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Big Sky

May 13 - 26, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #10

Bighorn casualties persist

County commissioners convene in Big Sky

BSSD voters pass school levy

A century of autos in Yellowstone

***Back 40:
Montana mushroom foraging***



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May 13–26, 2016
Volume 7, Issue No. 10

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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ON THE COVER:
The Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd gathers on Highway 64 in Big Sky on May 11. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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Explore

Big Sky

WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION?

WHAT:

Explore Big Sky is the local newspaper for Big Sky, Montana, and a news and lifestyle journal for the Greater Yellowstone Region.

WHY:

Explore Big Sky is a voice for Big Sky, keeping relevant topics at the forefront; while educating, engaging, and exploring Southwest Montana.



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“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Give Big Gallatin Valley raises over \$390,000 for area nonprofits

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

On May 3, nonprofits from across Gallatin County came together for the second annual Give Big Gallatin Valley fundraiser, the largest day of giving in the community's history despite technical challenges.

Within hours of launching the event, the national online donation platform was overloaded by high traffic and crashed. The impact was felt across the country, but BACF quickly mobilized a team of volunteers to staff a call center at Foundant Technologies, set up a cash and check donation center at First Interstate Bank, and facilitated online giving through BACF's and nonprofits' websites.

Organizations throughout Gallatin County persevered to make the day a success. "We are incredibly humbled and grateful for our community and their grace, patience and ultimately their support of this year's Give Big Gallatin Valley!" said Bridget Wilkinson, executive director of the Bozeman Area Community Foundation. "What an amazing success this initiative turned out to be – despite all odds."

The total amount raised during the 24-hour fundraiser far exceeded the foundation's goal of \$300,000. More than 2,000 people donated to 132 local nonprofits, including a handful based in Big Sky.

Gallatin River Task Force had particularly strong community support, raising more than \$18,000. Big Sky Bird Rescue, Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee and Women in Action also participated.

For more information on the event and the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262, bridget@bozemanfoundation.org or visit givegiggu.org or bozemanfoundation.org.

Chamber announces call for business awards nominations

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce announced May 9 that it's accepting nominations to recognize leadership and excellence in business within the community.

The chamber will accept nominations in four categories and announce the recipients June 15 during their annual meeting. Nominations can be delivered to the Big Sky and Greater Yellowstone Welcome Center or emailed to Margo Magnant at margo@bigskychamber.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.

Each year the chamber honors individuals and organizations that have contributed to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the Big Sky community. Nominations are encouraged in the following categories: Business Person of the Year, Business of the

WMPAC receives \$10,000 National Endowment for the Arts award

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center was granted an Art Works award of \$10,000 to present the 2016 Big Sky Conservatory slated for July 3 to August 6. The award is part of \$82 million the NEA has awarded to fund local arts projects and partnerships in its second major funding allocation for fiscal year 2016.

"The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Supporting projects like the one from the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

"The NEA grant represents a new artistic high for us," said WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle. "The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center finished construction just three years ago, and to receive a grant of this stature already for our programming is an incredible honor."

The Big Sky Conservatory at WMPAC brings out a cohort of the country's leading performing artists and fellows together in a sharply focused environment that encourages new work to emerge from a place of limited distractions.

The residencies simultaneously provide an educational experience for the fellows—who get to work one-on-one with Grammy and Tony Award winning faculty—and a platform for working artists who wish to develop and cultivate new projects.

The 2016 Big Sky Conservatory will focus on four distinct programs: dance, choral music, theater and strings music.

More information on workshops and labs and an application to the conservatory—due May 15—is available at warrenmillerpac.org/conservatory.

Montana proposes to triple wolf harvest near Yellowstone

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Montana officials want to triple the number of gray wolves hunters and trappers can kill in an area bordering Yellowstone National Park, citing complaints the predators are eating too many elk wanted by hunters and outfitters.

The potential change marks the latest turn in a years-long dispute that kicked off when endangered species protections for wolves were lifted in Montana in 2011.

Park officials and wildlife advocates argue wolves that spend much of their lives inside Yellowstone should be given special protections. But outfitters and hunters point to elk numbers that have fallen dramatically since the 1990s, when wolves were reintroduced in the park.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal would increase the annual harvest from two wolves to six in a hunting district near Gardiner. That would stabilize the population – most recently tallied at 24 animals – and keep it from growing, according to the agency.

It follows complaints from park scientists that even under a smaller quota too many wolves were being killed once they stepped into Montana. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim says the agency has heard concerns from outfitters that the predators kill too many elk.

There's no limit on how many wolves can be killed statewide. Hunters and trappers harvested 210 of the animals during the 2015 season.

Lest we forget

EBS STAFF

Standing at just over 6,000 feet in elevation, the Soldiers Chapel, Big Sky's first nondenominational church founded in 1955, will open for the summer season on Sunday, May 29 with a Memorial Day celebration.

The service will begin at 11 a.m. and feature music by the Chord Rustlers a cappella group as well as a special rendition of taps to close out the event.

Soldiers Chapel was dedicated in 1955 in remembrance of 81 fallen soldiers from the Bozeman area 163rd infantry regiment who died in the South Pacific during WWII. The 163rd was part of the Montana National Guard during the war.

"People have so many things to occupy their time," said chapel boardmember Barbara Hoberecht, who has lived in Big Sky for 38 years. "And they forget the men and women who gave up their lives so we can have this beautiful site in this area."

The chapel's back window frames a clear view of Lone Mountain.

Soldiers Chapel will hold services each Sunday at 11 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Mountain Outlaw brings hardware back from LA's Maggie Awards

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

Mountain Outlaw magazine, the Outlaw Partners' flagship publication, brought a big win home to Montana from the Western Publication Association's Maggie Awards in Los Angeles on May 6.

The companion video to "The Shooter," a feature story by Bozeman writer Todd Wilkinson for the winter 2016 edition of the magazine, was honored for the "Best Use of Editorial Video."

The 4-minute, 43-second short documentary focuses on famed Jackson, Wyo. photographer Thomas Mangelsen and explores his relationship with the wild animals he locates in his viewfinder. He says the animals give him an opportunity to do what he loves.

"I feel that it's important for me to give back," says Mangelsen during an interview in the video.

Growing up in Nebraska and sitting with his father in a duck blind gave Mangelsen his most prized attribute, he says: patience. It's this patience the photographer utilizes in his work to capture a specific moment in time, and it's this patience the Mountain Outlaw production crew wanted to highlight in the film.

"There are a number of fascinating people in the Greater Yellowstone region and telling their stories through video, I feel, provides an opportunity for the viewer to get to know these people as well," said Outlaw Partners videographer Wes Overvold, who filmed and edited the short documentary.

"Being able to work on this project and meet Thomas Mangelsen was cool enough, but being recognized with this distinguished award makes it that much more special," he added.

Considered among the most prestigious awards in the publishing industry, the 2016 Maggie Awards drew from the 24 states west of the Mississippi River, according to a WPA press release.

More than 300 people attended the 65th annual Maggie Awards at the LAX Sheraton Hotel. Judges recognized 81 winners among hundreds of consumer and trade publications.

"[The] Maggie Awards once again lived up to its billing as we celebrated the amazing and diverse achievements within our industry," said Norb Garrett, president of the WPA and executive vice-president and general manager of TEN: The Enthusiast Network. "I always leave this evening more inspired to push boundaries and take creative chances."

Visit mountainoutlaw.explorebigsky.com/thomas-mangelsen/ to view "The Shooter" and read the story.

Obituary Jeffrey Tappero

Jeffrey Eric Tappero passed away Nov. 28, 2015. He was born Feb. 14, 1978 to Susan Colville and Jerry Tappero in Tuscon, Ariz., and is survived by his mother Susan, his father Jerry, sister Stacia and many extended family members.



Jeff loved the outdoors including fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and he was an avid snowboarder. He was a chef at numerous Big Sky restaurants and executive chef at 320 Guest Ranch for many years. He extended his love for life, music, and laughter to all that he met.

Jeff will be dearly missed by his family and uncountable friends, who are all invited to celebrate his life at the Corral Steakhouse on Friday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Big Sky.

Op-Ed Air ambulance flights add insult to injury

BY JESSE LASLOVICH

Last September, John Andrews suffered a brain aneurysm and was airlifted via helicopter by Life Flight Network from Anaconda to Missoula. He was charged \$34,200. His health insurer paid almost half, and Life Flight Network billed him the balance of \$18,678.

Upon arrival in Missoula, St. Patrick Hospital decided John needed to be flown via airplane to Seattle, this time by its own affiliate, Northwest MedStar. He was charged \$57,867. His health insurer paid about one-third, and Northwest MedStar billed him the \$37,931 balance.

John and families like his across Montana are why I'm chairing an Air Ambulance Working Group to come up with solutions to protect Montanans from exorbitant air ambulance bills. Far too many Montana families are enduring what John's family is enduring and State Auditor Monica Lindeen's office is working with our hospitals, health insurers, air ambulance companies, and others to stand up for these families.

Many hospitals don't have their own air transportation. If they call Reach Air or Life Flight Network – which recently acquired Northwest MedStar – patients will receive a balance bill for their flight, sometimes more than \$90,000. Reach Air will work with us in helping you and recognize that even though it's not their legal obligation, it's their moral obligation. Life Flight Network does not.

John's story is like every other story we encounter in our office, whether it's the air transport of a child or adult. They had medical emergencies, they have health insurance, none of them chose who provided their air transport, and yet they are being pushed to financial ruin. Their medical emergencies have become financial emergencies. It's wrong, unacceptable and it must be fixed.

Without question, in a rural state like Montana, where distances separate us from our doctors, we need air ambulance companies because they save lives. But we don't need some of their billing practices.

The problem lies in the hands of Congress and nothing is easy in Washington, D.C., even if the solution is obvious and has bipartisan support. That's what we have, though, with a common-sense amendment sponsored by our own Sen. Jon Tester and his Republican colleague, Sen. John Hoeven from North Dakota.

Their amendment empowers states to rein in these out of control air ambulance bills. Many Montanans are strong advocates of state's rights, for good reason, but companies like Life Flight Network resist these efforts, putting Montanans at their financial mercy.

Call Congressman Zinke and Senator Daines and urge them to support Sen. Tester's bipartisan amendment to give Montana the ability to help ourselves when it comes to air ambulance transports.

Jesse Laslovich is chief legal counsel to Montana State Auditor Monica J. Lindeen.

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Since April 30, at least two bighorn sheep have been killed on the long sweeping corner on Highway 64, less than a mile west of the intersection with Highway 191.

What are some potential solutions to keep local wildlife safe from traffic?



Michelle Burger
Big Sky

"I know we have some flashing lights way down in the canyon. Some more flashing lights [and rumble strips] might be a better idea ... I [also] really think the speed limit should be lower in that section. I've almost gotten hit many times."



Mikala Kearney
Big Sky

"The bighorn sheep area always there ... If they had a flashing sign that was like 'bighorn sheep next mile' and another sign that said 'this many bighorn sheep killed this year,' [that would be more effective]."



Andy and Hannah Dreisbach
Big Sky

Andy: "[Hannah's] 10-year-old sister did a proposal to have a bridge built for them or a tunnel underneath so they could cross safely ... If there was a pull-off where people could take pictures, you'd have a lot less accidents and sheep being hit."

Hannah: "The [DOT] said they [already] have a sign that says 'wildlife crossing.' I didn't even notice the sign until like two years ago."

Yellowstone broke its record with 4.1 million visitors last year



Editorial

Death of an icon: Big Sky's bighorns

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

I grew up in a small rural neighborhood where every weekday morning my schoolmates and I would gather near the main road to wait for the bus.

One crisp fall morning I watched in horror as my best friend's Great Pyrenees darted across the road and was struck by a station wagon. It's giant white body skidded nearly 20 feet down the pavement before we watched the life drain out of this beloved dog's eyes.

I was reminded of that devastating morning earlier this month when a longtime Big Sky local relayed a recent experience he had on Highway 64.

On the morning of April 30, J.C. Knaub was driving east to grab a cup of coffee from the Conoco gas station. As he approached the sweeping corner less than a mile from the intersection with 191, a large dump truck flashed its lights and Knaub slowed his vehicle to a crawl.

There he found a bighorn ram standing in the road, alive but just barely. The ram had just been hit by a vehicle.

"His right horn, right eye, and the right side of his face was missing," Knaub said. "It was sad, he was suffering. We're killing the very thing that makes this place special."

In the March 6, 2015 edition of this newspaper, we published a story I wrote called "Bighorns in the Crosshairs."

"It's the namesake of the local high school's mascot. It inspires tourists to stop and poke their cameras out of car windows. The Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd is a Big Sky icon," the story began. I wrote about the dangers vehicles pose to these treasured members of our community, especially at the blind corner where Knaub witnessed this stricken ram.

In January of last year, a propane truck swerved to avoid a sheep at that corner, ending up on its side in the ditch. Fortunately, neither the driver nor the sheep were injured in this incident.

But the day before we went to press with this issue of EBS, our Managing Editor Joseph T. O'Connor drove up on the aftermath of another vehicle and bighorn collision. As you'll see in the photo on this page, the sheep wasn't so lucky this time.

"It's a blind corner, it's very dangerous," Knaub said. "They need to have a lower speed limit and flashing lights that say 'Wildlife on the Roadway,' or something."

This issue has made it to the state level thanks to concerned Big Sky citizens contacting Montana Department of Transportation. But



A casualty of Highway 64's most notorious corner, a bighorn sheep lies dead by the side of the road on May 10. PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

if you don't drive Lone Mountain Trail daily, it's difficult to comprehend the gravity of the danger to both animals and motorists.

The department's carcass database is notoriously unreliable because motorists don't always report wildlife deaths to law enforcement, and incidents that don't result in human injury or property damage aren't given much attention.

"From January 2005 to December 2014 we didn't have any reported [bighorn] carcasses on 64," said Montana Department of Transportation Safety Engineer Kraig Mcleod, adding the department is currently finalizing 2015 data. "Back in March when we looked at this we didn't have any data that would support flashing lights or signage."

MDT Butte District Administrator Jeff Ebert – in charge of oversight in this area – reiterated the sentiment, saying there haven't been enough vehicle crashes on 64 to make this issue a priority. Though he did describe a mitigation project near Anaconda where variable message signage has reduced vehicle collisions with bighorns.

Ebert says he will be meeting with Gallatin and Madison county commissions in June to discuss the Big Sky Transportation Plan.

Spearheaded by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and David Kack of the Western Transportation Institute, the plan suggests the Gallatin County Commission should submit a speed study request to MDT. The commission voted 2-1 against such a request in the fall.

Until the commission decides to act and a study is done, the speed limit at that notorious corner will remain 50 mph. And another sheep death might not be the worst consequence.

On Aug. 17, 2015, 23-year-old Kelsey McLean died after a head-on collision with a semi truck. The accident was not the result of a bighorn in the road, but speaks to the dangers of this curve where sheep can often be found.

There may be other safety solutions in addition to lowering the speed limit on Highway 64.

"I think ultimately what you could probably do is a fence ... to make [the sheep] cross where there are good sightlines," Kack said. "If they're going to be out in the road at least it gives the motorist a better chance."

According to Ebert, the community could install fences within the Department of Transportation's right-of-way with an encroachment permit. There is no cost for the permit, but the department would need to approve the plans to ensure the design meets breakaway requirements to prevent motorist injuries.

In this unincorporated resort community, the initiative to mitigate sheep and motorist incidents will fall on concerned organizations or citizens. Maybe stories like Knaub's will motivate that initiative, and it won't take another human death to so.

I haven't had the misfortune, as Knaub has, to watch the life drain out of a bighorn's eyes. I hope I never do.

Visit explorebigsky.com/bighorns-in-the-crosshairs-sheep-and-vehicles-clash-in-big-sky/14068 to read "Bighorns in the Crosshairs," and send us an email at media@outlawpartners if you want to share your experience with bighorns on Highway 64 or 191.



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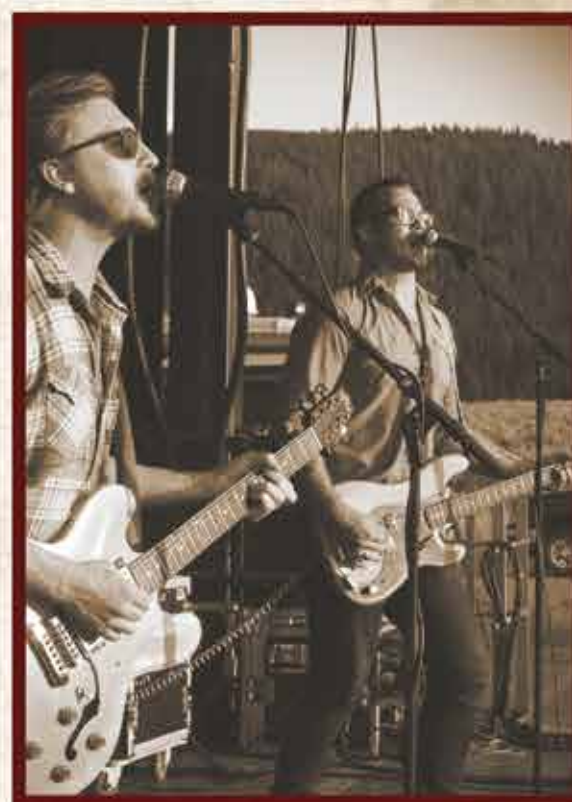


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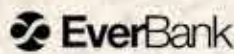
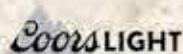


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THE RAM'S HORN



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

"The Ram's Horn" is a regular column by Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman, offering news and insight from the district.

Voters in the Big Sky School District passed the \$830,000 building reserve levy on May 3. On behalf of the district, teachers and students I want to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are that the community supported the school in this election.

Finishing construction of Ophir Elementary School for our students and the community has been our No. 1 priority for the year. We will now begin getting everything in place for Martel Construction to get to work as soon as the students finish school, and we anticipate the building to be 100 percent ready for the first day of classes in fall 2016.

This is a very busy time of year for the students as teachers make more experiential learning trips a priority. One particularly unique experience for our students was a May 7-13 trip to Washington D.C. Tony Coppola, our middle and high school social studies teacher, conducts a year-long class that culminates with an annual trip to our nation's capital with all of his students.

Coppola and the students work hard throughout the school year fundraising and planning, so this trip is really a community effort. The students gain a greater understanding of our capital while building lasting memories and sharing a common experience. This year, the students will have the opportunity to attend a Washington Nationals baseball game.

In addition, a group of our high school students recently returned from Costa Rica where they had daily interactions with Spanish language speakers. World language learning is becoming a vital part of not only the curriculum here at BSSD, but also an essential skill in an ever-changing global society. In order for students to really understand language and culture, time with native speakers is very important. Keith McHugh, our Spanish teacher and a native Spanish speaker himself, spent countless hours – including a weekend trip to Spain for an organizational meeting – to make this experience happen.

As with all learning opportunities at BSSD, our experiential learning process is one that is closely tied with learning outcomes. Experiential and participatory learning will become more important for our students as they progress through the 21st century. Tomorrow's workers need to be able to apply knowledge and skills in new and unique situations, which is exactly the objective of "hands-on" learning.

Again, on behalf of the district, I express our gratitude for the participation in our recent levy election and we look forward to a successful remainder of the year.

School reserve levy passes Rural Fire District election results in

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky School District will receive \$830,000 to finish Ophir Elementary facilities following the passage of a building reserve fund levy.

A total of 748 ballots had were counted and 55 percent of voters in the district were in favor of funding with 45 percent opposed. Fifty-seven percent of eligible voters participated in the election.

A similar measure was put before Big Sky School District voters in March 2015. That measure was defeated, with 57 percent of voters opposed to it. Turnout was lower in that election with 660 ballots counted last year.

"We're really happy to make this next step forward in this school and really grateful to everyone who participated in the election," said Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman.

In May 2013, voters approved a \$10.2 million bond to fund the purchase of two lots and the construction of the Ophir Elementary School building. Problems with soil at the site led to at least \$800,000 in unanticipated construction expenses to shore up an unstable foundation. As a result, there was a budget shortfall and parts of the school have remained unfinished since it opened last September.

"I think voters understand now that the school's open that we built a quality school and really, the need was there," said BSSD board chair Loren Bough, adding that the district probably saved about \$2.5 million by funding the measure now rather than waiting a couple years, when building expenses will likely increase.

There were also two open school board trustee positions in this election, and Loren Bough and Whitney Littman were the only declared candidates. Bough is currently the board chair, and this will be Littman's first term. Laura Michel's three-year term is complete and she opted not to run for reelection.

The results for the Rural Fire District elections are in as well. Four candidates ran for two open trustee positions. Renae Schumacher and Carol L. Collins received the most votes, garnering 437 and 326, respectively. Bart Mitchell was next with 246 and Matt Dodd received 205.

Both Schumacher and Collins are incumbents and will be serving additional three-year terms.

"I think it's wonderful that they have the opportunity to serve the community again," said Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat. "They've been a great asset to our department."



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Gallatin, Madison county commissioners convene over traffic, water, housing, incorporation

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The six county commissioners responsible for public health, public safety and public works in Big Sky did something in late April that they rarely do: gather to discuss issues in a community relatively removed from their primary constituent bases.

Such meetings typically happen once a year, but due to robust attendance and plenty of public comment, they could become more frequent. Approximately 60 people showed up at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District boardroom for the April 28 meeting.

Madison County commissioners Dave Shulz, Ron Nye and Jim Hart made the trip east to attend, and Gallatin County commissioners Don Seifert, Joe Skinner and Steve White drove south from the Bozeman/Belgrade area. Big Sky straddles county lines, so about \$10 million of property tax revenue went to Gallatin County in fiscal year 2015, and \$14 million settled in Madison County coffers.

Although they weren’t formal in nature, representatives from a number of organizations made their case for joint county funding. Both counties are in the midst of complicated budget allocations that take several months to complete.

David Kack with the Big Sky Transportation District said Skyline bus service is on track to provide the highest ridership in its 10-year history.

Skyline is considering a \$200,000 ask from each county—“significantly more than it used to be,” Kack said—but he believes adding more daily round trips between Bozeman and Big Sky justifies the cost.

Last December, he told EBS that, occasionally, drivers left close to 30 people behind at Skyline stops because buses were full.

Kack added that the increase in requested funding isn’t isolated to the two counties; the Transportation District is also asking for more money from Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board, the Federal Transit Administration and other community organizations like Moonlight Basin, Big Sky Resort, the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

Kitty Clemens, executive director of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, presented another transportation-related issue: the need for a long-term plan that would increase functionality and safety on highways 191 and 64, and inform the Montana Department of Transportation’s handling of those highways.

“We’re asking you to consider jointly funding a comprehensive transportation plan with MDT

so we have basically a road map, for lack of a better term, in hand and we can start to think strategically,” Clemens said.

Developing such a model could help funnel federal Highway Trust Fund money to transportation needs in the area, she said. Clemens estimates a comprehensive transportation plan could cost more than \$50,000.

Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force, said the two counties could expect requests from the GRTF on behalf of the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum—formerly the Wastewater Solutions Forum—for resources pertaining to water and sewer issues in the area.

The scope of the working group’s concern is broad by design.

“No one is really looking at this issue holistically and how these different activities interact and relate to each other,” Gardner said, adding that Big Sky’s watershed has impacts downstream in both counties. “I really feel it’s a very important effort that needs to happen now, as we’re growing.”

The budget for the forum is \$311,000, and Gardner said she would be putting together a proposal to each county for approximately \$49,000 each. Phase one of the project—meeting with stakeholders to ascertain concerns and assess willingness to work collaboratively to address them—is complete.

Madison County 2015 Tax District Allocations		Gallatin County 2015 Tax District Allocations	
General	\$2,829,097	Big Sky School K-12	\$3,612,907
Stat Equalization Aid Levy	\$2,101,465	State - School	\$1,116,347
Elementary Equalization	\$1,733,708	County Retirement/Transportation	\$1,052,411
High School Equalization	\$1,155,805	State University/Equalization	\$933,672
High School Districts	\$1,010,804	Public Safety	\$850,251
Madison County Nursing Home	\$893,122	Big Sky Fire	\$791,782
Road	\$730,784	County General Fund	\$580,095
Big Sky Fire Department	\$710,155	Road	\$469,881
Madison Valley Hospital	\$635,693	Bozeman High School Debt	\$331,453
High School Retirement	\$551,634	County Building Captial Project	\$250,670
Permissive Medical Levy	\$343,589	Detention Center Bond	\$194,853
University Millage	\$315,219	Library	\$139,847
Noxious weed care	\$210,146	Health Department	\$112,040
Library	\$157,609	Fair	\$37,143
Airport	\$112,953	Gallatin College	\$30,445
Senior Citizens, Public Health, Bridge, Transportation (High School/Elem.)	\$105,073	Gallatin Gateway Fire	\$20,714
Elementary Retirement	\$95,565	Gallatin County Planning	\$5,775
District Court	\$84,058		
County Fair Fund	\$78,804		
Planning	\$65,670		
Search/Rescue	\$52,536		
Madison Valley Cemetery	\$9,456		

Big Sky property owners paid \$14,297,179 into the Madison County budget and \$10,530,297 into Gallatin County budget in 2015

continued from pg. 12

Funding for phase one of the project was split between Lone Mountain Land Company and the Yellowstone Club, with each company paying \$7,500.

Kevin Germain, who serves on BSRAD, opened his affordable housing update by commenting about the commissioners, “Thanks for coming up here—it’s awesome to have both of our parents in the same room.”

Germain has been working with a consultant to put together a piece of state legislation that could address the need for affordable housing in the area.

Germain is hoping to put the proposal before Montana state legislators at the next session in 2017. He’s working on creating a targeted economic development district and using funds generated inside that district to fund housing.

Currently, Germain’s group is trying to quantify the money such a district could generate and find ways to mitigate impact upon residents’ property taxes.

Gallatin County Commissioner Joe Skinner was not completely sold on the approach and suggested an increase in resort tax might be worth considering.

“I know you’ve put a lot of time money and effort into this process so far [but] is there another way to do what you’re doing?” Skinner asked.

After brief updates from the sheriff’s offices in both counties, the meeting opened to other commentary.

The topic of incorporation spurred lively discussion.

“You guys are real unique up here. You have all the elements of a government—you’ve got a taxing ability with the resort tax board, you’ve got water and sewer, you’ve got Kitty doing promotions [with the Chamber of Commerce],” said Seifert, who represents the Big Sky area on the Gallatin County Commission. “So you’ve got kind of all the arms of a government, but you don’t have it all bundled up.”

“I don’t know what the cure to that situation is,” he continued. “You have all the elements of governance, without the governance.”

Seifert added that governance—achieved via incorporation—comes at a cost, in both financial and regulatory terms. He likened the transition process from county to city governance to that of weaning a calf. “There’s a lot of stress on both the mother and the calf,” he said.

“I think both counties would like to help you [incorporate],” Skinner said. “I’ve always had the feeling that it’s such a divisive issue.”

When asked about the complications regarding incorporating a community that straddles a county line, Seifert said it could be accomplished with “the stroke of a pen” at the state legislative level.

At the conclusion of the meeting, commissioners from both counties agreed it would be a good idea to meet again this fall given the level of public participation and the significant issues being addressed in the area.

After the meeting, Jim Hart, the commissioner who represents the Big Sky area in Madison county, listed a number of services, infrastructure and programs in Big Sky that benefit from Madison county funding: law enforcement, snow removal, Skyline bus service, weed control, defensible space for fire protection in wildland urban interface areas, planning and park districts.

On the issue of incorporation, Hart said he’s “caught between a rock and a hard spot.

“As the commissioner for this district, I don’t get over here often enough in my mind,” he said. “I’m generally comfortable with how they handle [things here], but I’m not adverse to incorporation. It brings its own challenges.”

Nearly \$6 million in Big Sky resort tax requested

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Resort Area District received 27 applications between 24 organizations for resort tax funds, totaling nearly \$6 million including rollover applications from the last fiscal year. As of March, the most recent data available, the district had collected more than \$3.8 million with three months of collections remaining.

Last fiscal year, the district collected \$4.1 million and appropriated \$5.1 million in resort tax funds including rollover requests and \$1.3 million for the resort tax sinking fund.

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust applied for \$1.2 million to match a private infrastructure donation and phase one of an affordable housing development project with approximately 30 units.

The next largest ask came from the Big Sky Fire Department, applying for more than \$700,000 to fund operations and replace or upgrade emergency equipment. Visit Big Sky applied for nearly \$700,000 for marketing campaign support, among other items, and the chamber of commerce is asking for more than \$500,000 this appropriations cycle.

The chamber is seeking funds for two gateway monuments near the intersection of highways 191 and 64, five streetlights along Highway 191, money to hire a consultant to assist its transportation improvement plan, and operations support, among other needs.

The board will announce June 6 an estimated total amount of resort tax that will be appropriated this year at its Q-and-A in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The appropriation meeting is June 20 at WMPAC.

5.3.16		Resort Tax 2017 Applications	
Order Received	Applicant	Requested	Project Description
1	Fire Department	722,850	Operations support, replace ambulance, replace command vehicle, command vehicle communications and emergency equipment
2	Search and Rescue	16,000	Operations support, Backcountry Safety Campaign
3	Transportation District	525,000	Skyline and Link operations support
4	Trails, Parks and Rec District	27,000	Community Parks Master Plan, community survey support, operations
5	Library	70,000	Operations for the community's use, programming
6	Sheriff	262,549	Funding for two of the six Big Sky deputies
7	Snowmobile Association	25,000	2nd and 3rd grooming of the Buck Ridge Snowmobile Trail System
8	Weeds Committee	59,000	Operations, programming, mapping/monitoring, landowner cost share
9	Arts Council	153,200	July 4 fireworks & event, Music in the Mountains Concerts, Shakespeare in the Parks, Classical Music Festival, marketing, utility/trash box wraps Project includes a pedestrian tunnel under Hwy 64, a trail from Hwy 64 to the Park with a pedestrian bridge over the West Fork of the Gallatin. Rollover funds for final design of trail and bridge and partial construction.
10	Rollover: BSCO: Tunnel Trail	146,000	To complete phase two of the Community Center Trails summer 2016
11	Rollover: BSCO: Phase 2 Trails	90,217	
12	Community Organization (BSCO)	538,054	Park and trail maintenance, operations support, Camp Big Sky child/day subsidy, pedestrian tunnel, trail and bridge to the park support, match private donation for a traffic light at Ousel Falls Rd and Hwy 64
13	Ski Education Foundation	16,000	Radio programming update, repair gates, install lights at Big Sky Resort for after school night training support
14	Montana Land Reliance	30,555	Operations support, programming
15	Gallatin River Task Force	366,239	Operations, Gallatin watershed monitoring, West Fork restoration, design plans for new restoration project fundraising, Big Sky water management plan, extensive programming
16	Skating and Hockey	152,650	Operations, maintain rink and ice quality, program equipment, refrigeration system challenge grant
17	Post Office	26,000	Potential labor cost overage
18	Food Bank	20,000	Operations support, operations deficit challenge grant
19	Madison Conservation District	4,500	Operations, Madison watershed monitoring, programming
20	Rollover: Morningstar: Basecamp	3,818	Monthly local resource newsletter and quarterly parent classes
21	Morningstar	83,000	Child/day tuition reduction
22	Warren Miller Performing Arts Center	148,700	Winter season performance support, Big Sky Conservatory artist faculty support, capital improvement support to include projection, sound, lighting and curtains
23	Community Housing Trust	1,200,000	Match private donation for infrastructure and phase one construction of an affordable housing development on the McBride/Bough parcel
24	Women In Action	45,000	Programming support for private counseling from a licensed counselor treating depression, anxiety, relationship concerns, stress, grief/loss, child behavioral problems, drug and alcohol substance abuse, etc.
25	Chamber of Commerce	517,500	Two gateway monuments at the intersection of Hwys 191 & 64 and five lights along Hwy 191, a consultant to advance the transportation improvement plan, operations support for the Welcome Center and the role of the Chamber as a project manager for Big Sky infrastructure programs, workforce housing, etc.
26	Visit Big Sky	680,593	Unified, year-round marketing campaign support, public relations, Big Sky mobile app and two kiosks, design services, website RFP, research reports that optimize targeting specific market segments
27	Chapel	10,000	Operations for the community's use of the chapel's meeting space for non-religious purposes
Total Without Rollovers		\$5,699,390	
Total With Rollovers		\$5,939,426	

Rollovers are funds from the previous year
A funds available for appropriation estimate will be published at the June 6 Q&A

Department of Transportation announces long-range planning update

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HELENA – The Montana Department of Transportation on May 4 announced the launch of its update to the statewide long-range planning effort, called TranPlanMT.

An update of TranPlan 21 that was adopted in 1995, TranPlanMT defines the policy direction for operating, preserving, and improving Montana’s transportation system over the next 20 years. It serves as the basis for Department of Transportation decisions, especially those related to investing Montana’s limited transportation funds.

With available highway money expected to cover less than a third of the projected \$15.8 billion in state transportation needs over the next decade, now is a critical time for Montanans to tell the department what they think is important for the state’s transportation system.

An online survey at tranplanmt.metroquest.com will provide an initial opportunity for public input on priorities and strategies for Montana’s transportation network in the future. The survey and other efforts will continue the department’s partnerships with local, tribal, and federal governments, along with transportation stakeholders.

“TranPlanMT marks an important time for [the department], our partners, and all users,” said Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley. “Transportation needs are outpacing funding three to one. Now is a critical time for us to work with the traveling public and openly discuss the future of our transportation network in the face of limited funding and mounting needs.”

The TranPlanMT update process will extend through the year and identify travel, transportation, economic, and demographic trends both in Montana and on the national scale to plan for Montana’s growing transportation needs. Public input will be

considered along with other analysis and data in developing this multimodal, long-range policy plan. The plan is not project specific, but sets a policy framework for ongoing department decisions.

The public is encouraged to comment through the online survey until Aug. 4, and through the project website mdt.mt.gov/tranplan for the duration of the effort.

For information about the TranPlanMT effort, contact Charity Watt at cwatt@mt.gov or (406) 444-3439.

Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; calling (406) 444-9229; faxing (406) 444-7243; or emailing aflescb@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

Corps: Coal terminal violates tribal rights, won’t permit

BY PHUONG LE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on May 9 denied a permit to a \$700 million project to build the nation’s largest coal-export terminal in northwest Washington state, handing a striking victory to the Lummi tribe which argued the project would violate its treaty-protected fishing rights.

The decision ends the federal environmental review of a deep-water port that would have handled up to 54 million metric tons of dry bulk commodities, mostly coal, at Cherry Point. The venture between SSA Marine and Cloud Peak Energy proposed receiving coal by train from Montana and Wyoming for export to Asia.

Col. John Buck, commander of the corps’ Seattle district, said the Gateway Pacific Terminal project can’t be permitted because the impacts from the trestle and three-vessel wharf would interfere with the tribe’s treaty rights to fish in its traditional areas.

“The Corps may not permit a project that abrogates treaty rights,” Buck said. The Lummi Nation said the Corps honored its treaty with the U.S. and recognized that the project would hurt the tribe’s fishing rights.

“It’s great news for the Lummi, a great win for treaty rights and Indian country,” said Tim Ballew, chairman of the tribe with more than 5,000 members and one of the largest tribal fishing fleets in the country. “The record established, and everybody knew, this project would have negative impacts to treaty fishing rights.”

Like many tribes, the Lummi signed a treaty with the U.S. in 1855 in which it ceded its land but reserved the right to hunt and fish in “usual and accustomed” areas.

Project developers said May 9 that they are considering all alternatives.

“This is an inconceivable decision,” Bob Watters, president of Pacific International Terminal, LLC, said in a statement. “Looking at the set of facts in the administrative summary, it’s quite obvious this is a political decision and not fact based.”

Project developers had argued that the most productive fishing for the tribe does not occur near the wharf and that the tribe didn’t provide real evidence that they fished or crabbed a lot in the area, about 100 miles north of Seattle.

But the Corps said the tribe showed evidence that members fish near the proposed dock and did so regularly. The agency said the pier itself would impact the tribe’s fishing rights, and that measures proposed by developers wouldn’t minimize those effects. At a minimum, 122 acres of the tribe’s fishing grounds would be impacted.

Opponents had criticized the project over concerns about air and water pollution, coal dust, train traffic and carbon emissions from burning coal, while supporters touted good-paying jobs and tax revenue.

“We’re totally at a crossroad and the Northwest stood up and said we’re not going to allow this

to happen in our own backyard,” said Beth Doglio, co-chair of Power Past Coal, a coalition of more than 100 groups opposed to coal exports.

She said continuing to build new fossil fuel infrastructure and helping coal be burned overseas while climate change is raging is not the direction the region should be headed.

Meanwhile, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and the Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports, a trade group, criticized the Corps for issuing a decision before the environmental analysis was complete.

Zinke said in a statement the project is “incredibly important to Montana, the Crow, and even to the blue collar workers in Washington State because it is literally the gateway to economic prosperity and rising out of poverty.”

The Crow Nation of Montana has an option for ownership in the new terminal.

Last month, project developers asked state and federal regulators to temporarily halt an environmental review that began in 2013, while the Corps heard the Lummi’s request. Buck said the Corps’ decision puts an end to that federal environmental analysis. Developers could appeal the decision by suing in federal court.

“Quite possibly there’s a long road ahead of us, but our priority is always to protect Cherry Point,” Ballew added.

Judge tosses closed primary lawsuit, but fight is not over

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – A federal judge on May 2 dismissed a lawsuit that sought to allow only Republican-registered voters to participate in its primary elections. But the legal fight to throw out Montana’s century-old open primary system isn’t over yet.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris dismissed the lawsuit by the Montana Republican Party and 10 GOP county central committees that claimed open primaries allow Democrats and independent voters to influence the outcome of their elections. The system violates Republicans’ freedom of association and forces candidates to change their message to appeal to “crossover voters,” the lawsuit said.

The dismissal comes at the Republicans’ request after a series of rulings by Morris, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court that ensured the June 7 primary elections will remain open to all registered voters.

The state party and the county committees filed separate motions to dismiss the case. State party officials have said their chances of winning were low, based on those earlier rulings, and they reserved the right to re-file the lawsuit at a later date.

The county committees, however, intend to appeal Morris’ previous decisions in the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, including his rejection of their request to issue a preliminary injunction to close the June 7 primaries. Morris had ruled the case could go to trial, but he said the Republican plaintiffs had scant evidence that crossover voting exists in Montana.

Attorneys for the state had argued against allowing the committees to appeal to the 9th Circuit, saying it would give them the benefit of avoiding a trial and going straight to the appellate court.

But Morris ruled for the GOP committees, saying the 9th Circuit looks favorably on allowing appeals from voluntary dismissals because it promotes efficient use of the judicial system.

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch, a Democrat, said closing the primaries would shift the power the voters hold to the hands of party leaders. She added that she is glad the system survived the latest attack against it.

“This isn’t that first time, and I am sure it will not be the last. But for today at least, this is a victory,” she said.

Infrastructure becomes key focus in Montana governor’s race

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The issue of infrastructure was front and center in the Montana governor’s race May 5, as the two leading candidates traded barbs over who to blame for the political deadlock over a funding source to pay for roads, bridges, sewers and other projects.

During a news conference at the steps of the Capitol, Republican Greg Gianforte again blamed Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock for stubbornly opposing GOP proposals by staking a position that Gianforte called “my way or no highway.”

Meanwhile, Bullock traveled to Butte to again pitch a \$200 million plan he unveiled the last week of April. Bullock used the State Korean War Veterans Memorial in Stodden Park as the backdrop for pushing for a bipartisan infrastructure plan.

A compromise bill fell one vote shy of passage last year after wrangling over funding formulas and a list of projects that outraged conservatives.

One of those proposed projects was a veterans home that would have been built in Butte.

“There is an empty lot here in town that should be bustling with construction activity and supporting hundreds of jobs in Butte,” the governor said. “It sits empty because a small handful of legislators put Montana politics ahead of Montana jobs, played fast and loose with our economy, and voted down an infrastructure bill that would have resulted in thousands of jobs and investment across Montana and right here in Butte.”

Gianforte and other Republicans have dismissed Bullock’s proposals as political gamesmanship.

“The governor had four years to get infrastructure funding done,” Gianforte said. “Let me say to the lawmakers who are with me today coming back to serve in the 2017 session: I’m sure you’re greatly frustrated.”

While Bullock and Gianforte say infrastructure funding will be a top priority, neither has yet to flesh out details of their plans.

A key obstacle is differences over a funding formula, with some Republicans balking at using bonds to borrow the money needed to finance state projects.

Gianforte said he had “no philosophical opposition” to using bonds, but said he preferred using cash to pay for a wish-list of projects he has yet to identify. He wants to start with at least \$100 million in infrastructure funding, but said the amount would depend on fluctuations in state revenue.

Bullock said his visit to Butte was part of his administration’s effort to hear directly from Montanans about their priorities.

Earlier in the day, the Montana Department of Transportation announced it would be seeking public input on a long-range transportation plan, the bulk of it paid by federal money.

The five-year plan features \$2.2 billion of highway and bridge improvements, including work on 13,000 miles of state and federal roads, according to Charity Watt, a state transportation planner.

But the state has millions of dollars in other infrastructure needs – not only to roads, but to sewer and water systems, schools and other needs – that both sides agree will go unfunded without a deal.



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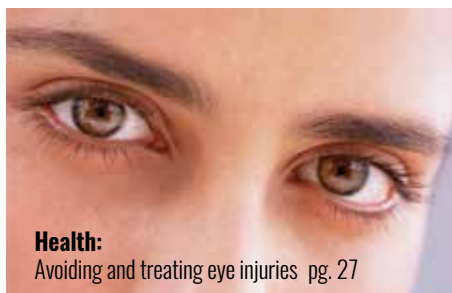
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Wyoming's grizzly hostility should be a major concern



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Jackson Hole grizzly 399 emerged from her den the week of May 9, walking out from her winter sanctum in the Pilgrim Creek drainage

with a single, healthy cub of the year at her side.

At 20 years old, 399 is the most famous living wild bear on earth. Think about that. She is universally beloved, a marvel to millions around the world who know of her existence.

399 and other bears make wildlife conservation meaningful for large numbers of people who otherwise have little connection with nature. She is the poster child of grizzly conservation in the Greater Yellowstone region. The most passionate 399 admirers are children who, for the rest of their lives, will never forget seeing her.

This is rare. It is powerful. Why is it so difficult for politicians in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to comprehend? Why do public officials keep trying to claim that individual animals don't matter?

Even hunters create legendary stories around individual elk, moose and deer. The difference is that they often want to covet those animals as personal trophies. A bear like 399, while alive, can be enjoyed by huge numbers of people over and over again.

In most states, 399 would be celebrated, embraced, treated as a national treasure by elected officials, even adopted as a wild mascot. Bizarrely, not in Wyoming. Gov. Matt Mead and his administration mostly portray native Greater Yellowstone grizzly bears as liabilities imposed upon the state by the federal government.

It's an attitude of small-mindedness reflected in the shocking behavior of some Wyoming citizens. On Dec. 28, 2015, Bill Addeo, a resident of Hoback Junction, brazenly typed a message on the Jackson Hole News & Guide website in response to a column I had written titled, "If Jesus were here, he'd defend wildlife."

Addeo wrote: "I KILLED BEAR 399. So, if Wilkinson is doing a book on bear 399, he needs to talk to me about the bear's last moments gasping for air as the cubs ran about. I was there taking pictures and have all the inside information."

Most people find Addeo's humor disturbing, though some worried he wasn't joking. Fortunately, 399 was not poached.

Why do Americans, by a huge margin, distrust Wyoming's ability to keep the recovery of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies going?

And who is Addeo? He's the attention-grubbing guy who proudly shot a wolf in Wyoming's "predator zone," where, in 85 percent of the state, wolves could be killed any time of day by any means for any reason.

Inexplicably, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved Wyoming's predator zone for lobos, the first time in the history of the federal Endangered Species Act the agency allowed a recovered iconic wildlife species to be treated so callously. It set a terrible precedent.

Addeo shot the wolf after it ate an antelope. He strapped the bloodied carcass to the top of his SUV, drove it into Jackson and parked his vehicle along the downtown square, the social center of the community.

His friend, the late Sam Coutts, told the Jackson Hole News & Guide to send a photographer to chronicle the spectacle. Essentially, Addeo raised a middle finger into the face of those who value wolves and grizzlies alive.

He claimed he would've killed the wolf's four packmates too if only he could've gotten them in his gunsight. A few years earlier, Addeo's good friend, a former Special Forces soldier and Wyoming big game outfitter, was convicted of poaching a bald eagle, the protected avian symbol of this country, after one of the wild raptors ate trout in his private fishpond.

After this column first appeared in the Jackson Hole News & Guide, I received threatening emails from people who seemed to argue that poaching public wildlife and threatening to poach public wildlife, using the mantra of shoot, shovel and shut-up, is somehow justified. Is it?

Are these folk representative of most hunters? No, of course not, but their outlaw behavior toward bears and wolves flourishes in Wyoming and it echoes in Montana and Idaho. A few weeks ago, it was announced that famed Yellowstone transboundary bear "Scarface" was shot in Montana outside the national park under suspicious circumstances.

Montana also recently proposed upping the lobo quota, allowing hunters to kill more transboundary Yellowstone wolves—wolves

that delight huge crowds of wildlife watchers in Lamar Valley yet can be shot simply for wandering across an invisible park border.

Daryl Hunter, a wildlife photographer in Greater Yellowstone, wrote recently: "I met a guy who wants grizzly 399's rug on his wall, stating that because she is famous, she makes a better trophy."

There's also the Wyomingites who want to kill 399 for other reasons, some out of spite, because they hate the federal government and environmentalists for wanting to keep grizzlies like 399 protected.

Should American citizens, who have made a huge investment resuscitating the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population, be concerned? There is no compelling evidence—none I've seen—that sport hunting grizzlies will build social tolerance.



Famous grizzly 399 finally appeared in Jackson Hole, Wyo. on May 10 with a new cub, much to the delight of human fans around the world. She is a mother at age 20, an extraordinary feat. PHOTO BY BERNIE SCATES

Irrational cultural hostility toward grizzlies thrives in Wyoming, a state where public officials want to suppress recovery, even preventing bears from inhabiting remote federal public lands in Greater Yellowstone because priority is given to non-native, taxpayer-subsidized private cattle.

Governors in most states would proudly tell the world their province is special because it has bears like 399 inside its borders, recognizing them as rare and powerful assets. Why Wyoming Gov. Mead can't do that reveals a lot about who he is.

New West columnist Todd Wilkinson is author of the critically acclaimed "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone" featuring photos by Thomas Mangelsen and only available at mangelsen.com/grizzly. Mangelsen is featured in the current, award-winning issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine still on newsstands.

Ranch buy adds to huge Montana wildlife reserve

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – A huge Montana nature reserve added a 47,000-acre historic ranch to its patchwork of lands along the Missouri River on May 6, a significant step in a privately funded effort to stitch together a Connecticut-sized park where bison would replace livestock and cattle fences give way to open range.

The PN Ranch north of Winifred sprawls across rugged badlands, tall grass prairie and cottonwood-filled valleys. It’s almost wholly within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

It includes the remnants of the Montana Territory’s first military post, Camp Cooke, and was reportedly a rendezvous point for American Indian tribes on the Great Plains.

Its purchase by the American Prairie Reserve comes amid tensions with some in central Montana who see the project’s rapid expansion over the past decade as an encroachment on their way of life.

For now, reserve representatives said, it will be managed as a livestock operation. But the long-term goal is to restore the land to its natural state and open it to the public – campers, bird watchers and others seeking a glimpse into how the West once looked.

“Over time the goal is an all-wildlife, public access situation,” said Sean Gerrity, president of the Bozeman-based reserve. “People will come and the first thing they will notice is ‘Welcome’ signs instead of ‘Keep Out’ signs. They will notice fences down and a distinct openness to the landscape, unfettered by fences, power lines, power poles.”

Terms of the sale were not disclosed. The cattle ranch founded in the late 1800s had been listed for more than \$20 million.

Since 2001, American Prairie Reserve has raised \$95 million and established a 353,000-acre footprint of leased and private land stretching across five counties.

The purchase of the PN – inside the 378,000-acre Upper Missouri River Breaks – continues the organization’s strategy to use private real estate deals to leverage public lands. Other reserve holdings are within and adjacent to the million-acre C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The reserve has 620 bison, which currently don’t have access to the refuge or national monument. That herd is expected to increase to 1,000 bison within the next two years and more than 10,000 animals by late next decade.

Whether wild bison re-inhabit the public lands around the reserve will be largely up to state wildlife officials.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said last year that they would consider bison on large-scale landscapes like the C.M. Russell refuge. But there’s no timeline for a decision, agency spokesman Ron Aasheim said.

Montana releases draft grizzly hunting guidelines

BOZEMAN (AP) – Montana wildlife officials have released draft regulations for grizzly bear hunting in anticipation of the bears’ possible removal from the endangered species list.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing spring and fall hunting seasons in seven districts near the border of Yellowstone National Park. Each district would have a quota on the number of bears that can be killed, reported The Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft proposal for removing the grizzly bear’s Endangered Species Act protections in March. It includes caps on how many bears can be killed within a 19,279-square-mile area that includes Yellowstone National Park and parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The caps will depend on population within the area.

The draft plan would give Wyoming 58 percent of the total number of bears that can be killed, Montana 34 percent and Idaho 8 percent.

The federal plan also requires that the states have management plans in place, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim.

“This is a first attempt at hopefully a management option that we’re going to have here down the road,” Aasheim said.

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider the proposal at its next meeting and take an initial vote. If approved, it will be open for public comment.

Grizzly bears have been listed as a threatened species since 1975, although they were briefly delisted in 2007 before a lawsuit reinstated the protections.

“I think the agency has put in a lot of safeguards to ensure we don’t have an overharvest,” said Nick Gevock, conservation director for the pro-delisting organization Montana Wildlife Federation.

But the Sierra Club’s Bonnie Rice said the grizzly population is still vulnerable. She opposes delisting and hunting grizzlies.

Rice called it “completely misguided” to begin hunting when 61 bears were killed last year even though no hunting took place.

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MSU Extension warns livestock owners to be aware of toxic plant



Grassy death camas PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE POWELL

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - A native wildflower with a foreboding name is abundant on Montana rangelands this spring. Death camas (*Zigadenus spp.*), a plant that resembles wild onion, has caused at least four cattle deaths in Yellowstone County so far this year.

“Montana livestock owners may want to take extra precautions and adjust when and how pastures with death camas are grazed this year,” said Jeff Mosley, Montana State University Extension range management specialist.

The plant is highly toxic to cattle, sheep and horses during spring, especially the underground onion-like bulb. When soils are moist, livestock can pull the bulb out of the ground and ingest it. Death camas greens-up early, making it more accessible and palatable than other plants in early spring, contributing to livestock eating toxic amounts.

“Toxicity is less likely if livestock turn-out can be delayed to allow other forage to grow more,” Mosley said. “Toxic levels of ingestion commonly occur in pastures where grass is in short supply.”

There is no treatment for death camas poisoning and the only way to avoid it is to minimize the concentration of the toxin in an animal’s diet.

“Death camas poisoning can be minimized by making sure livestock grazing intensity is light to moderate on rangeland with death camas,” Mosley said.

The concentration of toxins in death camas and other plants varies with weather.

“This year appears to be a year when growing conditions have caused death camas to be more toxic and more abundant than usual. Livestock owners should try to avoid spring grazing this year in pastures where death camas is abundant,” said Mosley.

Death camas usually must dominate livestock diets to reach a lethal dose. But sub-lethal doses of the plant have subtle and significant negative effects, decreasing animal weight gain and milk production and inhibiting reproduction, according to Mosley.

Some evidence indicates that death camas is more toxic to livestock during cool, stormy weather.

“The chemical structure of the toxins in death camas becomes more toxic when the barometer drops, increasing chances of livestock poisoning even when livestock don’t eat very much [of the plant],” warned Mosley.




Other evidence indicates that genetic resistance to toxic plant poisoning varies.


“Livestock owners should be cautious with death camas if they have purchased livestock from outside their herd,” Mosley said. “Livestock new to the area likely have less genetic resistance to the death camas that is growing on their rangeland.”

Death camas is difficult to control with herbicides. Dicamba and 2, 4-D can be effective when applied in early spring when plants have three to six leaves and before flowering stalks appear.


For more information or questions, contact a local MSU Extension agent or visit msuextension.org.

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Scientists say oilfield wastewater spills release toxins

BY JOHN FLESHER
AP ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER

Brine spills from oil development in western North Dakota are releasing toxins into soils and waterways, sometimes at levels exceeding federal water quality standards, scientists reported April 27.

Samples taken from surface waters affected by waste spills in recent years in the state’s Bakken oilfield region turned up high levels of lead, ammonium, selenium and other contaminants, Duke University researchers said. Additionally, they found that some spills had tainted land with radium, a radioactive element.

Long-term monitoring of waters downstream from spill sites is needed to determine what risks the pollution might pose for human health and the environment, geochemistry professor Avner Vengosh said. But the study revealed “clear evidence of direct water contamination” from oil development using the method known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, he said, describing the problem as “widespread and persistent.”

Wastewater spills are a longstanding yet largely overlooked side effect of oil and gas production that worsened during the nation’s recent drilling boom, when advances in fracking technology enabled North Dakota’s daily output to soar from 4.2 million gallons in 2007 to 42 million gallons in 2014.

The Associated Press reported last year that data from leading oil- and gas-producing states showed more than 175 million gallons of wastewater spilled from 2009 to 2014 in incidents involving ruptured pipes, overflowing storage tanks and other mishaps or even deliberate dumping.



An oil rig in Williston, North Dakota. PHOTO BY LINDSEY GIRA / CC 2.0

There were some 21,651 individual spills. The numbers were incomplete because many releases go unreported.

The wastewater is often much saltier than the oceans and kills nearly all vegetation it touches, rendering sections of crop and ranch lands unusable. It also contains toxic chemicals, some of which are injected during fracking to release oil and gas from rock deposits and others that exist naturally underground.

In their report, published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology, Vengosh and other Duke researchers said their findings were based on an analysis of water samples from four areas affected by spills, two of which – in July 2014 and January 2015 – were the largest on record in North Dakota.

They identified unique chemical “fingerprints” that showed the contaminants came from brine spills and not some other source, Vengosh said.

In most samples, toxic selenium was measured in concentrations up to 35 times the level that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers safe for freshwater aquatic life, the report said.

And other elements were found in concentrations above the EPA limit for drinking water.

“The results of this study indicate that the water contamination from brine spills is remarkably persistent in the environment, resulting in elevated levels of salts and trace elements that can be preserved in spill sites for at least months to years,” the report said.

Dave Glatt, chief of North Dakota’s environmental health section, said it was well known that oilfield wastewater is laced with toxic substances. But most spills don’t endanger the public because they are quickly cleaned up and don’t reach waterways, he said. Work continues on three of the sites from which the Duke researchers drew samples and drinking water has not been contaminated, he said.

Kerry Sublette, a University of Tulsa chemical engineering professor and expert on oilfield wastewater spills who wasn’t involved with the Duke study, said the team’s methods could help other researchers establish clear links between the spills and changes in stream chemistry.

Sublette recently completed a study that found toxins from spills in streams flowing through Oklahoma’s Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, which will disrupt food chains by killing insects, worms and other small animals, he said.



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Researchers in 4 states unite for rare wolverine study

GREAT FALLS (AP) – Researchers are working on a plan to study wolverines in four Rocky Mountain states to see if the animals that look like small bears with big claws can be reintroduced to some regions to boost their numbers and see how they might travel between mountain ranges.

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington state are working together because there are so few wolverines and they are spread across a wide area, a researcher with Montana's wildlife agency said.

"It doesn't occur that often that four states start to think about managing a species together," said Bob Inman, carnivore and fur bearer coordinator for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The study is expected to begin next winter, using trail cameras to capture images and copper brushes to collect DNA when the animals pass by.

Wolverines are rarely seen by humans and roam in deep snow and steep terrain. There are now up to 300 in the four states.

The work will be done in the winter when bears are hibernating so researchers can focus on the wolverines.



PHOTO BY LARRY MASTERS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are helping pay for the study.

Representatives from the states began discussing what could be done for wolverines and came up with a study proposal about a year ago, the Great Falls Tribune reported.

"We're identifying places that are good habitat that don't have wolverines so we might be able to put them there to increase population size," Inman said.

Under the plan, the states will come up with a map of wolverine habitat that will be useful for land trust organizations working with private landowners on conservation easements to prevent development.

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LPHS golf team preps for state tourney May 17-18

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak High School golf team wrapped up its regular season of play with a stellar showing at the Park City Invitational in Columbus on May 9.

LPHS golf coach Jenny Wilcynski said the girls’ first place finish at the event put them in a good position for the upcoming District C state tournament. All three girls on the team—senior Katie Reid, junior Sayler Tatom, and sophomore Delaney Pruiett—will be representing LPHS at State in Hamilton May 17-18.

“They’re really going to be competitive,” said Wilcynski. “All three girls could finish in the top 10.”

Wilcynski said she’s also expecting a strong performance from senior Charlie Johnson, whose low score for the season was 76. That round earned him second place at the Manhattan Varsity Invitational at the Bridger Creek Golf Course in Bozeman on April 26.

“It’s likely Charlie will finish in the top 10 at State,” said Wilcynski, adding that sophomores Nick Iskenderian and Harry Schreiner will join Johnson at the tournament.

To qualify for State in Class C, the girls must score below 120 and the boys must shoot below 100.

“If everybody goes out and shoots their best round, we’re going to have a chance at it, but this is definitely a rebuilding year for us with the boys,” Wilcynski said.

LPHS faced challenging golf conditions on several occasions throughout the regular season. Most of the six varsity invitationals the team participated in took place in rainy, windy, or cold conditions—and occasionally all three.

“I think we’ll just keep our fingers crossed for the weather,” Wilcynski said. “We should be in good shape and we’ll just do our best. We’re pretty excited.”

Greg Wagner and Nick Berasi are also on the LPHS golf coaching staff.



Senior Charlie Johnson, a standout on the LPHS golf team, will be competing at the state tournament May 17-18. PHOTO BY JENNY WILCYNSKI



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EYE ON THE BALL

Montana State's Sandland has great opportunity with Panthers



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Montana State tight end Beau Sandland was selected late in the seventh round in this year's NFL draft,

with the 252nd overall pick by the Carolina Panthers.

Sandland was expected to go much higher after a good combine and he projects well as a seam-stretching playmaker. Panthers quarterback Cam Newton will be hoping that he can pair with pro bowler Greg Olsen to create a dynamic set of receiving tight ends, and help the team get back to the Super Bowl.

Sandland came to the Bobcats as a transfer from Miami and after redshirting in 2014, he caught 37 passes for 632 yards and nine touchdowns last year. As the starting tight end, Sandland looked dominant at times, including in a victory over Cal Poly where he finished with five catches, 156 yards and two touchdowns.

At 6 feet 4 inches and 253 pounds, Sandland's large frame and ability to make plays in the

passing game will be a welcome addition to the Panthers offense. He should benefit from the opportunity to learn from one of the best as he sits behind Olsen.

Sandland isn't a proven commodity by any means, but I had given him a fourth round grade due to his size and ability to run after the catch. He was an excellent value for the Panthers near the end of the draft – he plays with a nasty streak, showing physicality at the point of attack and enough explosiveness to punish defensive backs in the open field.

In the Cal Poly game, the first of Sandland's two touchdowns came on a 63-yard bomb from quarterback Dakota Prukop, where Sandland left the defender in the dust. That kind of speed can make him a matchup nightmare for opposing linebackers and safeties at the next level.

The Panthers, and Newton in particular, have demonstrated a willingness to utilize the tight end position. They used Jeremy Shockey consistently early in Newton's career, and Olsen has become one of the top five players at his position since arriving in a 2011 trade with the Chicago Bears.

Sandland is in a good spot to elevate his game and develop into a good pro, but will have to beat out veteran Ed Dickson for the backup job behind Olsen. Like Sandland, Dickson is an excellent athlete, but he's yet to develop consistent hands and route-running as a pro. Sandland should try to soak up as much as he can from the two veterans in front of him in order to make the transition from the Big Sky Conference to the NFL.

Most teams keep three tight ends on the roster, so as long as Sandland shows some improvement during the off-season, he should make the final 53-player roster come September. If he does, don't be surprised to see the talented playmaker push Dickson for playing time as he learns the game and tries to develop into a starter.

It's not often a seventh round pick can be viewed as someone with long-term starter potential, but Sandland landed in a great spot to be just that for the Panthers.

Brandon Niles is a longtime fan of football and scotch, and has been writing about sports for the past decade. He is a fantasy football scout for 4for4 Fantasy Football and is co-host of the 2 Guys Podcast.

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



The last two weeks in May haven't historically given us very many fishing options around Big Sky with spring runoff typically in full swing. 2016 is a little different with the changes to central Montana's fishing regulations. For the first time in many years the Madison and most of our local tributaries are now open year-round to fishing.

This changes to regulations have brought on some mixed emotions. Some people are excited at the opportunity to fish the upper Madison in spring, while others are concerned that anglers will negatively impact spawning trout and their redds, which in turn can lead to a decrease in future trout populations.

Some of the reasons for the changes mentioned were to simplify regulations for anglers, river traffic tends to be low this time of year, so impact is

expected to be low and catch and release is very popular amongst the current angling population, leaving more fish in the river.

Fly shops and fishing guides are obviously in the business of taking people fishing and showing them a good time, so having more options this time of year makes our job a little easier. That being said I think it is very important for us to continue to respect the resources we so heavily rely on. Here are some ways that all of us can minimize our impact on local rivers:

Clean, inspect and dry your fishing gear when moving from one body of water to the next. Our fishing gear can store harmful invasives that can easily be transported from one river to the next.

Learn more about trout spawning behavior. If you know what a spawning redd looks like and when and where trout typically spawn it is easy to avoid fishing to actively spawning trout and walking on trout eggs. The upper Madison and many of our local tributaries are teaming with spawning trout right now, so please tread lightly.

Avoid wading as much as possible. Our rivers tend to get a little off color this time of year, so identifying redds may not always be cut and dry. Stick to the banks when you are uncertain and avoid excessive wading. Many fish are holding closer to the banks right now and can be caught without wading.

Keep 'em wet. Keep fish in the water and avoid handling as much as possible.

We all want to see that our rivers and fish remain healthy. For many of us trout and the rivers they live in are why we're here and do what we do.

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The Prostart Nationals

When little becomes big



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Earlier this winter I wrote about Prostart, a high school program through which students can learn the basics of culinary arts, as well as the tools to plan, design and open a fictional restaurant. To showcase what they have learned, Prostart holds a statewide competition for the high schools willing and able to compete.

Six teams from Montana squared off this past winter, and Belgrade High School—no strangers to winning this competition in the past—won again and went on to compete at the national level. And as a late participant to the season, being a mentor for the Belgrade team, I was fortunate enough to be invited with the team and instructors to attend the national competition this year in Grapevine, Texas.

I say fortunate because, more than just having this incredible opportunity, I am truly fortunate that the event opened my eyes to the camaraderie, talent, drive, professionalism and sportsmanship that this competition embodies. Once you see these kids compete, you quickly forget they are high school students.

The Prostart occupies a grand ballroom in one of the largest non-gaming hotels in the U.S., and one quickly realizes the magnitude of this wonderful competition. With nearly all 50 states competing, (lack of funding or intimidation prevent one or two schools each year from making the trip), it has all the energy of a national sporting championship.

Watching the students’ faces as they entered the vast competition floor, I was reminded of the scene in “Hoosiers” when the small-town basketball team walked into the coliseum-sized arena. They were wide-eyed, but I reminded them that—much like the court and rim were the same size as the Hoosiers’ court back in Indiana—our students’ competition space was the same size it’s always been.

As I walked the competition floor early on day one, it became apparent that our team was up against several serious adversaries. While Montana does have 19 Prostart programs currently, some states have many more along with well-funded, commercial facilities within which they thoroughly groom their students for what has become a competition of immense rivalry and pride.

Our Montana team did not place, but that didn’t matter, at least to me. The competition, knowledge, relationships and insight these students are exposed to are experiences; real, useful experiences they can take with them the rest of their lives.

In an industry that will statistically employ two-thirds of the competitors in this event at some point, they are furthering life skills in real, valuable, practical ways. I was proud of not only our Belgrade team representing the great state of Montana, but every single young adult I saw over the course of the weekend.

As we sat during the closing ceremony, organizers announced the winners to a crowd of well over 1,000 people. I turned to our hard-working Montana team.

“Take a moment, take it all in,” I said. “Even though you didn’t win, this is for all of you. Hold your heads high, for very few students your age will ever experience anything like this in any school program.”

They looked around. I think they got it.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the Executive Chef at Buck’s T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

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From Jackie *with love*

Seven-day mind-body detox



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Spring is the perfect time to remove accumulated toxins from the body and mind. As the days become longer and warmer, you will feel healthier by moving from heavy winter meals to lighter seasonal foods. In preparation for an energized and active summer, consider the following seven-day mind/body detox.

This simple and sustainable detox can recalibrate your cravings, as well as sleep and thought patterns, and help you build healthier long-term eating and hydration habits.

Let's start with cleansing the body. The basic premise is to use whole foods to "crowd out" the empty calories of refined and processed foods.

1. Eat only whole foods for seven straight days. For example, at breakfast prepare eggs – if your body digests eggs well – with chopped veggies and black beans instead of toast with jam or cereal; snack on nuts rather than chips; have a salad instead of a sandwich for lunch; and eat steak and greens in place of a cheeseburger and fries for dinner.
2. Replace sweetened drinks such as fruit juice, sports drinks, sodas and lemonade with water, or fizzy water if preferred. Add lemons or cucumbers for flavor.
3. Remove alcohol to give your liver a rest.
4. Be prepared: Make a seven-day meal plan using whole foods that you and your family enjoy. Create a shopping list and have your food on hand – sorry, there are no quick fixes here. Remember that regularly eating "convenience foods" causes weight gain, premature aging, lethargy and disease. Ultimately, they are the opposite of convenient.

"Nothing tastes as good as healthy feels."

And now, just as importantly, let's move on to detoxing the mind.

1. Take a broadcast news fast. For seven days, skip television, radio or Internet streaming news. Much of the mainstream news is filled with stressful and depressing information and if anything really important happens, you will find out about it. If this truly is not possible for you, then at least try to take a break while you're eating.
2. Meditate everyday for a minimum of five minutes. This simple exercise is grounding, reduces stress and helps focus the mind. Not sure how to meditate? Search YouTube for "Simple guided meditation for beginners" to get started.
3. Take a complaining fast. We are all dealing with stress throughout the day – whether it's in the moment, or worry about the past or future. Complaining creates stress in your own body and spreads it to the consciousness of others.
4. De-clutter. If you have spaces at home or work that are stressing you out, clean them out and organize them. This simple act will do wonders for your mind.

My clients often tell me that when they "can't eat whatever they want" – which is different for everyone but often means empty calorie junk foods – they feel deprived and even resentful. This is faulty programming of the mind. Here is a mind hack to help you shift these negative thoughts if they occur: repeat to yourself, "Nothing tastes as good as healthy feels."

The body and mind are one. Detox them together this spring with this simple and sustainable seven-day mind/body detox. Decide on a start date, invite an accountability partner to join you and enjoy the process.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach and Consultant, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at jackie@corehealthbmt.com.



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2016 Events

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- May 17 3rd Annual Big Sky Weed Summit, public is welcome
- June 21 Wildflower & Weed Walk, 10 am to noon, location TBD
- June 25 7th Annual Gallatin Weed Pull and River Clean Up
- June 26 Fundraiser @ Bozeman Brewing Co, "Sunday Fund-day"
- July 5 Wildflower & Weed Walk, 10 am to noon, Ouzel Falls Trail
- July 12 4th Annual Big Sky Weed Pull @ the Community Park



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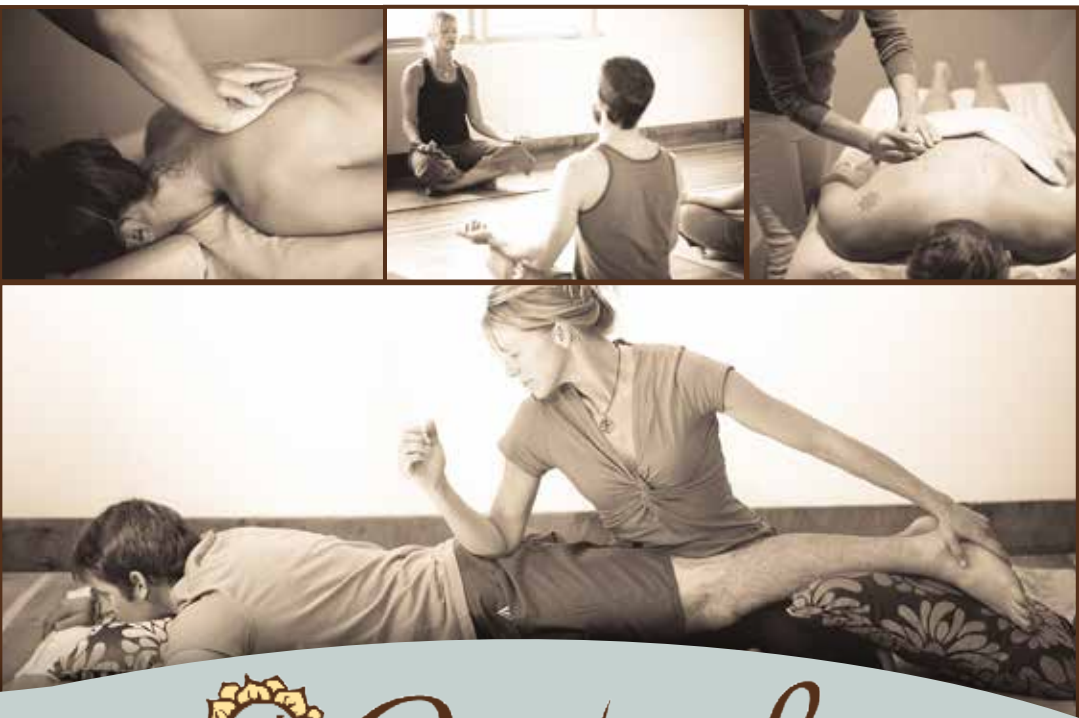


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TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga

8:15-9:15am
Pi-yo

9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

Noon-1:00
All Levels Yoga

THURSDAY

9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga

5:30-6:30pm
Pi-Yo

FRIDAY

8:30-9:30am
Level II Yoga

10:30-11:30am
Yin/Restorative Yoga

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am
Ashtanga/Vinyasa
Flow
All Levels Yoga

DOCTOR'S NOTE

Avoiding and treating eye injuries



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Minor eye injuries are common, and in most instances preventable. We're all susceptible to these types of injuries because all it takes is a careless rub across the surface of your eye when you're waking up in the morning.

Scrape away a layer or two of your cornea, and it will be very painful for a couple of days, make the eye tear continuously, and cause the white of the eye – called the sclera – to turn red from inflammation.

When a patient comes into the clinic with an irritated eye, it can be difficult at first to determine whether the eye is infected by a bacteria or virus, or it's traumatized. One finding that easily differentiates between infection and trauma is crusting of the eyelashes, typically when waking up in the morning. Infection always causes crusting, whereas injury to the eye almost never does.

Most of the minor eye injuries we see are work related, particularly when sawdust or stone is involved. The other common cause is due to wearing contact lenses.

First, I'll discuss work-related injuries. Use of proper protective eyewear will often eliminate contact of the eye with foreign objects that can either scratch the cornea directly, or lodge underneath the upper lid and carve a scratch with every blink of the eye.

Wearing glasses or sunglasses is not sufficient, because small objects often find their way around the edges of the lenses. However, I've seen even the most elaborate protective goggles fail on occasion, but at least they reduce the risk.

Sometimes a foreign object, like a small fragment of stone or tiny metal shaving, can hit the eye and stick directly to the cornea. Interestingly, this doesn't hurt as much or cause other symptoms immediately – but over time, the eye gets redder and more irritated. Using a slit lamp, which magnifies the eye and let's us do a careful examination, we can see the foreign object embedded within the surface layer of the cornea.

If the object is iron or steel, as you might expect in a welder's eye, the oxygen in the cornea can cause a rust formation. This will form a ring around the foreign body, and the discolored area of cornea has to be removed along with the metal. This is easy to do using the high magnification of the slit lamp, once a topical anesthetic is put in the eye.

The other procedure we commonly perform is to remove sawdust or stone from under the lid. This takes less than a minute and involves flipping the upper lid inside out. We then use a sterile swab to wipe away the foreign material. Pain relief is immediate, but the cornea is still scratched and will hurt for a couple of days.

Contact lenses can sometimes lead to corneal abrasions – most often by sticking to the cornea when they're too dry – so when the lens is removed, it takes some cornea with it. Thousands of tiny puncture holes can be seen on the surface of the cornea in some cases. In others, the scratch is roughly the same as if something struck the eye. Occasionally, a lens will migrate off the cornea and lodge in one of the corners of the eye, or under the upper lid.

In all cases of contact lens trauma, leaving the lens out of the eye for about a week is very important. We treat all abrasions with an antibiotic ointment, but they will nearly always heal by themselves without infection.

So, wear protective goggles if exposed to situations where something might fly up into your eyes. Take proper care of your contact lenses and don't rub your eyes too hard when you're tired. Hopefully you'll avoid traumatizing this very important and delicate part of your body.

Dr. Jeff Daniels has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

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\$778,000 | #200670

Lost Trail Retreat, Big Sky
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278 Mammoth Fork/ Gallatin Heights
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Largest home listed in Gallatin Heights
 \$365,000



1073 Pin Avenue / Oak Springs
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Single level home in desirable neighborhood
 \$305,000

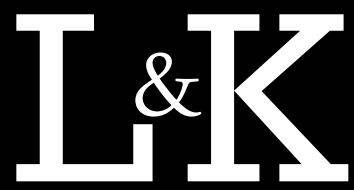


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Lot 107 W. Elk Valley* / Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
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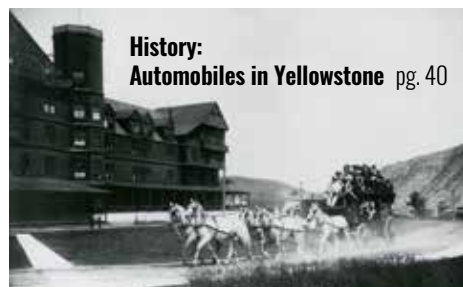
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Section 3: OUTDOORS, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BACK 40



THE EDDY Line

Catch and release: Do it right



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Most anglers want the glory shot with a big grin and an even bigger fish. In today's world of selfies, social media posts, and mega-sharing, the desire is strong to photograph our catch.

For those of us who've been fishing a long time and have caught plenty of big trout, photographing every catch is a thing of the past. But even for us more experienced anglers, you can bet we want to share a pic of a trophy trout. For folks new to fly fishing, a photograph is a fine way to document the experience.

Our wild trout are beautiful creatures and deserve a large part of the angling spotlight. The more we prominently feature our local fish in social media, the more awareness and protection they're likely to receive. However, be very aware of proper fish fighting and handling techniques if you plan to photograph and release a trout.

Here's some help to ensure you get a good pic and the fish survives to be caught another day.

Learn to fight fish quicker. A general rule is to be sure the rod has a full bend to it while applying pressure at a sideways angle to the current. Use your thumbnail as a guide – when a fish is hooked have your thumbnail pointing upstream against the current and not up to the sky. This application of sideways pressure tires a fish more quickly and allows you to pull the fish in the desired direction.

Get their head above water. The moment you feel the fish begin to rise to the surface, use their upward momentum to your advantage. If their head breaches the surface, quickly raise your hand above you to keep their head out of the water. If a trout's head is above the water they can't steer themselves and you can net them faster.

Use a net. By using a net the fish are brought in quicker; less prone to flopping on the bank and causing injury, or ingesting sediment into their gills; and a net allows a safe place for fish to be held in the water while you ready the camera.

Keep the fish wet at all times. Do not take a trout out of the water until the camera is on, the photographer is ready, and the angler has a gentle hold of the fish before taking it out of the net. Raise the fish out of the net quickly, give a big grin, snap a shot, and get the fish back in the net quickly. If you can see water dripping from the fish in your picture, you know you've succeeded.

Gently grip and grin it. When holding a trout for a picture, place one hand underneath the fish between the head and belly, and have the other hand gently grasping the underside of the body where the tail begins. Do not try to



Practicing proper techniques for fish you plan to photograph and release ensures your catch will live to fight another day.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

grip the top or side of the fish, as this will squeeze its vitals and also cause it to struggle more. Think about it – the harder someone squeezes you, the more you want to get away.

Keep the fish as close to the water as possible. Pictures with fish in them always look better when the fish is as close to the water as possible.

If you're in a boat, do your best to get out of the boat or lean over the side so the fish is near the water. If you're wading, kneel into the water. Both the fish and your Facebook friends will like the photo that much more.

Release properly. Allow the fish time to recover in slow-moving water before its release. If a fish shows few signs of breathing – gills opening and closing – and the tail isn't moving side to side, move it forward and backwards in the current to get water flowing through the gills. The fish will begin to swim with its tail when it's ready to swim on its own. Never release a fish in calm, dirty water or very fast-moving water.

Catching trout is fun and taking a nice photograph is an ideal way to hold onto a memory. By practicing proper catch and release techniques, you can keep the fish alive and still be the darling of the World Wide Web.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky, he is co-director of the Montana Fishing Guide School, and co-owns a guide service on the Missouri River.



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Bozeman company builds climbing boulder on MSU campus

STRONGHOLD FABRICATION

Peter Mathews drops his welding hood. Blue sparks fly as he connects the frame on what will soon be a new rock-climbing boulder on the Montana State University campus.

Mathews works with Bozeman-based Stronghold Fabrication, which built five of the six artificial climbing boulders in Bozeman city parks, as well as synthetic rocks in Big Sky, Livingston and Great Falls.

The boulder is located beside a small creek between the dorms, and precedes the completion of Yellowstone Hall, MSU's new 400-bed freshman dorm.

"This boulder will have the most difficult climbing of any we've done yet," says Pat Wolfe, who owns Stronghold with Whit Magro. The two met while attending MSU, and are accomplished climbers.

Funded by Associated Students of Montana State University and the Outdoor Recreation program, the boulder is a clear statement by the university about the value of outdoor recreation.

"The boulder interests me because it is a heartfelt manifestation of the value we place on outdoor recreation at MSU," said ASMSU Outdoor Recreation Program Director Ryan Diehl, who has been the driving force behind the project. "It will bring better quality of life to the students in high density housing, and provide an opportunity to climb on campus."

MSU is lacking in climbing facilities compared to other institutions of similar size, Diehl said.

A small climbing wall in MSU's Marga Hosaeus Sports and Fitness Center is the only other on-campus facility. Built in a converted racquetball court, it sees an average of 65-70 climbers a day, according to MSU Assistant Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness Abbey Keene, who oversees the wall.

The boulder was the brainchild of Jordy Hendrikx, Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the MSU Snow and Avalanche Lab. He initially proposed it as a memorial for graduate student Olivia Buchanan, who died in a Colorado avalanche in 2015.

Hendrikx worked with Diehl and architecture professor Michael Everts, who spearheaded the work of customizing Stronghold's structural design. Professional climber Conrad Anker, a Bozeman resident, also had input, as did MSU architecture students and climbers.

Included in the design is a feature for adaptive climbers, Everts explained, with large handholds on an overhanging wall, so people without the use of their feet can climb with only their arms.

"We all came together and designed it to be pretty cutting edge for a bouldering rock," said Candace Mastel, project manager for the boulder. "It's not your standard cookie cutter thing you buy out of a magazine."

"We're proud that it was a collaborative project," she added. "It's a good legacy for everyone to be able to work on this."



A climber enjoys Stronghold's boulder behind Ace Hardware in Bozeman. PHOTO BY NICK WOLCOTT

After Stronghold sprays concrete and sculpts the climbing holds into it, the boulder will cure for a couple of weeks while the landscapers fill the landing area with mulch and build a path. It will be open for climbing by July.

For more information on Stronghold Fabrication boulders, visit strongholdfabrication.com.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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**FRIDAY, MAY 13 –
THURSDAY, MAY 26**

***If your event falls between
May 27 and June 9, please
submit it by May 18.**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Gear Consignment Sale
Ophir Elementary Cafeteria
Drop-off: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Sale: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Pick-up: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

3rd Annual Big Sky Weed Summit
Big Sky Chapel Community Room,
2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber, 8:30 a.m.

Biz to Biz
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

**Golf Course Opening Day
Big Sky Golf Course, all day**

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

2nd Annual Harbor's Hero Run
Town Center Fire Pit, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Gallatin Canyon Women's Club
Kickoff Annual Spring Breakfast
Bugaboo Café, 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

Biz to Biz
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Resilience Conference
MSU SUB Ballroom, all day

Emerson Open House & 23rd
Birthday Celebration
The Emerson Center for the Arts &
Culture, 5 p.m.

Sharon Iltis
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Don Giovanni
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Aran Buzzas
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Weekend of Blyss:
ANP Foundation Benefit
Faultline North, 7 p.m.

Paula Poundstone
The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Play: Row After Row
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Two Tracks
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Glass Spiders: A Tribute to David Bowie
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

The Cold Hard Cash Show
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Adventure Family Day
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Robin Hood (A Puppet Show)
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Shea Stewart
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Play: Just Add Water
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**Gallatin Roller Girlz Bout
Haynes Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.**

Play: Row After Row
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Two Tracks
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Blistered Earth
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

Crow and the Canyon
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

GT Hurley Band
Sacajawea Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Walk MS
Summit Resource International, 9 a.m.

Hyalite Clean Up Day
Hyalite Canyon Multiple
Campgrounds, 12:30 p.m.

Don Giovanni
Willson Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Play: Just Add Water
The Ellen Theatre, 3 p.m.

Flannel Graph
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Naked Naps (NC) + Chairea + SBD
Whistle Pig Korean, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 16

Tom & Chelsea Cook
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Movie: Dazed and Confused
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Date Night with Live Piano Music by
Tyler Schultz
John Bozeman's Bistro, 5 p.m.

Meet the Author – Russell Rowland
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

George Winston
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 7 p.m.

BFS presents: Born to be Blue
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Bike Rodeo- Learn to Bike Safely
Meadowlark Elementary, 4 p.m.

You Knew Me When
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

The Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Film: The Middle Kingdom
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 7 p.m.

Neil Filo Beddow
Haufbrau, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Running Free From Cancer
Sola Café, 5 p.m.

Flow Fest 2016
Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 5 p.m.

You Knew Me When
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Chad Ball
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Meet the Author: Judy Blunt
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Play: Row After Row
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

Ward Davis
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Big Brothers Big Sisters: The Big Event
Broken Hart Ranch, 6 p.m.

**K9 9K Run / Walk
Bogert Park, 8 a.m.**

AALRM Run for Recovery 5K / 10K
The Commons at Baxter and Love
9:30 a.m.

Robin Hood (A Puppet Show)
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Jack Horner Family Day
Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Joe Schwem
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Play: Just Add Water
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Play: Row After Row
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.
Shakewell w/ Mikel Wright & The
Wrongs
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Play: Just Add Water
The Ellen Theatre, 3 p.m.

Family Circus Time
The Emerson, 4:30 p.m.

**Grand Opening
Bozeman Hot Springs, 12 p.m.**

You Knew Me When
MAP Brewing Company, 6 p.m.

Britchy
Norris Hot Springs, 8 p.m.

Comedy Night + Cornlord
Whistle Pig Korean, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 23

Alex, Adam & Dave
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Scatter Gather (CO) + Tiny Lota +
Sigmund
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Tours for Tots: Mission Control
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Live Piano Music by Tyler Shultz
John Bozeman's Bistro, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Bozeman SCORE Business Workshop
Stockman Bank, 8:30 p.m.

Tours for Tots: Mission Control
Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author: Whitney Tilt
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Comedy Night
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

The Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Wild Rivers Film Tour
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 8 p.m.

John Mark Nelson
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, Mondays at 5 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, Friday Nights at 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night
The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays,
and Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays at 9 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library, Tuesdays at
11 p.m and 12 p.m.

Open Mic with Eric Bartz
Lockhorn Cider House,
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Bingo
American Legion, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Free Friday Nights: Children's Museum
Children's Museum, Fridays at 5 p.m.

**Livingston &
Paradise Valley**

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Yellowstone NP Road Opening
Yellowstone National Park, all day

Leif Christian
Neptune's Brewery, 5 p.m.

Matt Ridgeway
Gourmet Cellar, 6:30 p.m.

Musical: 9 – 5
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Groove Wax
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14
**26th Annual Upper
Yellowstone Banquet
Park County Fairgrounds,
5 p.m.**

Sean Devine
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Veterans Appreciation Benefit
Elks Lodge, 7 p.m.

Musical: 9 – 5
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Groove Wax
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Musical: 9 – 5
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

Jay's Lounge
The Murray Bar, 9p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 16
Shelley Besler & Tony Polecastro
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Keith & Libby
Neptune's Brewery, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
You Knew Me When
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Larry Hirshberg
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19
Symphony at the Shane
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts,
7:30 p.m.

Jeremiah & The Red Eyes
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20
The Fossils
Neptune's Brewery, 5 p.m.

Fur Ball
Stafford Animal Shelter, 5:30 p.m.

Slim Ruthless
Gourmet Cellar, 6:30 p.m.

Left Coast Country
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Sam Platts and the Kootenai
Three
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21
Sister City Golf Scramble
Livingston Golf & Country Club,
9 a.m.

Jeremiah & The Red Eyes
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Left Coast Country
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Sam Platts and the Kootenai Three
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22
Golf Par-Tee
Livingston Golf & Country Club,
1p.m.

Jay's Lounge
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 23
Dan Henry
Neptune's Brewery, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

John Dendy
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Sister Otis
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Ira Wolf
A Stone's Throw Bed & Breakfast,
6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26
National Public Works Week
Celebration
Livingston Civic Center, 11 a.m.

Kalyn Beasley
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

West Yellowstone

SATURDAY, MAY 14
Opening Day: Yellowstone
Historic Center Museum
Yellowstone Historic
Center Museum, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 16
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 17
Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.

Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19
Water Aerobics
Holiday Inn Swimming Pool, noon

Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.

Yoga For Everyone
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
WY School Gym, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 23
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 24
Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.

Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26
Water Aerobics
Holiday Inn Swimming Pool, noon

Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.

Yoga For Everyone
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
WY School Gym, 7 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
West Yellowstone Historic
Walking Tour
West Yellowstone History
District, Daily
Explore Yellowstone with a
Yellowstone Park Ranger
West Yellowstone Visitor
Information Center, Daily

Experiencing Wildlife in
Yellowstone
West Yellowstone Visitor
Information Center, Daily

Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone
Park Ranger
Yellowstone Historic Center
Museum, Sunday, Monday,
Wednesday & Friday at 2 p.m.
/ Grizzly and Wolf Discovery
Center, Tuesday, Thursday &
Saturday at 2 p.m

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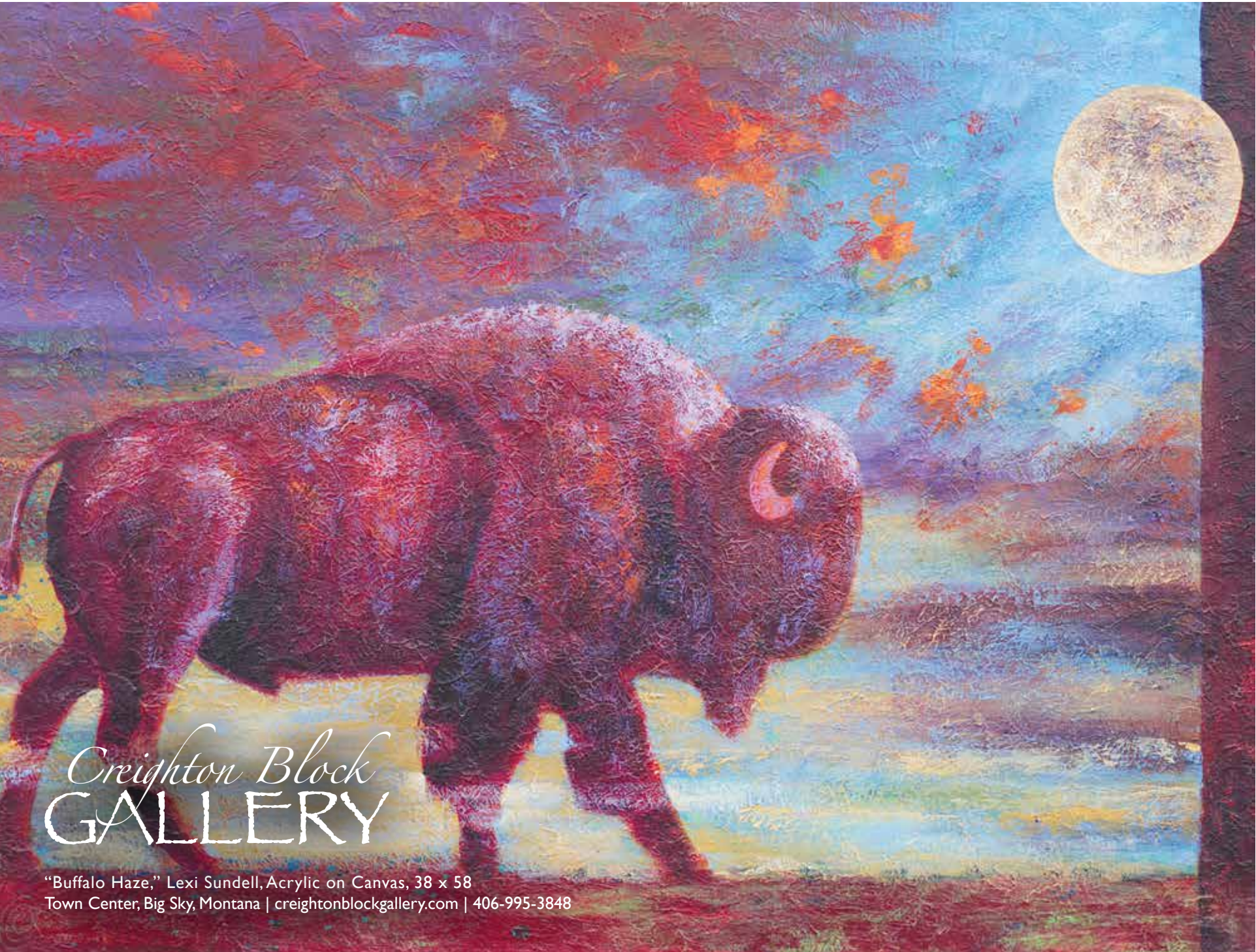
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Pick-up: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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WORD FROM THE PARK



Obama signs legislation designating bison as national mammal

BY KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) – The bison has become the official national mammal of the United States under legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama on May 9.

Lawmakers spearheading the effort say the once nearly extinct icon deserves the elevated stature because of its economic and cultural significance in the nation's history.

Millions of bison once roamed the Great Plains. About 500,000 now live in the U.S. but most of those have been cross-bred with cattle, and are semi-domesticated. About 30,000 wild bison roam the country, with the largest population in Yellowstone National Park.

Supporters of the legislation say they believe the recognition will elevate the stature of the bison to that of the bald eagle, long the national emblem, and bring greater attention to ongoing recovery efforts of the species.

"I hope that in my lifetime, thanks to a broad coalition of ranchers, wildlife advocates and tribal nations, we will see bison return to the prominent place they once occupied in our nation's shortgrass prairies," said Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, who worked with Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota to pass the Senate version of the legislation.



NPS PHOTO

Emmylou Harris and John Prine headline NPS Centennial event

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Grammy award winning singer-songwriters, Emmylou Harris and John Prine will headline "An Evening at the Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial" in Gardiner, Mont. Held on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m., the event will be broadcast live online.

"This very special event will kick off the second century for the National Park Service, highlight the importance of public/private partnerships, and recognize the completion of the Gardiner Gateway Project Phase One," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk.

The evening features a talented lineup of performers, including Emmylou Harris, John Prine, Leyla McCalla, the children's chorus The Singing Angels from Cleveland, Ohio, and Teddy Roosevelt reenactor Joe Wiegand, with more performances and details to be announced. Local, state and national dignitaries will also speak at the event.

Advance tickets are required and are free, but limited.

The first ticket release was May 15 at ticketriver.com/event/19359, and additional releases will occur on June 15 and July 15.

Event organizers strongly recommend that people secure lodging before getting a ticket because area lodging is limited. Residents of Gardiner and Jardine are encouraged to get tickets from the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, which will distribute tickets held especially for local residents as a thank you for their patience and flexibility during the Gardiner Gateway Project construction.

For the safety and comfort of all attendees, no alcohol, coolers, umbrellas, or dogs will be allowed at this event. Qualified service animals are welcome; however, they must be leashed and under control at all times.

"An Evening at the Arch" is a great example of the countless ways there are to "find your park." Launched in March 2015, Find Your Park is a public awareness and education movement to inspire people to connect with, celebrate, and support America's national parks and community-based programs.

Celebrating the National Park Service Centennial and setting the stage for the service's next 100 years, Find Your Park invites people to discover and share their own unique connections to our nation's natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history.

Forever stamp highlights Yellowstone bison

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A stunning photograph of two bison silhouetted in Yellowstone National Park's winter morning sun was previewed April 25 as the last of 16 Forever Stamp images to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.

The image was captured by Art Wolfe of Seattle, Wash., who described it as, "a perfectly backlit bison standing on a small rise in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley."

Wolfe said he captured the February 2000 image by rising at dawn and braving -30 F temperatures, before catching the first rays of the morning sun.

"The bitter cold of a long winter's night had left the animals encased in a mantle of thick frost. I had scouted the area the day before and ... [the bison] had bedded down there all night and now were standing and trying to shake off

the cold as the sun came over the horizon," Wolfe said. "These are the serendipitous moments I wait for as a photographer."

Wolfe shot the image during the days of film, and says he didn't know if he'd been successful until he returned to Seattle and had the film processed.

The June 2 first-day-of-issue ceremony for the National Parks Forever Stamps pane will take place at New York City's Javits Center. The ceremony is part of World Stamp Show-NY 2016, taking place May 28 to June 4, the world's largest stamp show that only occurs in the U.S. once a decade.

Dedication ceremonies will also take place at or near each of the National Parks depicted on the stamps. Individuals are encouraged to celebrate the news on social media by using the hashtags #NPSStamps, #FindYourPark or #NPS100.

A century of automobiles in Yellowstone

End of the stagecoach era and start of the great American road trip

BY MARK WILCOX
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It may have been a backfire, but it sounded more like the end of the world.

At least that's what one historian likened it to when the first automobile chugged its way into Yellowstone National Park, beginning to trace over the lines made by stagecoaches throughout the park.

"The best of all possible worlds came to a shaking, rattling, backfiring end at exactly 7 p.m. on the evening of July 31, 1915," wrote historian Richard Bartlett in the summer 1970 issue of *Montana the Magazine of Western History*.

The erasure of the coach lines didn't come until a year later, when commercial transportation switched from dust-encrusted stagecoaches to motorized vehicles, at the end of the 1916 season. This year marks the centennial of that world-changing transition in the first national park, for better or worse.

Historians diverge in their acceptance of the change, but all agree that it was a major transition making access to the park more affordable and altered the nature of who came to Yellowstone.

"The automobile democratized the park—made it so anyone could get here," said Leslie Quinn, an interpretive specialist and historian for Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the current hotelier in Yellowstone.

Author and avocational historian Robert Goss said the change untied people from strict travel schedules and allowed them to avoid high prices from monopolistic hotels and railroads.

"Common folks could eventually enjoy the wonders of nature along with the upper crust," Goss said.

Coach class

Today, "taking coach" is synonymous with roughing it, but in the early days of Yellowstone it was the only way to travel. It was very expensive and coach-class travelers had to be pretty wealthy.

From relatively nearby Salt Lake City, a round-trip rate to Yellowstone in 1899 was \$58, including rail and stage travel on the Monida & Yellowstone Stage Line. For comparison, hotel stays in the park were \$4 per night.



Touring Yellowstone National Park by auto in 1924.



A stagecoach train parked in front of the Yellowstone Lake Hotel in 1905. PHOTOS COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' inflation calculator only converts dollars as far back as 1913, but at that time \$58 equated to nearly \$1,400 in today's dollars. At that price, flying coach from Salt Lake City today could take a traveler to London and back.

Stagecoaches, while seen in a romantic light now, were anything but.

"The stagecoach experience was a slow, really dirty, kind of arduous trip," said Marin Aurand, a historian who manages the Yellowstone Historic Center Museum in West Yellowstone. "It was a hard way to travel through Yellowstone."

Dust pulverized by steel-rimmed wagon wheels and iron-shod horse hooves clung to the air, a miasma that coated everything and never seemed to settle. It was the kind of dust that coated lungs and made people long for open water and fresh air. The omnipresent dust was by far the chief complaint of wagon tour riders, most of whom came from high socioeconomic backgrounds.

Author Rudyard Kipling visited the park in 1889 and called the dust "as dense as fog," despite spacing of at least 500 yards between each stagecoach. The few who lived close enough to Yellowstone to take their own buggies into the park were derisively referred to as "sage brushers." This name came from their tendency to camp in the sagebrush rather than frequenting establishments like Lake Hotel, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

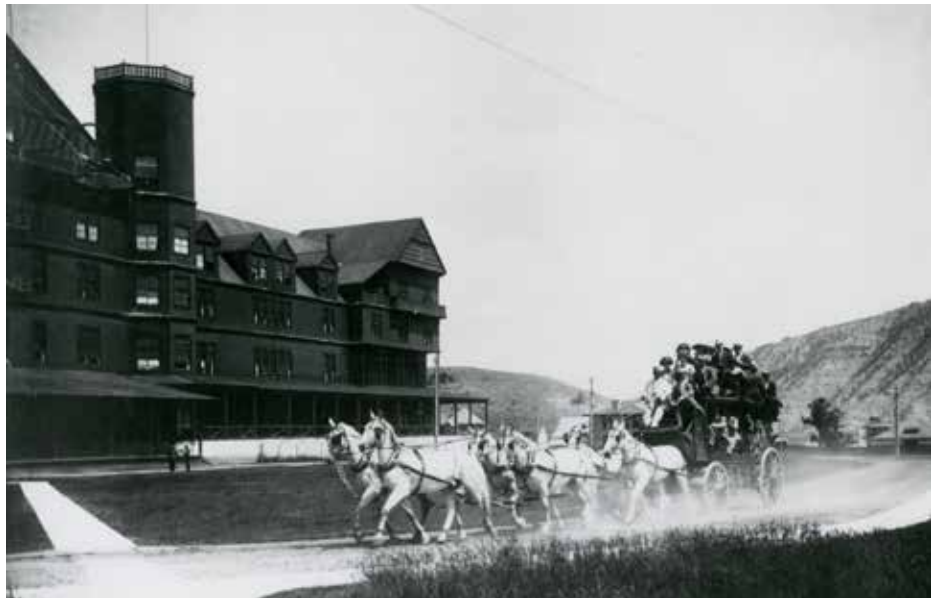
While the rides themselves may not have been glamorous, the company was colorful. Riders often mentioned their drivers stashing whiskey under the driver's seat. That was before open-container laws were in effect.

In the coach, camaraderie developed between the riders and the coachmen were the original interpreters of the park. They shared stories that could only be gotten from a tour – even if some of them were patently false. Kipling wrote of one driver who went by "Geyser Bob" Edgar. The man would drop a handkerchief in one geyser before "retrieving" it from another miles down the trail, creating the illusion of an underground network of thermal features.

Robert Goss has adopted the name "Geyser Bob" for his website documenting Yellowstone's history, though he hasn't carried forward the handkerchief trick.

continued on pg. 41

continued from pg. 40



A Tally-Ho stagecoach loaded with Yellowstone visitors in 1904.

Sharing the road

Getting cars on the road in Yellowstone represented no small challenge, especially since most of the roads weren't paved until the 1930s. Opponents argued that cars on the road would spook horses and create logistical problems and they weren't entirely wrong.

Goss said no deaths resulted from cars and stagecoaches sharing the dirt roads, but the Livingston Enterprise told of one incident in July 1916 shortly before the commercial swap to automobiles.

A commercial four-horse stagecoach from the Wylie Permanent Camping Co. left Mammoth headed toward the train depot in Gardiner. A mile or so into the short, but steep descent it came upon a stalled automobile.

"The horses panicked and cut loose down the hill, almost going over the edge into the canyon," Goss said. "The coach flipped on its side and all the passengers were thrown from the coach, crushing many of them between the coach and a rock outcropping. All were injured to some extent and three of the people suffered serious fractures."

Aurand of the Yellowstone Historic Center said that regulations had progressed slowly before cars came into the park, and Yellowstone ended up being one of the last parks to allow automobiles. When cars came in it marked the "end of the world," but the start of a new era.

"Essentially this is the start of the great American West road trip," Aurand said. "It feels more American almost to be able to go by car."

Rattling into history

The end of the 1916 season marked the end of commercial stagecoach access to Yellowstone. While sage brushers could still come, and did so for decades longer, concessionaires flipped the historic switch. The results mostly speak for themselves.

"There is a sense that the relative peacefulness and tranquility of stage travel mostly disappeared when the noisy and smoke-belching autos arrived on the scene, signaling the end of a sometimes romanticized travel era," Goss said. "The increasing reliance on private automobiles over commercial transportation has led to significantly over-crowded roads, huge swaths of land paved over for parking lots and probably a greater disturbance to the wildlife."

But that is not entirely a bad thing, as millions of people now enjoy a national treasure each year compared to the 20,000 visitors the park had in 1914, the last year before cars were allowed. The following year, visitation jumped to more than 52,000.

"It's always a toss-up between allowing access and preserving the landscape," Aurand said. "It's a really tough balance."

She predicted a time when the finite space in the park will be overwhelmed and some sort of limit will be placed on the amount of people coming through the gates. But for now, "those infernal internal combustion machines," as the historian Bartlett called them, have given relatively free access to a natural wonder.

Mark Wilcox is a storyteller who grew up in Jackson, Wyo. and the founder of Sheen Startups (sheenonline.com). He avoids Yellowstone during peak season because of "those infernal machines," preferring trips in May and October.



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Bozeman Hot Springs celebrates facility expansion

EBS STAFF

Bozeman Hot Springs recently opened three new outdoor pools and a new stage, and owners are marking the occasion Sunday, May 22 with live music, food trucks, free outdoor yoga, and reduced admission.

The grand opening festivities begin with a 10 a.m. yoga class that will take place on the new outdoor stage overlooking the recently completed pools. BHS hopes to offer yoga and Pilates classes on the stage during the summer for an outdoor fitness experience.

At noon, food from Grille 406 will arrive on scene. Throughout the summer, food trucks will be stationed at BHS on Sundays and potentially Thursdays as well.

Live music begins at 1 p.m., when Kenny and Collete Diamond bring their rock, country and soul sound to the outdoor stage. From 7-10 p.m., Groove Wax will take over with their mix of rock, country and blues.

Emily Yaggy, with Member Services at BHS, said there are plans in the works to bring kombucha and a juice truck to the facility. She's also hoping to get a movie night rolling, where they'll show movies like "Finding Nemo" on an outdoor projector.

Yaggy said part of BHS's intention when they built the outdoor pools was to bring in more summer soakers during a time that's typically been their slow season. "We have a lot of really nice lounging and sunbathing furniture coming in," she said, adding that they opted for a Montana-themed patio, complete with fire pits and a fire wall, a low rock and cement wall with fire coming out of the top.

Staff will be giving tours of the facility throughout the day. Yaggy said they're expecting a crowd for the grand opening. "It's going to be a big event," she said.

Bozeman Hot Springs is located at 81123 Gallatin Rd. Visit bozemanhotsprings.co for more information or call (406) 586-6492

May 21 race celebrates the life of local child

LPHS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Harbor's Hero Run celebrates the life of a dear child that graced the community of Big Sky, Harbor deWaard. Harbor's laugh could be heard echoing throughout the ski area during winter and along hiking and biking trails and the community park in the summer. Harbor loved Big Sky and we love and celebrate the memory of Harbor.



Harbor's Hero 5K runners cross the finish line on May 24, 2015 in a flurry of color. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Harbor's Hero Run is a fundraiser organized by the Lone Peak High School chapter of the National Honor Society for a community nonprofit that helps children in Big Sky. Proceeds from the Hero Run will be donated to Big Sky Eagle Mount.

We look forward to seeing the community out in force at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 21 at the starting line in Town Center. There will be a 1.6k fun run, plus 5k and 10k color runs for those participants looking to get a little more serious.

Interested parties can sign up at bssd72.org/barbors-bero-run or register at the event.

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Museum of the Rockies celebrates Jack Horner

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

BOZEMAN – Museum of the Rockies will honor the career and achievements of Dr. Jack Horner during Jack Horner Family Day on Saturday, May 21 from 2-5 p.m. at the museum.

After 33 years in the field with MOR and Montana State University, the museum’s curator of paleontology will retire on June 30. Horner’s remarkable lifetime of scientific research and many of his most famous discoveries will be celebrated during the event.

The public is invited to participate and the Jack Horner Family Day event is included with museum admission.

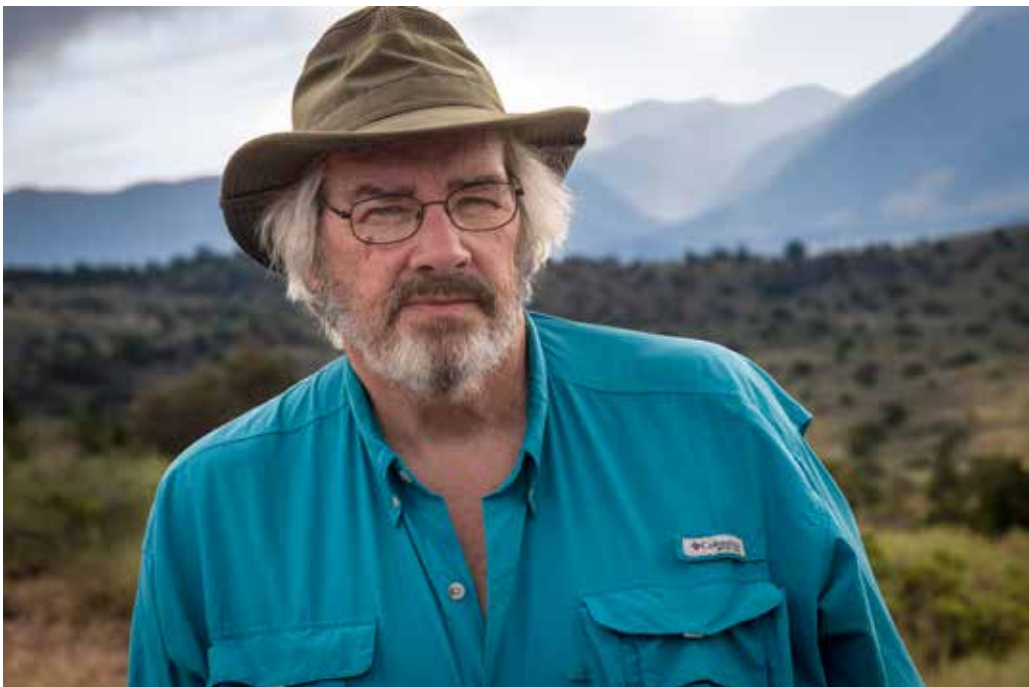
Since 1982, Horner has expanded the museum’s three-specimen dinosaur fossil collection to an internationally recognized, scientifically significant collection containing more than 35,000 specimens.

“It’s astounding to think of all the things Jack did for MOR, the university, our community and even the state of Montana,” said Mark Robinson, the museum’s director of marketing and engagement.

During his career, Horner also built the largest paleontology field program in the U.S., sending out as many as nine field crews during one season. His former students and postdoctoral fellows are now leading paleontology programs throughout the world, including Mongolia, France, England, Canada and Argentina.

Horner is also well known for his role as the scientific advisor for all of the Jurassic Park films, including the franchise’s most recent “Jurassic World.”

Visitors will be able to see the heavy-duty trucks and vehicles used at Horner’s dig sites, as well as meet members of Horner’s former field crews, and participate in hands-on activities that highlight his discoveries.



Dr. Jack Horner, perhaps the most well-known paleontologist in North America, will be retiring from his post at the Museum of the Rockies. His achievements will be celebrated with a May 21 event at MOR. PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

The world-renowned paleontologist will also be present at the event to sign autographs and speak personally with visitors young and old.

“Jack Horner Family Day is one way all of us at Museum of the Rockies can say thank you to Jack for his countless contributions to our success,” said Robinson.

Museum of the Rockies is both a college-level division of Montana State University and an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit institution. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, MOR is one of just 776 museums to hold this distinction from the more than 17,500 museums nationwide. The museum is also a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and a federal repository for fossils.



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African Children's Choir to perform throughout Montana

Bozeman performance scheduled May 25

EBS STAFF

The African Children's Choir will be performing lively African songs and dances at nine locations throughout Montana this May. The program features well-loved children's songs, traditional spirituals and gospel favorites sung by 18 African children aged 7 to 9.

On Wednesday, May 25, the choir is coming to the Bozeman Seventh Day Adventist Church for a 7 p.m. performance.

The African Children's Choir is a non-profit humanitarian and relief organization dedicated to helping Africa's most vulnerable children today so they can help Africa tomorrow.

Music for Life, the choir's parent organization, works in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. The organization has educated more than 52,000 children and impacted the lives of more than 100,000 people through its relief and development programs. MFL's purpose is to help create new leadership for tomorrow's Africa by focusing on education.

Tina Sipp, the choir manager, said touring gives children the opportunity to have experiences they wouldn't normally have, like swimming in a pool, visiting a zoo and going horseback riding.

Sipp said the opportunity to learn English while touring has a positive impact on the children's prospects. "It's a huge help to them academically for their future."

The choir has performed before presidents, heads of state and most recently the Queen of England for her diamond jubilee. It's also had the honor of singing alongside artists such as Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Keith Urban, Mariah Carey, Michael W. Smith and other famous performers.

Before their arrival in Bozeman, the choir will sing in Great Falls, Helena, Roundup, Sidney,



Members of the African Children's Choir, pictured in Uganda, prepare for their U.S. tour. PHOTO BY SHUTTER SWEET PHOTOGRAPHY

Red Lodge and Billings. Details about those dates can be found at africanchildrenschoir.com/shows/choir-45/.

Concerts are free and tickets are not necessary. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children's Choir programs.

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BFS May showings bring hot jazz and deep space

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

The Bozeman Film Society continues to roll out indie, art-house and specialty film events in May, at downtown Bozeman's Ellen Theatre.

On Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m., Ethan Hawke lights up the screen as jazz legend Chet Baker, whose tumultuous life is thrillingly re-imagined with wit, verve and style in "Born to Be Blue."

In the 1950s, Baker was one of the most famous trumpeters in the world, renowned as both a pioneer of the West Coast jazz scene and an icon of cool. By the 1960s he was all but washed up, his career and personal life in shambles due to years of heroin addiction.

In this innovative anti-biopic, director Robert Budreau zeroes in on Baker's life at a key moment in the 1960s, just as the musician attempts to stage a hard-fought comeback, spurred in part by a passionate romance with a new flame played by Carmen Ejogo.

Creatively blending fact with fiction and driven by Hawke's virtuoso performance, "Born to Be Blue" unfolds with all the stylistic verve and improvisatory genius of great jazz.

According to Peter Travers of Rolling Stone, "Everything that makes Ethan Hawke an extraordinary actor – his energy, his empathy, his fearless, vanity-free eagerness to explore the deeper recesses of a character – is on view in 'Born to Be Blue.'" The R-rated film runs 98 minutes.



On Wednesday, May 25 at 7 p.m., "The Martian" screens as part of the BFS Science on Screen (SoS) film series.

BFS is one of only 23 independent nonprofit cinemas across the country awarded SoS grants. The series aims to expand film and scientific literacy by creatively pairing screenings of popular culture and documentary films with lively presentations by local scientists.

"The Martian" features guest speaker Dr. Mac Burgess, of the Montana

State University Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology.

The film is set on Mars, where astronaut Mark Watney—played by Matt Damon—is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But the protagonist has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet.

With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring "the Martian" home. In his presentation "From Mars to Montana: The Dirty Secret Behind Soil," Burgess will share the reality of growing food in poor "Martian" soil – and draw a few parallels with soil closer to home.

The presentation of the "The Martian" is a collaboration with Gallatin Valley Farm to School. Rated PG-13, the film runs 134 minutes.

Tickets are available at theellentheatre.com, by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885, or by visiting the box office Wednesday through Saturday, 1–3 p.m. They may also be purchased two hours prior to any performance. Visit bozemanfilmsoociety.org for more information.

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Summer Camp Scholarships are provided by the **Camp Angel Scholarship fund**.

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PO Box 161143

Big Sky, MT 59716

Applications are available at Big Sky School, Morningstar Learning Center, and on the **Women In Action's** website—www.wiabigsky.org



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REGISTER NOW!
Big Sky Little League starts Monday, May 2!
Contact John Romney at mjromney@gmail.com to register, for more information, or if:
- you are interested in coaching
- you are interested in sponsoring a team
• Existing Kindergarten through 6th grade
• First practice: May 2, 4 p.m. at Community Park Softball fields

NOW HIRING
Big Sky Fire Department – NOW HIRING
Big Sky Fire Department has an opening for a Part-time Administrative Assistant. An original, completed application must be submitted to the Big Sky Fire Department Office Administrator by May 20, 2016 @ 3:00pm. If mailing/shipping, the envelope must be postmarked by May 16, 2016. For complete details, the position posting, description and application is available on our website <http://bigskyfire.org/administrative-assistant/> Application packets are also available for pick-up at 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, MT 59716



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BIG SKY BEATS

BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Find out what tunes we’re bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for a spring barbecue, we’ve got you covered.

If I could go back in time and experience any decade, it would definitely be the 1940s. I love everything from the post-war fashion of full skirts with cinched jackets, the iconic Duesenberg luxury car with its signature bowtie bumper, and the jitterbug dance craze. With swing, big band, and jazz dominating the music scene, it would’ve been an impressive time to enjoy live music and dance the night away.

Unfortunately, I was born in 1991. However, my generation has played a large role in one of my favorite musical genres – electronic dance music. Much to my excitement, I’ve recently discovered a genre that blends my love of the ‘40s and EDM known as electro swing.

Electro swing takes the rhythm and sounds of big band swing music from the 1930s and ‘40s and pairs it with modern electronic beats, creating catchy tunes that will have you doing the lindy hop and wishing you were in a speakeasy.

This playlist features a few electro swing songs that will have you hopping across a dance floor:

1. “Booty Swing,” Parov Stelar
2. “Make My Day,” Waldeck
3. “Clash,” Caravan Palace
4. “Kiara,” Bonobo
5. “Busenfreund,” Tosca
6. “Tickle It,” Mocean Worker
7. “High Noon,” Kruder & Dorfmeister
8. “Gin Tonic,” Parov Stelar
9. “Sometimes,” Klischée
10. “Shake My Hand,” Extra Medium

American Life in Poetry:
Column 581

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Here’s a fine poem about the fleshy pleasures of adolescence by Ginger Murchison, from her book “a scrap of linen, a bone,” from Press 53. Murchison lives in Florida.

River
By Ginger Murchison

Late afternoons, we'd tuck up our hems
under Minisa Bridge, scrape our white knees
on scrub brush and drowned trees to slide

down the dirt bank past milk-weed
gone to seed, cattails and trash to sit on stones
at the edge of the river and giggle and smoke,

waiting to wolf-whistle North High's rowing team.
In the shadows where the milk-chocolate river
unfolded, ooze between our toes, we'd strip,

risk long-legged insects, leeches and mothers
for the silt slick on our thighs, the air thick
with the smell of honeysuckle, mud—the rest

of the day somewhere downstream. We didn't
know why, but none of us wanted
to go home to polite kitchens and mothers

patiently waiting for what happened next,
the way women have always waited for hunter husbands,
kept vigils and prayed at the entrance of mines.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2016 by Ginger Murchison, “River,” from “a scrap of linen, a bone,” (Press 53, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Ginger Murchison and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2016 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 First wife of Jason

6 Here (Fr.)

9 Hebrew letter

12 Goodbye (Sp.)

13 Cash on delivery (abbr.)

14 Wine cup

15 Convex molding

16 Simian

17 S.A. sloths

18 Vomiting

20 Fifteenth-century helmet

22 Fr. detective force

24 Outer (pref.)

27 Cyprinoid fish

28 Dropsy

32 Meat

34 Apart (pref.)

36 Irish exclamation

37 Stinging ant

39 Bow

41 Compass direction

42 Verdi opera

44 Nearsighted

47 Gait

52 Amateur Athletic Assn. (abbr.)

53 Videocassette recorder (abbr.)

55 Vacuum tube

56 Than (Ger.)

57 Age

58 Avid

59 Encountered

60 Spread to dry

61 Irish poet

DOWN

1 Associate

2 Idumaea

3 Grave

4 Adjective-forming (suf.)

5 Birthplace of St. Francis

6 Amazon

7 tributary

8 Thicket

9 Form thoughts

10 Afrikaans

11 Huge

12 Female friend (Fr.)

13 Floating masses of

14 weeds

15 Maiden loved by Zeus

16 Queen (Sp.)

17 Wapiti

18 Sheep disease

19 Poetic contraction

20 Gelderland city

21 But (Sp.)

22 "Fables in Slang" author

23 Turnip (Scot.)

24 Hymn

25 Flowering shrub

26 Tiara

27 Mother-of-pearl

28 Madam

29 Rockies peak

30 Baking chamber

31 River into the Yellow Sea

32 Business symbol

33 Polish border river

34 Father (Fr.)

35 Energy unit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SBE ROE TBA
OTRO ELI WARM
MUON DISPOSED
ADC EDDER ESS
ACLE NAS
CITADEL MINIE
BLEU RAT DAIS
CALLA CALORIE
KRA LANA
DOA ALOIN HAD
YARNLUMP IAGO
STUB LAO TRAM
HIC ART AIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20 21
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BACK 40

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge. Topics include regional history, profiles of local artists and musicians, snow and avalanche education, how-to pieces for traditional or outdoor skills, and science.

Noun: wild or rough terrain adjacent to a developed area **Origin:** shortened form of “back 40 acres”

MUSHROOM FORAGING 101

Whether you’re venturing out to an old favorite spot, or searching for a new one, mushroom foraging is a great way to get outside and explore the outdoors. While going on the hunt can be a fun past time, it’s extremely important to educate yourself so that you don’t end up harvesting and eating a poisonous species by mistake. Although most poisonous species will just upset your stomach, some can cause hospitalization and even death.

If you’re new to foraging, don’t be disappointed if you come back empty handed at first - it becomes easier as you train your eye to spot different species of mushrooms. Foraging your own wild mushrooms can be a very rewarding activity, and an earthy complement to whatever you’re whipping up in your kitchen that evening. The following mushrooms can be found across the U.S, but their habitat may vary. Happy hunting!

FORAGING TIPS

- 1

KNOW YOUR TREES
If you’re able to tell the difference between a lodgepole pine and a Douglas fir, you’re more likely to find a good hunting spot. Certain mushrooms tend to grow under specific trees, as well as on decaying wood.
- 2

CHOOSE YOUR BAG CAREFULLY
Mesh bags or even old onion bags are great for collecting. Mushrooms spread through the dispersal of spores, and the more spores that are dropped, the more likely it is that future mushrooms will grow.
- 3

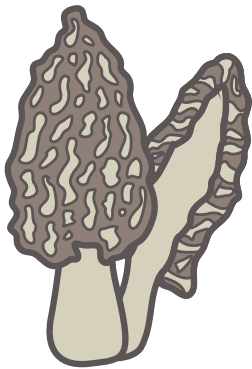
BRING YOUR SMARTPHONE
Many species of mushrooms such as morels and chanterelles often grow in the same location each year. If you find a sweet spot, drop a pin on your GPS so you can find them again next year.
- 4

SAFETY FIRST
Carry bear spray and be sure to check yourself for ticks. It’s easy to get turned around in the woods, especially when you’re looking at the ground, so carry a compass or GPS so you don’t get lost!
- 5

KEEP LONGEVITY IN MIND
It may be tempting to pick every last mushroom you find, but by leaving a few in each location, you allow the remaining mushrooms to deposit their spores, which provides a better chance of enjoying them in the future.
- 6

PROPER STORAGE
Store fresh mushrooms in a sealed paper bag in your refrigerator. Mushrooms can also be frozen or dried so that you can enjoy your harvest well past the season’s end.

Graphics and information by Carie Birkmeier, who is a certified wild mushroom identifier and former chef.



MORELS

morchella

Color: Brown, to grey, to golden
Shape: Cone shaped with pits and ridges.
Habitat: At the base of trees, in burn sites, location can be random
Qualities: Typically hollow
Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

The elusive morel is one of the most sought after wild mushrooms. They have several poisonous lookalikes so take care when searching for this species. Solid or fuzz filled stalks and wrinkled rather than porous caps are telltale signs of a false morel. They can be found under trees, especially aspens and Douglas firs, as well as at burn sites. If you see a morel, there are likely more, so stop and scan the area before moving on.

Never eat a wild mushroom unless you’re 100% sure what it is.



OYSTERS

pleurotis

Color: White, to grey, to tan, to brown
Shape: Round to oblong
Habitat: On the sides of dead, decaying, or living trees
Qualities: Grow in shelf-like clusters
Poisonous Look Alikes?: NO

Oyster mushrooms are saprophytic, meaning they live and feed off of other living matter. Because of this quality, you can often find them growing on the sides of trees, the contrast of their light flesh easily spotted against the dark bark. If you’re hunting oysters, it may be helpful to bring a small saw along to aid in the removal of more mature, thicker mushrooms. Oysters can be found throughout the year.

Mushrooms make great homes for bugs, so be sure to wash them very well.



Chanterelles

cantharellus

Color: Commonly golden, rarely red
Shape: At maturity, funnel shaped
Habitat: At the base of trees, both hardwoods and conifers
Qualities: “Pseudo Gills”
Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

Being mycorrhizal, chanterelles form a symbiotic relationship with trees, providing nutrients for each other. This also means that they can grow back in the same place each year. Chanterelles are found throughout the summer, with most fruiting in July. They possess pseudo gills, which are similar to gills, but are blunt and rounded rather than long and sharp. The jack-o-lantern mushroom is the most common poisonous lookalike, but they’re more common in the East, and possess true gills.