

# *Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter*

*February 2025*

As we close in on mid-month, it's time for [Valentine's Day](#) (the 14th), and the one federal holiday on the February calendar, President's Day on Monday, the 17th. This year is not a [leap year](#) (the next one is 2028), so no extra day this time around. But just because February is the shortest month of the year does not mean there's a shortage of fun things to do, learn, and honor. Along with special days, there are weeks and month-long observances to turn our attention to, including [Black History Month](#), American Heart Month, and Great American Pie Month. Random Act of Kindness Day is **February 17th**, and the World Day of Social Justice is **February 20th**.

## *What's coming up?*

**Monday, February 10th** – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here: : [Agendas and Minutes \(GFPS\)](#).

**Tuesday, February 11th** – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

**Tuesday, February 18th** – City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

**Monday, February 24th** – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas and Minutes \(GFPS\)](#).

**Tuesday, February 25th** – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

Did you miss the panel discussion we had on **January 22nd**, "Is Public Education Under Threat in Great Falls and Montana?" You can watch it here, on our [Great Falls Rising YouTube Channel](#).

Community member **Donna Williams** was a participant in the **Great American Peace March** across the country in **1986**. Her fascinating story can be read on our website [here](#).

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING:** Event at the Great Falls Public Library on **Monday, February 10th**, from **5:00 to 6:00 pm**. Legislative Advocacy 101 with Wild Montana, Cordingly Room.

Wild Montana (formerly MT Wilderness Assn.) staff will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our public lands and how you can be an effective public lands advocate. We'll also share knowledge and resources to make it easy to testify virtually and in person, teach you the most effective ways to contact your legislators about specific bills, and more. We'll close each training session with a Q&A with a Montana legislator. Sign up [here](#).

**YORK, THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION:**  
Held at Great Falls High School Davidson Auditorium on **Wednesday, February**

**12th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.** Hasan Davis, a nationally acclaimed living history performer, will portray York. Don't miss this powerful, inspiring, and immersive portrayal, giving voice to York's experiences: his contributions, challenges, and the enduring legacy of resilience and courage he represents.

This program is presented in collaboration with the Great Falls Public Library, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, the Lewis and Clark Foundation, and the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance.

Audiences of all ages will leave inspired and enlightened by this unique perspective on one of America's most transformative journeys. There will be a post-performance Q&A session to deepen the audience's engagement and understanding. Doors open at 6:30 pm show starts at 7:00 pm. **FREE** to all!

**MONTANA CONSTITUTION RALLY:** Show your support for the Montana Constitution at **12:00 pm, Thursday, February 13th**, at the Capitol Rotunda in Helena. We'll come together to celebrate and protect the core values that uphold our democracy. We need your voice to help defend the rights and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. As challenges to our civil liberties continue to grow, it's more important than ever that we stand united in support of the rule of law and the principles that safeguard our future. Facebook event [here](#).

**AMERICAN BUFFALO: SPIRIT OF A NATION:** Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road, February 13th, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. For this presentation, special guests Scot Heidebrink, Rhianyon Larson, and Anna Schale will open this film screening American Buffalo: Spirit of a Nation! Following the film, patrons will be able to inquire about follow up commentary at the American Prairie table located in the Interpretive Center lobby.

**WINTER RIVERFEST:** Celebrating the Missouri and Sun Rivers. Event by [Sun River Watershed Group](#), [Tom Catmull Music](#) and [Missouri River Flyfishers](#). See you at the Great Falls Airport, **Saturday, February 15th at 5:00 pm**. They are bringing back the dessert auction, live art and adventure auction, and by popular demand, the SILENT AUCTION! They will also have favorites like the hat raffle and bottomless mugs. This year's musician is Tex-Montanan singer-songwriter Tom Catmull. Get a preview by searching for him on Pandora or Spotify! Evening agenda to come. Tickets are available by contacting [tracy@sunriverwatershed.org](mailto:tracy@sunriverwatershed.org) or [mrftu406@gmail.com](mailto:mrftu406@gmail.com). You can also get tickets [here](#). \$50 individual, \$500 reserved table of 8. Sponsorship opportunities available.

**GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS MOOD INDIGO:** Mansfield Theater, **Saturday, February 15th, at 7:30 pm**. We honor musical legend Duke Ellington with a medley of iconic works including Mood Indigo and Caravan. Don't miss the world premiere performance of Voluntary Breath, a new tenor saxophone concerto by Jonathan Armstrong, a longtime friend of music director, Grant Harville, plus our next Second Performance Project winner, the playful and quirky Twirl. Tickets available [here](#).

**THE RETURN OF NÓOUHÀH-TOKA'NA (SWIFT FOX):** Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road, **February 20th, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm**. You won't want to miss Corrie Williamson and Randy Grady opening the screening of The Return of Nóouhàh-Toka'na (Swift Fox)! Participants will be provided the opportunity to inquire further following the presentation.

**BACKCOUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL:** Celebrate wild winters and human-powered recreation while supporting Wild Montana and the Island Range Chapter at the 20th annual Backcountry Film Festival! **Friday, February 21st**. Doors open at **5:45 pm**, event at **6:15 pm**. Tickets: \$15/adult, free for kids. Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road. Benefiting our Island Range

Chapter. Curated by Winter Wildlands Alliance, features stories of high-elevation whitebark pine conservation, the inherent challenges in the growing popularity of backcountry winter recreation, the healing benefits of seeking solace in the wild, the impact of wildfire on our landscapes, and much more. Tickets available [here](#).

**PLANET WILD:** Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road, **February 27th**, from **3:00 to 4:30 pm**. Corrie Williamson and Randy Grady will open with Planet Wild! To close this year's American Prairie Festival, an in-depth overview presentation pertaining to American Prairie will follow the film.

Do you have time to give to our community. Go to [\*\*VolunteerGreatFalls.org\*\*](https://VolunteerGreatFalls.org) and find your passion!