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May 24, 2017

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Missoula, Montana

DOWNTOWN MISSOULA'S WEEKLY FREE SUMMER CONCERTS START WITH DOWNTOWN TONIGHT JUNE 1

After a long winter, the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) is ready to bring the Missoula community a summertime favorite. The 17th annual *Downtown ToNight Summer Series* kicks off the Caras Park summer events season on Thursday, June 1. This free summer outdoor concert and food truck rally event takes place every week through June, July and August in Caras Park in the heart of Downtown Missoula.

Launched in 2001, the *Downtown ToNight Summer Series* was created to bring evening entertainment to Caras Park, much like the successful *Out to Lunch* program does at lunchtime during the workday. Every Thursday from 5:30-8:30 pm, Missoula families, friends, and visitors enjoy Missoula's best food trucks, live music, and children's activities in Caras Park.

Local music is a major theme with the bands set to take the stage for Downtown ToNight. **Andrea Harsell & Luna Roja** kicks off the series on June 1 while the National Wildlife Federation will have engaging activities for the kids. **Joan Zen** (June 29), **Dodgy Mountain Men** (July 20), **Shakewell** (July 27), **Rotgut Whines** (August 3), and local country favorite **406** are just a few of the Missoula-grown bands. **Mabel's Rage** (June 8), **Marshall Catch** (July 13), and **Ryan Chrys & the Rough Cuts** (August 10) will be traveling into Missoula for Downtown ToNight.

While free music is a draw for the community, experiencing different foods from Missoula's best food trucks are a large part of the overall experience. Local favorites such as Big Dipper, Clove Cart Pizza, El Cazador, Masala, and Sa Wad Dee will be among the communities' 'must haves' again this year. New vendors include Bitterroot Bison, Crepematic, Gumbo Bus, Ina's Indian Tacos, and What's a Viking – all of whom bring new and diverse offerings for attendees. Folks looking for adult beverages can accompany their food with selections from the Bud Light Beer and Wine Garden.

Parking is free in Downtown after 5pm, however, folks are encouraged to walk or bike via Missoula's extensive trail system or catch a ride on one of Mountain Line's Zero-Fare busses. Parking is available in Caras Park, the Park Place Garage on East Front, the Bank Street Lot, and the Central Park Garage on West Main.

"Downtown Missoula is currently the best place to be in Missoula," said Anders Brooker, President of the MDA Board of Directors and owner of Runner's Edge on North Higgins. "Downtown ToNight and Out to Lunch serve as a consistent favorite of not only the local community, but the business community as well. Both of these events help to foster opportunities for engagement, enjoyment, commerce and comradery in Downtown."

For those looking to enjoy a lunch out of the office during the week, Downtown ToNight's sister event, *Out to Lunch*, launches on Wednesday, June 7. **You Knew Me When** will take the stage while Childbloom Guitar will provide the children's activities.

Drawing close to 80,000 attendees over the course of the 14-week schedule, *Out to Lunch* and *Downtown ToNight* are supported by Missoula-area businesses or organizations via sponsorships, as well as vending fees. Nearly 50 businesses and organizations are supporting the programs this year, including Zip Beverage, Mountain Line, Blackfoot, Missoula Pediatric Dentistry, Good Food Store, Missoula Independent, Mountain Broadcasting, Missoula Broadcasting, and many, many more.

For more information on *Out to Lunch*, contact Linda McCarthy (linda@missouladowntown.com). For more information on *Downtown ToNight*, contact Kristen Sackett (kristen@missouladowntown.com).

FOOD OPTIONS FOR OUT TO LUNCH AND DOWNTOWN TONIGHT 2017

FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS	OWNER/MANAGER	MENU
1. Baskin Robbins	Matt Loomis	16 flavors of Ice Cream, milkshakes, floats, and more
2. Big Dipper	Bryan Hickey	13 flavors of Ice Cream, served in cones and cups
3. Big Thai Country Food Truck	Jume Saowalak Slover	Crispy shrimp, pork skewers, specialty items
4. Bitterroot Bison	Zack & Candy Westre	Bison burgers, Bison tacos, Bison Chili, and Bison Fries
5. Clove Cart Pizza Peddlers	Emma Poole	Pizza made to order and organic salads, gluten-free too
6. Covered Wagon Hot Dogs	Bryant Knoll	Hot dogs, Polish sausages, Bratwurst, and more
7. Crepematic	Clinton Hawson	Crepes with savory or sweet fillings
8. El Cazador	Alfredo Hernandez	Mexican Cuisine made to order
9. Gumbo Bus	John DuBois	Freshly made hot Gumbo
10. Ina's Indian Tacos	Kathryn Reddies	Indian Tacos, fry bread, French fries and much more
11. Isla's Lemonade	Noemi Jijon	Hand-made, fresh-squeezed lemonade
12. Just Barbecue	Matt Parris	Pulled pork, sausages, and baby back ribs
13. Lil' Orbits of Montana	Jim & Mary Fisher	Hand-made mini donuts and specialty coffee drinks
14. Masala	Theo Smith, Ryan Scott	Eastern Indian curries and masalas
15. Pagoda Chinese & Thai Food	Sudarat Khiedoduangdee	Chinese chicken dishes, tofu dishes, eggs rolls, etc.
16. Polka Dot Patties	Mindy Bowman, Karin Brier	Grilled sandwiches, nachos, fries and more
17. Sa Wa Dee	Am Penny	Pad Thai, Chicken Curries, egg rolls, potato balls, more
18. Taco Sano	Chris Butz	Specialty tacos made to order, beverages
19. Vietnam Noodle	Julie Wang	Spring rolls, pot stickers, chicken dishes
20. Wally & Buck	Kelsey Buckley & Travis Walnum	Specialty burgers with a variety of toppings
21. What's a Viking?	Steve Legreid	Deep fried Norwegian meatballs on a stick

Downtown Missoula: Connecting Our Community!