

Great Falls Rising

Monthly Newsletter

November 2022

Great Falls Rising hopes you all had a fun, scary, yummy Halloween. There were kids in costume everywhere on Sunday laughing and absorbing all the candy they could fetch.

November is American Indian Heritage Month. If anyone knows of celebrations honoring this, please let Great Falls Rising know at greatfallsrisingmt@gmail.com.

GENERAL ELECTION: Mail ballots were sent out on **October 14th**, and the general election takes place on **November 8th** at the Exhibition Hall at Montana Expo Park. Check to make sure you are properly registered here: [My Voter Page - Montana Secretary of State \(mt.gov\)](#). You can also view if your ballot has been received and accepted.

The Cascade County Election Office will move to Exhibition Hall at Montana Expo Park on Monday, **October 31st** through election day on **November 8th**. If you would like to receive your ballot during this time period, you will need to come over to the fairgrounds. Their office will be closed over the weekend, **November 5rd & November 6th**.

Same day registration available in the state of Montana.

Ballot Drop Off
325 2nd Ave North

7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, October 14th thru November 7th.
9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, October 29th.
9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, November 5th.
7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, November 8th.

Ballot drop off will also be available at Exhibition Hall at the fairgrounds:

7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, October 31st thru November 7th.
7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, November 8th.

We will also have a drive-thru drop box available from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, November 8th.

HARVEST HOWL: The Rotary Club of Great Falls is once again sponsoring Harvest Howl, an event to support Camp Rotary in Monarch offering programs for youths and veterans. It will be held on Friday, **November 4th** at 5:30 pm at the Four Seasons Arena. There will be music, food and a silent auction. Go to greatfallsrotary.org for more information.

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: Significant changes are being discussed at the Board of Public Education surrounding Chapter 55, which has to do with accreditation standards surrounding libraries, school counselors and class size regulation in our schools. **Public comment ends on November 4th.**

Here are the main things you should know about what is happening:

1. Ask the Board to NOT take the Superintendent's recommendation to create a new level of accreditation called "Accredited with distinction." By definition, via Montana Courts and Legislature, accreditation standards are *minimum* standards of quality and there is no stated research or compelling argument to change them into something else.
2. DO NOT accept the superintendent's recommendation to remove the staffing ratios for library media specialists in the name of "local control". 10:55:709 The zip code of our children should not determine the kind and quality of access they have to the many, varied and necessary services school libraries provide.

3. DO NOT accept the superintendent's recommendation to remove the staffing ratios for school counselors in the name of "local control". 10:55:710 As noted in expert testimony at every phase of this process, school counselors are specifically trained and are indispensable in supporting the "well-being" of each child. It is ironic that the word "well-being" is mentioned eight times in new language in the same document that seeks to eliminate the people specifically trained to enhance it. Please don't eliminate it.
4. Please DO ACCEPT the proposed changes 10:55:712 (5) with one small addition for Class Size: The school district must provide additional and competent human resources when exceeding maximum class sizes.

Please consider submitting written comments to the Board of Public Ed to share your thoughts about the proposed changes. Share your thoughts on social media. Ask friends to submit comments. Personal stories, concerns for children's and grandchildren's education, thoughts from retired teachers are so valuable in these meetings! *Written public comment can be sent to bpe@mt.gov. through **November 4th**. You don't have to be original. Share the thoughts above, if you agree. Numbers matter. Thanks for your input.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCIL STATE CONVENTION:

Great Falls Public Schools is excited to host the Montana Association of Student Council State Convention in November. These 350 students from across the state will join us in Great Falls to hear national motivational and leadership speakers, network and volunteer in our community.

If you are interested in baking, buying and providing cookies, drinks or snacks, the Student Council Members from across the state would appreciate it. They will be arriving from Glasgow to Gardiner, Saco to Sydney! Any amount of cookies (not individually wrapped) is appreciated. Items can be delivered on Monday, **November 7th** at 8:00 am at the Heritage Inn. Becky Nelson will be there along with students to help unload so folks just need to drive to the front door. No need to park!

EMPTY BOWLS: The annual fundraiser for the YWCA, is scheduled for Saturday, **November 12th**, from 11 am to 2 pm, at the University Center, University of Providence (1301 20th Street South). Cost is \$30 per person, and participants will choose the bowl they like best and enjoy homemade soup and camaraderie. Call the YWCA office at (406) 452-1315 to reserve your ticket.

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Last year, the YWCA provided more than 200 women and children with over 2,750 shelter nights and close to 8,000 meals.

CLIMATE SUMMIT: The League of Women Voters Montana is hosting a webinar on climate projections specific to Montana from the Montana Climate Office. Great Falls Rising is a co-sponsor of the event.

What: “Climate Extremes in Montana: Stories of Change and Resilience”

When: Wednesday, **November 16th**, 7:00 pm

How: via Webinar, Pre-Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4i7OIV4BRAuxNj-k_papVA

Speakers include:

Montana Climate Office:

Dr. Kelsey Jensco (MT State Climatologist, Director of the Montana Climate Office)

Dr. Kyle Bocinsky (Director Climate Extension, MCO)

Dr. Zachary Holman (Assistant State Climatologist, MCO)

Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes

Mr. Mike Durglo, Jr (CSKT, Director of Historic Preservation, Chair, Climate Change Advisory Council)

Ms. Gwen Langford (CSKT, Climate Change Advisory Council Executive Steering Group)

The Montana Climate Office (MCO) housed at the University of Montana in Missoula is one of the leading state climate centers in the nation. The MCO just updated its projections for what to expect in specific locations within Montana in the coming years. The MCO speakers will be joined by two leaders from the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CKST). This webinar will look at the extreme weather events that occurred in Montana over the past year or so, and what we can expect in the future, with particular reference to Missoula, Helena, Bozeman and Billings as well as on the tribal reservations across the state. For more information, contact Maureen McCarthy at maureen@mccarthyandsmith.com.

After a very intense election season, we are offering you some programs and productions that are happening in Great Falls in the next couple months:

GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB: Mark your calendars and join them for ‘***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***’ at Great Falls High School on **November 3rd and 4th** at 7:30 PM, and **November 5th** at 2:00 PM. The following weekend, performances will be on **November 10th and 11th** at 7:30 PM, and **November 12th** at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults.

CMR HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB: And to put on your calendars for December, “Beauty and the Beast” at CMR High School on Friday, December 2nd at 7:30 pm and a matinee performance on Saturday, December 3rd at 2 pm. The following week, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (December 7th, 8th, 9th), performances will be at 7:30 pm. A matinee performance will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY: The Symphony presents Miracle (Haydn, Shaw and Mozart) on Saturday November 12th at 7:30 pm in the Mansfield Theater. Tickets can be purchased ahead of the concert at the Mansfield ticket office or at the door. On December 4th at 3 pm, the Great Falls Symphony presents "Christmas" - Holiday favorites. Same ticket purchase info.

Daylight Savings Time ends early morning on Sunday, **November 6th**. Be sure to turn your clocks back on Saturday night.

Great Falls Rising wishes our supporters a Happy Thanksgiving. If you are traveling, be safe. We hope you all have a fun and meaningful holiday.