



May 29, 2019
Local Media

Missoula's Beloved Out to Lunch & Downtown ToNight Summer Series Launch 13-Week Season June 5 & 6

For the 34th consecutive year, the Missoula Downtown Association (MDA) has developed a vibrant and robust Out to Lunch Summer Series set to commence on Wednesday, June 5. The MDA is also launching the Downtown ToNight Summer Series for the 19th consecutive season on Thursday, June 6. All 26 admission-free events will be held in Caras Park, Missoula's Town Square in the heart of Downtown.

OUT TO LUNCH

The brainchild of Pat Simmons, MDA's first-ever paid employee, the Out to Lunch Summer Series is held each Wednesday in June, July and August from 11am-2pm. The outdoor music and food festival is the longest-standing in the state of Montana and features live music, children's activities and authentic and local food and beverage offerings from 20 food trucks and vendors.

Launching the 2019 season for Out to Lunch will be **Jameson and the Sordid Seeds** out of Whitefish, Mont. A rock, reggae, blues and soul powerhouse, Jameson and the Sordid Seeds is known for its electric live performances. The band, which formed in 2009, is headed by Brent Jameson and features Sean Cooksey, Joshua Glass, Donnie Rifkin and Dan Rose. Jameson and Sordid Seeds primarily plays in Montana, but has toured throughout the United States. For more information, contact Jameson at seedssordid@hotmail.com.

DOWNTOWN TONIGHT

Created in 2001 to meet a high-rising demand in Downtown Missoula, the Downtown ToNight Summer Series takes place each Thursday in June, July and August from 5:30-8:30 pm. In addition to live music, playtime for kids, and food trucks galore, Downtown ToNight also offers adult beverages for those ages 21 and older.

Opening the 2019 season is **Luke Dowler & the Lucky Breaks** hailing from Kalispell, Mont. Dowler's versatility and scrappy reinvention has fueled a many-faceted music career. He released his first solo record, Polarized, in 2012 that was likened to artist's like Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty. He has been named by Paste Magazine as an artist to listen to now. For more information on Luke Dowler & the Lucky Breaks, contact Checkered Owl Music as andrew@checkeredowl.com.

“Out to lunch and Downtown ToNight are the definition of summer. A time and space where we can eat by the river and sprawl out on the grassy hill, faces towards the sun. We get to see the micro food vendors we have been missing all winter and try out the new and creative concepts and food that people have come up with. These events are your first sighting of ideas that will hopefully become staples one day,” said Tom Snyder, President of the MDA Board of Directors. “They are the events you get to try things you can’t get anywhere else at any other time. Where little vendors and big vendors can be creative in what they serve in an environment, your kids can run around and you can enjoy the sun. Grab some food, grab some beer, face the river, and come on down.”

Nearly 100 different bands from across the country applied to perform at Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight this year. Close to 150 distinct Missoula-area businesses and non-profit organizations are supporting the outdoor food and music festivities with their time, talent and treasure. Business sponsorships and vending fees cover the hard costs, so the mid-week events remain admission free for all.

“Our weekly summertime events are a big draw for Missoula, and they are the base of our arts and culture scene,” said Linda McCarthy, Director of the Downtown Missoula Partnership. “Downtown communities across the country model these events, knowing they serve as an economic driver for city-center activities and commerce. Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight are a great way to experience all Downtown has to offer.”

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Each week more than 20 food vendors and food trucks will provide a wide variety of food and beverage offerings for sale. New vendors this year are Frigg N Fulla, Iron Cakes, Kamoon Arabian Cuisine and Ninja Mike’s. Other food trucks are Baskin Robbins, Big Dipper, Big Thai Country, Bitterroot Bison, Clove Cart, Covered Wagon, El Cazador, Five on Black, Isla’s Lemonade, Just Barbecue, Lil’ Orbits, Pagoda, Pattie Wagon, Sa Wad Dee, Thai Spicy, Taco Sano, and Vietnam Noodle. In addition, guest vendors will be featured during special events. In 2018 vendors sold close to **\$360,000** in food and beverages.

Additionally, Stitches will provide custom apparel printing and sales during Downtown ToNight each week. The custom apparel will primarily showcase Downtown Missoula, Caras Park, MDA events and Stitches.

CARAS CASH

Folks interested in purchasing food and beverages for their employees or guests can pre-purchase Caras Cash in \$5.00 increments at the Downtown Missoula Partnership Office (218 E. Main), which can be used to purchase food and beverage from any of the vendors and food trucks at the events.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

The Out to Lunch Trolley will offer free rides to Caras Park each Wednesday from Splash Montana (3001 Bancroft). The trolley has always run up and down Higgins Avenue during Out to Lunch free of charge and will continue to stop for those on Higgins Avenue. Additionally, Zero-Fare Mountain Line busses all come Downtown, so anyone can ride any of the routes to the Transit Center, which is just four blocks from Caras Park.

Folks can also catch the UDASH shuttle every fifteen minutes from the University of Montana campus to Caras Park. The shuttle will stop at Miller Hall, Jesse Hall and the Music Building every Wednesday from 11am-2pm. UDASH is free and open to the public as well.

There are lots of public parking spaces throughout Downtown Missoula, and the first hour of parking is free in the Central Park Garage (128 W. Main) and the Park Place Garage (201 E. Front). Parking is free evenings and weekends, so there is no charge to park in Downtown Missoula during the Downtown ToNight Summer Series. It's also easy to bike and walk to and throughout Downtown Missoula, and there are plenty of bike racks throughout the city center.

The Passport Parking APP is another easy and convenient way to pay for parking from your office, car or while in the park. Just download the Passport APP, load up your credit card, and enjoy the convenience of paying with a cell phone.

LEAD STAFF

For more information on the **Out to Lunch Summer Series**, contact Chelsee Kucera, DMP's Membership & Events Director, via phone (406-543-4238) or email (chelsee@missouladowntown.com). For more information on the **Downtown ToNight Summer Series**, contact Lincoln Mansch, DMP's Marketing & Events Director, via phone (406-543-4238) or email (Lincoln@missouladowntown.com).

Full summer schedule is attached.

Downtown Missoula...Connecting our Community

2019 ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

OTL DATES	ON THE MAIN STAGE	KIDS ENTERTAINMENT
June 5	Jameson and the Sordid Seeds	Girl Scouts of Montana
June 12	Off in the Woods	Historical Museum at Ft Missoula
June 19	Big Sky Mudflaps	Childbloom Guitar
June 26	Ed Norton Big Band	Missoula Public Library
July 3	Mary Place & Blue Moon	Boys & Girls Club
July 10	Bob Wire	International Choral Festival
July 17	International Choral Festival	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
July 24	Western Union	Animal Wonders
July 31	Letter B	Foundation for Community Health
August 7	The Vintage	Traveler's Rest
August 14	You Knew Me When	Spark!
August 21	Cello Mafia	Mismo Gymnastics
August 28	Basses Covered	CASA

DTTN DATES	ON THE MAIN STAGE	KIDS ENTERTAINMENT
June 6	Luke Dowler & the Lucky Breaks	National Wildlife Federation
June 13	Kenny Miller James Band	Traveler's Rest
June 20	Milton Menasco & the Big Fiasco	Missoula Family YMCA
June 27	Joan Zen	Missoula Mavericks
July 4	New Old Future	Missoula Downtown Association
July 11	Vinyl City	International Choral Festival
July 18	The Idle Ranch Hands	Missoula Public Library
July 25	The Timber Rattlers	CASA
August 1	Miller Campbell	Historical Museum at Ft Missoula
August 8	Ryan Chrys & the Rough Cuts	Girl Scouts of Montana
August 15	Mudslide Charley	Mismo Gymnastics
August 22	Dodgy Mountain Men	Jeannette Rankin Peace Center
August 29	Tom Catmull's Last Resort	Ronald McDonald House

In summary, the Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight events draw over 250,000 people to the heart of Missoula. You can learn more about these not-to-miss community events at www.missouladowntown.com.

Downtown Missoula: Connecting Our Community!