

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

MONTANA'S NEWSPAPER

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OUTDOORS

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE WWW.GREATFALLSTRIBUNE.COM

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Sisterhood of the traveling Red Ants Pants

Last week, some friends and I were walking the streets of White Sulphur Springs during the annual Christmas stroll when I came across my dream rig — a vintage Airstream trailer — parked along a side street.

The shiny silver trailer was hooked up to a red truck. A festive Christmas wreath hung just below the Montana license plate.

"These people are going somewhere," I thought to myself, excited for them. There's nothing I love more than a good road trip.

Upon closer examination, I discovered a line of giant red ants dotted the smooth body of the Airstream. The ant decals



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led to signs on each side of the trailer. "Red Ants Pants," they read. "Workwear for Women."

I first saw the Red Ants Pants storefront several years back as I drove through White Sulphur Springs on my way to train sled dogs up in the Little Belt Mountains.

I've been wondering what goes on there for awhile now; finally, this was my chance to

stop in for a visit.

"My friend, Emily, and my dog, Millie, and I are all hitting the road tomorrow," Sarah Calhoun, 29, the founder and owner of Red Ants Pants explained as she handed me a cup of hot, spiced wine. Her business was just one of many hosting open houses for the Christmas stroll — the store-room was packed with Red Ants friends and fans. "We're going on tour, selling our pants. This week we're just doing a shakedown with the Airstream — we're going to Missoula and Columbia Falls and Whitefish."

Sarah has worked on trail crews and wildfire recovery teams; she has been a log peel-

er, an Outward Bound instructor, a ski trail groomer. She decided to make work pants for women because she was sick and tired of wearing ill-fitting trousers constructed for men's bodies, not women's curves.

"I kept complaining about it and even wrote letters to work-wear companies, telling them they ought to make pants that fit women too," Sarah explained.

"They told me that if I felt so strongly about it, I should just make them myself. So I thought, maybe I will ... maybe I'll make my own pants."

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