best Place to Shop for Meat*.

When it's only the basics you need without committing to a full grocery expedition, **Kagy Korner Store** has the handiness covered. The neighborhood market stocks everyday essentials, snacks and plenty of ice cream, all delivered with a small-town feel. *Best Convenience Store* is theirs once more.

Keeping the house and yard in working order requires a different kind of shopping list, and **Owenhouse Ace** remains

The best continues on page 4

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The Best Continues from page 3

the local hardware heavyweight. Its two Bozeman locations carry tools, home improvement supplies, gardening products and plenty of items for those projects that seemed like a good idea at the time. Helpful staff and local ownership earn another *Best Hardware Store* title.

Fall harvest may be winding down, but gardeners are already thinking ahead to spring. **Cashman Nursery & Landscaping** helps make those future plans possible with plants, trees and garden supplies, along with professional landscaping design and installation. Their healthy selection and full-service approach earn *Best Garden Shop / Nursery*.

Getting around Bozeman without a vehicle can be done (and might be safer), but the Montucky lifestyle often demands four wheels. **Ressler Motors** continues to be the choice *Best Car Dealer* for new and pre-owned vehicles, along with service, parts and financing. Their Collision Center also earns *Best Auto-body* and *Automotive Repair*, making Ressler a one-stop operation when the vehicle needs more than a tank of gas.

Whether you're commuting around town or piling into the rig for a road trip, **Jiffy Lube** keeps things gliding without issue. Quick oil changes, tire services, fluid checks and routine maintenance make it easy to handle the little things before they become bigger problems. No appointment, no lengthy wait bring home *Best Oil Change*.

A pair of categories put the spotlight on keeping those vehicles presentable. **Scrubby's** takes *Best Car Wash* for its self-service setup, while **Swissdetail Inc** delivers the meticulous cabin refresh, earning *Best Auto Detailing*. Whether the truck needs a rinse or the family wagon needs the full spa treatment, both have it covered.

For transportation of the more recreational variety, **Summit Motor Sports** has the toys. ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles fill the lineup, supported by parts and service departments equipped to keep them running. *Best ATV / Motor Sports Store* belongs to the powersports specialists.

When the outdoor adventure is over, **Bozeman Hot**

Springs provides a warm way to call it a day. The natural mineral springs combine soaking with live music from an outdoor stage and a complement of eats from a distinctly Gallatin Valley locale. *Best Hot "Wada"* goes to the popular local venue complete with full gym services.

Canyon River offers another route to relaxation, this one involving a more hands-on approach. Their spa provides massages and a variety of treatments aimed at easing away the accumulated wear and tear of modern life. Revitalize in their eucalyptus steam room or dry Finnish sauna at the *Best Day Spa* and *Place for a Massage*.

When it's time for a new cut, fresh color or a complete hair reset, **Evolve Hair Design** continues to earn the local vote. The contemporary salon offers cuts, custom color and styling from a team of experienced professionals whose work keeps clients coming back. *Best Hair Salon* trims the competition yet again.

For the gentlemen in need of some maintenance, **Legends Barber Club** handles the cleanup. The shop offers classic and contemporary cuts for men and boys, along with beard work and clean shaves. Precision and style earn Legends another *Best Barber Shop* award.

Those looking to permanently decorate the canvas can turn to **The Loyal Sparrow**, a new winner for *Best Tattoo Studio*. The full-service tattoo, piercing and body modification shop has become known for its artists' intricate, otherworldly designs and bold traditional work with custom pieces built around a client's own story. The studio with locations in Bozeman and Belgrade emphasizes clean linework, creativity and a welcoming experience.

Body is top of mind at the **Ridge Athletic Club** offers plenty of ways to put the muscles to work. With locations downtown and on the west end, their expanded facilities include a heated pool, courts, group classes, personal training, recovery amenities and wellness resources. It once again earns *Best Gym / Fitness Center*.

Montana Mixed Martial Arts brings the discipline of MMA and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to the fitness equation. Town's trusted academy emphasizes strength, confidence and confidence while

conditioning, maintaining a low-ego environment. Students can train for competition or drop in to get stronger and fitter, earning another *Best Martial Arts Gym* title.

For those seeking a quieter form of movement, **Ekam Yoga** offers classes for a range of abilities and experience levels. The studio provides a space to work on flexibility, mindfulness and physical wellness while dialing down the noise of everyday life. Check out the upcoming class schedule at your *Best Yoga Studio*.

Tanya's Dance Co. gets the body moving with a little more rhythm. Students of all ages and skill levels can take part in ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop and lyrical classes. Their broad programming earns another *Best Dance Studio* win.

20Twenty Eyecare takes a modern approach to keeping Bozeman's vision in focus, combining comprehensive eye care with a curated selection of eyewear. The *Best Optical Shop* offers routine exams and contact lenses, stylish frames and personalized services. The practice focuses on making healthy eyes and great-looking glasses a natural pairing.

Planning for the future takes more than a crystal ball, and **First Security** offers the financial tools to help customers do it. The *Best Bank* provides personal and commercial banking, loans, mortgages, traditional accounts and mobile services through its statewide branch network.

Pets have plenty of local advocates, too. **Dee-O-Gee** offers food, treats, toys, grooming and daycare, with an emphasis on natural and high-quality products for dogs and cats. Their combination of pet supplies and grooming services earns *Best Pet Groomer* and *Place for Pet Supplies*.

When four-legged family members need more serious attention, **Hardaway Veterinary Hospital** is ready for the call. The full-service practice provides medical, surgical and dental care with an emphasis on compassionate treatment. Bozeman voters once again name Hardaway *Best Veterinary*.

For those considering adding a new furry friend to the household, **Heart of the Valley** remains a crucial community resource. The nonprofit provides shelter, care and second chances for displaced pets while connecting animals with adoptive families. Education and outreach programs round out

the mission, earning another *Best Nonprofit* title.

Dogs have plenty of room to run at **Snowfill Recreation Area**, where broad trails, open hills and mountain views make it an ideal off-leash destination. The year-round space earns *Best Place to Take Your Dog*. For a more centrally located outing, **Story Mill Community Park** once again takes Best City Park.

When it comes to getting outside, **Hiking** remains the obvious crowd pick for *Best Outdoor Activity*. Southwest Montana offers enough trails to keep even the most ambitious outdoor enthusiast occupied, and dogs are frequently part of the expedition. **Lava Lake** provides a manageable challenge – for those who can find parking – when the seasons begin to turn and earns *Best Hiking Trail* this year.

REI Co-op is a one-stop shop for outdoor enthusiasts with *Best Outdoor Gear* offerings of clothing and equipment for hiking, camping, climbing, cycling, snow sports and more. *Best Sports Equipment* goes to **Play It Again Sports**, a budget friendly stop for athletes of all ages, buying and selling quality new and used items from skis and snowboards to bikes, fitness gear and team-sport needs.

For a slower-moving outdoor experience, head toward the **Madison River**. Blue-ribbon trout fishing, spectacular scenery and year-round recreation make it one of the area's defining natural assets. Voters once again name it *Best River*.

Local anglers are hooked on **Yellow Dog Flyfishing** whose extensive selection of flies, rods, reels, waders, boots and tying supplies helped collect *Best Fly Fishing Shop*. Located in Four Corners, the shop also offers local fishing knowledge, licenses and guided trips on legendary area waters.

Owenhouse Cycling gets Bozeman riders ready for everything from pavement to singletrack. Seasonal tire changes, repairs, equipment and knowledgeable advice keep bikes in motion, while their selection of bikes and gear earns another *Best Bike Shop* award.

Golfers have plenty of reasons to make their way west, with **Cottonwood Hills** earning *Best Golf Course*. The facility offers a championship 18-hole layout, a family friendly nine-hole course and mountain views that can make even a bad score feel slightly less embarrassing.

The calendar may insist that fall is still happening, but skiers know what comes next. **Bridger Bowl** will soon be calling, bringing powder, varied terrain and the community-owned *Best Ski Area's* famously relaxed atmosphere back to the slopes. The season is expected to kick off December 11th with the "Community Event Series" returning in the new year. Pray to the snow gods and think positive!

For *Best Place to Experience Nature*, the votes once again head to **Yellowstone National Park**. Though visitors arrive from around the globe, locals have the advantage of being close enough to return again and again. Geothermal features, wildlife and enormous landscapes continue to make America's first national park one of Montana's most remarkable nearby destinations. YNP is also your *Best Overnight / Weekend Getaway*.

When the national news cycle becomes a little too much to stomach, there's always the option of paying attention to what's happening a little closer to home. **KBZK** remains the local source for morning and evening television news, earning both *Best TV Morning* and *Evening News Show*. Viewers can expect local headlines, community stories, live reports and weather updates with a Southwest Montana focus.

For a morning commute accompanied by country music and a few laughs, **KSKY 106.9's Dave Wooten** is the man with the mic. His morning show mixes music with local conversation and community happenings, earning him another *Best Radio DJ* win. The station itself also takes *Best Radio Station*.

Anyone who thinks Bozeman traffic is merely a figment of local imagination has apparently not tried driving through town lately. A street grid designed more than a century ago was never built with today's population, development or now unavoidable congestion in mind. The **11th & Durston** intersection once again earns the dubious distinction of *Best Place for a New Traffic Solution*, remaining a reliable trouble spot – particularly when school is in session.

The Fathers of Bozeman might not be surprised that people keep finding their way here, but wrapping their heads around how that popularity has reshaped the cost of living and pace of everyday life is another matter. Growth has brought new opportunities and plenty of energy, but it has also made keeping up a bit more complicated for the OGs.

Best Use of Taxpayers' Money goes to **Rent Control**, while **Affordable Housing** takes *What Could Make Bozeman Better?* The message from voters is difficult to miss: housing costs have become a central concern in a community where many of the workers who keep the local economy running struggle to afford a spot. Whether recent tax changes and gradually expanding housing options will meaningfully address the problem remains to be seen.

And then there's the one thing that keeps pulling us back outside: **Access to the Great Outdoors**, once again voted *Best THING About Bozeman*. For all the headaches that accompany life in a rapidly changing Southwest Montana, the surrounding mountains, rivers, trails and open spaces remain an extraordinary escape hatch. A few hours breathing mountain air can put plenty of our growing pains back into perspective – and serves as perhaps the simplest reminder of why, through all the change, we're still home. •

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