

PROFESSOR EARL DUGLASS AND HIS FOSSILS FINDS OF THE RUBY VALLEY



Earl Douglass was born on October 28, 1862, in Medford, Minnesota, the son of Fernando and Abigail Louisa Carpenter Douglass. He married Pearl Charlotte Goetschius on October 20, 1905, and a few years later they had a son, Gawin Earl Douglass. Douglass's early education was in the Medford public schools and the Pillsbury Academy in Owatonna, Minnesota, where he studied geology, paleontology, osteology, and mammalian anatomy. Later at the Shaw School of Botany at Washington University, he studied systematic botany and plant histology. Douglass received his master's of Science at the University of Montana in 1899. The following year at Princeton University he held a fellowship in biology, and he was granted a fellowship in geology In the late 1800's. In 1899, Douglass taught geology and physical geography at the University of Montana and was a teacher in Virgina City. In 1902, Douglass was hired at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History to work in the field of paleontology and worked there for 15 years. At this time Ruby Valley was all about mining and the rush to Alder Creek and surrounding areas for gold. There was little thought to fossils and old bones in our area until Douglass started to hike around Alder Creek and the Ruby Mountain searching for depressions and bones. He would write an

article in the 1897 Madisonian detailing the geology of this area. He wrote in his article and in his diary describing the lava bed that Virginia City sits over

and he understood that under that lava bed there was much to be discovered and studied. In his mind these finds were richer then gold and silver as it was unknown creatures from our past. In his writings he would search Madison Valley and started to find in old lake beds and bluffs where he would discover preserved shells, fragments of bones and some petrified wood. He would describe his adventures on the Madison river about 500 feet above the banks on the river and extends north and south on the est side continuing 12 to 14 miles. Across from this area of the river, and six miles west, is a table sloped mound of rocks and between the two bluffs is where he would find fossils. Over time he started to see teeth from what was thought to be an ancient horse and eventually a broken jaw of a mastodon. As he dug in the area he would find the skeleton to that mastodon. Douglass was excited and wanted to search around other areas and

started to find an old cattle trail fragments of bone and teeth of which he thought was an

old rhinoceros tooth. At the nearby bluff he stared to dig and would find more pieces of teeth and bones until he found part of a skull. " Soon I found part of a skull with teeth, then digging lower I made up my mind that the teeth were perfect on the other side of the skull. In digging down to get at the skull, I found the two sides of the lower jaw both with two perfect rows of molars." As he continued to dig around the area he would stumble on smaller bones of unknown creatures and more jaw bones with shining black teeth of large animals.

He would say that he found 40 to 50 different species of animals and many standing on the high ridges that forms the divide between the Madison and Ruby Rivers as well as any rivers or streams flowing from the Ruby Mountain. He would search around lakes and rivers, along banks and ridges to find fossils and bones. At one point he ran into a frozen chunk of clay and found a jaw and other parts of what he described as "a large eyed, large eared, agile little animal related to the deer." His philosophy about fossil teeth was that they were the most important part of a find. Teeth are the hardest and most apt to resist decay and that many species of animals have been identified from a



single tooth. Many of the fossils found were sent to Harvard Museum of Natural history and Carnegie Hall of Natural History to be studied and identified.

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Earl Douglass Find in Madison County

By 1922 Douglass had unearthed and shipped more than 700,000 pounds of material including nearly 20 complete skeletons of Jurassic dinosaurs such as Diplodocus, Dryosaurus, Stegosaurus, Barosaurus, Camarasaurus and Brontosaurus from Montana to Utah. In 1907, Douglass traveled to the Uintah Basin in northeastern Utah to explore the Uinta Formation south of Vernal, Utah for fossil mammals. He returned the following year, but was interrupted in July by a letter from Carnegie Museum director J. Holland who directed him to search for a dinosaur skeleton. He began exploring the hills along the Green River near Jensen, Utah, and came upon the tail section of an Apatosaurus in the Morrison Formation. At first Douglass thought he had just one skeleton, and not until December did he realize just how extensive the bone deposit was in a letter to director Holland: "... the ledge is full of bones...We realize that we have a stupendous task and the men are working like beavers ... If we stopped to consider what a terrible lot of work there is to do we might fall over..." The tail vertebrae connected to a nearly complete skeleton that was formally named Apatosaurus Louisae, after Carnegie's wife Louise. Excavating the site would occupy him and his crew for 13 years. Douglass died on January 13, 1931, in Salt Lake City, Utah leaving behind a long legacy that can be seen to this day.

Researched by Joetta Wetzsteon - Sources: Earl Douglass Diary 1888 January 02, 1897 of The Madisoian - A book called "The New Mercoidodonts from the Miocene of Montana - Collected papers written by Earl Douglass



CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL - May 05th at 6 pm at the Ray Silve Memorial Baseball Park - see ad

VIRGINIA CITY ELKS LODGE #390 - POKER TOURNEY - MAY 6TH - 1 PM - see ad - BIKE NIGHT EVERY FRIDAY - May through September - Bar opens at 5 - for more information call Tanya at 406-660-1559

ART AT THE LIBRARY - May 12th and 26th at 2:30 pm at the Sheridan Library - See Ad

MOTHERS DAY PILATES & YOGA - May 13th - 10 -11:15 am at the Virginia City Community Center - see ad

MOTHERS DAY SPECIAL BRUNCH - May 14th -9 am to Noon - Elks Lodge 390 in Virginia City, MT - see front page

PAINT PARTY AT THE VAULT - MAY 18 AT 6PM -Come join us at the Vault in Twin Bridges and paint a cow or chicken! Your canvas will be pre drawn and ready for you to paint! You will be provided with everything you need. Registration required. If you are paying by cash or Venmo, contact Suzy at 406-565-0194 or for any other questions. Link to register. http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event.

ELLING HOUSE EVENT: Friday May, 19 at 7PM Phil Page, working cowboy, saddle maker, traditional western musician and story teller will be at the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center, 404 East Idaho Street, Virginia City. Let Phil Page take you on a journey back to the time when early cattle drives from Texas to Montana supplied beef to the gold fields. The fee for this performance is \$15,00 per person For more information, please call 406-843-5454 or 460-843-5507...

VIRGINIA CITY CHAMBER'S DINNER AND AUCTION - May 20th - registration at 5:30 - Dinner at 6:30 pm - see ad

GARAGE-A-RAMA - June 3rd from 10-2 at the Madison County Fairgrounds

Fly In - June 17th - 8:30 am - Free event, open to the public. Twin Bridges Airport - The event will kick off with a pancake breakfast fundraiser by the Twin Bridges Rotary and VFW. There will be free airplane rides for kids 8-17 between 8 a.m and 10 a.m. You won't want to miss the pilot games and kids will definitely want to join the ping pong ball drop. To complete the event, join us for a free BBQ lunch. Cash prizes for people's choice 1st-3rd for aircraft and car's.

TWIN BRIDGES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - June 28th to July 2nd - The first annual Twin Bridges Bluegrass Festival, held in Twin Bridges, Montana, at the Madison County Fairgrounds. Gates open for camping at 0800 on Wednesday, June 28th, and you are welcome to stay through Monday morning, July 3rd. There will be 10+ bands playing music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, food and craft vendors, a building for folks to set up in who would like to sew or quilt, and if we can get 20 people to sign up, there will be a horseshoe tournament on Saturday morning. Folks are highly encouraged to jam as much as possible, and there will be 2 buildings available as pickin' sheds for nighttime jams, should folks want to use them. If you like trout fishing, the Beaverhead River runs right along the edge of the fairgrounds, and town is located just across the river. The fairgrounds are located right off Hwy 41, and are 1/2 hour from Dillon and 115, 1 hour from Butte, and 1 1/2 hours away from Bozeman. This will be a wonderful family event, and we sure hope to see you there. More details about the venue, the bands, etc, are on the website. https://twinbridgesbluegrass.com

FLOATING FLOTILLA RIVER PARADE - July 22nd at 11 am - Get your parade floats ready for the Floating Flotilla River Parade Saturday, July 22nd! Float line up is at 11:30AM, parade starts at 12:00PM!! 2022 Theme is TBD Best Float Awards: Adults: \$200.00 Youth (17 and under): \$100.00 Duck Race to follow!

RUBY VALLEY POOL: Are you or someone you know looking for a summer job? We are accepting applications and holding interviews next week! We offer competitive wages, opportunity for a tan and flexible schedules. Applications can be found on our website www.rubyvalleypool.com Please email completed applications to swimsheridan@gmail.com

P'S CLOTHES & MORE: Located above the Twin Bridges Library. Hours: Monday: 10-2 Wednesday: 9-2

LOST CABIN BAR: Monday: Open Pool Table 5-7 - Tuesday: Music Trivia 6:30 - 8 - Wednesday: Whiskey Wednesday (Discount flights and tasters) - Thursday: First Thursday of Month Ladies Night - Friday: Red (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday. Come in or call for details - Every Monday through Friday Happy Hour 5-6 - Check our FB page for weekend specials @lostcabinbar

PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:

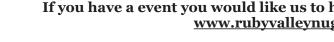
SHERIDAN - Newspaper History Group - Tuesday mornings @ 9 AM. Knitting Group - Thursdays @ 2 PM CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP - First and third Tuesdays at 6 pm For more information call 406-842-7981. TWIN BRIDGES - April 23rd-29th is National Library Week. Come to the library that week, fill out a customer satisfaction survey, and be entered in a drawing to win one of five \$20 gift certificates to a local business! News about our summer program will be coming soon, so stay tuned, and celebrate your local library! HYPERTENSION CLINIC - Free blood pressure management workshop - Every Tuesday from March 7th to April 25th from 4-5 pm - Lego club, happening the 3rd Thursday of the month from 3:45-4:30. Need some help in the wait for warmer weather? We have some new to us DVDs of classic movies, and new book releases. There is always a jigsaw puzzle going in the back! Did you know the largest puzzle for sale has 60,000 pieces? Now that's a puzzle! VIRGINIA CITY - Thompson Hickman - 10:30 a.m. Library Story and craft time.

TWIN BRIDGES HELPING HANDS: Twin Bridges-MT Helping Hand Food Pantry, we aim to End Hunger in Montana. We have moved to 208 1/2 S. Main St. Wednesday's. 10am to 3pm. Call for appointment any other day or time. We are here for you Madison County and neighboring towns. Pantry is open every Wednesday 11-2 or call for an appointment. Have on Hand canned fruits, vegetables, soups, sauces, jams, jellies, more. Boxed or bags of rice, beans, dinner helpers, pasta, dry milk, some meat. Toiletries. Adult pads/pull ups. Laundry items. Cleaning supplies. Dog, Cat food and Litter. If you don't see what you would like us to carry, please let us know. 596-1978 & 233-9616

RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: Food is distributed on Saturday mornings from 10-12 @ 206 S. Main in Sheridan, MT -between gas station and post office.

3 RIVERS WORSHIP CENTER: Worship is what we are all about and we would love to have you join us. Come as you are and be blessed. Every Sunday @ 10:30 am @ 3648 MT-287. Family friendly. Weekly Grief Support Group - Saturdays at 10 am and Mondays at 6 PM - for more information call 406-381-6677

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: First and third Tuesdays at 6PM at the Sheridan Library - For more information call 406-842-5770





Map of Earl Douglass explored areas in Montana.

RUBY VALLEY HAPPENINGS



Friday: 10-2 Saturday: 10-2 - All items are FREE to the community. Call P at 406-600-2983 to donate or for questions.

If you have a event you would like us to help you promote, please let us know. www.rubyvalleynugget@gmail.com

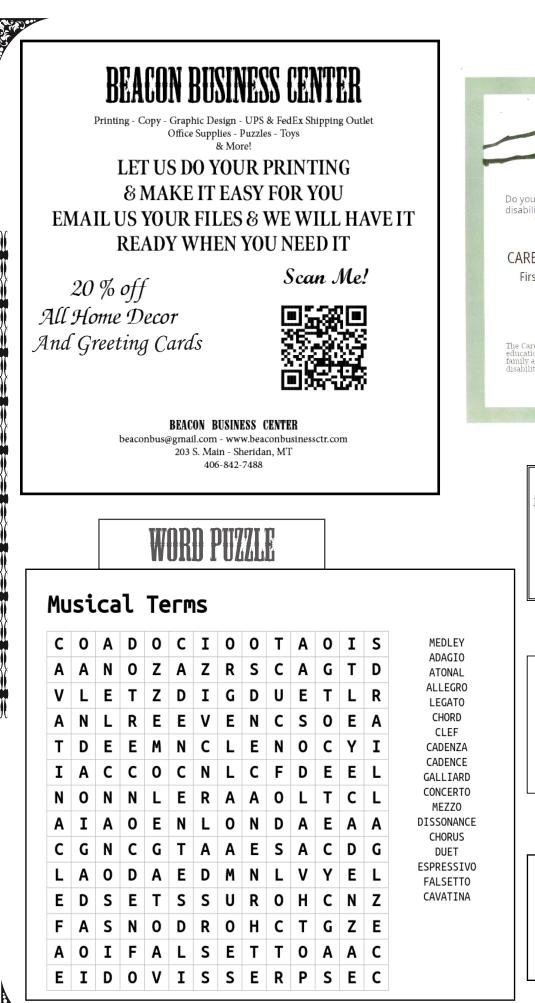


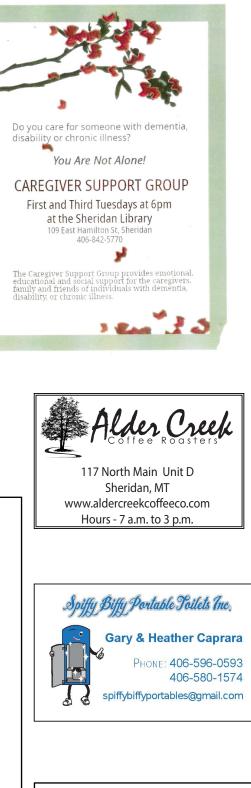




GRIEF SUPPORT	×	
GROUP		
Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse,		L
child, family member, or friend.		A S
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WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP When: Saturday - 10 AM Monday - 6 PM	Į,	
For Information Contact: 406-381-6677	÷.	\ \ [
Where: 3 RIVERS WORSHIP CENTER 3648 MT HWY 287 Sheridan, MT 59749	Î.	
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Must be 15 years old.	$\langle \rangle$	$\langle \rangle$
e offer competitive wages, opportunity for a tan and flexible schedules.	Ű.	
Applications can be found on our website	÷.	
www.rubyvalleypool.com	X	₩ 3
Please email completed applications to swimsheridan@gmail.com	X	
FULL TIME SUMMER JOB		
May 20th to October 20th 2023		
eed Sprayer/ATV-UTV Mechanic		e
\$16 to \$20 an hour		
depending on experience		e
Must pass a drug test and		
be able to drive to Twin Bridges		
o apply please call 406-596-3475	1	
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LAST ISSUE ANSWERS					CH	1 0 S	SW	o R	D	PUZ	ZL	E			
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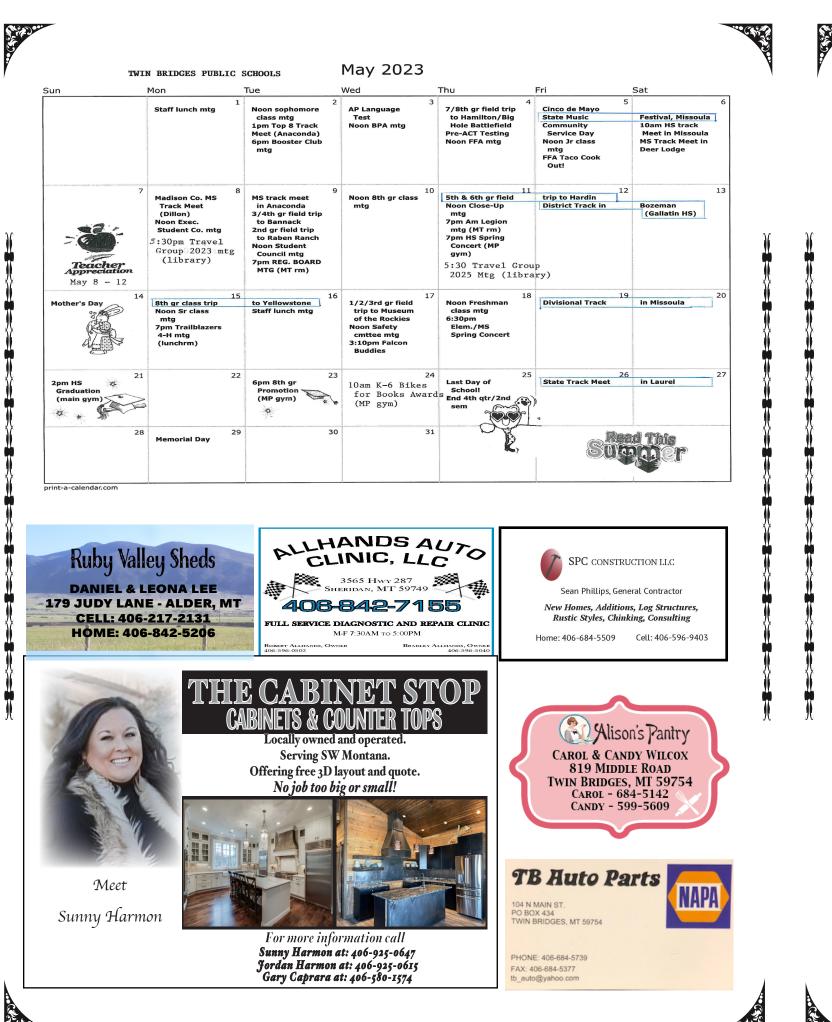
Sinclair Ncleod Mercantic

2 convenience store location Norris & Sheridan ng fuel in Madison & Jefferson counties Main office: 685-3379 Sheridan store: 842-5478 Norris store: 685-3361



Please call Jason at (406) 596-3119 THANK YOU!

OR DINNER RESERVATIONS, CALL 406-570-0254 OR ONLINE AT WWW.VIRGINIACITY.COM



Aemorial Day Break		Elementary Fun Day	SEMESTER TESTS	9a Kindergarten Promotio		Spanish trip
28	29	30	31	6/1	2	3
		Senior Semester Test	5-12 Concert - Elem 6PM Senior Semester Test	JSK - 4 Elem Concert - Ele Seniors last day	m 6P 6:30a Track @ STATE - Laurel - '	ГВА
	STUDENT COUNCIL CAMPAIGN				Memorial Day Break	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Senior Portfolios 8 -12 PM	9a Jr. & Sr. in library			
1:30a Mothers Day	AWARDS BANQUET 6 PM - Spr	Senior Portfolios	Senior Portfolios 8 -12 PM	JSK - 11 Portfolios	Track @ Divisionals - Missoula B	ig Sky - 10:00 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		7p Sheridan School Board Mee				
		Board Meeting			County Training in the Element	Track @ DISTRICT - Galatin HS
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						10a Sheridan Bike Rodeo
		Track @ Anaconda - Top 8 - 12				Track @ Dillon TBA
50	5/1	← Middle School Track @ Butte -	7-12 portfolio day in all classes	10:30a Spanish to Dillon	5	Middle School Track @ Deer Lc
30	5/1	2	3	4	5	6
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ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

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