

RECEIVED

September 2, 2015

Ravalli County Commissioners

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840



Greetings!

Summer has drawn to a close in the beautiful Bitter Root Valley. Kids are going back to school. It's time to go the Fair, look forward to football or hunting season, and pick veggies from the garden. This Valley is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and to entertain visitors from out of town. Montana, of course, is much more than picture postcard views and rural lifestyles. Its rich history is part of our heritage, whether you are a native or new to the area.

60 Years of Preservation & Education 1955 to 2015

This is our **60th year!** as a community organization—providing exhibits, programming, and cultural heritage events through the decades! Since 1955, the Bitter Root Valley Historical Society, with the Ravalli County Museum that it supports and operates, has been actively working to preserve and interpret the history and cultures of the Bitter Root. A dedicated group of history lovers joined together to charter the Historical Society. They began to collect and research the artifacts, newspapers, documents, and stories of the people of this valley and throughout Montana to inform and display the unique heritage that is ours to be proud of and enjoy.

What was it like in 1955 when our organization was created? Many of the things that we take for granted now, were just beginning. Disneyland, McDonalds, and cans of Coca-Cola, all debuted in 1955. Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry led the music charts. The excitement of watching the Mickey Mouse Club and the \$64,000 Question on a 12" black and white television was a weekly highlight for families lucky enough to own one. And like now, *The Ravalli Republican* reported that young and old were looking forward to the Fair, fire crews were making progress battling wildfires, and people of the Valley took pride in helping others.

Local stores featured back-to-school ads for frilly, plaid dresses and bows. The hardware store offered the easy to use, spin washing machine and other "modern" appliances. A new car with all the latest features only cost \$2,500. Ground beef was on sale for 39 cents a pound, gasoline 23 cents, and minimum wage was \$1.00/hr. You could watch Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly star in "Rear Window" for only 50 cents and enjoy a summer evening at the Starlite Drive-In Theater despite the mosquitoes.

1955
1955



The 1970's saw the Historical Society lead the drive to save this majestic A.J. Gibson-designed Courthouse from demolition. Then in 1979, volunteers began bringing in the artifacts that had been collected over the years, and the Museum proudly opened with its first exhibit. The world was changing fast: Apple Computers was a startup company, the microwave oven was just new on market, and Atari games and Star Trek figures were popular gifts. Back-to-school ads now featured "flare" bell bottom jeans and cable TV was available here.

1970's
1970's



Through *six decades of change*, the Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society has collected, preserved, recorded, displayed, researched, and presented cultural activities that *enrich our lives and strengthen our community*.

EXHIBITS ~ EDUCATION ~ HERITAGE EVENTS



"I believe in what the Museum is doing. As a board member for the past 8 years, I have seen the Museum grow and evolve into an active, happening place. I am always impressed and amazed by all of the activities and services that the museum provides. I'm proud of what is being accomplished and invite you to come to the Museum often and support it however you can.

- Wayne Hedman, BRVHS Board Treasurer, Retired Pharmacist and Business Owner

DISCOVER THE FUN AT THE MUSEUM!

- Explore the 12 exhibit galleries and historic building
- Bring kids for free activities and family fun
- Visit with a friend and remember things that happened in your past.
- Attend a lecture or new exhibit opening
- Enjoy a musical evening
- Buy a pie at Apple Day and sample hard ciders at Liquid Apple Night
- Dance to Salish music during Bitter Root Day
- Research your family history in the archives
- Connect with your heritage and share it
- Volunteer for an event
- Shop for a unique gift
- Enter the Peterson Photo Contest
- Encounter other perspectives and lifestyles
- Discover something new that interests you...



Education Discovery

As an educational venue, we recognize and embrace the vital role that museums play in supporting and enhancing learning, not just for children, but for people all ages. In this rural area, our goal is to present cultural activities and entertainment that are relevant, informative, and enjoyable!

The Museum is a great place to explore new ideas and discover new perspectives. In 2015, we were excited to partner with SpectrUM to present their Nano Exhibit and to provide free family activities on Saturday and Thursday night. We are continuing to expand our educational offerings with "A Season of Adventures." These free, educator-led activities feature fun with mentos geysers, ice volcanoes, and stone age jewelry, as a companion to our new main gallery exhibit "The People of Fire and Ice."

2015
2015



The new ADA ramp will soon be completed and will enhance our building's accessibility. This project is partially funded by the Jane S. Heman Foundation, which is also supporting continued work on our collections initiative.

We invite you to visit the Museum! Please check out the upcoming events and programs on the enclosed flyer – there is something for everyone!

In this, our **60th year**, we are asking for your help to continue to serve this Valley. With no County funding, the Museum counts on people, like you, that care about our valley and its future.

Thank you for helping save memories and create new ones!

Please tear off and return

215 South 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

From 1955 and into the Future!
60 Years of Saving Memories

If you are not already a member, we invite you to join the Ravalli County Museum / Bitter Root Valley Historical Society.

Membership Levels:

My gift to support Museum programming:

- \$ 25 \$ 150 I would like to make a pledge commitment of:
 - \$ 50 \$ 200
 - \$ 75 \$ 250 \$ _____ for _____ months
 - \$ 100 \$ 500
 - \$ _____
- Your contribution multiplies:
\$10 x 12 mo. = \$120 /year
\$25 x 12 mo. = \$300 /year
\$100 x 12 mo. = \$1,200 in a year

- \$ 25 Individual Senior/Student
- \$ 40 Individual
- \$ 50 Family
- \$100 Bitterroot
- \$100 and up Business (includes listing on our website)
- \$250 Ponderosa
- \$500 Sapphire
- \$1000 Trapper Peak

Signature _____ Date _____ Phone or email _____

I wish to pay by credit card: # _____ Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____
(If you would rather provide credit card specifics by telephone, please call (406) 363-3338. All information is strictly confidential.)



Thank You! Your contributions make a lasting impact!

Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society
205 Bedford, Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-3338

Ravalli County Museum - Celebrating 60 Years as YOUR Museum!

2015 Fall & Winter Exhibits & Events

New Exhibit!

THE PEOPLE OF FIRE AND ICE

Human Habitation in the Greater Yellowstone Area

August 20 to November 5

Exhibit Includes:
A Season of Adventures

Join us on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12pm for FREE kids activities!

AN AFTERNOON OF COWBOY MUSIC & POETRY

With video introduction from Baxter Black!

Tickets on sale now!
\$10 for members
\$12 for non members

September 12 at 3pm

2 Apple Events on Saturday, October 3rd!

36th ANNUAL MCINTOSH

APPLE DAY

A Ravalli County Museum Signature Event

9am-3pm

ANNUAL

LIQUID APPLE

Night

A Ravalli County Museum Signature Event

How Sweet is That?!

4pm-8pm

The Biggest Bake Sale Under the Big Sky & The Most Refreshing Evening Under the Stars!

Want to get involved? There's always LOTS to do for Apple Day and support of the community is crucial...

Extra hands to help with:
Making Pies, Manning Booths, Set up, Take down, Clean up, etc.

Supply donations needed:
Wide mouth pint sized mason jars, apples (we will pick!)

Zombie Apocalypse

October 17

Survival Kit Scavenger Hunt
Laser Light Show & Zombie Dance
Food • Photo Booth • Kids Activities

Tickets on sale now - Call the Museum for details

Ghost Tours

10pm to 3am

Paranormal Investigations

- EVP Devices
- EMF Detectors
- Spirit Boxes
- Thermal Laser Guns
- Pendulums
- Runes & Numerology

October 10th, 24th, & 31st!

26th Annual Veterans Day Observance

Wednesday, November 11th at 2pm

FREE Lecture Sponsored by Humanities Montana

THE DOG SOLDIER LEDGER BOOK: Art as a Source for Indian History, with Richard Ellis - November 12 at 6pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 4pm
\$1 for Sr., Student / \$3 Individual / \$6 Families
Thursday: 10am - 8pm - FREE!
Saturday: 9am - 1pm - FREE!

November 13th at 6pm

Baroque

An Evening

CONCERT

& Gallery of Trees Event

Partial MONTANA Funding Provided by: CULTURAL TRUST

With Collections Preservation Efforts Funded, in Part, by the Jane S. Heman Foundation

Educational Programming Sustained by: Elliott & Grace Lander Foundation

FREE Lecture Series Sponsored by: Humanities MONTANA LEARN • REFLECT • TOGETHER www.humanitiesmontana.org



FREE! A Season of Adventures



August 20 to November 5

Human Habitation in the Greater Yellowstone Area

FREE kids activities on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 pm

ART HISTORY

August 22: **Rock Art**
Create beautiful works of art just like the ancient nomadic tribal people did!

ARCHAEOLOGY

August 29: **Digging History**
Experience the thrill of archaeological discovery using warm water to dig "artifacts" out of ice.

NATURAL HISTORY

September 5: **Mentos Geyser**
Make a geyser shoot high in the air with soda and mentos!

ANTHROPOLOGY

September 12: **Pemmican**
Make a delicious snack using dried meat, fruit & nuts with a mortar and pestle.

NATURAL HISTORY

September 19: **Ice Volcanoes**
Make your own erupting volcano with baking soda, water, vinegar & food coloring.

ANTHROPOLOGY

September 26: **Prehistoric Clothing**
What did people wear before there were clothing stores? Explore clothing of stone age people!

ANTHROPOLOGY

October 3: **Ancient Tools**
Make your own bows & arrow, spears & paint brushes out of recyclable materials.

ART HISTORY

October 10: **Stone Age Jewelry**
Adorn yourself - "old style!" Make jewelry from a variety of "stone age" materials.

NATURAL HISTORY

October 17: **Layers of Sediment**
How different of dirt tell you how old an object is? Explore how archaeologists date artifacts.

FOLKLORE

October 24: **Story Time Around the Campfire**
Sit around the campfire and listen to folktales from the People of Fire And Ice.

ART HISTORY

October 31: **Cave Painting**
How did ancient people use drawings to tell stories? Tell YOUR story with your own artistic creation!

The People of Fire and Ice was organized through a collaboration of community members in the Washakie Museum's monthly discussion group, working in conjunction with Washakie Museum's curatorial staff. Discussion group members included: John Davis, Rick and Claire Dunne, Jan Gilman, Hank and Caroline Hansen, Ron Kretz, Jim O'Connor, Diane Orms, Tom Mow, Lance Pierre, Eve Rogers, Fran Scanlon, Melanie Stone, Robert Stottler, Heather Transylvan, Delores Dardow, and Diana Velle. The People of Fire and Ice was sponsored in part by The Wyoming Humanities Council, MDU Resources Foundation, Worldland Kiwanis, The Outdoorsman/Melanie Stone, Fran and Diana Scanlon, and Dr. Jeffrey Gilman.



Ravalli County Museum - Delighting Curious Minds Since 1979

Ravalli County Museum - Cultural Hub of The Bitter Root Valley

Book a FIRE AND ICE Tour! Contact the Museum at 406.363.3338
Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society 205 Bedford Hamilton • ravallimuseum.org