

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

January 2025



Great Falls Rising wishes you a Happy New Year. Some fun facts about January include January being named after Janus, the Roman God of Beginnings and Protector of Doorways and Gates. Janus had two faces, one looking into the past and one looking into the future.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Millions are exploited every year, but we can make a difference. Learn the signs, spread awareness, and be a voice for the voiceless.

January is usually the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month in the Southern Hemisphere.

As you know, the biennial Montana State Legislature begins on January 6th in Helena. Great Falls Rising will keep you apprised of bills and issues before the legislators.

Holidays celebrated in January

- January 1 – Emancipation Proclamation
- January 2 – National Science Fiction Day

- January 4 – World Braille Day
- January 4 – National Spaghetti Day
- January 8 – World Typing Day
- January 11 – National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- January 13 – Korean American Day
- January 14 – National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- January 15 – Martin Luther King's Birthday
- January 22 – Celebration of Life Day
- January 24 – International Day of Education
- January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- January 27 – National Chocolate Cake Day
- January 28 – National Fun at Work Day

What's coming up?

Tuesday, January 7th – City Commission Work Session cancelled; City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda **here**.

Monday, January 13th – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Minutes / Agendas & Meetings \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](https://gfps.k12.mt.us/Agendas%20&%20Meetings).

Tuesday, January 14th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](https://cascadecountymt.gov/Agenda-Center-Cascade-County-MT-CivicEngage).

Tuesday, January 21st – City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda **here**; City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda **here**.

Monday, January 27th – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Minutes / Agendas & Meetings \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](https://gfps.k12.mt.us/Agendas%20&%20Meetings).

Tuesday, January 28th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](https://cascadecountymt.gov/Agenda-Center-Cascade-County-MT-CivicEngage).

Resources from the Legislature

Official Legislature website: <https://legmt.gov/>

Look up a bill: <https://bills.legmt.gov/>

Find and watch a hearing:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00309/Harmony/en>

Contact Legislators and Committees:

Currently, most contact links on the site lead to this page:

<https://www.legmt.gov/participate/>

Leave a phone message for legislators between 7:30 am and 5 pm: 406-444-4800

Mailing addresses:

Montana Senate, P.O. Box 200500, Helena, MT 59620

Montana House of Representatives, P.O. Box 200400, Helena, MT 59620

Contact the Governor's Office:

Governor's Telephone: (406) 444-3111

Email: governor@mt.gov

Website: governor.mt.gov/contact

Current session calendar (as of 11/25/2024) **here**.

Find the latest calendar **here**.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR THE 2025 SESSION: The Montana Legislature has moved away from the LAWS bill tracking system and is now using a system called Bill Explorer. This system is still being set up and refined. Some parts of the participatory process may be impacted by this change. You can find the legislature's video guides [on this webpage](#).

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS – TAX CREDIT: A great opportunity for those who would like to get a tax credit for 2025. It enhances money for the Great Falls Public schools. Last year it was a big help. If you have questions, please call Brian Patrick, (406) 268- 6050, at Great Falls Public schools. Read about it [here](#).

COLD WEATHER DROP IN: Cold weather and snow here to stay for a bit so HOUSED GREAT FALLS is extending the drop in days this week through **January 11th**, pending three volunteers per night from 5:30 through 9:30 pm at First United Methodist Church. Please sign up below to help keep our community members safe during evening hours. Sign up <https://signup.com/go/gafJoSb>.

CITY OF GREAT FALLS GROWTH POLICY: Join a live online Q&A session on **Thursday, January 9th at 11:30 am** with City of Great Falls' Community Development Director Brock Cherry, his associates Alaina Mattimiro and Andrew Finch, and Ed Brown from the Chamber of Commerce. Tune in to the [Great Falls Chamber YouTube page](#) for an insightful discussion on the Growth Policy, a community-driven planning effort to shape the future of Great Falls, Montana. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the exciting updates and how you can get involved in the city's growth!

MONTANA'S POET LAUREATE WITH CHRIS LA TRAY: Part of the "Living the Dream" Lecture Series in conjunction with the exhibition [Willem Volkersz: The View from Here, a 25-Year Retrospective](#), Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art (The Square) hosts Montana Conversation "Montana's Poet Laureate" with Chris

La Tray on **Thursday, January 9th**. The program is at The Square (1400 1st Ave North, Great Falls) at **5:30 pm**. The presentation is **free and open to the public**. Funding for the Montana Conversations program is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana's Cultural Trust, and private donations.

La Tray is a Métis storyteller and an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He is the author of *One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays from the World at Large*. His next book, *Becoming Little Shell* will be published by Milkweed Editions in 2024. For more information, please contact Nicole Maria Evans, Interim Executive Director/Curator of Exhibitions & Collections at Nicole@the-square.org or call 406-727-8255. Facebook Event [here](#).

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE: Held at The Sober Life, 3220 11th Ave. South, **Thursday, January 9th at 5:30 pm**. "Love and Logic Trauma Informed Care" refers to a specific approach within the Love and Logic parenting philosophy that incorporates understanding and addressing the impact of trauma on children, by teaching caregivers how to create a safe and supportive environment while setting appropriate boundaries and using effective strategies to help children with challenging behaviors stemming from traumatic experiences; essentially, applying the Love and Logic principles with awareness of how trauma affects a child's brain and behavior, allowing for a more empathetic and effective response.

Key points about Love and Logic Trauma Informed Care:

Focus on the impact of trauma: Recognizes how past traumatic experiences can manifest in a child's behavior, including intense emotions, defiance, and difficulty regulating themselves.

Building a safe environment: Emphasizes creating a sense of security and trust through consistent routines, clear expectations, and genuine care.

Avoiding power struggles: Teaches caregivers how to de-escalate situations by providing choices and respecting a child's feelings, rather than engaging in confrontational tactics.

Healthy attachment: Highlights the importance of positive relationships and building a strong connection with a child to support their healing process.

Empowerment through choices: Provides strategies to give children appropriate choices within limits, allowing them to feel some control over their actions.

How it differs from traditional Love and Logic:

Increased understanding of trauma: While Love and Logic generally focuses on positive discipline techniques, the trauma-informed approach adds a deeper understanding of how trauma can influence behavior.

Adapting strategies for specific needs: Caregivers learn to modify Love and Logic techniques to better support children with a history of trauma.

Who can benefit from Love and Logic Trauma Informed Care:

Parents and guardians of children who have experienced trauma, Foster parents
Teachers and educators working with children with challenging behaviors,
Therapists and mental health professionals supporting children with trauma histories.

Sign up here - <https://form.jotform.com/240585214989165>

ARMCHAIR TRAVELER – DISNEYLAND: The Smith Family traveled to Disneyland and is going to entertain us with tales of their adventures. From rides to food, laughs and more, join us as we learn the ins and outs of Disney travel. Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave North, in the Cordingley Room on **Thursday, January 9th, at 7:00 pm.**

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL: Event by the Great Falls Ski Patrol, at Great Falls High School, on **Friday, January 10th, at 6:30 pm.** To buy tickets and for more information, click [here](#).

PARENTS FOREVER CO-PARENTING: Parents Forever is a family transition program that helps parents navigate divorce, separation, or a change in custody. The program covers topics such as: Self-care, Co-parenting, Parent-child

relationships, Family transition, Identifying resources, and Promoting resilience. Held at Alliance For Youth, 3220 11th Ave. South, on **Saturday, January 11th, 10:00 am**. Childcare provided, click here to Register- <https://form.jotform.com/240565507405151>

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: Discover the art of winter landscape photography in Click & Capture: Winter Photography Workshop! Designed for beginner and intermediate photographers aged 16 and up, this engaging 6-week course offers hands-on learning opportunities at stunning community locations like Giant Springs, led by Olivia Cotterman, Assistant Curator at the C.M. Russell Museum.

Explore the fundamentals of winter photography while capturing the season's natural beauty. Each session includes personalized instruction and the chance to develop your skills in a supportive, creative environment.

As a special highlight, participants' work will debut in our brand-new Rosenthal Education Atrium in March 2025. This inaugural education exhibition will remain on display through Western Art Week and The Russell Auction!

Dates: January 18, 2025 – February 22, 2025

Time: Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Charlie's Studio + On-site field trips

Cost: \$100 / \$80 for museum members (Cameras not included)

Class Size: Limited to 20 students

Whether you're picking up a camera for the first time or looking to refine your skills, this workshop is your chance to learn, create, and showcase your talent. Don't wait—space is limited!

Register now: <https://forms.gle/cmXWso2toLG6bdkQ8>

Let your photography shine!

VETERANS COFFEE: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4669, American Legion Post 3 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 are sponsoring a monthly coffee for veterans

at the Great Falls Senior Center, 1004 Central Ave. in the upstairs meeting room. It will be held on the third Tuesday of each month from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Veterans, family members, caregivers, and anyone interested in veteran issues are invited to attend and have a cup of coffee and a treat. The first coffee get together will be on **Tuesday, January 21st at 8:30 am**. The new requirement for logging on to any federal government website, including the VA's website, starting February 1st will be covered. Denver Cobb, the Veteran's Treatment Court Coordinator, will also talk about the program and answer questions.

Additional Events

Thursday, January 9

University of Providence Basketball at McLaughlin Center

Friday, January 10

American Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at Montana ExpoPark

John Hewitt at The Celtic Cowboy

Hitchcock Film Fest - Vertigo at The Mansfield Theater

Saturday, January 11

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at Montana ExpoPark

Free Admission at C.M. Russell Museum

A Night of Patsy Cline at The Mansfield Theater

Twisting in Air with Author Carol Bradley at the C.M. Russell Museum

Electric City Racing 2025 Season Opener at Hobby Time RC

7K Roller Dummy Team Roping at WRS

SCCA RallyCross at Willow Ranch Company

Sunday, January 12

Atmosphere at The Newberry

Wednesday, January 15

MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Thursday, January 16

University of Providence Ladies Basketball at McLaughlin Center

University of Providence Men's Basketball at McLaughlin Center

MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Friday, January 17

Americans Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Ryan Johnson at The Celtic Cowboy

Hitchcock Film Fest - North by Northwest at The Mansfield Theater

Saturday, January 18

Americans Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

El Javi at Belt Performing Arts Center

Tanner Laws at The Newberry

MAGIE at Montana ExpoPark

Sunday, January 19

MAGIE at Montana ExpoPark

Thursday, January 23

Bridget Kevane, PhD: "Latino History in Montana" at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art

Friday, January 24

Annual Boat Show at Montana ExpoPark

Margarita Meltdown at Montana ExpoPark

We Ski Cousins at The Celtic Cowboy

Hitchcock Film Fest - Psycho at The Mansfield Theater

Montana Auctioneer Convention at Holiday Inn Convention Center

Saturday, January 25

University of Providence Men's Basketball at McLaughlin Center

Annual Boat Show at Montana ExpoPark

SCCA Rally Cross at Willo Ranch Company

Montana Auctioneer Convention at Holiday Inn Convention Center

Adult Prom at Buffalo Joe's Eatery & Saloon

Sunday, January 26

Annual Boat Show at Montana ExpoPark

Wednesday, January 29

2025 Economic Outlook Seminar - Great Falls at Hilton Garden Inn

Thursday, January 30

University of Providence Basketball at McLaughlin Center

Friday, January 31

University of Providence Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

Hitchcock Film Fest - The Birds at The Mansfield Theater

Cale Younce at The Celtic Cowboy