

MONTANA FOLK FESTIVAL

MUSIC EVENT ATTRACTS AND WOWS BIG CROWDS SATURDAY



WILL ADAM PHOTOS, SPECIAL TO THE MONTANA STANDARD

The Mariachi Mariposas saluted an appreciative crowd Saturday evening at the Original Mineyard during the Montana Folk Festival in Uptown Butte.

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With elegance, power and poise, the Mariachi Mariposas wowed the boisterous but respectful throngs Saturday evening at the Original Mineyard during the Montana Folk Festival.

The all-female mariachi group on day two of the festival performed with fiddles, horns and guitars, including a guitarron bass guitar. The crowd responded with gusto to the singers, many of whom sustained a single note long enough to stir cheers.

The Mariachi Mariposas came to the festival from Rio Grande Valley, Texas. They followed another Texan, Wayne “The King of Juke Joint Swing” Hancock. He sang about garnering unwanted attention from “Johnny Law,” about flatlands boogie and more. Hancock said he is bilingual — able to cuss and talk at the same time.

Day two of the Montana Folk Festival in Uptown Butte hosted large crowds at each of its six stages.

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AT RIGHT: The Montana Folk Festival relies on donations large and small to remain a free festival. Volunteers weave and wade through the crowds with donation buckets.



Elegant and powerful, the Mariachi Mariposas perform Saturday.



Insurers fight state laws restricting surprise bills

RAE ELLEN BICHELL AND KATHERYN HOUGHTON
KFF Health News

Nicole Silva’s 4-year-old daughter was headed to a relative’s house near the southern Colorado town of La Jara when a vehicle T-boned the car she was riding in.

A cascade of ambulance rides ensued — a ground ambulance to a local hospital, an air ambulance to Denver, and another ground ambulance to Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Silva’s daughter was on Medicaid, which was supposed to cover the cost of the ambulances. But one of the three ambulance companies, Northglenn Ambulance, a public company since acquired by a private one, sent Silva’s bill to a debt collector. It was for \$2,181.60, which grew to more

than \$3,000 with court fees and interest, court records show. The preschool teacher couldn’t pay, and the collector garnished Silva’s wages.

“It put us so behind on bills — our house payment, electric, phone bills, food for the kids,” said Silva, whose daughter recovered fully from the 2015 crash. “It took away from everything.”

Some state legislators are looking to curb bills like the one she received — surprise bills for ground ambulance rides.

When an ambulance company charges more than an insurer is willing to pay, patients can be left with a big bill they probably had no choice in.

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FILE PHOTO

Some state legislators are looking to curb surprise bills for ground ambulance rides.