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Friday, October 11 at 7:00pm
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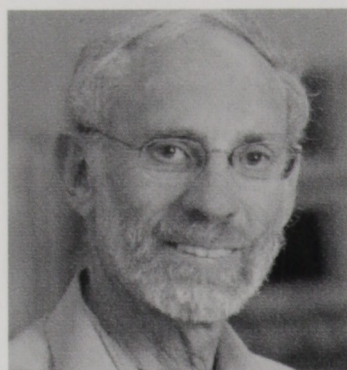
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* Greetings *

Dear Friends,



On behalf of Intermountain Opera Bozeman, thank you for joining us for the celebration of thirty-five years of world-class opera in Bozeman. The Intermountain Opera Bozeman got its start in 1978 thanks to the passion and vision of a world-renowned opera signer, a few tireless volunteers and an enthusiastic audience. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our production of Verdi's spectacular opera, *La Traviata*, as we mark this important moment in the history of the arts in Montana and the 200th anniversary of Verdi's birth. I am sure many of you have seen productions of this opera elsewhere, and this production promises to offer you yet another breathtaking opportunity to experience what has become perhaps the most popular of Verdi's operas and one of the most frequently performed of all operas.

Regardless of whether you are one of our longtime, loyal followers or this is your first Bozeman opera performance, or even your first opera experience, I'm sure that you will thoroughly enjoy this production. Intermountain Opera Bozeman's mission is to promote and share the joy of opera in Montana and surrounding areas by providing affordable, high quality opera performances to audience members of all ages, and to provide educational outreach to area schools and communities. Since 1979, we have provided two or three performances of at least one fully-staged opera each year starring singers well-known in the opera world, backed by an orchestra and chorus made up of the best musicians from our region.

What you see on stage and hear from the orchestra pit are the concerted efforts of the very finest artists supported by a truly dedicated staff of professionals and volunteers. Opera is complicated and expensive, and ticket sales cover only about 40% of our production costs. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and donors, and the unfaltering help of our volunteers, we are proud to bring this production to you today. Assistance of all kinds is always welcome and I look forward to hearing from any of you who wish to help us in bringing more exciting, top quality operas to Bozeman.

Enjoy *La Traviata*, and we look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, a variation on the Cinderella story, in spring 2014.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard S. Wolff".

Richard S. Wolff

President, Intermountain Opera Bozeman Board of Directors

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* ARTISTS *



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Maria Kanyova (Soprano) Violetta

Ms. Kanyova has enjoyed a varied career encompassing a wide repertoire. Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* is her signature role, and she has previously performed it at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, Portland Opera and Utah Opera. A strong proponent for new opera, Maria Kanyova has created many new roles as well as reprising major American contemporary operas such as Pat Nixon in John Adams' *Nixon in China* and Marie Antoinette in John Corgliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*. In the 2012-13 season Ms. Kanyova could be seen at the San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and with the New Orleans Opera.

Maria Kanyova has received awards from the Liederkrantz Foundation the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Greater Miami Opera Guild and both the Betty Allen Prize and Richard F. Gold Career Grant for her achievements with New York City Opera. She is also the winner of a 2001 Richard Tucker Foundation Career Grant and a 2000 Sullivan Foundation Award. She currently resides in Chicago with her husband and four children.

Scott Ramsay (Tenor) Alfredo Germont

Praised by the New York Times for his "impressive...bright-voiced tenor," Scott Ramsay is highly regarded by opera companies and symphony orchestras across North America and abroad for his dynamic performances in repertoire ranging from Baroque and bel canto to the 20th Century. Mr. Ramsay has performed various lead roles with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Virginia Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Boston, and the San Francisco Opera to name a few. Some of Mr. Ramsay's symphonic engagements include performances with the Chicago Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and American Symphony Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall.

Scott Ramsay has won the top prizes from the American Opera society and the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation. Additional training programs have included Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera and the Berkshire Choral Festival.



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Levi Hernandez (Baritone) Giorgio Germont



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With a velvety tone and a stage presence which exudes confidence and charm, Levi Hernandez is gaining momentum as a sought-after artist on the operatic stage. Mark Thompson Ketterson of Opera News declared of his principal debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Dandini in *La cenerentola*, "Young baritone Levi Hernandez's intelligent Dandini displayed a most impressive knack for subtle text-painting within a pristinely negotiated coloratura line..." This is Mr. Hernandez's fourth engagement with Intermountain Opera Bozeman.

Recently the El Paso native made his Houston Grand Opera debut as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*. He also joined the rosters of San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera in their productions of Puccini's *Il trittico* and *Fanciulla del West*.

A 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards finalist, his many awards include a Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation grant as well as being a 2002 OPERALIA competition finalist. After receiving his undergraduate degree at Westminster Choir College, Mr. Hernandez attended the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia where he performed a number of lead roles.

* ARTISTS *

Peggy Kohler (Soprano) Flora Bervoix

Ms. Kohler is a native of Alaska where she earned her college tuition by fishing commercially. She has sung with Opera Columbus, Toledo Opera, Opera Delaware, San Diego Opera (Young Artist Program), Utah Festival Opera and several Symphonies including the Columbus Symphony, San Diego Symphony and the New York Chamber Ensemble. She has recorded for the Naxos label and Philip Glass. Ms. Kohler made her New York Recital Debut at Carnegie Hall. Her previous performances with Intermountain Opera Bozeman include the gala concert, BRAVO, outreach productions at the Sweet Pea Festival and the role of Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*.



Jeffrey Kitto (Tenor) Gastone, Viscount de Letorieres

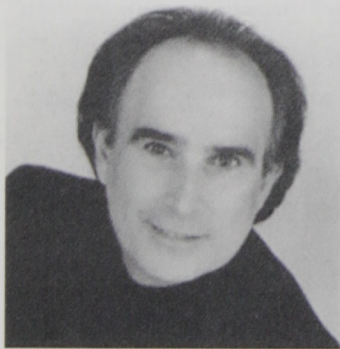


"Kitto's amazing voice alone is worth the price of admission." – Jaci Webb, Billings Gazette. Jeffrey Kitto has performed numerous operatic roles throughout the region, most recently as The Duke in Rimrock Opera's production of *Rigoletto*. Mr. Kitto has performed concert works with symphonies and in festivals throughout the northwest.

Mr. Kitto was a founding member of national recording artists, *The Clintons*, with whom he performed, toured, and helped release four albums including the release of the album "Who Invited Roger" that was met with independent acclaim.

A multiple recipient of The Metropolitan Opera Auditions National Council Awards as well as a past winner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artists Award, Mr. Kitto completed his Bachelor's Degree in Music from Montana State University.

Frederick Frey (Baritone) Baron Douphol



Mr. Frey has performed extensively throughout North America and Europe. He has performed grand opera such as Puccini's *Tosca* with Thomas Conlin and David Bamberger, Strauss' *Elektra* with Barry Busse and Christian Badea conducting and *Otello* with Pablo Elvira, Maria Spacagna and James King, again with Maestro Christian Badea. He recently served on the voice faculty of New Jersey City University and The County College of Morris. He and his wife moved to Bozeman two years ago and are contributing to the outreach efforts of Intermountain Opera Bozeman.

Harlan Reidmohr (Baritone) Marquis d'Obigny

Mr. Reidmohr is a junior at Montana State University in Bozeman, majoring in music with a minor in history. He enjoys singing with many ensembles including the University Choral, Montanans, as well as participating in his school's opera scenes class. His solo work includes the bass soloist for Handel's *Messiah* with the Bozeman *Messiah* Community Sing and receiving a lead role in an opera scene in the Johanna Meier Opera Institute in Spearfish, SD. He plans to continue studying voice with the intention of singing professionally in classical repertoire.



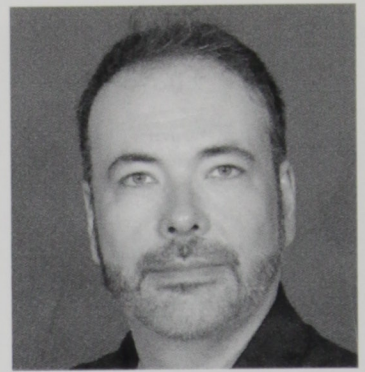
Mr. Reidmohr is the recipient of the IOB vocal scholarship at MSU. He sang in the opera chorus for *Così fan tutte* in October of 2012, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in December of 2012, and sang the role of Paris in *Roméo et Juliette* May of 2013.

* ARTISTS *

William Mouat (Bass) Doctor Grenvil

Mr. Mouat has performed leading and supporting roles with several regional and national opera companies which include New York City Opera National Company, Seattle Opera, Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Columbus and others. Since moving to Billings in 2010 William has performed numerous roles with Rimrock Opera.

William has a teaching background that spans twenty years in four large university settings. In February of 2011 William began his duties as Director of Education and Cultural Outreach at the Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts and continues today.



Rachel Osen (Soprano) Annina

After eight years in Philadelphia and Boston, Rachel Osen is thrilled to be once again onstage with Intermountain Opera, having been last seen here as Giannetta in 2002's *L'Elisir d'Amore*. In addition to opera appearances Ms. Osen could be seen onstage at the Ellen Theatre as Sarah Brown in the recent production of *Guys and Dolls*. She earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Music and French from Montana State University, with additional study at L'Universite Paul-Valery II in Montpellier, France.

Ms. Osen has been fortunate to have additional vocal training and performance opportunities in both New York and Italy. As a near-native speaker of French, her voice can be heard on several Music Lingua recordings for children (musiclingua.com).

Laura Ward - production pianist

Pianist and Co-founding Artistic Director of Lyric Fest, Ms. Ward has been gracing Philadelphia audiences with her powerful, sensitive accompanying since 1998. As a distinguished collaborative pianist she is known for both her technical ability and vast knowledge of repertoire and styles. She has served as a vocal coach at numerous festivals and schools and is a recording artist and editor of song accompaniments for publisher Hal Leonard. A native of Texas, Laura received her Bachelor's from Baylor University, holds a Masters in Piano Accompanying at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and a Doctorate in Accompanying from the University of Michigan.



Beth Lee - choral pianist

Beth Lee has several decades of experience as piano accompanist. She studied piano at Florida State University and later privately with James Stroom. Her experience includes work as a piano accompanist for music majors at Florida State University and Montana State University, church organist for many years, music director and accompanist in several community theater organizations, harpsichordist with a string quartet in an opera arts association, and accompanist for a varied assortment of choral, jazz and instrumental groups.



* ARTISTIC STAFF *



Christopher Allen - Conductor

Christopher Allen is one of the most exciting emerging conductors on the opera and symphonic stage. Christopher's career was launched into national attention when he received the Bruno Walter Conducting Award and Memorial Career Grant.

For the 2012-13 season at Los Angeles Opera, Christopher worked as a first assistant to Maestros Placido Domingo and James Conlon and is reengaged for the 2013-14 season. He works as a cover conductor for The Atlanta Symphony, working closely with Music Director Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles, and is on the music staff at Cincinnati Opera. Allen's awards have led him to debuts and performances at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, WFMT Chicago, Chicago Mayne Stage, WGUC Cincinnati, and KUSC Los Angeles.

Upcoming engagements include associate conductor at LA Opera to Maestro Conlon, *Falstaff*; associate conductor at Theater an der Wien to Maestro Conlon, *I due Foscari*.



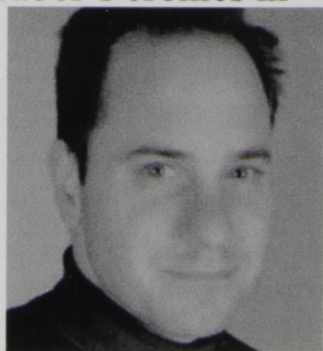
Steven Daigle - Stage Director

Professor of opera and dramatic director of Eastman Opera Theatre in Rochester, NY, Mr. Daigle has served as part of the artistic staff for more than 200 lyric theater productions, along with calling over 400 professional operatic performances as a production stage manager.

Mr. Daigle's experience as a stage director encompasses a range of repertory for the lyric theater stage with the Ohio Light Opera Company, Eastman, The Lyric of Atlanta, Oberlin Conservatory, Louisiana State University, Florida State Opera, South Georgia Opera, Columbia Theater Players, and Kent State Opera Workshop. Productions include collaborations with Robert Ward, Carlisle Floyd, Louis Lane, Robert Spano, and Evan Whallon. With the Ohio Light Opera Company, he has served as stage manager (1990-93), assistant director (1994-95), and general manager (1997-98). In 1999 he was appointed artistic director for the company.

Jon Harney - Choral Conductor Jon Harney has directed IOB choruses for several productions since 2002. He sang supporting roles in *Carmen*, *Manon Lescaut* and *La Bohème*. He performed as one of Horace Tabor's cronies in IOB's 2009 production of *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.

With other companies, he has performed more than 25 principal and supporting roles in opera and major works with orchestra and chorus. Jon is assistant professor of music at MSU, where he teaches studio voice, opera and musical theater workshop, and music history. He holds M.M. and D.M.S., degrees in vocal performance from Luther College and the University of Minnesota.





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James Olson - asst. concertmaster
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Jennifer Yung Metro
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Ian Nicklin - principal
Shannon Smith
Tamara Farr
Kayla Pierce

VIOLA

Mary Landeen - principal
Patricia Gates

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Julia Cory - principal
Else Trygstad-Burke

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FLUTE

Sue Makeever - principal
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Greg Young - principal
Mary Ann Jacobson

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Brent Eckblad
Reid Gage
Kean Mills
Joona Penttila
Pedro Pinaro
Nathan Poukish
Matt Rognlie

BASS

Mike Beehler
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We dedicate this, our 35th Season, to Carol Jodar (1947-2013), devoted friend and champion

of Intermountain Opera Bozeman. Carol was a Board Member and major financial supporter for 13 years. Her level head and concern for the continued excellence and sustainability of our productions were contagious. Her smile and spirit will continue to live in our hearts.

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La Traviata

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to a libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
based on Alexandre Dumas's play "La Dame aux Camélias."

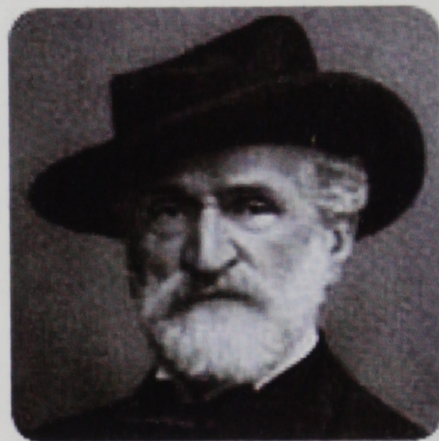
Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Conductor: Christopher Allen

Stage Director: Steven Daigle

Cast

Violetta Valery - Maria Kanyova
Alfredo Germont - Scott Ramsay
Giorgio Germont - Levi Hernandez
Flora Bervoix - Peggy Kohler
Gastone, Viscount de Letorieres - Jeffrey Kitto
Baron Douphol - Frederick Frey
Marquis d'Obigny - Harlan Reidmohr
Doctor Grenvil - William Mouat
Annina (Violetta's servant) - Rachel Osen
Flora's servant - Michael Beehler
Commissioner - Daniel Meharry



Giuseppe Verdi

Ladies and gentlemen, friends of Violetta and Flora, matadors, gypsies, servants

THE SETTING

In and near Paris about 1700

Act 1 - A salon in Violetta's house

INTERMISSION

Act 2.1 - A country house near Paris

Act 2.2 - A salon in Flora's town house

INTERMISSION

Act 3 - Violetta's bedroom

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* SYNOPSIS *

ACT I. In her Paris salon, the courtesan Violetta Valéry greets party guests, including Flora Bervoix, the Marquis d'Obigny, Baron Douphol, and Gastone, who introduces a new admirer, Alfredo Germont. This young man, having adored Violetta from afar, joins her in a drinking song (Brindisi: "Libiamo"). An orchestra is heard in the next room, but as guests move there to dance, Violetta suffers a fainting spell, sends the guests on ahead, and goes to her parlor to recover. Alfredo comes in, and since they are alone, confesses his love ("Un di felice"). At first Violetta protests that love means nothing to her. Something about the young man's sincerity touches her, however, and she promises to meet him the next day. After the guests have gone, Violetta wonders if Alfredo could actually be the man she could love ("Ah, fors'è lui"). But she decides she wants freedom ("Sempre libera"), though Alfredo's voice, heard outside, argues in favor of romance.

ACT II Some months later Alfredo and Violetta are living in a country house near Paris, where he praises their contentment ("De' miei bollenti spiriti"). But when the maid, Annina, reveals that Violetta has pawned her jewels to keep the house, Alfredo leaves for the city to settle matters at his own cost. Violetta comes looking for him and finds an invitation from Flora to a party that night. Violetta has no intention of going back to her old life, but trouble intrudes with the appearance of Alfredo's father. Though impressed by Violetta's ladylike manners, he demands she renounce his son: the scandal of Alfredo's affair with her has threatened his daughter's engagement ("Pura siccome un angelo"). Violetta says she cannot, but Germont eventually convinces her ("Dite alla giovine"). Alone, the desolate woman sends a message of acceptance to Flora and begins a farewell note to Alfredo. He enters suddenly, surprising her, and she can barely control herself as she reminds him of how deeply she loves him ("Amami, Alfredo") before rushing out. Now a servant hands Alfredo her farewell note as Germont returns to console his son with reminders of family life in Provence ("Di Provenza"). But Alfredo, seeing Flora's invitation, suspects Violetta has thrown him over for another lover. Furious, he determines to confront her at the party. At her soirée that evening, Flora learns from the Marquis that Violetta and Alfredo have parted, then clears the floor for hired entertainers - a band of fortune-telling Gypsies and some matadors who sing of Piquillo and his coy sweetheart ("E Piquillo un bel gagliardo"). Soon Alfredo strides in, making bitter comments about love and gambling recklessly at cards. Violetta has arrived with Baron Douphol, who challenges Alfredo to a game and loses a small fortune to him. Everyone goes in to supper, but Violetta has asked Alfredo to see her. Fearful of the Baron's anger, she wants Alfredo to leave, but he misunderstands her apprehension and demands that she admit she loves Douphol. Crushed, she pretends she does. Now Alfredo calls in the others, denounces his former love and hurls his winnings at her feet ("Questa donna conoscete?"). Germont enters in time to see this and denounces his son's behavior. The guests rebuke Alfredo and Douphol challenges him to a duel.

ACT III. In Violetta's bedroom six months later, Dr. Grenvil tells Annina her mistress has not long to live: tuberculosis has claimed her. Alone, Violetta rereads a letter from Germont saying the Baron was only wounded in his duel with Alfredo, who knows all and is on his way to beg her pardon. But Violetta senses it is too late ("Addio del passato"). Paris is celebrating Mardi Gras and, after revelers pass outside, Annina rushes in to announce Alfredo. The lovers ecstatically plan to leave Paris forever ("Parigi, o cara"). Germont enters with the doctor before Violetta is seized with a last resurgence of strength. Feeling life return, she staggers and falls dead at her lover's feet.

...courtesy of Opera News

* Artistic Director's Letter *

Dear Opera Friends,

We begin our Season with a production of Verdi's *La Traviata*. In celebration of the composer's 200th birthday, opera companies around the country are presenting his works and I am thrilled with our choice. *Traviata* is 19th century Italian opera at its finest – beginning with a glittering party but with a story line that also includes an intimate look at passion, betrayal, forgiveness and redemption. This was the first opera that Intermountain Opera produced in the Spring of 1979.



Our cast includes IOB favorite, Baritone Levi Hernandez, joined by friends Scott Ramsay and Maria Kanyova. Both Maria and Scott have long been on my list of artists to invite to Bozeman and I am thrilled that they are joining us. The role of Violetta is a tour de force in the Soprano repertoire and Maria Kanyova is well known for her stunning portrayal. This show also presents the opportunity to include some of our wonderful Bozeman artists in supporting roles. The IOB chorus has been hard at work learning their parts under the expert leadership of Dr. Jon Harney.

Our conductor is Maestro Christopher Allen who you will remember from our production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* last December. The Stage Director is Steven Daigle who has become a regular with our company having last staged *Madama Butterfly*. Once again, we present the Stivanello sets, painted in Milan, shipped to us from NYC and hung by Michael Hillenius and his capable crew.

This Season is a perfect one to honor our devoted friend Carol Jodar. She so enjoyed Verdi's operas. In addition, one of her primary goals was to encourage younger audiences. Our May 2014 production of *La Cenerentola*, Rossini's version of the Italian Cinderella myth, does just that.

Thank you for joining us,

Linda Curtis

Linda Curtis
Artistic Director

In memory

Shirley Gaisford 1924 – 2013

Shirley Gaisford was a faithful supporter of Intermountain Opera Bozeman. She began in the ticket office and soon moved backstage to do props and keep the stage crew fed. She was a Board Member and home host. Her smile, generosity and positive attitude are greatly missed.



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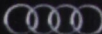
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Intermountain Opera Bozeman

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Since 1999 Bunny and Jim Gaffney have volunteered as chairs of the Musician Refreshment committee. They have decided to pass the baton on in order to allow time for travel. We are grateful to Deanna Pound for stepping into the position. Thank you Bunny and Jim for all you've done over the years. You will be missed. We wish you safe and happy travels and look forward to seeing you when you are in town during the opera.

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It's still a work in progress but the major portion of the project is complete. We do want you to know that this remodel did not use any opera funds thanks to the following generous individuals and businesses. We'd love for you to stop by and see what we've done.

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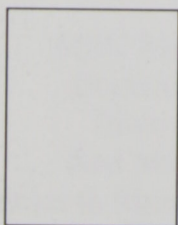
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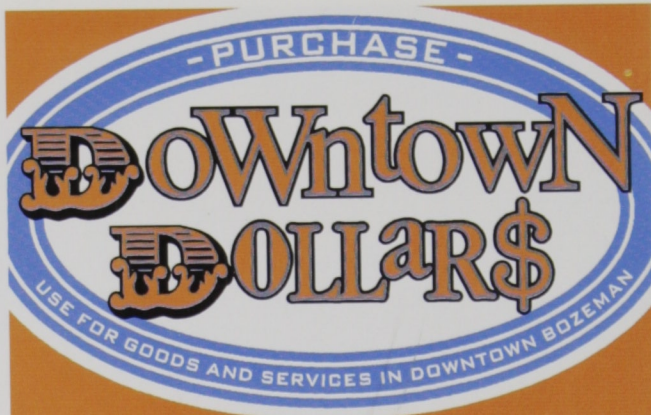
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