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FEBRUARY 2001

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HOT NEW RESTAURANTS

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CARIBBEAN

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Sundry souvenirs.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Prairie Renaissance
Candle Co.'s soaps;
Montana-made
mechanical watch at
Montana Watch Co.;
Golden Bear Trading's
whimsical fashions.



LIVINGSTON DRY GOODS

Books & Music, Etc. (106 S. Main St.; 406/222-7766) owner Tim Gable helped build Borders Books from a single store to a world-straddling colossus, then chucked it all to move to Montana. He opened this bibliophile's grotto, where he stages readings by Walter Kirn, Tim Cahill, and other area writers. • **Golden Bear Trading** (122 N. Main St.; 406/222-3911) is a treasure chest of cowpoke keepsakes with a zippy edge. Rummage through the shop for faux cowhide purses in neon orange and multicolored candles shaped like trout. • Some of the new products crafted at **Montana Watch Co.** (124 N. Main St.; 406/539-9861): a line of handmade mechanical watches inspired by a 1915 design, the first ever made in the state of Montana. Each watch is surprisingly hefty, but then so is the price: \$1,500 each. • For a better bargain, hit up the **Prairie Renaissance Candle Co.** (326 S. Main St.; 800/782-9424 or 406/222-7605). The factory out back uses local herbs and flowers to make candles that are sold in the shop along with potpourri and scented oils. • Founded in 1883, Livingston's oldest store, **Sax & Fryer Co.** (109 W. Callender St.; 406/222-1421), carries an impressively comprehensive collection of books on the region, including works by resident writers. • The motto at **Native American Nations** (615 W. Park St.; 406/222-7190) – "If an Indian made it, we got it" – explains this place in a nutshell. Stop here for all your buffalo robe, buckskin, and tomahawk needs. ■

THE MAN In Livingston, a town of big personalities, none is bigger than California-born painter Russell Chatham. His uncanny knack for capturing the ever-shifting light of the rambunctious Montana landscape is on permanent display at his own **Chatham Fine Art** (120 N. Main St., Livingston; 406/222-1566, fax 406/222-3884). But being the best artist in town wasn't enough, so a few years back Chatham bought and refurbished **Chatham's Livingston Bar & Grille** (130 N. Main St.; 406/222-7909; dinner for two \$60). When you step into the elegant minimalist dining room – whose walls are decorated with Chatham's luminous lithographs – you'll think a transport pod has lifted you from Montana to SoHo. Oh, and the food's good, too.

sweet tooth

Six bits worth of bliss: **Wilcoxcon's Deluxe Chocolate Fudge Bar**. They make ice cream at the factory, too, and have since 1912. The star of their 60 flavors is "Chocolate Runs Through It" – chocolate ice cream laced with chocolate fudge. Pick up a tub from any market in town.

