

# December 2016

- Spotlight: Bitterroot Bison Co.
- Holiday Happenings!
- First Night Missoula Returns



**President's Column**  
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I was drying my hands in the bathroom at the Burns Street Bistro recently when I was stopped in my tracks by the bold command of an Indoor ad on the wall: **Support Someone's Dream**. At a closer look, I realized I was looking at an MDA ad promoting shopping Downtown this holiday season. What a beautiful way to sum up in such few words what it means to open a business in Downtown Missoula.

As I finished up my breakfast burger (that's not a typo), I noodled on this statement. Here I was, eating with my family at an establishment that began as just that, a dream. In fact, I recently learned from one of Burns Street's owners at a MDA luncheon that Burns Street's initial dream was to have a food truck at Draught Works. They were using the community kitchen on the Westside as their commissary, and while during the building of their mobile trailer, they started making and serving sandwiches. They found success in that endeavor, and moved on to making eggs on a panini press to serve the requests of the breakfast crowd. Years later, their weekday lunch and weekend brunch are some of the most popular in Missoula. Was that their dream, or did the support of our community push this business operation beyond their wildest aspirations?

Our vibrant Downtown is truly the realization of dreams. Stories like this one abound when you talk to shop owners. In fact, it is likely happening anew for someone right at this moment.

Downtown was built on dreams. Dreams such as creating community and accommodations

that are uniquely Missoula like the Shady Spruce Hostel offers. Dreams of helping people balance their mind, body and soul through sensory deprived floating at the newly-opened Enlyten Labs. Dreams of offering Missoulians affordable and convenient healthy food, whether it be via a bowl of greens and grains or a body-cleansing green juice at the Green Source.

One can also find the well-established dreams of businesses like Office City, who opened their doors 100 years ago and have continued through generations to keep our Downtown office supply needs met. It's also my personal favorite spot for a 50 cent Coke and a perfectly small bag of Jelly Bellies.

I found myself thinking of the businesses I loved when I first moved here in the 90's, someone's dreams that have come and gone. Pat's Hi-way Cafe where you could get an amazing breakfast for under \$5 and service by the grumpiest and most loveable duo in town. Fran's Second Hand where I found the perfect mirror. The Brink Gallery where my mind was blown as I watched an artist live in the gallery for an entire month as his own installation.

Dreams come to fruition not only as someone's business idea, but as a landscape feature for the community to enjoy free of cost.

The Missoula Art Museum's Art Park comes to mind. As do roundabouts, dedicated bike lanes and Murals depicting our history. A fountain that gurgles away as one eats their lunch or plays a game of chess nearby.

I am so impressed by the marketing the MDA does for its members. It's hard to sum up what we love so much about our Downtown, and I believe this time, they nailed it. ■



MissoulaDowntown.com

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## What's Happening this December in Missoula?

The **MCT Center for the Performing Arts** presents "A Christmas Story: The Musical". Deck the halls with fishnet leg lamps, a triple-dog dare, and a coveted Red Ryder BB gun! 7:30 pm, December 1-18 at MCT.

The **Missoula Fairgrounds** has a great weekend in store for December 9-11! The Lions Club Tree Sale will continue in the Llama Barn all weekend long. The Little Red Truck European Holiday Market will be throughout the grounds Friday and Saturday, December 9-10, and the Bruins will host home games at the Glacier Ice Rink Friday and Saturday, December 9-10. It will be a great weekend for unique holiday shopping opportunities and hockey fun!

**Missoula's Holiday MADE Fair** is December 11 at 11am in the Adams Center. In its 10th year, with over 190 local and regional artists, Missoula's Holiday MADE Fair will be the biggest one yet. The alternative crafts fair offers a variety of vendors for all the different types of shoppers. From adventure gear, ceramics, photography, jewelry to wearables, upcycled items and woodworking. With three levels of shopping at the Adams Center you are bound to find exceptional one-of-a-kind gifts!

The **Zootown Arts Community Center** has a wealth of talent from our staff, board, members, studio holders, and volunteers that often goes unseen. This December they're coming out from behind the great curtain and unveiling the talent that hides in the people that comprise your community arts center. This year's theme, "Self Portraits", promises to surprise viewers with the variety of mediums and interpretations. Learn more about your non-profit art center by seeing through the eyes of the people intimately involved with the ZACC.



## Holiday Happenings Downtown!

**D**owntown is hosting a large number of community happenings aimed at creating a welcoming atmosphere for shoppers and families in Downtown Missoula. Free carriage rides provided by The Resort at Paws Up, and sponsored by Lithia Ford of Missoula, will take place every Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm on East Pine Street starting on November 26 and continuing until December 18.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the Liquid Planet Downtown (223 N. Higgins) Saturdays and Sundays from 12-3pm December 4 through December 18.

Finally, holiday shoppers can bring their gifts to the MSO Hub from November 26 through December 23 for free gift wrapping from volunteers of various non-profits and service groups. Downtown shoppers can get their gifts wrapped during normal business hours. ■

## City Seeking Comments on S 5th St W and S 6th St W Transportation Function and Safety Analysis

**A**fter requests from the surrounding neighborhood, the City of Missoula studied South 5th and 6th Streets. W to see if any reconfigurations are feasible that may help address perceived issues of speeding, congestion, and safety for all users, especially people biking and walking. The study is available online at [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/bikeped](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/bikeped). The City is seeking feedback on the study and the different options for reconfiguration.

Please take the short survey on the website above or email Ben Weiss, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager at [bweiss@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:bweiss@ci.missoula.mt.us) with comments. Below you can find the proposed timeline for the project:

**Thursday, November 3** – Informational Public Meeting at Missoula Senior Center

**Wednesday, November 9** – Informational Presentation to City Council Public Works Committee

**Friday, December 2** – Public comment period closes

**Wednesday, December 7** – Public Works Committee discussion of options

**Wednesday, December 14** – Public Works Committee decides preferred alternative ■



## Bitterroot Bison Co. Brings Ethical and Tasty Meat to Western Montana

### New Member Spotlight

By Larry Brehm

Lawrence K. Brehm, A.I.A., Architect

**B**itterroot Bison Co. was started 16 years ago. Troy Westre raised bison for ten years, starting with one bull and five heifers, before partnering with Chris Mack six years ago in Lolo. Chris and Troy's ranch of several hundred acres is located in the north Lolo neighborhood on the east side of Hwy. 93. Many have seen the ranch, and the Bitterroot Bison Co. sign, on the left on your way south just past the "Big Tree". Troy, who maintains the ranch mostly by himself with some help, also runs two other bison herds, one in Stevensville and one out west on Mullan Road.

Bitterroot Bison Co. currently provides fresh, field-butchered (low stress) bison meat to several restaurants like Lolo Peak Brewery and Lochsa Lodge. While Troy's in the pastures with the herds, his wife Candy, their son Zach and business partner Thomas Kreis, run the



food truck and catering business. If you haven't tried their bison tacos or bison breakfast burritos, you've missed a couple of truly great Montana experiences.

Once again putting Missoula on the map as a special place, Bitterroot Bison Co. is the only "Humane Certified" buffalo ranch in the country. The bison are pasture fed. No grain-fed, feedlot bison in this bunch. And, compared to cattle, with bison there's no branding, de-horning, vaccinating or castrating involved in the maintenance of the herd. They breed naturally without any artificial insemination and they require very few "assisted" births. Having visited the herd and having tasted the product, this reporter can attest to the fact that these animals are truly calm and really delicious. ■

## Downtown Decor Lining the Streets Again

MDA & MDF Still Raising Funds for

Electrical Repairs

**F**or more than 25 years, the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) and the City of Missoula have partnered together to decorate Downtown for the holidays. The MDA owns and maintains close to 150 decorations: candles, Christmas Trees, and white snowflakes. City Urban Forestry Division employees hang and take them down each year.

With the infrastructure nearly 30 years old, the MDA and the MDF have partnered to raise funds for electrical upgrades for the last two years. Last year all the electrical outlets on the street lights were replaced at a cost of \$20,000. This year's goal is to replace all the electrical wiring between the street lights, which is expected to cost \$35,000.

"We still have about \$15,000 we need to raise in order for the wiring upgrades to be completed," said Geoff Badenoch, President of the MDF Board of Directors. "If we meet our goals for this year's Friends of Downtown Campaign," we should have enough resources to see that project through."

All Missoulians are encouraged to support the Friends of Downtown Campaign by sending a tax-deductible donation to the MDF at 218 East Main Street before the end of the year. More information can be found online at: [www.missouladowntown.com/about/mdf](http://www.missouladowntown.com/about/mdf).

Major contributors to funding holiday décor upgrades include the Downtown Business Improvement District, Dr. Steve Kempel, Point S Tire Factory, and many other individuals and businesses.

"When the Downtown decorations go up, it's a sign that the holiday season is upon us," said Aimee McQuilkin, President of the Missoula Downtown Association Board of Directors. ■



Mark your calendar now for The Carousel's Annual Santa's Breakfast on Saturday, December 17 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Light breakfast, chats with Santa, and Carousel rides all included in the low fee of \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 2 to 12 and free for kids under 2!



Give anyone the gift of Downtown with a Missoula Downtown Gift Card!  
Accepted at over 170 Businesses!  
Available for purchase at the Downtown Missoula Partnership, MSO Hub and online at [missouladowntown.com](http://missouladowntown.com)

*Please submit member shout outs by the 18th of each month to [info@missouladowntown.com](mailto:info@missouladowntown.com)*

## Shout Outs

**Missoula County Fairgrounds** presents the 2nd Annual EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS Market on **December 9 at 5 pm**. Last year over 3,000 happy shoppers enjoyed two days of epic Vintage, Handmade and Holiday Shopping, artisanal baked goods, hot beverages, savory food, live music, and SANTA CLAUS! Three buildings full of Vintage goodness to explore plus an open air market with warming bonfires, warming hot spiced wine (German Gluwein) and twinkly Christmas lights. Don't miss the magic this year. Visit [www.littleredtruckvintagemarket.com](http://www.littleredtruckvintagemarket.com) for more information.

**The Missoula Area Ducks Unlimited Chapter is holding their 2016 Annual Banquet Saturday, December 10**, at the Double Tree Hotel. Funds will go to support the conservation of America's Wetlands and Waterfowl Population. Event begins at 5pm and will feature raffles, auctions, dinner, and much more. Tickets are \$50/single and \$95/couple and include a DU membership. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ducks.org/montana/events](http://www.ducks.org/montana/events) or by calling Bridger Pierce at 406-581-8971.

**Missoula Public Library presents Dreidels, Dreidels, Dreidels! on Saturday, December 17**. During the program, kids and their parents will decorate wooden dreidels, learn how to play the game dreidel, and then participate in a game of dreidel. 2-4pm in the Children's Department.

**Imagine Nation Brewing** invites you to journey to the Emerald Isle every week without leaving the Big Sky. The Craicers and Friends play their weekly session of Irish Traditional Music at Imagine Nation **Thursday, December 20 from 6-8pm**. Bring a friend, grab a beer, and join in the magical vibe created by Irish music and pub culture.