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1. MontPIRG celebrates 35 years of public interest service. April 23.
2. Call for Montana Audubon Award Nominations! By May 19.

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**GOOD NEWS ITEM**

1. Congratulations to Rachel Cramer, EVST Grad Student, winner of the Bertha Morton Scholarship. EVST Graduate Student Rachel Cramer was awarded a Bertha Morton Scholarship for Recognition of Outstanding Achievement for 2016-2017. The Bertha Morton Scholarship is the most prestigious graduate scholarship offered at the University of Montana. Congratulations, Rachel!

2. Congratulations to Megan McInerney on her upcoming essay publication in Flyway. Congratulations to EVST grad student Megan McInerney on the publication of her essay, “Rapture of the Deep,” upcoming in the April 30, 2016 issue of *Flyway: A Journal of Nature & Environment at Iowa State U*. [Go to Flyway at this link.](#)

**AROUND EVST**

1. EVST Alumna Monica Perez-Watkins, who joins Missoula Conservation District. Monica Perez-Watkins, EVST alum, has joined the Missoula Conservation District as their Conservation and Communication Coordinator. She joins another EVST alumna, Jen McBride, at the organization. Congratulations, Monica!

2. Roz LaPier, EVST Assistant Professor, named a Harvard Divinity School Research Associate. Roz LaPier has been award a research associate position at the Harvard Divinity School, Women’s Studies in Religion Program for the 2016-2017 academic year. [Read the full announcement on Harvard Divinity School’s web page.](#) Congratulations Roz!

3. Montana’s largest labor union honors EVST Director Phil Condon. MEA-MFT is one of the oldest advocacy groups in Montana, founded in 1882, seven years before Montana became a state. It represents more than 18,000 Montana K-12 teachers and school support staff, higher education faculty, state and county employees, Head Start staff, and health care employees who live and work in communities all across the state.
At their annual meeting on April 1 – 2 in Helena, the group honored three Members of the Year, including EVST Director Phil Condon as Faculty Member of the Year. Congratulations, Phil!

FEATURED EVENT (See www.umt.edu/conservationcalendar for more)

1. **International Wildlife Film Festival and Wildwalk Parade and Wildfest kicks off! April 16 - 23.**
   There are films on Yellowstone, moose, and wolves, and so much more. You don’t want to miss the Wildwalk Parade and Wildfest (details online) on Sunday, April 17, at noon starting at the XXX’s downtown.
   The full film schedule and ticket purchase options are found online at https://wildlifefilms.org/film-schedule/.

2. **Support Missoula’s Urban Forest at the 24th Annual Run for the Trees. April 16.**
   Your modest registration fee for the 5K and 10K run raises funds for Missoula’s Urban Forest. There is also a one-mile Fun Run free for the kids. Volunteers are also needed. Sponsors include Run Wild Missoula, Missoula Parks and Recreation, and the Good Food Store. Find all the details online at Run for the Trees 2016.
   WHEN: Saturday, April 16.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Blue Mountain Clinic seeking volunteers. Event on April 12.**
   Blue Mountain Clinic (BMC) provides reproductive health care in western Montana. They have a variety of volunteer opportunities, ranging from helping the Outreach and Education Team to some light gardening and good old-fashioned cleaning/organizing the basement.
   BMC invites you to their event to hear more about upcoming volunteer opportunities with Blue Mountain Clinic. Please RSVP by calling (406) 721-1646, so there is enough food/refreshments.
   WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, at 5 p.m.
   WHERE: The Loft, 119 West Main Street, Missoula.

2. **Monitor the spring raptor migration. April 12, 14, or 27.**
   Join MPG Ranch workers and Raptor View Research Institute scientists as we track the spring raptor migration through the Bitterroot Valley. Volunteers will help observe and identify migrating raptors. Bring binoculars and dress for the spring weather. Space is limited to 6 volunteers per trip. No lunch provided on these days. Please RSVP for each event to get directions and details. Contact Joshua at: email Joshua Lisbon at jlisbon@mpgranch.com or call him at (406) 396-6285.
   WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each of the following days: April 12, 14, or 27.

3. **Help with planting along Lolo Creek. April 15 and 16.**
   The Lolo Watershed Group is seeking volunteers to help replant native plants along Lolo Creek that were lost in the 2013 fire. Volunteers can sign up for 4 hour shifts between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 15 or 16.
   Click here to sign up for this event, or email help@lolowatershed.org for more information.
   Sign up for this planting event online or email the Lolo Watershed Group for more information.
4. **Cycles of Change upcoming events. April 15 and 16.**
The Cycles of Change campaign to build a world class community bike center in the heart of Missoula is sprouting wings. Our aim is a healthy planet coming to fruition by working together.

**Upcoming Events:**
- Campaign potluck. All are welcome!
  WHEN: Friday, April 15, from 6 – 8 p.m.
  WHERE: Free Cycles
- Bikathon Challenge: 75 miles, 20 miles or 1/4 mile kid loop.
  Pledges are encouraged. Community BBQ at 5:30pm. Help motivate the pedaling!
  **Sign up to ride or pledge another rider on the Bikathon Challenge webpage.**
  **Find all the information on these and other events, as well as a link to make a donation, at Support the Bike (https://www.crowdrise.com/SupportTheBike).**

5. **Restore the Mount Sentinel prairie. April 16.**
Prairie restoration workers have made great progress in their efforts to help Mount Sentinel’s native plants compete with invading weeds. But the battle is never over. You can help those native plants by doing some weed pulling and native seed scattering on Saturday April 16 between 9 am and 1pm.

Meet at the M Trail trailhead at 9am or walk up the trail until you find the weed warriors. For more info, email Marilyn.

Bring water, work gloves & a digging tool if you can (there will be some spare gloves & tools). Some snacks will be provided.

WHEN: Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WHERE: meet at M Trail trailhead at UM.

6. **Dig Day for 1000 New Gardens. April 16.**
Help 1000 New Gardens of Missoula put food gardens into the yards of Missoulians. You will meet at Kiwanis Park and divide into teams to work on gardens around Missoula.  **Email 1000 New Gardens for more information.**
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, at noon.
WHERE: Meet at Kiwanis Park.

7. **The 7th annual Diversity Day. Sign-up online. April 16.**
The 7th Annual Diversity Day will be held at the Missoula Senior Center on Saturday, April 16th from 6 – 10 p.m. Members of our Youth Advisory Council are planning a highly anticipated event showcasing local youth talent in the arts, including song, dance, and spoken word focused around the theme “Diverse City.” This year’s event will feature a video production by the B-RAD (Boys Respecting All Diversity) group addressing positive male identities, as well as a multimedia presentation by the EPIC students about inspiring change. We’re excited to announce that this year’s headliners will be hip-hop artists MC Rhetorik and Yaz Like Jaws. Respectively representing the Pueblo of Kewa and Blackfeet Nation, these MCs use their music to bring the struggle for social and environmental justice to the forefront of our consciousness.

We would love to see you and your families at the event.  **Please sign up to help with Diversity Day on the Google Docs spreadsheet at this link.**
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, from 6 – 10 p.m.
WHERE: Missoula Senior Center.
8. **Make fence wildlife friendly on ranch near Lolo. April 16.**
Join MPG and Oxbow Cattle Company as we partner to make our shared border friendlier to wildlife. Volunteers will remove barbed top and bottom strands of wire and replace them with smooth-strand fence and drop clips. This project will greatly reduce the potential for injury to wildlife as they cross between properties. Lunch provided. [RSVP for details and directions to Joshua Lisbon at jlisbon@mpgranch.com.](mailto:jlisbon@mpgranch.com)
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: MPG Ranch.

9. **Offer an environmental science exhibit at careers conference for girls. Proposal due NOW.**
UM is offering a science careers conference for middle school girls from our area on April 23 (the Saturday after Earth Day). They have an interactive time during midday when they encourage people to provide interactive exhibits for the girls to engage with. Exhibitors are offered a 6 foot table inside the Education building (site of the conference). Student groups or even individuals interested in developing interactive exhibits on environmental science themes can propose their idea at [STEM for Girls](http://www.missoulagirlsstem.net/interactive-stem-exhibits.html).
You can also get more information and check the appeal of your exhibit idea by contacting organizer Lisa Blank via email at lisa.blank@umontana.edu
Do it soon, as space will fill up.

10. **Flathead National Forest Plan DEIS will be out in April.**
The Flathead National Forest is revising its forest plan and has completed its analysis of scoping comments. It will now develop a Draft EIS on the plan which it plans to release in April, 2016. There will be a 90-day comment period on that EIS. The final EIS is expected in April, 2017.
[Go to the Flathead National Forest Planning page for more information.](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mtf/)

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

1. **Medicinal herb growing & marketing conference. Near Seattle. April 15 – 16.**
This conference is a gathering for Pacific Northwest farmers, wildcrafters and herb companies. Every herbal product depends on farmers and/or wildcrafters. [For full details and registration information, please go to the Friends of the Trees website.](http://www.friendsofthetrees.org)
WHEN: April 15-17.
WHERE: Fort Worden, Port Townsend, Olympic Peninsula, Washington.

2. **Beginning birder walk at Metcalf NWR. April 16.**
Do you want to brush up on bird identification skills this spring? Then this beginning birding field trip is for you! Learn basic skills of bird identification, including use of binoculars and field guides, key field marks, and much more. Binoculars are available if needed. Families with children are welcome. Minimal walking is involved. Meet at the Metcalf NWR headquarters at 10 a.m. for a 2-hour field trip. For more information contact Larry at 549-5632. Sponsored by Bitterroot Audubon, Five Valleys Audubon, and Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge.
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to noon.
WHERE: Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville.
3. **Conversation about politics and public policy with UM Alumnus Leon G. Billings. April 18.**
   Longtime public servant and Capitol Hill staffer Leon G. Billings was instrumental in the drafting and passage of key federal environmental legislation, including the landmark Clean Air Act of 1970 and Clean Water Act of 1972, among other laws. A 1959 graduate of the University of Montana, Billings served in the Maryland Legislature for 12 years and founded the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. He has spent the last two years lecturing at Columbia, Yale and other colleges on “The Origins of Environmental Law.”
   [RSVP by emailing alumniRSVP@umontana.edu](mailto:alumniRSVP@umontana.edu).
   WHEN: Monday, April 18, from 4 – 6 p.m.
   WHERE: UC Theater.

4. **Bitterroot Water Symposium. In Hamilton. April 29. Register by April 18.**
   The Bitterroot Water Symposium features 20 invited speakers, including State, County, and City officials as well as private groups and individuals. Topics will include: Groundwater-Hydrology-Aquifer Changes, Protecting the Bitterroot River, Water Law - Water Rights - Exempt Wells, Clean Water - Fishing - Farming - Recreation, The Future of Development and Growth in the Bitterroot Valley. This event presented by the Bitterroot College of UM. Preregistration required; $5 includes a free lunch. The public is invited.
   Find the most current information on the [Water Symposium's Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com).
   Register here [Bitterroot College Administration and Registration page](http://www.umontana.edu).
   WHEN: Friday, April 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
   WHERE: Bitterroot College, 103 S. 9th St., Hamilton.

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**INTERNSHIPS**

1. **Garden City Harvest seeks Farm to School Intern. Apply by April 15.**
   Join the Farm to School summer team as they lead PEAS Farm and Orchard Gardens camps, offer farm tours, and have fun in the fields. This is a great way to hone teaching skills in the outdoors and learn about life on the farm. [For more information and a full job description, go to http://www.gardencityharvest.org/about/employment/](http://www.gardencityharvest.org/about/employment/). Apply by April 15.

2. **Assist CFAC with projects to help beginning farmers and ranchers.**
   Want to help Montana’s beginning farmers grow successful, sustainable businesses? Want to learn about how to develop new resources, plan events, and build programs? CFAC is looking for an intern for this summer to assist with a range of projects designed to help beginning farmers and ranchers. As an intern, you will have the opportunity to assist with multiple projects and we can fine-tune your position to best fit your interests. We are offering a $1,000 stipend to applicants able to offer 10-20 hours/week between May and September.
   For more information on the projects and how to apply, [For more information on the projects and how to apply, visit this CFAC web page](http://www CFAC). We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis with a planned intern start date in mid-May.

3. **WWF seeks GIS intern for summer.**
   World Wildlife Fund’s Northern Great Plains Program is hiring a summer GIS intern. [Follow this link to WWF and get full details on the job and how to apply.](http://www.worldwildlife.org)
JOBS (mainly local or summer jobs; for full time jobs around the US, subscribe to the envirojobs list serv by emailing vicki.watson@umontana.edu)

1. Forward Montana seeks Field Organizer. Apply ASAP.
   Forward Montana Foundation has a mission to train, mobilize, and educate the next generation of civic leaders, and this organizer position allows you to do just that. The Field Organizer (FO) will manage the Voter Registration and Issue ID field programs. Forward Montana Foundation specializes in getting young people stoked on Montana politics and local civic engagement by donning costumes and taking your average activism to the next level of fun.
   We are seeking a part-time FO that will manage the Voter Registration and Issue ID efforts in Missoula and at the University of Montana. The FO reports to the Western Montana Program Director. This will include but is not limited to voter registration, voter mobilization and event planning. Occasional travel and a willingness to work unconventional work hours will be necessary to fulfill the expectations of this position. You won’t be tied to a desk, you’ll meet lots of people, and you’ll make change happen at the grassroots level. The ideal candidate would be able to manage a large field team, reach high capacity goals, track and report data, and create civic engagement opportunities that excite and inspire young people.
   For a full job description and application instructions, visit Forward Montana’s website.

2. Great Burn Study Group weed crew positions. Apply ASAP.
   The Great Burn Study Group is hiring two motivated, hard-working individuals who are competent in the backcountry to join our invasive species management team. Full time duties involve the implementation of an integrated management strategy, including herbicide application, biological control releases, and weed-pulling in beautiful wild country. Competitive pay dependent on experience. Training provided. Please send resume, references, and cover letter to Beverly Dupree at thegreatburn@yahoo.com.

3. Garden City Harvest seeks Youth Harvest Project Manager. Apply by April 15.
   Garden City Harvest’s Youth Harvest Project in Missoula, seeks a person to manage this therapeutic based, service-oriented work program for at-risk teenagers. Up to ten youth are employed each growing season to work on a 10-acre sustainable urban farm doing daily farm work, operating a mobile farm stand serving senior citizens, and working once a week at the local food bank. For more information & a full job description visit http://www.gardencityharvest.org/about/employment/.
   Apply by April 15, 2016.

4. Montana Natural History Center is seeking a field trip instructors & summer camp leaders.
   Want to get paid to teach kids about nature? MNHC is now hiring for Visiting Naturalist in the Schools field trip instructors (May) and Summer Camp instructors and Teen Leaders in Training (June-August).
   For more information, visit the MNHC website at www.montananaturalist.org.

HOUSING

1. Room for rent in newer 3 bedroom home. Easy bike to University.
If location, bike ability, and quality of housing matter, look no further! Room is in a comfortable, newer home two blocks from the riverfront trail, just east of Russell near the Good Food Store. It includes a personal bathroom. House is a warm, well-lit, owner-occupied, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with two living areas and a nice kitchen. Features include: gas appliances, on-site laundry, hardwood floors, gear storage in the garage, porches, and a small yard with garden space. Rent is $430/month plus a share of utilities and internet. Room is available May 1. This is a month-to-month lease with option to sign a longer commitment. Sorry, no pets at this time. The other housemates are both active, clean, outdoorsy-types. One is a male Ph.D. student (the owner) and the other is a female natural resource specialist. This home is a great place to study or to enjoy dinner with friends. For questions or to schedule a showing, please contact Peter Metcalf at (406) 531 - 5098 or email Peter at peterwmetcalf@hotmail.com.

2. **Two bedroom house for rent.**
   This house is on Dakota Street, just 80 feet from the bike path. There’s a big yard with a storage shed, plum tree, and room for a garden and a dog. There is well water. Rent is $1,100 and includes utilities. Call Steve Loken of Loken Builders at 544-2523.

**RESOURCES**

1. **Ecological Society of America issues special report on the Endangered Species Act.**
   "Species Recovery in the United States: Increasing the Effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act," was published in January. The Issue was led by Dan Evans, an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow. It is available at [Issues in Ecology #20 in an online pdf](https://www.ecologypartnership.org/).
This Newsline prepared by Vicki Watson and Theresa Duncan. Please send any comments here.