



President's Letter



Hi everyone! It's July! Can you believe it?! We hope you enjoyed the 4th of July parade as we are now geared up for our seasonal visitors and, of course, the Festival of the Arts, on August 3rd & 4th. We always need volunteers to make it a success so please call the office or click here to see where you are needed the most. "It takes a village!" Don't forget, the Chamber office is open for Summer hours now: Monday-Friday 10-5 and Saturday-Sunday 10-3. Send your guests and visitors down so they can gather up all the information on Bigfork and the Valley. Oh, and make sure your current brochures are there!! Check the Chamber website and the calendar for all of the events going on this month. Everyone is working so hard this summer for our businesses and for our customers, I hope you are all able to take some time out for yourselves and enjoy our wonderful little town. Here's to a Joyful July - Janine



The Bigfork Festival of the Arts is just around the corner!

Here is what you need to know...

Celebrating its 41st year, the Bigfork Festival of the Arts will take place August 3rd & 4th.

It was May of 1978 when the idea of a Bigfork Festival of the Arts was first proposed. As so often happens in Bigfork, it started with a conversation on Electric Ave. between members of the community. The first festival was held on the first weekend in August of 1978. It was a resounding success despite the committee's inexperience. The feedback from the community was very positive and the group agreed that it should become an annual event. Elna Darrow served as festival chair for several years. In 2005, a committee of the Bigfork Area Chamber of Commerce took over leadership of the event with proceeds being earmarked for advertising/marketing Bigfork.

Over the years, the festival has grown steadily to its current size. There are more than 100 booths representing a wide variety of arts and crafts by nationally and internationally

recognized artists and craftsmen. Festival attendance is estimated to be more than 6,000.

The Festival of the Arts would not be possible without your help. Please sign up [here](#) to volunteer, or call our office at 406-837-5861.

Grand Drive and Electric Avenue will be closed to traffic both days from 6 am-5 pm. If you have a business or live in the downtown area, please contact the chamber for a parking pass.



The Bigfork Art and Cultural center has been hard at work on a special exhibition that highlights the diversity of artistic styles and mediums while using the human form. 42 artists have donated their time and talent to transform mannequin bodies or parts, using a variety of mediums, into unique works of art. These works will be displayed around the Flathead Valley at 28 locations, June 22 thru mid-August. The exhibition culminates in a lovely event at The Nest on Swan River on August 15, along with a chance to bid on your favorite piece! Click [here](#) to find out more!



June 11th Woods Bay Wine Sundowner

Join us tonight from 5-6:30 pm, on the patio at Woods Bay Wine, located 5 miles south of Bigfork, for our monthly networking reception. Discover one of the gems of Bigfork while you visit with friends, find out the latest Bigfork news and try your luck on some raffle prizes. Joining Woods Bay Wine in hosting this event will be Flathead Lake Resort, Flathead Flowers and Max's Market.

Thank you to everyone who attended the June Sundowner and to Holly and the Curative Yoga team for hosting us at their beautiful studio.



Bigfork was recently named one of the best lake towns to visit, in the world, by The Discoverer. Check out the entire list [here](#).

Bigfork's historic Jug Tree has a new address on a new name!

The Jug Tree Liquor Store, an anchor on Electric Avenue for decades, spent 4th of

July weekend moving to their new home located at the intersection of Highway 35 & 83. Along with the move comes a new name, Bigfork Liquor Barn. The Bigfork Liquor Barn's new building is considerably larger, allowing for an expanded liquor and wine selection along with gifts. Read the full article from the Flathead Beacon [here](#).

After 38 years, Tammy Grilley is retiring.

Tammy Grilley announced her retirement after nearly four decades in the banking business. Many of us know her from her 20+ years with First Interstate Bank. Tammy's last day will be July 31st. Make sure to stop in and congratulate her.



Welcome the New Businesses and Chamber Members in Bigfork!

- *Handle It Boutique* is a fashion accessory boutique featuring up-cycled canvas and leather handbags, ancient Roman glass jewelry, sunglasses, hats, beach towels and more. Visit them at 7995 Montana Highway 35, Ste B, just south of El Topo.
 - *Bigfork Design* opened their doors in June on Electric Avenue in the former Frame of Reference building. The beautiful shop is full of handmade and custom tables, lux furnishings, clothing, unique gifts, lighting, pottery and local wildflowers, perennials and herbs for the home and veranda.
 - The Perch Riverside Bar and Eatery, at *The Nest on Swan River*, recently opened serving wine, beer, cocktails and light fare. Enjoy the scenic drive or stop by on your float trip. They are open Sunday -Thursday.
 - *Montana Public Radio* (MTPR) is a public service of the University of Montana – serving western and central Montana and beyond and a new member. MTPR can be heard on 90.1 locally.
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Summer Fun Thanks to the Visitors-

Kim Morisaki - Director of Marketing & Business Development

I grew up in Lake Blaine with a summer routine that is still with me to this day. Any kid who gets to have their summer vacation in the Flathead Valley knows you do your chores in the morning so that the afternoon is free to spend at the lake, or biking, or some other fun thing with your friends. You eat dinner on the deck and you don't go inside until the sun goes down at 10:30PM. When there may only be 10 or 12 weeks of hot weather you don't waste a minute of it. When my boys were little, I would come home from work at 5:00 on any July evening and ask them what they wanted to do for the next five hours outside – go to the lake, play baseball in the backyard, our buzz down to the family farm in Bigfork? And then it was “Let's get to it, we are burning daylight!” Summer is a resource not to be wasted. They were exhausted by the end of

summer and always glad to go back to school!

I occasionally hear people complain about all the visitors who come to share our summers with us. I don't understand this. First of all, how can you blame them? Summers in Bigfork are the best! And there is so much we have that we would not have without the people who spend their money to be here for just a few days during the warm season. If it were always just the 100,000 of us year-round, we'd miss some wonderful things because there are not enough of us to financially support all these fabulous activities by ourselves. Visitors to the Flathead brought \$614MM with them in 2018 and supported over 11,000 jobs. \$44MM was proprietor income that went straight to local business owners and \$35MM went to State and local taxes. Most importantly, everything is better when you share!

Here is my Top Ten list of things we would not have without tourists.

- Air service on five airlines with non-stop flights to 13 national hubs
- 19 Craft breweries, distilleries, wineries and cideries
- The Bigfork Summer Playhouse and Alpine Theater Project
- A wonderful variety and quality of restaurants in every corner of the Flathead
- Many outdoor toy-rental companies for your boating, jet-skiing, and paddle boarding pleasure
- A fine collection of art galleries and art shows
- Glacier Symphony and outdoor concerts around the Valley
- Farmers Markets in every community
- Events that cater to every interest and attract people who patronize all our locally owned businesses
- Fabulous parades and firework displays every Independence Day

Our best Bigfork Summer 2018 activity (besides jumping off the rocks at Wayfarer's) was outside movies at Brookside Yard with my teenagers. I hope this is happening again in 2019! These are the little boys I taught not to waste a minute of summer and now with the arrival of hot weather we are looking forward to dinner at The Raven followed by a classic movie under the big Montana sky with our old friends and hopefully some new ones too!

From Glacier Country Tourism: TOURISM FAST FACTS

40% of nonresident visitors came to Montana for vacation in 2018. 19% came to visit relatives or friends living here. (Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research, ITRR)

Tourism supported more than 59,290 Montana jobs in 2018, and \$230 million in state and local taxes. (ITRR)

In 2018, 3% of all travelers to Montana were overseas visitors, who spent an average of \$218 a day. (ITRR)

Tid-Bits you need to know -

Montana's First Statewide Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan is Complete!

This Plan lays out the vision and goals for the State with a menu of strategies that will aid all jurisdictions in improving walking and bicycling in Montana. This was accomplished through input from the public, gathering and analyzing data, and identifying trends. The Plan also recognizes the important role our cities and towns play in achieving the vision and includes resources for enhancing community non-motorized travel.

The Plan represents MDT's continued commitment to multimodal transportation and to investing in infrastructure that supports walking and biking for every day travel. In support of Vision Zero, MDT looks forward to working with all of you to realize the vision of a Montana as a place where people of all ages and abilities can safely walk or bicycle for every day trips. To access the plan, please click [here](#).

The **Bigfork Summer Playhouse** has opened *The Wedding Singer*, based on the hit Adam Sandler movie. *The Wedding Singer* takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in any New Jersey banquet hall. Rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Will our Robbie find his greatest love of all and get that white wedding of his dreams, or is he stuck in a world where love is a battlefield? Come to *The Wedding Singer* to find out!



The wedding singer opened at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Tuesday July 9 and will be in the rotation of the Bigfork Summer Playhouse's 60's season of live professional theatre. Also playing are *Suessical the Musical*, *Catch Me If You Can* and *Oklahoma*. To get tickets call 837-4886, go to our Facebook page or go to www.bigforksummerplayhouse.com

FULL MOON PARTY

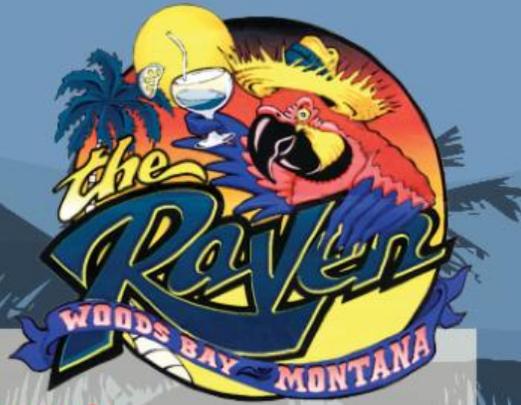
Saturday, July 13th at 9pm



Enjoy live music with Off in the Woods, lakeside dining, dancing & good vibes!

THE RAVEN - 4.5 MILES SOUTH OF BIGFORK ON FLATHEAD LAKE

UPCOMING EVENTS



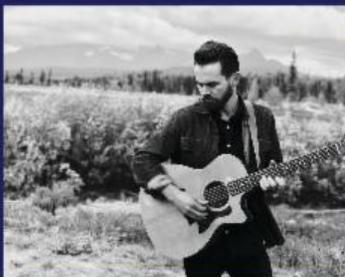
Luke Lautaret
SUNDAY, JULY 14TH AT 6PM



**Margarita Monday with
Roots Uprising**
MONDAY, JULY 15TH AT 9PM



**Moonlight Paddle Party w/
Flathead Lake Brewing Co.**
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH AT 7PM



Mike Murray Duo
FRIDAY, JULY 19TH AT 9PM



BONFIRE

MT EAT · DRINK · GATHER

Join us across the street this Summer
at our sister restaurant Montana Bonfire!

THE RAVEN - 4.5 MILES SOUTH OF BIGFORK ON FLATHEAD LAKE

"Small Objects of Interest"

Small Works by Three Artists

Richie Carter

Original Oils

Nate Closson

Original Oils

Karen Dade

Koda Designs Jewelry

Persimmon Gallery

Friday • July 26th • 5-8pm

537 Electric Ave • Bigfork • MT • 406-837-2288

Fun & Refreshment in a Unique Setting

THE PERCH

Riverside Bar and Eatery

at The Nest on Swan River



Sip a cocktail with your family and friends in a spectacular setting.

Wine, local craft beers, cocktails and light fare in a peaceful gem along the riverfront.

Charcuterie, ceviche, and other unique small plates, featuring local specialties and fresh grown ingredients.



Enjoy the shade of the trees, the sound of the birds and the scenes on the river. Relax, unwind, laugh and share with us!

Paddle Up or Come By Car

Easy access right from the Swan River ~ come on in from your Paddle Board or Kayak. Stop for refreshment on your float trip!

A short & scenic drive from downtown Bigfork along the River ~ Follow the Signs to The Nest!

Open Sunday thru Thursday
2PM to 8PM

600 Three Eagle Lane, Bigfork Montana

The Perch ~ 406-261-7542
www.Facebook.com/ThePerch



YOU'RE INVITED TO

An
Evening
on
Flathead

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

FLATHEAD LAKE LODGE
150 Flathead Lodge Rd, Bigfork, MT 59911

montanastateparks.org/flathead

Celebrating this year's permanent protection of **Big Arm State Park**, restoring big horn sheep habitat on Wild Horse Island State Park, and improved public access to Flathead Lake.