

June 2016

- Spotlight: Stockman Bank
- Out to Lunch & Downtown To-Night Return
- New MDA Members



**President's Column
by Aimee McQuilkin**
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You know that saying that what's trending in Portland or San Francisco will come around to Missoula in 3-5 years? I detest that saying, and I'll tell you why: Missoula is a trendsetter, plain and simple. We've been ahead of the game for years, for example...

One of the early trailblazers of the craft beer movement is Missoula's very own Bayern Brewery. Jurgen Knoller was originally hired as the master brewer for Bayern in 1987, back when pretty much every bar in town only served three types of yellow beer. That year, a record-breaking 15 microbreweries opened in the US and Bayern was one of them! The movement was in such infant stages then that Knoller had to cross the border to Canada in order to source the yeast cakes necessary for brewing beer. Now there are close to 3,000 microbreweries across the country. Trendsetting, right?

Eating local has long been a priority to Missoulians. Take a walk along the Clark Fork River into Hellgate Canyon and see evidence of the farms that historically covered our valley. The first Missoula Farmers Market began offering locally grown produce back in 1972. May through October, the Downtown sidewalks are jam-packed with folks and their market loot of fresh and local greens, meats, cheeses, soap, coffee, vegan donuts, honey, Iraqi flatbread...the list goes on and on! That's some serious commitment to the slow food movement.

Food trucks are undoubtedly all-the-rage with foodies across the country and though we are just starting in on food truck lots in

Missoula (have you had the burger with the bacon jam from Wally and Buck's in the parking lot next to the Southside Kettle House yet? It will change your life!), Missoula has been at the forefront of the mobile food scene since the first Out to Lunch in 1985. Wood-fired pizza, authentic tacos, creative ice cream, Thai, Indian, fusion of the two - you name it, and you can find it Wednesdays at Caras Park from 11 am - 2 pm. This year ushers in a handful of new vendors, as well as your favorites from years past. More of a night owl? Find yourself Downtown late on a Friday or Saturday night and Front and Main Street will be dotted with plenty of options for the discerning eater on-the-go.

Ask your computer where river surfing started, and after reading a bit about Munich, Germany being its birthplace in the early 1970s, you'll see our very own city and state highlighted as being one of the four river surf capitals of North America. Nowadays, action shots of surfers on the Clark Fork is Missoula's brand. Nobody blinks an eye at wetsuit clad individuals crossing Higgins Ave Bridge at all hours. When I have out-of-town visitors, getting ice cream from the Big Dipper and watching the sunset and the surfers is #1 on my list of things to do. Cities across the country are scrambling to build their own waves after seeing the success of Brennan's Wave right here in Downtown Missoula.

I could go on, but I think my point has been made. We live and work in a creative and progressive community that breeds forward-thinking recreational trends and small businesses. What are we doing now in Missoula that the hipsters across the Northwest will be all over in 5 years? I can't wait to see. ■

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



MissoulaDowntown.com

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Past President

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Anders Brooker..... Runner's Edge

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Matt Ellis..... Missoula Osprey/Uptown Diner
Anne Guest..... Missoula Parking Commission
John Horner.....First Interstate Bank
Kim Klages-Johns.....MSO Hub
Diane Lanning..... Providence/St. Patrick Hospital
Scott MacIntyre.....Badlander/GPA ATM
Brooke Redpath.....METTLE
Chad Strickland.....Liquid Planet

Ex Officio Members

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Corey Aldridge.....Mountain Line
Shane Stack.....MT Dept. of Transportation
James Grunke.....Missoula Economic Partnership

Downtown Partnership Staff

Linda McCarthy.....Executive Director
Leidy Wagener.....Membership & Events Director
Kristen Sackett.....Marketing & Events Director
Robert Giblin.....Finance & Administration Director
Madeleine Hoyt.....Customer Service Coordinator
Will Greenway.....Community Development
Sarah Ferguson.....Operations Coordinator

Out to Lunch & Downtown ToNight Kick-Off This Month

After five months of planning and preparation, the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) will launch the 31st annual Out to Lunch Summer Series on Wednesday, June 1 and the 16th annual Downtown ToNight Summer Series on Thursday, June 2. These free summer outdoor concerts events take place every week through June, July and August in Caras Park in the heart of Downtown Missoula.

The Out to Lunch Summer Series was started in 1986 and is the longest-standing outdoor food and music event in Montana. Each Wednesday during lunchtime from 11 am to 2 pm, folks can enjoy live music free of charge and/or purchase lunch from one of 23 food trucks and vendors in the park.

The Downtown ToNight Summer Series was created in 2001 and modeled after the very successful Out to Lunch program. Every Thursday after work from 5:30-8:30 pm, Missoula families and their guests enjoy adult beverages, food trucks, live music and children's playtime in Caras Park.

Seven new food trucks and vendors will be joining the fun, bringing lots of interesting and dynamic food choices to the mix. Those new vendors include Big Thai Country Food Truck, Butte Pasty Company, Ina's Indian Tacos, Kayle, Knuckleheads BBQ (returning after a 10-year leave), the Taco Treat Truck, and Wally & Buck. Of course many of Missoula's beloved favorites will also be serving up a wide variety of excellent foods for both programs.

Drawing close to 80,000 attendees over the course of the 13-week schedule, Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight are funded entirely by Missoula-area businesses or organizations that purchase sponsorships, as well as vending fees. Nearly 70 businesses and organizations are supporting the programs this year.



Sen. Bernie Sanders holds a rally in Caras Park on May 11 to an enormous and enthusiastic crowd. Citizens from around Montana made the trip to Missoula to see the Presidential Candidate speak.

(Photo by Leidy Wagener)

A Perfect Day to Taste Brews

24th Annual Garden City BrewFest Kicks off MDA Events Season

The 24th annual Garden City BrewFest took place Saturday, May 7, 2016 in Caras Park and with a picturesque 80 degree weather day, Caras Park and all of Downtown was abuzz. The Garden City BrewFest again served as the grand finale of the uber successful 5th annual Missoula Craft Beer Week. Joan Zen kicked off the event following an introduction and event welcome by Mike Smith of the Trail 103.3. Gladys Friday hit the stage at 2:30 and Alanya Wissink, also of the Trail 103.3, closed out the night by introducing the final band, The John Adam Smith Band.

"While the crowds didn't swell to the huge amounts we've seen in years past, it actually made for a fantastic experience for those who attended," said Kristen Sackett, Marketing and Events Director for the MDA. "The beer lines were quick and there was ample space for everyone. We hope we showed folks that Garden City BrewFest is the premier brewfest in Missoula and isn't to be missed. We can't thank all of the breweries, food vendors, and volunteers enough for helping to make this event a success."

The MDA also can't give enough thanks to Bayern Brewing Compa-

ny, Mclean Properties, the Missoula Independent, The Trail 103.3, and Montana Distillery for their sponsorship and support of Garden City BrewFest #24. ■



**GIVE
LOCAL
MISSOULA
COUNTY**

**Thank You for Making
Give Local 2016 a
Success!**

Because of your generous donations during Give Local Missoula on Tuesday, May 3, the Missoula Downtown Foundation raised over \$2,000!

A special THANK YOU to the **Muralt Family Foundation** for their generous \$1,000 match!

**Muralt Family
Foundation**

Stockman Bank Brings Their Community Commitment to Downtown

New Member Spotlight

By Brooke Redpath

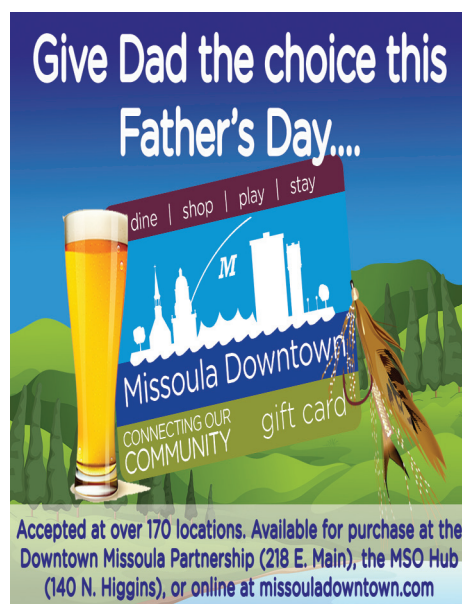
Mettle Strategic Marketing Solutions

Stockman Bank, Montana's third largest bank, was founded in 1953 and proudly serves customers in 34 locations statewide. They are the largest private, family-owned bank in Montana and operate with a deep commitment to community banking. This is the driving force behind the expansion to Missoula. Stockman Bank has a significant investment in Downtown Missoula with the six-story bank now under construction on Broadway. The new building positions Stockman Bank as a premier financial center in Downtown Missoula. The LEED Platinum designation has resulted in a recycling rate of approximately 90% for the demolition project materials and a significant investment to beautify the Downtown area by burying two blocks of overhead utility poles and lines.

Existing branches at 135 West Main and 1243 Burlington Avenue provide complete banking services with future locations planned for Brooks and also Reserve. Local decision-making, employee involvement, and community pride contribute to the vibrancy and de-



velopment in areas where Stockman Bank does business. Built on western values, Stockman Bank's focus is on creating long-standing relationships through integrity, expertise, and results. ■



Wells Fargo Gifts Major Grant to Missoula Downtown Foundation

Wells Fargo Bank has granted \$18,000 to the Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF) to support its efforts to raise awareness for the organization and funds for Downtown projects. The Capacity Building & Development Grant will help the MDF with promotion and outreach, fundraising, and organizational development initiatives.

With support from Kym Black, Vice President Senior Business Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo in Missoula, the three-year, capacity-building grant will be directed towards development of a promotional video, development of a Montana license plate, place-making initiatives, implementation of the old parking meter art project, development of an intern-

ship program for the Foundation, and creation of a long-range strategic plan for the Missoula Downtown Foundation.

"This grant from Wells Fargo will help the Missoula Downtown Foundation elevate its profile in the community and support the effort to implement the Downtown Master Plan," Black said. "Along with its partners, the Missoula Downtown Foundation is well positioned to help create more economic growth in Missoula. Wells Fargo is excited to support these efforts and be more involved in building our local economy. We are pleased to help support the Foundation in its efforts to build a better Downtown for future generations." ■

**WELLS
FARGO**

Welcome New Members!

Big Sky Breakout

Jaime Rauch
307 North 2nd Street W
(406) 493-0528
info@bigskybreakout.com

RBC Wealth Management

Merritt Chisholm
125 Bank St
(406) 728-0035
www.rbcwmfa.com/missoula

Providence Montana Health Foundation

Fran Albrecht
502 W Spruce St
(406) 203-9322
www.montana.providence.org/

Downtown Missoula Partnership Welcomes Summer Interns

The Downtown Missoula Partnership Internship Program began in 2010 to provide mutually beneficial opportunities for both employer and student. For students, these internships provide valuable real world experience including industry exposure, resume building and learning applications. For employer, enhanced relationships and vital project assistance. This program has grown considerably since inception and the Downtown Missoula Partnership is now happy to host between three and five interns per semester.

Currently, the Downtown Missoula Partnership has four interns for the summer of 2016. Junior Amanda Nogleby is the Marketing and Events Intern. Senior Ava Pepprock is the Membership and Events Intern. Non-student Shaelynn Zaurini is the Community Development Intern. Junior Elli Sullivan is the Business Development/Accountancy Hybrid Intern. All four interns are assisting with vital projects including Out to Lunch, Downtown To-Night, The Garden City River Rod Run, River City Roots Festival, Downtown business and property inventory, GIS mapping, and accounting. The Downtown Missoula Partnership is fortunate to have these dedicated individuals as part of its staff. ■

How is the MDA Connecting Our Community This Month?

Advocacy

- Seeking funds for an additional Dedicated Downtown Police Officer.
- Working on updates to the city dog laws.
- Tracking activity on the Missoula Mercantile.

Marketing

- Final edits to Downtown promotional video being completed. Check our website for video's release.

Master Plan

- Annual update on Master Plan Accomplishments to the Missoula City Council and others.
- Major development and transportation projects on the horizon.

Membership

- New member recruitment is ongoing.
- Reaching out to members for donation raffle items for the Member BBQ. If you would like to donate an item, contact leidy@missouladowntown.com.

Events

- Out to Lunch and Downtown To-Night begin in June.
- Coordinating art show participants for River City Roots Fest.
- River City Roots Fest sponsorship sales are ongoing.

*Please submit member shout outs by the 18th of each month to
info@missouladowntown.com*

Shout Outs

Don't miss the **WEAR IT AGAIN Jewelry Sale** on Saturday, June 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. Anthony Church, 217 Tremont. Shop a huge selection of recycled jewelry, including costume and fine items, earrings, bracelets, vintage pieces, watches, men's accessories and more. All proceeds benefit programs and services for older adults at Missoula Aging Services.

Please join the Montana Natural History Center on Wednesday, June 15th for their **25th Anniversary Community Celebration**. This free community event takes place from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm in the parking lot of the Montana Natural History Center- 120 Hickory Street- and is fun for the entire family! The first 100 people will enjoy a free ice cream cone or a beer. Food vendors include: The Big Dipper, Big Sky Brewing, Covered Wagon Hotdogs, Big Thai Country and El Cazador. Enjoy live music by The Salamanders, center tours, kids' activities and more! This free community event is sponsored by Destination Missoula who is generously sponsoring free museum admission May 30-September 6. Thanks for joining us to celebrate 25 years of connecting people with nature. For more information, please visit www.montanaturalist.org.

Nature-made Art with Janaina Vieira-Marques, 9 AM - 12 PM, \$72/80, Ages: 6-11, June 20-24. Look to the trees and skies for inspiration as you venture into Missoula's green spaces for your creative spark. Drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture will all be made using nature as a starting point, and sometimes even as the raw material. Field trips will take you to the Clark Fork River and Greenough Park. You will end the week with a hand-made portfolio of your creations. Scholarships are available for classes and workshops! Call Renee at 406.728.0447 or email her at reneet@missoulaart-museum.org.



Flowers Back in Downtown Baskets

Staff and volunteers of the Downtown Missoula Partnership hung the beloved Downtown Flower Baskets on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:30 pm in Downtown Missoula. Six individuals were on-hand to hang 95 flower baskets created by Pink Grizzly at various locations around the Downtown area.

The Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) has been responsible for the Downtown Flower Baskets since 1981, and has expanded the program over the years. This year the MDA will spend \$10,000 on the flower baskets, and annually it allocates 15% of its membership dues to Downtown improvements.

"The MDA allocates a lot of resources on the Downtown Flower Baskets, and we are proud of our long-standing partnership with Pink Grizzly on the baskets," said Aimee McQuilkin, President of the MDA Board of Directors. "Shane Clouse and his staff help train our team on watering and fertilization, and with his support, we have made big improvements over the years."

The MDA waters the flowers each morning at 6 am seven days a week from mid-May through September and sometimes into October.

The baskets are watered a sec-
(continued right)

ond time in the evenings when the temperature reaches 80 degrees or higher. In partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District, the MDA purchased a watering vehicle and tank in 2014 to supplement the hand-cart watering equipment.

The baskets are hung from street lights all along Higgins Avenue from the Northern Pacific Railroad Building to Hellgate High School on both sides of the street. Baskets are also hung on Front, Main, and Broadway from Pattee to Orange with a few baskets on Pine Street and in Caras Park. ■

Holiday Decor Phase 2 Upgrades Estimated at \$35,000

Summer is an interesting time to talk about the holidays, however, Downtown Missoula's electrical infrastructure for the holiday decorations has been deemed unsafe and outdated.

Phase 2 of the Downtown Holiday Décor Electrical Upgrades has been estimated at \$35,000, so the Missoula Downtown Association and the Missoula Downtown Foundation are seeking grants and donations to help fund the capital improvement project.

The electrical wire system connects power to each of the 150 holiday decorations on Downtown street lights, and the original system north of the river has degraded over the course of the last 40 years. Necessary upgrades include new conductors for each location and replacement of the circuit wires and lighting control equipment.

Tax-deductible donations to this project can be directed to the Missoula Downtown Foundation. For more information, contact Linda McCarthy via phone (543-4238) or email (linda@missouladowntown.com). ■



16th Anniversary
**GARDEN CITY
RIVER ROD RUN**
June 24 & 25 @ Caras Park
Downtown Missoula, Montana



Register Online at missouladowntown.com/carshow or submit promotional materials for your business to be included in welcome bags, contact leidy@missouladowntown.com.

Congrats to Missoula County Public Schools Graduates

An estimated 940 high school seniors will graduate from Missoula County Public Schools the first weekend in June. Most of the graduation activities will take place Saturday, June 4 at the UM Adams Center. Sentinel High School will open the day with a 9 am ceremony. Big Sky High's commencement will be at high noon, and Hellgate High will commence at 3 pm. Loyola High's Graduation was May 22.



Hundreds Expected for Inaugural Montana Bicycle Celebration



Hundreds of people from all over the world and throughout the United States have already made plans to travel to western Montana for the inaugural Montana Bicycle Celebration, July 14 - 17, 2016. The celebration will commemorate the 40th anniversary of Bikecentennial and the completion of the Missoula to Lolo Trail. The weekend will include free, supported bike rides on the Bitterroot Trail, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new trail at Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo, a bicycle expo at Silver Park in Missoula, Sunday Streets in Downtown Missoula, and many other social events to be enjoyed.

The Bitterroot Trail bike rides will range from 10 to 100 miles, making the event inclusive to people of all ages and experience levels, from kids riding with training wheels to veteran Bikecentennial cyclists. Register for the free ride and optional one-way shuttles (for a nominal fee) at MontanaBikeCelebration.com by June 30.

Many of the guests planning to be part of the Montana Bicycle Celebration also participated in Bikecentennial, a 4,250-mile cross country bike ride with over 4,000 cyclists to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States, in the summer of 1976. Bikecentennial was planned in Missoula, and later became Adventure Cycling Association with a mission to inspire and empower people to travel by bicycle. Today, the national nonprofit organization has over 50,000 members and more than 45,000 miles of bicycle routes, including the original TransAmerica Trail that was created for Bikecentennial.

According to a study by the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, touring cyclists spend \$75 to \$103 per day and stay an average of eight or more nights in Montana. Partners of the Montana Bicycle

Celebration and the communities along the trail want to highlight the completed Bitterroot Trail as a tourism destination. A new website, BitterrootTrail.com provides year-round resources about businesses and services along the trail and serves as the event website for the Montana Bicycle Celebration.

The Montana Bicycle Celebration will continue each year as an annual event, thanks to a partnership between Adventure Cycling Association, Destination Missoula, Bike Walk Bitterroot, Bike Walk Alliance for Missoula, Missoula Parks and Recreation, Missoula in Motion, Missoula County Parks and Trails, Travelers' Rest State Park and Windfall. ■



Montana's Primary Election Day is June 7

It's a Presidential Election Year, and Missoula County voters will also have the opportunity to vote for Missoula County Commission candidates.

Most city and county offices will be closed, and there will be free parking in Downtown Missoula. Polling places are open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Same-day registration is open at the Elections Center, located at the Missoula County Fairgrounds for the same times.



SAVE THE DATES: June at Caras Park



Airsteam Expo

Saturday, June 4
8 am- 10 pm
Caras Park



Big Sky 21st Anniversary

Friday, June 17
4-10 pm
Caras Park



MADE Fair

Sunday, June 26
10 am- 5 pm
Caras Park

Member BBQ July 12

Mark your calendars and join us for our Annual Member BBQ in Caras Park on Tuesday, July 12 from 5-8 pm! Food, music and fantastic raffle prizes from our members will be plentiful.

If you are interested in donating a prize for the raffle, contact Leidy Wagener at leidy@missouladowntown.com