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local/state/downtown

June 6, 2017

K.Sackett

Missoula, Montana

DOWNTOWN MISSOULA'S WEEKLY FREE SUMMER CONCERTS CONTINUES WITH LAUNCH OF OUT TO LUNCH JUNE 7

Downtown employees have another option for lunch during the summer. The 32nd annual *Out to Lunch Summer Series* in Caras Park kicks off its 13-week schedule on Wednesday, June 7. *Out to Lunch* 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, Missoula families, friends, and visitors enjoy Missoula's best food trucks from local vendors, live music, and activities for kids. **You Knew Me When** takes the stage on June 7 and **Childbloom Guitar** will provide the kids' activity.

Out to Lunch's sister event, *Downtown ToNight*, which kicked off last week on Thursday, June 1, was launched in 2001 and is held every Thursday evening in Caras Park from 5:30 – 8:30pm.

Long-time, local favorites are a major theme with the bands set to take the stage for *Out to Lunch* with **The Retrotones** (June 14), **Erik "Fingers" Ray** (June 28), **Bob Wire & the Bob Wire Trio** (July 12), **Salsa Loca** (July 26), and **Mudslide Charley** (August 9).

While free music is a draw for the community, experiencing different foods from Missoula's best food trucks are a large part of the overall experience. Local favorites such as Big Dipper, Clove Cart Pizza, El Cazador, Masala, and Sa Wad Dee will be among the communities' 'must haves' again this year. New vendors include Bitterroot Bison, Crepematic, Gumbo Bus, Ina's Indian Tacos, and What's a Viking – all of whom bring new and diverse offerings for attendees.

Parking is available in the New Park Lot of Caras Park and folks can either pay for parking at the digital parking meters or via the new Passport Parking app (Zone #4063). Folks are encouraged to take advantage of 'first-hour-free' parking in the parking structures that are located within a short walking distance to Caras Park (E. Front Street and W. Main) as parking in New Park lot can be limited.

For a fun and unique experience, attendees can ride the Mountain Line Trolley for free to Caras Park. Folks can pick up the trolley anywhere along Higgins Ave. between Dornblaser Park & Ride and Caras Park every 20 minutes. Free rides on the trolley are made possible thanks to support from Blackfoot, Missoula in Motion, and the Missoula Parking Commission.

"Downtown Missoula is currently the best place to be in Missoula," said Anders Brooker, President of the MDA Board of Directors and owner of Runner's Edge on North Higgins. "Downtown ToNight and Out to Lunch serve as a consistent favorite of not only the local community, but the business community as well. Both of these events help to foster opportunities for engagement, enjoyment, commerce and comradery in Downtown."

Drawing close to 80,000 attendees over the course of the 14-week schedule, Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight are supported by Missoula-area businesses or organizations via sponsorships, as well as vending fees. Nearly 50 businesses and organizations are supporting the programs this year, including Zip Beverage, Mountain Line, Blackfoot, Missoula Pediatric Dentistry, Good Food Store, Missoula Independent, Mountain Broadcasting, Missoula Broadcasting, and many, many more.

For more information on Out to Lunch, contact April Sommers (april@missouladowntown.com). For more information on Downtown ToNight, contact Kristen Sackett (kristen@missouladowntown.com).

FOOD OPTIONS FOR OUT TO LUNCH AND DOWNTOWN TONIGHT 2017

FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS	OWNER/MANAGER	MENU
1. Baskin Robbins	Matt Loomis	16 flavors of Ice Cream, milkshakes, floats, and more
2. Big Dipper	Bryan Hickey	13 flavors of Ice Cream, served in cones and cups
3. Big Thai Country Food Truck	Jume Saowalak Slover	Crispy shrimp, pork skewers, specialty items
4. Bitterroot Bison	Zack & Candy Westre	Bison burgers, Bison tacos, Bison Chili, and Bison Fries
5. Clove Cart Pizza Peddlers	Emma Poole	Pizza made to order and organic salads, gluten-free too
6. Covered Wagon Hot Dogs	Bryant Knoll	Hot dogs, Polish sausages, Bratwurst, and more
7. Crepematic	Clinton Hawson	Crepes with savory or sweet fillings
8. El Cazador	Alfredo Hernandez	Mexican Cuisine made to order
9. Gumbo Bus	John DuBois	Freshly made hot Gumbo
10. Ina's Indian Tacos	Kathryn Reddies	Indian Tacos, fry bread, French fries and much more
11. Isla's Lemonade	Noemi Jijon	Hand-made, fresh-squeezed lemonade
12. Just Barbecue	Matt Parris	Pulled pork, sausages, and baby back ribs
13. Lil' Orbits of Montana	Jim & Mary Fisher	Hand-made mini donuts and specialty coffee drinks
14. Masala	Theo Smith, Ryan Scott	Eastern Indian curries and masalas
15. Pagoda Chinese & Thai Food	Sudarat Khiedoduangdee	Chinese chicken dishes, tofu dishes, eggs rolls, etc.
16. Polka Dot Patties	Mindy Bowman, Karin Brier	Grilled sandwiches, nachos, fries and more
17. Sa Wa Dee	Am Penny	Pad Thai, Chicken Curries, egg rolls, potato balls, more
18. Taco Sano	Chris Butz	Specialty tacos made to order, beverages
19. Vietnam Noodle	Julie Wang	Spring rolls, pot stickers, chicken dishes
20. Wally & Buck	Kelsey Buckley & Travis Walnum	Specialty burgers with a variety of toppings
21. What's a Viking?	Steve Legreid	Deep fried Norwegian meatballs on a stick

Downtown Missoula: Connecting Our Community!