

# *Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter*

## *March 2023*

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme is "**Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.**" Ladies, gather around and celebrate the achievements of trailblazing women throughout history! Look for events we will be sending out.

As the legislative session is at its halfway point, non-revenue bills must be passed on to the next house. If they don't make it through the chamber they originated in by the transmittal date of **March 3rd**, then they are considered dead for the legislative session.

**MAYORAL PROCLAMATION OF YOUTH ARTS MONTH:** Youth Art Month has been observed nationally and in many foreign countries since 1961 and has gained wide acceptance. The Proclamation will be read by Mayor Bob Kelly on Friday, **March 3rd**. The event will be from **4:00 to 6:00 pm** at the Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave. North. In addition to the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees recognizing 'Youth Art Month' this month, they also recognized 'Music in Our Schools Month' and 'Drama and Theatre in Our Schools Month' for March. For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Moore at (406) 268-6001 or Supervisor of Music and Arts Dusty Molyneaux at (406) 268-6080.

**BRAIN BUILDING EXPO:** A free children's expo sponsored by Great Falls community organizations. Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave., Saturday, **March 4th, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Child centered and age-appropriated play and educational activities, with free take home activities,

books, games and information. Families with young children are invited to attend! Our kids need to have every advantage to succeed when they start kindergarten. Learn what you can do to support your child's learning! If you have questions, please call Family Connections at (406) 761-6010.

**HOUSED GREAT FALLS:** More days are available to sign up to help at the Cold Weather Drop In Center with feels like temperatures in the teens starting Sunday, **March 5th**. Thank you to all who helped open the doors and provided meals in the cold snap last week. Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/uwaQEkf>.

The Cold Weather Drop In Center is a safe, evening space for people who are experiencing homelessness or are stranded during the cold winter months. When temperatures are forecast to be a 'feels like' 25 or lower, the center will be open between 5:00 and 9:30 PM. Overnight service at the Rescue Mission opens at 10:00 PM. The Drop In is being hosted by the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) and is being organized by volunteers from Housed Great Falls (HGF) and relies on volunteers from the community to open. The main meal is provided by volunteers, with additional snacks and beverages provided by HGF and FUMC. They only open if they have a minimum of three volunteers to maintain a safe environment, so volunteers are never working alone. A volunteer familiar with the Drop-In or a member of HGF can orient you to the responsibilities of helping for a night (or partial shifts; the first or second half of the evening if that is all you are able to do).

For more information, to **sign up for a shift**, and to read their *Cold Weather Drop In Guide*, visit [Keep Our Residents Warm with Housed Great Falls – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](https://greatfallsrisingmt.org).

**BLACK BALLOON DAY:** Monday, **March 6th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm**, Luna Coffee Bar, 9 5th St. North. A day of remembrance for those lost to overdose. Facebook event here: [Black Balloon Day | Facebook](#).

## **GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE TRANSMITTAL UPDATE:**

The 'Legislative Transmittal Update' will be held on **March 7th at 5:30 pm** at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. South. Our local legislators are being invited to provide insights on the education related bills that met the deadline to be transmitted to the other legislative chamber for action.

To participate via Zoom. e-mail [superintendent@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:superintendent@gfps.k12.mt.us) no later than noon on Tuesday, **March 7th** to receive a link to the meeting. Please include your first and last names.

## **GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MSU REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

**FAIR:** It's Science Fair time again and judges are needed!! The Great Falls College MSU Elementary Fair will be held in person Tuesday, **March 7th** and the Regional Middle School & High School Science and Engineering Fairs will be held Thursday, **March 9th**.

If you are available, please consider spending a couple of hours with some very amazing kids from our regional schools!

- [Elementary Judges Schedule](#) - Tuesday, March 7th, 2023, 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- [Middle and High School Judges Schedule](#) - Thursday, March 9th, 2023, 7:45 am - 11:30 am

To register as a judge, follow this link [Judging Registration](#), select the "Create an Account" tab and select "Judge". This will take you through the necessary steps. If you judged last year, you can log in to your account and update your availability under your profile.

If you are unable to judge this year, please consider sharing this great opportunity with others you think may be interested. Questions, please feel free to reach out to Charla Merja at (406) 771-4301.

**LEADERSHIP GREAT FALLS FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Support Leadership Great Falls' Class '22-23 class project in raising proceeds for Toby's House Crisis Nursery for pizza night!

Join us at MacKenzie River Pizza, 500 River Drive South, on Wednesday, **March 8th all day between 11:00 am – 9:00 pm** for dine-in or carry out and 20% from your meal total will be donated towards helping us towards our cause (\*excludes alcohol). Bring a friend and raise a slice to raising funds for Toby's House Crisis Nursery!

**FLOWING WATER, NEW MUSIC FOR GREAT FALLS:** Being held on Wednesday afternoons at 12:05 pm on **March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd, March 29th and April 5th**. Location is the New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Ave. South. For further information, call (406) 315-1203 or (406) 768-8023. Bring a lunch – tea, coffee water and dessert provided.

Local performing artists will be Ron Coons, Alan Johnson, Norman Menzales, Tyler Menzales, Dusty Molyneaux, Barbara Ovitt, James F. Rickley, Joan Schmidt, Cynthia Stevens, Gaynell Tempel and Valerie Winfield. Composers are William Bolcom, Richard, Dave Heath, John Helms, Marshall Jones, James F. Rickley, Joan Schmidt, Jean Baptiste Singelee, and others to be announced.

**GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY FORUM SERIES:** The second of the community series by GFPS is the Budget Townhall Meeting on Thursday, **March 9th, 5:30 pm** at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. South. You are invited to join Superintendent Moore and the Board Budget Committee in a presentation regarding 2023-2024 revenue and expense projections and frequently asked questions. Participants can ask additional questions and provide input. In order to prepare for the meeting, you are invited to review these websites for background information: [Budget 101 - Great Falls Public Schools - YouTube](#), [This is Great Falls Public Schools! \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](#).

**STAGECOACH MARY FIELDS STATUE:** A committee has been formed to erect a statue of Mary Fields in Cascade, where she resided. A fundraiser is planned for **March 15th** at the Masonic Lodge on First St. North in Cascade from **1:00 to 6:00 pm**. March 15th is the day Mary picked as her birthday since she didn't know what day she was born.

Small carnation bouquets will be available for a \$10 (or greater) donation. A presentation about Mary Fields will be given at 5:00 pm. The Russell Honeymoon Cottage will also be open that afternoon to make your trip to Cascade complete. You can also send a donation to: Mary Fields Statue, PO Box 515, Cascade, MT 59421. Visit the new Facebook page: [Stagecoach Mary Fields Statue | Cascade MT | Facebook](#). Stop by and 'Like' their page.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE:** The event by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Great Falls Division) and Destination Downtown Great Falls will start at **4:15 pm on Friday, March 17th**. The parade will process down Central Avenue starting at the Civic Center on Park Drive and will conclude at 8th Street. Facebook event here: [St. Patrick's Day Parade | Facebook](#).

The deadline to put an entry in the parade this year is **March 10th**. Visit the AOH Facebook page to get the application: [Ancient Order of Hibernians Great Falls Division 1 | Facebook](#).

**SOBER ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA NIGHT:** Join Independence Rock Coalition's evening of trivia after the parade on **March 17th**. Come to Luna Coffee Bar, 9 5th St. North, **6:00 – 9:00 pm**. Facebook event here: [Sober St. Patrick's Day Trivia Night! | Facebook](#).

**GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY:** David Murray of the Great Falls Tribune recently wrote an article about the deep divide in funding the library and those that had issues with the upcoming mill levy election in June. Read the article here: [‘Library is at a crossroads’ - Great Falls Tribune \(newsmemory.com\)](https://www.newsmemory.com/greatfalls/2022/06/01/library-is-at-a-crossroads/).

Have you missed a previous Great Falls Rising newsletter? You can find all of our published newsletters on our website at [GFR Monthly Newsletters – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](https://www.greatfallsrisingmt.org/newsletters/).

## **Follow, Follow, Follow, Follow, Follow the MT Leg**

Some of many Progressive Groups Who are Following Legislation that you also may want to Follow...

Forward Montana - “What the Helena”

<https://secure.everyaction.com/oBLD5R0-70yAbaYtJnNXbQ2>

MEIC (Montana Environmental Information Center)

Thursdays at 4:30 Legislative Updates

<https://www.facebook.com/MTEIC/events/>

Northern Plains Resource Council

<https://northernplains.org/bill-tracker/>

MT NOW (National Organization for Women)

<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaNOW>

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

[https://www.backcountryhunters.org/2022\\_policy\\_roundup](https://www.backcountryhunters.org/2022_policy_roundup)

Public Policy Institute of the Rockies

<https://www.publicpolicyinstituteoftherockies.com/>

Montana Women Vote

<http://www.montanawomenvote.org/>

Friends of the Montana Constitution

<https://montanaconstitution.org/>

MHRN (Montana Human Rights Network)

[https://secure.everyaction.com/M\\_c7gReHuUeyaQ4QXqQ3NA2](https://secure.everyaction.com/M_c7gReHuUeyaQ4QXqQ3NA2)

Elk Camp at the Capitol

<https://www.montanaelk.org/elk-camp>

Montanans Organized for Education

<https://www.mofeactionfund.org/>

Planned Parenthood Action

<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/>

Watch and Listen to the 2023 Session

<https://leg.mt.gov/audio-video/>

Call the Legislature

Leave up to Three Messages for Law Makers

406-444-3064

<https://leg.mt.gov/web-messaging/>

***We're all Irish on St. Patrick's Day.  
Irish Blessings to all from Great Falls Rising!***

# Irish Blessings

May you have warm words  
on a cold evening,  
A full moon on a dark night,  
And the road downhill all the way  
to your door.



May you have food and raiment,  
A soft pillow for your head,  
May you be forty years in heaven  
Before the devil knows you're dead!

Lizventures.com

May you live to be  
a hundred years old  
with one extra year to repent.



May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light,  
May good luck pursue you each morning and night.

May the roof above us never fall in.  
And may the friends gathered below it never fall out.