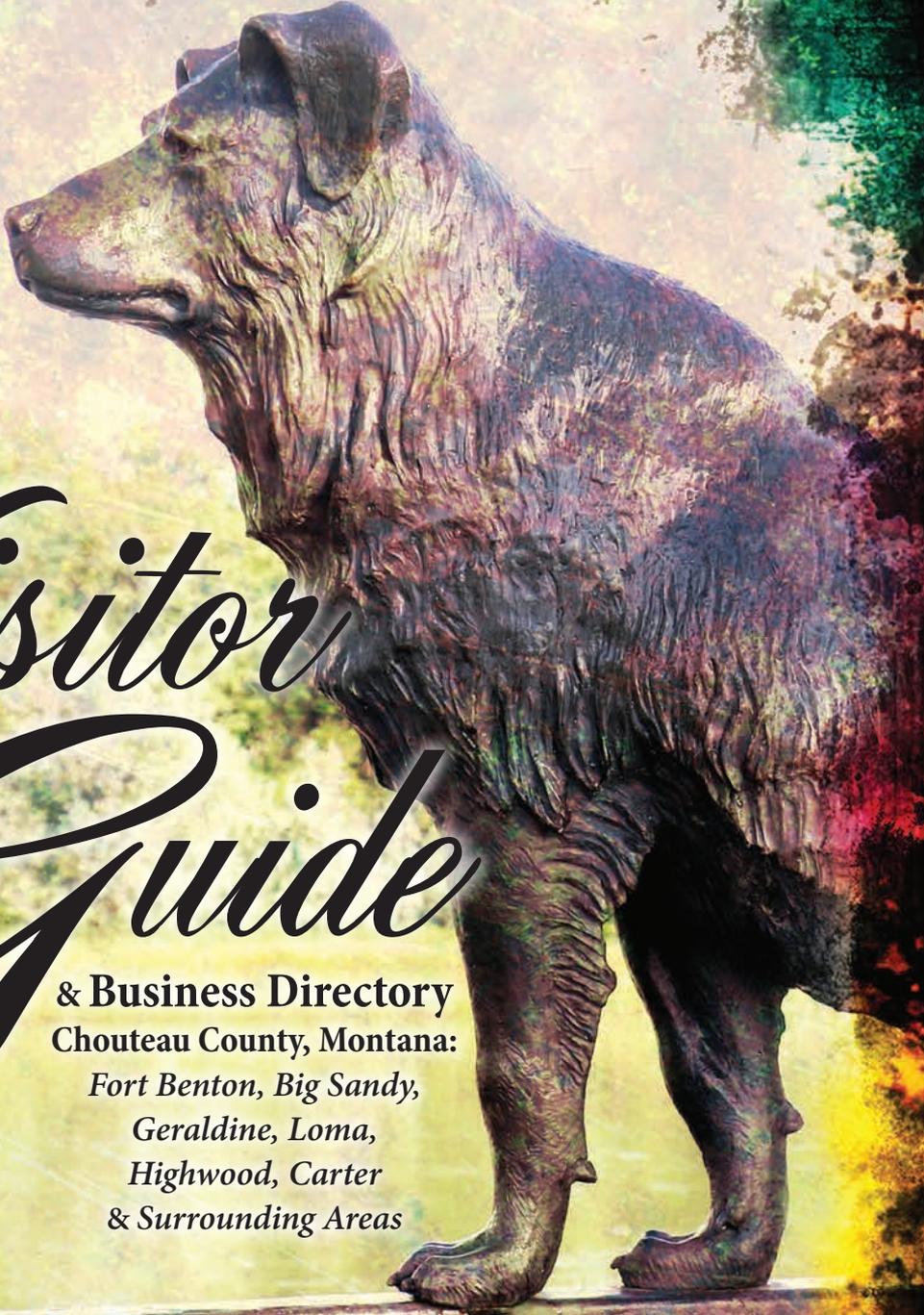


May 2018 - May 2019



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• Fort Benton Population: 1,450 • Chouteau County Population: 5,200 • County Area: 4,000 sq. mi, 1.3 people per sq. mile • Elevation: 2,632 feet

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Visitor Guide

This special publication
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Welcome to Chouteau County

Though small in population, Chouteau County is a treasure trove for history buffs, nature enthusiasts and anyone who enjoys the charms of small-town life.

The county seat, Fort Benton, is a hidden treasure, nestled in a valley by the Missouri River with the bluffs as a backdrop. Forbes Magazine named Fort Benton one of the prettiest towns in the U.S. in 2013. Known as “the Birthplace of Montana,” Fort Benton is the oldest town in Montana and is central to the history of this region of the United States. Fort Benton got started in 1846 as a premier Blackfoot fur trading post. In 1860, the first steamboat arrived, and the town became a major destination point on the Upper Missouri. In 1862, gold was discovered in Montana, and that got the wild times rolling in Chouteau County. This was Fort Benton’s Wild West era, when the 1500 block of Front Street became known as “the Bloodiest Block in the West.”

Once called “the world’s innermost port” and “the Chicago of the West,” Fort Benton was a center of commerce for the region. Many trails led out of Fort Benton. By 1882, the town had become more civilized than it had been in the 1860s, and Fort Benton’s steamboat era was at its peak. The Grand Union Hotel was built on the levee that year, and was said to be the finest establishment between St. Paul and the Pacific Coast. Today the Grand Union has been lovingly restored as a hotel and restaurant, and is a destination in its own right.

In the 1800s, the pages of the local paper, the River Press, were filled with predictions that Fort Benton would continue to grow into a thriving metropolis. Fortunes changed, however, with the railroad’s establishment. Fort Benton’s steamboat era came to an end by 1890. The thriving metropolis did not come to be.

In the 1910s, the Expanded Homestead Act brought many adventurous people to Chouteau County looking to start a new life. The prairies filled with homes and schoolhouses and towns. The end of the decade brought dry years, squelching homesteaders’ dreams of providing for their families on the prairie. Many people ended up leaving and some towns became ghost towns. Still, today’s farms, ranches and small towns around Chouteau County have their roots in the homestead era. Many local farms have been operated by the same family for 100 years or more.

Chouteau County today is in the heart of the “Golden Triangle,” and agriculture is central to the local economy. This region of Montana has just the right weather conditions to produce top quality wheat, with the high protein content the market desires. Our wheat is sought after around the world.

Farming wheat is quite literally the breadwinner for Chouteau County, with many families making their livelihoods in agriculture. Chouteau County is the number one winter wheat producing county in Montana. Spring wheat, malt barley and feed barley are also common crops. Many farmers also include chickpeas, corn, mustard, peas, lentils, safflower, flax and other crops in their rotations. Ranching is also an important part of the local economy, with around 37,000 head of cattle in the county.

Fort Benton did not become another Chicago as some people predicted 130 years ago. Many people are glad Chouteau County instead developed into the inviting, picturesque rural communities we have today. We invite you to spend some time in Chouteau County this year, enjoying all this area has to offer.



Photo courtesy of Linda Benjamin



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This Visitor Guide brought to you by The River Press:

The Chouteau County Visitor Guide & Business Directory is published annually by the River Press, a weekly newspaper that has served Fort Benton and the surrounding Chouteau County communities since 1880.

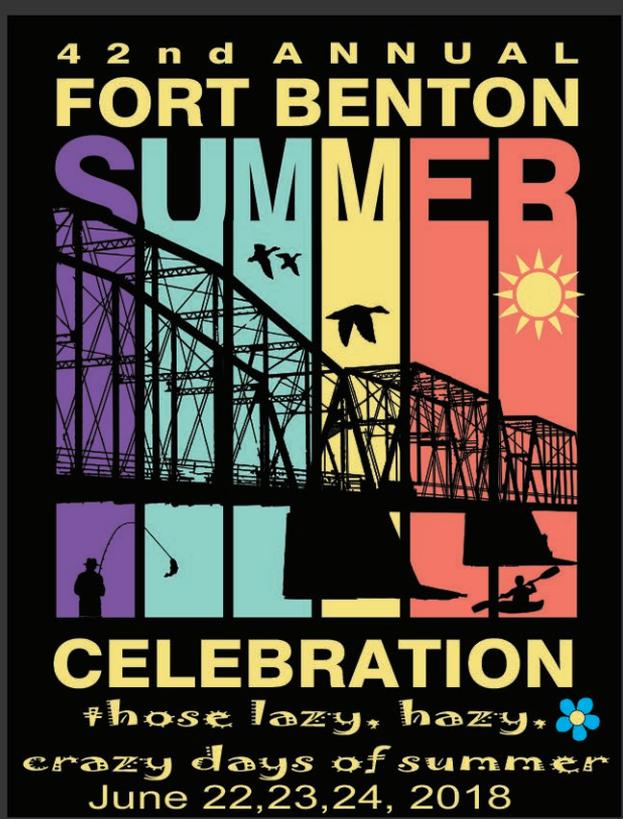
The River Press launched at the height of Fort Benton's steamboat era, with the first issue rolling off the press on Oct. 27, 1880. It is the second oldest weekly newspaper in Montana.

Each week's current issue of the River Press is available in Fort Benton at River Market, Benton Pharmacy, JoyCo, Mountain View Co-op, Wake Cup Coffee House, the Grand Union Hotel and at the River Press office, located at 1408 Front Street, across from the Shep statue.

A selection of local history books and scenic canvas and metal prints are also available for sale at the River Press office, along with office supplies and greeting cards. Photocopy and faxing services are available.

Keep up with what's going on in Fort Benton and Chouteau County with a subscription to the River Press. For details, stop by the River Press office, call (406) 622-3311 or visit www.riverpressnews.com.

The River Press also offers an online edition at www.riverpressonline.com, available for free to all our print subscribers. Online-only subscriptions are also available for just \$28/year. You can also follow along on Facebook at www.facebook.com/riverpress.



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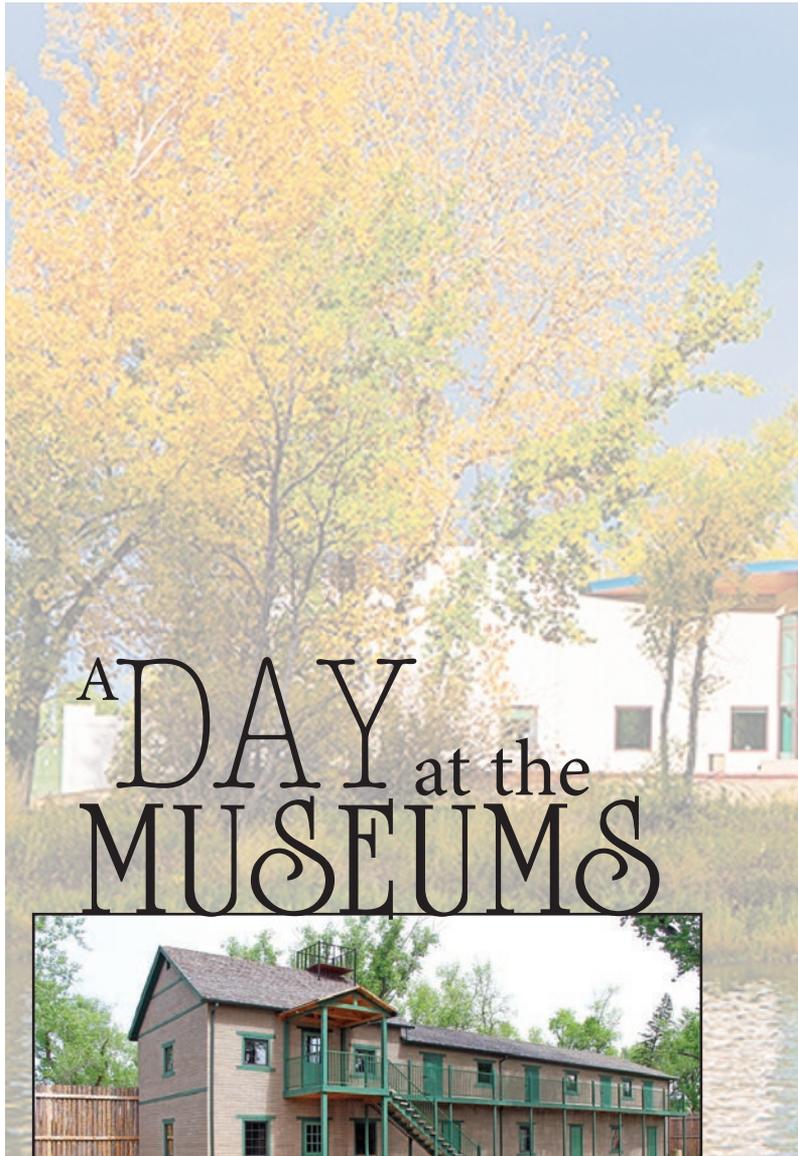


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A DAY at the
MUSEUMS



Travel back in time with a visit to Fort Benton's local museums, where displays and artwork bring out this area's roots and history.

Two-day adult passes can be purchased for \$15, which provides admission to the Museum of the Northern Great Plains, the Museum of the Upper Missouri and the Old Fort. Passes for children ages 12-18 are \$5 each, ages 6-11 are \$1, and 5 and under are free. Passes for seniors 60 years of age and older are \$12. The BLM's Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center is no longer included in the same ticket price, but admission is available for \$5.

The museums are open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday from Memorial Day weekend through Sept. 30, 2018.

Museum of the Northern Great Plains

The Museum of the Northern Great Plains can be found at the Montana Agricultural Center (1205 20th St.) in Fort Benton. A few popular attractions include the Homestead Village, the Strand Western Art Gallery and the Hornaday Smithsonian Buffalo exhibit. The museum is home to a large collection of farm implements and by-gone era home appliances showing how agriculture and life on the prairie have evolved.

Several new projects have been in the works over the past year.



New stainless steel lettering reading “Montana’s Agricultural Museum” was installed on the front of the building to create more visible signage. They also added a new awning over the museum lobby entrance, along with rock work on the front. Sidewalks, painting, landscaping and other improvements add curb appeal for the state’s official agricultural museum.

Preserved homestead buildings from the early 1900s make up the museum’s outdoor Homestead Village. The village includes the Promised Land School from west of Carter and a 1914 church. Another piece of local history joined the village in October. The 1883 “Bateman Cabin” was donated by Nadine Bateman and a crew moved the structure from near the Highwood Mountains. The cabin served as a dwelling for many years, but in more recent decades it was used primarily for storage.

New bronzes have been added in the Strand Western Art Gallery. Many new additions have been donated in recent years by the Powell and Stone families and other generous contributors.

The Strand Gallery also features the Hornaday Smithsonian Buffalo, a group of buffalo collected

by William Hornaday for the National Museum in Washington D.C.

In the late 1800s, they feared buffalo would become extinct. Hornaday’s mission was to preserve the animals for future generations to see. Hornaday took 24 animals found between the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Six of these mounts were put on display at the Smithsonian in 1887, where they remained for nearly 70 years. The big bull in the display became a national symbol for the United States. He is depicted on the buffalo nickel and the seal for the Department of Interior. In 1955, the display was dismantled and returned to storage in Montana. They were finally restored and put on display in Fort Benton in 1996. They appear just like they did in the Smithsonian.

If possible, allow several hours to explore the Montana Agricultural Center museums and galleries. From farm equipment to vintage fashion and depictions of homestead life, there is something to capture the interest of all ages.

... Continued on the next page.

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Old Fort Benton

Old Fort Benton, which is now surrounded by Old Fort Park, dates back more than 170 years to the fur trading days. In the mid-1800s, Fort Benton was the last and greatest of the fur trading forts along the Upper Missouri, operating from 1846 to 1865. Today, the Old Fort has information about its history and a collection of Western art.

The fort was founded in 1846 by the American Fur Company and served as a prominent Blackfoot trading post. Originally constructed of logs, Fort Benton was reconstructed as an adobe fort in the 1850s. It was completed in 1860 with the rebuilding of the trade store.

The company sold the fort to the U.S. military in 1865, but the military did not occupy it until 1869. Six years later, the fort was abandoned and gradually its adobe walls crumbled and collapsed. Today, the only remaining portion of the original fort is the blockhouse on the fort's southeast corner. The blockhouse is the oldest building in Montana and still sits on its original foundation.

In 1906, the Daughters of the American Revolution paid for the stabilization of the walls and the base of the blockhouse, including new shingles for the roof and a stucco cover on wire over the exterior of the blockhouse to protect the adobe structure from the weather. In the late 1990s, a local fort restoration committee led the reconstruction of replicas of the original fort buildings.

The fort's trade store, warehouse and blacksmith shop were built out of masonry bricks made to look like the original adobe, but which are much more durable. The reconstructed fort buildings house exhibits telling the story of the fur trade, the Native Americans who lived and hunted in the region and the intermingling of the cultures in this area.

In 2010, a palisade log fence was put up around the perimeter where the original fort had stood. The palisade walls are like the original log fort, which was here from 1848 to the mid-1850s. Also, in 2010, construction began on the bourgeois house, or agents' quarters, on the north side of the fort. The bourgeois house, which was completed in 2012, houses the Starr Gallery of Western Art.

Now, work has started on constructing a new blockhouse at the northwest corner of the fort. An archeological survey took place beforehand to ensure the most accurate reproduction possible.

The Starr Gallery of Western Art

Fort Benton founder Alexander Culbertson and his wife Nawawista lived in the fort's original bourgeois house. The building also housed Culbertson's office and council rooms for meetings with chiefs. Visitors may view the office and the Culbertsons' living quarters area.

The Starr Gallery of Western Art is located in the Council Room of the Bourgeois House at historic Old Fort Benton. Bronzes by late Montana artist Bob Scriver are on display, including his No More Buffalo collection, along with rare Karl Bodmer lithographs detailing Montana's scenery and Native cultures in the 1830s.

Fourteen new Scriver bronzes are on display in the Starr Gallery this year. Some of the bronzes have never been displayed anywhere other than Scriver's studio.



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Museum of the Upper Missouri

From the days of the steamboats to the stories of the cowboys, whiskey traders, and madams of the day, visitors to the Museum of the Upper Missouri will learn more about Fort Benton's legacy as the "Birthplace of Montana." Displays at the museum, located at the Old Fort Park, recall the area's early days, from the time of fur trade and military posts in the early 1800s, to the heyday of steamboats and freight wagons of the 1860s. Folklore and other stories from those golden days are retold at the museum, including the story of Fort Benton's famous dog, Shep. One display features a collection of artifacts from the Grand Union Hotel.

Joel F. Overholser Historical Research Center

The River & Plains Society's Schwinden Library and Archives houses the Joel F. Overholser Historical Research Center, adjacent to the Museum of the Northern Great Plains, and is a valuable resource for people interested in history or ancestors from the Chouteau County area. The center has an array of historical documents such as city, territorial and state records, family and regional histories, and a diverse collection of photographs.

The Overholser Historical Research Center is open most Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to research topics of interest. Volunteer historians and staff are available to help answer historical inquiries.

You can contact the Overholser Center by calling the Montana Agricultural Museum in Fort Benton at 406-622-5316 or by emailing office@FortBentonMuseums.com.

Joel F. Overholser was a longtime editor of the River Press, Fort Benton's weekly newspaper. His association with the River Press began in 1926 and continued past his retirement in 1981.

Overholser had an avid interest in local history, and his writings and the documents he collected are an important resource at the research center.

Missouri Breaks

Interpretive Center

The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center shares the cultural and natural history of the Upper Missouri River Breaks through interactive and touchable displays. Visitors can step inside a steamboat pilot house reproduction, view wildlife displays, listen to the songs of area birdlife and learn more about the natural and cultural history of the area.

From the steamboats which chugged up the mighty Missouri to the journey of Lewis and Clark and the flight of the Nez Perce, to the plants used by many Native American tribes, visitors engage in the historical stories of the area.

Overlooking the Missouri River, the Interpretive Center provides spectacular views of the river and the bluffs. A walking trail gives visitors an opportunity to take a short stroll near the river, connecting with Fort Benton's levee trail for those looking for a longer trek. Signs along the trail highlight a variety of topics, including wildlife species that call this area home.

The Interpretive Center also offers information on floating the Missouri and recreating in the Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

The Interpretive Center (701 7th St., Fort Benton) is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., May 1 through Oct. 31. They are open by appointment only during the winter, Nov. 1 through April 30. It is operated by the Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the city of Fort Benton.

Phone the Interpretive Center at 406-622-4000 for more information. Group tours are welcome. Admission for the Interpretive Center is \$5. Admission is free for children under 16 and for anyone holding a Federal Interagency Pass (Annual, Senior or Access).

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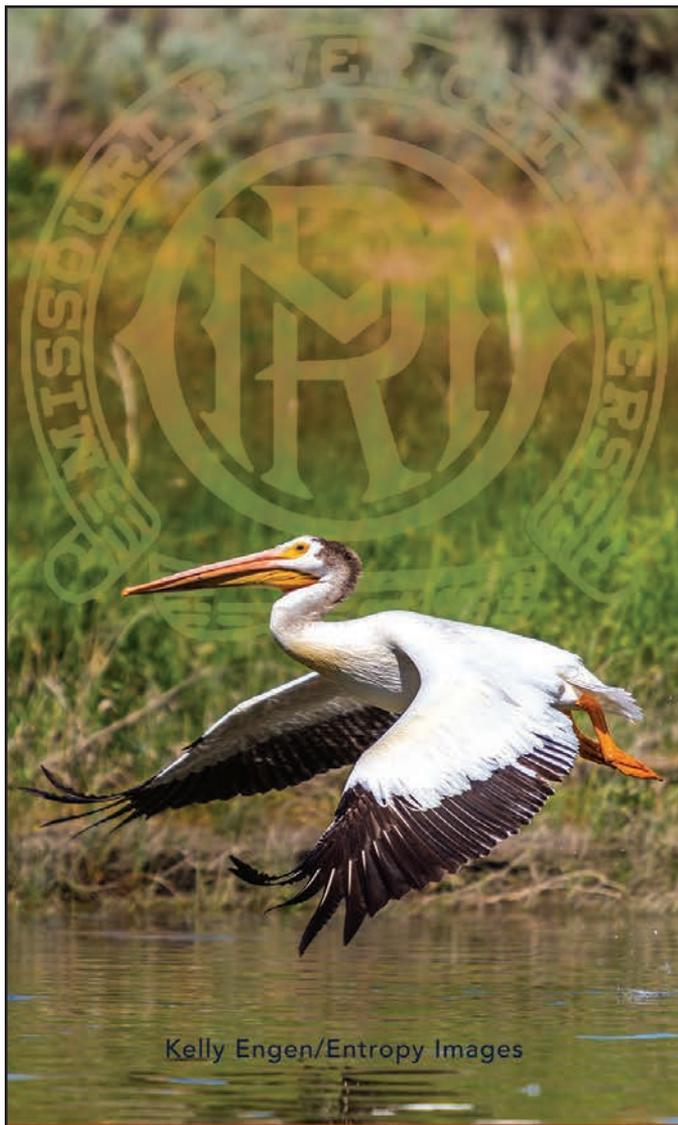


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The brochure "Birding trails in Central Montana" is available at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center, sharing information about beautifully scenic public lands that are also some of the best places in our area for viewing a wide variety of birds.

Start with a stroll along the levee in Fort Benton, where you may see mallards, cormorants, mergansers, pelicans, wood ducks and, of course, Canada geese. The pelicans in this area are American white pelicans. They feed not by diving, as their southern cousins the brown pelicans do, but by first working as a team to school fish into a circle. Then the pelicans take turns moving into the center of the circle to feed, moving back out when full so others can take their turn. Several beaver lodges are active in the area, so while walking along the river you may get a glimpse of beavers in the river or near the shore, foraging for food to bring back to their lodges.

For raptor viewing, take a drive in the country as the day begins to warm and you will likely see hawks and eagles soaring on thermals (rising warm currents of air) above while searching for food. Common raptors in the area may include red-tailed hawks, bald and golden eagles, Swainson's hawks (or rough-legged in the winter) as well as an occasional falcon, meadowlark or curlew in the prairies. For "night owls," a walk along the levee or around town after dark will likely bring the hooting sound of owls from various neighborhoods to your ears.

Deer are plentiful, even in town, and it's not uncommon to see deer walking down the streets of Fort Benton or treating local yards like an all-you-can-eat salad bar. Those exploring by car early in the day or later in the evenings will likely see white-tailed deer, mule deer and antelope sprinkled about the landscape.

If you are near the island ranges of mountains, such as the Highwood Mountains, you may see herds of elk grazing in the high meadows. Very occasionally a moose is seen in the area. Those who are really lucky while traveling in or around the mountains may get a glimpse of a black bear, sometimes in their color variations of cinnamon (red) or brown or even blonde. Coyote and fox can often be seen patrolling the farm fields for mice and other edibles. Opossums, porcupines, skunks, bull snakes, rattlesnakes, prairie dogs and gophers also make up part of the local food chain.

For those who are interested in getting off the beaten path, please inquire locally about road conditions.

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The **River**
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Books dive into

local history

A selection of books by local authors on local history are available at the museums and shops around Fort Benton, including the River Press at 1408 Front Street.

Two of the authors who have written books about area history are John G. Lepley and Ken Robison. John G. Lepley's books include:

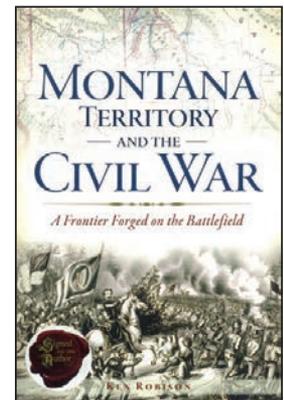
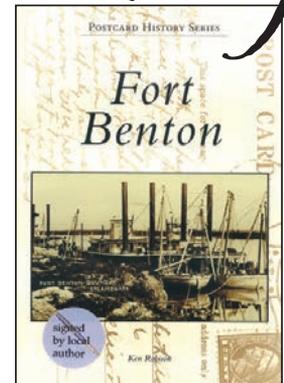
"Birthplace of Montana: A History of Fort Benton" tells the story of the town, complete with lots of photos, from the town's establishment as a fur trading post in 1846, up to the dedication of the Lewis and Clark memorial in 1976.

"Packets to Paradise: Steamboating to Fort Benton" shares the history of steamboats that made the trip up the longest river waterway on the continent to Fort Benton, the world's innermost port, from 1860 to 1889.

"Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri" tells the story of the fur trade from 1700 to 1880, focusing especially on the buffalo fur trade along the Upper Missouri River in the mid-1800s.

"The Madame and the Four Johns" looks at Fort Benton's colorfully lawless Wild West years of gold and whiskey in the 1860s, focusing on the stories of five characters among the hundreds who came through town during those years.

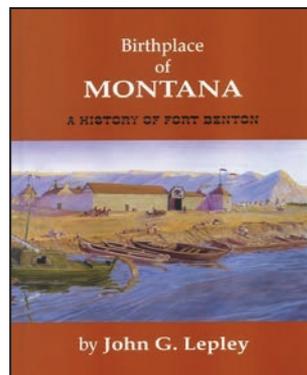
Ken Robison's books include: "Fort Benton: Postcard History Series" provides a visual



look at the history of Fort Benton. It is a collection of photographs and interpretive text which tell the stories of Fort Benton's important people, places and events.

"Life and Death on the Upper Missouri: The Frontier Sketches of Johnny Healy" looks at the history of the early Northwest through Irish immigrant Johnny Healy's sparkling storytelling about life on the Upper Missouri in the 1860s and 1870s.

Robison also offers a trilogy dedicated to exploring Montana's Civil War ties, including the Confederate and Union soldiers who sought to make new lives out West after a brutal war. This collection includes "Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield," "Confederates in Montana Territory: In the Shadow of Price's Army" and, the latest installment released in 2016, "Yankees and Rebels on the Upper Missouri: Steamboats, Gold & Peace."



Chouteau County sites on the National Register of Historic Places

Fort Benton's steamboat levee and downtown area was designated a National Historic Landmark District on Oct. 15, 1966, in recognition of the town's national importance to western expansion during the last half of the 19th century. Since then, 19 sites in Chouteau County have been named to National Register of Historic Places. These are the sites and the dates they were listed in the National Register:

- Citadel Rock, a White Cliffs landmark on the Missouri River, Nov. 13, 1974
- Lewis and Clark Camp at Slaughter River, on the Missouri River south of Big Sandy, Dec. 16, 1974
- Judith Landing Historic District, on the Missouri River south of Big Sandy, Dec. 6, 1975
- Grand Union Hotel, Fort Benton, Jan. 2, 1976
- Fort Benton's Old Bridge, Aug. 6, 1980
- Lonetree Ranch, south of Geraldine, Sept. 11, 1980
- Chouteau County Courthouse, 1308 Franklin St., Fort Benton, Sept. 29, 1980
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 14th and Chouteau Streets, Fort Benton, Sept. 29, 1980
- Masonic Building, 1418 Front St., Fort Benton, Oct. 14, 1980
- I.G. Baker House, 1604 Front St., Fort Benton, Nov. 20, 1980
- Fort Benton Engine House, Front and 15th Streets, Fort Benton, Nov. 20, 1980
- Teton River Crossing on the Whoop-Up Trail, north of Carter, April 15, 1993
- Geraldine Milwaukee Depot, Mar. 21, 1997
- Virgelle Mercantile and Virgelle State Bank, April 15, 1997
- Square Butte Jail, July 23, 1998
- West Quincy Granite Quarry, Square Butte, March 3, 2000
- First National Bank of Geraldine, Jan. 9, 2008
- Eagle Butte School, southeast of Fort Benton, Jan. 28, 2009
- Shonkin Creek Bridge, in the Highwood Mountains, March 26, 2012
- Square Butte School, NW corner of Diederick Street and Broadway in Square Butte, July 15, 2013



Geraldine Milwaukee Depot
Listed March 21, 1997

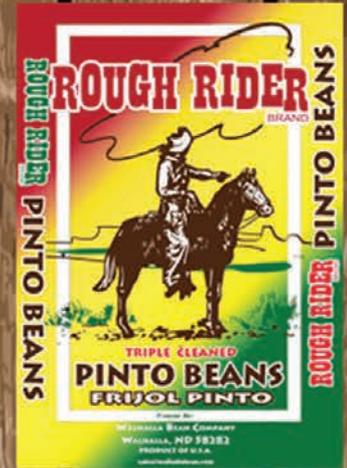
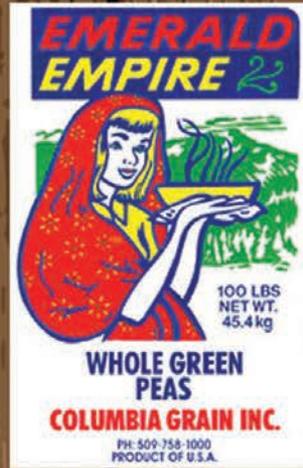
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Explore Native American HISTORY

Several tribes lived in this area in years past, including the Blackfeet, the Atsina (also known as the Gros Ventre – pronounced “Grow Von”), Plains Cree, River Crow, and the Assiniboine (the Assiniboines are relatives of the Lakota and Dakota tribes, and they speak a similar language. However, they have always been politically distinct from the Sioux. In fact, they were often at war with each other). These tribes traveled through and hunted this vast landscape. These tribes relied upon bison and other large mammals, including elk, which inhabited the region.

Today, the Chipew-Cree Tribe’s Rocky Boy’s Reservation is in Hill County and the northeast corner of Chouteau County.

You can learn more about area Native American history and the fur trade at the reconstructed fort in Fort Benton’s park.

Travelers in the remote stretches of the Upper Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton may see petroglyphs, tipi rings and other Native American artifacts.



Fort Benton also has ties to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (www.fs.usda.gov/npnht). A group of soldiers and civilian volunteers from Fort Benton fought the Nez Perce near Cow Island Landing on the Missouri River east of Fort Benton on Sept. 25, 1877.



Historic Native American sites you can visit in the region include two buffalo jumps ... the First People’s Buffalo Jump south of Great Falls (stateparks.mt.gov/first-peoples-buffalo-jump)

and the Wahkpa Chu’gn (pronounced “WHa-puh-CHEW-gun”) Archaeological Site in Havre (www.buffalojump.org).

Fort Benton is proud of our ties with Native Americans and tribes throughout the region.

The communities of *Chouteau County*



The early 20th century brought many homesteaders to Chouteau County, but drought and hard times drove all but the hardiest away. Those who stayed built lives farming and ranching, and agriculture remains Chouteau County's leading industry, both in the county seat of Fort Benton and the surrounding communities.

Geraldine (pop. 260) celebrated its 100th anniversary with a three-day celebration in 2014. The town was named after the wife of William Rockefeller, director of the Milwaukee Railroad that ran through the town. The town's depot was built in 1913 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, Geraldine offers a K-12 school, co-op grocery store, post office, gas station, bank, a bar and eatery, among other businesses.

Overlooking Geraldine stands the flat-topped Square Butte, which rises more than 2,000 feet above the plains. Square Butte was designated as an Outstanding Natural Area in 1973 for its scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Renowned artist Charlie Russell sometimes placed Square Butte in the background of his paintings.

The town of Square Butte was created by the Milwaukee Land Company as a coal and water stop for the steam locomotives. Square Butte also had a jail, built in 1916 and still viewable today, thanks to restoration by the Geraldine Historical Society.

Square Butte School, built in 1918, is now a private residence and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Students attend the nearby Geraldine School. The Square Butte Country Club bar and grill is the town's sole remaining business.

Highwood (pop. 176) is located about 20 miles south of Fort Benton. The town is home to a K-12 school, churches, community center, post office and bar and grill. The nearby Highwood Mountains are a popular recreational area, with hiking, camping and fishing opportunities.

The tiny community of Floweree served as a station on the Great Northern Railway. The town was named for a cattleman who brought 1,500 head of cattle from Texas to Montana in 1873.

Adjacent to Highway 87, the community of Carter (pop. 58) was named by the Great Northern Railroad in honor of U.S. Senator Thomas Cart-

er, Montana's first congressman. The town's K-8 school is still in operation, but students can also attend Fort Benton schools. A bar and grill sits on the opposite side of the highway. Fishing access to the Missouri River is found nearby, as well as an operational ferry.

Ferry service across the Missouri is also provided at Virgelle, a ghost town now boasting guest accommodations and an antique business. See the story about Virgelle on page 35.

Just 11 miles northeast of Fort Benton on US Highway 87, the little village of Loma (pop. 85) lies in a river valley at the confluence of the Missouri, Marias, and Teton Rivers, and the base of the Loma Hill.

Loma has a post office, cafe, gas station and convenience store, along with the Earth Science Museum, containing mineral specimens from around the world.

There are a number of historical sites near Loma, including the Ophir Massacre, Fort Piegan, and Fort MacKenzie. Historical highway markers describe these and other area features. Nearby is Decision Point, where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent 10 days in 1805.

Loma holds the record for the most extreme recorded temperature change in the U.S. in a 24-hour period. Longtime Loma weather observer Jim Wood recorded a temperature change from -54 degrees to 49 degrees F on January 15, 1972. This is an example of the sometimes incredible warming effects of the area's southwest Chinook winds.

The community of Big Sandy was named for the creek which runs nearby. A great deal of history is tied to this area, including the famous western artist, Charlie Russell, who worked on nearby ranches. The Big Sandy Historical Society Museum features area history.

The magnificent Bear's Paw Mountains are nearby, providing recreational opportunities. Within a short drive is the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation, home of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The Bear Paw Battlefield, at which Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe surrendered, is about 70 miles away.



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<p>SAT. SEPT 15 2018</p>	<p>COLD HARD CASH We kick off the season with Pub Night at the Ag Center and a tribute to the music of Johnny Cash and The Tennessee Three.</p>	<p>TUES. FEB 12 2019</p>	<p>SPECTRUM A vocal tribute to Motown and the Rhythm and Blues, covering everyone from The Platters to The Temptations to Boyz II Men.</p>
<p>TUES. OCT 23 2018</p>	<p>SHADES OF BUBL� This three-man tribute brings Michael Bubl�'s swinging standards and pop hits to the stage in a high-energy concert.</p>	<p>TUES. MAR 5 2019</p>	<p>STEVEN HESLA This long-time piano professor at the University of Montana, presents the inaugural concert for Fort Benton's very own piano festival.</p>
<p>SUN. DEC 9 2018</p>	<p>PHILIP AABERG Montana pianist and composer, Philip Aaberg, returns to Fort Benton with his High Plains Christmas show.</p>	<p>MON. APR 8 2019</p>	<p>O SOLE TRIO A deliciously witty and incredibly moving show, breathing life into familiar standards and Broadway favorites.</p>
<p>WED. JAN 30 2019</p>	<p>THE SOUND EXCHANGE A cappella as you've never experienced it. Oh, the incredible sounds five people can make with their voices, lips, and bodies!</p>	<p>APR OR MAY 2019</p>	<p>PIATIGORSKY FOUNDATION CONCERT World-renowned classical artists perform in the acoustic perfection of the Grand Union lobby. Date and performers to be announced in early 2019.</p>

Shows take place at Fort Benton Elementary Auditorium, unless otherwise stated. More details at facebook.com/chouteaucountyperformingarts

CCPA | CHOUTEAU COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS

Chouteau County Performing Arts promises another entertaining year

Chouteau County Performing Arts (CCPA) started in early 1992, with the goal of bringing high-quality performances to our rural county, enriching the social and cultural environment. Twenty-six years have passed and this group of volunteer community members continues their mission, booking talented acts from throughout the U.S. and beyond.



Season tickets are sold for \$50 each (\$45 for early birds) and provide entry to eight live shows throughout the year. Tickets are also available at the door for individual shows at \$15 each. Chouteau County students attend for free. As an added bonus, season ticket holders can attend concerts in other participating communities throughout the region for just \$5.

Evening performances take place at the Fort Benton Elementary School auditorium, with occasional concerts at the Ag Center and the Grand Union Hotel.

CCPA places a high priority on its outreach program, packing kids from Fort Benton, Geraldine, Big Sandy and Highwood into the Fort Benton

auditorium for daytime student shows, or sending performers out to smaller towns for special appearances. The organization also brings memorable events to patients at the Missouri River Medical Center, and occasionally to the Golden Age Center and Sunrise Bluffs.

The 2018-19 season kicks off Sept. 15 with a concert by Cold Hard Cash, a tribute to the music of Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Three. Other acts for the year will include Shades of Bubl , Montana pianist and composer Philip Aaberg, a cappella from the Sound Exchange, Motown and rhythm & blues from Spectrum, pianist Steven Hesla, the O Sole Trio and the annual free classical concert by the Piatigorsky Foundation.

For more information on the upcoming concerts and information on how to purchase season tickets, visit facebook.com/chouteaucountyperformingarts.



CCPA concerts are presented in part by grants from The Montana Cultural Trust, The Montana Arts Council, WESTAF, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Montana Performing Arts Consortium, The Lippard-Clawiter Foundation and the Leroy and Claris Strand Foundation.



Visit the Visitor Center

If you are visiting Fort Benton, be sure to stop in at the Visitor Center, located in a scenic spot on the levee next to the old walking bridge. The Visitor Center is open throughout the summer season, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, September 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (and perhaps later) every day.

At the Visitor Center, local volunteers are ready to answer your questions. Brochures on Fort Benton and from throughout the region are available. The Visitor Center is hosted by the Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce.

The Visitor Center is in one of Fort Benton's historic buildings – the firehouse which was built shortly after the city government was organized in 1883. It originally housed a pumper that was brought up the river on a steamboat. The building later doubled as city hall until 1966.

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FAQ

1. Where are the public restrooms? The Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (on Front Street by the 15th Street intersection, next to the walking bridge); Old Fort Park (center of the park, to the south side of the swimming pool); Museum of the Upper Missouri (on the corner of the park, by 18th Street and the boat dock); the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center (by the river between 7th and 8th streets)
2. Where are the automatic teller machines (ATMs)? First Bank of Montana (1502 Main St.); U.S. Bank (1304 Front St.); Mountain View Co-op service station and convenience store (1802 St. Charles St.); JoyCo convenience store (816 13th St.); the Club House Bar and Grill (1411 Main St.); and Wake Cup Coffee House (1500 Front St.).
3. Where can I make photocopies or send or receive a facsimile (fax)? The River Press newspaper office (1408 Front St.) or the Chouteau County Library (1518 Main St.)
4. Where is there Internet access? Computers with Internet access are available at the Chouteau County Library (1518 Main St.). Wi-Fi is available at the library, at the Wake Cup Coffee House (1714 Front St.) and at the Grand Union Hotel and the Pioneer Lodge Hotel, both on Front Street.
5. Where do I get information about the Fort Benton area? Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (located on the river levee, on Front Street by the old walking bridge); Books about local history can be found at the museum bookshops, several stores in town and at the River Press newspaper office. Missouri River floating and fishing information, plus information about hiking and camping in the Missouri River Breaks National Monument, can be obtained at the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center (beside the river, between 7th and 8th streets). The Chouteau County Library is also a good resource for local information.
6. Why doesn't my cell phone work at times? Some wireless carriers have good coverage in some Chouteau County towns, including Fort Benton and Loma. Other areas, including Geraldine and Highwood, have very little cell phone coverage, aside from a few "hot spots." There is very little phone coverage in the Missouri River Breaks.



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Enjoy a walk down the levee

Learn about Fort Benton history as you enjoy a stroll down the levee trail, which winds along the Missouri River. Signs and monuments along the pathway offer a look into the town's past. The trail, which extends from 7th Street on the south side of town to a loop in a riparian area at the north end of town, is about 1.75 miles long.

Shep's Story:

75 years and still inspiring

Last year marked the 75th anniversary of the death of Shep, a Fort Benton dog who won the hearts of many for his unfailing dedication to his owner.

In 1936, an area sheepherder became ill while tending his flock; the man was brought to the town hospital, his dog following. The dog set up vigil at the hospital's door until the man died and, per his family's request, his body was sent back East for burial.

The dog watched as his master's body, now in a casket, was placed on the train. The dog's vigil began once again, this time at the train depot. He took up residence under the station's platform, and every day for more than five years, Shep, as he was called, met the four trains which pulled into the Fort Benton depot. He watched each passenger de-board, as if expecting one to be his owner.

When the sheepherder did not appear, Shep retreated to wait for the next train. Two and a half years into his vigil, a drawing and short story about Shep was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not. As the story of the faithful dog spread across the country and around the world, articles about Shep appeared in various publications.



Shep became an icon. People who rode the trains photographed him, and children sent him fan mail and gifts. Although his food and shelter came from the railroad employees and attention and awe was given by a great many people, Shep's devotion was to one man: the one he waited for each day.

As he aged, Shep became hard of hearing and arthritic. He didn't hear the train approach the station one early morning in January, 1942. When he saw the train, he struggled to get out of the way. He slipped on the icy rails, falling in front of the locomotive. Shep's vigil for his owner ended in his own death at the train station.

The town held a funeral for the devoted dog a few days later. Wire services carried the news of Shep's passing. People from many walks of life came to bid farewell and fondly remember the devoted dog. His grave sits atop a bluff overlooking the town and the train depot. Shep's gravesite is still visited by many people today. Go up State Highway 387, the road which leads north out of town, and follow the signs. It is about a three-minute walk from the parking area to the gravesite.

Fort Benton continues to remember the special dog whose devotion to his owner continues to amaze and inspire. An exhibit about Shep can be found at the Museum of the Upper Missouri, and a memorial statue sits on the levee near the river. The bronze statue was created by the late Bob Scriver, one of Montana's greatest artists. Scriver created this special memorial from photographs of the old dog and studies of a Shep "look-alike."

Every year, hundreds of visitors stop by the statue that honors man's best friend, and they learn the story of a faithful, four-footed companion that not only impacted a town, but also the world. Radio broadcaster Paul Harvey even shared Shep's story on his show. Shep is also remembered in a number of books. A locally produced book, "Forever Faithful: The Story of Shep," is available at local museums and at the River Press office. Author Sneed Collard has written a children's book, "Shep: Our Most Loyal Dog."



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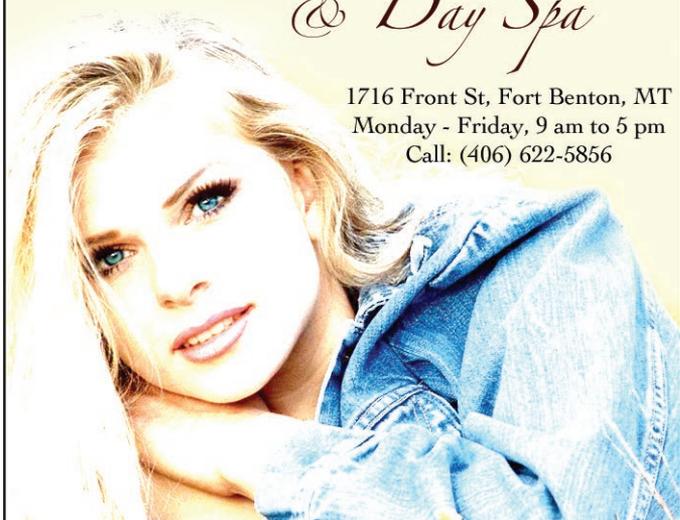
Books dealing with bereavement of children of any age are available at the Chouteau County Library or from Gail Allen.

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CLASSIC SUMMER FUN AT THE COUNTY FAIR

The 2018 Chouteau County Fair is set for Aug. 16-19 with the theme, "Blue Jeans 'n Country Dreams."

The fair will kick off Thursday, Aug. 16 at the fairgrounds in Fort Benton with the second annual Harvest Hot Dish & Dessert Competition. Contestants can enter their favorite main courses and desserts for judging, followed by a community feast where everyone gets to sample the entries, free of charge.

The Friday night Pig Wrestling tradition will continue on Aug. 17, where adult and youth teams slog through the mud and attempt to place a young pig in a barrel in one minute or less.

Saturday's night show will feature the United Truck and Tractor Pullers Event, where drivers compete to see who can pull a weighted sled the farthest.

As always, the fair will wrap up Sunday night with the popular Demolition Derby. Drivers from the local community and around the region will smash into each other's vehicles until only one car – the winner – is left driving.

Admission is required for the night shows (Pig Wrestling, the Tractor Pull and the Demolition Derby), but daytime entry to the fair is free. Come enjoy a corndog or Indian taco, stroll through the exhibit buildings and vendor booths and watch 4-H students compete for ribbons with their livestock.

Heritage Days activities and bingo will both be back this year, and Kent Messmer is returning with his bounce houses and paint ball games for kids to enjoy. "Double Vision," Canadian twin brothers, will also bring their comedy act to the free stage, with shows at various times each day of the fair.

For the fair schedule and other information, visit chocofair.com. Around fair time, you can also reach the fair office at 406-622-5505.



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From steaks and seafood to homemade salsas, you'll find it at Ma's in Loma



Chef Maria Bouchard of Ma's

Located right off Highway 87 between Fort Benton and Big Sandy, Ma's Loma Café is everything you'd expect in a roadside diner, plus a whole lot more.

The official name, Ma's Loma Café Nuevo, offers a hint at what you'll find. Greg Bouchard, originally from near Reno, Nevada, and his wife, Maria, a native of Mexico, purchased the local eatery in 2003. They needed a new name for their state business license, so they added "Nuevo" to the title, paying homage to Maria's heritage.

As the head chef at Ma's, Maria cooks local favorites like chicken fried steaks, ribeyes, seafood and burgers. She also offers authentic Mexican fare, including homemade tortillas. Her homemade salsas and chips are always available with dinner in the salad bar.

Greg spent many years working in Mexico, where he met Maria. He also enjoyed visiting Montana and decided to buy Ma's Loma Café, thinking they would hire a manager and then spend their summers in Montana helping run the restaurant.

However, U.S. immigration laws are complicated and instead required that Maria stay in the U.S. for two years to establish residency. As an American citizen, Greg could travel back and forth between the two countries, but Maria had to stay in Montana. Even going home to visit her family for Christmas required special permission. Greg continued to work in Mexico until 2010, commuting back to Montana to visit his wife and help with the restaurant whenever he could.

"We did everything legally and above board," he said.

Today, Maria is able to travel freely and visits her family in Mexico a few weeks each year. She and Greg have kept a house in her hometown, located in the northwestern state of Sonora, Mexico's beef capital. Her father acts as the caretaker, tending to her rose gardens and fruit trees while she is in the U.S.

Maria grew up around talented cooks, including her mother and grandmother. A French chef they knew in Mexico agreed to join the Bouchards in Loma and helped them get started at the restaurant, sharing much of his knowledge with Maria.

"Everything she does is with care. Every vegetable is cut with her own hands," Greg said. "We try to do everything as authentic as we can."



Maria grew up in a coastal community and is experienced preparing seafood. They don't cut corners – all of the shrimp and lobster they serve is harvested wild from the Sea of Cortez.

A favorite Mexican dish she creates for special occasions is cooked in a pumice rock bowl, heated to 500 degrees. It's not typically offered on the menu, but she will prepare it for larger groups upon request.

Tacos, quesadillas and burritos are always on the menu, but Thursdays are Mexican Night at Ma's, when Maria prepares one of her specialties.

"We don't serve a taco with hamburger in it. All of our tacos are served with sirloin," Greg said.

Maria's homemade chorizo is a popular filling for breakfast burritos and they also sell it to-go by the pound.

Other weekly specials include Pizza Night on Wednesday, Seafood Night on Friday and Charbroiled Steak Night on Saturday and Sunday. Prime rib is served on all holidays and for parties by request.

Ma's Loma Café also operates an in-house bakery. Maria offers Mexican specialties like chocolate flan, flan and tres leches cake. Peggy Allderdice, the café's former owner, continues to bake traditional American pies, cakes and cinnamon rolls. They accept pre-orders for whole cakes and pies.

Ma's Loma Café is open seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call (406) 739-4400 for reservations and special orders.



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Scenic photo courtesy of Kelly Engen/Entropy Images

Explore the **Missouri River** *by kayak or canoe*

The explorers on the Lewis and Clark Expedition were fascinated by the scenery as they traveled up the Missouri River east of Fort Benton, prompting Meriwether Lewis to note in his journal, "As we passed on it seemed as if those scenes of visionary enchantment would never have an end."

Today, river travelers can take in that same breathtaking scenery, largely untouched since Lewis and Clark's 1805 adventure.

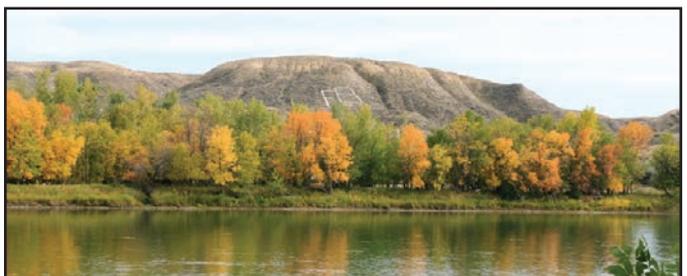
The 149-mile stretch of the river downstream from Fort Benton was designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 1976 and in 2001, an area covering 375,000 acres of public lands was designated the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. From wildlife to unique geographical features, the area is packed with natural beauty and historical and cultural significance.

Based in Fort Benton, Missouri River Outfitters offers kayaks, canoes and paddleboard rentals, plus guided trips for travelers wishing to explore the Wild & Scenic Missouri River and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Owner Nicolle Fugere and her crew of experienced river guides offer rentals and shuttle services for those who wish to explore independently, plus fully guided multi-day trips complete with camping gear and prepared meals. For more info, visit mroutfitters.com.

Floating from Coal Banks Landing to Judith Landing is one of the more popular trips that features the White Cliffs area of the Missouri Breaks. It takes about three days -- four days if you want to take time to stop and hike.

River information is available at the Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center, 701 7th St. in Fort Benton. They can be reached at 406-622-4000 or 1-877-256-3252. Those heading out on the river without an outfitter should carefully study maps to make sure they don't venture onto private land. Also, always be sure to carry personal flotation devices, carry fresh water and follow "Leave No Trace" principles. All boaters are strongly encouraged to register at the interpretive center or at the boat launch before they embark.



Enjoying the Highwoods

If you're looking for some great backcountry recreational opportunities, check out the Highwood Mountains south of Fort Benton. Part of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, the Highwoods boast hiking trails, opportunities for small stream fishing, areas for horse-back riding, and opportunities for backcountry camping and wildlife watching and photography.

Wildlife you may see in the Highwoods include elk and the elusive mountain goat.

The trails vary from easy walks for families with children to longer, steeper climbs for avid hikers.

The Shonkin Creek Trail, Forest Service Trail #451, can be accessed from Geraldine or Highwood. An abandoned jeep road, it is now used as a non-motorized trail, which gains about 500 feet in elevation over a one-mile stretch to a saddle, then descends another mile to the forest boundary.

Prospect Peak Trail, Forest Service Trail #460, is another abandoned jeep road and a spur of the Shonkin Creek Trail. This trail follows an open ridge and gains 900 feet in elevation, ending on top of Prospect Peak, which sits at more than 6,000 feet in elevation.

Several trails begin at Thain Creek Campground. These include the Thain Creek Trail, an easy hike for families with children that's less than a mile; Briggs Creek Trail, a 3 ½-mile walk; and the Windy Mountain Trail, a 6-mile loop which offers great views of the surrounding plains and mountains.

Thain Creek Campground, in the middle of the Highwood Mountains, has an elevation of 4,700 feet. There are 12 campsites, available for \$5 per night. Check the Forest Service website or call the Judith Ranger District at 406-566-2292 for campground information.

National forests are public lands and belong to all Americans, so enjoy the Highwoods while you're in the area!



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Ask a local: *What should I eat?*

Looking for local recommendations on what to order in some of Chouteau County's eateries?
Here are some favorites shared by locals:

FORT BENTON

- "Fluffy tacos from The Club House – so big and filling! Two tacos plus a side!" (Courtney Cline)
- "The Union Burger at the Grand Union." (Jayna Romine)
- "Polenta at the Wake Cup is the best polenta in the county." (Nancy Lachapelle)
- "B Social's pizza." (Earl Taylor)
- "Gyro from The Freeze. So good." (David Hasler)
- "Fish tacos and macarons (Wake Cup)." (Jeannine Mosser-Rodriguez)
- "Wedge salad from The Club House." (Carol Clayton Bye)
- "The Benton Hipster at the Wake Cup Coffee House, Café & Bakery." (Stacy Bronec)
- "The sirloin or tenderloin at ze Banque Club!" (Kathy Waldo)
- "Rice bowls from Wake Cup – delicious." (Donna Upham)
- "Finger steaks at The Club House! Yum!" (Kristi Christensen)
- "Vegetarian pizza from Wake Cup." (Linda Carlson)
- "Fried pickles (The Club House)." (Jeannine Mosser-Rodriguez)

LOMA

- "Patty melt from Ma's Café in Loma." (Shannon Walker)
 - "Chicken fried steak from Ma's Café." (Jennifer Plante-Fief)
 - "Bomgardner Catering.* Umm...everything they make." (Jodi Knowles)
 - "Philly omelet (Ma's Loma Café)." (Jeannine Mosser-Rodriguez)
 - "Indian tacos from Bomgardner Catering... And you can't forget their amazing fry bread!" (Janette Todd)
- *Bomgardner Catering doesn't have a restaurant, but you can find their food truck at Fort Benton's Summer Celebration, the Chouteau County Fair and other local events.

BIG SANDY

- "Pep's Bar & Grille – Prairie Dog." (Jenna Bley Chenette)

GERALDINE/SQUARE BUTTE

- "Wrangler Burger at Rusty's Bar & Grill in Geraldine." (Marissa Russell)
- "Amy's salad bar at the Square Butte Country Club on Fri.-Sat. evenings all summer. To die for!" (Bill Schmedlap)
- "Any Friday or Saturday night special at the Square Butte Country Club. Amy makes amazing dishes!" (Angela Hucke)

HIGHWOOD

- "Tri tip steak sandwich with mac salad from Elmo's in Highwood!" (Jacey Granger)
- "Hot slaw at Elmo's Highwood Bar." (Tory Scribner & Bobbette Birkeland)



Salted caramel & chocolate and birthday cake macarons at the Wake Cup.
Photo courtesy of Wake Cup Coffee House Facebook page

Old Forts Trail

At one time in this region, all trails led to Fort Benton.

The 642-mile long Mullan Military Wagon Road connected Fort Benton to Walla Walla, Washington, connecting the “world’s innermost port” on the Missouri River to the Columbia



River. A monument to the Mullan Road was placed in Fort Benton’s Old Fort Park in 1917 and is now perched along the levee trail.

Fort Benton was the southern terminus of a network of trails which were traversed over 100 years ago by wagons supplying illegal whiskey, as well as U.S. Cavalry and the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police who tried to bring order to the region. These trails were an important part of the story of the opening of the American and Canadian West. The trails connected Fort Benton and Fort Assiniboine (six miles southwest of Havre, Montana) with Canadian forts: Fort Walsh, Fort Battleford, and Wood Mountain Post in Saskatchewan, and Forts Whoop-Up, MacLeod and Calgary in Alberta.

History enthusiasts associated with these forts joined together to form the Old Forts Trail group, which provides information about the forts and the trails to those interested in learning more about the history of this region. For more information, go to www.oldfortstrail.com.

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LOCAL LIBRARIES: Old & New



The Chouteau County Free Library first opened in 1916, thanks largely to the efforts of Dorothy McLeish and her fellow members of the GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club.

The concept of a free public library was new to many at the time, and some worried it would create too much tax burden on local farmers or spread contagious diseases through library book circulation. But the women persisted in their education efforts and secured support from the county commissioners, along with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to help build a library building.

The library moved into its new building in 1918. That same Carnegie Library, located at 1518 Main St., continues to serve Chouteau County Library patrons today. An addition was built on the Carnegie building in 1993, matching the style of the original building and greatly expanding the size of the library.

The library features a large Children's Room, complete with a colorful mural by local artist Holly Ebeling, featuring favorite children's book characters. Computers are available for internet research and surfing, along with free WiFi for wireless devices. In the Montana Room, a variety of resources are available for researching local history.

A variety of programs and activities for all ages are offered at the library in Fort Benton, including author visits, educational presentations, youth summer reading programs, the annual Summer Celebration used book sale, a youth Lego club and more.

The Chouteau County Library also has branches in Big Sandy, Geraldine and Highwood. The Big Sandy Branch moved to a brand new location in January 2017, built thanks to years of fundraising efforts in the community.

The new location sits in the heart of Big Sandy, nestled among the bank, grocery store, coffee shop, post office and bars and halfway between the elementary and high schools. The new library is bright and spacious – three times larger than the old, rented library space.

Like the Fort Benton Branch location, it features a Children's Room and Montana Room, as well as computers, WiFi and a community meeting room.



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VISIT VIRGELLE: A REVIVED GHOST TOWN

Take a break from technology and step back in time with a visit to the homestead-era ghost town of Virgelle, Montana.

Accessible from a Highway 87 turnoff north of mile marker 66 between Loma and Big Sandy or by crossing the Missouri River on the Virgelle Ferry, the town of Virgelle was established by Virgil and Ella Blankenbaker in 1912. Virgelle once offered a post office, grain elevator, bank, school and general store, but making a living from a 320 acre homestead proved difficult. By 1930, many once-hopeful settlers had abandoned the area after struggling with rough ground, a dry climate and harsh winters.

In 1975, Don Sorensen bought the ghost town and revived it a few years later by opening an antique shop and bed and breakfast that has been in operation ever since. The Virgelle Mercantile, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, houses antiques in the basement and first floor and guest accommodations upstairs. More antiques are for sale down the boardwalk inside the historic bank.

Virgelle's rustic homestead cabins are popular with tourists hoping for a taste of the Wild West. The cozy cabins are complete with wood-burning cookstoves and quilt-topped beds. A nearby bath house offers the modern luxury of flush toilets and hot showers. Overnight guests are treated to hearty morning fare, often featuring locally-raised ingredients, such as Kamut wheat waffles, melons, corn, honey and more.

The National Geographic Traveler recommended Virgelle's accommodations and outfitting services when they named the Missouri River Breaks among their list of 20 Best Trips for 2013. They no longer operate their outfitting business, Missouri River Canoe Company, but the owners and staff at Virgelle remain knowledgeable resources for any visitors looking to float the Mighty Mo. Visitors are welcome to bring their own canoes or rent equipment from other outfitters during their stay.



Regular hours for the antique shop are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from April through October and other times of the year by appointment. Virgelle hosts special events throughout the year, including the Virgelle Outdoor Flea Market on Sunday, July 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and A Real Country Christmas at a Real Country Store Dec. 1 & 2, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Virgelle Mercantile is located at 7485 is located at 7485 Virgelle Ferry Road, Loma, MT 59460. Reach them at 1-800-426-2926 or virgellemontana.com.



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Fort Benton's historic buildings stand the test of time

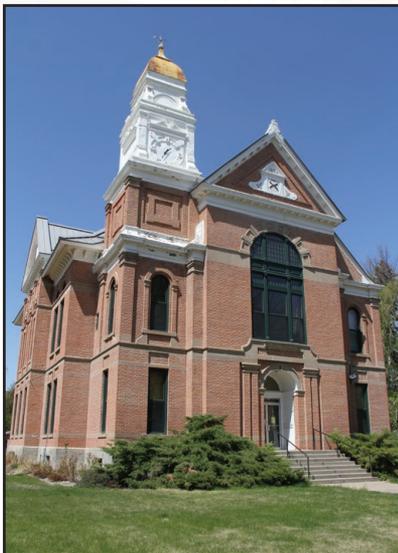
As you're exploring Fort Benton, be sure to take note of the many historic homes and buildings still in use today.

Fort Benton enjoyed a building boom during the mid-1800s when steady steamboat traffic made the town a Western hub. However, the hustle and bustle died off in 1884, when the railroad came and drew people to Great Falls, Helena and other major stops along the railway. Around 1908, the area saw another building boom with the arrival of homesteaders, but the Great Depression and droughts soon forced many to leave.

The area along Front Street on the Missouri River levee is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its role in the steamboat trade. The town is also a Preserve America community, part of a national initiative to keep history alive.

Here is a look at a few of Fort Benton's historic homes and buildings:

Chouteau County Courthouse – 1308 Franklin St.



The county courthouse was built in 1884, replacing the original courthouse that burned down. It was designed by architects Kees and Fisk from Minneapolis and is now Montana's second oldest county courthouse still in use.

Chouteau County is among nine of the Montana Territory's original counties, established 151 years ago in 1865 – decades before Montana became a state in 1889.

The county is named for fur traders Auguste and Pierre Chouteau, who owned the original Fort Benton trading post. Once the largest county in the Montana Territory, Chouteau County has been subdivided multiple times and now includes an area of 3,936 square miles and a population just under 6,000. There are now 56 counties in the state of Montana.

J.J. McGraw Building – 1512 Front St.



The J.J. McGraw Saloon was built in 1912 and was converted into a sandwich and soda shop during the Prohibition Era. Newspaper articles from the time indicate the owner may have run into some trouble with the feds by continuing to sell alcohol during the prohibition.

The building was later transformed into Capitol Theatre, complete with a sloped floor and stage. The movie theatre operated from around 1932 to 1962.

The building features a terracotta archway on the façade that was hidden for 84 years before the current owner, Bob Milford, uncovered it during his recent restoration work. In its new life, the building houses an antique shop, which opened in 2016, and living quarters in the back. The new shop's name, McGraw Antiques, gives a nod to the original saloon owner.

Grand Union Hotel – 1 Grand Union Square



At the intersection of Front and 14th streets, the Grand Union Hotel was known as the finest, most elegant accommodations between Minneapolis and Seattle when it was built in 1882.

As the steamboat era came to an end, harder times fell upon the hotel and the majestic old building slowly fell into disrepair. After years of vacancy, Montana natives Jim and Cheryl Gagnon purchased the building and began restoring the hotel to its former glory. They reopened the Grand Union in 1999 and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Grand Union celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2012 and is the oldest operating hotel in Montana. It also features a fine dining restaurant, The Union Grille.

Historic churches

Fort Benton's two oldest churches received some much-needed TLC this past year, thanks to contributions from generous donors. Both churches are included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Church of the Immaculate Conception



The Church of the Immaculate Conception, at the corner of 16th and Chouteau streets, was completed in 1908. It is a stone building with Swiss chalet architecture. It replaced Fort Benton's original Catholic Church, which was built in 1879 and burned in 1905.

The old church contains an ornate altar made in Italy that traveled to Fort Benton up the Missouri River by steamboat. It also features stained glass windows, decorative gables, statues and other features.

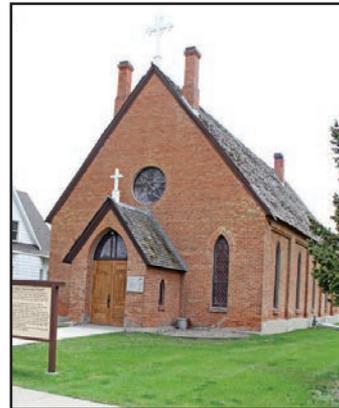
The congregation has held mass in a newer church across the street since the late 1960s and in recent years the old church had to be closed to the public, due

to falling plaster and cracking walls. Though no longer a sanctified Catholic Church, the ornate old building holds historic value and many memories.

An anonymous donor contributed \$50,000 plus additional matching funds to restore the historic building and work began in early 2018. They hope to be ready to re-open the historic church to visitors in time for Summer Celebration, June 22-24, 2018. Follow the progress on Facebook at the "Old Immaculate Conception Catholic Church" page.

A bank account for the Restoring Our Community Foundation has been established at First Security Bank in Fort Benton. Donations to the project can be dropped off there or mailed to the local parish at P.O. Box 849 or P.O. Box 868, Fort Benton, MT 59442. Checks should be made out to the Restoring Our Community Foundation to ensure the funds are allocated to the church restoration project.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located on the corner of 14th and Chouteau streets, was built in 1880 and is the oldest Episcopal church in Montana and the oldest church of any denomination in Fort Benton. The first services were held in the building on Aug. 10, 1881.

The Episcopal Church first came to Montana in 1867, with Bishop D.S. Tuttle traveling by horseback to mining camps and frontier posts. A saloon served as the church's first meeting place in Fort Benton.

The church bears many reminders of the past, including the inscription "Territory of Montana" under the church pews. The large stained glass at the front of the church was donated in memory of Anna M. Conrad, who died in 1888 at age 31. Several other stained glass windows were also donated by local families as memorials over the years.

A small congregation still holds Sunday services at the historic church. Insurance funds from previous hail damage, plus a private donation of \$5,000 and some funds from the city of Fort Benton provided a new roof for the church in December of 2017. Now, they hope to raise funds to repair the cracked walls, install gutters and complete other needed improvements.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, PO Box 463, Fort Benton, MT 59442.

More historic buildings continued on the next page...

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I.G. Baker Home – 1610 Front St.



Now a museum, Fort Benton's oldest home was built by I.G. Baker in 1867 so his wife could join him in Montana. She arrived and gave birth to a daughter, possibly the first non-Native American child born in Fort Benton.

However, Mrs. Baker and the baby moved back to St. Louis the next year, never to return. I.G. Baker continued as a mercantile businessman, splitting his time between Fort Benton and St. Louis. Gradually, he turned over the portion of his Montana and Canada-based business to the Conrad brothers and left town.

In the 1870s, the Conrad brothers remodeled the home and added two more rooms. It was there that Acting Governor of the Montana Territory Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish patriot and Civil War hero, ate his last meal before his death.

After dinner, he headed back to his steamboat cabin and either fell or was pushed into the Missouri River. His body was never recovered.

The home was later owned by Mrs. A.E. McLeish, a prominent community member. After her death, the house was donated to the community.

David G. Browne Home – 2012 Main St.



A large, white home sitting across the street from the Old Fort Park was built in 1916 by David G. Browne, who emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland at age 17.

Browne started out in Utah working for Wells Fargo, but purchased a mule team and wagons in 1878 and made his way to Montana's gold fields, eventually settling in Fort Benton.

Browne was president of Stockmen's National Bank, owned the Fort Benton ferries and invested in livestock and freighting teams. He served as an alderman and county commissioner and helped establish the Old Fort Park.

His home is said to have had the most expensive interior of all the homes built in the area during the turn of the century. All the woodwork is hardwood and the living room and master bedroom both contain brick fireplaces. Upstairs, each bedroom has a private sink and the third floor even contained an unfinished ballroom. The home remains a private residence.

Pioneer Lodge Hotel – 1700 Front St.



The Pioneer Lodge Hotel originally housed a two-story mercantile, built by T.C. Power in 1916 to cater to the many "sodbusters" who came to town during the homestead boom.

After the once-booming T.C. Power and Bro. business went bankrupt in 1934, local citizens formed a corporation and purchased the store, renaming it Pioneer Mercantile Co. It later closed and was remodeled into a hotel by Marvin and Winny Appleby, who opened the Pioneer Lodge for business in 1986. Thirty years later, the hotel is now run by the Applebys' daughter, Susie Yager. They celebrated the building's 100th birthday two years ago.

Robert F. Browne Home – 1014 Main St.



The son of prominent Fort Benton businessman David G. Browne, Robert F. Browne built a unique home inspired by the Queen Anne style in 1917. The home includes a covered driveway with brick pillars, gabled dormers and a huge brick fireplace in the living room.

The younger Browne was raised in Fort Benton and became a cashier at Stockmen's National Bank. Browne sold the house in 1924 after the bank closed and moved his family to California. Drought and poor wheat prices had hit Fort Benton hard at that time, leading many to pack up and move.

**Stop and see some of these unique historic buildings
between your visits to Fort Benton's museums**

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Shakespeare in the Park

Thursday, August 2, 2018 – Fort Benton, MT

"Love's Labour's Lost" – 6:00 PM – Old Fort Park

Benton Pharmacy: *If only the walls could talk*

Fort Benton saw a construction boom in 1882, and the building that now houses Benton Pharmacy (1418 Front St.), like the Grand Union Hotel a half block away, is one of the big brick buildings that arose that year, giving the town a new look that impressed residents and visitors.

This building was put up by the local Masonic order and housed the Masonic lodge. During the 1890s and early 1900s, the second floor served as Green's Opera House, and was a happening community spot hosting a steady stream of concerts and shows.

The River Press had regular reports of the entertainment at Green's, such as this news item from Feb. 12, 1896: "The ball given by the club at Green's opera house last evening, was one of the most successful and enjoyable of the series. A large crowd was present, and the exercises were continued until about 3 o'clock this morning."

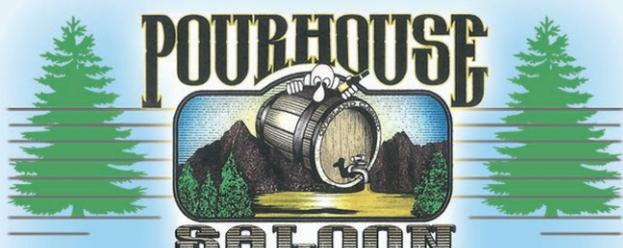
On June 9, 1903, the opera house hosted an evening featuring a new sport – basketball. The opera house was not the ideal venue for basketball games, but there were no basketball courts in town, since the game had only been invented 12 years earlier, in 1891. Most people in Fort Benton were not familiar with the sport.

Starting in the early 1900s, the Fort Shaw Indian School built up a girls' basketball team that was an invincible force as they traveled around the region. The Fort Shaw traveling road show, which included an orchestra and club swingers along with the basketball players, drew rave reviews wherever they went. They arrived in Fort Benton on the train at the start of a barnstorming tour through six towns in Northern Montana in six days. The River Press reported that the evening was "a grand success, socially and financially."

This building in Fort Benton is now the only surviving venue where the Fort Shaw girls played their 1903 basketball games. The

team went on to be crowned the 1904 world champions at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The building's second story has been unused for many years, but the main floor remains a busy part of the community. The building has housed Sharp's Grocery and several other businesses over the years. Benton Pharmacy opened here in 1973. The current owners, Chris and Terri Halko, purchased the business in 2006.



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Summer Celebration

Montana's premier small town festival



Fort Benton's 2018 Summer Celebration is set for June 22, 23 and 24, with some pre-festival fun planned for Thursday, June 21. The annual event draws thousands of visitors to town and is also a popular time for former residents to return to their hometown and reconnect with family and old friends.

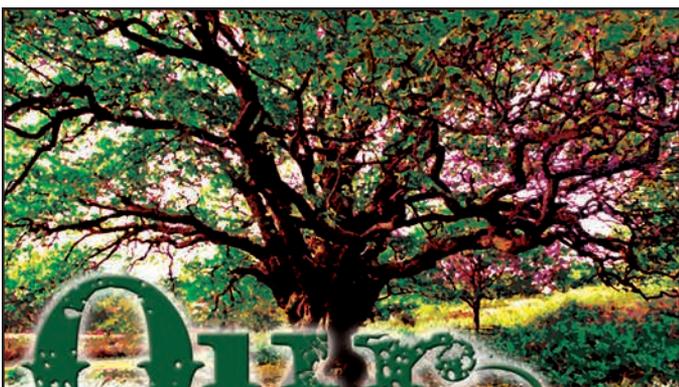
With the theme of "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer," this year's event promises a jam-packed weekend, including live music, street dances, a parade, a Saturday night fireworks show over the river, food, vendors, Art on the Levee, a PRCA rodeo, pancake breakfast, fun run, chalk art contest, activities for kids and more. The Saturday night fireworks show always draws a crowd, with people lining the levee along Front Street to "oooh" and "ahhh" as fireworks explode over the picturesque Missouri River.

This year's Celebration kicks off a day early with a couple events planned for Thursday, June 21. Sundae + Mr. Goesil, a vintage jazz duo, will perform at the Wake Cup Coffee House at 6 p.m. Later that night, DJ Joe will host a dance at The Club House from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

A few new additions to this year's Summer Celebration schedule include a corn hole tournament and a Summer Celebration's Got Talent show, emceed by Disneyland saxophonist Rob Verdi. The talent show will take place Sunday afternoon on June 24. For the younger crowd, Elsa and Anna from Disney's ever popular "Frozen"

movie will be making appearances over the weekend.

The Thrillbillies, a multi-genre cover band from Great Falls, will play on an outdoor



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stage for the Friday night street dance. Saturday night's headliner will be the Bucky Beaver Ground Grippers, a Billings-based band that plays a blend of country, rock and R&B.

Keep in mind, while the city of Fort Benton permits open containers in the evening concert area on Front Street during the festival, restrictions apply. Alcoholic beverages are only permitted on Front Street between 13th and 15th streets and down to the bars bordering Main Street. Taking open beverages across Main Street or anywhere beyond the boundary lines will be subject to fines. Open containers are only permitted until 2 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday during Summer Celebration.

As always, only those 21 years of age or older may carry or consume alcohol. Glass bottles are not permitted. Please respect the rules, drink responsibly and appoint a designated driver to help ensure a fun and safe Summer Celebration for everyone.

For the complete schedule of Summer Celebration events, visit fortbenton.com/sumcel.



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Let's go FISHING

With the scenic rivers, creeks, prairies, breaks and mountains, Chouteau County is a great place to spend some time fishing or hunting.

FISHING

The Missouri River flows through Chouteau County, making its way east through the plains. At Loma, the Teton River flows into the Marias, and the Maria flows into the Missouri. Major creeks in the county include Highwood Creek and Shonkin Creek in the Highwood Mountains, and Belt Creek on the southwest border of the county.

Many people fishing along the banks of the rivers in Chouteau County are hoping to reel in a walleye. Fishermen and women also fish for shovelnose sturgeon, smallmouth bass and catfish, as well as some northern pike and sauger. Nongame fish which people are generally not happy to see on their lines include suckers, goldeyes and carp. (Note: Pallid sturgeon are endangered and cannot be kept – learn how to tell them apart from shovelnose sturgeon.)

People fishing along the creeks are usually looking for rainbow trout or brown trout.

Areas throughout the state have different limits on the numbers and types of fish that can be caught, so check the regulations.

You can fish from any public lands along the river, but you need landowner permission to fish from private property. There are Missouri River fishing access sites at Loma and at the Carter Ferry, and the Widow Coulee Fishing Access Site is just north of where Belt Creek flows into the Missouri. The Coal Banks Landing and Judith Landing Recreation Areas on the Missouri River are Bureau of Land Management sites and are open to fishing.

Remember, if you're fishing from a boat, you need to "inspect, clean and dry" your watercraft before moving it between waterways. Due to concerns with invasive mussels, additional restrictions may apply.

Everyone age 12 or older needs a fishing license to fish. Montana residents from ages 12 to 17, and ages 62 and older, and those who are disabled, can get a fishing license at a reduced rate. Nonresidents need to purchase a nonresident fishing license. The fishing license year runs from March 1 through the last day of February.

Father's Day weekend is a free fishing weekend for both residents and nonresidents. This year the weekend is June 20-21.

The creeks in Chouteau County are now open to fishing year-round.

The Spring Classic Fishing Derby is held every year in Fort Benton the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend. Go to www.fortbenton.com/derby for more information.



Let's go **HUNTING**

HUNTING

There are lots of great places to hunt in Chouteau County, but you need to check the regulations, follow the rules and keep close track of where you are. You can hunt on any Forest Service, BLM, or state land, as long as you can access it from a public road. You cannot walk across private land to access public land and you cannot access public land from section corner to section corner.

There is a \$2.00 access fee for state land which is included in the conservation license for people hunting and fishing. People going onto state land for other types of recreation, such as birdwatching or photography, must pay the access fee.

There are lots of good hunting areas on private land, but for any type of hunting on private land, even for coyotes or gophers, you have to have landowner permission. You may wish to learn more about the Hunter Landowner Stewardship Project at fwp.mt.gov. You can also find out more about FWP's block management program.

The game you can hunt for in Chouteau County include mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn (commonly called antelope), elk, mountain goat, mountain lion, and bighorn sheep. You can hunt for a variety of birds, including pheasant, Hungarian partridge, and sharp-tailed grouse.

Bighorn sheep are usually found in the Missouri River Breaks. Elk are generally around the Highwood Mountains and the Bear's Paw Mountains. Hunts for all these big animals are usually allocated by permit.

Elk hunts in the Bear's Paw Mountains are strictly by permit, but elk hunt rules in the Highwood Mountains can vary from year to year, depending on elk populations.

You can get your hunting regulations and license at Lehman's True Value at 1422 Front St. in Fort Benton, at Central Montana Co-op in Geraldine, or at Mountain View Co-op in Big Sandy, or you can go online to fwp.mt.gov.

If you have questions about fishing or hunting in this area of Montana, be sure to contact the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 4 Headquarters in Great Falls, 406-454-5840. Folks who fish or hunt illegally are subject to penalties. Lack of knowledge is not an acceptable reason or excuse.



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Dive into history with online archives

Local history has been chronicled in the pages of the River Press since 1880, and now many of these historic archives are available to access for free online.

Thanks to grants from the local Lippard-Clawiter Foundation, the Fort Benton CIA Digital History Project has been able to digitize many decades of the River Press archives, with more to come. The archives can be viewed at montananewspapers.org, which offers key word search capabilities that can save researchers countless hours of flipping through hard-bound copies or microfilm.

In addition to the River Press, montananewspapers.org also

contains archives from more than 80 other Montana newspapers, dated from 1883 to 2015. They have uploaded more than half a million pages to date, and that number continuously grows. The website serves as a treasure trove for any Montana history buff or genealogy researcher.

Many of the earliest issues of



The River Press, March 18, 1942, Page 1

the River Press, from the first issue of Oct. 27, 1880 through 1888, and from 1902 through 1912, are not on montananewspapers.org but can be found on the Library of Congress Chronicling America website, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.



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Despite a small population, Chouteau County is home to two health clinics with 24-hour emergency room service, meaning you don't have to travel far should you experience an unfortunate mishap or illness during your stay.

The Missouri River Medical Center in Fort Benton and the Big Sandy Medical Center are staffed with doctors, nurses and lab technicians ready to come to your aid at any hour. If you require surgery or other specialized care, they will send you by ambulance to larger hospitals in Great Falls or Havre and communicate directly with their medical staff so they are well-equipped upon your arrival.

The local hospitals work in close partnership with several volunteer ambulance services in the community. The ambulance

teams in Big Sandy, Geraldine and Fort Benton are staffed by community volunteers who dedicate many hours each year continuing their education and maintaining their licenses as certified emergency medical technicians.

As always, call 9-1-1 in the case of an emergency and our Chouteau County Sheriff's Office dispatch office will send the help you need, 24-7. For non-emergency medical help, contact the medical centers directly:

Missouri River Medical Center (Fort Benton): (406) 622-3331

Benton Medical Center (Fort Benton's clinic): (406) 622-5485

Big Sandy Medical Center Hospital: (406) 378-2188

Big Sandy Medical Center Clinic: (406) 378-2189



Big Sandy Historical Society Museum

*Featuring historical items from the local area, like pioneer ranching days, a comprehensive collection of photos and information of area residents, and an exhibit of military items starting from WWI.

SEASON: June 1 - September 1
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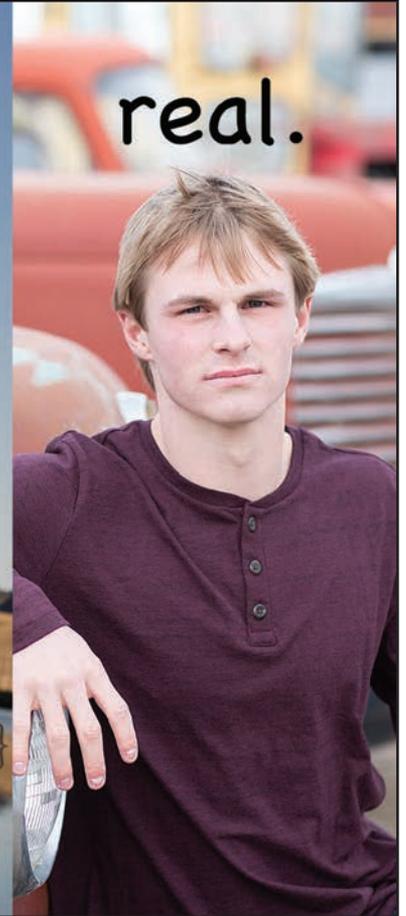
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Pastry chef serves up sweet treats for Wake Cup guests

From scones and pies to macarons and cheesecake, you can count on finding tempting treats in the display case at Wake Cup Coffee House, Cafe & Bakery in downtown Fort Benton.

Shayla Moss, formerly of Delaware, is the pastry chef behind the sweet creations.

Moss was born and raised in Pennsylvania until age 11, when she and her family moved to Delaware. Growing up cooking alongside her mother in the kitchen sparked her interest in becoming a pastry chef.

She attended St. Georges Technical High School and took advantage of baking opportunities through their culinary arts program. In the program, students work in all areas of the culinary arts field – dining room operations, cooking, bakeshop and pastry making. The students even had the opportunity to cater events.

Her high school culinary teacher helped Moss land her first job at a church, preparing meals for Saturday evening gatherings and breakfast pastries for Sunday morning services. After high school graduation, Moss was one of 21 pastry students accepted into the Culinary Institute of America in New York. She graduated with her associate's degree in 2016 and has been baking ever since.

"I got into food because it makes people happy," Moss said.

Before moving out West, Moss worked as a pastry chef in Minnesota for Burntside, a seasonal restaurant that also offered vacation rentals.

When her boss at Burntside moved to Fort Benton to accept a head chef position at the Grand Union Hotel in 2016, he soon convinced Moss to apply, too. After a few months at the Grand Union working as the pastry and breakfast chef, Moss took a job at the Wake Cup, where she has worked ever since.

Moss bakes the majority of the pies, cakes and other baked goods that can be found in the Wake Cup's display cases. When she has time, she also makes doughnuts, macarons, parfaits and other specialty pastries.

Custom orders can be placed by contacting Moss in person, over the phone or by contacting the Wake Cup at (406) 622-5400. For catered events, contact owner Amanda Bedford and she will coordinate further details with Moss. Orders made directly through Moss must be done at least 48 hours in advance to ensure she has enough time to get the job done.

In addition to a full espresso bar and baked goods, Wake Cup also offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus beer and wine.

Geraldine FUN DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018

Mark your calendars and come join the fun! Here's just some of what's planned: Geraldine Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast; 2nd Annual Ranch Run 5K and Half Marathon; Fresh Start Luncheon; Parade on Main St.; Pie and Ice Cream Social; Horseshoe Tournament; Wacky Softball & MORE!

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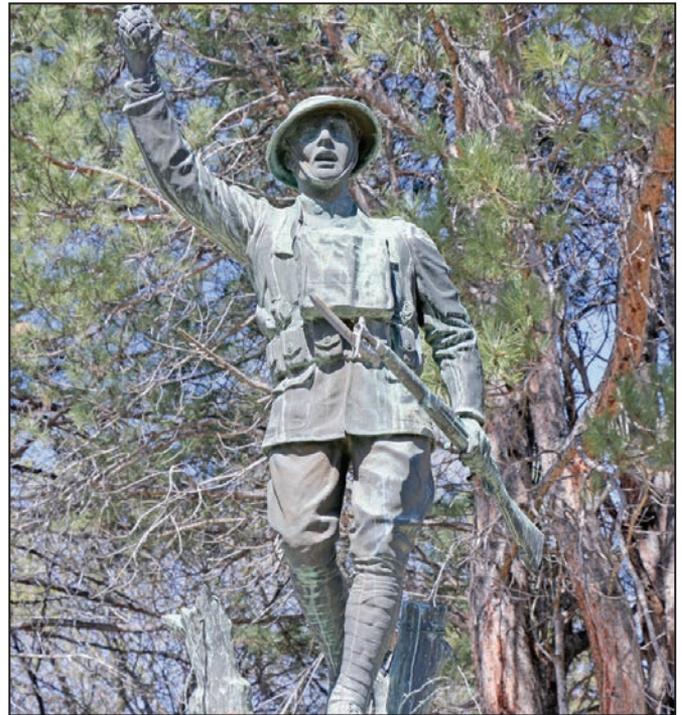


Veteran's Memorial Park

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" WWI memorial statue in Fort Benton's Veteran's Memorial Park is one of about 140 similar statues which can be found across the United States. This memorial honors the 71 Chouteau County residents who were killed in the First World War. The statue was unveiled on Nov. 11, 1923, at a ceremony which was attended by about 1,000 people. The statue stood in the middle of the intersection of Front and 14th Streets until 1956, when it was moved to its current location in the park.

Fort Benton's Veteran's Memorial Park is in the triangle area just south of Old Fort Park. In addition to the "American Doughboy" WWI memorial, Veteran's Memorial Park also includes:

- A WWII memorial
- A memorial to those who served in the Cold War, the Korean War, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf
- A memorial to the more than 4,000 US military working dogs that served in the Vietnam War
- A memorial to the B-17 crew who died on Sept. 2, 1943, on a training mission in Chouteau County
- A Montana Naval Forces Monument



Havre Beneath the Streets Frank DeRosa Railroad Museum

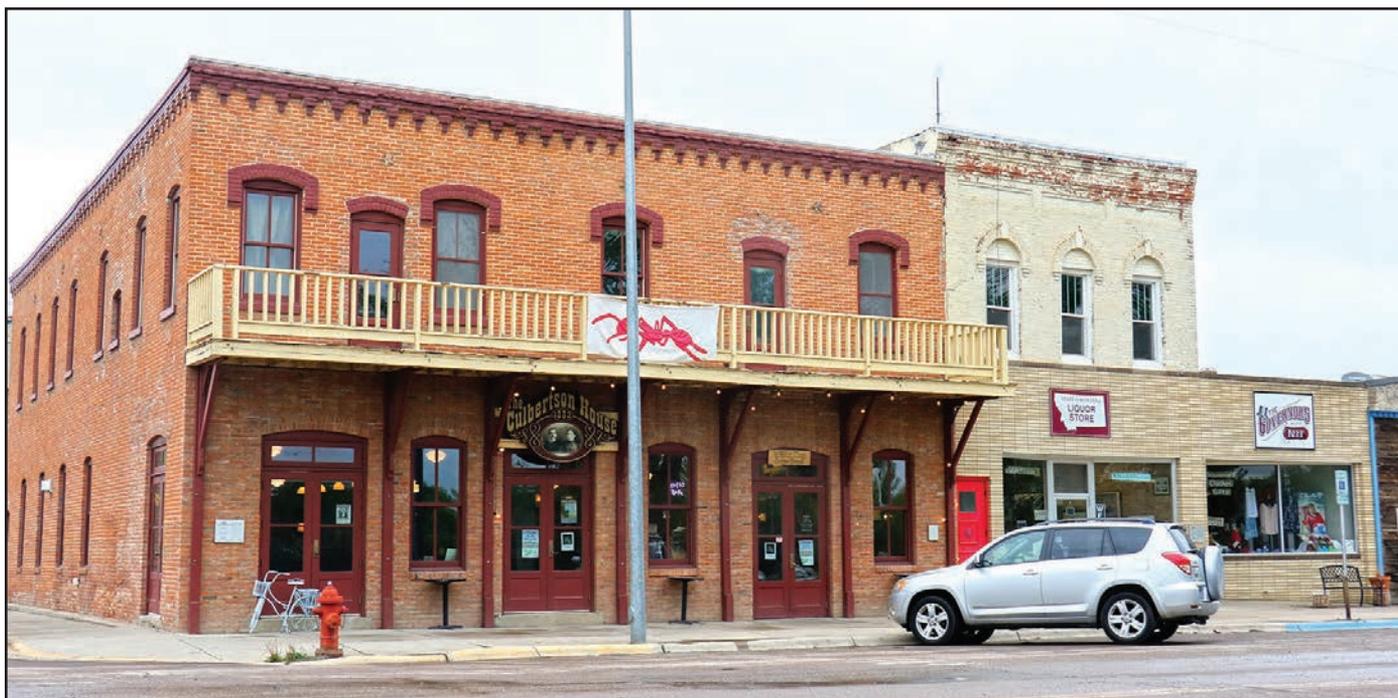


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THE “BLOODIEST BLOCK” EVOLVED INTO TODAY’S FRIENDLY **1500 BLOCK**

The 1500 block of Fort Benton’s Front Street, which today is bookended by the Wake Cup Coffee House and the River Market grocery store, was infamously known as the “Bloodiest Block in the West” back in the late 1800s.

Gold strikes in Grasshopper Creek, Alder Gulch, Last Chance Gulch and other locales in the Montana frontier in the early 1860s kept a steady stream of adventurous souls flowing into and through Fort Benton. By the late 1860s, thousands of tons of merchandise arrived on Fort Benton’s levee every year on steamboats up to 250 feet long.

On the “Bloodiest Block,” 12 of the 13 businesses were saloons, dance halls or brothels. Notorious establishments like Moses Solomon’s Medicine Lodge and the Jungle were roaring with wild life day and night. Infamous Eleanor Dumont, also known as Madame Mustache, dealt blackjack and other games in the second story of the Jungle.

Early Fort Benton pundit W.J. Minar was quoted saying, “a person could walk from Power’s store to the Murphy Maclay building without touching a foot to the ground, the path being carpeted for this distance with playing cards.”

The buildings from this era of Fort Benton were not really built to last, and the oldest building on the 1500 block of Front Street today is the Culbertson House, which was built in 1883 by Robert Culbertson. Today, this building is home to the Wake Cup Coffee House.

Robert Culbertson was the nephew of Alexander Culbertson, the founder of Fort Benton who established the upper Missouri Fort Benton trading post for the American Fur Company in 1846.

After serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Robert later decided to move west. In 1868, at the urging of his Uncle Alexander, Robert Culbertson boarded a steamboat at St. Louis and made the long journey up the Missouri River to Fort Benton, arriving at what may have been the height of the town’s wild days. He stayed in Fort Benton for 47 years.

In 1877, Robert Culbertson and a partner opened the Centennial Hotel, named in honor of the 100th birthday of the United States, in a wood frame building on the corner of Front and 15th Streets.

In the early 1880s Fort Benton and the steamboat trade were booming, and in 1882 the majestic Grand Union Hotel opened just a block from the Centennial. Culbertson moved his Centennial Hotel to the back of his lot and continued to operate the hotel while he built a new brick building on the corner of Front and 15th. The Pacific Hotel opened in 1883.

By this time, Fort Benton was not the raucous, rowdy town it had been in the 1860s, but it was still a busy, colorful, multicultural place. In the 1880s the 1500 block between Front and Main Streets was a center of activity for the Chinese community in Fort Benton. Chinese cooks worked at the Pacific Hotel, there was a Chinese laundry across the alley, and the building next door to the Pacific Hotel, which today houses Fort Benton’s liquor store, was a Chinese restaurant. In the basement of that building it is still possible to find signs of an opium den from that era.

Over the years the Pacific Hotel became known as the Culbertson House. Robert and his wife Lydia operated the hotel until her death in 1912. Their daughter, Ester Casey, then ran the hotel. After many Montana winters, Robert Culbertson retired to California in 1915.

In 1946, Fred Arnst, who owned the Capitol Theater which was in the building which today houses McGraw Antiques, purchased the Culbertson House from the Culbertson family and remodeled it to house a Coast to Coast hardware store, the predecessor of today’s Lehman’s True Value which is a half block away.

In the 1990s the Culbertson House was the home of a veterinary clinic and an animal shelter for a while. In the early 2000s, Kathy Lucke, a descendant of the Culbertson family, and her husband Don purchased the Culbertson house and restored the building to its former glory.

The Wake Cup Coffee House, which had opened 12 years earlier two blocks down the street, purchased the Culbertson House in 2016.

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Enjoy golf and scenic views at Signal Point



Signal Point, Fort Benton's public golf course, offers scenic beauty and some challenging features for golfers of all ages and experience levels.

Set atop bluffs just north of town, the course overlooks the meandering Missouri River and provides a full view of the historic city of Fort Benton below and the breaks that vanish into the horizon.

A golfer will start off with some long par

5 holes with cottonwood tree-lined fairways and slight doglegs, plus several sand hazards to make it interesting. Further through the course, the trees get denser and a large water hazard pond, some interesting shorter holes and tricky approaches will make the back nine a time to redeem oneself a second go around.

The nine hole course opened in 1969, named for the location where signals were once used to warn of approaching steamboats traveling up the Missouri during the late 1800s.

There is still a bit of signaling on the bluff, given the Fort Benton Airport, which sits adjacent to the golf course. It adds to the character of the area, where one can see on occasion small aircraft on the runway. It has been known, on occasion, that an errant drive from the second hole tee box could have a ball sailing out-of-bounds, tick-tacking along the tarmac.

The course was designed by Norman H. Woods, renowned for his designs in architecture and landscaping. His design not only nestled the course against the airport, but also right alongside an old cemetery. The Riverside Cemetery, like the airfield, may see an occasional out-of-bounds shot where players may encounter some unique territory. One may go looking for a shanked drive among headstones engraved with some prominent Fort Benton family names.

Adding to the scenery, the Highwood Mountains jut from the southern horizon and the Bear's Paw a striking ruggedness seen to the northeast. Early in the season they are often seen dusted with snow.

The course provides a chipping practice area, a putting green, and a driving range to warm up. Golfers can buy rental buckets of balls at a good price.

The Signal Point Clubhouse has all the basic equipment for a golfer's needs, such as rental clubs, carts, equipment, balls, cooked meals, and of course liquid refreshments -- including a fully stocked bar.

Signal Point opens in early spring and the season runs until late October, depending on weather. The club hosts a variety of charity tournaments and special events throughout the summer and many locals enjoy participating in leagues.

Greens fee discounts for seniors are available Monday through Thursday and tournaments are offered throughout the season. For more information, call the clubhouse at (406) 622-3666.

1416 Front Street
Fort Benton, MT

Palace Barbershop

Shireen Clark, Stylist
Open Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm
406.750.3819

*Headwear & Sandals
*22,000 New & Used Hard to Find Books
*Rain Gear, Packs, & Camping Gear
*Unique Gifts *Vintage Collectibles

river break basecamp

Open Late All Summer & Fall: 8 am - 10 pm, Daily
808 17th Street, Fort Benton, Montana

106th Annual **Chouteau County Fair** EVENTS:

Thursday-August 16th
The Grocery Store "Harvest Hot Dish" Competition, 6 pm - Free

Friday-August 17th
Golden Harvest Seeds Montana State Pig Wrestling Contest in the Grandstands Arena, 7:30 pm

Saturday-August 18th
United Truck and Tractor Pullers (Locals welcome to compete), 7 pm *Heritage Day in Commercial Building, 1-5*

Sunday-August 19th
Demolition Derby / Calcutta for Main Event - Chain and Go, 6 pm

PLUS! Vendors, Exhibits, Bounce Houses, 4-H events
FREE STAGE: "Double Vision" comedy act

LEWIS AND CLARK Memorial launched Summer Celebration

Forty-two years ago, Montana's Lewis and Clark Memorial on Fort Benton's levee was dedicated on June 13, 1976. Fort Benton celebrated the dedication of the statue, as well as the Bicentennial of the United States, with a big party, which became the start of a new tradition, the annual Summer Celebration.

Back in 1929, the Montana legislature designated Fort Benton as the site for a state memorial to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, in recognition of the role Fort Benton played in Montana's history. Planning for the memorial continued through 1930, but the Great Depression forced them to set the project aside.

In 1972, Joan Stewart, the associate editor of the River Press, found a mention of the memorial designation from 1929 and did some further research. It was soon determined that the designation had never been rescinded. Phil Scriver of Fort Benton contacted Bob Scriver, a nationally prominent western sculptor. Bob Scriver was at first interested and then enthusiastic about creating a Lewis and Clark Memorial. Bob Scriver suggested selling small replicas of the big bronze to finance the memorial statue. The Fort Benton Community Improvement Association received permission from the state in March 1973 to go ahead with the Lewis and Clark Memorial project.

One of the first jobs of the commission was to choose a theme for the statue. They decided the memorial would depict Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacajawea and her infant son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, or "Pomp," at the confluence of the Marias and Missouri Rivers,



SPORTS BAR
POOL TABLE
LIVE MUSIC
CASINO
GREAT BURGERS



RESTAURANT HOURS:
Monday - Thursday:
11 am to 10 pm
Friday: 11 am to 11 pm
Saturday: 9 am to 11 pm
Sunday: 9 am to 10 pm
BAR HOURS: 10 am to 2 am

**COME FOR SOME FOOD ...
STAY FOR SOME FUN!**

Club House, 1411 Main Street, Fort Benton, MT
(406) 622-3433



pondering the decision of which of the two rivers was the true Missouri. The explorers spent 10 days – June 2 to 11, 1805 – at this site near Loma. This was the Expedition’s longest stay in any camp, and it was a very critical decision on their journey. Fortunately, they chose the correct river, and they were able to travel through the Rocky Mountains before winter.

Bob Scriver launched into extensive historical research to make sure every detail of his Lewis and Clark statue would be historically accurate. The memorial’s dedication celebration took place June 11-13, 1976 and included canoe races, river rides, sky divers, black powder shooting, shows by a mounted patrol from Fort MacLeod, a car show, a beard contest, Model T races, a square dance festival, a buffalo barbecue, performances by Montie Montana, lots of musical entertainment, a Saturday night concert at the fairgrounds featuring “Hee-Haw” regulars the Hager Brothers, and country star Jody Miller; fireworks following the concert, and a Saturday night street dance downtown with big band music “for the old” and Twin Spin “for the young.”

Sunday afternoon’s big parade on Front Street was watched by an estimated 12,000 spectators. The dedication of the Lewis and Clark memorial was held later Sunday afternoon. The dedication was attended by many national, state, and Canadian officials. Those at the dedication also included three descendants of Sacajawea, and the four models for Scriver’s Lewis and Clark statue.

Many of the weekend’s activities became fun traditions of Fort Benton’s annual Summer Celebration.



Visit Decision Point

Visitors don’t have to drive far to see the confluence of the Marias and Missouri Rivers where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent 10 days in June 1805 trying to decide which river was the Missouri.

Traveling north on Highway 87, south of Loma turn right on the Loma Ferry Road. In about one half mile the Decision Point interpretive site parking lot will be on your left. A short trail leads up to a scenic view of the explorers’ camp, and interpretive signs give insights into the explorers’ thoughts as they worked through their decision. Today, the Missouri River is much bigger than the Marias, but this was not the case 211 years ago.

1STBMT.COM

Unwavering commitment to service.



1502 Main St., Fort Benton
406.622.2000

If your visit has inspired a longer stay, stop in and see the area’s Golden Triangle banking experts. From Totally Free Checking to financing your dream property, we’re here to help.

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Other office locations: Chester, Havre, Chinook, Lewistown, Fairfield, Choteau, & Vaughn

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Miles to Know

- > To Great Falls: 40 mi.
- > To Havre, MT: 75 mi.
- > To Bear Paw National Battlefield, South of Chinook: 105 mi.
- > To Glacier National Park:
 - East Glacier: 175 mi.
 - St. Mary: 185 mi.
 - West Glacier: 225 mi.
- > To Yellowstone National Park:
 - West Yellowstone, MT 305 mi.
 - Gardiner, MT: 275 mi.
- > To Canadian Border:
 - Port of Wild Horse (via Havre): 115 mi.
 - Port of Sweetgrass (via Shelby): 140 mi.
 - > To Shelby, MT: 100 mi.
 - > To Lewistown, MT: 110 mi.
 - > To Billings, MT: 225 mi.



Local Map and Key: Help to get to where you're going

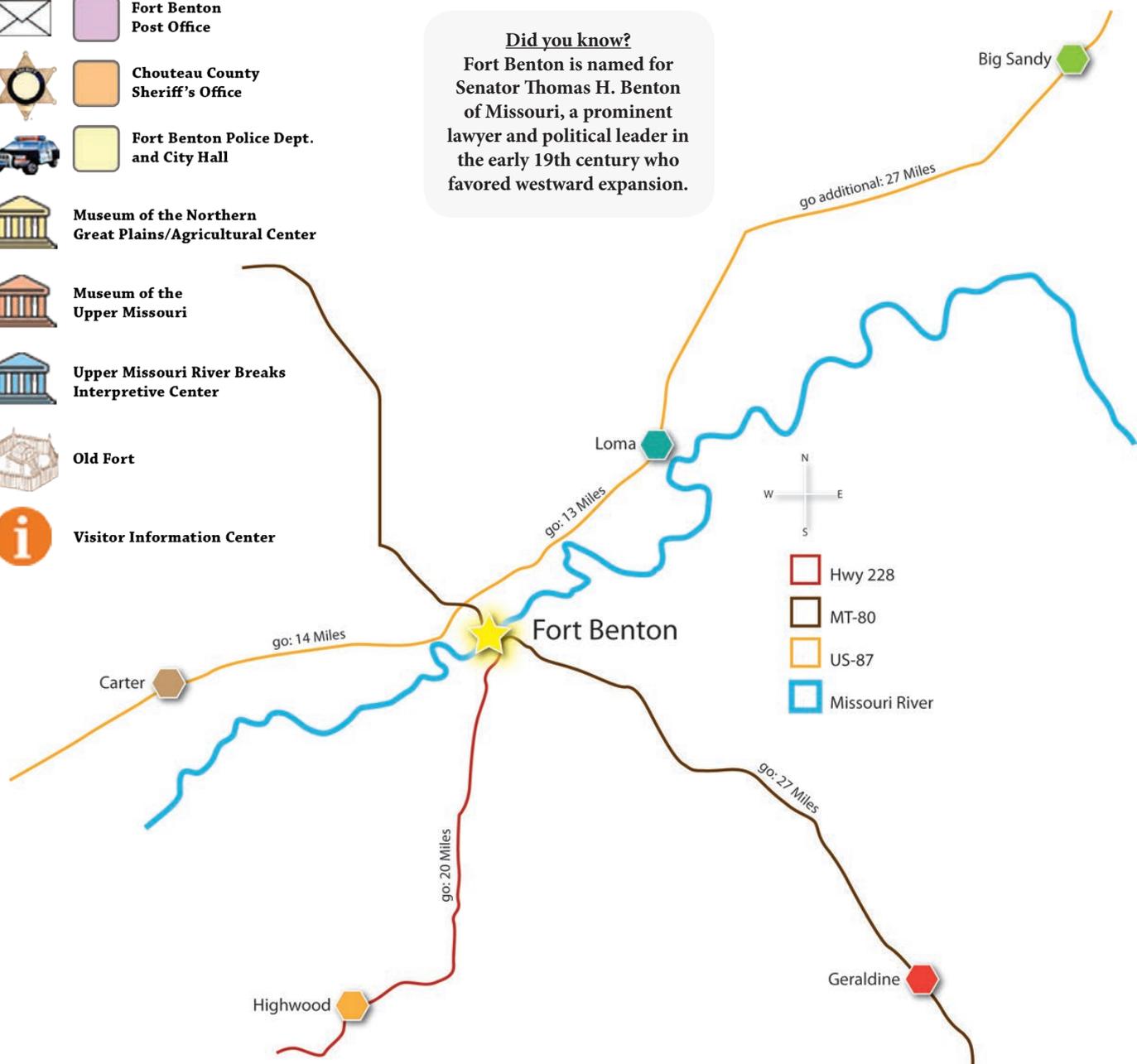
Fort Benton is a small town, but it's still nice to have a map to help show you around.

-  Fort Benton Old Fort Park
-  Fort Benton Middle/High School
-  Fort Benton Elementary School
-  Missouri River Medical Center (Hospital)
-  Chouteau County Library of Fort Benton
-  Fort Benton Post Office
-  Chouteau County Sheriff's Office
-  Fort Benton Police Dept. and City Hall
-  Museum of the Northern Great Plains/Agricultural Center
-  Museum of the Upper Missouri
-  Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center
-  Old Fort
-  Visitor Information Center

Did you know?
Chouteau County's name was misspelled as Choteau until the state made an official correction on March 5, 1903. The town of Choteau, located in Teton County, is named for the same fur trading family, but the spelling has not been corrected.

Did you know?
The Old Engine House on Front Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. It's currently the home to the Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Information Center.

Did you know?
Fort Benton is named for Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, a prominent lawyer and political leader in the early 19th century who favored westward expansion.



The Banque Club

(406) 622-5272

Open: All Week - Restaurant: 5 pm - 9 pm - Bar: 4 pm - 2 am
1318 Front Street, Fort Benton, MT

Salads

- Tossed Salad - \$3.00
- Chef Salad - \$9.00
- Marinated Chicken Salad - \$9.75
- Carter's Steak Salad - \$12.75
- Choice of Dressing
Ranch; Blue Cheese; French; 1000
Island; Italian; Oil & Vinegar

Dinners

- (Served with tossed salad, toast,
choice of potato. H.B. \$1 Extra)
- Chicken Strips - \$8.75
- Deep Fried Chicken - \$12.75
- Italian Marinated Chicken Breast
Fillet (2) - \$11.75
- Hamburger Steak w/
Grilled Onions - \$11.75
- Hamburger Steak - \$9.75
- Sirloin Steak, 8oz. - \$14.00
- Half-Cut Tenderloin, 8oz. - \$15.75
- Rib Steak, 16oz. - \$23.00

Split Orders - Add \$1.00
Proudly Serving Montana Beef

Seafood

- (Served with tossed salad, toast,
choice of potato. H.B. \$1 Extra)
- Deep Fried Shrimp (5) - \$16.75
- Tilapia M/P - \$13.50
- Torsk - \$15.50
- Halibut Steak - Market Price
- Deep Fried Oysters - \$14.75

Sandwiches

*(Served with choice of fries,
tots or salad)*

- Hamburger:
Plain - \$7.50
Deluxe - \$7.75

- Cheeseburger:
Plain - \$7.75
Deluxe - \$8.00

With Bacon - Add \$1.25
With Extra Patty - Add \$2.75

- Steamboat Burger - \$9.75
- Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato - \$7.75
- Grilled Cheese - \$5.00
- Grilled Ham & Cheese - \$6.75
- Chicken Burger - \$7.75
- Fish Burger - \$7.75

Appetizers

- Hot Wings - \$8.75
- Breaded Mushrooms - \$6.50
- Cheese Sticks - \$7.75
- Poppers - \$7.75
- Onion Rings - \$4.00
- Pork Egg Roll - \$2.50
- Mini Corn Dogs - \$6.50

Side Orders

- Oyster Stew - \$8.50
- French Fries - \$3.00
- Baked Potato - \$3.00
- Steak Fries - \$3.50
- Hash Browns (H.B.) - \$4.00

Dessert

- Ice Cream - \$1.50 per scoop
- Sundae - \$3.50
- Huckleberry Ice Cream
- \$2 per scoop
- Moose Tracks Ice Cream
- \$2 per scoop

Beverages

- Coffee - \$1.75
- Tea (pot) - \$1.75
- Iced Tea - \$1.75
- Milk - \$2.00
- Pop - \$1.75
- Hot Chocolate - \$2.75

Beer

- Domestic
- Imported

Wine

- House Wines by the Glass -
Choice of Rose; Chablis;
Burgundy; Cabernet Sauvignon;
White Zinfandel; Chardonnay;
Lambrusco; Bianco; Merlot;
Sangria; Riesling; Pinot Grigio

*We accept Visa,
Mastercard & Discover*
To-go orders - Add \$1.00

**PROUDLY SERVING
ORDERS TO GO!**

**Prices & Menu
Items Subject to Change**

The Freeze

(406) 622-FREZ (3739)

Open: Tuesday - Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm
1722 Front Street, Fort Benton, MT

Ice Cream

Cones

Small - \$2.25

Large - \$2.75

Dipped - Add 50¢

Kiddee Cone - \$1.50

Waffle Cone - \$4.25

Sundae - \$4.00; \$4.50

Parfait - \$4.50

Banana Split - \$6.50

Razzle - \$4.25; \$4.75

Ice Cream Treats - \$2.75

Monkey Tail - \$2.25

Pint - \$4.00

Add Huckleberries - 50¢

Burgers & Dogs

Longhorns - \$6.00

Mushroom Burger - \$5.50

Pizza Burger - \$5.50

Rodeo Burger - \$5.00

Cheeseburger - \$5.00

Plain Burger - \$4.50

Additional Items - Add 50¢

Cheese, Mushrooms,

Jalapeños,

Nacho Cheese or Bacon

- Add \$1

Nathan's Brand Hot Dog

- \$3.50

Polish Dog - \$3.50;

Large Polish Dog - \$8.00

Corn Dog - \$2.00

Sandwiches

Porkie Sand - \$5.50

Chicken Sand - \$5.00

Fish Sand - \$5.50

Shredded Pork - \$5.50

Gyro - \$6.25

Grilled Chicken - \$5.25

Salads

Taco, Greek or Chicken

- Lg/\$7.75

Dinners

(Includes Fries, Toast & Sauce)

Chicken Strips - \$8.00

Fish Basket - \$8.25

Asian Bowl - \$6.75

Shrimp Basket - \$8.25

Kid's Meal

(Includes Tots, Kid Pop
& Kid Cone)

Hot Dog - \$6.50

Corn Dog - \$6.50

Nuggets - \$6.50

Hamburger - \$6.50

Sides & Snacks

Chips - 75¢

Nachos - \$3.00

Fries - \$2.75

Tots - \$2.75

Rings - \$3.50

Nuggets - \$5.00

Mushrooms - \$5.00

Chicken Strips - \$5.00

Cheese Sticks - \$5.00

Mini Tacos - \$5.00

Mini Burritos - \$5.00

Drinks

Pop & Slushies

Small - \$1.50

Medium - \$1.75

Large - \$2.00

Milkshake - \$4.00; \$4.50

Floats - \$3.75

Soda - \$3.75

Boston Shake - \$5.00

Kiddee - \$3.25

Mistee Freeze - \$3.75; \$4.25

Coffee - \$1.50

*Prices & Menu
Items Subject to Change*

CLUB HOUSE

(406) 622-3433

Open Monday - Thursday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

1411 Main Street, Fort Benton, MT ORDERS TO-GO AVAILABLE for an additional \$1.00

LUNCH/DINNER

STARTERS

- *does not include fries*

- Cheese Fries \$4.00
- Chips & Salsa \$4.00
- Nachos \$4.50
- Nacho Deluxe \$10.00
(cheese, beef, onions, tomatoes, olives, salsa, sour cream, Jalapeños)
- Tot Deluxe \$10.00
(cheese, beef, onions, tomatoes, olives, salsa, sour cream, Jalapeños)
- Mac & Cheese Bites \$6.75
- Mini Corndogs \$6.75
- Mozzarella Sticks \$7.75
- Jalapeno Poppers \$6.00
- Onion Rings \$4.50
- Saucy Wings \$9.00
(Hot or Honey BBQ bone-in or boneless)
- Mini Tacos \$6.50
- Breaded Mushrooms \$6.50
- Jalapeno Cheese Tots \$4.00
- Fried Ravioli \$7.00
- Potato Skins \$8.00
(potato skins with cheddar cheese & bacon bits)
- Cheddar Cheese Bites \$6.50
- Mini Burritos \$7.00
- Pick 3 for \$18.00: Any appetizer except nacho deluxe or tot deluxe and wings

SANDWICHES

- *All sandwiches served on your choice Texas toast, whole wheat, sourdough, homemade bun, or hoagie and your choice fries or salad or soup*

- Club House \$9.00
- BLT \$7.50
- Cold Sandwich \$7.00
(your choice roast beef, ham, or turkey)
- Grilled Cheese \$6.50
(your choice American, swiss, cheddar, or pepper-jack)
- Grilled Ham & Cheese \$7.50
(your choice American, swiss, cheddar, or pepper-jack)
- French Dip \$8.00
(swiss or cream cheese)
- Rueben \$8.00
- Pork Chop \$8.00
- Italian Chicken \$8.00
- Grilled Chicken \$8.00
- Buffalo Chicken \$8.50
(Franks Red Hot, pepper-jack cheese and blue cheese dressing)

LIGHTER SIDE

- Salad & ½ Sandwich \$6.00
- Salad & Soup \$4.50
- Dinner Salad \$3.00
- Bowl Soup \$3.50
- Cup Soup \$3.00

BURGERS

- *Served on a grilled home-made bun with lettuce tomato, onion, & pickle with your choice of potato or salad or soup*

- Hamburger \$8.00 (1/3lb)
- Shorthorn \$8.75
(1/3lb with cheese)
- Babyhorn \$7.00
(1/4lb with cheese)
- Longhorn \$10.00
(1/2lb with cheese)
- Pioneer \$9.25
(1/3lb with bacon & cheese)
- Mountaineer \$9.25
(1/3lb mushroom & swiss)
- Tiger Burger \$8.75
(1/3lb with taco seasoning & pepper-jack cheese)
- Patty Melt \$9.00
(1/3lb with grilled onions, cheddar cheese on Texas toast)

BASKET MEALS

- *Served with your choice of soup, or salad, or fries*

- Chicken Strips \$9.00
- Finger Steaks \$10.00
- Chicken Gizzards \$8.50
- Shrimp Basket \$9.00
- 4-Piece Chicken \$8.50
- Beer Batter Fish Strips \$9.25
- Egg Rolls \$7.75
- Corndogs \$6.50
- Rocky MT Oysters \$8.75
- Fluffy Tacos \$8.50

(2 tacos with meat or chicken, cheese, lettuce, tomato, olives, onions)

SALADS

- All salads have tomatoes, olives, cheese, cucumber, & egg (1/2 salads available for \$2.00 less)

- Steak Salad \$13.95
- Crispy Chicken Salad \$9.00
- Grilled Chicken Salad \$9.00
- Italian Chicken Salad \$9.00
- Chicken Caesar Salad \$9.00
- Chef Salad \$9.00
- Taco Salad \$9.00
- Buffalo Chicken Salad \$9.00

DINNERS

- Served with a cup of soup or salad, garlic toast & your choice of potato

- 8oz Hamburger Steak \$11.95
(served with grilled onions and mushrooms)
- 8oz Sirloin Steak \$15.95
- 16oz Sirloin Steak \$22.95
- Shrimp Dinner \$16.95
(6 deep fried jumbo butterfly shrimp)
- Surf & Turf \$20.95
(3 breaded shrimp & 8oz sirloin)
- Chicken Fried Steak \$12.95
- Italian Chicken \$10.95

CHILDREN & SENIORS

- served with fries or tots or salad or soup

- Grilled Cheese \$4.00
- Chicken Strips \$6.00
- Corn Dog \$5.00

- Cheeseburger \$6.00
- Mini Corn Dogs \$6.75
- Chicken Nuggets \$6.00

CHICKEN TO-GO

- includes fries

- 4-Piece Chicken \$8.50
- 8-Piece Chicken \$14.00
- 12-Piece Chicken \$20.00
- 16-Piece Chicken \$26.00
- 20-Piece Chicken \$33.00
- 32-Piece Chicken \$50.00

FROZEN PIZZA

- Supreme \$14.00
- Garlic Chicken \$14.00
- Pepperoni \$11.00
- Sausage \$11.00
- Canadian Bacon \$11.00

DESSERT

- Ice Cream Sundae \$3.50
(chocolate & caramel)
- Pie of the Week \$4.00
(add a scoop of ice cream for an extra \$1.00)

BREAKFAST

Available only on Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM to Noon

All scramblers have 3 eggs and served with hashbrowns and toast!

- Cheese & Meat Scrambler \$7.00 - your choice of ham or bacon or sausage & cheddar cheese
- Denver Scrambler \$7.00 - onions, green peppers, ham, & cheddar cheese

- Mexican Scrambler \$7.00 – taco meat, jalapenos, tomatoes, onions, olives & cheddar cheese
- Pancakes \$7.00 – 3 pancakes served with hashbrowns & your choice ham, or bacon, or sausage
- French Toast \$7.00 – 2 pieces served with your choice ham, or bacon, or sausage
- Biscuits & Gravy \$7.00 – 2 biscuits with sausage gravy & hashbrowns
- Club House \$7.00 – 2 eggs, hashbrowns, toast, & your choice ham, or bacon, or sausage
- Breakfast Sandwich \$7.00 – 2 eggs, your choice of ham, or bacon, or sausage, with American cheese served on a biscuit or toast with hashbrowns
- Steak & Eggs \$15.95 – 8oz Sirloin Steak, 2 eggs, hashbrowns & toast
- Chicken Fried Steak \$12.95 – chicken fried steak, 2 eggs, hashbrowns

EXTRA SIDES

- 2 Strips Bacon \$3.00
- Toast \$1.00
- 2 Sausage Patty \$3.00
- Hashbrowns \$2.00
- 3 Sausage Links \$3.00
- Eggs \$2.00
- Ham \$3.00

Prices & Menu Items Subject to Change

Wake Cup Coffee House - Cafe & Bakery

(406) 622-5400

1500 Front Street, Fort Benton, MT (Orders to go available)

Hours of Operation: Monday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Saturday, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Pizza & a Full Dinner menu available 5 - 8 p.m.)

Menu changes seasonally - Daily specials - Current menu available at: www.wakecupcoffeehouse.com

BREAKFAST

Omelet or Wrap

3 egg omelet with toast, or get it rolled in a wheat wrap (great traveling option). Both choices come with hash browns.

Mexicali 8.50

Sausage, onion, peppers & pepper jack cheese.

The Mandan 9.00

Spinach, bacon, tomato and roasted garlic cream cheese

Veggie Blend 8.75

Spinach, onion, peppers, mushrooms, tomato, black olives, cheddar cheese

Build Your Own Omelet 8.50

2 egg 7.5

Choose 1 meat, 1 cheese, 2 veg

bacon, ham, sausage, cheddar, swiss, pepper jack, mozzarella, feta, parmesan, onions, peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes, spinach, olives & broccoli

Griddle Classics

Madame Mustache 8.25

Two house made biscuits smothered in homemade sausage gravy. Served with hash browns

The Basic 8.50

Two eggs, choice of ham, bacon, or sausage, toast, and hash browns

Steak & Eggs 13.50

10 oz sirloin tip with your choice of eggs, toast and homestyle hash

Novelties

Huevos Rancheros 7.00

2 fried corn tortillas topped with black beans, fresh salsa, cilantro & 2 eggs your style. Comes with homestyle hash

Eggs Bene 8.00

Toasted English muffins topped with crispy bacon, poached eggs, & fresh hollandaise. Served with shredded hash

Benton Grits 9.00

cheesy grits topped with house sausage gravy, poached eggs and English muffin

Porridge 5.50

The Culbertson: cranberries, almonds, honey

Brother Van's: berry sauce, yogurt, honey

The Amanda: brown sugar, cinnamon, pecans

Skillets

2 eggs over homestyle hash with your choice of toast

The Steamboat 10.50

Sausage, ham, bacon, mushrooms, peppers, onions, cheddar

The Sacajawea (vegetarian option) 9.50

Broccoli, peppers, cabbage mix, sweet potatoes, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, parmesan

The Lewis 9.50

Sausage, mushrooms, onions, mozzarella

Sweet Things

Three Hot Cakes 6.00

3 large hot cakes served with whipped cream

Mancakes 7.00

3 large hot cakes filled with chocolate chips & bacon, topped with whipped cream

French Toast 5.50

two slices of sourdough or whole wheat

Stuffed French Toast 7.00

french toast stuffed with berry cream cheese

Waffle 6.00

one waffle topped with berry sauce & whipped cream

Add: berries or chocolate chips + .50

Sides

Bagel 3.50: jam & cream cheese

Two Meat Slices 3.00: sausage link or patty, thick bacon strips, ham

Toast 2.00: whole wheat, sourdough, rye, English muffin, homemade biscuit

Hot Cake or French Toast 2.50

Cup of Fruit 2.50

Gravy 2.00

2 Eggs 1.50

LUNCH

Orchard Salad 9.50

spinach, apples, raisins, feta cheese, almonds, grilled chicken, house made roasted garlic vinaigrette

Spring Fling 10.00

spinach, feta cheese, purple onion, avocado, grilled chicken, house made honey mustard

Classic Caesar 7.00

chopped romaine, house made croutons, parmesan cheese, house made caesar

Classic Chicken Caesar 9.50

Chicken Taco 8.50

chopped romaine, black beans, olives, corn chips, tomatoes, cheddar, purple onion, fried chicken, salsa, ranch, sour cream

Asian Chicken 8.50

shredded cabbage, chopped romaine, carrots, bell peppers, sesame seeds, grilled chicken, house made citrus ginger vinaigrette

Green Salad 6.50 / with chicken 8.00

House Made Dressings: honey mustard * caesar * ranch

* blue cheese * citrus ginger vinaigrette * roasted garlic vinaigrette * shak sauce (thousand island)

Quesadillas:

served with chips & salsa

Chicken & Cheese 6.50

cheddar cheese, diced chicken

Loaded Veggie Quesadilla 8.75

grilled onions, peppers, chicken, cheddar cheese, black beans, mushrooms, broccoli, banana peppers

Tailgater 8.25

grilled bell peppers, onion, chicken, bacon, cheddar cheese

Hawaiian 7.50

house BBQ, pulled pork, pineapple, & cheddar.

Served with a creamy BBQ dipping sauce

Whole Wheat Wraps:

served with chips & pickle

Tuscan Chicken 8.75

grilled onion, bell peppers, chicken, sundried tomato, kalamata olives, artichoke hearts, parmesan cheese

Chicken Bacon 9.50

grilled chicken, bacon, spinach, avocado, cheddar cheese, ranch or caesar

Garden Harvest 8.00

grilled peppers, onion, mushrooms, tomato, spinach, mozzarella

Where's Waldo? 9.00

mozzarella, swiss, feta, tomato, spinach, & caesar spread

Soup Du Jour:

Made with creative love in house and served with a roll

Call 406.622.5400 to find out today's option!

Cup 4.00 or Bowl 5.00

Burritos & Tacos

Served with corn chips & salsa

Pork Burrito 9.00

pulled pork, rice, black beans, onion, tomato, cabbage, cheddar, salsa fresca, & shak sauce. Wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla

Fish Burrito 9.00

grilled cod, white sauce, black beans, tomato, cilantro & lettuce. Wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla

Pork Carnitas (GF) 7.00

2 pulled pork tacos on corn tortillas, topped with cabbage, cheddar, salsa fresca, cilantro & a wedge of lime.

Toasted Sandwiches:

Served with chips & pickle

Turk N Ched 9.00

turkey, cheddar, tomato, mayo, mustard, lettuce, on sourdough

Caesar Swiss Tuna 9.50

tuna, caesar spread, tomato, purple onion, swiss cheese, on wheat

Ranchers Delight 9.25

turkey, bacon, tomato, purple onion, parmesan cheese, ranch dressing, lettuce, on wheat bread

Rueben 11.00

corned beef, sauerkraut, swiss cheese, shak sauce, on rye

Ryeding Marano 9.00

ham, apple, cheddar cheese, lettuce, whole grain mustard, mayo, on rye bread

Ham & Cheese 8.50

ham, cheddar cheese, on sourdough

BLT 9.00

Thick bacon, mayo, tomato, lettuce on your choice of bread

BLAT 9.50 with avocado

Po-Boy 8.00

house BBQ, pulled pork, pickle chips, shak sauce, cabbage & tomatoes on a toasted hoagie bun

The Brekky 8.00

bacon, fried egg, cheddar cheese & mayo on toasted rye

From The Grill:

Served with regular or sweet potato fries

Burgers: 1/3 lb patty on a toasted sesame bun

Wake Cup Burger 8.00

tomato, lettuce, onion, pickle, shak sauce

Cheeseburger 8.50

tomato, lettuce, onion, mustard, pickle, cheddar cheese

Swiss Mushroom Burger 8.75

grilled mushrooms, onion, lettuce, caesar spread, swiss cheese,

Bacon Cheddar Burger 10.00

bacon, cheddar, shak sauce, mayo, tomato, pickles, lettuce

Kiwi Burger 11.00

shak sauce, mayo, pickled veggies, spinach, gorgonzola,

fried egg, & Jake's bacon jam

Maui Burger 9.00

pineapple, bacon, BBQ, mayo, tomato, Swiss & spinach

Baskets:

Chicken Strips 8.50

breaded strips with choice of fries

Fry Basket 5.50

regular or sweet potato fries with signature dipping sauce

Rice Bowls - GLUTEN FREE!

Vegan? Sub black beans for chicken or egg!

Benton Hipster 8.00

2 fried eggs, black beans, tomato, onion, broccoli, avocado
& Cajun seasoning, drizzled with cilantro lime sauce

Asian 8.50

peppers, mushrooms, onions, broccoli, cabbage, fresh basil,
grilled chicken & sesame seeds. Drizzled with Asian vinaigrette

Thai 8.50

peppers, broccoli, mushrooms, grilled chicken,
house peanut sauce, sesame seeds & cilantro lime

Garden Fresh - Vegan/Vegetarian

Vegetarian Burrito 8.00

rice, black beans, onion, tomato, peppers, sweet potato, fresh
cilantro & cilantro lime sauce. Wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla
& served with chips & salsa.

Veggie Burger 8.00

house made chickpea patty, loaded with your choice of fries

Veggie Taco 7.00

2 corn tacos with crispy sweet potatoes, black beans, tomato,
broccoli, peppers, cabbage, & cilantro lime sauce.

Comes with chips & salsa

Garden Harvest Wrap 8.00

grilled peppers, mushrooms, & onions, mozzarella cheese
& spinach. Comes with chips & pickle.

The J'Nanna Salad 8.50

chopped romaine, purple onions, black beans, tomato, avocado,
corn chips, cheddar cheese, salsa, ranch & sour cream.

The C'stina Salad 6.50: half sized J'Nanna

DINNER

Appetizers:

Manders Nachos 8.00

Corn chips, black beans, banana peppers, tomatoes, onions,
and cheese sauce. Served with salsa, sour cream, and your
choice of hot sauce.

Pub Fries 7.50

Crispy fries with our cheese sauce, gorgonzola, bacon,
with a drizzle of sriracha

Bruchetta 8.00

Rustic tomato basil sauce & creamy goat cheese, drizzled
with tangy balsamic reduction on toasted crustinis

Basket O' Yum 5.50

A heaping helping of your choice of fries; regular,
hand cut potatoes (+1) or sweet potato (+1).

BBQ Pork Nachos 9.00

Slow roasted BBQ pork, cheese sauce, cheddar, BBQ sauce,
onions, tomatoes and jalapeños on corn chips.

Flat Bread

Ask about tonight's selection

Pizza:

CLASSICS: with our homemade, mouth-watering red sauce
& a blend of cheese

Sausage or Pepperoni: a heaping of your choice

12" \$12.00 16" \$16.00 18" \$18.00

Cheese Lovers: gooey goodness

12" \$10.00 16" \$14.00 18" \$16.00

Supreme: red sauce, ham, pepperoni, sausage, bell peppers,
mushrooms, black olives

12" \$17.00 16" \$23.50 18" \$25.50

Meatza Pizza: ham, pepperoni & sausage

12" \$14.75 16" \$19.50 18" \$22.50

Specialty pizzas:

Ask about our weekly specials

Hawaiian BBQ: BBQ sauce, ham, pineapple, & cheddar
(add jalapeños +.50)

12" \$12.75 16" \$17.00 18" \$19.50

Naked Sicilian: creamy pesto, chicken, fresh tomato, kalamata
olives & feta cheese

12" \$16.75 16" \$22.50 18" \$24.50

Blanco: homemade white sauce, chicken, parmesan, artichoke
hearts, fresh tomato & fresh spinach

12" \$13.50 16" \$18.00 18" \$20.00

Vegetarian *NEW RECIPE!: creamy pesto, cheese blend,
tomato, mushrooms, peppers, onions, broccoli,
kalamata olives, & black beans

12" \$15.25 14" \$21.00 16" \$23.00

Build your own PIZZA!

Your choice of sauce, cheese, meat
& 2 veggie or "other topping":

12" \$14.00 16" \$18.00 18" \$22.00

Sauces: red sauce, white sauce, creamy pesto, ranch,
caesar, oil & garlic, BBQ

Cheese: pizza blend, parmesan, cheddar, feta (Extra + \$2)

Meat Options: ham, sausage, chicken, pepperoni, (Extra + \$3)

Fresh Veggies: tomato, mushroom, spinach, onion,
bell peppers, broccoli (Extra + \$1)

Salads:

Caesar Salad 7.00

Crisp romaine, house made croutons, parmesan cheese, &
house made caesar dressing.

Add chicken +2.5 Add salmon +5

The 3 Sisters Salad 12.00

Sweet, Salty & surprising. Spinach, house made candied pecans,
fresh pear, sharp gorgonzola cheese, and grilled salmon. Tossed
in house made raspberry citrus vinaigrette.

Cilantro Lime Cabbage Crunch 7.00

Shredded cabbage, carrots, almonds and bell peppers tossed in
a cilantro lime ginger sauce.

Add chicken +2.50 Add salmon +5

Steak Salad 13.00

Spring mix, gorgonzola, Kracklin' Kamut, purple onion, hard
boiled egg, sirloin steak, & our house warm bacon dressing.

Burgers:

Hand pressed 1/3 lb burgers on a house made bun with fries,
soup or house salad. All burgers come loaded!

The Jessie/James 11.00

Named after Alex's favorite redheads, this fiery jalapeño burger
is topped with cheddar and BBQ sauce. Want more Jessie? Add
hot sauce. Want more James? Add avocado!

BB King 11.00

A tribute to the late great blues man. Bacon, delicious grilled
onions and mushrooms. Topped with crumbled gorgonzola.

The Regular 8.50

A plain, juicy burger cooked to your liking with all of the
toppings.

Shauninator 13.00

You'd better be hungry!! A double decker with bacon, avocado,
onion, tomato, & two slices of cheese (swiss, mozzarella
or cheddar). Half size \$10

Casual Fare:

Chicken Dinner 9.50

Home battered chicken breast, with a home made biscuit,
honey butter, and your choice of fries, soup or salad.

Simply "the best!"

Slow Roasted Pork Sandwich 9.50

Topped with cabbage, grilled onions, and fresh cilantro on a
house made bun with your choice of fries, soup or salad.

Fish Tacos (GF) 12.00

3 house battered cod filets dressed with citrus white sauce,
house pickled peppers and onions, with cabbage, avocados,
black beans and cheddar on corn tortillas.

Pork Carnitas (GF) 9.00

3 pulled pork tacos on corn tortillas with cabbage, cheddar,
salsa Fresca, cilantro & fresh lime

Tailgater Quesadilla 8.25

Grilled bell peppers, onion, chicken, bacon & cheddar cheese.
Comes with chips & salsa

Entrees:

All Entrees come with a house salad

Lovely Linguini 8.00

MT linguini tossed in Jamie's white gorgonzola, with parmesan,
and feta. Add Chicken +2.5 Add Salmon +5

Fancy Mac

Jasmine's favorite!

Penne pasta tossed in our house cheese sauce with crisp bacon
& onions. Sprinkled with savory bread crumbs.

Chicken Fried Steak 12.00

Cubed steak with mashed potatoes, grilled veg & gravy

Ribeye Steak 23.00

Juicy 10 oz ribeye cooked your way over garlic mashed potatoes
with grilled asparagus

Polenta Plate (vegetarian) 13.00

Crispy grilled polenta cakes served over rustic marinara sauce &
sprinkled with fresh parmesan cheese

Shrimp Etouffee 15.00

A slightly spicy Cajun cream based stew over rice. Sprinkled
with fresh cilantro. Claimed to be a dish that could be eaten for
dinner daily!

MORE:

Daily selection of fresh baked goods sure to satisfy any hungry
belly - *Cookies, cakes, specialty desserts *Muffins, scones,
cinnamon rolls, quiche varieties, breakfast sandwiches.

*See daily specials on our Facebook page

*Orders to go call: 406.622.5400

*Now serving beer and wine

Union Grille Restaurant

1 Grand Union Square, Fort Benton, MT

406-622-1882

Open in the summer (June through August) for evening dining from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Wednesday through Monday (we will be closed on Tuesdays). During the fall, winter and spring (September through May), we will be open from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

Small Plates

Shrimp Ssam

chipotle / asparagus / pickled carrots / radish /
bibb lettuce / crème fraiche
8

Duck Prosciutto Bruschetta

fava bean puree / grilled mushrooms / ricotta /
sourdough bread
9

Elk Skirt Steak

ramps / chives / radish / huckleberry wojapi /
purple mountain corn tortilla
10

Cheese Platter

selection of Montana produced cheese / house made jam /
grilled bread
17

Casual Plates

Grand Union Burger

bacon / cheddar cheese / caramelized onions /
roasted garlic aioli / potato roll / fries
13

Market Flatbread

Farm inspired seasonal ingredients
13

Steak Frites

6 oz flat iron steak / caramelized onions /
blue cheese butter / fries
20

Pan Roasted Salmon Salad

sugar snap peas / radish / chives / orange / bibb lettuce /
banyuls vinaigrette
21

Asparagus Fettuccine

mushrooms / chives / ricotta / parmesan
17

Shaved Asparagus

radish / miner's lettuce / ricotta cheese /
creamy asparagus vinaigrette
8

Entrée Plates

Pan Roasted Trout

asparagus / mushrooms / roasted fingerling potatoes /
champignon leaves / beurre blanc
26

Pan Roasted Salmon

sugar snap peas / roasted carrots / mint / beluga lentils
28

Grilled Beef Tenderloin

grilled ramps / mushrooms / mashed potatoes /
sauce bordelaise
37

Grilled Pork Chop

stinging nettles / apple / smoked apple butter / mustard
spatzli / balsamic
26

Grilled Lamb Chops

fava beans / grilled butter lettuce / orange / chives /
purple mountain corn polenta
34

Grilled Bison Coulette Steak

fiddlehead ferns / wood sorrel / wild rice / horseradish
gremolata / green garlic puree
35

*We would like to thank our Montana farmers for gracing us with such beautiful product.
Down to Earth Growers / Montana Flour & Grains / The Oil Barn / Twin Hill Colony / Montana Honey / Tucker Family Farms /
Lifeline Farm Creamery / Mountina Cheese / Rancho Picante / Montana Roots / Amaltheia Produce / Strike Farms / Bausch Potatoes /
Montana Ranch Beef*

*Menu is subject to change. Thank you for being our special guests.
Executive Chef Joshua Boyd*



GRAND UNION
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Est. 1882

History with Western Elegance

Stay at the historic Grand Union Hotel located on the banks of the Missouri River.

26 luxurious guests rooms and suites.

Dine in the award winning Union Grille Restaurant.

Fort Benton, Montana 406.622.1882 grandunionhotel.com

Guide Directory: *MT AREA CODE - (406)*

Need a local phone number or looking to contact one of our advertisers? Find them here!

Emergency Numbers & Local Services

- Police/Sheriff/Fire/Ambulance: 911
- Fort Benton Police Dept. (non-emergency): 622-5494
- Cho. Co. Sheriff's Dept. (non-emergency): 622-5451
- Missouri River Medical Center (Hospital): 622-3331, Page 40
- Benton Medical Center (Clinic): 622-5485
- Cho. Co. Health Dept.: 622-3771; 1-800-QUIT-NOW, Page 31, 47
- Fort Benton Post Office: 622-3613
- Chouteau County Library: 622-5222, Page 34
- Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce: 622-3864, Page 3, 23
- Fort Benton City Pool: 622-9943 Page 11
- Fort Benton High School: 622-3213 or 622-5112
- Fort Benton Elementary School: 622-3721 or 622-3761
- Triangle Communications: 1-800-332-1201, Page 4

Accommodations

- The Grand Union Hotel: 622-1882, Page 36, 63
- Pioneer Lodge: 622-5441, Page 12, Page 38
- D&S RV Park: 622-5104, Page 27
- Benton RV Park: 622-5015, Page 30
- Emily's Vacation Cottage: 622-5209 or 231-2764, Page 41
- The River House: 622-5298 or 622-3238, Page 16
- Franklin Street Guest House: 733-2261, Page 37
- Rusty's Bed & Breakfast: 737-4549, Page 32
- Virgelle Mercantile Bed & Breakfast: 378-3110, Page 17, 35
- The Fort Motel: 622-3312, Page 29
- The Motel: 378-2389, Page 42

Agriculture

- Columbia Grain, Inc.: 1-800-823-5434 or 734-5336, Page 18
- MaxAg of Montana: 734-5446 or 231-5114, Page 50
- Joyce Fuel & Feeds: 622-3363 (Fort Benton) 737-4561 (Geraldine), Page 27
- Kracklin' Kamut: Page 44

Animal Services

- Dedman Foundation & Animal Shelter: 622-5657, Page 13
- Highwoods Veterinary Service: 622-4787, Page 10

Bank/Financial/Insurance

- First Bank of Montana: 622-2000, Page 53
- John Good Agency: 622-3318, Page 31
- Great Plains Insurance: 622-5133, Page 33
- Farm Bureau Insurance (Jared Vielleux): 622-3821, Page 29
- Pioneer Insurance Agency: 622-5033, Page 48
- Montana Ranch Insurance: 622-3391, Page 44
- PayneWest Insurance: 622-3410, Page 24

Events

- Summer Celebration, Page 9, 40-41
- Summer Celebration PRCA Rodeo, Page 28
- Boats, Blues & Brews, Page 23
- Geraldine Fun Day, Page 47
- Chouteau County Performing Arts: Page 22
- Chouteau County Fair Office: 622-5505, Page 27, 51

Food/Drink/Restaurant

- The Banque Club: 622-5272, Page 56
- The Club House: 622-3433, Page 52, 58-59
- Pour House Saloon: 622-9931, Page 39
- The Freeze: 622-3739, Page 33, 57
- Union Grille Restaurant: 622-1882, Page 62
- Wake Cup Coffee House, Cafe & Bakery: 622-5400, Page 60-61, 67
- Ma's Loma Cafe: 739-4400, Page 26, 28-29
- Palace Bar: 622-5581, Page 17
- Rusty's Bar & Grill: 737-4549, Page 32
- Square Butte Country Club: 737-4327, Page 13
- The Expedition Pizza Co.: 622-5102, Page 48
- B Social Bar & Lanes: 622-5040, Page 8
- Triple Dog Brewing Co.: 879-8103, Page 19
- Big Sandy Meat Shop: 378-2119, Page 34
- Bomgardner Catering: 788-7246, Page 41
- Missouri River Landing Farmer's Market: 750-2918, Page 38

- River Market: 622-3341, Page 35
- Fresh Start Cooperative: 737-4385, Page 46
- The Grocery Store (Big Sandy): 378-2305, Page 42
- The Mint Bar & Café (Big Sandy): 378-2679, Page 43
- Milk & Honey: Page 35

Gas/Convenience Stores

- JoyCo: 622-3381, Page 30
- Pa's Loma Mart: 739-4422, Page 26
- Joyce Fuel & Feeds: 622-3363 (Fort Benton) 737-4561 (Geraldine), Page 27

Hair & Personal Care

- Palace Barbershop: 750-3819, Page 51
- Levee Salon & Day Spa: 622-5072, Page 20
- Studio Salon & Day Spa: 622-5856, Page 25

Local Museums

- Museum of the Northern Great Plains: 622-5316, Page 10-11
- Agricultural Center, & Overholser Research Center: 622-5316
- Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center: 622-4000, Page 13
- River & Plains Society: 622-5316, Page 5
- Wahnka Chu'gn Buffalo Jump: 265-6417 or 945-3503, Page 19
- Havre Beneath The Streets: 265-8888, Page 48
- Big Sandy Historical Society Museum: 378-2640 or 378-2565, Page 45

Medical

- Benton Pharmacy: 622-5489, Page 2
- Jimmerson Chiropractic: 622-5598, Page 11
- Benton Eye Clinic: 622-5449, Page 10
- Big Sandy Medical Center: 378-2188, Page 45
- Missouri River Medical Center: 622-3331, Page 40

Miscellaneous

- Compassionate Friends of North-Central MT: 781-4354, Page 25
- Dawn Andreasen Massage: 788-7230 or 622-5317, Page 10
- Signal Point Golf Club: 622-3666, Page 67
- B Social Bar & Lanes: 622-5040, Page 8
- k.rae creations jewelry: 737-4287, Page 32
- k.rae creations photography: 737-4287, Page 46
- Ballantyne Design Associates (BDA): 781-7148, Page 15
- River City Laundromat: 622-3224, Page 20
- Benton Funeral Home: 622-3621, Page 23
- The River Press: 622-3311, Page 6, 34, 44, 48
- Sunrise Bluffs Estates: 622-5443, Page 66
- Entropy Images: 865-0312, Page 47

Realty Services

- Corder and Associates: 622-3224, Page 8
- Fort Benton Realty: 622-3803, Page 15

Retail & Shopping

- Lehman's True Value: 622-5042, Page 5
- Benton Pharmacy: 622-5489 Page 2
- The Prairie Rose Gallery and Gifts: 868-6210, Page 16
- River's Edge Floral: 622-5241, Page 35
- The Governor's Keep: 622-5130, Page 2
- River Break Basecamp: 564-3326, Page 51
- Sadie's Thrift Store: 622-3416, Page 21
- Montana Honey, Inc.: 622-5539, Page 37
- Stitch Away: 622-4244, Page 41
- Virgelle Mercantile: 378-3110, Page 17, 35
- Missouri River Lumber: 622-3373, Page 29
- Benton Floor Covering: 622-3238, Page 12

Tours/Canoe/Shuttle

- Missouri River Outfitters: 622-3295, Page 14

Vehicle Care

- Jim Taylor Motors: 622-5491, Page 68
- Darrell's Body Shop: 622-5300, Page 21
- NAPA T.G.F. Parts Stop: 622-5461, Page 30
- River City Car Wash: 622-3224, Page 20
- Star Motors: 622-5600, Page 27
- H&H Car and Truck Repair Center: 622-5822, Page 17

Fort Benton City Ordinances

Thank you for being our guest. Please be aware of the below ordinances.

- **Campers and RVs:** May be parked in RV parks: Fort Benton has two. Campers and RVs may also be parked for overnight camping in the swimming pool parking lot. Other than those exceptions, no person may park any motor vehicle for camping purposes within the city, including private property. RVs, campers, trailers and boats may not be parked on city streets for purposes of storage or repair. However, they may be temporarily parked on city streets for the purpose of preparing for immediate use. RVs, campers, boats and trailers may not be angle parked on Front Street. Vehicles over 20 feet in length are not permitted to be angle parked on Front Street between 12th and 18th Streets, or on 14th Street, 15th Street and 17th Street between Front Street and Main Street.
- **City Parks:** Overnight camping is not allowed in city parks without special advance permission from the Fort Benton City Council.
- **Dogs:** All dogs in city parks and along the river levee are required to be on a leash no greater than 10 feet in length. All solid excrement must be picked up by the person in charge of the dog. ****No dogs are allowed in Old Fort Park during Summer Celebration, June 22, 23 & 24, 2018.****
- **Open Burning:** All open fires are prohibited unless a burn permit is obtained beforehand from the Fort Benton Police Department.
- **Fireworks:** It is unlawful to discharge fireworks within the city limits of Fort Benton without having first obtained a special permit from the Fort Benton Police Department.
- **Noise:** Any condition, including noise, which endangers safety or health, is offensive to the senses or obstructs the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by the community or neighborhood or by any considerable number of persons, constitutes a public nuisance and is prohibited.
- **Speed Limits:** Fort Benton has several speed zones that vary from 40 mph to 15 mph. All school and park zones are 15 mph. Most residential streets are 20 mph. 13th Street is 25 mph, and Saint Charles Street varies from 30 mph to 40 mph, depending on location. All zones are posted, and speed is enforced by radar.
- **Seat Belt Use:** Seat belt use is required by state law. Properly adjusted and fastened seatbelts must be used by all occupants in motor vehicles.
- **Alcohol:** Driving under the influence of alcohol, or with an open container is a criminal offense. Persons under the age of 21 may not consume or possess any alcoholic beverage. Open alcoholic beverage containers are prohibited while upon any public way, sidewalk, street or alley within the city. An open container permit may be issued for special events.
- **Curfews:** Persons under the age of 18 and not accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult person having the care/custody of the minor, may not be upon any public thoroughfare between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and between the hours of 12:00 midnight to 5:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.
- **Door to Door Sales:** All salesmen, including door-to-door salesmen, must obtain a city business license.
- **Garage Sales:** No restrictions; however, signs advertising garage sales must be removed promptly.

Please call the City of Fort Benton or the Fort Benton Police Department at (406) 622-5494 with questions about the above information.

Church Directory

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Father Mohan Raj Arockia, 1223 16th, Fort Benton, 622-3726. Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.; 11 a.m. the first Sunday of each month. Weekday Masses 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

Fort Benton United Methodist Church, Rev. Losaline Tupoumalohi, 1201 Chouteau, 622-3763, Sunday worship 11 a.m.

Faith Bible Fellowship, 906 Chouteau, Fort Benton, 453-9225 or 622-5383. Sunday worship 11 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal, Rev. Tim Ljunggren, 1110 14th, Fort Benton. Sunday Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. or Holy Eucharist and Homily, 5 p.m. (rotating schedule)

First Christian Church, 1201 Main, Fort Benton, 622-3387. Kit Miller, minister, Sunday worship & jr. church 10:45 a.m.

First Lutheran Church, Pastor Wade Harr, 13th & Chouteau, Fort Benton, 952-1790. Sunday worship 10 a.m.

Community Bible Church, Joe Jordan, Pastor, 1600 Main, Fort Benton, 622-5171. Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Gage Grossman, Branch President, 2201 St. Charles, Fort Benton, 622-5800. Sunday Sacrament 10 a.m.

Geraldine Community United Methodist Church, Rev. Losaline Tupoumalohi, 801-815-4032. Sunday service 9 a.m.; Fellowship and coffee 10 a.m.

Geraldine St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Father Mohan Raj Arockia, Sunday Mass 11 a.m.; 9 a.m. the first Sunday of each month

Highwood Community United Methodist Church, 733-5441, Sunday worship 11 a.m.

Faith Community Church of Highwood, 1055 Broadway, 733- 2234. Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

Carter Community United Methodist Church, Pastor Evelyn Kunkel, 213 2nd Street, 264-5221. Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

Big Sandy United Methodist Church, Pastor Sharon Robertson, 182 1st Ave., 732-574-5528, Sunday worship 11:30 a.m.

Restoration United Pentecostal Church, Pastor James Garrett, corner of 2nd and Main Street in Loma, 621-0304, Sunday services 10 a.m.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	R	O	C	A	B	M	A	V	E	N
S	A	P	O	N	O	A	L	I	K	E
A	D	E	D	O	W	N	S	I	Z	E
L	I	N	A	D	I	O	S			
M	O	S	S	E	E	N	S	E	R	A
	P	A	S	U	P	K	E	E	P	
H	A	I	R	S		T	I	L	D	E
U	P	D	I	K	E	O	A	T		
G	R	O	G		T	A	R	S	U	C
		B	U	N	C	O		D	U	O
D	O	W	N	R	I	G	H	T	D	R
A	D	O	B	E	L	I	T	E	L	L
H	E	N	C	E	E	D	O	R	Y	E

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Furnish;
2. Couple;
3. Retain;
4. Spear

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	6	3	1	2	5	4	9	8
9	8	1	4	6	7	3	5	2
2	4	5	8	3	9	1	6	7
6	1	7	3	5	2	8	4	9
8	2	9	6	1	4	5	7	3
3	5	4	9	7	8	6	2	1
4	7	2	5	8	1	9	3	6
1	9	6	7	4	3	2	8	5
5	3	8	2	9	6	7	1	4

Try your luck!

All answers are on page 65, if you get stuck.

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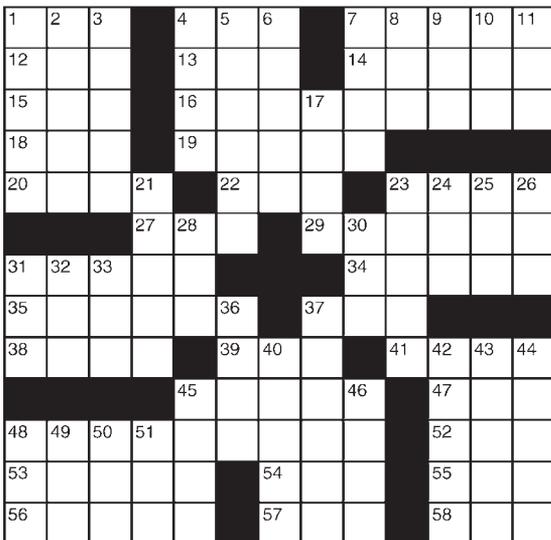
The River Press: 1408 Front Street : PO Box 69
Fort Benton, Montana 59442

Email: riverpressnews@gmail.com

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Paid player
- 4 Taxi
- 7 Expert
- 12 Potential syrup
- 13 Lennon's lady
- 14 Similar
- 15 Citric beverage
- 16 Underwent reduction
- 18 Jeremy of basketball
- 19 Tijuana toodle-oo
- 20 Rolling stone's lack
- 22 Poetic night-fall
- 23 Antitoxins
- 27 -- de deux
- 29 Maintenance
- 31 Quibblers split these
- 34 Senorita's wiggle?
- 35 "Rabbit, Run" author
- 37 Feedbag morsel
- 38 Piratic quaff
- 39 Paving goop
- 41 "-- is life!"
- 45 Con game
- 47 Pair
- 48 Absolutely
- 52 Use a towel
- 53 Photoshop company
- 54 Reading matter, for short

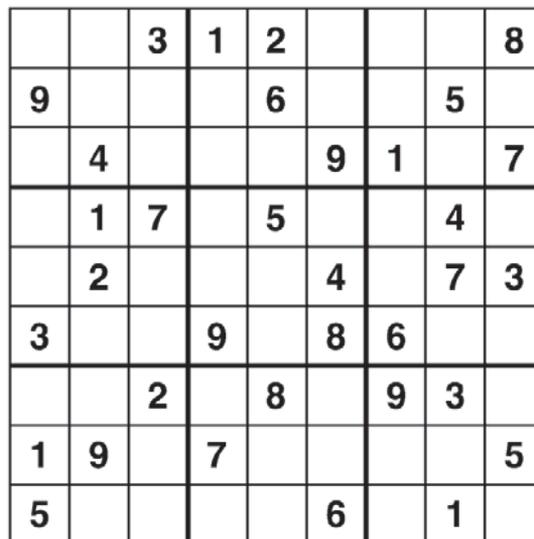


DOWN

- 1 Any of 150 in the Bible
- 2 Deejay's domain
- 3 Starts
- 4 Last few notes
- 5 Battery terminals
- 6 Jim at the Alamo
- 7 Church service
- 8 "The Greatest"
- 9 Kin of "i.e."
- 10 -- out a living
- 11 Homer's neighbor
- 17 Bourgeois, to Brits
- 21 Parsley serving
- 23 Revue segments
- 24 Conger or moray
- 25 Roulette bet
- 26 Mimic
- 28 Request
- 30 Sch. org.
- 31 Embrace
- 32 Spring mo.
- 33 Bachelor's last words
- 36 Needle case
- 37 Corsage bloom
- 40 Point of view
- 42 Milk dispenser
- 43 Moe's brother
- 44 Rulebook compiler
- 45 A "Desperate Housewife"
- 46 Director
- 48 Doo follower
- 49 Praise in verse
- 50 Took the prize
- 51 Peacock network

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

Outfit

FISHRUN

Pair

POLEUC

Keep

TRAINED

Pierce

PARSE

Bakery



Breakfast



Cafe & Bakery

Dinner



Lunch



Beverages



1500 Front Street, Fort Benton MT 406-622-5400

Please visit our website for our full menu and hours of operation.

wakecupcoffeehouse.com

Signal Point Golf Course

Fort Benton, Montana

Designed by Norman H. Woods in 1968, this beautiful 9 hole golf course overlooks the scenic Upper Missouri River in historic Fort Benton.

345 Signal Point Road, Fort Benton, MT 59442

406.622.3666

signalpoint@itstriangle.com www.golfsignalpoint.com

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